



## At the heart of Christmas



We warmly invite you to join us to celebrate Christmas with St Denys Church Ravensthorpe

Tuesday 21st December 7.30pm  
**Blue Christmas**  
Ravensthorpe Church  
Not everyone feels merry and bright at Christmas time. A quiet and reflective service that we hope can offer comfort and a sense of peace as we journey together towards Christmas.

Wednesday 22nd December 2.00pm  
**Donkey Service**  
Ravensthorpe Church  
An active and interactive service for children, with their parents, their grandparents, friends and relations. Come dressed as your favourite character from the Christmas Story. Spare costumes will be available.

Thursday 23rd December 6.30pm  
**Carol Singing on The Green**  
The Green, Church Hill  
A simplified version of our village traditional carol singing walk, based just on the Green this year, and followed by mulled wine and mince pies at the Village Hall afterwards, and collecting in aid of The Hope Centre.

Friday 24th December 5.00pm  
**Candlelit Carol Service**  
Ravensthorpe Church  
A Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols. Everyone is welcome to this candlelit service.

Christmas Day Saturday 25th December 9.30am  
**Holy Communion**  
Ravensthorpe Church  
A joy filled celebration of the good news of Christmas.

### Christmas Shoeboxes

Thank you to everyone who filled boxes or donated items. 114 boxes were collected from Guilsbrough & now on their way Romania where they will be gratefully received by some very needy families. 45 knitted blankets were also sent.

If you like knitting or crochet, maybe you would like to knit hats, scarfs, mittens or squares ready for next year. We also need oddments of wool.  
Thank you, Tricia Freeman



### Advent Windows

Around the village advent windows will be appearing between 1st and 24th December. The windows will be lit at dusk every evening, after their 'start date', for everyone to enjoy as they walk the village, until 1st January.

I will put a map with locations and dates on the village notice board so that you don't miss any! There are still some days available if you would like to get involved, just email me at [lmholt1103@gmail.com](mailto:lmholt1103@gmail.com)  
Merry Christmas!

## Carol Singing "On the Green" Thursday 23 December—6.30pm



Join us for singsong of Christmas carols, followed by mulled wine and mince pies at the Village Hall. This year, to give us the best chance of being able to go ahead as planned (whatever happens with COVID) we are staying in one place!

We hope to be able to come to a street near you again next year – but in the meantime please join us on the Green!

**We will be collecting for Northampton Hope Centre.**

From the Ravensthorpe Church & Village Hall  
Teams



This Christmas, come and be part of Ravensthorpe's

## Donkey Service

Wednesday 22nd December - 2pm at St Denys Church

A fun, interactive Christmas service for children, parents, grandparents, friends and the community – with Betty the miniature donkey!



Dress up and take part in our all-age living nativity (along with Betty!) to celebrate the coming of Christmas!

Costumes provided, or bring your own

Festive refreshments

St Denys Church Ravensthorpe,  
The Uplands Group of Churches



**Buckby Library & Hub**  
for books & buzz

## Update from Buckby Library & Hub

Buckby Library & Hub is hosting Steve the Magician's 'Presto-Panto Magic Show' on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December: £2 per head for adults and children of 2 years and above.

The first show at 2pm was already full when this went to press, but there is to be another show at 3.30pm! There's a limit on seating because of social distancing, so to secure your tickets, please either call into the library; contact 01327 842591; or email: [info@buckbylibraryhub.org](mailto:info@buckbylibraryhub.org).

Also, if you are a jigsaw fan, do remember we have 'Jigsawap'. It's £2 per jigsaw or £1 plus a jigsaw to swap.

Finally, you'll perhaps remember from the last issue that we have been holding talks on environmental issues. These talks are linked to our Recovery Gardens Project, which is now nearly planted up. You can see the progress we have made to create a welcoming area around the library building on our website: <https://buckbylibraryhub.org/follow-our-recovery-gardens-project/>.

### CRABTREE PIT POCKET PARK

Thank you to the volunteers who have done an amazing job restoring the pond over the last two months. This is an important habitat and your work will help it thrive.

Our next tasks are:

- Sat 4 December 1.30 to 3.30pm (change of time)
- Cutting back to widen the lane before the snowdrop start to grow.
- Sat 8 January 1-3pm (change of time)
- Woodland ride work to encourage the bluebells and spring flowers.

All enquiries to Ruth Rolls [ruth.rolls@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.rolls@gmail.com) or the Parish Clerk. Please come dressed prepared for outdoor work.

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

### ANN FOWLER'S ANNUAL CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

A big thank you to all the helpers and the many supporters of the Charity Coffee morning.: We raised £866 .

The proceeds are going to Pancreatic Research and the three village charities.



