



The Grapevine

THE NEWSLETTER FROM HAMPTON LUCY, CHARLECOTE AND
LOXLEY PARISHES

Issue No: 137

March 2012

The Bells, The Bells...!



Photograph: A Scaife

The molten bell metal, at 1200 degrees Celsius, is poured into the mould buried deep in the sand pit, with only the casting box showing.

crucible operated by three men. Later, the bell is accurately tuned by machining the inner surface with a huge vertical lathe, a process carefully monitored by computer analysis, before being fitted with its head stock ready for installation. The high point of the visit was watching the casting of a pair of four hundredweight bells to replace ones recently stolen from Prinknash Abbey in Gloucestershire. Four of the Benedictine monks from the Abbey were there to see their bells being cast. The picture, taken from a gallery overlooking the foundry floor, gives an idea of this memorable scene. **ASC**

On Thursday, 2 February, twelve 'Lucy Lads' visited The John Taylor Bell Foundry in Loughborough. Jeremy Whyman drove the Wellesbourne Lions' minibus, and we stopped en route for a nice light lunch in Quorn. George, our volunteer guide, described the long history of the foundry, one of the largest bell foundries in the world, which has been associated with the Taylor family since 1784. He demonstrated the superior sound and resonance of bell metal, a copper-tin alloy, compared with cheaper alternatives such as brass, aluminium and iron, and described how bells are made. Briefly, a mould is made from an unlikely mixture of sand, loam and horse manure, and shaped with a "strickle", a cutting tool profiled to match the inner and outer surfaces of each individual bell. Once dried, the inner plug and outer mould are clamped together in a steel box, the whole structure being buried in a deep sandpit for support, leaving only the top 'casting box' exposed, into which the molten metal is poured from a large

Hampton Lucy Diamond Jubilee Street Party



Preparations for the celebrations on Monday, 4 June, are well underway and Stratford District Council has approved the closure of Church Street from 3.30pm to 11.00pm. The village will be suitably decorated and we invite everyone to join in with the spirit of the event by decorating their houses, gates or porches. There will be a prize for the house judged to be the best dressed. The celebrations start with a children's fancy dress parade, accompanied by a Scottish piper. A traditional children's street party by the village green will follow, featuring a professional children's entertainer, games and a treasure hunt. The pupils of Hampton Lucy

CoE Primary School and Nursery have now produced designs for a Hampton Lucy Diamond Jubilee ceramic mug. The mugs will be produced by a pottery in Norfolk using the winning design and every child at the party will be presented with one as a souvenir of the day. The family 'Picnic in the Street' will be open from 6.00pm, with entertainment and a live band to suit all ages and tastes. The climax of the celebrations will be the lighting of an official beacon/bonfire in King George V Field, also accompanied by the piper, with fireworks and 'Auld Lang Syne' to close. The whole event will be fully sponsored and free for all residents and their guests. Look out for more details, but make it a date. It will be a great party! **AJW**

Charlecote Parish Meeting

After much perseverance, Charlecote at long last has a 30 mph speed limit. The path from the rear entrance of HRI, as it used to be called, has also been reinstated and the white lines at the Charlecote Pheasant junction moved to make visibility clearer. **VL**

Restoration of St Peter's, Hampton Lucy

Warwickshire Life Magazine has published an excellent article in their January edition on the restoration of St Peter's Church, written by Stephen Oliver, the consulting architect for the project. If you would like a copy, e-mail the editor on grapevine46@btinternet.com **AJW**



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Dear Friends,

In the second half of this year it will be fifteen years since I began my ministry to Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton and five years for Charlecote, Hampton Lucy and Loxley. A lot has happened in that time for me both personally and professionally, and some of it has been very challenging. Clergy are very fortunate in that, from time to time, (theoretically every seven years), we are allowed – even encouraged - to take a sabbatical. These are normally thirteen weeks in length. A few months ago I learned that I have been granted one for August, September and October of this year and so I shall not be working then. Instead, under Cathy's leadership a small team of clergy and laity will make sure that Sunday services run smoothly and that baptisms, weddings and funerals are all taken care of.

Obviously, many people have demanding jobs and not all get sabbaticals, so I consider myself very privileged to have this opportunity. It will, I hope, be a time to rest and to be refreshed. We are encouraged to have a few days 'retreat' at the beginning and the end. (Times spent in a place where it is possible to spend some time in prayer and silence.) Some of the time will be usefully occupied in doing some reading. (It's hard to fit that in normally.) But the intended highlight is that I hope to do part of the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostella in northern Spain.

