

# NEWSLETTER

With the compliments of the Parochial Church Council of St. Denys Church, Ravensthorpe

## Message from St Denys PCC

A big thank you to all who contributed (too many to mention individually!) to all our Christmas events and services at St Denys this year (especially the Christmas Story family Event and the Christmas Eve Carol Service).

We were really pleased at how they all went, and especially at how many families we saw take part this year – the best for some years!

We hope you and your family and friends enjoyed the part they played in your Christmas festivities as much as we did.

## Messy Church

Uplands Group Messy Church restarts on Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm at Spratton Church.

An informal afternoon including fun activities/crafts, music & a good meal for all. All ages are welcome and it's not just for families!



Next dates are Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April (different time and venue as Palm Sunday), and Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow.

## Toddler Church

We're continuing to meet on Fridays, 2-3pm at Ravensthorpe church) for babies and pre-school children and their carers from the Uplands Group. Stories, activities and songs, and a cup of tea to round it all off!



Check our Facebook page for any news & changes.

[www.facebook.com/uplandsgroupofchurches](http://www.facebook.com/uplandsgroupofchurches)

## Youth Clubs

The Uplands Group is now running 2 youth clubs for 11-18 year olds from across all our villages.

Tuesday nights: Guilsborough  
Thursday nights: Spratton

Contact Lynne on 07867 389 677 for more details.

## In memory of Albert Watson

Albert's funeral was very well attended, the church was full of his friends and neighbours. It was felt that Albert was given a good send off.

A big thank you to Sue Beswick our postie for organising everything so well and to those who gave to the collection - £430 was raised towards the Hawthorn Ward's charitable fund in Albert's memory.

## Lent Lunches

All who like to eat and chat are very welcome to join us for one or all of our Lent Lunches this year!

We simply meet at a different house every week, and enjoy a lovely homemade soup lunch together.

It is a great way to meet old friends, or make some new ones in the village, so if you've not been before why not give it a try?

Wednesday March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Thalia Pike
Wednesday March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Fowler
Wednesday March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Tricia Freeman
Wednesday April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gill Douglas
Wednesday April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Sally Marsh



A minimum £5 donation per person is requested, which is shared between the church and the chosen charity of the hostess details on posters nearer the time.

## What's On?

### SSPPG Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> Feb

The next meeting of Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group will be on Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> 6-7.30pm at Guilsborough Surgery.

All patients of the Practice are very welcome - come along and share your ideas.  
Sandra Attwood Chairman

### Village Hall Lunch 19<sup>th</sup> Feb

The next village hall lunches will be at 12.30 for 1pm on

- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April

Cost is only £6. Call Lin on 770 562 or Pat on 770 466 to book a place.

### Ravensthorpe Parish Council

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> April for our AGM, more details to follow.

### Ravensthorpe NGS, 13<sup>th</sup> July



On Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> from 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. there will be four gardens open and the combined admission cost will be £5 with free admission for children. Contact Jean and Richard Wiseman.

### Ravensthorpe Church Fete 10<sup>th</sup> August 2014

A date for your 2014 diary!

The Ravensthorpe Church Fete will be back next year on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August 12 pm - 4pm.

Good quality / new tombola prizes would be welcomed. The Bric-a-brac stall will be running again and contributions will be welcome in the new year.

**Colin Mold**

## Ravensthorpe Playing Fields News

### The Playing Fields Need YOU!

The Playing Field Committee has several vacancies (non-executive) and is an ideal route for village residents to help us maintain our lovely resource.

It only requires a few hours of your time as we meet 6 times a year plus we hold 3 or 4 events per year.

#### Current Committee:

**Chairman:** Barry Langsford \*  
**Secretary:** Alan Worthington\*  
**Treasurer:** Kieren Cooper

#### Committee Members:

Martin Wilkes, Annie Walker, Ken Hickman, Ian McDonald, Sally Barringer, Becky Wallingford\*

\*These members are stepping down from the committee sometime between now and October.

If you would be interested in joining us, please do not hesitate to contact me to find out more:

Martin Wilkes on 771 189.

