

# NEWSLETTER

With the compliments of the Parochial Church Council of St. Denys' Church  
Village Website – [www.ravensthorpe.me.uk](http://www.ravensthorpe.me.uk)

## VICAR'S EASTER MESSAGE

It is no accident that we celebrate Easter as the world (our part anyway) moves into Spring with its warmer, longer days and the promise of new life appearing all round us. The timing of it is governed both by the moon and the Spring Equinox (21<sup>st</sup> March) when the length of the day and night are more or less equal.

Easter falls on the first Sunday after the full moon after the Spring Equinox. Its roots predate Christianity. For instance, the Hot Cross Buns we eat on Good Friday (although you can usually see them in supermarkets on the first full day of shopping after Christmas – they'll be next to the Cadbury eggs) started off celebrating the Saxon fertility God: an Ox. The cross represents its crossed horns which were marked into the top of special buns. "Buns" comes from "Bouns" – the Saxon word for Sacred Ox.

Religion, politics and belief all get thrown into the melting pot of passing ages. The cross now reminds us of Christ's Cross; and the time of year, and the Easter Egg remind us of a victorious Risen Christ bringing new life to a dejected, crestfallen church.

A Holy and Blessed Easter to all. Michael Petitt

## HORACE BATTEN – Part 4

In 1949 Horace and Eric Hickman stood and were elected as new Parish Councillors. At the time there were no street lights and few, if any, footpaths despite increasing motor traffic. At Horace's suggestion the money to pay for the first 16 street lights was raised by voluntary contributions and gradually footpaths were established.



*Horace Batten's Workshop, Ravensthorpe*

Horace continued to run his bootmaking business at Henry Street, Northampton, until 1968/69. At that time, with a number of the workforce living in Long Buckby and with many of his hunting customers living locally, the decision was made to move production to his home in Ravensthorpe and convert the barn into the workshop that remains to this day.

The business has had many notable customers including Darth Vader from Star Wars and Madame Citroen, who flew in from Paris to Birmingham and then took a taxi to and from Ravensthorpe. When Show Jumping was the "big thing" many leading riders including Harvey Smith called as well as Nicky Caine, the daughter of Michael Caine, who at the that time was involved with a wine business in

Windsor and who provided a case of red wine. To this day there are many Army customers, including the Household Cavalry and the King's Troop, with many individuals travelling from overseas.

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 8pm in the Village Hall

The agenda will include a report by the Chairman of the Parish Council followed by reports from all the Parish organisations and charities as well as the Police and Neighbourhood Watch. Street lighting will also be discussed with a view to reducing their number and switching-off at midnight. **All members of the Parish are welcome to come and voice their opinions.**

### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL AGM, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am in St Denys' Church

Election of Church Wardens and members of the council together with a financial report by the Treasurer.

**All parishioners will be welcomed. We need your support and input!**

### VILLAGE HALL IMPROVEMENTS – THE WAY FORWARD – The date of the meeting has been Changed to Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm in the Village Hall.

**This is an Open Meeting** for all the village to view the final plans which have been drawn up and learn what the costs will be and who has been selected to do the work. There will be an explanation of what further funding is required and a discussion, lead by the Chairman, on how this can be achieved and when building work might start.

**The support of the village is essential to moving this project forward.**

*A Quote: "Courage is going from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm" – Winston Churchill*

**RAVENSTHORPE GARDENS AND VILLAGE OPEN DAY – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

It is hoped to repeat the success of last year's event. The date has been moved forward a week to avoid clashing with another local event. We hope this date will suit those who would be willing to open their gardens to the public. **All the funds raised will go towards the refurbishment of the Village Hall.** If you are interested either in opening your garden or in helping on the day, please contact **Jean or Richard Wiseman** by e-mail at [ravensthorpenursery@hotmail.com](mailto:ravensthorpenursery@hotmail.com) or telephone 770548 or 770690.

**RAVENSTHORPE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD –VILLAGE QUIZ**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April in the Village Hall at 7.30pm for a prompt 8pm start. Hot Supper & Licensed Bar  
Limited tickets available from the village Post Office at £5 per person with teams of 4-6**

**ODDS200** March draw    £50 Tina Hawkins    £20 Barry Langsford    Chequers Accumulator now £160

**THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE INVITE YOU TO A FILM SHOW - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April in the Village Hall  
Come and join them for a glass of wine and entertainment while watching "KINKY BOOTS"- the first film  
night in Ravensthorpe ! Open to all residents aged 13 and over.**

KINKY BOOTS is the story of how far Charles Price will go to save the family shoe factory in Northampton which he inherits. He realises that drastic measures are needed to keep it running. A chance encounter leads to an unlikely partnership but will this unorthodox idea succeed. A delightful film loosely based on a true story.

Tickets cost £4 and are available from David at the Post Office, Yvonne Reeve or Margaret Lewis.

**Moldies Oldies BINGO NIGHT – 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm for "eyes down" at 7.30pm in the Village Hall  
A fun night for all the family presented by Colin Mold with FANTASTIC PRIZES including A SPECIAL  
MYSTERY STAR PRIZE. Raffle and light refreshments.**

Admission is 50p with all proceeds for Village Hall Funds

**ST DENYS' CHURCH FETE, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August from 12noon to 4pm at Torch Hill Farm**

With BBC Northampton's Green Welly Show being broadcast from the fete at noon it has been decided to start the fete at the same time to avoid confusion. The popular Ploughman's lunches will be served. Entertainment will be provided again by Noel Lincoln with the new addition of the Loughborough 14 piece Brass Band. There will be three new stalls this year plus added attractions including train rides. **All this will require more help, not only in setting up and taking down, but also in manning stalls and games. If you could just spare half an hour to an hour it will make all the difference!** Please contact Colin Mold on 770667. Good quality bric-a-brac can either be delivered to Torch Hill, or Colin can collect if necessary. **Offers to make cakes for sale will be greatly appreciated.**

**LENT LUNCHESES.** Many thanks to **Ann Fowler, Gill Douglas, Tricia Freeman, Thalia Pike** and **Lorna Jones** who, together with their invaluable helpers, organised the most enjoyable series of Lent Lunches which were thoroughly appreciated by the many village folk who went along. A total of over £680 was raised to be divided between a charity in aid of the victims of the Haitian earthquake and St. Denys' Church.

**MOTHERING SUNDAY.** At the special Mothering Sunday Service posies were presented to all the Mothers. We wish to thank **Sandra** and **Dennis Patrick** for very kindly donating the flowers again this year and also thanks to **Meg Benn** in creating the individual bunches.

**A big thank you to everyone who gave donations towards the Easter Lilies**

<b>CHURCH SERVICES</b>		<b>ALTAR FLOWERS &amp; BRASS ROTA</b>	
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00am <b>Easter Day</b> Holy Communion	Easter Lilies – Yvonne Reeve	
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	8.30am Holy Communion	Yvonne Reeve	
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00am Morning / Family Service	Gill Douglas	
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00am Holy Communion	Gill Douglas	
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	8.30am Holy Communion	Sally Barringer	
Vicar: The Revd. Michael Pettitt Tel: 743508			

**Contributions for the May Newsletter should be sent to the editor, John Mott at 16 Church Gardens or  
Telephone: 770618, e-mail [jmd.mott@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmd.mott@yahoo.co.uk) by April 24<sup>th</sup>.**