



CHURCH CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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 The Uplands Group Office: uplandsgroupoffice@gmail.com; Website: www.uplandsgroupchurches.org.uk

A NEW ASSOCIATE VICAR

By the time you receive this Newsletter, Reverend Caroline Burnett will have been licensed to the Uplands Group by the Bishop on Palm Sunday, 28th March. The service will have been recorded so that it can be shared later.

The arrival of Rev'd Caroline will mean that the service pattern has been reviewed and we will resume the pattern of two communion services each month.

CHURCH SERVICES

Church services in Ravensthorpe will resume from Easter Sunday with Holy Communion at 11.00 am. Please contact Alice Cooper on 07803 595106 to reserve a place. Third Sundays of the month will be Common Worship with Holy Communion, with the organist and pre-recorded hymns at 9.30 am, and also a said service of BCP communion on the first Sunday of the month, commencing in May. Covid rules will continue to be adhered to, so masks must be worn and seating will be Socially Distanced. Group Services to be reviewed in due course

CHRISTIAN AID

10th – 16th May 2021. For the second year, we will not be delivering Christian Aid Envelopes through letterboxes. However, you may still give to this worthy cause by collecting an envelope from the porch of Gill Douglas - Hill House, Chequers Lane, and return to Gill's porch. If you are able to give online, we are setting up an 'e-envelope' for a Ravensthorpe Christian Aid collection online, and a live link will be shared in the May newsletter, or please email kierenandalice@btinternet.com to be sent the link directly.'

PRACTICAL MATTERS—PLEASE HELP

The Churchyard. May we please request that heavy machinery (ie lawn mowers) are not taken up the steps to the churchyard as they are easily damaged. Please use the entrance through the allotments to the rear of the churchyard.

Brown & Grey Bins. Non-compostable material is regularly being put into the brown (compost) bin by the churchyard and this has to be sorted before each collection. So please use the bins as indicated on the lid: compostable / garden waste only into the brown bin (no plastic or metal); anything else into the grey bin. Thank you.

CHURCH SERVICES				
April	Location	Service Type	Time	Flowers
Sunday 4th April - Easter Sunday	Ravensthorpe	Common Worship with Communion	11.00am	Flower Team
	Other Churches / Services	Cold Ashby (BCP Communion: 0930), Cottesbrooke (BCP Communion: 1100), Creaton (CW Communion: 0930), Guilsborough (CW Communion: 0930), Hollowell (1800: Evening Service), Spratton (CW Communion: 1100), Thornby (BCP Communion: 0930). Online: 0930		
Sunday 11th April	Group Service when possible. Online 0930.			
Sunday 18th April	Ravensthorpe	Common Worship with Communion	9.30am	Flower Team
	Other Churches / Services	Creaton (BCP Communion: 0930), Guilsborough (CW Communion: 0830), Outdoors@11; BCP EP: 1700; Hollowell (BCP MP: 1100); Spratton (BCP Communion: 08300. Online: 0930.		
Sunday 25th April	All Churches/ Services	Cold Ashby (BCP Communion: 0930), Guilsborough (CW Communion: 0930), Spratton (CW Communion: 1100), Online: 0930		
May	Location	Service Type	Time	Flowers
Sunday 2nd May	Ravensthorpe	Book of Common Prayer—Communion	8.30am	Jane Pinnock / Ann Fowler
	Other Churches / Services	Cottesbrooke (BCP Communion: 1100), Creaton (CW Communion: 0930), Guilsborough (CW Communion: 11000; Hollowell (CW Communion 11.00); Thornby (BCP Communion: 0930). Online: 0930		
Sunday 9th May	Online: 0930			
Sunday 16th May	Ravensthorpe	Common Worship with Communion	9.30am	Jane Pinnock / Ann Fowler
	Other Churches / Services	Creaton (BCP Communion: 0930), Guilsborough (BCP Communion: 0830); Outdoors@11; Hollowell (BCP MP: 1100); Spratton (BCP Communion: 0830), Online: 0930		
Sunday 23rd May Pentecost	All Churches/ Services	Cold Ashby (BCP Communion: 0930); Guilsborough (CW Communion: 0930); Spratton (CW Communion: 1100). Online: 0930		
Sunday 30th May Trinity	Group Service when possible			

EVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

Parish Elections will be held on 6 May 2021 and this will include Ravensthorpe and Coton. The closing date for nomination papers is Thursday 8th April.

