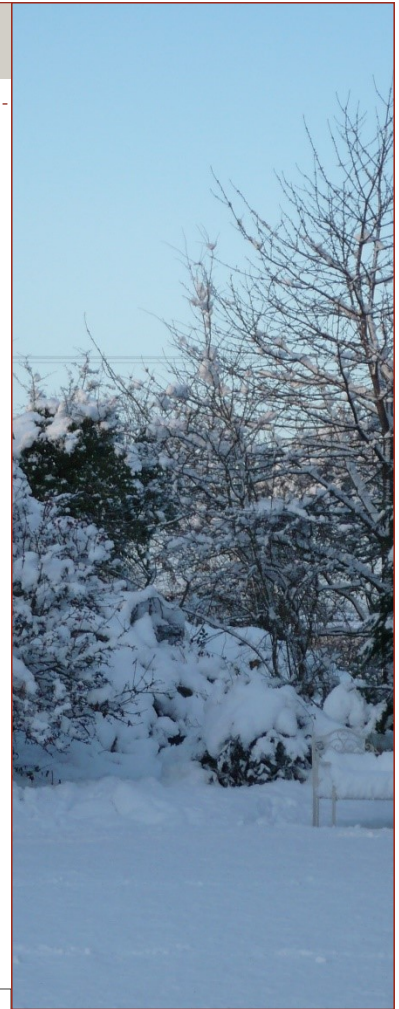




Issue 108  
December/January 2018-19



## The Whatcote Village News

Hello again, and a very warm welcome to the Whatcote Village News! Yes, it's almost Christmas...now where did the year get to?

We've plenty to read and of course don't forget that we have the Village website

([www.whatcotevillage.co.uk](http://www.whatcotevillage.co.uk))

Keep warm (and cheery) - Spring can't be all that far away and in any event we've plenty of good things to look forward to over the festive season

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## EDITORIAL

My two years as Editor of the Whatcote Village News are drawing to a close. What can I say, other than it's been a privilege and I hope that you have enjoyed it as much as I have. We've seen a few things together, not least the 100th edition, a Village website and of course the restoration and re-opening of the Royal Oak.

I thought I would leave you with a retrospective comprising a number of front pages (on this page)...and it's not so much a case of 'goodbye' as 'be seeing you' at

[www.whatcotevillage.co.uk](http://www.whatcotevillage.co.uk)

[www.whatcotevillage.co.uk](http://www.whatcotevillage.co.uk)

Issue 100  
December-January 2017/8



**The Whatcote Village News**

Hello and, once again, a very warm welcome to the November/December edition of the Whatcote Village News!

Well, another year has passed, and I hope it's been a really excellent one for you (and that 2016 is better still).

More about it later, but you'll hopefully by now have heard that we have a Village Website. It's a great site and I'm delighted that we've finally made it.

An especially warm welcome also to the new family in Church Lane (I believe Camille and her son) and to Isabel and Charles at Upper Farm.

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- Editorial ..... 2
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Issue 101



**The Whatcote Village News**

Hello and a very warm welcome to the Autumn edition of the Whatcote Village News. Can it really be Autumn again? Well, yes, I suppose it can. This year seems to have flown past.

I hope that you are well and have enjoyed the summer. One of the (many) great things about Whatcote is that we are all very aware of the changing seasons and there is always something to enjoy.


A special welcome to the new family in Desertry (and congratulations on the arrival of Millie) and of course to Solanche, Richard, Tim and the Royal Oak team, too.

So...without further ado, read on!

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- Editorial ..... 4
- Done the explorer ..... 4
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Issue 100  
July-August 2017



**The Whatcote Village News**

Hello and a very warm welcome to the July-August edition. This is the 100th edition (by my reckoning) and I guess is a limited edition souvenir. It's a real privilege to edit this very special publication.

Before we move on, I'd like to thank Sue once more for starting the Village News 100 editions ago (25 years!). Thank you so much, Sue.

As usual, there is quite a bit to read, with news, pictures and ideas. We welcome a new family (Dora), hear from our new 'agony uncle' and think happy thoughts of the increasingly elegant thatched building that we know as The Royal Oak.

**INDEED THIS ISSUE:**

- Desertry News ..... 4
- Editorial ..... 4
- Royal Oak ..... 5
- Done the explorer ..... 6
- Negative Librarian ..... 9
- Rural Highlights ..... 10
- Prayer's Plethora ..... 10
- To do list ..... 12
- What a Close ..... 12
- Parish and Planning ..... 12
- Village Journal ..... 16
- Prayer's Plethora ..... 16
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- Parished for now ..... 16

Issue 108  
August - September 2018



**The Whatcote Village News**

Hello again—and another warm welcome to the (running slightly late) Whatcote Village News. Hope you are well.

