

RAVENSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCIES RAVENSTHORPE WARD AND COTON WARD

Following the recent Councillor election process, Ravensthorpe is now looking to fill two Parish Councillor vacancies. One for Ravensthorpe and one for Coton.

Anyone interested in being co-opted to the Council to fill these vacancies is invited to apply in writing by providing their full contact details and a brief resume as to why they are interested in becoming a Councillor to the Parish Clerk - preferably by email ravensthorpepc@yahoo.co.uk.

Prospective Councillors must have lived or be employed within a 3 mile radius of Ravensthorpe/Coton for the preceding 12 months (and continue to do so).

If you would like further information about what is involved in becoming a Councillor, please contact either the Parish Clerk (details below) or the Chaiman (Cllr David Herbert on 01604 770583)

Carol Holifield, Parish Clerk, 20 May 2021

Contact: Mrs C Holifield, 62 Watford Road, Crick, Northamptonshire NN6 7TT. Tel. 01788 824425

E-mail: ravensthorpepc@yahoo.co.uk

Local News from Ravensthorpe, Coton & Teaton
NEWSLETTER



Thank you to everyone who donated to this worthy cause. Including the Gift Aid, the envelopes and on-line giving raised over £500.

CHURCH CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION: Rev'd Allison Twigg 01604 846099 revallisontwigg@gmail.com
The Uplands Group Office: uplandsgroupoffice@gmail.com; Website: www.uplandsgroupchurches.org.uk

CHURCH SERVICES: RAVENSTHORPE & UPLANDS GROUP OF CHURCHES JUNE -JULY

June	Location	Service Type	Time	Flowers
Sunday 6th June	Ravensthorpe	Book of Common Prayer—Communion	08.30	
	Other Churches / Services	Cottesbrooke (BCP Communion: 1100), Creaton (CW Communion: 0930), Guilsborough (CW Communion: 11.00), Thornby (BCP Communion: 0930). Online: 0930: Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches		
Sunday 13th June	10.00 Group Service, Thornby: this service is likely to be outdoors. Please bring something to sit on.			
Sunday 20th June	Ravensthorpe	Common Worship with Communion	9.30am	
	Other Churches / Services	Creaton (BCP Communion: 0930), Guilsborough (BCP Communion: 0830), Outdoors@11; Evensong 1700; Hollowell (BCP MP: 1100); Spratton (BCP Communion: 0830. Online 0930: Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches		
Sunday 27th June	All Churches/ Services	Cold Ashby (BCP Communion: 0930), Guilsborough (CW Communion: 0930), Hollowell (CW Communion 1100); Spratton (CW Communion: 1100), Online 0930: Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches 0930		
July	Location	Service Type	Time	Flowers
Sunday 4th July	Ravensthorpe	Book of Common Prayer—Communion	8.30am	
	Other Churches / Services	Cottesbrooke (BCP Communion JCP 1100), Creaton (CW Communion: 0930), Guilsborough (CW Communion: 1100; Thornby (BCP Communion: 0930). Online 0930: Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches.		
Sunday 11th July	10.00 Group Service, Hollowell: this service is likely to be outdoors. Please bring something to sit on.			
Sunday 18th July	Ravensthorpe	Common Worship with Communion	9.30am	
	Other Churches / Services	Creaton (BCP Communion: 0930), Guilsborough (BCP Communion: 0830); Outdoors@11; Evensong 1700; Hollowell (BCP MP: 1100; Songs of Praise 1800); Spratton (BCP Communion: 0830), Online 0930: Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches.		
Sunday 25th July	All Churches/ Services	Cold Ashby (BCP Communion: 0930); Guilsborough (CW Communion: 0930); Spratton (CW Communion: 1100). Online 0930: Facebook Live Uplands Group Churches.		

GORDON STAFFORD: MEMORIES OF GROWING UP IN RAVENSTHORPE, 1924—

Arthur Gordon Stafford (1924-2014) was born and grew up in Ravensthorpe. Later, he wrote a personal memoir, *My Early Years*, which his family has very kindly agreed to share with us.



