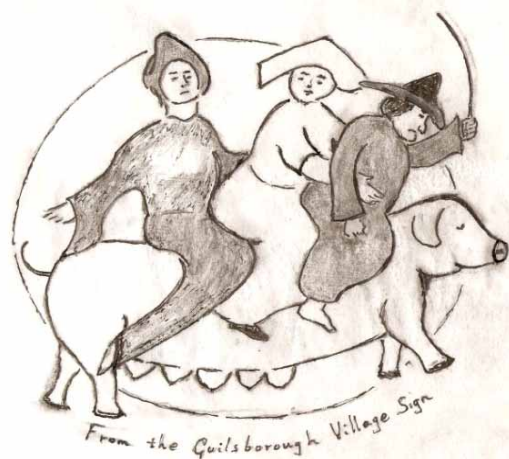


NEWSLETTER

With the compliments of the Parochial Church Council of St. Denys' Church
Village Website – www.ravensthorpe.me.uk



WITCHES DUE TO RE-VISIT RAVENSTHORPE

400 years ago Guilsborough was terrorised by three witches who rode about on the back of a huge sow. On one occasion they rode to Ravensthorpe to visit the sick sister of one of them. The sister died and they swore to return to Ravensthorpe once every hundred years to mourn her death. They are not expected to do much harm as long as they are unmolested, but they have never before in previous centuries had to contend with the fast and furious vehicle traffic on the roads - so please take extra care.

As well as having no father or male companion to control them their main offence was that they were "loose of habit and more so of tongue". For this one of them, Joan Browne, had her face slapped by a gentlewoman, Mistress Belcher. Joan promised her assailant she would regret her action, as indeed she did, for both Mistress Belcher and her brother became afflicted by fits and convulsions. Joan and her mother Agnes were both accused of witchcraft and taken to Northampton, where they were hanged in 1612. However, Joan's curse was still effective for it is said that Mistress Belcher later went insane and her brother committed suicide. Little is known of what happened to the third witch, Joan (again) Vaughn.

Recently, whilst restoring an inglenook fireplace in an old house in Coton, a salt cupboard was discovered. This contained a disintegrating metal box within which, wrapped in pieces of old fabric, were two fingers from an old glove, part of a sleeve and many small cat bones. Experts, summoned to the find, pronounced this to be a "Witches Pot". This was apparently used as a defence against witches and the devil as cats were thought to represent them. The father of the house in the early 1600s was a Church Warden.

With the imminent arrival of witches riding on a sow, you may wish to provide your household with a Witches Pot, but sadly, no grants or concessions are available owing to the recent public spending cuts.

BONFIRE NIGHT – Friday November 5th on the Playing field. 7pm start with Judging of the "Guys". Ignition at about 7.15pm and Magnificent Fireworks at 7.30pm. Hot Food and drinks will be served in the Pavilion to sustain you throughout the event. Donations to the Playing Field's Fund will be gratefully received at the entrances. Ken Hickman, Tel.770682 will collect any burnable garden waste and again a donation is expected.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – SHOEBOX APPEAL. The boxes have to be ready by **mid-November** and instructions are available from the Village Post Office or contact **Lorna Jones** on 770308. **Remember, a small amount of generosity will give a lot of pleasure to a needy child living in a deprived area of the world.**

Saturday November 20th – DOREEN BUCK'S COFFEE MORNING in aid of **THE AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE** at Ann Fowler's house, Home Farm from 10am to noon. **Bring & Buy, Cakes and a Raffle.** Offers of raffle prizes and contributions to the stalls will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Ann Fowler on 770415.

CHRISTMAS FAIR – Friday 26th November from 6pm to 9pm in the Village Hall.

Following the success of last year's fair come and enjoy a relaxing evening with friends whilst you choose perfect gifts for your family and friends. There will be a large number of local traders selling a wide range of items including **Christmas cards, gift wrap, handbags, jewellery, picture frames, gifts for all ages, fudge, children's books, toys, games and lots more !** Entry is only £2.50 and includes festive refreshments,

Proceeds in aid of the Village Hall renovations. **Hope you can come and bring along your friends too!**

THE RACE NIGHT held at The Chequers on 8th October was hugely enjoyed - raising £900 for the Playing Field !

