



The Grapevine

THE NEWSLETTER OF HAMPTON LUCY, CHARLECOTE AND LOXLEY PARISHES

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July/August 2020

A Busy Summer Down at t'Mill

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Karl the Charlecote miller has been frantically busy. With the early panic-buying spree exacerbated by a resurgence of home-baking during lock-down, flour has been in short supply at the shops and new and old customers have descended en masse on the mill, including, would you believe, an enquiry for flour from Turkey! Whereas orders are normally delivered within a few days of receipt, Karl is now struggling with a 6-7 week waiting list. The mill is running flat out and is milling 2.5 tonnes of wheat a week! He felt it advisable to furlough his older volunteers, following national guidelines, and his sole remaining volunteer, Shashika, has been an absolute stalwart - working five days a week weighing, packing and helping out with the many essential chores to keep the mill running - an enormous help to Karl. With an easing of lockdown now more volunteers are able to help out - with ample social distancing - but there is still a long way to go before normality of any sort returns. You may have caught several local and national TV news reports about the mill over the last few weeks, along with an appreciative feature in BBC's recent *Country File* on 21 June. A big *thank you* and a clap should go to Karl, working so hard to maintain the supply of this important food resource! Well done that man!

AJW



The Upside of Lockdown in Hampton Lucy

We can be proud of our community. This article is to recognize how individuals have responded and are still responding to the Covid-19 crisis and subsequent lockdown.

We need to thank Alex and Scott for collecting and delivering prescriptions, especially important for those who have been shielding or self-isolating. Many of us will associate Sunday with a little baked treat, see photo, thanks initially to Lizzy and then Vanessa who joined her a few weeks down the line. Families have had great fun following Lisa's treasure hunts around the village which also raised money for the NHS. As for the rainbow on the bridge - just inspired! A group of seamstresses have been making scrubs led by one Sue, joined by another Sue, and with Mel and Louise doing the cutting out. Residents in Church Street want to thank Charlie and Oliver, occasionally Rubina, plus adult Sara, for their musical entertainment on Thursday evenings as we remembered the NHS and Care Staff. Kate acquired plants and delivered them to single elderly people in the parish. So many residents entered into the spirit of the *stay-at-home parties* on VE day which turned out to be an uplifting day. It was Kate's suggestion and the Parish Council embraced the idea by encouraging house decorating. There was a great response and a full report was published in the June *Grapevine*. *The Boars Head* rose to the challenges of lockdown by shopping for some, delivering roast dinners to order, and acting as an off-licence - with fish and chips available from another of their businesses, *The Granville* at Barford. *Valefresco's* vegetable boxes have been brilliant value and welcomed by many and without Karl at *Charlecote Mill* many people would have struggled to buy flour. Last but not least, we have some great neighbours in Hampton Lucy with instances of people looking out for others - shopping and simply being able to speak to others has been so important. So give yourselves a pat on the back villagers, one and all. Where else would you want to live?

HD/HS



The Grapevine

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Rev'd Dr Andy Larkin

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From Your Vicar

Dear friends,

We are living through quite extraordinary, tumultuous times. As an ex-engineer, I thoroughly enjoyed watching the launch of the SpaceX rocket and its docking with the International Space Station. It was an incredible achievement that show-cased something of what we can achieve when we work together. As the rocket lifted skyward, the Black Lives Matter protests were gaining momentum across the United States. A movement that has now spread to other nations, including our own. I've been horrified by the spectre of Police officers in the United States responding with brutality. Even clergy and journalists in Washington DC have been attacked with tear-gas and rubber bullets. There has been considerable violence and looting alongside the protests. The video of someone throwing a Boris Bike at a Police horse and the awful injury suffered by the rider has stayed with me. The daubing of graffiti on the Cenotaph seems so senseless and needlessly offensive.

Talking to people about the Christian faith, some say that religion causes conflict. There is truth in this, but it's not a complete picture. Faith is just one way in which humanity is tribal. We find something of our identity by being part of a group. Most of the time, most of us can keep this in balance. We can support a football team without hating those who have a different affiliation. The tension comes when we encounter those in a different tribe, and we feel fear. Fear because we don't understand, fear because they behave differently.

At the beginning of the Gospel of St John, talking of the birth of Christ, it says this, "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world". The keyword is 'everyone'. We are all lit by the same divine light. Scottish Priest John Phillip Newell tells of speaking on this verse at a conference in the United States. After his talk, a native American gentleman voiced his appreciation of the truth Newell had spoken of. With tears in his eyes, he suggested that western society might look very different if the first Europeans who visited the Americas had come expecting to find light in those they encountered.

