

## Editorial

I am now well into my fifth year as Editor of the Newsletter - so much for taking on a temporary task!

Lest I get stale, I would welcome any ideas or criticisms which will help make the Newsletter more interesting and informative. I always welcome contributions.

I have not encouraged advertising in the past but I am now doing so on a limited basis, when space is available. A contribution of at least £5 to £10 for St Denys Church is sought for each advertisement. I do not intend to have more than two advertisements in any issue.

My thanks once again to Clive Clewes who does such a great job putting the Newsletter together and printing it.

I am also extremely grateful to the following who distribute door-to-door the monthly 295 copies:-

Ann Fowler, Patricia Spring, Ruth Giles, Pat Patrick, Karen Hastie, Joan Tice, Sandra Addleton, Mavis Johnstone, Rosemary Gee and Les Bates.

*John Mott, Editor*

*Ravensthorpe & Coton Newsletter*

## LENT LUNCHES

DOREEN BUCK is organising a series of Lent Lunches again this year. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy these friendly events. A minimum donation of £2 each is expected. Half of which will go to the Bangladesh Toc-H and half to St Denys Church.

The hostesses and dates are:

16<sup>TH</sup> February Beryl Mott  
16 Church Gardens  
23<sup>RD</sup> February Susie Pasley-Tyler  
Coton Manor  
2<sup>ND</sup> March Ann Fowler  
Home Farm

Two more lunches in March will be announced in the next Newsletter.

Anyone needing transport, please contact Beryl Mott, tel: 770618

## EASTER LILIES

Anyone wishing to donate a lily, in memory of a loved one, to decorate the Church at Easter please contact: 770220

## WINE OF ST DENYS

RAVENSTHORPE is full of surprises and the Vineyard of St Denys is one of them. The vineyard is on an allotment close to the churchyard and is cultivated by Nick and Liz Ellison.

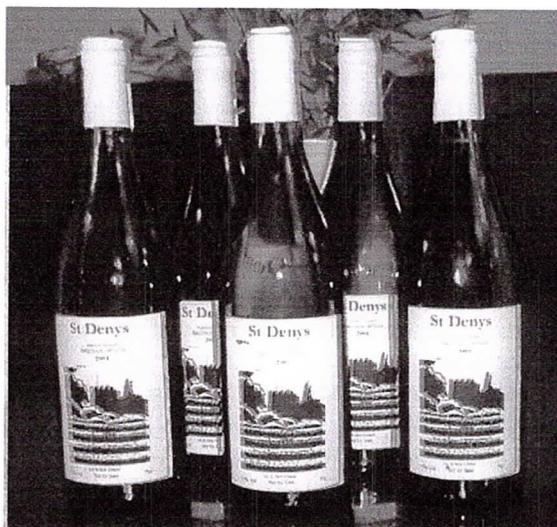
Nick and Liz settled in the village in 1987 and soon afterwards started to clear and prepare their allotment. In 1999 they planted 60 vines in three varieties, Bacchus, Ortega and Phoenix.

The husbanding of their vineyard and production of the wine is a labour and time consuming hobby. The vines are

pruned in early winter and then the leaf growth controlled throughout the growing season to achieve the right balance of light and ventilation. Weeding and trimming also helps to prevent mildew, but spraying with a fungicide is necessary. The upper leaf canopy is retained and a reflective foil is placed on the ground below the vines.

Maintaining the drainage is important. After the harvest in October the grapes are pressed in a basket press and left to ferment for about three weeks. Last year about 65 lbs of juice was produced.

After initial fermentation this is left to settle until January when it can be bottled or left. The best results are achieved by bottling in early Spring after a second fermentation which lowers the acidity. Finally approximately 30 bottles of white



*St Denys Vin Blanc*

St Denys wine is produced for Nick and Liz's own enjoyment.

Both Nick and Liz work in the food business; Nick is a Food Technologist and Liz develops new drinks and additives. They work with, and visit other vineyards to exchange ideas and techniques. They are members of the Mercian Vineyards Association.

When talking with Nick and Liz they came up with some interesting historical facts.

Northamptonshire had the largest vineyards in Britain during Roman times. During the period of the dissolution of the monasteries by King Henry VIII in the 1540's many vineyards were destroyed.

Currently Sussex sparkling wine is beating Champagne in blind tastings.

## HELP WANTED IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCH CAN YOU GIVE ONE HOUR EVERY SIX WEEKS?

One of the many hidden ways that volunteers help to maintain St Denys Church is by doing an hour of light cleaning in the Church every six weeks.

The present group of volunteers needs new members.

Please contact Mavis Johnstone  
tel: 770826 who can give further details

## HOME COMPUTER PROBLEMS?

I can help you.