CHRISTMAS QUIZ – Friday 3rd December starting at 7.30pm in aid of the Memorial Playing Field. Tickets for the festive quiz will be available from the Post Office and cost just £5 which includes a hot supper and licensed bar.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY – Saturday, 11th December for children aged 3 to 11. This is free to village children and a small charge made to other eligible children from outside Ravensthorpe. Please ensure that the names of those wishing to attend are on the list that David at the PO has kindly agreed to keep'

HARVEST SUPPER AND SERVICE. The supper on Friday 1st October was another successful occasion enjoyed by all who came. Thanks to Meg Benn for organising the event again and to all those who provided food and helped in so many ways. St Denys was suitably decorated for the Harvest Service thanks to the efforts of Yvonne Reeve and her helpers. £87 was raised in the auction following the service in aid of the charity we support in Bangladesh.

GUILSBOROUGH PRE-SCHOOL is organising two fund raising events. The first a **XMAS FAIR** is on Friday, 12th November from 7pm to 9pm in the Guilsborough Village Hall. Entry is £2 . Refreshments will include mince pies and mulled wine. Stallholders will be selling a variety of gifts and festive items. A luxury hamper will be raffled. The second event is the performance of the traditional pantomime “**CINDERELLA**” at the Primary School at 2pm on Saturday, 4th December. Tickets now available from Guilsborough Pre-School, Adults £5 Children £3. Tel:740761.

CRABTREE PIT POCKET PARK – Grateful thanks once again to Ricky Pike and the Northampton Post Office Managers Volunteer Group for raking up all the grass. Also, a thank you to Thalia Pike and Gill Douglas for providing the much appreciated refreshments and to all those who loaned a wheelbarrow. *Cliff Giles, Pocket Park Co-ordinator*

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS – Please note that from December 1st all bookings for the Village Hall will be handled by Roger Spring. Please contact Roger on 770403 or email rvh-bookings@rogerspring.plus.com.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT has sent a letter thanking John Patrick and the residents of Ravensthorpe for raising an amazing £768 at the Coffee Morning on September 18th.



THE WEDDING OF STEPHANIE HICKMAN TO STEVEN CRADDOCK took place on September 25th at St. Denys' Church. The ceremony was conducted by the Revd. Mark Battison. This was followed by the reception at the Playing Field's Pavilion. After a honeymoon in Italy the married couple returned to Birmingham where they will live.

COLIN HARRIS writes: I would like to give thanks for all the kind words, wishes, prayers and letters that I have received from so many in the village. These condolences have meant a great deal to me and give a very comforting sense of belonging. It may be of interest that donations to Jayne's chosen charity amounted to £610, so in this way her work has continued even in death.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, 18th November. 8pm in the Village Hall. “**Wartime Kitchen**” *Amanda Packard*. New members and visitors welcome.

THE PARISH COUNCIL is pleased to report that pedestrians will continue to be able to reach **Top Ardles Wood** from Coton Road through the adjoining field. The owner has confirmed permissive right of access but walkers are requested to keep to the path near the top of the field. The PC have installed a “squeeze post” next to the gate.

PARKING ON PAVEMENTS – The PC has received a number of complaints from residents about this practice. Pedestrians, particularly those with buggies and users of mobility scooters are often forced onto the road, which may be extremely dangerous. It also damages the pavement, necessitating repairs which, in the current economic climate, are increasingly difficult to have carried out. If vehicles park correctly on the road then this can have the advantage of reducing traffic speed through the village. However, many instances of inconsiderate parking are due to contractors, delivery vehicles and other visitors. Whenever possible, residents should encourage these visitors to park properly on the road.

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 7th November 8.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 14th November 10.55am **Remembrance Service**
Sunday 21st November No Service (11am HC at Hollowell)
Sunday 28th November 11.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 5th December 8.30am Holy Communion

ALTAR FLOWERS & BRASS ROTA

Susie Pasley - Tyler
Susie Pasley – Tyler
Yvonne Reeve
NO FLOWERS
”

Contributions for the December/January Newsletter should be sent by 23rd November to the editor, John Mott at 16 Church Gardens or telephone 770618 – email jmd.mott@yahoo.co.uk