### Cotton End Park Long Buckby

Cotton End Park is part of the Long Buckby Green Spaces project and situated on the northern side of Long Buckby, on the right-side of the road from Ravensthorpe into Long Buckby. It is very close to Ravensthorpe: just a 5 minute drive.

The Park has been created by volunteers from Long Buckby Green Spaces, and has ten acres of open green space with areas for sports and games, an assault course and zip wires, picnic tables, native tree plantations, wildflower meadows, a wildlife reserve with ponds, a dipping platform and a bird watching hide. .... There is a resident sheep flock, bee hives, and a community orchard and plenty of places to explore and play".

Daniel Tabor, who is the Chair of the LB Green Spaces at Cotton End Park, has written to our Newsletter:

"This year, Long Buckby Green Spaces at Cotton End Park has been chosen to benefit from the Co-op Local Community Fund. We are raising funds to continue the renovation and refurbishment of our play equipment (and we now are able to) go ahead with the replacement of the zipwire. We hope this will take place by the New Year.

"Looking further ahead for 2022-23, we have plans for renovating the assault course, and creating a castle for small children at the end of the Adventure Trail.

"Cotton End Park is open every day of the year, and it is free to all users. To help us raise vital funds, we'll be relying on Co-op shoppers. Every time they buy Co-op own-brand products they get a 5% reward for themselves, and a further 1% goes to local causes like ours. Co-op members can decide which local group they would like to back by going online [www.coop.co.uk/membership](http://www.coop.co.uk/membership), or by calling 0800 023 4708.

For more information about Cotton End Park: [www.lnrbuckbygreenspaces.com](http://www.lnrbuckbygreenspaces.com)

### THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

*As is customary, there is no Newsletter in January. The next Newsletter will be the February edition, the deadline for which is Sunday 23rd January. If you have any queries about contributions, you can phone 01604 770957, or email [ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com)*

Alan Worthington (Editor)



Adult Learning  
Within Reach

Long Buckby Branch  
& Beyond

### Art of Russia

This course presents a chronological survey of Russian Art, tracing enduring themes and traditions. Join us to discover art from medieval icons to Catherine the Great's art collection, 19thC Russian realism, Kandinsky, Chagall, El Lissitzky's Abstract Cabinet and much more.

Tutors: Miriam Gill and Ellie Pridge

Dates: Mondays 17 January to 14 March  
(face-to-face at last)  
(half-term Monday 14 February)

Time: 2pm to 3.30pm

Venue: Ravensthorpe Village Hall, Teeton Road, Ravensthorpe NN6 9EH

Cost: £49.20 (free for those on certain benefits)  
Course No C23446546  
Enrol at: [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk) or phone 0300 303 3464

WEA is a registered charity no. 112775

### The Chequers

*The Christmas menu is now available for bookings and the regular menu is also available. Opening times as follows:*

Tuesday to Saturday we are open from 12-3 for food and drink—food orders cease at 2.00pm; and, from 6-11 (food orders cease at 9.00pm).

Sunday: the bar is open from 12-4; and, Monday 12-3 and 6-9. There is no food available Sunday—Monday.

Takeaways available when the kitchen is open: Tuesday - Saturday.

The shop is open as before: 11-2 and 6 onwards, but not on Sunday evenings.

Telephone: 01604 770379

Gill & Patrick

### COMPASS ENERGY - SUPPORTING RAVENSTHORPE CHARITIES

In the February Newsletter, we highlighted a new funding opportunity for the Ravensthorpe Charities provided by Compass Energy. Compass offered us £50 for every 10,000 litres purchased by Ravensthorpe households and recorded against the account: RAVS.

Trevor Reay, who is leading Compass Energy in our region, is pleased to inform us that, over the year since February, villagers purchasing in this way from Compass has raised £219.60 towards our Charities.

So, remember, to order or get a quote: contact Compass Energy on 01604 345526, or Trevor Reay on 07702867349.

### RAVENSTHORPE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD BONFIRE NIGHT

The Playing Field Committee would like to thank everyone who supported the Bonfire Night on Friday 5th November. Including the many very generous donations from villagers, the evening raised £1,817.44 towards the upkeep of the Playing Field. This is amazing. In years gone by, we might have hoped to cover our costs .... So thank you everyone!

