



The Grapevine

THE NEWSLETTER OF HAMPTON LUCY, CHARLECOTE AND LOXLEY PARISHES

Issue No: 226

Coronavirus Edition 8

February 2021

News from Charlecote Park

Thank you for your patience and support as we adapt to the ever-changing landscape of the pandemic. Some parts of the parkland remain open to provide access to fresh air and space for exercise for local residents. Please always check our social media before visiting, as changes can - and do - happen at very short notice.

Book your visit: Please pre-book through the website to allow us to manage capacity and help with track and trace. We are not accepting walk-ups.

Reduced offer: At the time of writing only parts of the parkland and toilets (including accessible) are open. The café, shop, house and outbuildings are closed.

Parkland and wildlife: Please follow signage and help us protect the parkland. Areas are closed off to aid recovery and conservation after flooding and heavy visitor footfall.

Visiting with others: Please adhere to Government guidelines on meeting other people. Currently this means one adult can meet one other adult.

To keep everyone safe we won't be able to offer any half-term activities this year. You can find lots of suggestions for activities with children if you sign up here: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mynt

We have been asked what local means: *"If you need to travel you should stay local, meaning avoiding travelling outside of your village, town or the part of a city where you live."* Also, *"outdoor exercise should be done locally wherever possible, but you can travel a short distance within your area to do so, if necessary, while shopping for goods and services, and you should remain within your local area wherever possible."*

MG



Photo by Jana Eastwood



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From Your Vicar

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Dear friends,

I'm writing these words on the morning after Trump supporters stormed the Capitol Building in Washington DC. CNN is playing on the screen next to my notepad. What happened is astonishing. It happened on the day that Christians celebrate Epiphany - the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ.

As I watch the images, I'm mindful that Mr Trump gained power, in part, because he was supported by elements of the Christian church in the United States. Understanding how this unlikely alliance came about offers an object lesson to us all.

Using a practice that has become increasingly significant in the States, Mr Trump targeted specific groups with messages designed to mobilise them in his favour. Mr Trump spoke at right-wing Christian rallies. He told those present that a Clinton administration would curtail their religious freedoms and fund late-term abortions. Master of the soundbite, his apocalyptic refrain was, 'this is your last chance'.

The irony, of course, is that Mr Trump has been quite clear that he does not hold Christian faith, whilst it is well known that Mrs Clinton is a practising Methodist. Unfamiliar with the Trump playbook and his ability to locate 'alternative truth', Mrs Clinton didn't grace the allegations with a reply. Analysts agree that this was her undoing.

Mr Trump distorted the truth and used it to provoke fear amongst right-wing Christians. He did this so successfully that they failed to take in the 'big picture'.

Over recent months I've pondered whether my reaction to the Covid pandemic is appropriate caution or based in fear. At times, particularly when people I knew became seriously ill, I felt fear. Fear is a perfect evolutionary mechanism - if a bear is chasing us. The adrenaline surge isn't helpful though, when trying to make important decisions.

The First Epistle of John makes many insightful observations. Of particular relevance to our current circumstances, it says: 'there is no fear in love but perfect love drives out all fear'. The antidote to the fear we may feel is found in love: the love that binds us in our relationships, and ultimately the divine love that is God.

My prayer for each of us, is that we may know more love in our lives, more of God's love.

Wishing you Christ's peace,

Rev'd Andy Larkin

Vicar

Carers4Carers

Carers4Carers monthly meeting: Carers4Carers is a self-help support group for carers living in Kineton and the surrounding villages and rural area.

We offer members a monthly newsletter, telephone support, as well as a virtual coffee morning. Look out for joining instructions in our monthly email or contact the number below. New and existing members are always welcome. Do take a look at our website www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk, email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or call 07947 893504.

LM

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Grapevine copy by the **10th of the month** please, with a contact telephone number, to: The Editor, Bridie Sullivan

Tel: 01789 470977. E-mail: grapevine2@btinternet.com.

A colour version of The Grapevine is available via email. Please contact The Editor if you would like to be added to the contacts list.

Hampton Lucy and Charlecote WI

Christmas began when every member had a visit from our President, Jane Whyatt, and our Vice-President, Jeryl Stone.

They came bearing gifts: not gold, frankincense or myrrh, but chocolates and baked goodies and a WI festive mask, all presented in a beautifully sewn bag made from holly fabric.

At the same time three members of our local WI were given a certificate to celebrate their fifty-year membership, whilst 6 members received a certificate for 25 years of membership.

The bags were the talk of the town - or villages - for some days. A real treat in these troubled times.

