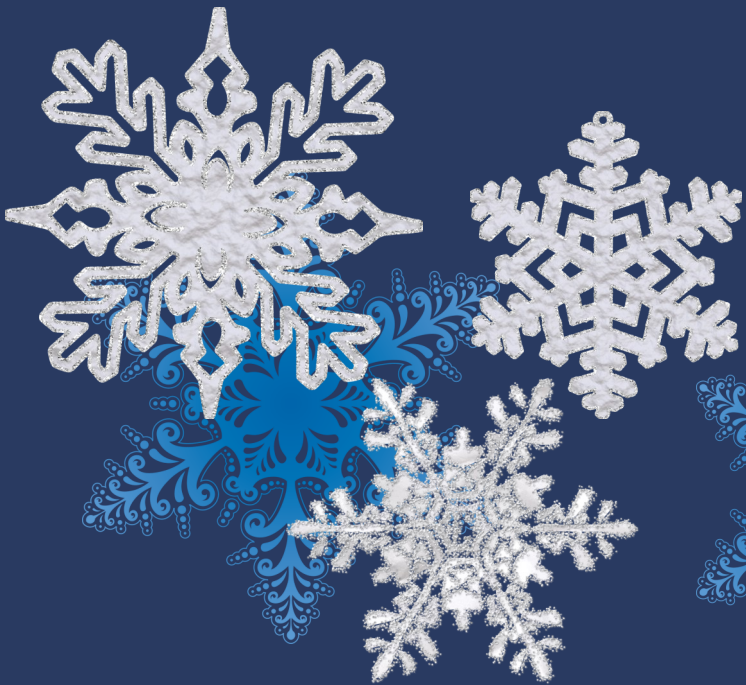


the Villager

The newsletter of Holywell-cum-Needingworth

December 2023



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on December 2nd
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the Villager

The Newsletter of Holywell-cum-Needingworth

Published quarterly in March, June, September and December
Distributed free to every household in the parish of
Holywell-cum-Needingworth

Winter Issue, December 2023

EDITORIAL

It will soon be Christmas, or, as they say in America "The Holidays" and the chill in the air as I am writing this warns of foggy and frosty mornings to come. The next Gardening Club meeting is, appropriately, on 'Winter Wonders' (see page 9). Remember that the Christmas Bazaar, this year run by the WI, is being held on 2nd December in the Village Hall; shop for Christmas presents, bring the children to see Santa and help raise money for local charities. Details of all the religious services being held over the Christmas period can be found on the two church pages, page 17 for parish church events and page 19 for those run by the Baptist church.

If you have any general information, articles, photographs or news items that you would like to include in the next issue of the Villager please remember to send them in to needingworth@aol.com before the 1st of February next year. I know that sounds a long way off at the moment but time flies and to keep the magazine interesting new contributions will always be welcome. Wishing every a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jennifer



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Jennifer Horn,

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Tel: 01480 468952

Email: needingworth@aol.com

Next issue deadline:

1st February 2024 for March. April and May

The views expressed in this newsletter are submitted by readers and are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council or the Editor. Dates and times of events have been submitted by the organisers of the events and are passed on in good faith. Please check with the organisers before attending. The Villager is supported by the Parish Council but published independently.

DORA'S SOLO CHRISTMAS

Dora sat alone at home as Christmas time drew near,
Dreading the arrival of this awful time of year,
Remembering fun and laughter when she was very young,
The family all around her and carols happily sung.
But that was all so long ago, sixty years or more,
Then she met young Charlie who she viewed with young-girl awe;
He was tall and blond and handsome with eyes of velvet brown,
And their wedding was a wondrous day with bunting in the town.
They had three lovely children, then grandchildren came along
And once again the house was filled with laughter and with song.
Then golden wedding time arrived, the family helped them celebrate
With cake and gifts and friendship, the day was really great.
But next day Charlie passed away, they said it was his heart
Handing Dora sadness, now her new life was to start.
The family rallied round to help their newly widowed mum
Because at Christmas they all thought she'd feel so very glum.
But Dora was still a headstrong lass, with ideas of her own,
She banned the offspring for the day so she could be alone
And cooked a roasted lunch for two like when she and Charlie wed,
Then watched The King and then a film,
there'd been no need for dread.

© Steve Puttick Scribblers Writing Group

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PARISH COUNCIL

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council 15th June 2023

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
CLERK Miss Jane Bowd	Needingworth Village Hall, Overcote Lane, Needingworth	468451
PARISH COUNCILLORS		
Mr A Whyte Chairman	23 Bramley Avenue	464223
Mr R Fountain	91 Ashton Close	496636
Mr T Head	36 The Furlongs	07452 992161
Mr A Holloway	Orchards End, Back Lane Holywell	467748
Mr D Jackson	Overcote Farm, Overcote Lane	466612
Mrs E Macpherson	6 Priory Road	468633
Mrs S Martin	21 Bramley Avenue	494920
Mrs E McNeill	Green Trees, Back Lane, Holywell	467212
Mr S Mitcham	6 Willow Green	301679
Mrs S Mortlock	The Paddocks, Mill Way	462945
Mr J Neish	7 Willow Green	466110
Mr C Pearce	22 Harris Crescent	468759
Mr M Williamson	3 Priory Close	465821
DISTRICT COUNCILLORS		
Mr J Neish	7 Willow Green, Needingworth	01480 466110
Mr P Hodgson-Jones	Bluntisham House, Rectory Road, Bluntisham	01487 740778
COUNTY COUNCILLOR		
Mr K Reynolds	17 Virginia Way, St ves	01480 496006
VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS		
Eleanor Hardy	email:hardy.derek@sky.com Tel: 07730 504220	
MILLFIELDS BOOKINGS		
Miss J Bowd	Needingworth Village Hall	468451

Meet Your Parish Councillors

We have recently had two vacancies to fill by co-option, please welcome the two successful candidates:

Councillor Alan Holloway



I moved to Holywell approximately 20 years ago. I chose to live in Holywell because the village reminded me of my childhood home in the country a few miles from Brighton. I am happily married with one son who now lives in Australia. I ran my own business in the commercial construction industry for 25 years

before retiring. After which I took a part time job in a garden centre and stayed there for 6 years. I believe we need to protect our villages for future generations and to protect the beauty of where we live.

Committees: Environment, Planning & Finance

Councillor Sue Martin



I have lived in Needingworth for over 30 years, raised my family here and my parents were also village residents.

I have recently retired from the NHS, having worked as a Senior Nurse in both our hospitals and within the local community.

Living and working locally, I share many of the concerns regarding

the social, economic and environmental challenges faced by residents.

I believe we must involve local people of all ages and backgrounds in the decisions made which will shape the future of our village.

I am proud to support and represent our local community as a member of the Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council.

Committees: Discipline & Grievance, Environment

'the Villager'

Extra copies of this quarterly magazine can be obtained from the editor

Jennifer Horn, 16 Willow Green, tel. **468952**
or from **Roger Beaman**, 17 Willow Green, tel. **462379**.

WEBSITE: back issues of the Villager Magazine can be found on the Villager website

needingworthvillager.org.uk

To advertise in the Villager please contact the editor

Email: needingworth@aol.com
or telephone 01480 468952

(Adverts start at £11. per issue for a 1/10th page ad.)

Parish Council Report

The official record of all meetings are the minutes which are available on the Parish Council website www.holywell-cum-needingworthpc.org.uk.

August meeting: CCC Reynolds spoke about the County Council change of policy in respect of weed spraying advising members he had made representation that this policy was false economy as the weeds are causing significant damage underground.

He was asked for an update on the roadworks Overcote Lane, the road safety audit for the new footpath Bluntisham Road and the rationale behind the proposal to install 7 new streetlights on Bluntisham Road.

The resolution of the Environment committee made on 18th July 2023 to amend the cemetery regulations was not ratified by Council and the committee was asked to look at the proposal again. However, the revised cemetery fees were approved effective from 18th July 2023.