To work through the dramatic issues society faces, we must come together. We must reach beyond our tribal groups expecting to find light in each other.

May you know more of the light and peace and Christ,

Rev'd Andy

Covid-19 Update for our Churches

Friends, the closure of our churches and restrictions on our ability to meet, celebrate and grieve in 'normal' ways has been heart-breaking and continues. The following summarises the current position. We look forward to having safely travelled this time. Normal has never seemed so appealing!

Access to our buildings: We have been informed that as of 15th June we will be legally able to reopen our buildings for private prayer if we can meet specific health and safety criteria. To clarify, this does not mean we will be allowed to offer Sunday worship. We have been issued with a Risk Assessment to work through. If we are able to meet the requirements in the Risk Assessment, then we are able to offer access to individuals who wish to pray privately in the building. Not all churches will be able to meet the criteria, and even those that can may only be able to offer access at certain times or on certain days of the week. **Sunday Services:** We have no information as to when we might be able to restart Sunday worship. **Baptisms:** We are not able to conduct baptisms in our buildings at present.

Weddings: There has been speculation that we will be able to offer Marriage ceremonies from 15th June. At present, this looks very unlikely. The 4th July has also been mentioned by Government. At present, we have no details as to what the restrictions or requirements will be. If the criteria are similar to those for allowing private prayer, it must be noted that we will not be able to conduct marriage ceremonies in all of our buildings. Because we have not been able to call Banns for couples, those wishing to marry will need to apply to the Diocese Registry for a Common License.

Funerals: Restrictions remain in place limiting church funerals to short graveside services attended only by a small number of immediate family members.

Our buildings may be closed, but our churches are very much open. Almost two hundred of you are part of our virtual community. Alongside regular news, we offer online services and children's work. If you would like to join in, drop me an email rectory@barford.org.uk

With my prayers,

Andy

Rev'd Dr Andy Larkin

Grapevine Contact Details

Grapevine copy by the **10th of the month** please, with a contact telephone number, to: The Editor, Bridie Sullivan,
Tel: 01789 470977, E-mail: grapevine46@btinternet.com



News from the Parishes

A summary of online services, church activities and support is available online with the **Barford Burble** by e-mail. Register to join the group by contacting Barford Group of Churches at rectory@barford.org.uk



Carers4Carers

Carers4Carers is a self-help support group for carers living in Kineton and the surrounding villages and rural area. While we remain unable to run our monthly meetings, we are keeping in touch via our monthly newsletter and our volunteers are offering telephone support calls. We also hope to run a "virtual coffee morning", so keep your eyes out for further info! If you are a member, haven't heard from us but would like a call, do get in touch on the number below. If you would like to find out more about our work, take a look at our website www.carers4carersonthefosse.org, email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or call 07947 893504.

LM

News From Charlecote Park

At the time of writing we are a couple of days away from opening Charlecote for the first time in 77 days. We've been working hard to reopen and know how much people have missed visiting. We'll need your help to make it work and so it's very important that everyone follows our staying-safe guide. For a time, your visit may be very different from what you've come to expect. You'll need to book in advance on our website and sadly, if you don't book you won't get in - even if you arrive on foot. We're managing numbers for the safety of all of our visitors and staff. When you arrive we will have set up the best routes for you to enjoy. Initially we've had to keep some areas of the parkland closed - the deer may have their fawns in those areas and so, to reduce stress on the does and fawns, we will keep these areas shut - they have grown used to having the place to themselves! We're now working to reopen our cafes and shops, safely and in line with government guidance. Dogs are welcome but please, no bikes or BBQs. Please check our website before planning a visit as things seem to be changing rapidly. We're looking forward to welcoming you back to Charlecote soon!

MG



Photo: Jana Eastwood

Wellesbourne & District Lions Club



Air ambulances across the British Isles will receive vital equipment in the battle against COVID-19 – thanks to generous £160,000 grant from the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