## RAVENSTHORPE VILLAGE HALL: WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER?

Wednesday 1	10.30am	Morning Coffee	All welcome!
Thursday 2	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	07764 586990
	6pm-7pm	Shotokan Karate	Andy 07891 132675
Friday 3	9.30am	"Raven Tots"	alina@cooper.bio
	12.15pm	Yoga with Lizzy	07950 573719
	7.00pm	The Ginger Pig Band LIVE!	All tickets sold!!
Sunday 5	9.30am	Zumba	Lina 07725 984674
	10.45am	Shotokan Karate	Andy 07891132675
Monday 6	9.15am	Elizabeth Reader Pilates	07810 235258
	10.30	Elizabeth Reader Pilates	07810 235258
Tuesday 7	10.30am	Zumba Gold	Lina 07725 984 674
	2pm	Afternoon Bridge Club	Bernadette 770424
	7pm	Village Cinema presents "The Courier"	See cinema box
Wednesday 8	2pm	Short Mat Bowling	Lin 07557 396627
Thursday 9	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	07764 586990
	6pm-7pm	Shotokan Karate	Andy 07891 132675
Friday 10	9.30am	"Raven Tots"	alina@cooper.bio
	12.15pm	Yoga with Lizzy	07950 573719
Sunday 12	9.30am	Zumba	Lina 07725 984 674
	10.45am	Shotokan Karate	Andy 07891132675
Monday 13	9.15am	Elizabeth Reader Pilates	07810 235258
	10.30	Elizabeth Reader Pilates	07810 235258
Tuesday 14	10.30am	Zumba Gold	Lina 07725 984 674
	2pm	Afternoon Bridge Club	Bernadette 770424
	6-7pm	Shotokan Karate	Andy 07891132675
Wednesday 15	10.30am	Morning Coffee	all welcome!
	2pm	Short Mat Bowling	Lin 07557 396627
Thursday 16	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	07764 586990
	7.45pm	WI—"Christmas Party"	Maggie 770458
Friday 17	9.30am	"Raven Tots"	alina@cooper.bio
Sunday 19	9.30am	Zumba	Lina 07725 984 674
	10.45am	Shotokan Karate	Andy 07891 132675
Tuesday 21	10.30am	Zumba Gold	Lina 07725 984 674
	2pm	Afternoon Bridge Club	Bernadette 770424
	6.45pm	Village Cinema presents "Knives Out"	See cinema box
Thursday 23	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	Pilates with Sophie
	Meet 6.15pm	Christmas Carols on the Green: followed by Mulled Wine & Mince Pies in the RVH	



### RAVENSTHORPE VILLAGE CINEMA

#### TUESDAY 7th DECEMBER 7.00 for 7.30 THE COURIER

In this true-life cold war spy thriller, unassuming businessman Greville Wynne (Benedict Cumberbatch) becomes entangled in one of the greatest international conflicts in history. Recruited by MI6 and a CIA operative, Wynne forms a covert partnership with Soviet officer Oleg Penkovsky (Merab Ninidze).

Horrified at the looming prospect of nuclear war, Penkovsky has offered to spy for the West and both men risk everything in a danger-fraught race against time to provide intelligence needed to prevent nuclear confrontation and end the Cuban Missile Crisis

2020. 111 Mins; Cert 12



#### TUESDAY 21st DECEMBER 7.00 for 7.30 KNIVES OUT

Acclaimed writer and director Rian Johnson (Brick, Looper, The Last Jedi) pays tribute to mystery mastermind Agatha Christie in *Knives Out* a fun, modern-day murder mystery where everyone is a suspect. When renowned crime novelist Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer) is found dead at his estate just after his 85th birthday, the inquisitive and debonair Detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) is mysteriously enlisted to investigate. From Harlan's dysfunctional family to his devoted staff, Blanc sifts through a web of red herrings and self-serving lies to uncover the truth behind Harlan's untimely death.

With an all-star ensemble cast including Chris Evans, Ana De Armas, Jamie Lee Curtis, Don Johnson, Michael Shannon, Toni Collette, LaKeith Stanfield, Katherine Langford and Jaeden Martell, *Knives Out* is a witty and stylish whodunit guaranteed to keep audiences guessing until the very end.

2019 130 mins Cert 12

**Tickets: £6 & £4 for students. Go to [www.rvhall.online](http://www.rvhall.online) or email [cinema@rvhallonline](mailto:cinema@rvhallonline). Or, telephone: Mike & Mo Cobbe 01604 328822.**



TammyBfitness circuit style classes are a fun, fast, varied all over body workout.

A great way to get fitter, stronger and more toned. Healthy body and mind.

No two classes are the same.

