

# NEWSLETTER

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

## “A SIGNIFICANT ERROR”

*Your editor had been advised not to publish this article in the February edition as it might have led to unnecessary speculation and distress. However, the substance of the article has now been posted on the village notice board as part of the minutes of the January 20<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting. Part of the proposals published by the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (JPU) are also on the notice board.*

On the 11<sup>th</sup> January proposals were published by the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (JPU) in response to the Government's desire for an additional 48,000 houses to be built in West Northamptonshire between now and 2026. The JPU is a partnership of Daventry District Council, South Northamptonshire Council, Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council and is therefore accountable to elected officials.

In a report entitled Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) the JPU has looked at 885 separate sites across West Northamptonshire. Of these, 300 have been classed as “suitable for development” and a further 281 as having “potential”. Among the sites “suitable for development” a site on **north side of the Guilsborough Road, Ravensthorpe** has been identified with a potential for 759 houses – possibly the largest in any rural area.

SHLAA is **NOT** a plan for development but simply a part of the technical evidence base required to inform the plan making process. It states that “the inclusion of a site by SHLAA **DOES NOT** decide if it should be allocated for development. The Assessment has **NOT** taken into account, nor applied, any policy considerations; this will come later in the plan making process”.

However, having made these important qualifications, the Assessment and “Developability” for the Ravensthorpe site reads:-

“A Greenfield site in agricultural use adjacent settlement of Ravensthorpe. Trees with Preservation Orders on frontage. No identified environmental constraints. The Highways' Agency considers that the site will have a low impact on SRN (whatever this is). The site is available for development as it is *actively promoted* (editor's italics). The site is considered suitable, available and achievable with no constraints to delivery.”

Their Potential Delivery Time Table forecasts building starting in 2012 with completion in 2018.

Despite the provisos, serious concerns have been expressed. At the Parish Council Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January the Chairman, Stephen Holt, said that his understanding was that “**a significant error had been made**”. There is **no evidence** that a development is “actively supported” – **it is not supported by the landowner** - and any such plans would be vigorously opposed by the Parish Council. **The sooner this is officially declared an error the better.**

\* \* \*

### LENT LUNCHESES

A series of Lent Lunches has been organised by Tricia Freeman. These will take place on Wednesdays from 12noon to 2pm. A minimum contribution of £4 is expected with half the proceeds going to St. Denys' Church and half going to the Haiti Disaster Fund. Everyone is welcome, especially “new faces”. These are very social occasions and an opportunity to meet up with friends and make new ones

24 <sup>th</sup> February	Hostess; Gill Douglas	Hill House, High Street
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Hostess; Ann Fowler	Home Farm
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Hostess; Trishia Freeman	2 The Orchards
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Hostess; Thalia Pike	Gretton, 52 Guilsborough Rd.
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Hostess; Lorna Jones	28 Teeton Rd.

**SNOWDROPS & HELLIBORES at COTON MANOR - 13<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> February** 11am to 4pm  
Light Lunches and Teas available. Entry £3. Further information on 740219

### VILLAGE HALL LUNCHESES

The next lunch will be on **Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February** 12.30 for 1.00 pm in aid of Village Hall Restoration Funds. To book your place for another enjoyable lunch at £5 per person contact; Pat Foss on 770466 or Lin Hudson on 770562

### GARDENS & VILLAGE OPEN DAY – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Planning will be starting now to repeat last June's success to raise much needed additional money for the Village Hall Restoration Fund. If you would like to help in anyway please contact a member of the VH committee (Chairman Trevor Foss on 770466). The committee is always open to fund raising help and ideas not only for this event but throughout the year. Anyone who would like to join the committee will be most welcome.

### ST. DENYS' CHURCH FETE – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2010

More than ever this year more help is needed as the fete has become ever more popular. Help setting up, taking down and running the stalls will be most appreciated.

It is not too early for good quality bric-a-brac to be delivered to Torch Hill Farm, or Colin Mold will collect if called on 770667.

Colin would welcome any new ideas for this year's fete from anyone and he will be holding a meeting at Torch Hill Farm within the next couple of months for anyone to attend.

### CHURCH NEWS

The special collection on **Remembrance Sunday** raised £173 for the Royal British Legion.

We are sorry to announce that **the Revd. Peter Rowe** a former Vicar of the parish died in January.

The **Carol Service** was again a joyful occasion and our thanks go to the choir for their wonderful singing and descants. Also thanks to all the readers but especially to those who decorated the church and set everything up. We are very grateful, once again, to **Trevor and Pat Foss** for providing – and erecting – the Christmas Tree and for the magnificent berried holly.

### VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Village Hall was busy in the last month or so with a very successful shopping event on the 27<sup>th</sup> November raising around £475. **Viv Jozsa** needs our special thanks for organising the evening and has plans for next year already.

The **Children's Christmas Party** went well on the 29<sup>th</sup>. 25 children enjoyed Royston the magician with tea, party games and a visit from Father Christmas with presents. Many thanks to **Karen Eagles** for organising the children's games so well. Special thanks too to one anonymous donation and to **Colin Mold** and the committee for covering the expenses of the party.

New Year's Eve saw about 65 people enjoy an evening of 50s/60s/70s music played by **Indigo Blue (Roger Springett)**. Funds totalling nearly £700 were added for village hall improvements due to Roger donating his time free. **Dave (PO)** gave hotdog sausages. Many donated raffle prizes and the committee as always showed their generosity

**ODDS200.** January 7<sup>th</sup> £50 Louise (PMA), £20 A. Wheeler. Chequers' Accumulator £120

#### CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 8.30am Holy Communion  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 11.00am Holy Communion  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 11.00am Morning Service  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February 11.00am Holy Communion  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 8.30am Holy Communion at **Guilborough**

#### ALTAR FLOWERS & BRASS ROTA

Beryl Mott  
Pauline Reeve  
LENT  
LENT

*Contributions for the March Newsletter should be sent by 19<sup>th</sup> February to the editor,  
John Mott at 16 Church Gardens. Tel: 770618. E-mail [jmd.mott@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmd.mott@yahoo.co.uk)*