Working with Air Ambulances UK, Lions Clubs compiled a list of equipment and supplies needed by individual air ambulance charities - totalling £161,468. The equipment and supplies they requested, which has been funded by the Lions Clubs International Foundation grant, includes isolation capsules and decontamination units, separation screens, PPE, ventilators, respirators and hoods, a thermal screening camera and monitoring system, compression devices, fluid warmers, an ultrasound cardiac probe, and mobile connectivity devices. As

well as their 'day job' - responding to accidents, traumatic incidents and medical emergencies - air ambulances are supporting the COVID-19 response to help reduce the huge burden on the NHS and other public services. Heather Benjamin, Chair of Air Ambulances, UK said: *The donation of equipment and supplies by Lions helps air ambulance charities to support the COVID-19 response and their communities in these extraordinary times and beyond.* President of Wellesbourne & District Lions Club Heather Brown says: *We know that air ambulance charities have been busier than ever during the coronavirus pandemic. They've faced considerable extra – unbudgeted – day to day costs, at the same time as lockdown has affected fund-raising. Now, thanks to an emergency COVID-19 relief grant from the Lions Clubs International Foundation in the US, we can provide immediate support for this emergency service that touches lives in all our local communities.*

Local Lions have continued to support their communities facing difficulties due to COVID-19. This latest boost for air ambulance charities comes on top of £140,000 awarded in grants to foodbanks and other causes nominated by Lions clubs across the British Isles. If you are interested in supporting your local Lions group by volunteering with us then please contact President Heather Brown on 01789 941419 or to make a donation go to:

<https://www.justgiving.com/wellesbournedistrict-lionsclubs>



CE

Beware bogus letters

Warwickshire Trading Standards is warning residents across Warwickshire to beware of bogus letters bearing the Age UK logo. The letters falsely claim that an Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire 'housing surveyor' has visited the property whilst the homeowner was out and carried out a visual inspection. The results of the 'survey' are attached to the letter, but this bears little resemblance to the actual property suggesting that it's simply made up! The letter goes on to suggest that the property has begun to look neglected and requires building work/maintenance and that the sender will return to discuss the work that needs doing.

The letter is poorly written, but does contain the name and address of the recipient.

Age UK Coventry & Warwickshire has confirmed that these letters have not been sent by the charity and have issued a warning.

Warwickshire Trading Standards advice to residents:

1. Do not buy goods or services from unexpected doorstep traders. This includes any building work.
2. If you have received a similar letter and then receive a visit, do not allow the visitor in to your home. Keep your door closed and report the incident to Warwickshire Trading Standards on 0808 223 1133.

For more information and advice, visit: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/consumeradvice>

Read the alert here:

<https://safeinwarwickshire.com/2020/06/11/bogus-age-uk-property-maintenance-survey-letters-warning/>

Hampton Lucy and Charlecote WI



Due to the continuation of Covid-19 lock-down, Hampton Lucy and Charlecote WI held their first ZOOM Meeting during June, to which, President Jane Whyatt welcomed a third of the membership, on screen. There were reports from both Warwickshire and National Federations updating how restrictions are affecting events. Our Vice President, Jeryl Stone, has been re-elected as Vice-National Chair 2020/2021. She had also been re-elected Chair of Denman College, where courses are currently on hold due to the epidemic. She was duly congratulated, on her achievement by the assembled *virtual*

company. With to the May meeting not taking place, the two adopted National Federation resolutions: *A call to increase potential stem cell donor registration* and *End Modern Slavery* will be discussed at a later date.

Depending on the unlocking situation and social distancing, the committee will decide whether there will be an **outdoor event** during August to celebrate the WI's 101st birthday, which was cancelled in April. As the speaker for the evening, Nick Martin on *Secret Wildlife In My Garden*, was unable to connect with Zoom Jane invited the assembled company to talk about how their lock-down time has been used - which turned out to be interesting and varied from sewing NHS scrubs, gowns and masks to producing a video film in children's story style on blackbirds nesting in a garden. *What's App Chit Chat* groups, Zoom quiz evenings, along with gardening, and reading had also been high on members' lock-down agendas. It was agreed that experiencing isolation had brought out the best in people, and it had been pleasant living in a peaceful and quiet world. On Wednesday, 1 July, there will be a further Zoom meeting when hopefully Jess Nash will be speaking on *Being a Lady Bus Driver*.

KCI

Warwickshire Trading Standards Warning

COVID-19 has prompted an upsurge of attempts at on-line fraud.

Phishing scams include e-mails:

Encouraging recipients to provide their bank details in order to receive coronavirus-related Government payments, including scam HMRC job retention emails.

Posing as e-mails sent from official bodies claiming to link to a list of coronavirus cases in your area.

Offering medical advice, tests or treatments to help protect against Covid-19.

E-mails specifically targeted at businesses and particularly at those working from home. These scam emails may appear to come from the company IT department or personnel department and contain fake policy document attachments which the recipient is asked to download and read.