"I was born on the 20th September 1924, in a "two-up, two-down", in the village of Ravensthorpe, Northamptonshire. The cottage was probably about three hundred years old, as the walls were two or three feet thick, made of "wattle and daub". Our house was the end of a terrace of three, the two rooms being built parallel to the High St. while the other two, the same "two-up, two-down", were at right angles. There were various other brick-built buildings such as sheds and pig sties situated, thankfully, further down the gardens.

Nearer to the houses, however, were the outside toilets, one of which we shared with the occupant of the middle terrace house, while the other was for the sole use of the other house. Fortunately, we were connected to the main sewer, but because there was no running water, it all had to be carried from the pump which was adjacent to the house. I leave it to the imagination of the reader, on what it was like on a dark cold winter's night, when one had an urgent need for a visit! (especially, if it was already occupied by the neighbour!) It was always wise to take your own toilet paper, as that was another disappointment, to arrive down there in a hurry and find none there. I use the term "toilet paper" rather loosely, as usually it was newspaper cut into squares, and then hung on a piece of string! The facilities, by today's standards, were very basic. There was no electricity, running water, and as described above, the crudest of toilet arrangements.

There was the living room, with a small adjoining area, called the pantry, which was used for the storage of food etc, and also for our ablutions. All our daily washing was done in there, except of course, the weekly bath in front of the living room fire. The water for this was carried from the outside pump in buckets, as required. Our pump (well) never ran completely dry, but if it was getting a bit low, we had to carry the water in buckets from the pump, a hundred yards up at the top of the village, to augment our supply.

The weekly laundry on a Monday morning, without exception, was done by hand in the washhouse across the yard, where the water was boiled up in a copper above a fire. All our wastewater from washing, washing up etc., was saved in a bucket, later to be used for flushing the toilet.

This was the accommodation where my Father and Mother brought up their six children. Fortunately, the children were well spaced, so that when the youngest two were born, it was time at fourteen years old, for the eldest two to leave school, one of whom would have gone out to work or "live-in" service, thus making more sleeping room.

My first recollections were (from) when I was three years old. Firstly, there was when my little sister was born, early one morning, in the next bedroom. I remember hearing her first cry, and in my innocence, thought it was the cats.

(Another early memory) was starting school, just before I was four years old. My eldest sister took me to and from school, every day for the first year, after which she left to begin "service". This was the lot of the average female village school-leaver, and usually meant "living in" with their new employers and doing the very basic household tasks.

Ravensthorpe School had only two rooms, a small one for the infants, up to eleven years old, and then into the bigger one after that, up to the age of fourteen, when they left. They were always female teachers, one for each room.

At the rear of our house, there was a cobbled yard, and close to the house, was the pump and beyond that, the washhouse which had the toilets as the back wall. This in time had to be extended, so that all the bicycles could be housed. Further down the garden there was a hovel, which was used for the storage of coal and wood.

Like many other villagers, father always kept pigs and hens. Usually two pigs, one to kill for our own consumption, and the other to sell at market, so that he could buy the next two. The annual pig killing was quite an occasion, especially when the pig's bladder was given to the lucky boy to use as a football. It meant that not only was there plenty of meat for the

family, but even various pieces for friends and neighbours. For instance, the next-door neighbour was expert at making pork pies, and given the meat, she would make them all for distribution to other lucky friends and neighbours. Without any means of refrigeration, the meat had to be treated in quick time! Nothing was wasted, as the old saying was, that you could eat everything except the squeal! A lot of the meat was spread out and salted, while the two big hams had special treatment, before being hung up on the wall, later to be sliced for ham and frying etc.

One of the big occasions, was when the local hunt met at Ravensthorpe, most of the village boys decided to have the day off to follow the hounds. This was followed the very next day, by a visit from the school attendance officer, who had us lined up in the boy's playground to give us all a lecture on school attendance. I think this was the one and only time this happened.