## South Northants Responder Scheme



A Community First Response (CFR) team is made up of a group of volunteers. Our team of CFR's are highly trained individuals who operate as a charity under the governance of East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

The scheme was set up because approximately 600 people die each year unnecessarily of cardiac arrest and those who live in a rural area can expect a slower response from the Emergency Services than town dwellers.

East Midlands Ambulance Service have given the go-ahead for the South Northants First Responder scheme to be expanded with a view to a full Defibrillator Kit being located in Ravensthorpe.

This will help provide cover for East Haddon, West Haddon, Guilsborough and Spratton.

The siting of the kit in Ravensthorpe means that we will need to recruit and train two or three people in the village to attend Category A emergency calls deemed to be "Serious and/or life threatening".

Any prospective volunteers will undergo a four day intensive training and assessment with officers from the East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Anyone interested in finding out more about this local scheme contact me to find out more:

Martin Wilkes on 771 189.

## Ravensthorpe WI



Did you know that Ravensthorpe has its own WI Group?

We have our usual monthly meetings at 19.45 in the Village Hall on the third Thursday of the month.

New members are very welcome to join us. You may come as a visitor up to 2 meetings a year if you would like to just try and see if it suits you!

In this programme we also have a social outing to London in August. This is open to all the village – W.I membersn friends, husbands, anyone who fancies a day trip on a coach to visit the Chelsea Pensioners' Hospital. We will have a guided tour with one of the Pensioners.



Cost £20 door to door – a bargain! If you just want to visit London and if there are any spare places on the bus we hope to accommodate that.

### 2014 WI Programme

#### February 20<sup>th</sup>

The agony and ecstasy of a canal hotel boater

#### March 20<sup>th</sup>

The islands of Fiji, people, landscape and wildlife

#### April 17<sup>th</sup>

Wartime experience of Kinder transport

#### May 15<sup>th</sup>

Resolutions and village history update

#### June 19<sup>th</sup>

Folk art – activity session

#### July 17<sup>th</sup>

Garden Party with horticultural show advice

#### \* August 21<sup>st</sup>

Trip to London & Chelsea Pensioner Barracks

#### Sept 18<sup>th</sup>

Swimming the Channel

#### October 16<sup>th</sup>

Annual meeting. Ideas for the Christmas table

#### \* November 20<sup>th</sup>

Medieval Musical Instruments

#### December 12<sup>th</sup>

Christmas party

\* All welcome including non- WI members.

**Margaret Lewis,**  
WI Joint Programme Secretary  
[maggielewisuk@gmail.com](mailto:maggielewisuk@gmail.com)

## Ravensthorpe Village Hall Committee



I would like to make an appeal through the newsletter for anyone who would like to get involved with the Village Hall to make themselves known.

The Hall is now in tip top condition and so we now just need to put are efforts into keeping it nice rather than lots of fund raising events.

Meetings take about an hour and we meet perhaps 6 times a year so please if you can spare the time and want to put something back into the village get in touch.

Many thanks

Trevor Foss  
Village Hall Chairman  
01604 770466

### Gardener Wanted!



Ravensthorpe Parish Council require an enthusiastic person to maintain the 'bank' opposite Ravensthorpe Village Hall

If you enjoy gardening and could spare a few hours to help keep the village looking neat and tidy, this could be the job for you!

It is estimated that the bank area will need maintaining 4-5 times a year. Circa £80 would be paid annually.

If interested please contact Liz Peachey  
01604 770894 [ravensthorpepc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ravensthorpepc@yahoo.co.uk)

### Collection for Rev'd Mark Battison

We are starting a collection for anyone in the village who would like to give towards a farewell gift for Mark – please contact one of the churchwardens if you would like to contribute:

Alice Cooper 01604 771 245  
Meg Benn 01604 770 629



## Ravensthorpe Pocket Park News

### A Wild Winter Wonderland



If you go down to the pocket park today, you're sure of many surprises...snowdrops naturalised along the entrance path welcome you.

If you are quiet you might see flocks of redwings and fieldfares enjoying the remaining berries that are hard to find in our heavily flailed field hedges.

Whilst the meadow is still bare, look carefully in the woodland and you'll see the female flowers of the Hazel. These tiny red cones catch the pollen blown from the male catkins.

