



# The Grapevine

THE NEWSLETTER OF HAMPTON LUCY, CHARLECOTE AND LOXLEY PARISHES

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Coronavirus Edition 9

March 2021

## Hampton Lucy Village Hall Centenary Appeal

The Village Hall in Hampton Lucy is a much loved facility in the village. It has been the venue for meetings, clubs, private parties, social gatherings and community groups over the years, and it is very much part of the life of the village. Like other buildings, it needs regular and consistent up-keep and, over the years, the level of facilities available in the hall has unfortunately lagged behind other village halls. This means that the Village Hall we can offer to the local community, and to those who would like to hire it, is not what we would like to be able to offer.

In 2019 we launched the **Centenary Appeal** and had some success. In 2019 and early 2020 we had raised enough to do initial works including putting in a new boiler, new radiators and installing hi-speed broadband.

However, just as things were building momentum, the Covid pandemic took hold, and along with many others, we lost a whole year of fund-raising in 2020. During lockdown, we kept submitting applications for grants and despite setbacks including being turned down by Severn Trent and Biffa, we attracted a steady flow of smaller grants.

**To date we have raised over £45,000 in cash and in-kind gifts.**

### The Urgent Problem and the Plan

In November we were successful in securing our largest single grant of **£14,322** from ACRE **but** it comes with a proviso: the project **MUST BE FUNDED AND COMPLETED** by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2021, less than a year from now.

If we have not raised the required funds by that date, all £14,322 and possibly other donations, will need to be returned. After two years of work this is too much to contemplate, and we urgently need the help and assistance of the whole community to achieve our goal.

The main activity of the refurbishment is to renew the kitchen, replace the toilets and make the property genuinely accessible. A plan has been drawn up and costed by architect and builder Alf Rajkowski.

### The Financial Position

Despite Covid we have raised 40% of the required funds. It now needs us all to pull together as a community to get past the finishing line. Your support might be anything from suggesting new fund-raising ideas, and supporting organised events to approaching charities you know, to explore whether they would consider making a donation or even by making a personal donation, if you can afford it.

### How you can help

Every donation however small is of great value to the project. Every pound raised or personally donated will have double the impact.

If you would like to know more about the proposed plan for the refurbishment and see how you can get involved/donate to this project, please use the link below:

<https://hamptonlucyvillagehall.co.uk/hampton-lucy-village-hall-centenary-appeal/>

Thank you in advance for your help and support and if you have any further suggestions for raising funds, we would love to hear from you.

**EH**



**Rev'd Dr Andy Larkin**

The Vicarage  
Stratford Road  
Wootton Wawen  
B95 6BD  
Tel: 07758 704452

Email: [rectory@barford.org.uk](mailto:rectory@barford.org.uk)

## From Your Vicar

**Rev'd John Horton**

16 Huntington Court  
Lowes Lane  
Wellesbourne  
CV35 9RF  
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Email:

[hortonjohn1949@gmail.com](mailto:hortonjohn1949@gmail.com)



Dear friends,

I write on 8th February. This morning we awoke to a white glaze sprinkled over the landscape. Thankfully 'The Beast From The East II' has 'whimpered' rather than 'roared' at our villages. I love the snow. As far back as I can remember, I always have done.

As a family, snow offered us a harsh introduction to remote rural living. I concluded a post in the Derbyshire Dales on Christmas Day. Two days later we moved to the White Peak area of the Peak District National Park. The clue was in the name, but we missed it. The weather was perfect as we unloaded and settled into the Vicarage. The very next day, the snow arrived. Snow such as I'd never experienced. Our driveway was waist-deep, as was the lane. Beyond the village curtilage, the snow had drifted across the fields and settled in the lanes. We later discovered that local farmers were paid by the Council to clear the snow, but this arrival was too deep for their tractors.

Our first experience of being 'snowed in'. The last Vicar had kindly left some oil in the tank. It lasted four days. As the electricity failed, the temperature inside the 100-year-old Vicarage fell. We'd experienced 'real' snowfall in the Dales, but this was 'next level'.

Hearing of our plight, the village rallied. Blankets, thermal clothing and firewood started to arrive at our door. It was three weeks before an oil tanker managed to reach the village. We learned our lesson. In the years that followed, running out of oil, living for days without electricity and being 'snowed in' were all part of the rhythm of life. A well stocked kitchen, lamps, camping stoves, winter tyres for our 4x4s, sledges to get the children to the village school (yes really!), blankets and as much firewood as we could fit into the store - we learned the value of preparation. A skill increasingly un-necessary in our 'always on' instant society. A skill we had forgotten.

