

Editorial

If you have any articles for inclusion in the next edition, February 2019, please could you let me have them by 24th January either by email to alisonjstone26@gmail.com or deliver a hard copy to Sycamore Cottage, Main Street, Knossington.

Contributions welcome from everyone, please think about anything which may be of interest to fellow villagers. Also a big thank you to The Grange for the memorial poppies around the village (more about that in this issue)

Many thanks
Alison

Parish Council.

The Parish Council now has a website and all future editions of OTGW will also be posted on the site – www.knossingtonandcoldovertonpc.org.uk.

The next Parish Council meeting is 11th December 2018 at 7 pm at Knossington Village Hall

Village Hall AGM.

The Annual General meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee was held in the hall on Wednesday, 14th November, and was followed by the last regular meeting of the year. The major item to report is that Mr Nigel Haynes stood down as Chairman of the Management Committee and has resigned his place on the Committee. Nigel has been Chairman since the Annual General Meeting in November 2010 and has worked extremely hard over these past eight years. He has used his expertise in law to ensure that we have done everything correctly under his leadership, and he has steered the Committee very well through some difficult times. On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, I thank you, Nigel, for all your efforts, and I must express my personal thanks for all the help and support you have given me over the years we have worked together.

The Committee is delighted to welcome Mrs Jackie Gillie into the fold as our new Chairman, and we hope that she may inject some new ideas into the running of the Committee. We look forward to working with her in the future.

Sadly, we have also had two other resignations – from “Chappie” Cox and John Carter – both on health grounds. Chappie has been a stalwart Committee Member since “Pontius was a pilot”, as we used to say in the RAF. His wealth of experience over these long years has been invaluable to the Committee, and especially to me. His contacts and local knowledge have been essential in all our projects, especially with the organisation and conduct of the summer fetes, and I personally, depended upon him for most of what we set out to do. Without him, we could never have achieved what we did. Chappie has not been at all well, but at the time of writing, we understand that he will soon be home, and we send him every good wish for his continued recovery. John Carter too, has been an invaluable member of the team. In particular, his engineering knowledge and skills, plus his “can do” attitude have made him the essential member of our Committee.

No task was too great or too small, and everything he undertook worked out as a success. He also has the ability that, when the rest of us were making a difficult situation even more serious, he would interject with one of his hilarious, dry humour, one-liner comments and reduce us to helpless laughter. Again, John has been a wonderful partner for me when we have worked together. We shall all miss his presence, but I in particular, will miss the comfort of having his support in whatever task we were undertaking. John has been quite ill, but he is on the mend now, although the prognosis is that it will take some time. One comfort to the Committee is that both these stalwarts are accessible for advice in time of need!

Both the Annual General Meeting and the following meeting under, our new Chairman, dealt mainly with routine matters, but some time was devoted to consideration of the future of the village hall. As always, we would like to hear any comments which you, the people of the village and the parish, might have on the subject. At present, the Pre-school is keeping the building used and warm, in addition to providing us with a small income, thus guaranteeing continuation of the facility, but any change to this arrangement could mean severe problems for the upkeep of the hall.

Remember, the village hall is a charity, and if we cease to operate, EVERYTHING will have to be handed over to the Charity Commission. Use it or lose it.

A Happy Christmas to all our readers, from your Village Hall Management Committee.

The Grange – Manor House Students Commemorate World War 1 Centenary

Some of our residential students at The Manor House Knossington along with Residential Support Workers Kieron Chapman and Chris Meredith-Wood, decided that they wanted to mark the World War I Centenary. Kieron served in the RAF for six and a half years and Chris was a Paratrooper for over 20 years.

They spoke to one of our neighbours, Geoff, who is on the village Parish Council who was able to seek permission for the boys (and staff) to put poppies around Knossington.

Kieron was able to source the poppy materials and Chris contacted the local church for the names of those who had served and fallen in WWI. Robbie and Sonny assisted in the cutting and gluing of the symbolic flowers on the Monday night (leaving them to dry in the games room) and they all went out on the Tuesday – with Alfie joining them – to put the giant poppies up on lampposts, gates and signs – which look fantastic!

Along with the poppies are the names of Knossington's fallen soldiers who died in service more than a hundred years ago, which both Geoff and some of the other villagers were touched by.