All abilities welcome, ladies over 18 yrs  
Every Saturday 9-9.45am

Starting Ravensthorpe Village Hall  
8th January 2022

£8 per session or 4 for £30  
Please contact Tammy on 07793917493

[www.rvhallonline](http://www.rvhallonline)

Email contact: [contact@rvhall.online](mailto:contact@rvhall.online)

[www.facebook.com/RVHall](https://www.facebook.com/RVHall)

**CHURCH SERVICES: RAVENSTHORPE & UPLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES — DECEMBER 2021 & JANUARY 2022**

November	Location	Service Type	Time	Flowers
<b>Sunday 5th December</b>	<b>Ravensthorpe</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer—Communion</b>	<b>8.30am</b>	No flowers, Advent
	Other Churches / Services	Cottesbrooke (BCP Communion, 11.00am); Creaton (CW Communion 9.30am); Guilsborough (CW Communion: 11.00am); Spratton (Worship for All, 11.00am); Thornby (BCP Communion: 9.30am).		
Thursday 9th December	Spratton	Scout / Guide Christingle . 6.00pm		
Sunday 12th December	Cottesbrooke	Group Service, 10.00am		
Saturday 18th December	Cold Ashby Carol Service 5.00pm; Creaton Carol Service 5.00pm.			
<b>Sunday 19th December</b>	<b>Ravensthorpe</b>	<b>CW Communion</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	Flower Team
	Other Churches / Services	Cottesbrooke (Carol Service 3.00pm); Creaton (BCP Communion 9.30am) Guilsborough (BCP Communion 8.30am; Brunch@11; Carol Service 6.00pm); Hollowell (BCP MP 11.00am); Spratton (BCP Communion 8.30am); Thornby (Carol Service 3.00pm).		
<b>Tuesday 21 December</b>	<b>Ravensthorpe</b>	<b>Blue Christmas</b>	<b>7.00</b>	
Thursday 23 December	Creaton	Walking Nativity Crib Service, 2.00pm		
<b>Friday 24 December</b>	<b>Ravensthorpe</b>	<b>Carol Service, 5.00pm</b>		
	Other Churches/ Services	Creaton (Midnight Communion, 10.00), Hollowell (Carol Service 10.00); Spratton (Crib Service 3.00; Midnight Communion 11.30).		
<b>Saturday 25 December</b>	<b>Ravensthorpe</b>	<b>CW Communion</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	
	Other Churches/ Services	Cold Ashby (BCP Communion: 9.30am); Cottesbrooke (BCP Communion: 11.00am); Guilsborough (CW Communion 11.00am); Thornby (BCP Communion: 9.30am)..		
Sunday 26 December	10.00 Said Holy Communion, Group Service Spratton			
<b>January 2022</b>				
<b>Sunday 2 January</b>	<b>Ravensthorpe</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer—Communion</b>	<b>8.30am</b>	
	Other Churches/ Services	Cottesbrooke (BCP Communion 11.00); Creaton (CW Communion 9.30); Guilsborough (CW Communion 11.00); Spratton (Worship for All); Thornby (BCP Communion 9.30).		
Sunday 9 January	Group Service, Guilsborough, 10.00			
<b>Sunday 16 January</b>	<b>Ravensthorpe</b>	<b>CW Communion 9.30</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	
	Other Churches/ Services	Creaton (BCP Communion 9.30); Guilsborough (BCP Communion 8.30; Bruch@11; BCP EP 5.00); Hollowell (BCP MP 11.00); Spratton (BCP Communion 8.30).		
<b>Sunday 23 January</b>	<b>Ravensthorpe</b>	<b>Worship for All AC</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	
	Other Churches/ Services	Cold Ashby (BCP Communion 9.30); Guilsborough (CW Communion 9.30); Hollowell (CW Communion 11.00); Spratton (CW Communion 11.00).		

**Dennis Patrick (1938-2021)**



Dennis, who lived all his life in Coton and Ravensthorpe, sadly passed away on 18th November after a long period of illness. Sandra has written: "Dennis was born in Teeton (1938) and then lived at Coton Mill until he was 17, when he moved, with his parents, to Ravensthorpe. He started gardening at Coton Manor at 15 and worked there for 25 years when he left to pursue his flower arranging interests as well as gardening part time for several local People, including Haddonstone. He was a very able flower demonstrator and carried out many local weddings (and funerals) until he retired at 76! Dennis continued to work very hard in his own garden until ill-health beat him earlier this year. He is now at rest".

Trevor Foss has added: "I have known Dennis all my life. Pat met him and Sandra 50 years ago when he did the flowers for our wedding—one of the first weddings he did. Over the years we have been involved together fund-raising with Church Fairs and Open Gardens. Dennis persuaded us to start our Christmas tree enterprise and with his wreaths made from our holly. We spent many an hour together in the barn under instruction on how "to get things done". He has always been a dear friend, and we shall miss him, his sense of humour and good company". *Trevor and Pat.*

**John Barnes (1930-2021)**

John, who moved to Ravensthorpe with his wife Elizabeth in 1983, sadly passed away on 8th November, aged 91. Elizabeth had passed away some years previously, and John had continued to live on Church Hill. He was a very private person, much liked and admired by those who got to know him. For many years up to his retirement, John had taught Social Work at Nene College in the days before it became the University of Northampton. His funeral is to be held at the County Crematorium, NN4 9RD, on Friday 10 December at 11.00am.