Wednesday 17th February marks the beginning of Lent. We will be a couple of weeks towards Easter by the time you read this. Lent is a time of preparation for Easter. As Christians, we believe that the resurrection of Christ is so significant that we can't hold its annual celebration without first properly preparing our hearts and minds. Lent is a time to slow down, remove distractions and reach deeper into our faith. A time for penitence before God. A time for humility. Carefully observed, we then 'walk' Holy Week, culminating with the unimaginable horror of Good Friday. We 'hold our breath' through Easter Saturday and then, then we arrive at the resurrection. Our preparation puts the resurrection into context. It helps us to see and experience more of the depth and breadth of Easter Sunday. A day that lifts and strengthens our faith.

Friends, I encourage you to engage as fully as you are able with the observance of Lent and Holy Week, that you may experience more of the love, joy and peace that comes on Easter Sunday. If I can be of any assistance to you on this journey, please be in touch.

Wishing you peace,

**Rev'd Andy Larkin**

Vicar

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### Carers4Carers monthly meeting

**Carers4Carers** is a self-help support group for carers living in Kineton, surrounding villages and rural areas. Membership is free and we offer a monthly newsletter and friendly telephone support. Our virtual coffee morning is now accessible to those without internet access. New and existing members are always welcome.

Look out for joining instructions in our monthly email or contact the number below.

Do take a look at our website [www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk](http://www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk), email us at [kcarers4carers@gmail.com](mailto:kcarers4carers@gmail.com) or call Gillian on 07947 893504.

**LB**

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### 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: [grapevine2@btinternet.com](mailto: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.

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## Hampton Lucy and Charlecote WI

Our last meeting was on Wednesday 3 February. Fourteen members attended and we welcomed eight guests. Meetings always begin with 'Business' which included signing off the minutes and a financial report. Part of this noted that we had sent off a cheque for £155 to *The Shakespeare Hospice*, our chosen Christmas card charity. Great stuff!

We would love to welcome new members. This year's subscriptions are due in March/April and the cost is £44.00. There is also an opportunity of a three month 'taster' costing £10.75. If you would like to become a member, please contact our President on 07951 693017

Our zoom speaker was Jake Thompson, Commercial Director of Gemporia, based in Hatton. Jake was not selling but educating us in a fascinating manner about sapphires, their origin, colour and rarity. Jake has been buying and selling gems for a decade, an unusual role for a history graduate, but as he pointed out, gems have been historically cherished by all the royals. Think of the Crown Jewels. We learnt that both sapphires and rubies are made from corundum, a crystalline form of aluminium oxide typically containing traces of iron, titanium, vanadium and chromium. The colour depends on the presence of transition metal impurities in its crystalline structure.

More interesting and memorable was how to rate your sapphire if you are lucky to own one. Apparently the three tests for a valuable stone are: the colour, corn flower blue; a velvety note; and lastly a watery clarity. Quality varies from mine to mine which could be in Sri Lanka, Madagascar, Myanmar, Kashmir - and many other countries. Apparently, Australian sapphires are darker, almost black in colour; and one of our members, when looking at her engagement ring, felt that her stone probably came from there. Not so valuable then. Hard luck, Helen! Rubies are apparently more valuable as they are more scarce. It was a fascinating talk and we hope to invite Jake back to talk about some other gem stones.

Our competition was a handmade heart. First prize was a heart made of small hearts in response to WCC's idea of hanging a heart in the window to show we are thinking of others during the pandemic.

The idea of a heart made of hearts was to try to encompass a number of people, including front line-workers, those who have been bereaved, and those who are ill.

The second prize was for a heart with a different but very important message, which was a response to a WI initiative #SHOWTHELOVE, a reminder of what we are losing and what we need to preserve in view of the climate crisis. The UK is set to host a UN Climate Summit in November.

HD



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### Loxley—new shelter and multi-play

A lot of things have changed in lockdown - but not all for the bad. Loxley Parish Council is pleased to unveil recent investments, namely a new bus shelter and replacement of the multi-play on the park. Getting on for a spend of £20k, the new facilities represent the largest expenditure ever made by the Parish Council.

The works have been funded from a mix of Section 106 and CILS money. The latter is a result of recent developments in the village supported by the Parish Council under the auspices of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, approved at the start of last year.

Together with on-going improvements on the park last summer by a group of dedicated volunteers, they can remind us

that not everything in lockdown has been negative. LPC hope these improvements will benefit the village for many years to come.

GJ



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## Wellesbourne & District Lions Club

We are back fundraising! With lots of plans for 2021, some new events and some familiar ones with 'a twist' to keep everyone safe. Look out for information in future publications, on posters and on our Facebook page [@wdlionsclub](#).