There are vacancies on the Ravensthorpe and Coton wards, so please give this some thought!

The Parish Clerk, Carol Hollifield, has an appointment with the Elections Office to hand in all completed nomination forms. (Prospective candidates should ideally forward their form by email to the Elections Office for a pre-check prior to a hard copy being taken to a pre-arranged appointment). Should anyone wish the Clerk to take their form to Daventry, please contact her on 01788 824425 or by email: ravensthorpepc@yahoo.co.uk by Friday, 2 April 2021 to make arrangements.

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.



A fun and stimulating playgroup that includes imaginative play, music and storytime.

Every Friday,
9.30am - 11am

Ravensthorpe Village Hall - £3 per child, 0-4 years

Starts 30th April

Spaces limited to 15 children until 21st June. Email alina@cooper.bio to book.

Covid Support for Residents in Ravensthorpe, Coton & Teeton

If you require assistance of some kind as a result of the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, please email: ravensthorpe2020@gmail.com or call Bob Pike (771277).

Macmillan coffee morning: Advance Notice:

My friends a note for your diary that we are planning to hold our next Coffee morning in the Village Hall on the 18/09/21 from 10am until 12 noon when we hope to raise more money than our last year terrific £900-00 collection. If you would like to help on a stall just give me a bell. 770596. John.

RAVENSTHORPE AND THE LOCKDOWN ROADMAP:

On March 8—schools and colleges returned. Childcare and children's supervised activities were able to resume.

From March 29th—outdoor gatherings of two households or 6 people will be allowed (including in private gardens) Outdoor sports facilities and open-air swimming pools will be allowed to open and people will be allowed to take part in formally organised sports.

The "stay at home" rule will end, but people should continue to work from home where possible and minimise the number of journeys they make "where possible".

On April 12th, we will see the re-opening of non-essential retail. Personal care premises (e.g. hairdressers) will be allowed to re-open, as well as libraries and community centres. Hospitality venues (e.g. pubs) will be allowed to serve people outdoors, but only while seated.

Indoor mixing and visiting between different households will not be allowed, except in special circumstances (e.g. in emergencies and in the care of vulnerable people).

For more information, go to www.gov.uk

CRABTREE PIT POCKET PARK

Crabtree Pit Pocket Park successfully obtained from Daventry District Council an Action on Climate Change grant. Our application focuses on improving our hedgerow habitats.

We've sourced billhooks to facilitate our future learning on how to lay and coppice the hedges. This will be a more sustainable approach than using chainsaws. We'll learn how we can use our hazel coppice to provide us with stakes and binders for our hedge-laying activities. We'll be promoting the importance of hedges not just for wildlife but for a multitude of environmental and farming benefits.

We've brought a bat box and species specific saplings to support hedgerow wildlife, helping species to be more resilient in a changing climate. I'll provide more information later.

The bat box is also made from recycled plastic and recycled wood products providing a draught proof roost at a time when we're losing many tree branches in our countryside from die-back diseases. Careful buying choices helps to reduce raw materials and supports an end market for home and commercial recycling.

We look forward to informing you about our new activities funded by this grant.

To see photos of wildlife and activities at the park please visit Ravensthorpe Village Bulletin Facebook page. To join our friends of the pocket park and receive wildlife updates please email ruth.rolls@gmail.com.

John Patrick has shared this photo from the Pocket Park: (right): "Pat and I planted these wild daffodils in September 2006. We bought a sack full, and spent several days burying the little bulblets less than half inch in diameter, but it was well worth it seeing them now. The next wonder to see is the million or two cowslips that will be out in about a month or so". John.



The deadline for submissions for the May Newsletter is Friday 23rd April. Please Send your contributions to ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com. Any queries: Alan Worthington 770957

PROTECTION AGAINST CRIME. BEWARE OF THE SCAMS!

I write this as a *tech amateur*, learning as I go, but like everybody else, in receipt of the regular scams. They seem to come thick and fast these days.