The importance of rest and even play is easy to underestimate. As a society we work longer hours than most, if not all, of our European counterparts. It can become part of the culture to such an extent that we don't notice it. And in the current economic climate the pressure on some people to work longer for less is even greater. Of course, some people enjoy their work but, as a clergyman once said, "I have talked to many people on their death-beds and none of them has yet said 'I wish I had spent more time at work.'" To have 'work' (paid or not) and purpose is good, but in order to remain creative and productive, we need also have times away from work to re-charge our batteries.

Even if we accept, as I do, that evolution is the best scientific explanation of how all that is came to be, there is a lot of wisdom in the Genesis stories of creation which say that God worked creatively for six days and then rested on the seventh. As it also says that we are made in His image, the same is likely to be true for us. We need to rest from time to time; to simply sit back and enjoy the gift of life.

May God bless you in your rest as well as your 'work', whatever that may be.

David Jessett



News from the Parishes

A complete list of church services, including those at Barford, Wasperton and Sherbourne, is displayed on the notice board in your church.



3P Discussion Group

Last month nearly twenty people met at Charlecote Park for a vigorous discussion of Science and Religion. This month we are most kindly invited back to Charlecote Park to tackle the topic "Faith and Reason, is there a conflict?" You are very welcome to come and join in the discussion or simply sit and listen. The date of the meeting is Thursday, 1 March, 7.30 p.m. at Charlecote Park. The park gate will be open from 7.20pm. SL

Charlecote Wine and Wisdom

Charlecote's Wine & Wisdom Evening was held at the end of November. All of those associated with this annual event were saddened by the death of Mike Sill, and the Hampton Lucy 'Lamplighters' understandably withdrew from the competition out of respect. Helen Hoggarth paid tribute to Mike and the guests spent a few moments in silent contemplation in his memory before the start of the evening. Once again Derek Morris' devilish questions tested the knowledge of all the participating teams. A hotly fought contest was won by "The Feldon Flyers", a team consisting of John and Sue Lampitt, Cathy and Haydn Davies, and Suzanne and Christopher Johns. The amazing sum of £550 was raised towards Village Hall funds. HH

(Editor's note: Sincere apologies to Helen and to the readers in Charlecote. This piece was due to be printed in the February issue of The Grapevine but was omitted in error.)

From the Registers

Wedding: Hampton Lucy 14 January, 2012 Antony Owen and Sharon Crowe.

Loxley WI



On Thursday, 9 February, we were privileged to hear a talk by Peter Gregory-Hood on his life as a diplomat and the many duties demanded by the service. It was not easy to enter the Foreign Office. A barrage of exams, psychological tests and formidable interviews had to be negotiated but, once through those, he worked in embassies in many beautiful places, Paris and India being amongst his favourite postings. It was a life of crises, meeting dignitaries and industrialists, working in the Trade Commission for the benefit of British manufacturers, and looking after politicians. He described one example of the latter when, at the age of 25, he escorted Mrs Thatcher for a sight-seeing afternoon and endured three hours of constant questioning! He was once even responsible for organising a big fashion show. In a career that was at times exciting and sometimes dangerous when crises erupted, it was not surprising to hear that he missed the action when he first retired. It was a fascinating glimpse into a career which, he said, he could recommend to young men and women today. His talk was greatly enjoyed by all present. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 8 March, at 7.30 pm in Loxley School, when Peter Edwards will talk on Bee Keeping.

MC

Wellesbourne & District Lions Club



Winter is nearly over and I, for one, am really looking forward to saying goodbye to the cold and the dark evenings and welcoming a bit of sunshine. Easter is only a few weeks away and the Lions are repeating the very successful fundraising venture that we were involved with last year. We have encouraged a number of local pubs, restaurants and businesses to take a giant Easter Egg and hold a raffle, with all profits going to local charities. Please look out for these giant Easter Eggs and help to support this venture. I have two events to report this month. The first was on Wednesday, 25 January, when the Lions took local pensioners from around the area to see the Phoenix Players' pantomime in Stratford. This year it was Aladdin and everybody seemed to have a good time. (Oh yes they did!) The second was our quiz night and presentation evening that was held on Saturday, 4 February, in Kineton Village Hall. Unfortunately it was the evening when all the snow descended on our region. Despite this, there was a good turnout and brains were given a good workout, whilst cheques were presented to all of the charities involved in our Christmas collections.