Personal thank you's

I would like to thank everyone concerned with organizing the beautiful service and flower for the Remembrance Day service at Knossington Church and a big thank you to Alice who always plays the organ. Dawn Whitefield (Dairy Cottage)

A big thank you to all those who helped with the Church clean on 3rd November – the Church looks sparkling. Sue & Lola

St Peter's Church Roof

The Church Council felt that everyone should be brought up to date with what was happening about the roof repairs after the lead theft earlier in the year.

Everyone felt that it would be more sensible to replace the stolen lead with coated stainless steel which is unattractive to any potential thieves. The coated steel has a finish which makes it virtually indistinguishable from lead so that the appearance of St Peter's would remain the same. The cost of the repairs is in the region of £27,000, some of which will be covered by our insurers, and is roughly the same cost as repairing with lead. The replacement of the lead by steel has been approved in principal by the Diocesan Advisory Committee who normally grant any permission we need for repairs. However, as it is a change of material and St Peter's is Grade 2 listed, Melton Borough Council have now confirmed that we will need planning permission to make the change. The application is in and hopefully it will be supported by everyone.

Our original target was to get the repairs completed before the onset of winter but the requirement to obtain planning permission has now put this back to early March. St Peter has been made as weathertight as we can and we are all hoping for a mild winter!

Geoff Thomas

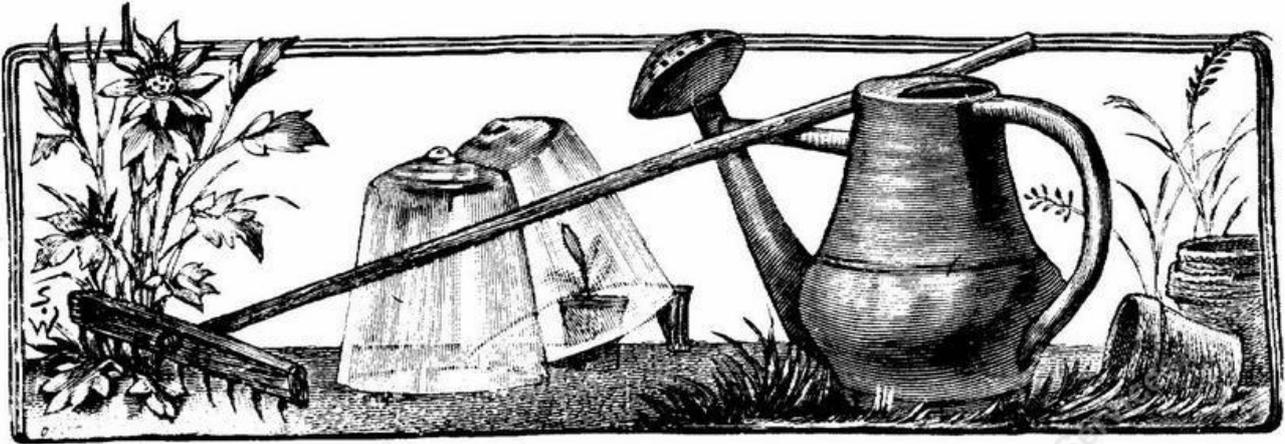
Somerby Singers

The Somerby Singers' are a local choir who now have 27 members and perform 2-3 concerts a year. Our Christmas concert raises money for the local church.

They meet Monday nights 7.15 for 7.30pm start until 9.00pm at Somerby village hall and sing everything from traditional songs, show tunes to popular music. A lot of fun is had whilst singing. New members are free to come along and it's just a £1.00 contribution for the hall.

Our concert is Saturday 8th December also in Somerby village hall at £5.00 a ticket. Tickets can be purchased from Amanda on 01664 454930/07847746650 or Melanie Davis 01664 454101. They can also be purchased them from the Stilton Cheese Inn in Somerby.

Somerby & District Horticultural Society



For our final meeting of 2018 we had a talk on ‘Everything you always wanted to know about pruning’ by Geoff Hodge. It was a most informative and entertaining evening thanks to a speaker who really did know about pruning – not only what, when and how to prune the plants in your garden but also what equipment to use (mostly not a chainsaw!).