Accounts for payment made for the period 29th June 2023 – 1st August 2023 totalling £28639.68 were approved.

Quotes for the supply and installation of a Zip wire in the play area Overcote Lane were considered and the contract awarded to Wicksteed (see separate article for the latest update)

The contract for the 3-year tree survey was awarded and also for the renovation of the village lock up (see separate article for the latest update)

2 planning applications were considered, and Council recommended support.

Mr Alan Holloway's application was successful in filling a vacancy on the Council by way of co-option.

There was some discussion about the litter bin outside of the village hall and Cllr Fountain advised that the village hall trust would be writing to the Parish Council on the matter.

At the September meeting CCC K Reynolds updated members on the weed spraying issue advising he has received lots of complaints regarding weeds in the village. This is county wide issue, and he has put forward a motion to the full County Council and raised a petition.

Cllr Reynolds further reported that with regards to reports in the news of schools shutting due to RAAC, all local schools except 3 have been surveyed in Cambridgeshire and there are no reported issues.

The accounts for payment made 2nd August 2023 – 5th September 2023 totalling £11753.56 were approved.

A new lease for Holywell-cum-Needingworth Tennis Club and a new licence for Needingworth United FC were duly approved.

A special motion was considered and the removal of the blue sail shelter on Overcote Lane playing field was halted with a decision taken to install a Coronation commemorative bench under the sail once the "arms" have been removed.

A replacement bench for Mill Way cemetery was approved with the condition that the commemorative plaque be transferred to the new bench.

3 planning applications were considered and all three were supported.

The common land working party made a presentation on the findings, and it was agreed to open a consultation with the residents of Holywell over the matter. A draft letter was approved for issue to each household asking for comments.

The Clerk reported that the training session for the defibrillator advertised for 15th September was cancelled on the day due to the trainer being unable to attend. The alternative date of 20th October 2023 was declined pending the installation of the unit at the One Stop shop.

Accounts for payments for the period 6th September – 3rd October totalling £26105.05 were approved.

The draft lease for Holywell-cum-Needingworth tennis club and licence for Needingworth United football club were approved for signing prior to issue to the respective clubs.

Three applications for co-option were considered for a vacancy on the Council and Mrs Susan Martin was co-opted by a majority vote.

A letter from St Johns PCC asking for the Parish Council to effect repairs to the Holy well was considered and a discussion held regarding the legalities of whether the well constituted part of the closed church yard and therefore within the Parish Councils responsibilities. The Council resolved that until proof is received from the Diocese that the Parish Council are responsible for the well and steps that no further action is taken.

An update was given on the responses to the consultations on Holywell Front. A decision was taken to revise the signs and their location.

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 10am – 12pm (Noon)
For any queries outside of these times please contact the Parish Clerk on Tel: 01480 468451
or by email: needingworthpc@btconnect.com
to book an appointment.

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Parish Council Surgeries

Come and speak to a Parish Councillor to

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council are running surgeries at Chatters on the 2nd Thursday of each month:

Thursday 14th December 1.30pm – 2.30pm

Thursday 11th January 2024 1.30pm – 2.30pm

Thursday 8th February 2024 1.30pm – 2.30pm

give your views, ideas and opinions on any matters relating to your villages. Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council

Tel: 01480 468451.

Email: needingworthpc@btconnect.com

Refurbishment of Village Lock Up

Did you know that historically the lock-up is also known as the Cage. It was used for the short-term imprisonment of local drunks or felons before they could be moved to larger accommodation. It was built in 1838 and is situated in the centre of the village near the War Memorial. There is an old, faded date-stone above the door together with a new plaque.

Following restoration in 2011 it was noted two years ago that the building was again in need of renovation with the door coming away from its frame and the mortar and plaster crumbling away. A report was commissioned from a structural engineer which highlighted the issues particularly relating to water ingress.

Being a Grade II listed building permission had to be granted from Huntingdonshire District Council before work could commence, a process that took a considerable length of time.

However, JH Building restoration Ltd. were finally able to start work at the beginning of September. The door has been repaired and along with a new frame re-hung. An additional course of bricks has been laid to allow for a lead flashing parapet to be placed on the roof with a gutter to the rear taking rainwater away from the brickwork which has been re-pointed with lime mortar.

Some work still remains to be completed inside but Council is pleased with the work carried out and hope that it will preserve this building for the community for many years to come.



Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council

Tel: **01480 468451**,

Email:

needingworthpc@btconnect.com

Zip wire – Coming Soon!

The Parish Council has approved the supply and installation of a 30m zip wire at the playing field on Overcote Lane. The order has been placed and installation started on 30th October 2023. Councillors hope that this equipment will be a welcome addition to the play area and enjoyed by all.



Holywell Front consultation result

The Parish Council had been contacted on numerous occasions with residents of Holywell expressing concerns over the use of the common land outside of the Ferry Boat for car parking and recreational use resulting in litter, noise and also a general erosion of the level of the common land.

In order to look into the matter Council established a working party of 3 Councillors who looked at the concerns expressed and then made a proposal to Council that measures could be put into place to restrict parking in this location therefore helping to conserve the ground levels which act as a flood defence.

As this was a concern raised by residents a consultation was undertaken with each home in Holywell being contacted with an outline of the proposal asking for comments and suggestions.

24 residents responded but there was no overall consensus of opinion as to a workable solution.

As a result, Council resolved to improve signage in the area outlining the rules relating to the common land, but no further action will be taken at this time.

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council

Tel: 01480 468451,

Email: needingworthpc@btconnect.com

Cemetery Regulations

At the 3rd October Council meeting members resolved to ratify the resolution of the Environment committee amending the Mill Way cemetery regulations.



Council continues to receive increasing numbers of requests for burials from people who reside outside of the Parish. With the increasing population of this Parish who, after all, do pay for the ongoing maintenance of the cemetery, along with the reduction in available space it was resolved that the cemetery is now to be closed to non-residents.

The pre purchase of graves was also stopped although spouses or partners can buy an adjacent plot on the death of their partner.

Council does understand the sensitivity of this matter but consider it to be the fairest way to deal with the increase in demand by giving preference to those who live in the Parish.

A full copy of the regulations can be found on the Parish Council website.

www.holywell-cum-needingworthpc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Ceme-Regs-Oct-2023.pdf

Or alternatively by contacting the Parish Clerk.

Tel: **01480 468451**,

Email: needingworthpc@btconnect.com

Blue Sail shelter Overcote lane reprieved!

Council had resolved to remove the shelter from the playing fields due to lack of use. However, once the side arms had been removed second thoughts were given to the



proposal and a special motion was taken back to Council to ask that they reconsider the strategy by investing in a Blue commemorative Coronation bench to sit under the sail so providing much needed shelter on the field from the elements.

We are pleased to say that the revised plan was given approval, and the bench is now in situ awaiting use.

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council

Tel: **01480 468451**,

Email: needingworthpc@btconnect.com

Village Hall Report

The Village Hall Trust aims to see the Hall available for all Villagers to use and we hope that there are enough events on at the hall for your pleasure. Groups that book the hall on a regular basis (typically weekly) include the Cubs, Brownies, Scouts and Guides. The hall is also booked for Music, Art, Indoor Bowls, Pilates, Tai Chi, Yoga and a Scribblers Writing Group. Chatters have a weekly café every Thursday. The Gardening Club book the hall for several events during the year, the Wellworth Players put on at least two shows every year and the Village Hall Trust organises Band nights with Let There B/DC (an AC/DC tribute band) in November). There is also an annual Quiz, usually a sell out with the next one planned for March 2024. In November, there was a Charity Art Exhibition booked and the Woman’s Institute are holding a Christmas Bazaar on 2 December. The Hall is also booked for private functions. So add in the annual Music Festival, NFESt, a very popular event in the village, well attended and helps provide much needed funding for the hall, even with it being “free” you can hopefully see that there is always something for everyone.

So do pop up to the Hall, check on Facebook (Needingworth Village Hall Trust) or look out for posters around the village, to see what events are on and book in or turn up for events. Nearly all groups who book the hall are listed in The Villager (see back page in particular) and maybe join in with one or two.