It certainly has been a lovely summer and one of the warmest and sunniest that we, the team here at the Whatcote Village News, can recall.

A busy time ahead as we look forward to the Autumn, but first Teas on the Green on Sunday 26th August (2-4pm) - do come along if you can (more next page).

[www.whatcotevillage.co.uk](http://www.whatcotevillage.co.uk)

**INDEED THIS ISSUE:**

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- Desertry News ..... 4
- Village News ..... 6
- What a Close ..... 7
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- Parished for now ..... 11
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Issue 99  
December and January 2017



**The Whatcote Village News**

SPRING IS...JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Welcome to the February edition of the Whatcote Village News. 2016 was certainly an eventful year.

Progress tends to snail to a different beat here but is no less significant. In the two or so years we've lived in Whatcote, we've seen the restoration (and renovation) of The Royal Oak, village news, light(er) speed broadband (I find that Internet works very well and BT has upgraded the cable network) and of course changes to a number of the houses and gardens here including the Rectory and of course Tilly's Lane house. We've welcomed new friends and bid farewell to others.

It's certainly a wild Whatcote this time. Keep warm

**INDEED THIS ISSUE:**

- Thank you Sue ..... 4
- Village News ..... 2
- NOTHING ..... 2
- Hot Words ..... 4
- Hot Words ..... 4
- Village News AGM ..... 5
- Gap Road ..... 6
- Lily House ..... 6
- Planning Matters ..... 6
- Looking ahead ..... 6
- The Royal Oak ..... 6
- Church Calendar ..... 10
- Write stuff ..... 10

Issue 98  
April-May 2017



**The Whatcote Village News**

Welcome to the March/April edition of the Whatcote Village News. Hope you are well and survived the terrible Storm Dora which. We've lost a fence panel or two but that seems to be about all. Thankfully, Mike Smith is here! Odd name for a storm, we thought. We know a Jackdaw we called Dora, and she's charming, albeit feisty. Jackdaw? Yes, I like you not - go on, look them up!

Save for the high winds and rain, we've had a fair winter, I think. Could have done with a few more sunny days (generously) but perhaps next time. It was fun sledding by Kenzie Castle with our friends.

This edition contains a few new things, and some familiar ones. Have a read through and let me know what you think.

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- Village News ..... 2
- Spring competition ..... 4
- Home and more ..... 4
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- Blackbird's Tale ..... 5
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- Pigeons ..... 12
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Issue 103  
February - March 2018



**The Whatcote Village News**

Hello and a very Happy New Year to you all. Hope that you had a happy Christmas and enjoyed the festive season. Actually, it's pretty much the festive season all year here in Whatcote.

So what's new? Well, a little less news than the last couple of editions (it's a little community after all) but, if you've been keeping an eye on the village website you'll have noticed regular updates, not least on the front page ([www.whatcotevillage.co.uk](http://www.whatcotevillage.co.uk)).

Do check into the website from time to time, we'll continue the printed Village News of course but we can maintain newer news online.

**INDEED THIS ISSUE:**

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- Desertry News ..... 3
- Village News ..... 3
- History ..... 5
- What a Close ..... 6
- Village Journal ..... 7
- Parished for now ..... 8



## BONFIRE NIGHT IN WHATCOTE

Sunday night November 4th went very well indeed. A great evening was had by around 30 villagers. A fantastic bonfire and a few beautiful fireworks accompanied by great food and drink made it an evening brilliant evening. Many thanks to Matt and Cindy for their great hospitality and excellent hosting of this event, we are looking forward to next year!!

## ASK FREDDIE

Yes, Freddie the Labrador with a seemingly endless supply of wise words returns this month with a pre-Christmas letter from Dorothy, a local Herdwick Sheep