Also preparing for the breeding season, frogs emerge from their winter hidey-holes to hop to their breeding ponds.



If you need some winter cheer look no further than the nature reserve on your doorstep as the signs of Spring can be found here.

**Ruth Rolls, Pocket Park User**

### The way it was!

We have an SSPPG Meeting coming up on 12th February and there will be an item on the agenda from Dr Jo. She has suggested that we might be nice to have old photos of the villages where we live, displayed in the surgeries.

I have already spoken to Brixworth History Society and they may be able to loan us some. There is currently a big display of photos upstairs in Brixworth Library.

Do you have any old photos of local villages that you would like to share? If so, contact Barbara Hogg:

[barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:barbara.hogg@tiscali.co.uk)  
01604 880 552

## Ravensthorpe Broadband Survey

### Village Broadband Survey



A big thank you for your help and taking the time to complete both the Parish and County Council's surveys.

As one of the smaller parishes by population, it is heartening to see us represented as the 6th highest number of respondents in the County Council's 'hot spots for Superfast Broadband requests' list. It will be difficult for anyone drawing up the implementation plans to ignore such an expression of desire!

From the Parish survey I was expecting to see speeds decreasing with an increase in distance from the exchange and possibly differing speeds from differing ages of village development.

However, when I plotted your readings on a map of the village, both the fastest and slowest groups of speeds were randomly spread across the village, with an average speed of just under 2Mbps.

I presented these unusual findings to the BT Director for the East Midlands who has passed them onto the management of OpenReach, but so far no comments have been returned. Hopefully we will soon have some good news on our broadband future.

David Herbert  
[davidherbert@uk2.net](mailto:davidherbert@uk2.net)

### Ravensthorpe Bingo!

We had a fantastic bingo night on 6th December.

We raised over £700, which was a great success. I would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who attended, and to our generous sponsors;

- Paul King, SFS
- Clare King, Blooming Twins
- Richard Fowler, Scott Fowler Solicitors
- Graham Smith, Inline Services, Guilsborough
- Alister Mold, AMDesign
- Alan Mold, Ravensthorpe Construction
- The Big Fryer Chip Shop, Long Buckby

Colin Mold 01604 770667

## Coton Manor Gardens

### Have you seen those Snowdrop?



Coton Manor will be opening its gates for you to see their beautiful snowdrop and hellebores between the 22<sup>nd</sup> February – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

The gardens will be open between 11.00am-4.00pm during this period.

If you have never visited the garden, treat yourself this year.

This peaceful ten acre garden occupies a hillside position extending down from the 17th century manor house, constructed of mellow Northamptonshire stone. Landscaped on different levels, it comprises a series of distinctive smaller gardens, providing variety and interest throughout the season, and enhanced by flowing streams, fountains and ponds. Beyond the confines of the garden, there is a magical five acre bluebell wood and a colourful wildflower meadow at its best in June & July.

As well as enjoying the garden, many visitors will want to explore the extensive nursery, take light lunches or teas from the Stableyard Café, or visit the garden shop. Garden courses complete the range of activities available at Coton. \* The Garden School programme for 2014 is now available online:

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

*The Bluebell Wood at Coton Manor*



### Coton Manor 2014 Opening Times

*Tuesday 1st April to Sat 27th September*

*Also Bank Holiday Weekends (Sat, Sun, Mon)  
and Sundays in April and May  
12 noon - 5.30pm (last admission 4.45pm)*

## Farewell Message from Mark Battison

As many of you will know I have been off of work for a while due to health issues and will not be returning to the Benefice in any official capacity.

Tracey and I would like to thank everybody who has been so kind to us by praying for us and sending so many messages of love and support and even some wonderful gifts – we are overwhelmed by your generosity. When I took on the role of Rector this Benefice of 8 Churches was newly formed and had suffered from many changes and long periods without effective leadership and I was very blessed by many people offering their time and support to get us back on track.

We created a vision of what we would like our Churches to be and how we would like to interact with as many people as possible across all 10 villages that we serve and this vision is still growing strongly. Unfortunately not everybody felt able to buy into this vision and you may have heard some negative comments about your Church and your leaders which are entirely without basis.