We have several time slots still available, so maybe you are in a group that need a venue or you wish to hold an event, remember we can have a bar available, if so, get in touch with the Bookings Secretary, Eleanor at bookings@needingworthvillagehall.com.

The Management Team are always looking for more volunteers to join the Village Hall Trust. Being able to share the workload is always welcome, but working as a team to come up with ideas of events as well as supporting the events mean that there are lots of ways beyond the monthly meetings to be involved and help out. If you are interested at all, you would be made most welcome as we would really value getting a greater cohort to represent the village, please get in touch with Debbie, who Chairs the Trust, chair@needingworthvillagehall.com.

Adrian Dobbyne, Trustee
Village Hall Management Committee
Tel: **01480 466369**

Dates for your Diary:
Christmas Bazaar: **2nd December 2023**
Wellworth Players Pantomime: ‘Hansel and Gretel’:
February half term
Village Hall Annual Trivia Quiz: **2nd March 2024**



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CLUBS & SOCIETIES

WI



At our late summer meeting in August, we were delighted to welcome Simon Freedman of the RSBP who gave us a fascinating talk about Fen Drayton Lakes reserve – Past, Present and Future. We heard how the reserve was created and developed – and about the exciting plans for what is to come. Simon illustrated his talk with some wonderful images that he had taken of the wildlife to be found there. Many of us were inspired to explore such a fascinating place.

Simon Freedman's talk

In September we were privileged to host Helena Davis from the East Anglian Children's Hospices and Jackie Westwood, the founder of the local Butterfly Project. Our visitors gave brilliant and moving accounts of the work undertaken and the care and assistance provided; it was so humbling to hear about such amazing work and how so many people benefit from their efforts. Our WI had chosen to support these two charities this year and we look forward to donating to both soon.

We were out of our seats and moving around in October when joined by Dawn and Lorraine and some of the Bootscooterz Line Dancers, who motivated us to get up



Line Dancing

and join them in a session of Line Dancing. Our local Federation Chairman Mrs Phyllis Brooks had chosen to visit us on that evening because it sounded fun – and she was right! A hugely enjoyable evening with a great deal of laughter – and all of us fortified by something sparkling in a



A Walk through Madingley Hall Gardens



Rest for some weary Walkers!

It isn't all about Christmas of course. Our WI will be represented at a special service in Huntingdon on Armistice Day – 11th Nov, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the 'Thinking Soldier' War memorial in Huntingdon Market Square. This was originally erected through WI donations. On Remembrance Sunday (12th Nov), we will join with other local community organisations to lay a wreath at the village War Memorial during the annual Act of Remembrance.

We celebrate the New Year in January by holding our annual dinner at the Queen's Head in Needingworth. In February our meeting is entitled 'Give us a clue'. We are hoping to learn some unusual facts about each other! Planning for the 2024-25 programme is shaping up well; it promises to be interesting and fun.

We meet on the first Monday of each month in Needingworth Village Hall and extend an invitation to anyone who is interested in joining us to get in touch. Be assured that you will receive a warm welcome. For further information please contact **Carol Peilow on 01480 496958**.

glass to celebrate a special birthday of one of our members.

In September some members enjoyed a lovely visit to Madingley Hall near Cambridge. After a tour of the beautiful gardens on a warm late summer's day, afternoon tea was taken on the terrace.

As this article is being written, preparations for the Festive Season are getting under way. Our November meeting sees local florist Debbs Wain demonstrate how to create Christmas floral decorations. In December we will be holding our annual Christmas Party and are looking forward to being entertained by some of the Wellworth Players, in addition to music and dancing. Members are also taking a trip in late November to Burwash Manor to enjoy the seasonal food and shopping. And of course, we are running this year's village Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 2 December from 12 noon to 4pm. Food, stalls, crafts, and Father Christmas will be there! Everyone is welcome to come along.

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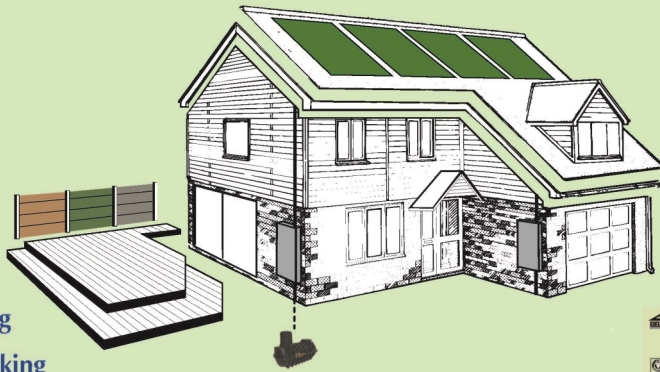
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CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Beer and Wine Club News

In September 12 members hired a minibus to take us to Oldhurst and back. We had gone to judge a homemade beer competition held annually for a cup in memory of Sandra's. This is always a very sociable evening.

Unfortunately we had to cancel October's meeting due to an outbreak of covid within the club. We are now looking forward to judging our annual show of all our best wines. Prizes are awarded for winning wines in each class and these are presented at our AGM in March.

December is of course our dinner out. In January there is a competition using tea to make the wine. Why not come and judge these with us as an introduction to the club.

February is wine whist (members only). The AGM is held at our March meeting.

New members are always welcome.

Pat Britton

I can be contacted on **01480 466239** or Sandra on **01487 825669**

REMEMBRANCE

The Needingworth Yarn Bombers spent many happy hours working to enhance their display for Remembrance this year, with help from the WI Knit and Natter group who made lots of poppies. We continue to work on new ideas for future displays. If there are any knitters or crocheters who would like to join us, you would be most welcome.

Please contact Jackie Norris, 01480 465997



DANCE CLUB

This popular get together is held every Wednesday afternoon from 2 - 4 pm

For further details, please contact Rose on 01480 466487

ART CLUB

We meet on the second and fourth Fridays of the month in the Village Hall. We are a small, friendly group; if you are interesting in joining us, please telephone

Paul on 01480 465536

Scribblers Writing Group

normally hold meetings monthly at Needingworth Village Hall, plus they have a lively poetry group.

For current activities please ring **Helen on 01487 843437** or **Joan on 01840 463966**.

Local History Group

To contact the group email Sally Beaman or Cheryl Frost as below:-

Sally - Email:

rsde.beaman@btinternet.com

Tel: 462379

Cheryl: Email: cheryl.frost@hotmail.co.uk

Or visit our website www.hcnhistory.org.uk

"Bridge Bunch"


We normally meet on a Friday afternoon from 2 pm - 5 pm at my house in the Furlongs. We will resume meetings when it is safe to do so.

We play the Benjii Accol system; we are a small friendly group and would welcome some new members.

For more information call

Hannah Dickinson 01480 460132

Paul Mason
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CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Two fun Gardening Club events

As well as our monthly meetings and talks, the Gardening Club holds many other events and visits throughout the year.

One of the most popular is the Spud in a Bucket competition which we held in early August this year. This fun competition entails distributing approx. 83 standard buckets to all of the club members who entered along with a standard potato in early March.

They were asked to grow these on in any soil or compost they wanted.



Then on 12th August they were all brought to the Chairman's garden where the buckets were tipped out and the potatoes weighed. It was great fun seeing the huge range of weights achieved from a standard potato.

We had a great day in mostly glorious sunshine with wine or soft drinks and a wide range of lovely homemade cakes. The Huntingdon Ukulele Group provided excellent musical accompaniment for the afternoon.

The two winning weights were entered by husband and wife Marcus and Elaine Starling and there was close scrutiny of the weights before announcing that Marcus was the winner. Prizes were awarded for these and the wooden spoon for the lowest yield.



It was a really fun afternoon which was attended by approximately 105 people.

Our September meeting was on the subject of pumpkins from the excellent Russell Atwood from Kettering who was slightly obsessed with growing all forms of squashes and was a brilliantly entertaining speaker.

