



At a memorial service for

Bob Williams (1934-2021) conducted by the Rev'd Caroline Burnett at St Denys Church on Thursday June 24th, US Airforce Servicemen based at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk, paid tribute to Bob who had served in the US Airforce for 20 years from 1951-1971. Bob and Angela, who met in London in 1975, moved to Ravensthorpe in 2001 and had been married for 43 years when Bob passed away on 16th March. The USAF tribute to Bob included the folding of the (US) flag, which was then presented to Angela, and playing Taps, a ceremonial trumpet call. In the Service itself, the Sermon was given by the Reverend Matthew Brantley, US Airforce Chaplain at Mildenhall, with tributes from Ed Knowles, an old friend from the Eufaula Bass (fishing) Club, Alabama, where Bob grew up, and Rosemarie Millward.



Outdoors@11

As we can't currently resume family or all-age worship and events in the way we might want to, we are continuing our monthly Outdoors@11 event for families over the summer, and it will take place on Sunday 18th July and 15th August, at 11am in Guilsborough Churchyard. Please keep your eyes on our facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/UplandsGroupChurches>) or the next newsletter for details of what our plans will be for family worship from September.



Family Activity Picnics

This summer holiday, gather the family, bring a picnic lunch and join us for a time of fun and outdoor family activity. 11am—1pm on Thursdays, for 5 weeks, commencing 29th July. For details, see overleaf.



CHURCH SERVICES: RAVENSTHORPE & UPLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES JULY – AUGUST

July	Location	Service Type	Time	Flowers
Sunday 4th July	Ravensthorpe	Book of Common Prayer—Communion	08.30	Meg Benn / Sally Marsh
	Other Churches / Services	Cottesbrooke (BCP Communion: 1100), Coton (CW Communion: 0930), Guilsborough (CW Communion: 11.00), Thornby (BCP Communion: 0930). Online: 0930: Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches		
Sunday 11th July	10.00 Group Service, Hollowell: this service is likely to be outdoors. Please bring something to sit on.			
Sunday 18th July	Ravensthorpe	Common Worship with Communion	9.30am	Meg Benn / Sally Marsh
	Other Churches / Services	Coton (BCP Communion: 0930), Guilsborough (BCP Communion: 0830), Outdoors@11; Evensong 1700; Hollowell (BCP MP: 1100; Songs of Praise 1800); Spratton (BCP Communion: 0830). Online 0930: Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches		
Sunday 25th July	All Churches/ Services	Cold Ashby (BCP Communion: 0930), Guilsborough (CW Communion: 0930), Spratton (CW Communion: 1100), Online 0930: Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches.		
August	Location	Service Type	Time	Flowers
Sunday 1st August	Ravensthorpe	Book of Common Prayer—Communion	8.30am	Thalia Pike / Hilary Bent
	Other Churches / Services	Cottesbrooke (BCP Communion JCP 1100); Coton (CW Communion: 0930), Guilsborough (CW Communion: 1100); Thornby (BCP Communion: 0930). Online 0930: Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches.		
Sunday 8th August	10.00 Group Service, Spratton: this service is likely to be outdoors. Please bring something to sit on.			
Sunday 15th August	Ravensthorpe	Common Worship with Communion	9.30am	Thalia Pike / Hilary Bent
	Other Churches / Services	Coton (BCP Communion: 0930), Guilsborough (BCP Communion: 0830; Outdoors@11; BCP EP 1700); Hollowell (BCP MP: 1100); Spratton (BCP Communion: 0830), Online 0930: Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches.		
Sunday 22nd August	All Churches/ Services	Cold Ashby (BCP Communion: 0930); Guilsborough (CW Communion: 0930); Spratton (CW Communion: 1100). Online 0930: Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches.		
Sunday 29th August	Group Service location to be confirmed.			

GORDON STAFFORD: MEMORIES OF GROWING UP IN RAVENSTHORPE (PART TWO)



Arthur Gordon Stafford (1924-2014) was born and grew up in Ravensthorpe. In his latter years, he wrote a personal memoir, *My Early Years*, which his family has very kindly agreed to share with us.