It is clear that Jesus taught that to do Gods work is to become vulnerable like a little child (Luke 18: 15 – 17) and that there is a cost to be paid for being a Disciple of Christ (Luke 14: 25 – 33).

However, Jesus also promises that to take up your cross and to follow Him is the greatest act that any of us can do because it gives the true reward that we all seek in life – Peace, Joy and Hope (Matthew 5: 1 – 12).

Being a Christian is not an easy thing and one of the hardest acts is to forgive those who you think have wronged you. But if you really want to feel the Peace, Joy and Hope that Christ promises then this is something we all have to do wherever we find ourselves in life.

So if you find yourselves at odds with another may I encourage you to read Romans Chapter 12 and allow the sacrifice that Christ made for all of us – believers or not – to build us up in love so that we truly can understand the meaning of life and both give and receive the forgiveness of God.

When Tracey and I eventually know where we are going we will invite anybody who wants to come to share in our Licensing and to enjoy a drink or two as our guests and may we with genuine love thank each and every one of you for the wonderful time we have had living and ministering amongst you.

God Bless Rev'd Mark & Tracey Battison





# Fuel for home, farm and industry

Proud to support the Ravensthorpe, Coton & Teeton Newsletter

## Northampton

# 01604 880191

### NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

**Say goodbye to stress in 2014.  
Enjoy peace of mind, more vitality and  
increased flexibility**

Experienced yoga practitioner and fully insured student teacher offers private and group yoga and wellbeing lessons.

**Group YOGA class starting 10 Jan 2014  
Fridays, 9.30am – 10.30am  
Ravensthorpe Village Hall**

Call Caron Lindley to find out more or to book your place 01788 822975 or 07786 911593 or email [caron@aptitude.me.uk](mailto:caron@aptitude.me.uk)

### Spanish Lessons in 2014

Fancy learning Spanish for your holiday this year? Why not come along to small and friendly Spanish classes, taught by a native Spanish speaker with 15 years of experience. Classes are held at the Cricket Pavilion in East Haddon (NN6 8BU).

Beginners	Starting soon	Monday	12.10
Intermediate	Tuesday	9.00 & 10.30	
Advance	Monday	9.00 & 10.30	

Lessons cost only £8 and run for one hour and 20 minutes. For more information contact Lucia on 07896298129 or [info@talkspanish.org.uk](mailto:info@talkspanish.org.uk) or [lusalri@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lusalri@hotmail.co.uk)

Day	Time	Ravensthorpe Village Hall	£	Contact
Monday	09.15- 10.15	Pilates	£7	Natalie Carter 07967 811945
	10.20 – 11.20	Pilates	£7	
	11.25 -12.25	Pilates	£7	
Tuesday	09.45 – 10.45	Triple Workout	£5	Vicky Sewell 07970 116576
Thursday	10.20 – 11.20	Pilates	£7	Natalie Carter 07967 811945
	11.25 – 12.25	Beginners Pilates	£7	
Friday	09.30 – 10.30	Yoga	£7	Caron Lindley 01788 822975
Saturday	09.00 – 10.00	Special Back Care Pilates	£7	Tina Sheridan 07810 380636
	10.00 – 11.00	Special Back Care Pilates	£7	

Date	Time	Service Type	Service led by	Location	Flowers/Brass
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	8.30am	Traditional Communion	Clergy	Ravensthorpe	Anne Smith
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	10.00am	Group Communion with Refreshments	Clergy	Creaton	Anne Smith
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	9.45am	Communion	Clergy	Ravensthorpe	Beryl Mott
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	11.00am	Group All-Age with Refreshments	Lay team	Ravensthorpe	Beryl Mott
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	8.30am	Traditional Communion	Clergy	Ravensthorpe	Yvonne Reeve

Please email March contributions to [ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com) for the attention of the editor, Viv Rees (01604 771 076) by: **5pm Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2014**. Note: space will be allocated on a 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> served basis, waiting until the deadline may result in your article not being included.

Visit the village website: [www.ravensthorpe.me.uk](http://www.ravensthorpe.me.uk) or find us on Facebook 'Ravensthorpe Northampton'