

**CHURCH NOTICES**

Please may we ask that only compostable garden rubbish is put in the church garden bin. Thank you.

**Lent Groups**

Lent Groups began on Wednesday 25th February, and will continue on Wednesdays until 25th March.

In the mornings there is the option of joining Morning Prayer in Guilsborough Church at 9.00am followed by refreshments in the vicarage from around 9.40am (all welcome whether attending Morning Prayer or not) for a 10.00am start of the group session.

In the evenings refreshments will be available from 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.

Sessions will last up to an hour.

Both groups are being held in Guilsborough Vicarage.

**CHURCH CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Rev'd Allison Twigg 01604 846099 [revallisontwigg@gmail.com](mailto:revallisontwigg@gmail.com); Associate Priest: Rev'd Caroline Burnett 01604 328629; [caroline\\_burnett@btinternet.com](mailto:caroline_burnett@btinternet.com); Assistant Curate: Rev Cecily Nurmahi 01858 791228; [revcecilynurmahi@gmail.com](mailto:revcecilynurmahi@gmail.com) Assistant Curate Jo Ognjanovic 07800 505891 [revjo.church@gmail.com](mailto:revjo.church@gmail.com)  
 The Uplands Group Office: [uplandsgroupoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uplandsgroupoffice@gmail.com);  
 Website: [www.uplandsgroupchurches.org.uk](http://www.uplandsgroupchurches.org.uk)

**From the Chair of the Parish Council: Diane Hayes (07873 271126)**

**The Annual Village Litter Pick will take place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March** from 10am -if you can spare an hour or so to help please pick up bags and gloves and grabber outside the Village Hall. On that day members of the Parish Council are planning to clean some of the village signs – if you would be able to help by cleaning up your street sign, then please contact Di Hayes.

**Annual Village Meeting will be held in the Village Hall from 10.30am on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April** – representatives of the various village organisations will be there to tell you about their work over the past year; questions and comments will be welcome – come along and enjoy free tea/coffee cake and biscuits.

**CHURCH SERVICES: RAVENSTHORPE & UPLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES—MARCH 2026**

	Location	Service Type	Time	Flowers
<b>Sunday 1 March</b>	<b>Ravensthorpe</b>	<b>BCP Communion</b>	<b>8.30am</b>	
	Other Churches/ Services	Cottesbrooke (11.00am BCP Communion); Creaton (9.30am BCP Communion); Guilsborough (11.00am CW Communion); Spratton (11.00am Worship for All); Thornby (9.30am BCP Communion).		
<b>Sunday 8 March</b>	<b>Creaton</b>	<b>Group Service</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	
<b>Sunday 15 March</b> <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	<b>Ravensthorpe</b>	<b>CW Communion</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	
	Other Churches/ Services	Creaton (11.00am Service at URC Church); Guilsborough (11.00am Brunch@11; 6.00pm Evensong); Spratton (8.30am BCP Communion).		
<b>Sunday 22 March</b>	<b>Ravensthorpe</b>	<b>Worship For All</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	
	Other Churches/ Services	Cold Ashby (9.30am BCP Communion); Guilsborough (9.30am BCP Communion); Hollowell (11.00am CW Communion); Spratton (11.00am CW Communion).		
<b>Sunday 29 March</b> <i>Palm Sunday</i>	<b>Spratton</b>	<b>Group Service</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	
	Other Churches/ Services	Creaton (3.00pm: Songs of Praise)		

## RAVENSTHORPE & COTON PARISH COUNCIL

The PC has awarded the grass-mowing contract to a new contractor who bid for the work at the lowest price. We are also looking for quotes to tidy up the shrubbery at the back of the bank on the corner of the High St and Church Hill. There will be further tree maintenance later this year.

The street light at the bottom of Little Lane on the opposite side of the High Street is being replaced. Some of our street lights have part night cells fitted. This is to save electricity; they go off at about midnight and come back on before dawn. We have budgeted to change a few more street lights to this type of bulb over the next financial year.

We are writing to West Northants Council regarding a ban/limit on HGVs travelling through the village. We had previously been told that the opening of the new bypass would change the options for lorry routes.

**See also notices re Annual Litter Pick & Annual Village Meeting, on page 1).**

Diane Hayes  
Chair of the Parish Council  
Tel 07873 271126

### COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE

The bus from West Haddon to Daventry via Guilsborough, Coton, Ravensthorpe and Long Buckby (No 52) picks up in Ravensthorpe at the bus shelter and at the bottom of the West Haddon Rd at approx 9.45am. It runs every 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in each month.