No Call-out Charge

No Fix - No Fee

Tuition Available

Very Reasonable Rates

Call the Computer Man (Rob Vance)

01604 771105 or 01604 540000

or email: [fixmycomputer@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:fixmycomputer@tiscali.co.uk)

**THE LONG LOST DANCES OF RAVENSTHORPE**

TWO old Morris Dances that originated from Ravensthorpe are to be performed this year for the first time in a century!

Morris (originally Moorish) Dancing started over 400 years ago and was originally a "Celebration Of Harvest," but by the end of the 19th Century this folk dancing tradition had virtually died out.

In 1895, Cecil Sharpe came across one of the few remaining "traditional" teams (or sides) and made it his life's work to record the old dances before they died out completely.

During the 20th century this helped stimulate the formation of "revival" dancing sides.

Research of old papers by the Moulton Morris Men has revealed that there was a traditional Morris dancing side still active in Ravensthorpe at the time Cecil Sharpe started researching. He found details of two of their dances, known as the "Shepherd's Hey" and "Beaux of London."

It appears that the Ravensthorpe tradition died out early in the 20th century. Although other versions of these two dances are known from other villages, the order of music and the dance steps from Ravensthorpe are different.

The Moulton Morris Men plan to perform these dances during this year. If anyone from the village has any further information on the old Ravensthorpe Dancers, Barry Care of the Moulton Morris Men would be very interested to hear from them on tel: 01604 646818.

**RAVENSTHORPE "THE VILLAGE THAT WAS"**

By Eric Hickman MBE

VERA HICKMAN has a few copies left of her husband's personal recollections of our village in the early 1900's - fully illustrated. Price £10. Tel:770002

**ANNUAL VILLAGE LITTER PICKING SATURDAY 19TH MARCH**

**MEET AT VILLAGE HALL 2.00pm**  
Tabbards and gloves supplied  
Please help keep Ravensthorpe tidy

**YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE IS 22nd FEBRUARY**  
Contact Editor John Mott, 16 Church Gardens  
Ravensthorpe Tel 770618 or email: clive.jcapr.T21@btinternet.com

**GRAVEL EXTRACTION**

OVER 400 representation forms objecting to sand and gravel extraction quarries at Lodge Farm, East Haddon have been received by Northants County Council. The Council are aiming to have a summary of all the individual representations and the Council's comments by 24th January. The County Council are also preparing background papers giving, hopefully, their reasons for this particular site selection. A note of how to access this information will be placed on the village notice board when known.

Local residents are being represented by the action group RAGE (Residents Against Gravel Extraction). The Chairman is Martin Wilkes ☎ 770975.

The Inquiry starts on 15th March, with Tuesday 19th April set aside specifically to discuss the West Haddon site.

Any person or organisation wishing to make further written representation, or provide proof of evidence must do so before 14th February. It is advised that you contact The Minerals Local Plan Inquiry Programme Officer to ensure you follow the correct procedures.

**CAROL SERVICE**

MANY THANKS to all those who gave Christmas presents for needy children that were placed under the Christmas tree in the Church. These presents were given to the Family Care Organisation which is a unit run by the Peterborough Diocese.

Thanks also to all those who helped to make the Carol Service such a success - especially the choir.

**THE NEW LAMB**

OUR SINCERE THANKS to the anonymous donor who kindly purchased a Lamb to add to our rather special Christmas Crib Figures, which are displayed in St Denys at Christmas time.

**LADIES INDULGENCE EVENING**

THE EDITOR apologises to Viv Jozsa for not promoting or reporting on this event which took place on Saturday 27th November 2004.

It was attended by over 70 visitors and almost 20 therapists and stall holders. £125 was raised for Children In Need and over £300 for the Village Hall Fund. A great result - many thanks all round.

Following this success, further events are scheduled for this year. **The first is Friday 18th April (7 - 10pm).**

If you have any suggestions of ways to improve the evening or any comments, please contact Viv Jozsa, tel: 771076.

**PRE-SPRING PLANT SALE**

**RAVENSTHORPE VILLAGE HALL SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**  
10am - 4pm  
Bee-Fresh Plant Co., Coton  
Andy Walker  
Tel: 0779 720 947

**WOMENS' INSTITUTE MONTHLY MEETING**

**AT THE VILLAGE HALL THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**  
8.00pm  
TALK BY MR BOB BURKE  
"TAI CHI"  
Hostesses  
S. Blakelock and S. Patrick

**CHURCH SERVICES**

ALTAR FLOWERS AND BRASS ROTA

Sunday 6 <sup>TH</sup> February	11.00am	Family Service	Mrs Barbara Glossop
Sunday 13 <sup>TH</sup> February	11.00am	Holy Communion	Mrs Barbara Glossop
Sunday 20 <sup>TH</sup> February	8.00am	Holy Communion	Lent
Sunday 27 <sup>TH</sup> February	11.00am	Holy Communion	Lent
Sunday 6 <sup>TH</sup> March	11.00am	Mothering Sunday Family Service	Lent

Vicar: Rev'd John Tarrant, Guilsborough. tel: 743508