To support the theme, and as it was so close to Halloween, we held a pumpkin decoration competition and had an amazing turnout with some very creative entries.

Each was lit with a battery operated candle and we switched the lights off to display them to the best advantage. They looked great!

These and other events and visits, such as the recent trip to the beautiful Fullers Mill gardens near Bury St Edmunds, are enjoyed by many of our large membership and add to our attempts to make the club welcoming and entertaining.

Our talk on December 12th is by Amber Hines who is going to give her timely talk on Winter Wonders at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall. Visitors are welcome.

Grant Williamson

Correspondence from Readers

Update on piece about Kestrel chick

The baby chick noted in Lowndes drove was indeed a kestrel. It was spotted on the grass verge by my daughter and I. As it appeared too young to fly and with no adult bird in sight, I contacted Ramsey Raptor, who kindly came and rescued and then transported to their hospital. The bird amazingly survived, and Ramsey Raptor contacted me when it was ready for release and allowed us to take it back to where we found it. We then released the bird from its box whereupon it looked around and immediately flew rapidly into the sky.



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News from Ouse Fen nature reserve

The RSPB have been working in partnership with Heidelberg Materials on the transformational wetland-project at Needingworth Quarry for more than two decades. Turning their aggregates quarry into the largest reedbed in the UK creates a wetland that will support birds of

huge conservation importance like Bittern - along with many other wildlife species - and a great place to visit to boot!

Summer Wildlife Highlights

The spring and summer season just past is the key season for us when we hope to see breeding birds and other wildlife making hay from our work over the previous year. This year there were several notable events, representing mixed fortunes for our native wildlife.

Very positively the number of male Bitterns returned to the second highest record since the project began, with 11 booming birds this year. Notably two birds returned to Cuckoo Fen, which has received intensive management work in recent years. A similar record was achieved with seven Marsh Harriers nests. Our regular Crane pair returned but have again failed to fledge any young and we are trying to establish if this might be due to infertility. We don't survey our Bearded Tits very widely, but they can be seen throughout the reedbeds. Whilst we did not record any Turtle Dove breeding on Ouse Fen this year there still appears to be good numbers dotted around the wider project area and at our nearby Fen Drayton Lakes reserve. The population of breeding Lapwing and Redshank on Berry Fen is quite stable year-on-year, but we are working hard to encourage more young to fledge inside the electric anti-predator fencing there. The Heronry there faced another hard year with freezing March weather sealing the fate of many youngsters. However, later nesting heron species including Little and Cattle Egrets fared much better.

On a more sombre note, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) killed dozens of breeding Black-headed Gulls and Common Terns at Ouse Fen and Fen Drayton Lakes this year. The full impact on wild bird populations across the country still has to be fully assessed but conservation concern only increases.

Whether as a result of climate change or natural range change, we saw another reminder of how rapidly distribution is changing for some species when, for a couple of weeks this summer Norfolk Hawkers dragonflies, formerly absent from Cambridgeshire, were probably the easiest species to see on the reserve. But our final and most remarkable wildlife news dates back to last year as it has only now been confirmed that a pair of Glossy Ibis bred successfully for the first time in the UK in 2022 within our local 'Ouse Valley' reserves. You can read local birder Steve Hutchinson's story here; <https://www.birdguides.com/articles/britain-ireland/glossy-ibis-breeds-in-britain-for-first-time/>

Reserve & Other Hanson-RSPB Wetland Project News

Habitat management work takes a bit of a backseat over the summer except for the beneficial grazing of livestock on grassland margins. Working closely with one of our local cattle graziers we have been experimenting with 'Nofence' technology to focus grazing on key areas we want to graze more intensively. The location of 'virtual' fences lines are learnt by the collared animals, under audio and electric stimuli, all managed remotely via a phone app – amazing!

Meanwhile the project partnership has been focussing on the design of the river water abstraction facilities to ensure that the wetland is permanently supplied with the water it needs and will support the migration to and from the river of what is a threatened population of European Eels. Restoration also continues to create the eleventh wetland mere and the extension of the perimeter canal.

Winter prospects – take a look!

Expected highlights coming up over winter include the chance of seeing of wintering birds of prey from the reserve trails such as a Merlin or Short-Eared Owls, both seen already this October. Otherwise, you might like to simply soak up the wide open vistas, enjoy a healthy walk or plan a longer hike via public rights of way to one of our neighbouring reserves and the wider countryside beyond.

The reserve is open during daylight hours via our visitor entrance between Earith and Willingham but to plan a trip in more detail go to

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/ouse-fen>.

See you there! - The Ouse Fen Reserve Team

email: ousefen@rspb.org.uk



Aerial photo with the working quarry in the foreground and restored reedbed to the River Ouse in the background.

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Day. On New Year's Eve, 11 a.m. all three churches of the Benefice will meet at St John the Baptist for our last Benefice Communion of the year.

We wish all villagers a joyful Christmas and pray for a New Year full of hope and peace in the world.

FUND-RAISING AND EVENTS

Thank you to everyone who supported our Harvest Coffee morning – a very happy and enjoyable event which raised funds for the church and the St Ives Foodbank. Particular thanks must go to the Burgess family, who donated so much lovely fresh produce. We'd also like to thank everyone who bought from our plant sale outside Wren Cottage, Holywell, during the summer; monies raised went to support the work of the church. We are extremely grateful to Andrew White and Betty Lee and others who so kindly donated plants to sell.

NEW RECTOR

We are delighted to be able to announce the appointment of the new Rector of the Meridian Benefice, who will be the parish priest for our village and for Colne, Bluntisham and Earith. **Revd Valmor Pimenta**, who is currently the vicar of a parish in outer London, will be formally installed in March next year. Valmor has been a Christian minister in three continents, and is looking forward to his first experience of ministry in a rural setting.

Until March we shall still be in 'vacancy'; with the help of local clergy our ministry team will continue to hold all the normal church services and activities in Holywell-cum-Needingworth. For all church matters please contact one of our churchwardens (see contact list on the back page) in the first instance.

After months of waiting we finally have official notices from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission at each church gate for the one war grave in Holywell churchyard – Pte William Turner, 3rd Bn the Buffs (East Kent Regt), died 1917 aged 19.

Also new is Holywell's second defibrillator, now installed in the church porch. For more details, see Grant Williamson's account on page 31.

SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS

This year we are giving you three opportunities to sing Christmas carols with us! On Monday 11 December we shall be gathering on the green space at **Needingworth Park** for the first time for outdoor carol singing (weather permitting!). Sunday 17 December sees the return of the traditional **Carols by Candlelight** at the church (please note that there is no morning service that day). Then on Tuesday 19th everyone is invited to the playground of Holywell Primary School for our outdoor **Carols by Starlight** (if it's raining we shall probably go into the school). All three events begin at **6 p.m.** On Christmas Eve we have the **Crib Service** 3 p.m. in the Village Hall and **Midnight Communion**, 11.30 p.m. in the church. Our **Christmas Morning Worship** is at 10 a.m. on Christmas



One of two harvest loaves at this year's Harvest Thanksgiving

As we approach the festive season, we are selling Christmas cards (see the image at the top of this page) for church funds (pack of 5 for £4.00), available from Wren Cottage, Holywell, the church, and the Old Chapel (15a High Street Needingworth.) Our Grand Christmas Draw tickets are also available – £1.00 per ticket from Wren Cottage and the Old Chapel. Prizes of hampers, vouchers, and other seasonal fare. The draw will take place at our Carols by Candlelight service on 17 December

Looking ahead to spring, our popular **Snowdrop Coffee Morning** takes place in the church on Saturday 17 February from 10am- midday. Good coffee, home baked goods, stalls, raffle, and potted spring bulbs for sale. Everyone welcome!