Our Christmas zoom meeting, attended by sixteen members, is now a distant memory but we attempted to enter the festive spirit by raising a glass and sitting back to enjoy Cathy Morris who sang a wide variety of Christmas classics covering all aspects of the Christmas season, both serious and amusing. Cathy was dressed in a becoming Elf Costume and, as one member described it, she gave a 'cracker' of a performance.

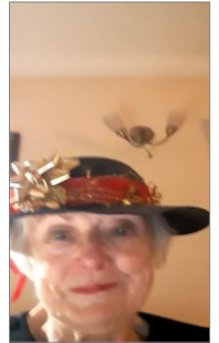


We also had a special, one-off competition which was won by Helen Sill, who wore a festively decorated hat. Her reward was a Christmas present, to be saved for the 25th.

On 6 January, twelve members zoomed in to hear Nick Martin talk about 'The Secret Wildlife of my Garden'.

For some of us the evening was reminiscent of the show 'Peter Pan goes Wrong'. However, most got through the technical problems and members thoroughly enjoyed his talk. It was delivered with enthusiasm and illustrated by some delightful pictures and video snippets. Nick is a wildlife enthusiast who lives in Knowle. His garden is next to an open area which attracts a

wide diversity of birds and animals. He is a writer, presenter and photographer.



If anyone wishes to know more about Nick, his website is www.allthingswildlife.co.uk.

Nick judged our competition, and chose Kath Clarke's Puffin mug.

We wait to hear about next month's speaker, but we may have someone who will talk about gems.

HD

'Festive Fun' in Hampton Lucy



Coronavirus threatened to spoil Christmas with not much in the way of family visits, the Boars Head being shut and no Santa's grotto. Undeterred, the Village Enhancement Group (VEG) put a decorated Christmas tree and tinsel by the post box to help cheer everyone up as they posted their Christmas cards.

Lisa Pinkerton did yet another successful Treasure Hunt with numbered stockings all round the village for the children to solve. Some houses provided little treats on the way.

The winner was **Charlie Shaw**. And what a prize! Not only that but the Parish Council donated a Christmas Tree for villagers to decorate outside the Boars Head, and Phil and Angie sorted out some lights and a festive Santa. It was nice to see some decorations dedicated to family members who would not be able to visit this Christmas as well as items donated by village groups such as the WI. There was also a competition for the best decoration to go on top of the tree, prizes kindly donated by the Parish Council. First Prize went to the **Loves** with their decoration made of sticks collected on endless walks. Second prize went to the **Groens** for their red-nosed reindeer, and Third to the **Paleys** for a rather attractive angel.

As always in Hampton Lucy, there were quite a few with highly commended and a chocolate prize. It was nice to see the elves going round to deliver the prizes. The tree withstood Storm Bella but earlier it blew into Angie's bedroom window and we thought that was a clever way to get the winner on top of the tree.

JD



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A Happy and Hopeful New Year from Wellesbourne & District Lions Club

Like everyone else we are looking forward to getting out and about more next year. We have had some great results from our online giving campaigns, but nothing compares to meeting our supporters 'in the flesh'. Many thanks to everybody who donated to our various appeals throughout the year. Your support is very much appreciated. Many of our Lions have been volunteering as individuals in their various villages. If this is something you too have found worthwhile, why not consider joining Lions to discover more ways of helping in your community? To find out more, please email: info@wellesbourne-lions.org.uk

We would also be delighted to hear from any groups or individuals who have ideas that we may be able to use, or projects we might be able to help with.

Please help the Lions continue to help the people of Wellesbourne, Ettington, Combrook, Moreton Morrell, Lighthorne, Kinton, Barford, Hampton Lucy, Charlecote and all communities in between: something we have been doing for nearly 50 years! You can donate anytime by going to: <https://www.justgiving.com/wellesbournedistrict-lionsclubs> or use our dedicated QR code.

Charity Registration No. 1061868 <http://www.wellesbourne-lions.org.uk/>

CE



Information from Warwickshire Trading Standards

Beware Fake NHS COVID Vaccination Text Messages

The fake messages state that the recipient is eligible to apply for a vaccination but must first prove 'ownership of address' by divulging bank account and card details such as sort codes, account numbers and credit/debit card numbers. Fraudsters may also be perpetrating this scam by phone.

Beware of any requests for your banking details, passwords, or pin numbers. Any requests for information of this type under these circumstances should serve as an instant red flag.