The house referred to (before it was demolished in 1957) was situated on the High Street, on the right as you come down from the top, and approximately where numbers 49-51 are now.

Left: Gordon aged 10 in 1934.

"Two big fires were the highlights of the early thirties, one close to home, the other half-way down the village. The first one was across the road about a hundred yards from our front door, where a big Dutch barn full of hay and corn, was set alight. The heat was terrific, and it took days before it was completely out. Afterwards, there remained only big, twisted girders and heaps of "thrashed" burnt corn. I don't think they ever found out whether it was arson or internal combustion. The other was the building yard of the local builder, whose whole stock of planks, wood etc. was completely destroyed. The adjoining cottage was also in dire trouble, but fortunately, the firemen stopped the fire from spreading. With our large family, there were various little jobs allocated to the differing age groups. Feeding the hens was one of the first things to do, when we could easily feed them with corn in the afternoons, but had to mix meal with mashed cooked potatoes in the morning feed. Cleaning them out was left to the elders, but the younger ones had to be very careful when collecting the eggs. Father looked after the pigs entirely on his own, and only the most senior boys ever helped with that. Another regular job was weeding the cobbled yard. It was quite difficult at times, but the older children were allowed to use old broken knives, while the younger ones were only allowed half of a broken dolly peg!

Sundays were important days for all the children, all of us being brought up to attend church regularly. Most of us did our stint in the church choir, and father was also there when he wasn't working. One of the duties every Sunday morning, was to take the Sunday joint to the bakers to be cooked; this was on the way to church, when we would carry the batter in a little can and the joint in the tin, and leave it at the bakehouse just before 10.30, to be collected at 12 o'clock when we came out of church. There was always a queue there and I was always amazed at how the baker could cook all the joints in an hour and a half, and for them all to be ready at the same time. He even remembered who they all belonged to! I can smell them now!

Ours was a rented cottage, beginning in the twenties and thirties with the rent at 2/6d a week. Much later on it was increased so that by the time the house was condemned in 1957, the rent was 4/2d. This would equate from about 12p to 21p at present. But then, a decent wage was about £2.50 a week, with labourers only getting about £1.50. Not until the war, did these wages significantly increase.

During this time, we only had one main fire (called a range) which was complete with oven, to do all the cooking and provide all the hot water. The oven was not too reliable or big enough for some of the meals, hence the cooking of the joint at the village bakery.

Water was boiled on a trivet which swung side-ways over the fire, and back out of the fire, after it had boiled. All our needs for water, which was for washing up, washing, and cooking were boiled on the fire. This meant that the fire was lit first thing in the morning and was kept alight all day and every day.

Our lighting was by paraffin lamp. We did have a big one (200 candle power) hanging in the front room, but in the living room there was only a smaller standing lamp in the middle of the dining table.

Any time we moved around the house or went to bed, or even outside, we would use either a "Kelly lamp" (a little portable paraffin lamp) or a candle. There were of course, hurricane lamps for use outside, also lit by paraffin. All these lamps had to be filled on a regular basis, and it must have been a terrific job to keep the smell of the paraffin away from the food, and I will always remember that this was something my father couldn't stand.

Father's bicycle lamp was of the old "carbide" variety, (he only had one on

the front). Rear lamps were not mandatory until much later on. Carbide sticks were broken up and put inside the lamp. A trickle of liquid (not always water!) was needed to fall on the carbide, for a gas to be given off, which when lit, provided the light. It was quite a good light, and compared favourably with the new style batteries, which were still to come. Batteries and even dynamos, would become quite popular in the late thirties. Apart from walking everywhere, bicycles were virtually the only other means of getting from A to B.

There were very few cars in the village. The owners I remember were the Vicar, the Builder, the Baker and some of the farmers. Not until just before the second war, did the car owners increase. I suppose the Vicar's car was the best known, because he gave various people lifts to the surrounding villages for Doctors appointments etc., and into Northampton. On some Sundays in the month, when a service was held at Teeton, he used to cram a few boys into the back of his car and take us there to augment the congregation. Afterwards we were taken to the big house, when he would go and have tea with the lady of the house, while we boys were left in the kitchen to sample the cook's pastries and cakes. There were plenty of volunteers for those trips!