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Extension in progress, 2023

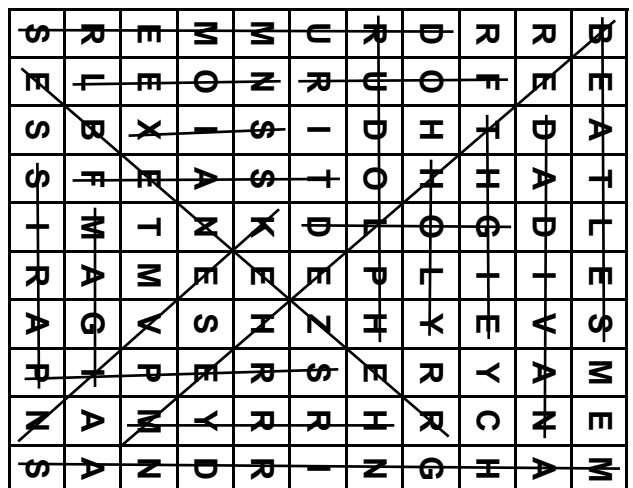
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Answers to Puzzle Corner on Page 30

1. Bethlehem
2. Four
3. Ebenezer
4. Rudolph
5. Sandringham
6. Beatles (with 4)
7. Gold, Myrth
8. Magi
9. Drummers
10. Pipers
11. Eight
12. Six
13. Kevin
14. Paris
15. Noel
16. Navidad
17. Feast, Holy



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SUNDAY SERVICES

Services are held each Sunday morning in the chapel at 10.30am. We warmly invite you to join with us. There will be no evening services during the winter.

Not having a pastor at present, we are grateful to visiting preachers for leading our services. Services are recorded and posted on our website on Sunday afternoon for those unable to make the in-person services. You can find the recorded services here:

www.needingsworthbaptist.org.uk/recorded-services

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

We would like to invite you to join us, especially for our Christmas Carol Service:

Sunday 17 December 6pm – Carol service (9 Lessons and Carols), followed by mince pies and coffee.

Please note that there will be no morning service on 17 December.

Sunday 24 December 10.30am – usual morning service

Monday 25 December 10.30am – Christmas Day service

Sunday 31 December 10.30am – Close of the Year service

PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

This is held every Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm at the chapel and all are welcome. We are currently studying through the book of Revelation.

TEA AND TIME TO THINK

The aim of these meetings is to provide a friendly home for those with time on their hands to come for a cup of tea and a chat. But more than that, we want to encourage folk to think about important issues that may touch us or those we love. We sometimes watch a short video. And we finish each meeting with a brief look at a passage from the Bible. Do come and join us at 2.30 - 4.00pm at 29 Priory Road on the second Thursday of each month as follows:

Thursday 14 December – Christmas carols, Christmas cakes, and the Christmas story from the Bible.

Thursday 11 January – this will include our second look at the Gospel of John

Thursday 8 February – this will include our third look at the Gospel of John

If we can be of help to anyone, or pray for you, please feel free to contact us.

* * * * *

Christmas visitors

Are you expecting visitors this Christmas? Or perhaps it is you who will be visiting.

In the Christmas story, in the Bible, there are many visitors. There's a lot of visiting. An angel visited Mary to tell her of the child she would bear. An angel visited Joseph in a dream to explain why his fiancée was expecting a child. Mary and Joseph visited Bethlehem because of the government census. Angels visited shepherds on the night that Jesus was born and the shepherds then went to visit the baby Jesus in the stable. Wise men came from afar to visit the new born King.

But there is one person in the story who does not visit. He is not a visitor. It is Jesus. He did not come to visit – He came to stay. He came to be one of us – a human being. He is the eternal God, the second person of the Holy Trinity. But He was born into our world as a baby on the first Christmas Day. He came to stay with us. Seven hundred years beforehand, the prophet Isaiah wrote: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel." Why the name Immanuel? Because Immanuel means "God with us." God had come to stay with us in the person of Jesus.

He became one of us, and came to stay with us, because he came to rescue us. The angel told Joseph that the baby was to be given the name Jesus (which means Saviour) "because he will save his people from their sins." He would do this by giving his life on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

So there is a question for each one of us – will Jesus be just a visitor to you this Christmas? Will you be content with singing a couple of carols and sending cards with pictures of the baby Jesus and the shepherds and wise men? Or are you willing for Jesus to come and stay with you? Will you say, in the words of the carol: "O come to my heart, Lord Jesus! There is room in my heart for Thee." If he really comes in, he will change your life. Some things will have to go. But in the end you will be, like the wise men, "overjoyed."

We would love to invite you to come to our church to hear the Bible message of the coming of the Lord Jesus. You will be most welcome! He is the Saviour that we need.

Contact us –

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Email: david.mann@cantab.net

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1st Needingworth Guides

Whipping up £50 for Macmillan

We started the term cooking for a Macmillan Coffee evening, to which Guides' families were invited. The Guides enjoyed baking lemon drizzle cake, rocky road and 5-a-day muffins

(5 fruit and veg – not 5 muffins!). The following week we welcomed our guests and raised an impressive £50 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Discovering perfection on an orchard adventure!

We joined the Rainbows and Brownies for the visit to the apple orchards at Meadow Lodge Farm.

Grace and Livvy, two members of our Guide unit, have written a wonderful account of our trip:

The tour guides were lovely, and made sure that we had a lot of fun. Did you know that there is a type of apple called Perfection which across the whole country is only grown commercially at Meadow Lodge Farm?



We gathered lots of apples to make apple juice, which was fun (and very tasty.). There were some particular apples that were especially shiny, and we were able to take some home. We had a nature checklist to complete, which helped us find out about the farm and some of the wild animals that live in the orchards. We recommend visiting Meadow Lodge Farm for an enjoyable family outing.

Skills in the spotlight

Our programme for the next few weeks will include working towards Skill Builder badges. The Guides have each chosen one of the following three topics to follow:

'Innovate' – which includes a selection of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths topics to explore.

'Life Skills' – with challenges including sewing, cooking, savvy shopping and the world of work.

'Reflect' – which considers some of our similarities and differences, including some of the quirks we inherit such as the hitchhiker's thumb, dimples and the way we naturally clasp our hands, as well as some of our values and different ways of asking questions.

If you'd like to find out more about our Guides unit, check out our website: ggneedingworth.co.uk



Little Tigers

This is a friendly under-5s play group that meets on most Monday mornings in term-time in the village hall. Come along for a cuppa and chat and let your 'little tiger' play with the toys and other children.

Entrance (including refreshments): £2 per family.

For more details contact:
Abi 07824 810532

Join us on our 'Needingworth Little Tigers' Facebook page.

Pre-School

If you would like your child to attend our very popular pre-school, it is never too early to get them on the waiting list.

Children can start from 2 years 10 months but our register is full until September 2024.

For a registration form, or any other information, please visit our website: needingworthcommunitypreschool.org.uk

Music Makers

Great fun for pre-school children and a real opportunity for parents or carers to meet others. Forty-five minutes of music and song, playing instruments and dancing ending with a well-earned rest and a cuppa while the children play with toys. Second Thursday of the month, 10 a.m. at the Village Hall.

Entrance £2 (£2.50 for two or more children)

For more details contact:
Carole 07788 925708

Biscuits on a Bench!

This is a new group for under 5s and their carers meeting 10-11.30 on Friday mornings in the Pavilion of the Village Hall. As well as free play, there is singing, story and 'craft', based on a Christian theme. And biscuits! (as well as other refreshments!), Children go free; adults cost £2 (first visit is free)

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YOUNG VILLAGER



1st Needingworth Brownies

Growing strong: welcoming five new brownies

It's been a busy start to the autumn term with 5 new Brownies joining us, keeping our numbers very high for a village Brownie

unit. We are looking forward to watching our newest Brownies celebrate making their Brownie Promise soon, in front of family and friends.

Apple picking and owl spotting



At the start of term we joined the Needingworth Rainbows and Guides for an afternoon of apple picking and apple themed activities at Meadow Lodge Farm, Bluntisham. We identified, tasted, picked and juiced apples as well as enjoying the beautiful surroundings on the farm. We even spotted a barn owl!