The Haddon Hopper normally runs to Rugby (Elliott's Field or town centre) on the 4th Thursday of each month departing from the village at approximately 9.30am. Other destinations, such as Rushden Lakes, are added to the programme from time to time.

The website <https://cmbus.org/shopper-hopper/> For all trips the bus returns after approximately 2 hours. This service is run by a social enterprise - CommMiniBus and administered by volunteers. The service is free to anyone with a bus pass. There is a charge per single journey for anyone without a pass, I think it's currently £3. Passengers need to register to use the service - ring 0333 188 0591 or email [bookings@cmbus.org](mailto:bookings@cmbus.org) You must book for each trip. Ravensthorpe contact Di Hayes 01604 770482.

It's a great service, with helpful drivers, so please support it and help to keep it going.

## Ravensthorpe: through the reign of Elizabeth II- 1952-2022

*This book tells the story of how Ravensthorpe changed over the twentieth century and the years of Queen Elizabeth's reign. It is told through the eyes and experiences of those who were born here and have lived here. It is "a fascinating read". 200 copies were printed for its launch in November—and there are just 50 left. With 75 pages including illustrations and photos from down the ages, they are available at just £5 per copy from Diane Hayes (07873 271126; [dianeaudrey.hayes@gmail.com](mailto:dianeaudrey.hayes@gmail.com)), or Alan Worthington (07801 051 402) and the newsletter ([ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com)).*

*Kelmarsh*  
Hall & Gardens

Kelmarsh Hall and Gardens will reopen for the 2026 season on **Sunday 1st March**, offering visitors an extra month to enjoy the beauty of the beautiful spring gardens.

The extended opening provides a wonderful opportunity to experience the gardens as they come to life. The Hall and its grounds promise a vibrant start to the year, perfect for garden lovers, history enthusiasts, and families alike.

This season also sees an exciting new addition to the Hall, including a new dressing room inspired by Nancy Lancaster, and an exhibition created in collaboration with Royal & Derngate. This celebrates creativity and heritage, adding a fresh cultural dimension to the visitor experience.



### CRABTREE PIT POCKET PARK UPDATE

Our next volunteer work session on the pocket park is Sunday 22 March 10am to 12noon. We'll continue work on the 'thicket' to bring it under control and out of the canopy of the mature oak, ash and apple trees.

The Spring meadow is in bloom, full of stunning lent lilies and crocus flowers, heralding the way before the cowslips. Unfortunately due to the exceptionally prolonged wet weather, there's been a delay on the tree works in the lane and the hedge laying adjacent to the meadow.

Sadly the pocket park pond liner is damaged and the pond is much reduced. We'll look into options going forward but it is likely the end of the pond as we know it. The *silver lining* is that the sloped sandy soil is becoming a fabulous habitat for rarer plants like kidney vetch and solitary bees.

We'd like to thank the Countryside rangers for their help felling the large hawthorn at the meadow entrance. Please donate to the **tramper fundraising** to help improve access to Pitsford Reservoir from Brixworth Country Park. (Go fund me / Friends of Brampton Valley Way)



## HOLDENBY

**The Magic Of Easter at Holdenby House 5th-6th April**

**The perfect family day out—**

Easter Egg Hunt with amazing £200 prize!  
Easter Market Stalls

Icarus Falconry and Wildlife Displays; Magician  
Alice in Wonderland Characters; Lawn Games  
Children's crafts; Face painting; Food court & Old Stable  
Tea Room

**Open Sunday & Monday 11am-4pm**

**House open: Monday 12-3pm (last entry 2.30pm)**

**To book tickets or for more information please visit our website: [www.holdenby.com](http://www.holdenby.com)**

## RAVENSTHORPE VILLAGE HALL: WHAT'S ON IN MARCH?

For more information visit [www.rvhall.online.co.uk](http://www.rvhall.online.co.uk)