We also learned what NOT to prune. Who knew that gardeners divide into those who are ‘hairdressers’ (snip carefully round the edges of every plants) and ‘butchers’ (cut that plant down to within an inch of the ground). Apparently there’s a time and place for both types but the secret of success is know which type to be and when!

We meet again on Thursday 17th January 2019 when our speaker will be telling us all about **community orchards**. An idea for our community to think about for the future?

The garden group has also replanted the containers sited across Somerby, Pickwell and Burrough with a range of small daffodils, violas and anemones. Hopefully this winter will not be as harsh as the last one and we can look forward to a lovely Spring display.

Contact **Angela Fisher** on 01664 454265 or at angelasfisher@tiscali.co.uk for further details about the society.

SOMERBY HORSE POND PROJECT

The working group have continued to clear some overgrown areas and have planted wood anemones and wild tulips. The wild Lenten daffodil bulbs have been ordered but not arrived yet.

If you would like to help with this project the group will be meeting at the horse pond on Saturday 8th December and Saturday 12th January from 10 am. – 12 noon.

All welcome – fresh air and exercise guaranteed!

For more information please contact Chris Fisher at chrisfisher@tiscali.co.uk

CHURCH NEWS – December 2018

Extract from a minister's letter in a church magazine in Ilfracombe 1982 (Anon)

A man once had a dream. He was in the stable in Bethlehem and saw the child, and asked,

“What are you doing here little one?” and the child replied,

“I'm not doing anything here, but I shall go from here soon. I shall speak parables that will haunt the world. I shall climb a hill, be lifted on a cross, and the world will not be able to forget. I shall overcome the grave. I shall establish the church. I will come again someday to reign as King. My birth in a stable is not so important. The important thing is that I shall be born into the hearts of people all around the world.”

It was never the birth in a stable that Jesus emphasised in his earthly life. He never referred to it! He is only satisfied when he has moved from the cattle shed into the living room of men's hearts.

The heart of our faith is that at a certain hour in history God came into this world; and in the land of Palestine lived and died and rose from the dead.

Many have admired the teaching of Christ but unless the individual knows what it is to bow in adoration before that manger, then he or she can never know the inner peace and joy which comes through faith in the Son of God.

For many people Christmas begins with the Nativity Play, as children in pre-school nurseries and schools re-enact the story of Mary and Joseph, the baby Jesus, the coming of shepherds and the Wise Men, with familiar carols and catchy new songs they have been practising all term!

Some of us (though not all) will undoubtedly be attending these Christmas productions; (as a Grandmother I shall doubtless attend more than one).

We may not be putting on plays in our village churches but we shall all be singing Christmas carols and telling the story about the coming of The Christ Child, through readings and poems.

ALL the churches in The Whatborough Group are holding Christmas Carol Services and you are all most welcome to come and join us. (Details of the services are set out below). Festive refreshments will be served after all our services.

This is a lovely way to begin the Christmas season

Nativity Play by Clare Bevan

1. Here is an inn with a stable
equipped with some straw and a chair.
Here is an angel in bed sheets,
with tinsel to tie back her hair.
2. Here is a servant in bath towels
Who sweeps round the stage with a broom.
Here is a chorus of faces
All eager to cry out, "NO ROOM!"
3. Here is Joseph who stammers,
And tries to remember his lines.
Here is a teacher in anguish,
Who frantically gestures and signs.
4. Here is "Away in a Manger" –
A tune MOST recorders can play.
Here is the moment of wonder,
As Jesus appears in the hay.
5. Here is Mary with freckles,
Whose baby is plastic and hard.
Here is a donkey in trousers,
With ears made from pieces of card.
6. Here is a shepherd in curtains,
Who carries a crook made of wire.
Here is a boy sucking cough sweets
Who growls from the back of the choir.
7. Here is a King bearing bath salts,
Who points to a star hung on strings.
Here is a dove who has stage fright,
And quivers her crepe-paper wings
8. Here is a page boy in plimsoles,
Who stumbles his way up the stairs.
Here is a long line of cherubs,
Who march round the manger in pairs.
9. Here is a camel who fidgets,
With plasters stuck over his knee.
Here are some sheep who just giggle,
And think no-one out there can see.
10. Here is a Herod in glasses,
Who whispers so nobody hears.
Here is a Mum with a hanky,
To cover her pride and her tears.
11. Here is our final production,
And though it's held up with pins.
The parents will love every minute,
For this is where Christmas begins.

