

NEWSLETTER

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

A DEAD ISSUE

At the Parish Council meeting on the 17th February the chairman, **Stephen Holt**, stated that in his view the proposed development in Ravensthorpe put forward by the Strategic Housing Land Availability was an admitted mistake and was now no longer an issue. The site is scheduled to be removed from the plan in three months time at the end of the consultation period.

The statements by SHLAA that the site is “actively promoted” and “available for development” are false.

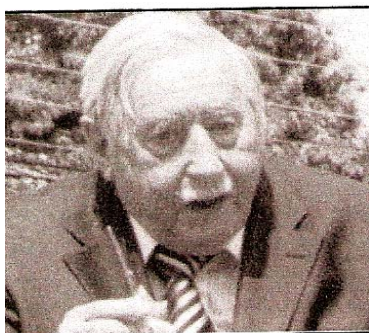
Ravensthorpe is classified as a “**restricted infill village**” and the Village Design Statement recognised by the Daventry District Council is still in force.

The landowner, Trevor Foss, reiterated his opposition to the development stating only that he had an interest in building a few houses along the Guilsborough Road within the confines of “infill”. It is shameful that he and his wife have been subjected to unwarranted and ignorant abuse over this matter.

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HORACE BATTEN – Part 3

The previous instalment of this series was published in the March 2009 issue and the editor apologises for the lack of continuity, but other matters filled the space available.



By way of contrast as a wartime experience Horace was also in Wakefield Goal! Not one should hasten to add as an occupant – but to provide boots for the West Riding Mounted Police Detachment who were based there.

With petrol being almost unobtainable for his various journeys, Horace used to cycle to West Haddon where he caught a bus to Rugby and the train. On a number of occasions he recalls having to walk back at night in the pitch darkness of the “blackout” from Rugby to Ravensthorpe having arrived too late for any lift back.

Excitement in Ravensthorpe was rather limited in the war but Horace remembers when two bombs were dropped adjacent to the bridge over the dip on the road to Long Buckby. The story was that Jacob Nelson of Manor Farm had been driving back from the Why Not pub (later, until demolished, the Buckby Lion) in a hurry and had left his lights on which had attracted a German Bomber! The next day on a visit he found a contingent of streetwise London evacuees from East Haddon scouring the site anxious to claim a trophy.

He was not in Ravensthorpe the day the Wellington bomber crashed near Coton but does recall the sight the next day of debris from the crash hanging from nearby trees.

After the Second World War Horace suggested that rather than erect a stone monument in recognition of the two men who died – Albert Watson and Colin Smith – a sports field for the village would be a better memorial. As a result of village efforts over the next two to three years £3000 was raised and the three and a half acres were purchased for what is now the Ravensthorpe Memorial Playing Field.

ANNUAL VILLAGE LITTER PICK

Saturday, 27th March - Meeting outside the Village Hall at 10.30 am.

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**Come along and have fun whilst helping to keep our village clean and tidy
Please wear sensible shoes and bring along some sturdy gloves if you have them – tabards and sacks will be provided.**

**We are starting early this year, before the grass, hedgerows and shrubberies have grown higher.
All ages are welcome for just an hour or so's effort. A good turn-out will make all the difference.**

EASTER BONNET COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 3rd April – Village Hall from 10am to noon

All proceeds are for the Village Hall improvement funds

A FEW WORDS FROM CICERO – 55BC

“The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome becomes bankrupt.

People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance”.

So what have we learned in 2065 years? Evidently not much!

EDITORIAL – by John Mott

The editor is extremely grateful for all the help he has received. **MartinWilkes** has taken on the job of printing the 300 or so copies. I owe special thanks to **Clive Clewes**, who used his computer graphic skills for six years to produce a more professional Newsletter than I am capable of, and printed each edition. My thanks, as always, to the faithful distributors:- **Heather Walker, Mary Worthington, Patricia Spring, Ruth Giles, Les Bates, Sandra Addleton, Karen Hastie, Mavis Johnstone, Alison Brandon-Jones and Rosemary Gee**, who moved from Coton in September and who’s place has now been taken by **Thalia Pike**, now followed by **Lynne Miller**.

I have now edited the Newsletter for over nine years and, though set in my ways, I continue to welcome suggestions for improvements and, without a team of reporters, your contributions are important. It is also becoming time to look for a new editor.

VILLAGE HALL IMPROVEMENTS - There will be an **Open Meeting** on Thursday, 1st April at 8pm in the Village Hall to view the plans and costings and discuss the way forward. The Village needs to be fully involved in achieving the goals previously agreed on. A fuller explanation of what is needed will be circulated throughout the village shortly.

LENT LUNCHESES

The series continues as follows:-
3rd March Hostess; Ann Fowler Home Farm
10th March Hostess; Tricia Freeman 2 The Orchards
17th March Hostess; Thalia Pike Gretton, 52 Guilsborough Rd
24th March Hostess; Lorna Jones 28 Teeton Rd.

The Lent Lunch held at Gill Douglas’ home on 24th February raised £125 for The Haitian Relief Fund and was enjoyed by over 30 villagers.

BIBLE STUDY EVENINGS

Every Tuesday in Lent from 7.30pm to 9pm in Guilsborough Surgery.

Now please don’t stop reading thinking it will be boring, boring. Go along and give it a try. The Vicar promises the evenings will be an eye opener and very entertaining. The subject will be **the miracles of Jesus** as told in the Gospel according to St. John. As **Sandy Tringham**, our lay preacher observed last Sunday, what better place than the surgery for such discussions!

THE VILLAGE HALL LUNCH on Wednesday, 17th February saw 35 people enjoy a delicious lunch and £235 was raised for the Village Hall Improvements Fund. A huge thanks to the cooks and organisers.

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WOMEN’S INSTITUTE MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, 18th March At 8pm in the Village Hall. **“Buying and selling at auction”** by Steven Bruce.(Members are invited to bring an artefact for discussion). New Members and visitors welcome. Hostesses:- Tanya Avery and Audrey Backhouse.

A Film Night is planned on Friday, 23rd April at 8pm in the Village Hall with a showing of **“Kinky Boots”**

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ODDS200 February draw £50 Deborah Hogben £20 Julie Faulkner Chequers’ Accumulator £140

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EASTER LILIES

Anyone wishing to donate a lily, or lilies, in memory of a loved one to decorate St. Denys’ Church at Easter Sunday – please contact Yvonne Reeve on 770408

CHURCH SERVICES			ALTAR FLOWERS & BRASS ROTA	
Sunday	7 th March	8.30am	Holy Communion at Guilsborough	Lent
Sunday	14 th March	11.00am	Morning/Family Service- Mothering Sunday	Lent
Sunday	21 st March	11.00am	Holy Communion	Lent
Sunday	28 th March	10.00am	Group Service at Guilsborough- Palm Sunday	Lent
Friday	2 nd April	6.00pm	Good Friday- Group Devotional Service at Guilsborough	Lent
Sunday	4 th April	11.00am	Easter Day – Holy Communion	Easter Lilies

Contributions for the April Newsletter should be sent by the 23rd March to the editor, John Mott, at 16 Church Gardens. Tel: 770618 e-mail jmd.mott@yahoo.co.uk