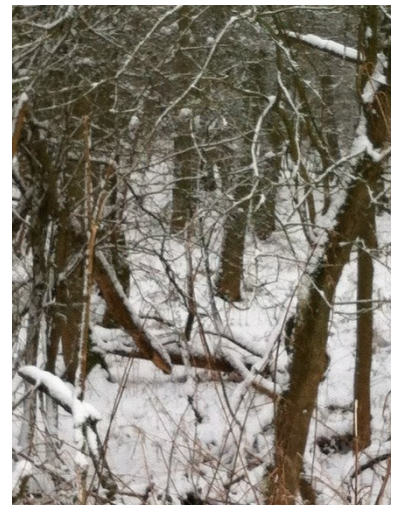
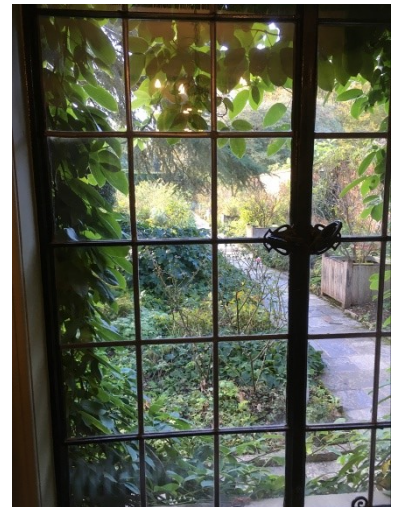
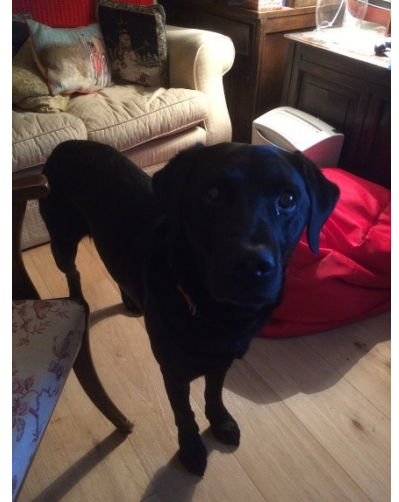
*"Dear Freddie, I've been reading the n-ewes and it seems that there are so many strange and unsettling things going on in the World right now. Whatever shall we do?"*

To which Freddie replies: *"Dear Dorothy, that is indeed a fair point and in fact a difficult question to answer. I recently [herd] a quote attributed to Mr John Lennon which I think goes something along the lines of "Everything will be OK in the end. If it's not OK, it's not the end". And I rather like that*

## POPPY APPEAL 2018

The total amount collected from the village of Whatcote was £236.09 I offer everybody grateful thanks on behalf of the Royal British Legion **Phil Wre-ford (Local Collector)**

*"To The Royal Oak, my friends, for 'tis all-round most awesome and I can hardly wait to try their new menu" (possibly Prince Rupert of the Rhine, Duke of Cumberland, KG, PC, FRS after the Battle of Edgehill 1642)*



## LEST WE FORGET

The cross of poppies was arranged by Penny Forster  
Lest we Forget, the St. Peter's annual Remembrance Service was taken by Rev. Canon Tom Moffatt.

Gill Self (who lived in the village until recently) played the organ. At the appropriate time, Rex Greenway and Phil Wreford placed the sprays of poppies above the Rolls of Honour to Villagers for the two World Wars, remembering those who paid the sacrifice. The well known words were said for us to remember them.



During the service the candle was lit. This is often called the Kohima candle after the battle of Kohima, India, which In 1944, was fought by the allied troops to prevent the Japanese Army from invading further into India. The epitaph on the memorial stone at Kohima says, "When you go home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today". There are over 1400 soldiers at rest there in the care of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

My own Father who was in the Royal Tank Regiment at Kohima, survived and came home,

There are many of us who had family members who served and are at rest in other countries,

We will remember them with gratitude.

## June Wreford

At 12.30 the bells of St. Peter were chimed by Jean Petty, Julian Stanley and Phil Wreford as part of the Centenary commemoration of 1918-2018.



NEWS  
FROM THE  
DEANERY  
DECEMBER  
2018

The year has sped by, and now we come to Advent. Deanery events take a back seat as we stop to ponder, perhaps in a quiet space of stillness, and discover the joy and anticipation of the coming birth of Jesus. Perhaps, in the frenetic busyness of Christmas planning, we could take a little time each day to invite God enter our lives afresh, and to visit us in peace.

Then at Christmas, just as Christ was born into muddle and chaos, may we invite him into the muddle and chaos of our lives, to bring new hope and joy.

After Christmas, two events:

For those who like to sing, another Come and Sing event from the Royal School of Church Music: a Candlemas Eucharist, on **Saturday, February 2nd** in St. Mary's Church, Tysoe, probably from 2.00pm onward. This is a repeat of the event last year in Brailes, and will again feature music that is accessible for our small church choirs. Full details nearer the time.

The next Deanery Synod will be on **Tuesday, February 12th** at 7.30 pm in St. Edmund's Church, Shipston. This Synod will focus on Green Issues, and in particular the ways in which we as individuals and churches can be environmentally friendly.