Skills, friendship and badges galore

We have also been working on our 'Network level 2' skills builder badge. This has included learning to make new friends and developing perseverance, achieved by making playing card towers. We explored different ideas and techniques – some which worked and some which didn't – before having a bit of fun and making the towers with the help of a blob of blutack!

The unit split into small groups to work on particular activities they needed to complete for badges during a number of 'catch up' sessions this term. These are always popular sessions as we end up presenting so many badges, certificates and awards.

A night at the museum...

The highlight of the term so far has been our trip to the Norris Museum, learning about and creating fantastic

fossils. Our trip involved exploring the museum including the fascinating current exhibition 'The Muddy Hoard' – a large Roman coin hoard found in Huntingdon, dating approximately to the year 274 AD.

We also handled real Roman artefacts that were walked on or touched by Romans. We had a go at being archaeologists and uncovering fossils hidden under the sand and making our own ammonite fossil using clay. As if that wasn't enough reason for the trip, it has also helped us work towards two of our Brownie interest badges – Local History and Collecting.



Spells, slime, and seasonal delights

In the second half of the term, we have a Magic and Mayhem evening planned as an alternative to Hallowe'en. With slime making, apple bobbing and other yummy treats on the menu, it won't be a session to miss! As Christmas approaches we are looking forward to lots of Christmas crafts and festive themed activities. We'll also be taking part in the annual Needingworth Christmas Fayre which will provide some much needed fundraising opportunities for the Needingworth units.

Calling all potential volunteers!

We would love some more adult helpers to enable the Rainbow and Brownie units to carry out additional trips and sleepovers, and help cover if some of the adults are absent for a session. You would not need to commit to every week. Helping with our Brownies unit is also a great way to achieve the volunteering section of a Duke of Edinburgh award. If you are interested and would like to find out more, check out our website: ggneedingworth.co.uk or contact Jules at:

Needingworth.Brownies@yahoo.com
or telephone **07597 569582.**

PUZZLE CORNER

In the September issue, I asked if you could identify this object from the close-up?

Answer:
it is a pair of pliers.



What is this?

With Christmas on the way, this should be a very easy one to identify.

Answer in the March issue of the Villager



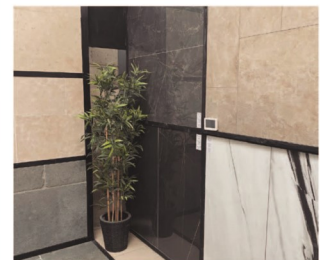
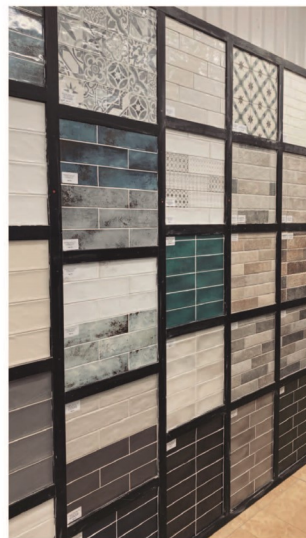
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From our County Councillor

Autumn is always a good time to reflect upon the year and look forward to what the future has in store for us, I for one have never seen so much turbulence on the national scene and unrest in the world; we tend to focus on issues that have an impact on our day to day lives, we should think of others across the world, as we count our blessings and appreciate all the good things in life and yes the grass was greener and the birds sang more frequently and we were happy with our lot not so many years ago, but did we really relish the outside WC's, the frozen ice inside bedroom windows, the long walk to school in all weathers or the exciting prospect of a chicken on our table sometime in the future, I think not. Times change and often we have little choice but to embrace the way our future is being shaped by others.

You may recall I mentioned a long while ago that there is a time delay between when I write my county update and the time it is actually published and distributed, consequently the information can be dated when you read it. Well, the last edition of the Villager was a classic example of this. As I wrote about everyday things, our streets, pavements, kerbs and verges were being overrun with something that resembled 'The Day of the Trifids' (showing my age). Unbeknown to myself and many other councillors the County Council changed its policy on controlling weed growth and stopped the annual cycle of weed spraying in the springtime, I am told somewhat belatedly that it was to assist the environment by reducing chemicals being used. Although many of us included think this is some wheeze dreamt up by the current administration to save money, which it did of course. There was no discussion (that I recall) or consultation before this decision was reached and implemented, thus resulting in what only I can describe as chaos as councillors inboxes across the county were swamped by irate house holders demanding to know what was happening and at this point I would add your Parish Council were more than a little perplexed (annoyed, rightly so) as at that time I had no idea what was happening. Since then, the Conservative group who are the opposition party organised a lobby petition, which many of you signed and submitted a motion to full council calling on a reversal of this disastrous policy. Disastrous, a strong term I hear you say, as surely it must be good to help the environment and yes that has some merit. You will have noticed these weeds some taller than a child, have infiltrated almost every crack in the road and pavements growing in some cases to carrot size in the root, damaging the surface and subsurface. Setting us on a path of huge expenditure in these austere times with the future from a footpath and road maintenance perspective looking very bleak indeed.

While talking about roads, we have been made aware (not that we did not know) that many of our roads with a Peat soil base are becoming very dangerous due to the collapse of the subbase and the same is now applying to those who have a heavy Clay base, as the soil expands and contracts due to the weather. At the moment it is estimated that 36% of our road network is affected. And an estimated £300 million is required with a further £5 million per year to address this, but sadly I suspect this will rise significantly particularly if we have a bad winter!

By the time you read this, it may well be old news, but I have just been informed that central government have notified the Dolphin Hotel that it must start the removal of asylum seekers in November with the process being completed by the end of the month. Unfortunately, I cannot add to that as information is sparse, but you will recall when this first happened I explained that no consultation at all took place between government and the local community including councillors at all levels. If you are interested in further details, they can be found at **Asylum hotel summary and FAQ - GOV.UK** (www.gov.uk)

I have just received a huge amount of data regarding Health inequalities in Cambridgeshire, which also makes comparisons with other parts of the country. This includes age profiles, cause of death and all sorts of other health related data, which suggests to me on my first read through that Huntingdonshire is a good place to live from a health perspective. I will attempt to pen an article for the Villager on this subject in the near future.

I was asked to explain what a councillor's role is with regard to budget setting each year. I will try to explain. Put simply, it is to consider the Council's finance and funding as a central part of all decision making and to ensure that the Council provides value for

money, or best value, in all its services. There is unlikely to be sufficient money to do everything the Council would wish to provide due to its budget gap (what comes in and what goes out). Therefore, Councillors need to consider their priorities and objectives and ensure that these drive the budget process. In addition, it is essential that the Council consider how efficient it is in supplying services and obtaining the appropriate service outcome for all its services. The Council's Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee is responsible for leading the process through the democratic cycle. The other Policy and Service Committees have a vital role in scrutinising the proposals on their own areas of service and making any recommendations to Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee that are then considered in the context of the wider budget. Strategy, Resources and Performance then consider those recommendations, consultation responses, advice and making a recommendation to Full Council who ultimately approve the final budget in February each year.

Cambridgeshire County Council is doing its bit to prepare residents of the county for the winter, in their Be Winter Wise campaign including:

- Work being carried out on the county's road network including gritting, gully and drain clearance in preparation of the impact of bad weather.
- Road safety activities and advice, encouraging pedestrians, cyclists and motorists to wear reflective clothing, check lights and brakes and always travel to prevailing road conditions.
- Information to help residents to stay warm and well through the colder months, with an emphasis on activities to reduce loneliness and support mental as well as physical health.
- Further work to promote the Council's household support fund, open to eligible residents who are most affected by the cost of living.
- Supporting NHS by promoting Flu, Covid and MMR jabs to eligible groups.

The footpath issues along Bluntisham Road outside the new developments are still not fully resolved with the developers and the County Council playing 'pass the parcel' making myself, District Councillor Jon Neish, the Parish Council and residents both frustrated and infuriated as repeated promises of completion have been broken. We are ever hopeful Christmas will see the end of it all but past experience has taught us not to hold our breath!