The big occasions for a child in those days were the Village Show, Fete and May Day. The village show in August, was quite a big event, started by the marching of Long Buckby band, (followed by virtually all of the children), from the top of the village, down to the village hall, where the Show was held. Marquees were erected in the adjoining field to cater for all of the entries. My father, being a keen gardener, showed only vegetables, but won many prizes and cups over the years. Apart from our home garden, which was quite large, he also had a plot of 6 poles of Church garden and also 40 poles on the big allotment. I can't honestly remember my parents buying any vegetables of any sort, in all of my younger years.

When I was nine years old, there was a "plague" of measles in the village, I was the only one in our family who didn't get it! Soon afterwards I fell victim to Scarlet Fever and was isolated at Staverton Hospital for nine weeks. Isolated was the right word, as apart from the round trip of sixteen miles, when my visitors arrived they were only allowed to look through the windows, so a conversation was rather difficult. About six weeks into my stay, I was due to be discharged, but then twenty-six out of twenty-seven boys in my ward went down with measles. Who was the twenty-seventh? – yes that's right, and they thought I was a "carrier"! Anyway, I have never had measles to this day, but that delayed my departure for another three weeks, until all the measles had cleared up.

Saturday mornings used to be our "sticking" trip. As we only had the fire with the range, for all our heating and cooking, it meant that we needed a colossal amount of sticks to light the fire, and wood to augment the coal. The first job every morning, winter and summer, was to light the fire. So regularly on Saturday mornings, a gang of children, often including those from next door, would set off, either along the country lanes or across the fields. We usually had an old pram or truck to carry our load back home. The farmers were very good and most of them didn't mind us going out and collecting wood, in fact, we spent an enormous amount of our spare time, across their fields and in the spinneys.

Tree pulling was another of our favourite pastimes, where we tied a piece of wood about 2ft long onto a long length of rope. This wood was then thrown up and over an old rotten branch and when the wood was well twisted round the rope, we all pulled on the other end and finally brought the branch down for firewood. Tree climbing was one of our most popular sports and there were plenty of big trees to climb. One of the big trees in Oak spinney had branches that were so arranged that we could climb half way up and play cards with a crib board. Mind you, the dealer was in trouble if he dropped a card while shuffling!!

Another popular pastime was to go to the old rubbish tip at the top of Teeton Hill and sort out old parts of bicycles, which we could assemble to make something we could ride on down the hill. Usually, the bicycle consisted of a frame and two wheels, without tyres, of course. Any other accoutrements, like a saddle, pedals or chain, were a bonus! We used to set off at the top of the hill and with a little help by way of a push; we could finish half way up the hill the other side! I would imagine that these days, it would be considered dangerous.

To be continued

FOOD BANK:

You can make cash donations via the website:

<https://www.restorenorthampton.org.uk> ..

Just click on donations and follow the instructions.

The deadline for submissions for the July Newsletter is Wednesday 23rd June. Please send contributions to ravensthorpenewsletter@gmail.com.