See an image of the scam text here: <https://safeinwarwickshire.com/2021/01/06/covid-19-iphone-purchase-and-business-email-compromise-scams/#prettyPhoto/1/>

Fake Purchase Scam

Warwickshire consumers are warned to beware of unexpected recorded phone calls from scammers, stating that they (the residents) have purchased a high-value item such as an iPhone from a website, and asking them to press a button on the phone if this is incorrect. Those doing so will almost certainly be connected to a fraudster who will then attempt to obtain personal and financial information from them, claiming they will need the information to carry out a refund. **NEVER** reveal personal or financial information to cold callers. More on phone scams: <https://www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/advice/phone-scams>

Work from Home Employees Warned of Gift Card Scam

Warwickshire employees currently working from home are warned to beware of a **business email compromise** gift card scam that has been targeted at Warwickshire businesses.

Keep up to date with the latest scam and rogue trader alerts: <https://mailchi.mp/warwickshire/scamawareness>

SC

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A Window on the Past

Ali Speller - who readers will know from a previous edition of The Grapevine when he celebrated fifty years of service as Verger of St Peter ad Vincula in November 2020 - has produced another A5 booklet: No.3 in his series. It is very nicely presented in glossy finish and it features 36 old photographs of Hampton Lucy.

The booklet contains a selection from Ali's extensive archive, with many pictures showing the village as it was 100 years ago. It includes an aerial photograph of the village taken in 1963.

The booklet is a fascinating archive, particularly for those new to the village, and a reminder of bygone times to those who have lived in the village for many years. Identifying which houses are still in place, and which road and houses are in the photograph is an enjoyable challenge.

The village once contained many more timber-frame cottages than those still lived in today, and it may surprise some readers to know that many of the buildings in the photographs lasted into the 20th Century, only being demolished in the early 1960s.

Can you spot the changes in the photograph below?

Ali has published and printed the booklet at his own expense and is selling copies at £5 each, with all of the proceeds going towards St Peter's Church funds.

If you would like a copy, please contact Ali on 01789 470242.

AS



Hampton Lucy 1963

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The Notice

The Charlecote website:
www.charlecotevillagehall.weebly.com

The Hampton Lucy website:
hamptonlucy.wordpress.com

The Loxley website:
loxleyvillage.com

Church Notices

Due to the present Covid crisis and the ongoing closure of churches for worship, Rev'd Andy is producing online video services instead. For details and logging-in instructions please refer to the weekly Barford Burble, contact Barford Group at rectory@barford.org.uk, or speak to your Church Wardens.

Our Wonderful Grapevine Community!

In the last edition of The Grapevine, I put out a call for like-minded volunteers who are interested in reducing the impact their lifestyles are having on our beautiful planet. I am really grateful to everyone who responded from across the three villages!

Our small group has already had its first virtual meeting, joined by representatives from the environmental action teams at Harbury and Napton. We have also joined the Low Carbon Warwickshire Network who will be helping us to make progress. We will have a further update in next month's Grapevine.

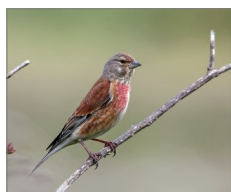
If you'd like to join the group then do please get in touch with Tass Smith (tassie68@gmail.com or 07769 683887).

TS

Garden Waste Collection— New Charges on the Horizon

For all you gardeners, the SDC green bin garden waste collection service becomes chargeable in April at £40 per bin, but if you register early there is a £5 discount for 'early birds'. You will need to register and display the sticker on the bin for it to be emptied. Full details and the online application are available on the SDC website. **AJW.**

Birds at Thelsford Farm



Welcome to Thelsford Farm! We are glad you are able to walk the footpaths during this lockdown and breathe the fresh, non-Covid air out of doors.

Once again we are giving our birds winter feed to see them through these cold, hard weeks. In addition, you will have noticed the strip of un-harvested barley beside the farm track, the unculti-

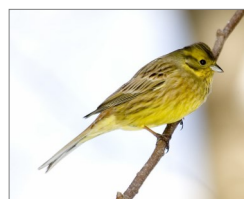
vated stubble left until spring to help birds over-winter and the extra patch of bird-friendly plants in the middle of the Hale End field.

By the time you read this it will be February and then only one month until March and the birds - yellow hammers, linnets, sky larks, corn buntings - will be looking to pair up.

You can really help these little birds if you and your dog keep to the path. Even your lovely dog will frighten birds. The Countryside Code, developed by the government and Natural England says; 'be confident your dog will return to you at once on a word of command. If not keep him/her on a lead, then you will both be keeping to the path and birds will not be frightened'. Look out for the birds as you walk and see what you can see.

Enjoy!

SL



Our correspondents this month:

MG - Mary Gleaves; **LM** - Lisa Maloney; **HD** - Hilary Dunkerton; **JD** - John Dunkerton; **CE** - Carol Evered; **SC** - Simon Cripwell; **AS** - Ali Speller; **TS** - Tass Smith; **AJW** - Jeremy Whyman; **SL** - Sue Lampitt

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