AS

Hampton Lucy Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Wednesday, 18 January, with all Councillors present. In addition to routine business, the principal items discussed included the defibrillator scheme, which was put on hold for the present in favour of setting up a CPR training scheme for all interested residents. After an appeal by representatives of the governors of the school, it was agreed to repeat the speeding checks on vehicles passing through the village at peak times. Councillors Main and Whyman offered to participate, along with Dave Holland and Martyn Harrold. In view of the increasing value of the playground equipment, the Council agreed to ring-fence a 'Repairs Fund' in the accounts. The arrangements for the Jubilee were reported to be well on track and funding was coming in very satisfactorily. Attention was drawn to the Boundary Commission's proposed changes, which would move Hampton Lucy and Charlecote into the Warwick constituency. The Council will lodge an objection. The Village Hall Committee reported a very successful year with fundraising events having been well supported and bookings for the hall increased since its extensive refurbishment. A full copy of the minutes is available from the Parish Clerk, Mike Woodman, Telephone: 01789 841205. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 14 March, at 7.30pm in the village hall. Parishioners are always welcome.

AJW

Hampton Lucy and Charlecote WI



Ann Holiday gave us a fascinating insight into Tudor costume at our February meeting in Hampton Lucy Village Hall, demonstrating how a well-to-do Tudor lady would dress. With Kath Clarke acting as the model, Ann described the many layers of clothing that were normal in those days. The photograph opposite shows Kath wearing an Elizabethan dress. For those who would like to learn more, Ann will be demonstrating at Charlecote House each Friday during the visitors' season. Helen Sill followed up with an enthusiastic vote of thanks on behalf of the members. Our next meeting will be on 7 March, 7.30pm, in Charlecote Village hall, when Martin Pleasance will give us a talk on 'Body Language'. Hampton Lucy and Charlecote WI meets on the first Thursday of each month and will always welcome prospective new members.

MJW



Our correspondents this month are:

ASC - Alan Scaife; AJW - Jeremy Whyman; VL - Vanessa Lewis; Rev'd DJ - Rev'd David Jessett; SL - Sue Lampitt; HH - Helen Hoggarth; MC - Margaret Clayton; AS - Andy Stokes; MJW - Margaret Whyman; HC - Helen Chidgey; EF - Emma Fisher; SF - Shiela Freeman



*Glynn, Wilf, Nigel, Alan, Scott, Paul and Johnson.
Ted and Clare were already at the start!*

Its not the winning but.....

Back in January, an intrepid group of runners, aka 'Team Loxley', took part in the annual 'Not the Roman 9' race which passes through the village and surrounding countryside. These fearless souls had been training all winter for this big day, the competitive streak coming out in all of them as they lined up before setting off to the start. Who was going to be the first home or the first to create a 'personal best'? However, the main aim of running the race was to attract sponsorship in aid of Loxley school and specifically the playground development fund. With the assistance of the *Justgiving* platform, a phenomenal sum was raised, totalling £906!! A fundraising personal best! A huge thank you to all those who took part, all the supporters on the route for their encouragement, and to all the sponsors who gave so generously. Once the weather improves, the playground improvements will start... **HC**

Molly Rules the Roost

On Monday, 30 January, Class 2 at Hampton Lucy C of E Primary School and Nursery had some very special visitors. Molly the barn owl, Kurtis the kestrel and Egan the peregrine falcon visited the school as part of a project that also included taking part in the Big Schools' Bird Watch, organised by the RSPB. Stephen and Debbie Sanders, from S&D Falconry, based at Stratford Armouries, talked to the children about these fascinating creatures. As a treat for the whole school, Molly also flew across the School Hall. As part of the 'Flower Rota', it was Hampton Lucy School's turn to decorate the Church with flowers. On Friday, 27 January, the Year 6 children, Jake, Ben, Rose, Penny, Ben, Flora, James and Ben, took and arranged the flowers in the church as part of their services to the local community, assisted by Miss Carr. The children used their artistic and visual skills to arrange the flowers, bringing colour to the church on a cold winter's day.



Left to right: Sam, Samuel and Anna watch as Emma shows Molly to the class.

EF

Charlecote Park - Looking Ahead

Charlecote Park and House occupy a special place in the heart of the local community. It may seem that the Park has been there forever, but change is inevitable. Every enterprise needs to plan for the future. Charlecote Park, and indeed the National Trust as a whole, is no exception. So, what of the future? Work will continue, using a strategic plan, to make better use of existing buildings, and provide improved facilities for everyone. A strong support team has now been built up, led by the Property Manager, Stephen Bennett. Over the next few years, work in the Park will include development of the old orchard area, management of the trees in high winds, the creation of a wildlife area and a fish by-pass between the Dene and the Avon, restoration of the Woodland Garden, and upgrading of the footpaths. The proximity of the peaceful River Avon is an important feature of the Park and every effort will be made to oppose any plans to extend the navigation on the Upper Avon through Charlecote. Inside the house, the conservation needs are paramount, with the replacement of blinds, ultraviolet screening and druggets, together with wallpaper and other repairs. Work is needed on the Lucy Carriage Collection and maintenance work to the fabric of the historic buildings around the site will continue. Many local residents and visitors appreciate the fact that members of the Fairfax-Lucy family still reside at Charlecote, and the Trust is determined to ensure that due consideration is given to the family's needs and wishes. It is because of them that Charlecote retains that widely acknowledged special atmosphere. Charlecote Park has a great future and has much to offer visitors. With the long history of the house, the peace and quiet of the Park, and the attractive gardens, it makes for a great day out.

