



ROSE OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AWARD FOR REV ALLISON TWIGG

Some among us will be aware that Rev Allison Twigg was recently nominated for a Rose of Northamptonshire Award and last week attended a ceremony (on Zoom) to receive this award from the High Sherriff of Northamptonshire, Paul Parsons. The awards were given to identify, and to express thanks to those groups or individuals who have worked tirelessly to keep our communities safe, and our businesses and community services moving during the global COVID-19 crisis.

While the pandemic is still ongoing, the County Council and its Leader, as well as the formal institutions of the High Sherriff's Office and Lord Lieutenancy felt it was important to recognise that many across the County have committed themselves to response and relief efforts since the beginning of the outbreak. The award sought to highlight those in every sector and locality of the County who have played a key role.

Rev Allison: *"Like many of those who received awards at this ceremony I was surprised that I had been nominated. I knew nothing about it until I was first contacted to say that it had been awarded.*

"In many ways I feel undeserving, feeling that in many ways I have just been doing the job that I was called here to do. I also know I could not be fulfilling this role without the support of the wider Ministry Team, Leadership Team, Pastoral Team, Church Wardens, PCCs, our administrator and members of our congregations. So many in our churches have made a difference to our communities during these hard Corona months and many continue to work tirelessly to help others practically and pastorally in this challenging time. I offer my thanks for all you do. I think rather than an award for me – we should all think of ourselves as petals that make up the Rose in our little Uplands corner of Northamptonshire".

Our community in Ravensthorpe expresses its congratulations and thanks to Rev Allison, as well as to everyone who has contributed so much to the real sense of community in our village over this difficult last year.

CHURCH NOTICES:

OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS REMAIN CLOSED AT THIS TIME.
Please join us together at home, through our online worship.

We will continue to live stream our Sunday Worship through Facebook Live from our Facebook Page Uplands Group Churches. You do not need to be a part of Facebook or have a Facebook account to watch the video of these services using this link: www.facebook.com/UplandsGroupChurches/videos/

We also have a YouTube channel where you can watch videos of the Sunday Services using this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLIJ8p4p2AvNLKh1U7VlqJw>

More information and links will be sent out regularly via our email newsletters.

To subscribe please email uplandsgroupoffice@gmail.com



CHURCH CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION: Rev'd Allison Twigg 01604 846099 revallisontwigg@gmail.com
The Uplands Group Office: uplandsgroupoffice@gmail.com; Website: www.uplandsgroupchurches.org.uk

THE WAR MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD ORIGINS & DEVELOPMENT

Prior to 1949, farmers in the village had been kind and had allowed their land to be used for football and cricket, but at the end of the Second World War, it was felt that there was a great need for the Village to have a permanent Recreation Ground and, at the same time, for it to be a Memorial to the two men from Ravensthorpe, who had died in the Second World War.

A Committee was formed in 1945 to raise money to buy a suitable piece of land. This was accomplished in 1948 when 4½ acres of Glebeland (the current Playing Field) were purchased for £1,725 from the Church, with money raised within the village, and with help from a grant of £990 from the Ministry of Education.

The Field was opened in July 1949 by Lord Henley, followed in September by a Planting Ceremony. Two Silver Birch trees were planted on either side of the entrance gates by relatives of the two serving men, Colin Smith and Albert Watson, who had died in the war.

The founding trustees and committee of the Ravensthorpe Memorial Playing Field in 1949 were : Horace Batten (Secretary), Eric Hickman, Emily Faulkner, Leslie Fox, Winifred Payne and Dilys Bailey.

In 1950, cricket and football clubs were started and children's swings were erected. A tennis club also existed "for a few years" but then, in the early 1960's, "interest waned" and the Committee ceased to function for a few years. However, as the village grew, interest in the Playing Field revived, and in 1968 a new Committee was formed.

In the intervening years, the Children's Play Area was developed—with the roundabout, see-saw and "modern" swings added some time around 1985 (as well as "the tunnel").

In the lead-up to the new millennium, and through the hard work and determination of John Patrick and the committee at the time, funds were raised for the new pavilion which opened in 2000.