...and finally, for Advent, a poem by Thom. A. Shuman (next page)

Every blessing, Jill



## Maybe

Maybe it is in the waiting for God,  
not in the wandering from store to store,  
that we find our way.

Maybe it is in the friendship of God,  
not in the frenzy of the crowds,  
that we are led to the manger.

Maybe it is in the steadfast love of God,  
and not in the pile of stuff under the tree,  
that we find what we have been searching for all our lives.

Maybe, just maybe, God of Advent,  
this year will be different.

Maybe, just maybe,  
we will let you lead us to Bethlehem.

**Thom M Shuman**

## TYSOE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Recently there has been a special focus on literary events in school. Willow Class has been reading Shakespeare and visited the Swan Theatre in Stratford to watch Comedy of Errors. The children were enthused by the trip and gave their reviews. Jemima said, 'The play was humorous and inspiring' and Marcel commented, 'I enjoyed the performance of actor Lewis Griffin because his great passion for acting shone through.'

All of KS1 children enjoyed Beki Benjamin's visit to read her story of Mo and his special present, a Massey Ferguson tractor. Beki told the children that her inspiration for writing the book was a boy who loved the farming way of life. It was also a pleasure to welcome Josh Welsby, a former pupil of Tysoe School, who did the illustrations. Also popular was Story Night when over half the school returned to school in pyjamas and onesies to hear stories and to enjoy drinking chocolate.

Once again older pupils have taken part in this year's Primary Maths Challenge. Two children attained the top Gold Award and five children gained Silver. There were also nine Bronze Awards and eleven further children received a certificate commending their participation. With his great passion for Mathematics, Mr Hancox, a longstanding friend and former pupil of the school, returned to share some of his memories and to see the school in action.

We are most grateful to generous funding from Tysoe Utility Estate which has provided monies for swimming lessons and enabled us to continue to offer a huge range of curriculum opportunities, including many visits and creative experiences like a sculptor in school and a falconry display. With this additional funding, the range of activities has been extensive.

The Christmas Fayre is on **Saturday 1st December** in Tysoe Village Hall. Please join us!

Visits to see the school in action are always welcome, please contact the office on 01295-680244 to make an appointment

**Jenny Coates, Head of School**





We are well into the end of the year work at the orchard. There are apples still on the trees due to the amazing autumn weather, weeding the trees is complete and the glue is round the trees to catch the winter moths.

It has been a wonderful growing year and we have had bumper crops, produced lots of apple juice and the cider and perry are gentling maturing for drinking in the new year!

All that we do now makes sure we have fruit next year so it is really important we get the maintenance done including pruning all the apples and pears.

### **WAES-HAEL DRINK-HAEL!!!**

Yes, we will be holding the Wassail ceremony at the orchard on Saturday **19th January 2019** from 4:30pm onwards. The traditions will be observed and there will be lots of singing and keeping warm around the big bonfire accompanied by food and drink! Kinton scouts will be there with hot food and drink and we will also have mulled cider and apple juice. Again there will be live music from Donald to accompany the singing! Do reserve the date and watch out for posters with the details! It is suitable for all ages so come along with the whole family but stout shoes or boots needed.

Do come along to see us, maybe help out, and enjoy your community orchard behind the allotments along the Shenington Road in Tysoe! Why not join us and enjoy the fruit we grow.

Contact one of us for more information

**Liz Atkinson** (680045), **Paul Sayer** (680451), **Sue and Mike Sanderson** (688080)

or see the website [www.wot2grow.co.uk](http://www.wot2grow.co.uk)

### **WOT2Grow AGM 2019**

The AGM will be held on **Tuesday 22nd January 2019** at 8:00pm at Oxhill village hall. Do come along and have your say about your community orchard, everyone is welcome and you don't have to be a member to attend!



# STOUR SINGERS

conducted by Richard Emms  
present

## Haydn's Creation

with  
Raphaella Papadakis\* soprano  
Richard Dowling tenor  
Alan Fairs\*\* bass-baritone  
and the  
Queen's Park Sinfonia

Saturday, 15th December 2018 at 7.30pm  
St. Edmund's Church, Shipston-on-Stour

Tickets £12.50 from choir members,  
A. Clarke, 27 High St. Shipston-on-Stour or at the door  
(accompanied children free)

\*kindly supported by Making Music's Philip & Dorothy Green Award for Young  
Concert Artists scheme  
\*\*by arrangement with Davies Music



[www.stoursingers.org.uk](http://www.stoursingers.org.uk)



### THE STOUR SINGERS PRESENT HAYDN'S "CREATION"

On Saturday evening, **15th December, at 7.30.p.m.**, St. Edmund's Church in Shipston-on-Stour will resound with the uplifting sounds of Haydn's masterpiece, "The Creation". The music vividly paints a picture of the creation of the world, from chaos to light, from disorder to a "new-created world", full of beauty. The three soloists tell the story, and the chorus burst with praise, joy, and thanks. In the final uplifting chorus, "Sing The Lord, Ye Voices All", soloists and chorus interweave to glorious effect.

