

NEWSLETTER

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

LENT COURSES – This year our Group is running a series of 5 short courses entitled **READS, MARK, LEARN**. This is an opportunity to consider our Bible, its place in our history and in our lives today. All the courses will be held in the Guilsborough Surgery:

Wednesday 16th March at 7.30pm “The people of the book”
Tuesday 22nd March at 7.30pm “The authority of scripture”
Tuesday 9th March at 7.30pm “Meditating on God’s word”
Tuesday 12th April at 7.30pm “Entering God’s story”

Each session is self sufficient so you do not have to worry if you miss any particular one – but taken together all 5 sessions will reinvigorate our love of Scripture and help us see God’s plan for us as a creation, as a community and as individuals. **All are welcome from any of our villages – whether you come to church or not.**

You never know this may be the start of a wonderful new relationship for you!

VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – Regrettably The Village Hall was turned down for grants by both The National Lottery and BIFFA. Refurbishment is still planned to begin in May but fund raising should continue. More details next month. **The next Village Hall Lunch will be on Wednesday, March 9th at 12.30pm for !pm**

SERENDIPITY THIS SPRING – As forecast in the February Newsletter a “Shopping Event” will be held in the Village Hall on April 7th in aid of the Village Hall Restoration Fund. (SEE ATTACHMENT FOR DETAILS).

This will also take place the evening before – Wednesday April 6th from 6 to 8.30pm with an entrance of £5 to include wine and canapés.

Because of the limited space in the hall, and to have an indication of numbers for catering, we are limiting the Evening Event to Villagers, and By Invitation Only. If anyone in the village has friends who would like to come but are unable to do so on the Thursday, please could they contact the Motts on 770618.

Also we’d be grateful if any of you have a free- standing mirror we could borrow for the event

LENT LUNCHESES - Tricia Freeman has organised a series of 5 Lent Lunches again this year These will take place from 12noon to 2pm and a minimum donation of £4 is expected with half the proceeds going to St Denys Church and half to a charity selected by the hostess. Everyone is welcome, especially “new faces”. These are very social occasions and an opportunity to meet up with friends and make new ones.

Wednesday 16 th March	Hostess: Lorna Jones	28 Teeton Road
Wednesday 23 rd March	Hostess: Ann Fowler	Home Farm
THURSDAY 31 st March	Hostess: Susie Pasley-Tyler	Coton Manor
Wednesday 6 th April	Hostess Trish Freeman	2 The Orchards
Wednesday 13 th April	Hostess: Thalia Pike	Gretton, 52 Guilsborough Road

TRUSTEE NEEDED FOR RAVENSTHORPE UNITED CHARITY

Every year, Ravensthorpe United Charities distribute funds, mainly to senior citizens, within the parish. RUC is administered by six Trustees, meeting once or twice a year. Two of the Trustees act as Chairman and Secretary, and these roles are currently carried out by Shirley Blakelock and Karen Eagles.

Following the retirement of Dennis Patrick, a trustee for 34 years, including 21 as Chairman, a new Trustee is needed. **If you are interested in becoming a Trustee and helping to continue the work of this most local of charities,**

Please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council, Liz Peachy, on 770894 or ravensthorpepepc@yahoo.co.uk by Monday, 14th March 2011.

The Trustees, the Parish Council and the entire parish would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank **Dennis Patrick** for his 34 years work on behalf of the Ravensthorpe United Charities.

ANNUAL VILLAGE LITTER PICK – Saturday 26th March at 10,30am Meeting outside the Village Hall

Come along and have fun whilst helping to keep our village tidy.

Please wear sensible shoes and bring along some sturdy gloves if you have them.

All ages are welcome for just an hour or so’s effort. A good turn-out will make all the difference.

LEO HIGHTON

**The memories of the last remaining man in Ravensthorpe who served throughout the Second World War.
As related to the editor or compiled from his papers and contemporary notes.**

Leo was born in Thurlaston, Leicestershire on the 12th June 1918; the son of a farm labourer. He attended school in the village of Earl Shilton and at the age of 16 he went to work at Eatough's shoe factory. He was called up for National Service in the Royal Artillery on the 15th July 1939, little thinking it would be six and a half years before he returned to civilian life.

He did his basic training in Norwich and was then sent to Yeovil to join the 78th Regiment RA to train for what was expected to be service in France. Around the middle of May 1940 the regiment went to Portsmouth to embark for France. However, by the time they reached the ship British forces were in full retreat and the sailing was cancelled.



The regiment remained in England to defend the country from the expected invasion. Early in 1941 they were training hard again in preparation for battle in North Africa and were attached to the 52nd Lowland Division in Scotland. During this period however, Leo found time to woo his sweetheart, Joan and they were married in Earl Shilton on the 21st June 1941.

On the 18th July 1942 the regiment left the 52nd Division and embarked on a troopship for Egypt. They arrived on the 1st September 1942 after nearly 6 weeks at sea rounding the Cape of Good Hope. (*"A nice cruise", I said at this point in the interview to be met by a withering look from Leo. Clearly, it had been a crowded, uncomfortable and boring journey.*)

From this point on Leo's account is taken from the journal he wrote at the time. His job was to drive an ammunition lorry, loaded with high explosive. Often he would sit for long periods waiting for orders to move out. It was often during this time he made these notes and wrote letters home.. Comments by the editor will be in italics .

"After arrival in Egypt, and a short but intensive bout of desert training under 1st Armoured Division, I first saw action at the historic battle of Alamein." TO BE CONTINUED. (Part 2, Alamein to Tunis).

CRABTREE POCKET PARK NEWS – by Cliff Giles

By the time you receive this Newsletter the snowdrops and aconites in the lane leading from West Haddon Road (opposite Torquemeters) will probably be at their best, so if you have 5 minutes to spare why not wander up and have a look!

We have recently been able to buy a chain saw with a grant from The Big Lottery Fund (National Lottery) and Glyn Lewis has started coppicing some of the trees (assisted by Margaret Lewis and me). This will allow more light and create a more diverse habitat. The hazel trees that have been coppiced will regenerate, growing new shoots from the base. There is now a pile of twigs and branches in the pocket park that will eventually be burnt, but if anyone can make use them please help yourself. It is too late in the year to do any more coppicing now but we shall continue in the Autumn. Anyone who could help would be most welcome.

The grant also included some money to purchase plants and we intend to buy bluebells for planting in the near future. **If you could help us to plant them please contact me on 770451.**

**FAMILY BINGO EVENING – in the Village Hall – Friday 11th March 6.30pm doors open for a 7pm start.
Refreshments available so bring the family and join the fun! –(proceeds to the W.I.).**

**WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday 17th March – 8pm in the Village Hall.
"Stitch 'n' Bitch" by Abigail Jackson – Hostesses:- Tanya Avery & Audrey Backhouse – new members welcome.**

EASTER LILIES

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 6th March 8.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 9th March 10.00am Holy Communion with Ashing – **Guilsborough**
Sunday 13th March 10.00am **Group Service – Cottesbrooke**
Sunday 20th March 9.45am Holy Communion

ALTAR FLOWERS & BRASS ROTA

Ann Fowler

NO FLOWERS

Sunday 3rd April 11.00am **Mothering Sunday**

Interim Minister:- The Revd. Mark Battison – phone 846690

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