People often think that the Playing Field is a "publicly funded park", supported financially by the local council, but it is a private park owned by the village and relies entirely on funds raised by the Committee for its upkeep, although we have also been well supported by Daventry District Council and our own Parish Council, for the recent developments in the Play Area.

£1,700 WAR MEMORIAL
PLAYING FIELD
COUNTY'S FIRST TO BE OPENED
UNDER GRANT SCHEME

Left: From the
Northampton Mercury,

Lest we forget

The Playing Field was dedicated at the outset to the memory of the two Ravensthorpe men, Albert Watson and Colin Smith, who died in Active Service during World War II. And let us remember also Paul Sullivan, who gave his life in the Falklands War of 1982.

Gunner Albert Watson

Born in Teeton in 1908 and attended Ravensthorpe School. Husband of Dorothy and father to Albert ("Cuffy") and John.

Albert died in December 1945, aged 37, in Mansfield Orthopaedic Hospital as a result of injuries incurred in the Western Desert Campaign (El Alamein) and the allied invasions of Sicily and Italy.



Sergeant Colin Smith

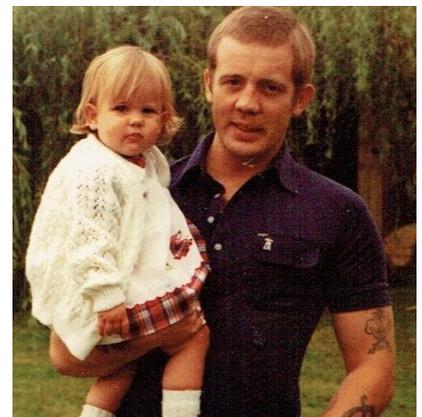
Born 1920, "a Ravensthorpe boy", Colin attended Ravensthorpe School. He was the only child of Tom and Agnes Smith - Tom Smith was the manager of the Northampton Town Cobblers from 1939-1949.

Colin, of the 218 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteers, died 21 August 1942, aged 22, when his Short Stirling bomber aircraft was shot down over Germany.

Corporal Paul Sullivan

Paul was born in Northampton in 1954, son of Ray and Beryl Sullivan (who still live in Ravensthorpe). He attended school in Northampton and then Guilsborough.

Paul, a Corporal with the Parachute Regiment, died 28 May 1982, aged 27, at Goose Green, Falklands, leaving his wife Bette and small daughter Alesia.



Our particular thanks to Anne Stenhouse and her mother, Freda (who grew up in Ravensthorpe - Freda Stafford - for the additional information and the photos of Albert Watson and Colin Smith. And very special thanks also to Ray & Brenda Sullivan. Ed

FLOWER FARM BASED OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE
OF GUILSBOROUGH

- "Ready to Wear" and "DIY" wedding flowers
- Bouquets and bunches
- Arrange your own buckets and flower subscriptions
- Farm gate events – opening dates are on our website



The Chequers - support your local pub

Ravensthorpe needs the Chequers and the Chequers needs our support. You can do this in our current circumstances by ordering a take-away.

The Chequers is open for takeaway orders from 6.30-8.00pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays. You need to pre-order during these times.

To order, please phone 01604 770379. Contactless payment on collection (cash accepted but card preferred).

A really excellent menu (subject to availability) includes:

- *Steak, Ale and Mushroom Pie;*
- *Steak & Ale Hotpot;*
- *Cottage Pie;*
- *Beef or Vegetable Lasagne;*
- *Chicken, Lamb or Vegetable Curry with rice;*
- *Beef Chilli with rice;*
- *Fish (cod or haddock) and chips and peas;*
- *Homemade beefburger;*
- *Homemade Lamb Burger.*

All at £8.50 and served with vegetables or chips as appropriate.

- *Children's portions are also available. .*
- *Beer, lager and cider also available with (but only with) pre-orders.*

The village shop is also open 11.00am - 2.00pm daily and 6.30pm to 8.00pm Wednesday - Saturday.

COTON MANOR GARDEN

Even with all the cold weather recently, there are tell tale signs that plants are stirring into life. Coton Manor Garden staff have been working very hard over winter, not only in the garden and nursery, but the tech folk have created a lovely new website which I would urge you to take a look at

www.cotonmanor.co.uk

If you like all things gardening there is a link there which enables you to subscribe to the mailing list advising of key events at Coton. We would ask those of you who are currently on the mailing list to re-subscribe to ensure you receive these updates.