At the first performance, at the end of the 18th century, the audience members were so deeply affected by the musical depiction of the creation of light, that the performance had to be halted, to allow them to recover! The work is thought to be the first bilingual composition (in German and English), since Haydn was very happy in England, and it was here he found the libretto. This performance will be in English.

Stour Singers, directed by their founder Richard Emms, are delighted to welcome Making Music's recent award winner (Young Concert Artist) Raphaella Papadakis, soprano, Richard Dowling, tenor, and Alan Fairs, bass-baritone as soloists, together with Queen's Park Sinfonia, the Birmingham-based chamber orchestra which was set up to offer opportunities to talented young musicians.

Tickets for the concert cost £12.50 (with no cost to accompanied children) are available from **A. Clarke** in Shipston's High Street.





WELL, IT'S  
FAREWELL FOR  
NOW—HAVE A  
VERY HAPPY  
CHRISTMAS AND  
NEW YEAR

## THE WRITE STUFF

Any contributions to the Village News are always welcome:

[whatcotevillage@gmail.com](mailto:whatcotevillage@gmail.com)

You'll find most of the materials printed here on the website and as I think I mentioned, we'll aim to print a limited run of single page 'events' for those without ready access to the internet which we can leave at St Peter's

Once again, thanks so much for supporting this



See you soon :)

## News@Whatcote

Thank you for your contributions. Please send them to [whatcotevillage@gmail.com](mailto:whatcotevillage@gmail.com)

**Armistice Centenary Village Breakfast**  
On Saturday 10th November 37 people came and enjoyed (they said!!!!) bacon and sausage toasts, Orange juice, toast and marmalade, tea and coffee and so on, with the background music of patriotic tunes, there was a lovely atmosphere.  
A VERY BIG thank you to everyone who took part in the Tombola and who very generously gave donations. The costs of electricity, heating and Community Centre hire, were covered by Phil and June Wireford and so, we made (after food costs) an impressive £184.50 which has been paid to the R&P Benevolent Fund. They have sent a thank you for this, which will be on the village noticeboard.  
Penny and Colin


**Whatcote Nomads**  
Next meeting is on 28th November @ White Hart, Newbold from 6:30pm.  
See Diary for future dates.

**Live Music @ Royal Oak**  
Monday 10th December from 8:30pm Big Boy Bloater live!

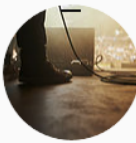
**Quiz Night**  
Wednesday December 19th from 7pm @ Royal Oak for a chance to exercise those brain cells!!!

**Seasonal Gallery**  
Pictures from around the village - work in progress as we need your photos!!!


And here's Autumn/Winter 2018!




Quiz @ Royal Oak  
December 19th 7pm-9pm 2018




Big Boy Bloater @ Royal Oak  
18th November from 8pm




Centenary Village Breakfast  
Saturday 11th November



Village School  
News and stories from Tyase Primary



Deanery News  
St Peter's and neighbouring parishes



Whatcote  
From the Community Orchard







## DECEMBER AT ST PETER'S

2	9.30am	Holy Com-	Rev G Heigh-
9	9.30am	Morning Wor-	Jennie Rake
16	6.30pm	Evensong	Rev G Warn-
23	4pm	Candlelit Car- ol Service	Rev J Tucker
25	No service		



There is also a **permanent invitation to join George Heighton at Morning Prayer** in the Church every Thursday morning at 8.30 am, and to catch up with a chat afterwards if they wish

## OTHER EVENTS...

The **Tysoe Primary School Christmas Fayre** is on Saturday 1st December in Tysoe Village Hall

**Stour Singers Hayden Concert** —Saturday evening, 15th December, at 7.30.p.m., St. Edmund's Church in Shipston-on-Stour

**Wot2Grow Wassail ceremony** at the orchard on Saturday 19th January 2019 from 4:30pm onwards

**Wot2Grow AGM** will be held on Tuesday 22nd January 2019 at 8:00pm at Oxhill village hall.

**Come and Sing event** from the Royal School of Church Music: a Candelmas Eucharist, on Saturday, February 2nd in St. Mary's Church, Tysoe, probably from 2.00pm onward