This week I received a text message, purporting to be Royal Mail, to tell me I need to pay £2.99 postage on a parcel waiting to be delivered. Moreover, it appeared to have been sent from a legitimate UK mobile number. We ignored it, but later we were to discover that quite a few people had been scammed into giving bank details in this way. Every week we receive calls warning us that our *internet is about to be cut off* "Please press 1" (or whatever).

I learn also that "number spoofing" is now quite easy and common these days: a way of making it look like a call or text is coming from a legitimate number but isn't. "Neighbour spoofing" is a variation on this: where fraudsters are able to use local STD codes on spoofed phone numbers. Similarly, *email spoofing* and *phishing* are also quite common: emails that appear to have been sent by people we know or legitimate businesses (such as banks), but haven't been. There is almost always a link included that we are invited to click onto, but carry viruses and worms that can have serious consequences.

There is plenty of advice online, but it can be confusing, and even understanding the terminologies can induce headache. The simple rules seem to be: *be wary of any phone number that you don't recognise; don't assume that callers you don't know are who they purport to be; if you don't know the caller, just hang up; don't share any personal information with anybody you are unsure of in any way, and don't ever share passwords and PIN numbers. Banks and legitimate companies will never ask for passwords on the phone.*

Similarly, emails purporting to be from people we know but look suspicious or "don't feel right" should be deleted. *Don't click onto links. Never update personal information or passwords through a link in an email: log on to the legitimate website manually. And, keep anti-virus software up to date. If you aren't sure about this, get advice from a trusted source.* It is really easy to feel "silly" that we don't know more than we do about these things). There are plenty of us who feel out of our depth with modern technology.

There is a lot of very good advice about avoiding scams and keeping your financial affairs safe on various websites, such as Citizen's Advice, and the Financial Conduct Authority.

In relation to crime more generally, Neighbourhood Watch is launching a social campaign on March 31st which is aimed at making people more aware of car crime in the UK, which continues to be a major problem. The messages underlining this are: always lock your car; don't leave belongings in it and certainly not where they can be seen; and wherever possible leave your car in a place where it is lit.

We are encouraged to visit the Neighbourhood Watch website: www.ourwatch.org.uk to find out more. *In Ravensthorpe, our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator is Glyn Lewis. Glyn regularly circulates updates on local crime and action, which many of us receive and find very helpful. If you want to receive these then you can email Glyn at glynlewisuk@yahoo.co.uk and he will add you to his circulation list.*

If you are concerned and wish to report a about a scam (or a possible scam), you can phone 101, or send an email to Glyn and he will pass it on. If ever you feel in immediate danger, telephone 999.



Ed.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

ARTS & CRAFTS EASTER DISPLAY

Everyone is invited to look at the wonderful Arts & Crafts Easter display produced by the WI and available to see in the windows of the Village Hall. It will be there for the next two weeks. Some of the samples are seen below (& on the title page!)



RAVENSTHORPE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD

The Pavilion remains closed for general bookings now, but we are hopeful that this will change in the near future. We shall keep you posted. Meanwhile, the floodlights have been replaced with more efficient and reliable ones. They will be a real asset.

The matting under the two sets of swings are going to be replaced (with help from a grant from Daventry District Council). But we shall need help to remove and dispose of the old ones, so would like to hear from anybody who might be prepared to help with this. (Phone 07801 051 402).

Lottery tickets for the new lottery year will be available in May. Watch this space !

Lottery winner for March: Pete Dawes (£50); Ian & Rachel Humphrey £20.



Kelmarsh Hall and Gardens

look to bring family adventures back as they prepare for open season with a host of new family attractions.

This year will see the popular hall re-open its award-winning gardens on **Easter Sunday, 4th April 2021** following the latest government announcement.

Spring is always such an exciting time at Kelmarsh Hall, and this year is no different, with added new attractions, which bring something for everyone. The Grade I listed country house which is surrounded by Grade II* listed gardens is set in the heart of a traditional agricultural estate, this season sees the introduction of picturesque walks, an enchanting fairy trail, and the welcoming of Sweet Pea's Tea Room to the team.