As Father worked the three-shift pattern down at the reservoir pumping house, he missed out on a few things in the evenings, when he was on the afternoon and night shifts. On the morning shift, and when he had a day off, that did allow him to go and see the Cobblers on the Saturdays. It also enabled me to cycle down to the reservoir Engine House with the morning paper every day, when he was on mornings, so father could have a read in his morning break. I used to look forward to those days, when after we had gone into the terrace side of the ground, I would be passed over the crowd until I arrived at the front and sat on the fence for the rest of the game. I think that would be considered dangerous these days. On our walk back to the town centre after the game, we always stopped at our cousin's house for a cup of tea and a cake. A convenient stop and rest, half-way back to the bus.

At other times, I used to support the village side and travelled with them whenever I could, to away matches. The transport was a bit primitive, the baker's van from Cold Ashby. A plank was balanced each side in the back for 12 people to sit on, while I sat in the middle on an old one-gallon petrol can. On one occasion, when we were going to Brington, the old van wouldn't have it on the hill up to the church, so the baker turned the van round and went up the hill in reverse! If you can imagine a team of football players after a game, using the bread van, it wouldn't be very hygienic these days. Their big day was in April 1939, when they were playing in the League Cup Final against Long Buckby at Spratton. I would imagine most of the village turned up at Spratton to see them beat Buckby by the odd goal, a penalty.

In the twenties, there would only be one bus on market days, to and from Northampton, but in the thirties this was increased to quite a few a day, especially on Saturdays. Nevertheless, none were convenient for work or school, and most people walked, or biked, to East Haddon, to catch a much better bus service to Northampton. Some workers used to congregate at the top of the village in the early morning, before setting off to bike the 10 miles each way to town and work. Because of this difficulty in traveling, there were a wide range of tradesmen who brought their business to our door, and this lasted well until the war and even afterwards: Greengrocers, Tailors, Fishmongers, Barbers and even Dentists. The Greengrocer came from Buckby with his horse and cart, and the Tailor was also from Buckby. My father used to have nearly all of his best clothes made by this tailor, as did some of the children as they became older. Although all the children with dental problems were treated at the school, (this included regular check-ups), the adults were treated at home. Father used to sit in his favourite chair and have his teeth out, simple as that. Whether he had anaesthetics or not, I never knew. The alternative, before there was a good bus service, was to bike to Althorp Station, catch a train to town, have your teeth out, and bike home again".

More later Gordon, thank you so much!



Gordon and his sister, Freda, pictured together in 2013.

Ravensthorpe Village Hall: What's On in July

Thursday 1st	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	Call 07764 586990
Friday 2nd	9.30am	"Raven Tots"	Email alina@cooper.bio
Sunday 4th	9.30am	Zumba	Call Lina 07725 984 674
Tuesday 6th	10.30am	Zumba Gold	Call Lina 07725 984 674
Thursday 8th	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	Call 07764 586990
Friday 9th	9.30am	"Raven Tots"	Email alina@cooper.bio
	1.15pm	Yoga with Lizzy	Call 07950 573719
Sunday 11th	9.30am	Zumba	Call Lina 07725 984 674
	10.45am	NEW Shokotan Karate	Call Andy 07891132675
Tuesday 13th	10.30am	Zumba Gold	Call Lina 07725 984 674
Thursday 15th	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	Call 07764 586990
Friday 16th	9.30am	"Raven Tots"	Email alina@cooper.bio
	1.15pm	Yoga with Lizzy	Call 07950 573719
Sunday 18th	9.30am	Zumba	Call Lina 07725 984 674
Tuesday 20th	10.30am	Zumba Gold	Call Lina 07725 984 674
	2pm	Afternoon Bridge Club	Call Bernadette 770424
Wed 21st	10.30am	Morning Coffee—all welcome	
	8.00pm	Ravensthorpe Parish Council	
Thursday 22nd	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	Call 07764 586990
	7.45pm	WI	Call Maggie 770458
Friday 23rd	9.30am	"Raven Tots"	Email alina@cooper.bio
	1.15pm	Yoga with Lizzy	Call 07950 573719
Sunday 25th	9.30am	Zumba	Call Lina 07725 984 674
	10.45am	NEW Shokotan Karate	Call Andy 07891132675
Tuesday 27th	10.30am	Zumba Gold	Call Lina 07725 984 674
	2pm	Afternoon Bridge Club	Call Bernadette 770424
Thursday 29th	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	Call 07764 586990
Friday 30th	9.30am	"Raven Tots"	Email alina@cooper.bio