Any queries: Alan Worthington 770957

Ravensthorpe Village Hall: What's On in June

Tuesday 1st	10.30am	Zumba Gold	Call Lina 07725 984 674
Thursday 3rd	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	Call 07764 586990
Friday 4th	9.30am	"Raven Tots"	Email alina@cooper.bio
Saturday 5th	9.00am	Tina's Back Care Pilates	Call 07810 380636
Sunday 6th	10am	Zumba	Call Lina 07725 984 674
Tuesday 8th	10.30am	Zumba Gold	Call Lina 07725 984 674
Thursday 10th	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	Call 07764 586990
Friday 11th	9.30am	"Raven Tots"	Email alina@cooper.bio
	1.15pm	Yoga with Lizzy	Call 07950 573719
Saturday 12th	9.00am	Tina's Back Care Pilates	Call 07810 380636
Sunday 13th	10am	Zumba	Call Lina 07725 984 674
Tuesday 15th	10.30am	Zumba Gold	Call Lina 07725 984 674
Wed 16th	8.00pm	Ravensthorpe Parish Council	
Thursday 17th	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	Call 07764 586990
Friday 18th	9.30am	"Raven Tots"	Email alina@cooper.bio
	1.15pm	Yoga with Lizzy	Call 07950 573719
Saturday 19th	9.00am	Tina's Back Care Pilates	Call 07810 380636
Sunday 20th	10am	Zumba	Call Lina 07725 984 674
Tuesday 22nd	10.30am	Zumba Gold	Call Lina 07725 984 674
	2pm	Afternoon Bridge Club	Call Bernadette 770424
Wed 23rd	10.30am	Morning Coffee—all welcome	
Thursday 24th	9.30am	Pilates with Sophie	Call 07764 586990
	7.45pm	WI	Call Maggie 770458
Friday 25th	9.30am	"Raven Tots"	Email alina@cooper.bio
	1.15pm	Yoga with Lizzy	Call 07950 573719
Saturday 26th	9.00am	Tina's Back Care Pilates	Call 07810 380636
Sunday 27th	10am	Zumba	Call Lina 07725 984 674
Tuesday 29th	10.30am	Zumba Gold	Call Lina 07725 984 674

**A date for your diary next month: Sunday July 4th:
NGS—Ravensthorpe Open Gardens. 2-5pm: Afternoon Teas on the Terrace.**

www.rvhall.online www.facebook.com/RVHall

MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD

The Children's Play Area continues to be used and enjoyed. We are planning to have the matting under the swings replaced in the near future, but trying to do this in a way that will disrupt the use of the Play Area as little as possible. 50% of the funding for this will complete the grant we had from Daventry District Council prior to the restructuring of the Council.

Unfortunately, we are not yet able to make the Pavilion available for hire, although it is our intention to do so as soon as we are able. The difficulty we have with this is down to the limited (human) resources we have available to ensure that we are able to meet the government requirements relating to Covid-19 safety. We shall update next month.

Odds200 lottery 2021 - 2

Have you got your ticket for the new lottery?

The Playing Field belongs to Ravensthorpe village, and relies entirely on fundraising & donations for its ongoing upkeep.

The first draw for the 2021-22 lottery year takes place on Thursday June 10th.

An annual ticket costs £12. Your ticket includes 12 monthly draws for prizes of £50 and £20, the Chequers voucher (£20) plus the Xmas draw for £100.

We rely on the money raised from the lottery to help us to cover the costs of mowing and maintaining the field.

You can reserve 1 (or even more!) annual tickets @ £12 each, by emailing odds200rav@gmail.com.

Alternatively, you can phone Alan Worthington (07801 051 402 or 01604 770957).

It's your field. Please support it!

NGS OPEN GARDENS RAVENSTHORPE - SUNDAY JULY 4th

As the President of the National Garden Scheme, Dame Mary Berry, stated "The last troubled and restricted year emphasised just how much we missed the joy of visiting a garden." We hope you will take the opportunity of visiting Ravensthorpe's



Open Gardens on Sunday, 4th July. At least four gardens will be opening from 1.30 to 5.30 p.m. and teas will be served at and in aid of the Village Hall. Admission will cost £5 and children go free.

Despite all the difficulties posed by last year's restrictions, the NGS has still managed to raise donations of £2.88 million, providing critical support to nursing and health charities in a year of crisis, as well as supporting charities doing amazing work in gardens and health. Over £97,000 was shared between Community Gardens, one of the most recent and local recipients being the Hope Centre in Northampton who were awarded £4,000 to set up their Community Garden.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Jean



Buckby Library & Hub for books & buzz

Update from Buckby Library & Hub

Buckby Library & Hub is back in action with activities starting up again, such as Rhyme Time for under-5s, the 'Books in the afternoon' book club and a 'Jigsaw'. Please check the website for further details as COVID guidance changes and new activities begin. You can also follow our blog on the Recovery Gardens Project as it progresses: <https://buckbylibraryhub.org/follow-our-recovery-gardens-project/>. Thanks to Anglian Water, the Nineveh Charitable Trust and Postcode Lottery.