Please support our first 'all villages' '**Easter Egg Nest Competition**', all details can be found on the Notices Page.

For many years Wellesbourne & District Lions Club has supported local health and medical needs with the provision of medical equipment at the village surgeries and in the wider community. Here are just some of the ways we are helping:

The Lions **Message in a Bottle** scheme is a simple idea designed to encourage people to keep their personal and medical details on a standard form and in a common location – the fridge, where the emergency services will be able to easily find it in the event of being called to your home and can save valuable time in the case of an emergency.

These bottles can be collected from Wellesbourne Pharmacy, Hastings House Surgery, One Stop (Bridge Street), Bridge Garage and Wellesbourne Co-op. The scheme is free to use, and while it is focused on the more vulnerable people in the community, anyone with health problems could have an accident at home, so this scheme can benefit everyone.

**Wheelchair loans:** the Lions have a small number of lightweight manual wheelchairs, mobility scooters and walking aids which are available for short-term loan to local people. We have been very fortunate to be the recipients of a grant from the Co-op 'Helping Hearts' fund which has enabled us to purchase two additional wheelchairs.

To find out if we have something that might meet your needs please contact us using the email address at the end of the article.

**Defibrillators:** we have funded the defibrillators situated at Wellesbourne Sports & Community Centre (Mountford Playing Field) and the Shell Garage on the Warwick Road. Both defibrillators are accessible 24/7 and are linked to the West Midlands Ambulance Service emergency network. Lions also undertake the routine checks necessary to keep the equipment in service. We also support the First Responders Group based in Ettington which covers Wellesbourne and other local villages.

**PSA tests:** Wellesbourne Lions support The Graham Fulford Charitable Trust, a Warwick-based charity set up to promote awareness of Prostate Cancer. In more normal times they organise local screening events but are now offering home-testing kits. For more information visit: [psatests.org.uk](https://psatests.org.uk)

**Brain Tumour Research:** Lions Clubs International (MD105) British Isles is working in partnership with Brain Tumour Research to raise £1 million over four years to help fund game-changing research and raise awareness of the impact of brain tumours. Brain Tumour Research is dedicated to raising funds for continuous and sustainable scientific research into brain tumours. It supports one of the UK's largest collaborative groups of laboratory-based scientists.

**Recycling Spectacles - Usable Glasses Give New Life:** millions of people living in low- and middle-income countries lack access to basic eye care services. Help us to support the Lions 'Recycle for Sight Programme' by donating your used spectacles. There are collecting points in Wellesbourne Pharmacy and Barford Village Shop. Please contact the email below if you have a large number of pairs or for a more convenient drop off point.

If you are wondering what happens to them, your old glasses are sent to an official Lions Recycling Centre where they are sorted to determine those that are usable and can be distributed to optical missions around the world. Unusable or damaged glasses are sent for precious metal reclamation and scrap processing to minimise landfill waste. Contact [info@wellesbourne-lions.org.uk](mailto:info@wellesbourne-lions.org.uk) on any of the above. CE

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## NEWS FROM CHARLECOTE PARK

Plans to re-open the house to visitors remain on hold, but the house team are still busy behind those drawn blinds.



Photo by Jane Eastwood

They aren't missing visitors' muddy boots across the Great Hall floor and undoubtedly the low light levels help protect the collection. However, one unexpected side-effect is noticing how much visitors were helping with pest control. Pesky nibbling, chewing bugs and damaging mould prefer quiet, dark and still environments but visitors walking through the house increase the ventilation and airflow and prevent them settling comfortably.

The small house team has split into two work bubbles and furniture has been moved to create space for social distancing. Everything has been checked, cleaned and

covered with dust sheets, and every book in the library has been checked and cleaned by volunteers in Tyvek suits and masks.

We've put up scaffolding in the Great Hall to clean the painted ceiling and the armour has had its first close inspection for many years. By the time you read this we'll have almost finished carefully removing the dust from the antique picture frames.

Meanwhile, it's been good to welcome our new gardener Laura to the outdoor team. Before her appointment she trained in garden design and was selected to create a flower border for *Gardeners' World Live* at the NEC in June. As part of this she's sculpting a giant sundial from recycled ring-pull tin lids. She's appealing for cleaned lids for the project – if you could drop them in to Visitor Reception when you're visiting she would be most grateful.

Please keep checking our website and social media for updates, and continue to pre-book your visit to walk in the parkland. **MG**

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### Grapevine Nature Watch

We hope those of you who are walkers have been enjoying your walks down the farm track and past Hale End Barn, perhaps doing some bird watching as you go.

