

# NEWSLETTER

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

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The editor is again thankful to **Alistair Mold** for coming to his rescue and organising the printing of the April Newsletter

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## VILLAGE OPEN DAY - FROM 11AM ON JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>

### To raise funds for Village Hall improvements

As well as having gardens open for viewing and numerous craft and produce stalls, there will be teas and food at the Village Hall. There will be various events taking place during the day, including Morris Dancers and bands. There is also a “**Scrap Sculpture Challenge**” for imaginative objects made from scrap, so get the creative ideas flowing and have a go!

Flyers will be delivered through doors soon looking for help in various ways, but anyone with fruit (frozen or otherwise) and clean jam jars, please contact **Janice Tevendale** on 770302. **Lin Hudson** needs a few more volunteers for car parking duties on a rota basis and help with teas, etc at the Village Hall, phone 770562.

**It should be a great day, we just need sunshine!**

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### THE PARISH MEETING – 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL

Opening the meeting, the Chairman, **John Matts**, announced his intention not to stand for re-election. He has served as Chairman of the Parish Council for **12 years** and will be greatly missed. So also will **Rosemary Partridge**, who is also retiring as Co-ordinator of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, again after **12 years** service. The editor was unable to attend this meeting, but is grateful for the notes supplied by Martin Wilkes. There is no space left to report all the matters raised at this meeting, hopefully this will be done next month.

**THE AGM of the PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL** was held on April 26<sup>th</sup> and **David Johnstone** and **Meg Benn** were re-elected as Churchwardens. **Doreen Buck** retired from the PCC after having served continuously for **60 years**. St. Denys Church and the whole village owe her a huge amount of gratitude for her commitment to both church and community. Thanks were also expressed for the excellent work **Peter Smith** does as Church Treasurer.

The cost of the quinquennial repairs and maintenance of St. Denys have risen to over £30,000 allowing for recovery of VAT. This was due to the discovery of a further section of stonework in need of replacement. The Church Funds are, thankfully, sufficient to cope with this cost but regular fundraising is necessary.

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**EASTER SUNDAY.** Many thanks to all those who donated flowers and lilies and to those who decorated the Church. St. Denys looked its best and the choir added to the beauty of the service.

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**CHURCH FETE – SUNDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> AUGUST.** With Radio Northampton coming with the Green Welly Show from 12 noon until the Fete opens at 2 pm these two hours will be utilised to provide Ploughman’s Lunches (cheese only) for £2.50. There will also be a flower arranging demonstration and the bric-a-brac stall will be open. Now is the time to spring-clean, so all **good quality** bric-a-brac can be brought to Torch Hill Farm from now until the Fete. We do not want burnt candles, used underwear, or broken glasses!

This year we hope to have **Ye Olde Village Sweet Shop**, so we would like to have any offerings of homemade sweets such as fudge, peppermint cream, coconut ice, toffee, etc. We would also like to have any other unusual stalls or displays of homemade crafts. So, if you are interested, or know someone who would be, contact **Colin Mold**; 770667. The charge will remain at £10 per stall.

All offers of help to set up over the Fete weekend will be gratefully received, as we are growing each year.

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### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> MAY

**Ken and Barbara Ward** are kindly organising the collection for this Charity again this year. Envelopes will be delivered throughout the village by volunteers and collected at the end of the week.

Christian Aid works to fight poverty around the world and funds projects that help people improve their lives. Please give generously **and remember to complete the Gift Aid form on the envelope.**

## OBITUARIES

### **HUBERT BOTT 1930-2009 by his daughter, Sandra Towers**

Dad was born in Long Buckby and came to work in Ravensthorpe in 1955 when he took over running the Co-op in Chequers Lane. After his marriage to Eve in March 1956 they came to live in the Co-op house opposite the pub. They moved to East Haddon Road in 1964.

Hubert took part in many aspects of village life. In the early days he played cricket. Later he ferried the teenage lads to Northampton to play in a five-aside league. He served on the Playing Field's Committee and was involved in the village festivals in the early 1970's.

His job took him mainly to London, but he had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the UK road system and was often called upon to be an airport taxi or to be Ravensthorpe's early version of satnav.

As he neared retirement age he helped found the bowls club and became chairman and booking secretary of the Village Hall.

He gave up these jobs in 2004 after suffering a stroke. The stroke left him with a speech problem and he went out less and less, content to be in the garden in summer and watch his favourite TV programmes in winter.

His health had deteriorated over the last year but he was only very poorly for five days. We managed to fulfil his wish and he was at home with Mum and I when he died on March 17<sup>th</sup> – their wedding anniversary

### **ROY ASTROP 1931-2009 by his wife, Margaret**

Roy died on the 11<sup>th</sup> March and, on being asked about an obituary, I came to the conclusion that nothing would capture his spirit and attitude to life more than the following words, written by our elder son Ian.

“On remembering conversations with my father it seemed that, be it events in his childhood, his National Service in the RAF, to his long career in the shoe trade, the house moves, being made redundant several times, working on the markets, and going to work in India in his sixties; he met all these events not with trepidation, but head on, viewing each as a challenge and a new adventure to be taken on. He had this outlook socially as well. In the various moves to different locations, he soon made friends and enjoyed being part of the community.

It was this positive attitude that helped those around him face the inevitable outcome of his illness, always maintaining that if he wasn't going to beat it, he was going to do his best to last longer than the doctors gave him. An attitude he maintained to the very last day.”

He loved all social occasions, particularly with the family, where his sense of fun came to the fore. He was a keen bowls player and also took up bell ringing at the parish church whilst we lived in Norfolk

I know he will be sadly missed not only by us, but all who knew him..

**VILLAGE LITTER PICK** Thanks to all who took part over the wet weekend of 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> March. It makes a difference!

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**SUE BESWICK, (POSTIE)** As most of you know, Sue is on a protracted period of sick leave whilst her treatment continues. Many people have asked if there is anything that can be done to support her and show our appreciation of her excellent work. Expenses increase during illness and income diminishes, so Sue has agreed to accept a collection. Her next treatment is in May and it would be a boost for her to receive it by then.

If you would like to contribute, please take your donation – preferably cash in a sealed envelope- to Gordon and Gill at the Chequers or David in the shop by Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

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**WOMEN'S INSTITUTE – MONTHLY MEETING** Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> May at 8pm in the Village Hall  
“RESOLUTIONS”

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### **CHURCH SERVICES**

Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	8.30 am Holy Communion
Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> May	11.00 am Holy Communion
Sunday, 17 <sup>th</sup> May	11.00 am Worship for All
Sunday, 24 <sup>th</sup> May	11.00 am Holy Communion
Sunday, 31 <sup>st</sup> May	10.00 am Group Service at Hollowell
Sunday, 7 <sup>th</sup> June	8.30 am Holy Communion

### **ALTAR FLOWERS & BRASS ROTA**

Ann Smith
Sally Barringer
Sally Barringer
Beryl Mott (for Doreen Buck)
Beryl Mott
Rosemary Gee

Vicar: The Revd. Michael Petitt Tel: 743508

*Contributions for the June Newsletter should be sent to the editor, John Mott at 16 Church Gardens.  
Telephone: 770618 – email [jmd.mott@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmd.mott@yahoo.co.uk) by May 23<sup>rd</sup>.*