www.rvhall.online www.facebook.com/RVHall

Email: contact@rvhall.online

We do not normally do an August Newsletter, but if there is enough demand for one, it may be possible. The deadline for that will be Friday 23rd July. The deadline for the September Newsletter is Monday 23rd August. Contributions to ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com. Any queries: Alan Worthington 770957

MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD

"Clean-up" Party help needed

We're planning a 'clean-up party' for the playing field pavilion and children's play area on the **17th July, 10am - 1pm**. We would really appreciate any support you can offer - if you're able to help out on the day, please get in touch with Katie Bazini on 07938418304. Please also feel free to join us with a social pub trip afterwards.

Many thanks, Adam Gooch
Chairman, RMPF Committee

Do you enjoy using the Playing Field? Perhaps to walk or exercise your dog? Do your children or grandchildren play there?

If you have not done so already, please support the upkeep of the Playing Field by buying an Odds-200 lottery ticket. Thus far, we have sold 165 tickets. The first monthly draw for the year was held on 10 June, but there are 11 draws still to come plus the Xmas draw. An annual ticket now costs £11. We rely on the lottery to pay for the grass-cutting so that you can continue enjoy it. It is an important village resource.

So, please support it!

Tickets: odds200rav@gmail.com
Or telephone 07801 051 402

June lottery winners:

£50, Alison Whitton; £20 Gill Walker.

Ravensthorpe residents are so lucky!

"I am writing to extend a massive thank you to Bob Pike, the Ravensthorpe Village Hall Committee Members, friends and supporters for the brilliant improvements that they have been making to the village hall over the recent months and years. The hall is looking fabulous and the addition of the terrace at the rear is super. I am delighted that the hall has re-opened and Bob and team have worked hard to ensure all Covid Guidelines have been implemented to make it a safe and welcoming place. It is great that we have so many fun activities back 'up and running' on our doorstep. If you are looking for a local venue for a celebration, event or activity, do consider supporting the village hall; it is a lovely space and great value. Well done and thank you to everyone for providing us with this great local facility".

Viv Rees, Gullsborough Road.

NGS OPEN GARDENS RAVENSTHORPE - SUNDAY JULY 4th

We hope you will take the opportunity of visiting Ravensthorpe's Open Gardens on Sunday, 4th July. At least four gardens will be opening from 1.30 to 5.30 p.m. and teas will be served at and in aid of the Village Hall. Admission will cost £5 and children go free.

We look forward to welcoming you!





Buckby Library & Hub
for books & buzz

Update from Buckby Library & Hub

Buckby Library & Hub is now providing refreshments in the mornings during opening hours. They will be limited to socially distanced seating of 6 people at a time. Newspapers and magazines will be available for browsing. Current activities include: Rhymetime 10.30-11.00 Thursdays and Fridays; Make it or Mend it on Thursday mornings 10.45-11.45; Books in the Afternoon on the first Wednesday of the month from 3.30-5pm; and Knit and Natter on Saturdays at 10.30. Also, why not join the very popular Jigsaw? And if you have children, you might want to explore the Virtual School Library: <https://www.thenational.academy/library>. There's lots of interesting listening and viewing that you might find particularly useful during the school holidays. Finally, we had an excellent book sale on June 5th and hope to have another sale later in August.

KARATE

1ST LESSON **FREE!**  CLASSES OPEN TO ALL FROM AGE 5+

TRADITIONAL MARTIAL ARTS

THINK... FAMILY, FRIENDLY, FITNESS & FUN!