No doubt many of you will have seen that I made national news (Daily Mail) with regard to the 'car traps' in Station Road S Ives. Each week I am inundated with emails regarding the merits for and against the car traps. My answer has always been consistent, is that they were installed as a safety feature to prevent motorists taking a short cut to enter the busy by pass, with the potential to cause a serious accident. There has been numerous safety audits and a whole proliferation of signs warning people of the hazard, yet some still insist on driving into the hole! My quote was, if a motorist cannot see a well signed and large hole in the ground then what chance does a small child stand and should these people be driving at all. There is no truth in the rumour we are going to fill it with water and borrow some crocodiles from Johnsons.

Efforts are still continuing to make the footpath along Conger Lane Holywell towards the bridge less difficult to use with overhanging branches and ivy causing problems to the walkers. While not a high priority, it will get cleared eventually.

As always if anyone would like me to publish a more in-depth report about any item within the County Councils remit, I am more than happy to do so. As you may know the County Council is responsible for many areas from Adult Social Care to Highways, so if there is something you would like explaining in greater detail and you feel it would interest other readers, please get in touch and I will do my best to publish a concise but hopefully interesting overview of the subject requested. Please remember your representatives at all levels County, District and of course your excellent Parish Council work very hard behind the scenes to ensure Needingworth and Holywell remains 'a special place' to live.

Kevin Reynolds

County Councillor Needingworth & St. Ives
kevin.reynolds@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



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Needingworth, Cambs. PE27 4TA

The world is growing darker every day
BUT GOD offers HOPE through salvation. It's as easy as...

A

ADMIT you're a sinner

Romans 3:10 - "There is no one righteous, no, not one."
Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

B

BELIEVE Jesus is Lord

John 14:6 - "Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'
Romans 10:9-10 - "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

C

CALL upon His name

Romans 10:13 - "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."
Psalm 145:18-19 - "The Lord is near to all who call upon Him.
To all who call upon Him in truth."

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Needingworth Tennis Club

With the clocks going back and the nights drawing in, tennis continues under the floodlights and the start of the Winter League has commenced for our teams. Good luck to all those involved.

We would like to extend our special thanks to Tim Perry for all his incredible work and achievements at the club whilst in the role of chairman. We would like to welcome our new chair Sue Pandey and wish her all the best in the role.

Our annual Club Tournament has recently concluded and this year has seen one of the most successful tournaments we have had. Well done to everyone involved and to those who arrange and manage the events. Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to all the families for their fantastic support during the day.

Junior group coaching is about to re-start and is available to be booked on our website with courses including LTA Youth - Green-Yellow (9-13 years) for Beginners to Intermediate, and LTA Youth - Yellow (11-17 years) for Improvers.

Keep an eye out on our website for additional coaching programmes, including more junior sessions, women doubles, Rusty Rackets for those who want to get back into tennis and Cardio Tennis which is a great workout using lots of tennis skills.

Or come along for free and try out one of our club sessions:

- **Wednesday morning**, 9 until 11 (the most social session, aimed at those who don't normally play for our teams)
- **Wednesday evening**, 6:30 until 8:30 (for players of all standards)
- **Sunday morning**, 10:30 until 12:00 (for players of all standards)

The internal Fast4 singles league continues to be popular with 29 players competing in 5 divisions with Chris winning Div. 1 in October and Oli the previous month.

MEMBERSHIP

At Needingworth Tennis Club we offer both competitive and social tennis, and pride ourselves on being a very friendly club that offers great value for money. Winter Membership is only £40 until 31st March, Family is £72.50 and Junior is £15. Student and Joint Memberships are also available. We are always happy to welcome new players of all abilities. You can join on the website or contact Debbie for more details.

Needingworth Tennis Club would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

CONTACTS

Chair – Sue Pandey (narusuepandey@aol.com)

Membership – Debbie Yates

Secretary – Jim Hunter (j.hunter2011@btinternet.com)

Head to our website to find out more information about upcoming events and tournaments and how you can get involved:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/NeedingworthTennisClub>

Bowls Club

Winter is here and the Bowls club is still going strong. We hold Short Mat bowling in the village hall every Thursday at 2pm. Everyone is welcome, Chatters is open for a cuppa and you can have a chat and do some gentle sport at the same time.



Short mat is what it says, its played on a 30ft mat that is rolled out on the floor. Normal bowls are used to bowl to the jack (the white ball at the other end of the mat). But it is really low impact and a gentle game. An ideal way to get you out the house for a couple of hours, just turn up its only £3 per session. Where can you get two hours entertainment for £3 these days?

Over on the outdoor green our fantastic green keeper Frank Johnson has put the green to bed. He carries out restoration work on the green every winter. The grass still needs cutting to keep it in tip top condition. Anyone who has looked over the fence will be envious of the lush green grass we have. Franks organic 'home brew' has really had a positive impact on the green. We no longer use chemical fertilizers etc. It has reduced the clubs carbon footprint which has to be a good thing.

The club hold various social events through the winter to keep its members in touch with each other: a Christmas party, ten pin bowling etc. The big night will be February 3rd when the club holds its annual Racenight in the village hall. Put this date in your dairy people. The more who come the merrier. We will be in touch with you all nearer the time, but its a great, fun night and you never know you could win loads of money!!

So MERRY CHRISTMAS to you all from all of us at the Bowls club. Lets hope we all have a very happy new year.

Alan



Chatters is held in the Village Hall Pavilion every **Thursday** afternoon from **11am to 5pm**.

A warm and friendly welcome awaits you. Come and try our varied menu of lite bites, snacks, cakes and drinks.

We look forward to seeing you there.

sue.martin22@btinternet.com



THERMAL IMAGING FOR A COSY HOME

Cambridge Carbon Footprint are once again delighted to offer to residents, and organizations, across Cambridge and South Cambs the opportunity to borrow and learn how to use a thermal imaging camera, for free, to help create more cozy and efficient homes. Learn how to interpret thermal images, to discover draughts, gaps in insulation, heating problems, etc. Having this information is great for deciding on home improvements, and making fixes, both for homeowners and renters.

The Project also encourages individuals or organizations to undertake training to survey multiple homes. In 2022 a Heydon Parish Councillor borrowed a camera and undertook a survey of 20% of the Village's homes and intends to do more this year.

Training Sessions:

Four free training sessions will take place online from 7:00-8:30 pm on: [Wed 1 Nov](#), [Thu 14 Dec](#), [Mon 22 Jan](#), [Thu 29 Feb](#)

Camera Borrowing:

We only lend cameras to people already trained. Bookings will open on 1st Nov, after the training session. Free Loans of 14 cameras will start on Fri 3rd November, till early April. Each loan: Fri pm to Mon am, or Mon pm to Fri am, from 14 volunteer camera hosts around South Cambs and Cambridge City.

More information Contact **Fran Sutton:** fran@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org or **Tom Bragg:** tom@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org

IN AND OUT OF THE GARDEN

Ten fascinating talks drawn from across gardens and garden history.

Twigs Way is a professional garden historian, researcher, writer and speaker known for her entertaining talks and wide-ranging approach to gardens and garden history.

Fee: £50

Spring term course

Begins Monday 15th January 2024 for 10 weeks
At Bluntisham Baptist Hall ~ 10.00am to 11.45am



To enrol, contact Marie Quick on 07905 911558 or email marie_quick358@hotmail.com

Book early to avoid disappointment.



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Experience

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FLOOD ALERTS

Make sure you are aware and prepared by signing up for flood warnings in your area.

For live information go to <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and-warnings>

If flooding is likely be sure to check road conditions for where you're driving to, and keep your distance from the vehicle in front.

Remember, drive to the conditions of the road, and slow down. If a road is closed because of flooding, take note of the signs. It's closed for a reason.

It's not worth the risk to drive through flood water. If you do get stuck, you'll need to call your vehicle recovery company. The fire service will only respond if there is a risk to life - they won't be rescuing your vehicle.

For advice on what to do if you are affected by flooding, visit the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Prepared website,

<https://www.cpprepared.org.uk/severe-weather/prepare-for-flooding/>

Remember - only call 999 where there is a risk to life.