For more information, please contact:

Ester Busley, Frost Marketing on behalf of Kelmarsh Hall and Gardens
Email: ester@frost-marketing.co.uk / press@kelmarsh.com



Buckby Library & Hub for books & buzz

Update from Buckby Library & Hub

Buckby Library & Hub hopes to reopen on Tuesday April 13th unless the Government says otherwise. We will be open for browsing, computer use and bus pass applications at the following times: 10-1 and 2-5 on Tuesday and Thursday, and 10-12 on Saturdays. We may need to restrict the bus pass offer to afternoons or by appointment. Please keep checking our website or notice board for further information.

Refreshments volunteer

Do you have experience in catering? Buckby Library & Hub needs someone to lead on restarting our light refreshments for visitors. We hope to begin again in the rear garden from mid-April and inside again from mid-May. Supported by the Buckby Library & Hub team, we need someone to obtain supplies, ensure we follow our food hygiene policy and procedures, and induct volunteers as needed.

Please contact us on info@buckbylibraryhub.org if you are interested – we would love to hear from you.

RAVENSTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall will re-open for the following in April & May:

Friday April 30th: 9.30am: Raven Tots: a new Playgroup for 0-4 (see box). Email: Alina Cooper alina@cooper.bio to book.

Thursday May 6th: Local Elections. West Northamptonshire Council

Friday May 7th: Raven Tots: email Alina

Friday May 14th: Raven Tots

Tuesday May 18th: 6.30pm Zumba (Lina 07725 984674)

Thursday May 20th: Pilates (Sophie 07764 586990)

Friday May 21st: 9.30am: Raven Tots

11.15am: Zumba Gold (Lina 07725 984674)

Listed events will continue on the same day & time each week.

For further information go to www.rvhall.online or email contact@rvhall.online or call 01604 771277.

The Chequers



Take-Aways: continue to be available for collection from 6.30-8.00pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays.

To avoid any delays or disappointments, please order by lunchtime at the latest on the day required.

Phone 01604 770379. Contactless payment on collection (cash accepted but card preferred).

The 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 shop is also open 6.30pm to 8.00pm (Wednesday to Saturday), in addition to the usual 11.00am-2.00pm (daily).

Easing of lockdown:

In line with the government easing of lockdown, from Monday 12 April, the Chequers will be open for customers to order food and drink outside on evenings and weekends (see notice outside for updates) Customers will be required to eat & drink seated: table service only.

All being well from Monday May 17th, we hope we shall be able to open for our customers indoors to eat and drink indoors. Update next month.

COTON MANOR GARDEN

NEAR GUILSBOROUGH
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
NN6 8RQ

With the countdown commencing regarding the easing of lockdown, we are pleased to say that the Garden will be open from the 1st of April for the season with temporarily extended opening times of Tuesday to Sunday 11.00am-5.30pm, closed on Mondays excepting Bank Holidays.

As a result of this our click and collect service will be ending on 31st March. Please see our website for all up to date information. Sweet peas are now available for purchase either via click and collect until 31st March or from the nursery thereafter. At this point the cafe and nursery will only be open to paying garden visitors until restrictions are removed.



The Nursery is again open: Wednesday to Saturday 10-6

For the safety of all, we ask visitors to the nursery to wear a mask and to observe guidance. We recommend payment via a contactless card wherever possible and for those who would prefer to order in advance and arrange to collect, we are happy to assist. Please email: ravensthorpenursery@hotmail.com.

On-line talks: Be transported to some of the most beautiful gardens that open for the National Garden Scheme with our programme of online talks and hear behind the scenes information from the garden owners themselves.



Virtual garden visits: Enjoy a virtual garden visit over the winter months. There are over 180 gardens to choose from, so gain inspiration from the comfort of your own home. **Book Online at ngs.org.uk**

The National Garden Scheme is the largest funder of Hospice UK's work and we are incredibly grateful to the garden owners, volunteers and visitors who continue to support hospice care during this crisis, with creativity, innovation and a great passion for the nation's wellbeing. Thank you all!



Step into Spring with the WEA.

We have over 1,000 courses available so whatever you want to learn, we have the course for you.

And with lots of fun free activities to get involved with, we have a feeling this Spring will be the most fun yet. Go to:

<https://www.wea.org.uk>

WEA is a registered charity: No. 1112775