Your attention may have been caught by a flock of small birds flying up from the track where they were feeding and straight up into a tree, accompanied by a lot of twittering. As you get closer to the tree, these little birds will probably have flown off in a group, moving as if coordinated, in a swirling flock which almost seems to bounce on the air. These birds will almost certainly have been linnets. If you are anything like me you will have struggled to see that about half of them, the males, are beginning to have warmly pink breast feathers, getting their spring colours in good order for the mating season.

By the time you read this in March, linnets and the other small birds will be starting to pair up and be looking for good nesting sites in the hedges. That's why it's important to keep you dog on a short lead when you are near hedges.

As well as linnets, if you are lucky enough to catch them in the evening sun, you may see yellowhammers with their bright yellow colouring on head and breast. If you hear what appears to be a disembodied voice, singing high up in the sky, it will be a skylark. Our farming policy (leaving a stubble, growing plants with seeds for over-wintering, and extra winter feeding) helps these little birds to flourish.

**SL**



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# The Notice

The Charlecote website:  
[www.charlecotevillagehall.weebly.com](http://www.charlecotevillagehall.weebly.com)

The Hampton Lucy website:  
[hamptonlucy.wordpress.com](http://hamptonlucy.wordpress.com)

The Loxley website:  
[loxleyvillage.com](http://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](mailto:rectory@barford.org.uk), or speak to your Church Wardens.

## Warwickshire Trading Standards

### Scam NHS COVID Vaccination Emails

Warwickshire residents have reported receiving very genuine looking NHS COVID19 vaccination booking emails. The emails direct recipients to a 'booking website' at which time they are asked for a £5 fee!

- **The vaccine will always be free on the NHS**
- NHS staff will never ask for, or accept, cash or other payment methods for vaccines
- The NHS will never ask you for your bank account or card details, your PIN or bank password
- NHS staff will never arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- The NHS will never ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips

More advice from NHS England: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2021/01/docs-and-cops-warn-on-covid-19-cons/> SC

## Note from the Editor

A thank you to all of the volunteers who help deliver your copy of **The Grapevine** to you each month. Their help in getting this publication to you, despite the challenges of Covid, is invaluable. A colour version of each edition is available electronically. If you would prefer to receive the electronic version only, please contact me, giving your village, your name and address and, if possible, the volunteer who delivers to your road. My contact details are Editor, E-mail: [grapevine2@btinternet.com](mailto:grapevine2@btinternet.com).

## Grapevine Environmental Action Team (GREAT)

I'm delighted to announce that the Grapevine Environmental Action Team (GREAT) has just been launched!

We are a group of ordinary people who are making a difference together.

We are looking at a number of environmental projects that will improve our villages including creating hedgehog highways, litter picking, planting trees and wildflowers, sharing skills and reducing waste.

*GREAT tip:* Keep your garden alive with birds by feeding them regularly with seeds, fat balls and fresh water to drink and bathe in.

So far we've had a couple of meetings and we're keeping things very informal so there are no committee meetings or officer roles to worry about! While we can't bid for any grant funding, Hampton Lucy Parish Council has very kindly donated £50 to get us started on our GREAT journey.

To have GREAT fun and make a difference together, please email [hellogreatfuture@gmail.com](mailto:hellogreatfuture@gmail.com) or call 07769 683887.

TS

### Our correspondents this month:

EH - Eddie Hoare; MG - Mary Gleaves; LB - Lisa Barnett; HD - Hilary Dunkerton; GJ - Glynn Jones; CE - Carol Evered; SC - Simon Cripwell; TS - Tass Smith; SL - Sue Lampitt

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# Wellesbourne & District Lions Club

Charity No. 1061868



## Easter Egg Nest Competition

Create a nest and design three eggs for it  
Be as creative as you like using any style or craft you fancy

Entry fee £3 per nest.

To pay, either scan this QR code:



Easter Eggs Competition

Or visit our JustGiving page:

[www.justgiving.com/campaign/WellesbourneLionsEasterEggs](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/WellesbourneLionsEasterEggs)

Prize for the best design in the following groups:

Age 11 and under || Age 12 - 16 || Adult (17 and over)

Email your photo of the completed nest with your name  
and age to [info@wellesbourne-lions.org.uk](mailto:info@wellesbourne-lions.org.uk)

before 5pm on Saturday 3 April  
for a chance to win a quality Easter Egg

All photos will be uploaded to

[Facebook.com/wdlionsclub](https://www.facebook.com/wdlionsclub)

for anyone to vote for their favourite in each group





# Local Service Providers

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