Classes starting this month in the village hall

For further details & to book a place please contact
Sensei Andy Wightman
tel 07891 132675 or email
a.wightman44@btinternet.com
Visit our website
www.willowshotokankarate.co.uk



UPLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES

Family Activity Picnics

THIS SUMMER HOLIDAY, GATHER THE FAMILY, BRING A PICNIC LUNCH, AND JOIN US FOR A TIME OF FUN & OUTDOOR FAMILY ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES OVER THE 5 SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE MAKING KITES, BUG HOTELS, PAINTED PLANT POTS, BIRD BOXES, & PAINTED STONES.

ALL YOU NEED TO BRING IS ANY PICNIC FOOD YOU WANT, WE WILL PROVIDE ALL THE ACTIVITIES, AND ALSO HOT AND COLD DRINKS (PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CUP IF YOU CAN). EVENTS ARE FREE.

11AM - 1PM, THURSDAYS:
29TH JULY - GUILSBOROUGH CHURCHYARD
5TH AUGUST - RAVENSTHORPE CHURCHYARD
12TH AUGUST - SPRATTON CHURCHYARD
19TH AUGUST - GUILSBOROUGH CHURCHYARD
26TH AUGUST - RAVENSTHORPE CHURCHYARD



Macmillan Coffee Morning: help needed

John P: "Our 35th Coffee Morning for Macmillan will be held 10-12 on 18th September in the Village Hall.



"Subject to Boris's intervention, we shall be inviting you all to Coffee and biscuits which will hopefully raise about £1000-00 for Macmillan's Funds.

Your help is required in making a cake, finding some Bric-Brac, your old Books, or a raffle prize.

Your contacts are----- Liz, 770275 for books. Janice, 770302 for Cakes or Marmalade etc. & John, 770596 for Raffle prizes. And of course Bric-Brac. We lost dear Julie earlier this year (from Cancer) and we seek a couple of volunteers to run this stall.

Please speak with Lin 770562 or me (John) on 770596.

John

WEA Long Buckby Branch & Beyond

Adult Learning Within Reach

The Collapse of the USSR through Witnesses' Eyes: Its Causes and Aftermath

It is 30 years since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, one of the most significant events of the 20th century. What caused the Communist empire to collapse? What did democracy and market Economy bring to ordinary Russian people?

This course will take place on ZOOM

Tutor: Marina Burrell

DATES: Monday 13th September to Monday 8th November 2-4pm (half term Monday 25th October)

COST: £64.00 (free for those receiving certain benefits)

Course no: C2345406

Enrol at www.wea.org.uk or phone 0300 303 3464

WEA is a registered Charity no.1112775

HOLLOWELL FAFF
Fête and Flower Festival
Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th July 2021 2-5pm
Entry Adults £5 & Under 16s Free


Attractions will include: Open Gardens; BBQ; Teas & Pimms; Floral display in the Church; Tractor & Trailer rides; Vintage Vehicles; Stalls, and more.

FOOD BANK:

You can make cash donations via the website:
<https://www.restorenorthampton.org.uk> ..
Just click on donations and follow the instructions.

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

Urgency: **3** **2** **1**



SCAM

SCAMS AWARENESS

Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert as part of Northamptonshire Police, has been conducting over the last 2 weeks of June, their annual Scams Awareness fortnight.

This year's Scams Awareness campaign has focused on the financial scams that have emerged as a consequence of the coronavirus outbreak. Consumer

data shows that there has been a significant increase in the number of scams relating to financial services reported in the past year. These can include things like:

- Adverts offering fake "Get Rich Quick" investment schemes
- Phone calls, texts or emails from scammers pretending to be your bank, so they can get you to transfer money to them or give them your personal details
- Scam emails or automated calls pretending to be from an official organisation, like HMRC calling about a tax issue
- An offer of a pensions review out of the blue

"Scams are crimes that can happen to anyone and we can all take a stand to help stop them. There are actions we can all take to report them, share stories and raise awareness of scams to safeguard ourselves and others". If you have not already done so then now would be a good time to become a 'Friend Against Scams' and to encourage others to do the same at <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/>