We are having a **book sale** on Saturday 5th June, so do come along and find your bargain reading. Finally, if you have any musical instruments for small children that you no longer need, we welcome donated instruments that are easy to clean. Thank you!

CRABTREE PIT POCKET PARK

There's a buzz in the park, as it is with great pleasure that I'm a messenger of good news. This summer the pocket park will have a new picnic bench to replace the existing one, which after over 20 years dutiful service has become rotten and unsteady. This has been made possible by the Parish Council. This purchase hasn't come out of the parish precept but a separate fund. The pocket park is owned by the Parish Council and managed by volunteers, being created 23 years ago. There's some old photos in the park noticeboard of how it looked initially. We hope you'll enjoy many happy social moments enjoying wildlife from the new picnic bench.

Also this summer we're planning to clean down and paint the other existing benches. I'm hoping the bees and wildlife haven't been too badly affected by a dry April and wet May, so we'll hear the sound of summer very soon.

If you're interested in volunteering and/or would like to receive pocket park news please contact Ruth Rolls on ruth.rolls@gmail.com.

HOLLOWELL FAFF

Fete and Flower Festival

SATURDAY 17th &
SUNDAY 18th JULY 2021
2pm to 5pm

Attractions including:
Open Gardens
BBQ, Teas & Pimms
Floral Display in the Church
Tractor & Trailer Rides
Vintage Vehicles
Stalls

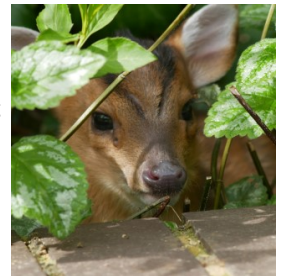


ENTRY - ADULTS £5 & UNDER 16s FREE
For more information,
please call 01604 740796 or
email: hollowellfaff@gmail.com



WILDLIFE IN RAVENSTHORPE

John and Helen Nottingham have had a new-born muntjac in their shrubbery. Helen has written: "We monitored it for a few days, during which John took the picture (right). It stayed alone for at least 3 days with its mum visiting at intervals to feed it. Then one evening after feeding, its mum starting encouraging it towards our back garden fence, where another adult was waiting on the other side, close by the fence.



They both went through to join the other deer before all three went further into the field together. As far as we are aware, they have not returned".

"They are now classified as an invasive species, being non-native, with no natural predators and thought to have originated from those escaping from Woburn Abbey a few hundred years ago".

WEA Long Buckby Branch & Beyond

The Collapse of the USSR through Witnesses' Eyes:
Its Causes and Aftermath



It is 30 years since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, one of the most significant events of the 20th century. What caused the Communist empire to collapse? What did democracy and market Economy bring to ordinary Russian people?

This course will take place on ZOOM

Tutor: Marina Burrell

DATES: Monday 13th September to Monday 8th November 2-4pm
(half term Monday 25th October)

COST: £64.00 (free for those receiving certain benefits)

Course no: C2345406

Enrol at www.wea.org.uk or phone 0300 303 3464

WEA is a registered Charity no.1112775

First Aid Session

Following the note in the last newsletter about the demand for another first aid session, including use of the defibrillator, a few people put their names forward. If you would like to join in with this please email me on speakerscorner@rvhall.online or ring 01604 770482

We would hope to arrange this for an evening in October, in the Village Hall, and will ask Martin Wilkes (very nicely), if he will lead it for us. There would be a small charge to cover costs.

Di Hayes

BOB WILLIAMS MEMORIAL

The Memorial Service for Robert (Bob) Williams will be 2 pm Thursday, June 24 at St Denys Church, Ravensthorpe followed by refreshments at the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us at the Church and afterwards at the Village Hall. *Angela Williams*