SF

The next issue of *The Grapevine* for April, 2012, will be published to the websites on 16 March and should be delivered during the week of 26 March.

AJW

Hampton Lucy website:
www.hamptonlucy.net

The Notice Board

The Loxley website:
www.loxleyvillage.com

The Grapevine is published in colour each month. To view the colour edition visit either the Hampton Lucy or Loxley websites, or request an e-mail copy

"The Lucy Lads"

Meet at the Boar's Head, Hampton Lucy,
Thursday, 1 March, 11.30am
All 'Lads' at heart welcome

Hampton Lucy Ladies Coffee and Cakes

Meet at The Boar's Head, Hampton Lucy,
Tuesday, 6 March, 10.30am
All ladies will be welcome

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Contact details

Grapevine copy by the **10th of the month please**
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Police: Police enquiries: 01789 842114. e-mail: wellesbourne.snt@warwickshire.police.uk

Website newsletter, with regularly updated local information: www.saferneighbourhoods.co.uk



Church Services

March 2012

2 March

Women's World Day of Prayer

2.00pm Scout Hut
7.30pm Barford

4 March

The Second Sunday of Lent

9.30am	Charlecote	Morning Worship	CW
9.30am	Loxley	Holy Communion	BCP
6.00pm	Hampton Lucy	Holy Communion	CW

11 March

The Third Sunday of Lent

9.30am	Hampton Lucy	Family Service	
11.00am	Charlecote	Holy Communion	CW
6.00pm	Loxley	Evensong	BCP
6.00pm	Hampton Lucy	Evensong	BCP

18 March

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

9.30am	Charlecote	Holy Communion	BCP
9.30am	Hampton Lucy	Come and Worship	CW
11.00am	Loxley	Family Service	

25 March

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

8.00am	Charlecote	Holy Communion	BCP
11.00am	Loxley	Matins	BCP
6.00pm	Hampton Lucy	Evensong	BCP

For your diary - March

- Thur 1 'The Lucy Lads', The Boar's Head, 11.30am, all 'Lads' at heart welcome.
Thur 1 **3P Discussion Group**, Charlecote Park, 7.30pm. **Page 2**.
Thur 1 **Three Parishes Prayer Group**, Janet and Duncan Fairfax-Lucy's house. 7.45pm
Sat 3 **SHN Second-hand and Vintage Clothes Sale**, see **Notice Board**
Mon 5 **Wellesbourne & District Lions' Club**, new members welcome. (01789 841939)
Tues 6 **Keep Fit**, Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 7.30pm. All welcome.
Tues 6 **Hampton Lucy Ladies' Coffee and Cakes**, The Boar's Head, 10.30am.
Tues 6 **Keep Fit**, Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 7.30pm. All welcome.
Wed 7 **Tai Chi**, Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 9.00am to 10.00am.
Wed 7 **Hampton Lucy and Charlecote WI**, Charlecote Village Hall, 7.30pm. **Page 3**
Wed 7 **Tai Chi**, Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 9.00am to 10.00am.
Thur 8 **Loxley WI**, Loxley School, 7.30pm. For details call 01789 470226. **Page 3**
Tues 13 **Dene Valley U3A**, St Peter's Church, Wellesbourne, 2.00pm for 2.30pm start
Tues 13 **Keep Fit**, Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 7.30pm. All welcome.
Wed 14 **Tai Chi**, Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 9.00am to 10.00am.
Thur 15 **SHN, Exclusive Viewing of Gainsborough Collection**, see **Notice Board**
Tues 20 **Keep Fit**, Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 7.30pm.
Wed 21 **Tai Chi**, Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 9.00am to 10.00am.
Wed 21 **SHN Armscote Manor Lecture, 'Quirky and the Unusual'**, see **Notice Board**
Thur 22 **Three Parishes Prayer Group**, Janet and Duncan Fairfax-Lucy's house. 7.45pm
Mon 26 **Wellesbourne & District Lions' Club**, new members welcome. (01789 841939)
Tues 27 **Keep Fit**, Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 7.30pm.
Wed 28 **Tai Chi**, Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 9.00am to 10.00am
Sat 31 etc **Compton Verney Exhibitions - Gainsborough and Impressionists to the Early 20th C.** 31 March to 10 June, see **Notice Board**.

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