Scammers are also seeking to exploit the increasing use of online communication platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams by sending out phishing emails carrying these platform names.

Phishing emails sent by scammers will typically contain links to scam websites or virus-laden attachments.

Following links in suspicious e-mails, or opening or downloading attachments will increase the your exposure to malicious websites, computer viruses, spamware and ransomware.

Report/forward phishing email scams to report@phishing.gov.uk

A New Chapter

This summer edition marks the passing of the baton from Jeremy to Bridie Sullivan and Laura Gardner - the new Editors of *The Grapevine*. The short history of the publication on pages 7 and 8 is a testament to the creativity and hard work of a team of people over the years who have worked to bring you an informative, professionally presented and engaging newsletter. We will endeavour to carry on this great work. A very big thank you to Jeremy for setting such high standards with *The Grapevine*.

BS/LG.

The Notice

The Charlecote website:
www.charlecotevillagehall.weebly.com

The Hampton Lucy website:
hamptonlucy.wordpress.com

The Loxley website:
loxleyvillage.com



Save the Date! Hampton Lucy Socially Distanced Jazz Picnic Saturday 29th August 6pm

The Hampton Lucy Village Hall Management Committee are hoping to host our annual Jazz Picnic on Saturday 29th August this year. This will of course, depend upon Government guidelines around social gatherings nearer the time. We will be following social distancing guidelines, entrance and raffle tickets will be purchased beforehand online. More details to follow in due course...



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Wellesbourne & District Lions' First Fundraiser of the Year

A Family Friendly Car Treasure Hunt.
You will be able to take part any time from Monday 3rd to Sunday 9th August. £5 per car and there is a prize of a Family Day Pass to the British Motor Museum at Gaydon for the winners.

Details of how to enter will be available from 1st August on our website www.wellesbourne-lions.org.uk or Facebook page @wdlionsclub

The event will be organised to allow families to comply with Government guidelines at the time.

Our correspondents this month:

KCI - Kath Clarke; KC - Ken Cockshull; HD - Hilary Dunkerton; CE - Carol Evered; LG - Laura Gardner; MG - Mary Gleaves; LM - Lisa Maloney; HS - Helen Sill; BS - Bridie Sullivan; AJW - Jeremy Whyman

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ongoing Corvid-19 pandemic

The Grapevine

A Brief History - 1995 to 2008. (Ken Cockshull)



When I moved to Hampton Lucy in 1995, the parishes of Hampton Lucy, Charlecote, and Loxley shared a newsletter called 'Clover Leaf' which was funded by the three Parochial Church Councils. It was edited by John 'Bev' Williams, of Church Street, Hampton Lucy and was issued quarterly. The first issue that I saw was the 'Summer Extra' of 1995 (see photo) and if anyone has an earlier issue, I would be very interested to see it. That issue introduced the Rev'd Hugh Keep and his family as Hugh was to become Priest-in-charge of the three parishes and live in Charlecote Vicarage. Later issues covered topics that still concern us today such as the future of Hampton Lucy's village hall and how to maintain the fabric of the village churches. It also reported on the first jazz concert to be held in Hampton Lucy church which was held to raise funds for the church's Millennium Appeal.

In June 1998, *Cloverleaf* was succeeded by *The Grapevine*, a more broadly based church and community newsletter funded by the Parish Councils, the Parochial Church Councils and by revenue from advertisers. That broader approach was evident in the headline of the first issue "Kick Racism out of Football" (see photo) another problem that is still with us today. This newsletter was to appear monthly and was edited by a team led by Rosie Keep in which diary items were collated by Kath Gardner and the advertisers were cossetted by Jackie Williams. Although Rosie collated and edited the contributions as they arrived, the layout of each issue was organised by Jo Naylor of Charlecote. My recollection is that the method of production was very different from that used today for the text was laid out with gaps where any pictures were to go. Jo then printed the photographs to be the exact size that was required before she pasted them into position (the original 'cut and paste'?). Each issue was then produced in quantity by photocopying the original.



I joined the team around the middle of 2000 partly to help Rosie and partly to provide photographs as I owned a digital camera, a rarity in those days. Rosie gradually reduced her input to the newsletter during 2001, and when Hugh retired they both moved to Stratford and I became the sole Editor. Production methods gradually improved and with the greater availability of computer programs such as Microsoft 'Publisher' it became possible to design each page on a monitor screen. The final version was then transported to a commercial company to print the copies for circulation. Initially, this was done by copying *The Grapevine* onto a CD which was delivered to the commercial printer by hand but now it is transmitted electronically. The biggest events we covered in those early years included the Millennium and the havoc it was supposed to be going to cause, the Queen's Golden Jubilee; the restoration of the tower of Hampton Lucy church, and the 150th Anniversary of Charlecote church. We also provided a platform for the pastoral messages of Hugh Keep, Sarah Edmonds, David Jessett, and now Andy Larkin.