Church Services coming up... December

Please note the times of services, which in some churches are not the normal service times.

St Andrew's Owston

Sunday 2nd December 9.30am Holy Communion The Rev Canon Anne Horton

Sunday 16th December 6pm Carol Service The Churchwardens

Christmas Day 10.30am Holy Communion The Rev Canon Nicky McGinty

St Peter's Knossington

Sunday 2nd December 4pm Christingle Service Sue Sills

Sunday 9th December 11am Holy Communion The Rev Canon Nicky McGinty

Sunday 16th December 6pm Carol Service **Lola Marlow (Churchwarden)**

Christmas Day 11am Holy Communion The Rev Canon Philip Norwood

St John the Baptist Cold Overton

Sunday 9th December 9.30am Holy Communion The Rev Canon Nicky McGinty

Friday 21st December 6pm Carol Service **The Churchwardens**

Followed by refreshments at The Hall, by kind invitation of the Wilson family

St Peter's Tilton on the Hill

Sunday 2nd December 11am Holy Communion The Rev Canon Anne Horton

Sunday 16th December 11am Holy Communion The Rev Canon Jeff Hopewell

Sunday 23rd December 6pm Carol Service **The Churchwardens**

Christmas Eve 4pm Crib Service Sue Sills

11.30pm Midnight Communion The Ven David Newman

All Saints Lowesby

Sunday 2nd December 6pm Evensong Sue Sills

Sunday 16th December 6pm Carol Service Sue Sills

Christmas Day 9am Holy Communion The Rev Canon Nicky McGinty

SUNDAY 30th DECEMBER (5th Sunday of the month) HC Launde Deanery Service

11am Billesdon

Church Services January 2019

St Andrew's Owston

Sunday 6th January (EPIPHANY) 9.30am HC

The Rev Canon Alison Booker

Sunday 20th January 9.30am HC

The Rev Jayne Lewis

St Peter's Knossington

Sunday 13th January 11am HC

The Rev Canon Nicky McGinty

Sunday 27th January 11am HC

The Rev Jayne Lewis

St John the Baptist Cold Overton

Sunday 13th January 9.30am HC

The Rev Canon Nicky McGinty

Sunday 27th January 9.30am HC

The Rev Jayne Lewis

St Peter's Tilton on the Hill

Sunday 6th January 11am HC

The Rev Canon Alison Booker

Sunday 20th January 11am HC

The Rev Jayne Lewis

All Saints Lowesby

Sunday 6th January 6pm Evensong

The Rev Canon Alison Booker

ST PETER'S CHURCH, KNOSSINGTON

Knossington's PCC Treasurer is pleased to announce that the collection from the Remembrance Day service amounted to £200.00 and has been sent to The Royal British Legion.

The Churchwardens of all our parishes are pleased to inform you that the following announcement was made recently:

The Bishop of Leicester, The Rt Rev'd Martyn Snow is pleased to announce that

The Rev'd Jayne Lewis will be licensed as Priest in Charge of The Whatborough Parishes on Tuesday 15th January 2019 at 7.30pm at St Peter's Church Tilton on the Hill.

The service will be conducted by The Rt Rev'd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Loughborough.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT STOREHOUSE

We are still collecting for "The Trussell Trust" food bank in Oakham, which supplies high quality non-perishable food and toiletries as a free gift for those who are most in need.

Please bring your donations to the porch of **St Peter's Church in Knossington** where you will find a large collection box in the porch.

PLEASE HELP TO MAKE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FOR FAMILIES STRUGGLING TO PUT EVEN BASIC MEALS ON THE TABLE. HOW ABOUT DONATING SOMETHING FESTIVE FOR THOSE WHO WOULD OTHERWISE GO WITHOUT. ADD A BOX OF CHOCOLATES, PERHAPS, OR A JAR OF MINCEMEAT, CHEESE STRAWS OR A BAG OF NUTS.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to date!

For more information about church services and events please call

Sue Sills on 01664 454 584 or email susan_sills@hotmail.com