Not being able to open for snowdrops and hellebores in February, and with these uncertain times, we have re-introduced our 'click and collect' service that was so successful last year with immediate effect.

If you would like a copy of this year's plant stock list, please email nursery@cotonmanor.co.uk



WEA

Adult Learning Within Reach

www.wea.org.uk

The Long Buckby branch of the WEA is still active online and will have another course in the autumn on:

The Collapse of the USSR through Witness's Eyes "Its Causes and Aftermath"

Meanwhile, the WEA has lots of interesting lectures and short courses online to keep your mind active. Just follow the above link.

WEA is a registered Charity no 1112775

Covid Support for residents in Ravensthorpe, Coton & Teeton

If you require assistance as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions, please email ravensthorpe2020@gmail.com or call Bob Pike 01604 771277

The deadline for submissions for the April Newsletter is Tuesday 23rd March.

Please Send your contributions to ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com.

All queries: Alan Worthington 01604 770957

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS: MAY 6th

What is the Parish Council for?

Parish Councils are elected bodies serving as the first tier of local government in England. They were formed under the Local Government Act 1894 to provide local oversight of civic duties in rural towns and villages. Their activities fall into three main areas: representing the local community; delivering services to meet local needs, and improving quality of life and community wellbeing. Parish Councils have a variety of powers and duties, including aspects of: planning; communal open spaces and buildings; highways and footpaths (including traffic calming and lighting), and

War Memorials. Parish Councils receive a precept from your council tax and have limited powers to spend, and to be involved in some areas of legal proceedings.

What is the role of a Parish Councillor?

Parish Councillors, unpaid volunteers, are elected representatives of the local residents and (normally) serve a 4-year term. The main roles of a Parish Councillor are to represent the views of all residents within the Parish, and to listen to and understand the views and needs of different groups in the community. Parish Councils need a wide range of skills

Ever thought of being a Parish Councillor?

Expressions of interest are welcomed from anyone who is over 18 years old and has lived/worked in the community for the preceding 12 month period. As a councillor representing your community you will help keep it a great place to live and work.

You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake training. You should be comfortable working electronically, have a positive outlook, a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team.

If you are interested in joining the Council, please contact Carol Holifield (Parish Clerk) by 26 March 2021 for more information on 01788 824425 or by e-mail ravensthorpepc@yahoo.co.uk.

Ravensthorpe Parish Council currently meets in every third Wednesday of the month in the evening (currently on Zoom).

RAVENSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

The annual Ravensthorpe/Coton Village Litter Pick will take place on

SATURDAY, 13 MARCH 2021

All volunteers welcome

Please meet outside the Village Hall at 10.00 am

Whilst litter sacks will be provided, due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, it would be appreciated if volunteers could provide their own gloves, appropriate hi-viz clothing and any litter picking equipment they may wish to use.

RAVENSTHORPE VILLAGE HALL



The Government has just announced the roadmap that we all hope will lead to the ending of the lockdown. We will study the detail and plan to re-open the hall as soon as the rules allow.

There have been a number of improvements made in the last year and we hope you will be able to see them soon.

Periodically we ask the community;

What activity would you like to see in the village hall in the future?

Please let us know by emailing contact@rvhall.online, txt or call 07710 813068 or phone 01604 771277.

All suggestions will be acknowledged and you may also receive a tasty gift!



#SHOW THE LOVE

The climate coalition have a campaign called #SHOW THE LOVE. The WI are supporting this - we have been asked to 'start the conversation' of what we can all do to ensure a cleaner, greener world for everyone.

One of our members has made some 'green' willow hearts which are hung on the WI Silver Birch tree on the Village Green. The idea is to draw attention to this campaign. We can ask ourselves 'Is there any one action I can take which will make a contribution, however small, to conserve resources?'

The hearts are made using local willow (*Salix viminalis*).

#SHOW THE LOVE



FOOD BANK: PLEASE HELP

As no doubt you are aware, the Foodbank needs your support more than ever. You can make cash donations via the website:

<https://www.restorenorthampton.org.uk> . Just click on donations and follow the instructions.