ACE COURSES	<i>Impressionism &amp; Mid-Century Modernism. Mondays 2-4.</i>	
ARTS & CRAFTS	<b>CRAFTERNOON:</b> 2.15pm every Thursday.	Call Di 770482 or Pauline 770634.
BOWLING	<b>SHORT-MAT BOWLING</b> 2pm every Wednesday.	Call Lin 07557 396627
BRIDGE CLUB	2pm every Tuesday.	Call Bernadette 01604 770424
CINEMA	Tuesday 3rd & 24th. 7.30pm	See Box, right.
COFFEE MORNINGS	Wednesday Coffee Morning. 10.30—12.00 March 4th & 18th. All welcome.	
EASTER EGG HUNT	Saturday 28th March (see ad.)	Chrissie 0750 7895383
GAMING CLUB	Saturday 7 March. 7pm Raven Loonies Table-Top Gaming Club. For more visit <a href="https://ravenloonies.com">https://ravenloonies.com</a>	
PARISH COUNCIL	<b>RAVENSTHORPE &amp; COTON PARISH COUNCIL</b> Wednesday 18 March at 7.30pm	
PILATES	Paula Edmunds Pilates. 9.30am Every Monday.	Paula 07799 798424
	Pilates with Sophie: Every Thursday at 9.30am	Call Sophie 07764 586990
SHOTOKAN KARATE	Every Sunday at 9.30 (Seniors); Every Thursday at 6pm (Juniors).	Call Andy 07891 132675
TABLE TENNIS	Mondays at 7pm; & Fridays at 2pm.	Call/ text 07710 813069
WI	Thursday 18th March.	Liz Ellison 03301 36831



## RAVENSTHORPE VILLAGE HALL



RAVENSTHORPE

VILLAGE CINEMA

Tickets £7. Go to: [rvhall.online/cinema](http://rvhall.online/cinema);  
email: [cinema@rvhall.online](mailto:cinema@rvhall.online); or telephone  
Mike & Mo Cobbe 01604 328822

### Mainstream Feature Film Tuesday 3 March 7.30-9.30pm **DEAD OF WINTER**

Emma Thompson stars as an unlikely action hero in this tense American thriller. "Dead of Winter keeps the audience on the edge of their seats with a story full of unexpected twists and turns, a tale both tense and cruel but also tender and full of humanity." (Cineuropa). "Emma Thompson lights up icy Fargo country thriller" (The Guardian)



### Cinephile screening: Tuesday 24 March 7.30pm **I SWEAR**

This triple BAFTA award winning film is the moving and funny account of the experiences of Tourette's Syndrome campaigner John Davidson MBE. "biopic of pioneering Tourette syndrome activist is funny, fierce and full of heart" (The Guardian); "a poignant, funny, instructive, humanist and exhilarating film" (Cineuropa); "A deft balance of prickly and sweet that's bound together by Robert Aramayo's knockout performance" (Rotten Tomatoes)



### The next National Theatre Live Screening: Friday 1st May 7.30pm

National Theatre Live



Bryan Cranston (Breaking Bad, Trumbo) and Marianne Jean-Baptiste (Hard Truths) feature in a five-star, triumphantly acclaimed new production of Arthur Miller's classic play, from visionary director Ivo Van Hove (A View from the Bridge). Tickets: £12 from [rvhall online](http://rvhall.online).

## GOVANNEN

Celtic Music at its Best! Ravensthorpe Village Hall  
24th April 2026

Join us for an unforgettable night of live music.  
Licensed Bar. Tickets available  
soon from [rvhall.online](http://rvhall.online)



**Buckby Library & Hub**  
*for books & buzz*

## Update from Buckby Library & Hub

### 2026 is the National Year of Reading

It's **free** to join the library. Come along and see what we have to offer – both for you and for your children. Do you know we also have an amazing collection of **jigsaws**? You can join the jigsaw swap scheme or simply buy one for £2.

Do you enjoy a good read? Join a book club! We have an afternoon and an evening one, both monthly. **Books in the Afternoon** is welcoming new members. It meets on the first Wednesday of the month, 3-4.30pm. Contact [janebailey60@gmail.com](mailto:janebailey60@gmail.com) or just go along. Contribution to library costs: £2/session.

We are a 'Read Easy' venue and proudly support the scheme. If you know an adult who struggles with reading, there is help available. There are also rewarding volunteer opportunities as Reading Coaches. See <https://readeasy.org.uk/groups/northampton>, phone Julia Vernon on 07942 093454 or ask at reception in the library.

### Our special events in March

**Art exhibitions:** we are holding a photographic exhibition from Amanda and Brandon of Culver House Photography who are currently offering portraiture shoots in the Northamptonshire area. If you wish to meet and have a chat with them, they will be in the library on Thursday afternoons (5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> March).