With the production of our 100th issue in June 2008, it seemed a convenient moment for me to retire as Editor and we were very fortunate that Jeremy Whyman had recently moved to the village and was prepared to take on my role. The 100th issue was the first to be produced in full colour but with advances in technology and through the generosity of Philip Wright-Howarth of Charlecote, Jeremy has been able to produce more issues in colour and to have more pages per issue. I won't add any more about his involvement as he will probably wish to pen his own contribution. KC



Part 2 - 2008 to 2020. (Jeremy Whyman)

When I took over the Editorship in 2008, the infrastructure of *The Grapevine* organisation was established and it was relatively straightforward for the newsletter to continue to develop. There was the security of a reasonable bank balance and a steady improvement in the available technology. Mike Sill was Treasurer, a role which he continued to fulfil until 2010, and he and his wife Helen also took care of the collecting, sorting and delivery of the printed copies. Proof reading was scrupulously dealt with by Alan Scaife, and Jackie Williams who also looked after the advertisers. Ken Cockshull retained more than a passing interest by acting as Assistant Editor where needed, and as a proof reader - a role he continued in until June 2020. The printing firm was originally called *Kall Kwik* of Stratford-upon-Avon, later moving to Leamington Spa and re-titled *Think, Design and Print* owned by Phillip Wright-Howarth. They have given prompt, reliable service with superb quality at a very reasonable price, continuing to this day.

(Special mention must go to Pascal Cauldebec with whom the Editor deals directly at TDP and who is always courteous, helpful, and patient when it comes to sorting out glitches!....Ed)

The change of Editor introduced small but significant changes in layout and content, but the ethos of the original concept was maintained. One obvious change was from printing on yellow paper to a higher grade white. An increase in the take-up of advertising space boosted the income and funded an additional 2 pages in A4 enabling a standard six-pager with occasional 8 page issues and 2 full-colour 8-page editions for July/August and the December/January Christmas editions. Regular contributors include Wellesbourne & District Lions Club, Hampton Lucy and Charlecote WI, Charlecote Park, Compton Verney Museum and Art Gallery, and the U3A, with additional copy from the Parish Clerks, both schools, and items of general interest sent in by individuals from the three villages. All in all, the newsletter has enjoyed some splendid contributions and not a little humour!

The highlights of the last 120 issues must include the Queen's Diamond Jubilee which was celebrated and enjoyed by all three villages in their own inimitable fashion, the many brilliant concerts and other events held in the three parishes, and the church highlights including honouring the retirement of Rev'd David Jessett and the licensing

and welcoming of his successor and Priest-in-Charge for the six parishes, Rev'd Dr Andy Larkin. *(Spoiler alert! This October marks 50 years for Ali Speller as Verger of St Peter's, Hampton Lucy - watch this space).*

Things evolve in any organisation. Mike Sill passed his Treasurer's pen to Emma Holland who astutely juggled work, a growing family and *The Grapevine* accounts before handing over to the present Treasurer, Alex Jones. Brian Hartley took over the distribution role despite declining health, Helen Sill taking the job back when it became too arduous. Martin Weetman is now our hard-working Distributor. Jackie Williams moved out of the parish and the Editor took over the handling of advertisements. Proof reading passed from Alan Scaife to Tony Johns with Ken Cockshull

continuing. Door-to-door delivery was and is still carried out by our loyal volunteers, without whom *The Grapevine* would not be the same!

Going forward....

Time goes by and it's appropriate for someone else to occupy the Editor's chair. I'm delighted to be able to pass

over the green eyeshade with the Editor's role being shared by Bridie Sullivan and Laura Gardner, both of Hampton Lucy. They have introduced themselves already and share an enthusiasm for the continuation of this local community newsletter. I'm confident that they will bring fresh ideas to the role, with new skills and a more up-to-date approach. I'll carry on in the background for a while and contribute, where appropriate and when asked. It has been a great pleasure and privilege to work with the whole team and I know that my predecessors Bev, Rosie and Ken, would agree. Our thanks go to everyone for their support and if your name has not been mentioned it is an oversight rather than intention! Onwards and upwards.

AJW