**Ukulele Group evening:** come along on Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> for an evening's café style entertainment from our ever popular Long Buckby Ukulele Group. Tickets are free from the library and the Peephole in the High Street. Refreshments available, and donations welcome. The evening starts at 7.30 (doors open at 7.00).

**Films:** our March film is **The Choral**, on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>, 7.30pm. "A choral society's male members enlist in World War I, leaving the demanding Dr. Guthrie to recruit teenagers. Together, they experience the joy of singing while the young boys grapple with their impending conscription into the army." Tickets are £7.50 from the library or the Peephole. Doors open at 7pm. Refreshments available, including ice cream.

### A date for the diary!

We are having a **Spring Fayre** on Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2-4.30pm. Stalls include bric a brac, toys, bottle tombola, raffle, crafts, cards, cakes, forestry and plants, accessories, skincare, and products from our local deli. It's a fundraising event for the library. Free entry and all welcome.

### Friends and Trustees needed!

Will you support Buckby Library & Hub by becoming a **Friend**? Please see the information on our website <https://buckbylibraryhub.org/friends/> or pop in to see us.

We are also looking for more **Trustees** to join our excellent team. Would you be interested? Without commitment, please get in touch with [sam.holst@buckbylibraryhub.org](mailto:sam.holst@buckbylibraryhub.org) to find out more. <https://buckbylibraryhub.org>; <https://buckbylibraryhub.org/calendar/>; email: [sam.holst@buckbylibraryhub.org](mailto:sam.holst@buckbylibraryhub.org); 01327 842591.

### Playing Field Lottery winners:

**February lottery winners: Anne Moss (£50) & Anne Moss (£20).**  
*(Yes, that's correct!)*

**April Newsletter:** the deadline for the April Newsletter is Monday 23 March. Any queries to Alan Worthington, 07801 051402 (text or phone), and contributions to [ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com).

## Woodland Trust – Top Ardles Wood Update

We have begun coppicing the hazel in the central area of Top Ardles woodland this year. Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management that involves cyclically cutting the stems down to almost ground level and letting them regrow. As well as producing a more-sustainable supply of timber, coppicing also benefits the woodland wildlife by creating a variety of different structures and conditions. Coppicing also allows more light to reach the ground (of different intensities when in a rotation), hopefully increasing the diversity and abundance of wildflowers. The majority of the hazel will be coppiced in sections over the next 3-6 years and then each section will likely be cut again on a 7-12 year cycle, along with the willow that had previously been cut.

We had hoped to work with a local coppice group but were unfortunately let down so have utilised our maintenance contractors to get the work underway. Most of the materials have been used to create deadhedges and additional habitat opportunities for wildlife, although some have also been utilised for stakes and binders in the creation of a laid hedge in the village pocket park.

As well as the coppicing, we have also removed several dead ash trees that had been infected with chalara ash dieback and were threatening the safety of path users. Numerous self-seeded and spreading birch have also been removed from one of the main rides, to allow this to stay open and develop a greater diversity of open-ground wildflowers. Similarly, several trees within the stands will be gently thinned over the subsequent years, further increasing structural diversity, allowing the remaining trees to better develop and to create areas where more light can reach the woodland floor and help the development of the understorey.

As always, if there's any questions or if you wish to support the Woodland Trust in any way, then please do get in touch.

Kind regards,  
Matt George (Site Manager)  
[MatthewGeorge@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:MatthewGeorge@woodlandtrust.org.uk)



Our A.G.M. will be held at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday, 19th March at the Village Hall. If you've ever considered joining we would welcome your input when we discuss future plans and then enjoy some social time with wine and nibbles. You will be made very welcome.

Contacts: Gill Douglas 770541; Tricia Freeman 770855.

### JUST CLOWNING AROUND

Ever fancied becoming a clown? Sign up to the Clowning in physical theatre and improvisation Saturday workshop at Rugby's Percival Guildhouse on 7<sup>th</sup> March and unleash your inner "fool".



The event will look at what it means to be a Fool and how this philosophy can be applied to performance and how we approach our daily lives.

Also on offer on 7<sup>th</sup> March are craft workshops in embroidery on postcards and macrame; art in the form of super realism with coloured pencils; photography; a beginners' guide to Irish genealogy and Friends in High Places, an illustrated journey meeting Sherpa traders, Berber tribesmen and Tibetan nomads in some of the world's most remote mountain regions.

For further information on all workshops, please visit <https://percival-guildhouse.co.uk/workshops-general-interest/> or call 01788 542467. Lower fees apply for those in receipt of means-tested benefits.