Wildlife Trust for
Beds, Cambs
& Northants

Huntingdonshire
Local Group

An Introduction to British Ants

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to welcome Brian Eversham, the Chief Executive of Beds, Cambs and Northants Wildlife Trust. Brian's topic will be An Introduction to Ants and the talk will be held on Wednesday 13th December at 7.30pm at Brampton Memorial Hall.

Brian will introduce us to the habitats and behaviour of ants, explaining that they have some of the most complex and elaborate behaviour of all insects. We will discover their social structure, their complex interactions with other animals and plants, plus their foraging and defensive tactics. Ants are the most accessible and easily identifiable of the social insects, with only about 50 species, a handful of which can be found in our gardens. Brian says that this is a group that anyone can get to know and careful observations can add to our understanding.

Everyone is most welcome to attend. Booking is not necessary. The charge is £3.50 and payment is by cash or card.

We meet at Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Road, Brampton, PE28 4TB.

For more information please contact George (01480 450809 or georgecottam@virginmedia.com)

WHAT'S ON in the Village

December 2023

- Sat. 2nd Christmas Bazaar, Village Hall
Sat. 2nd Beer and Wine Club dinner
Thur. 7th and every Thursday until April, Short Mat Bowling, Village Hall, 2pm (see page 27)
Mon. 11th Outdoor carol singing (see page 17)
Tue. 12th Gardening Club talk 'Winter Wonders' (see page 13)
Sun. 17th Carols by Candlelight, Parish Church (p17)
Sun. 17th Carol Service, Baptist Church (p19)
Tue. 19th Carols by Starlight (p17)

January 2024

- Mon. 15th WI Dinner
Fri. 19th Beer and Wine Club competition, wine made from tea (page 11)

February 2024

- Sat. 3rd Bowls Club Racenight (see page 27)
Mon. 5th W.I. 'Give us a Clue' (see page 9)
Fri. 16th Beer and Wine Club wine whist (members only-see page 11)
Sat. 17th Snowdrop Coffee Morning (see page 28)

Advance Notice

2nd March 2024 Village Hall Annual Trivia Quiz

If your organisation would like any future planned events listed here in the next issue of the Villager, to help avoid clashes, please send me details by the next copy date (1st November 2023).

Holywell cum Needingworth Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 2 December
from 12 noon to 4pm
Needingworth
Village Hall

Crafts, gifts, tombola,
raffle, refreshments.

See Father Christmas!



St John the Baptist Church,
Holywell-cum-Needingworth welcomes you
to our

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Monday 11th December
6 pm Carol Singing
Outdoors in Needingworth Park

Sunday 17th December
6 pm Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday 19th December
6 pm Carols by Starlight
Outdoors at Holywell Primary School

Christmas Eve
Sunday 24th December
3 pm Crib Service
Needingworth Village Hall
11.30 pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day
Monday 25th December
10 am Christmas Morning Worship

Snowdrop Coffee Morning

Saturday 17 February

10-12 a.m. at

St John the Baptist Church
Holywell-cum-Needingworth



Home-made cakes, raffle,
hand-made cards,
potted spring bulbs for sale!

Proceeds towards the upkeep and work of the church

Bus Times

Dews Service No. 21 (Ramsey—St Ives)

Monday to Friday

NEEDINGWORTH, nr. Church St.	10:05	13:05	16:45
St Ives Morrisons (grounds)	10:09	13:09	16:49
St Ives Bus Station	10:15	13:15	16:55

Service No. 21 (St Ives—Ramsey)

Monday to Friday

St Ives Bus Station (Bay 2)	12:00	14:00	17:15
St Ives Morrisons (grounds)	12:05	14:05	17:20
NEEDINGWORTH, opp. Church St.	12:10	14:10	17:25

Dews Service No. 301 (Ramsey—St Ives)

(M-F Monday to Friday, S Saturday)

	M-F	M-F	S
NEEDINGWORTH, Bluntisham Rd.	06:30	07:15	07:30
St Ives Bus Station	06:42	07:27	07:42

Dews Service No. 301 (St Ives—Ramsey)

(M-F Monday to Friday, S Saturday)

	M-F & S	M-F
St Ives Bus Station	16:30	19:00
NEEDINGWORTH, nr. Church St..	16:39	19:09

Vectare Service No. 22A (Warboys-St Ives) Saturday only

Needingworth (Church St.)	10:47	13:47
St Ives Bus Station	10:57	13:57

Vectare Service No. 22A (St Ives-Warboys) Saturday only

St Ives Bus Station	11:45	14:45
Needingworth (Church St.)	11:55	14:55

Above times are correct at time of printing, but it is wise to check before travelling, contact details on next page.

Christmas quiz and Word Search

Answer the questions below—all the answers can be found in the Word Search. The letters you have left will spell out a message.

(Answers on page 18)

- Where was Jesus born?
- How many ghosts appeared in Dicken's book, *A Christmas Carol*,
- ...and what was Scrooge's first name?
- Name Santa's lead reindeer.
- Where do the Royal Family traditionally spend Christmas?
- Which act has had the most UK number one singles?
- There are two of the Wise Men's gifts for Jesus hidden in the Word Search.
- Another name for the 'Wise Men' in the Christmas story.
- In the *Twelve Days of Christmas*, what were there 12 of?
- ...and what were there 11 of?
- ...and how many maids were 'a-milking'?
- ...and how many geese 'a-laying'?
- In the 1990 film, who was left 'Home Alone'?
- ...and where were his family going to spend Christmas?
- What is the French word for Christmas?
- ...and what is Christmas in Spanish?
- Fill in the words missing from these carols-
Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the - - - - of Stephen;
Silent night, - - - - night.

B	E	A	T	L	E	S	M	E	M
R	E	D	A	D	I	V	A	N	A
R	F	T	H	G	I	E	Y	C	H
D	O	H	H	O	L	Y	R	R	G
R	U	D	O	L	P	H	E	H	N
U	R	I	T	D	E	Z	S	R	I
M	N	S	S	K	E	H	R	R	R
M	O	I	A	N	E	S	E	Y	D
E	E	X	E	T	M	V	P	M	N
R	L	B	F	M	A	G	I	A	A
S	E	S	S	I	R	A	P	N	S

Stay steady on your feet with new fall risk checking tool

Cambridgeshire County Council has launched an online fall risk checking tool to help you understand your risk of falling and simple steps you can take to stay active and independent.

From the age of 65, the risk of having a fall increases but many are avoidable. The new tool, Steady on your Feet, is aimed at those who haven't previously had a fall but would like to understand what they can do to prevent this happening.

Steady on Your Feet is easy to use, asking a short series of questions to help understand any individual risks you might have and providing an action plan to keep you active and independent while increasing your confidence and reducing the risk of falling. You can fill it in yourself or ask a family member or friend if you need extra help.

Suggested steps to prevent a fall might include arranging an eye or hearing test, increasing your activity levels and eating a balanced diet, or even looking after your feet and making sure you wear supportive footwear with non-slip soles.

For more information and to use the risk checker, go to

www.steadyonyourfeet.org/cambridgeshire



Two Defibrillators in Holywell

As there have been a number of defibrillators now fitted in Needingworth which are maintained and supported by the Parish Council, it became obvious that similar potentially life saving machines should be made available to the residents of Holywell.

Towards the end of 2022 an appeal was organised by a resident of the Village to hopefully raise the money for a defibrillator to be fitted in a convenient place in the village.

The appeal was extremely well supported by approx 85% of the village residents to such an extent that it was possible to buy **TWO** machines which was ideal given the unusual circular layout of Holywell.

The Parish Council was extremely helpful in procuring the machine to match others in the parish to help with consistent maintenance and parts etc.

Greene King were approached to see if one could be fitted at The Old Ferry Boat to cover that end of the village. Obviously, in such a large company, obtaining permission took a long time but in the end they not only agreed to have one fitted on their property but offered to install the machine free of charge and also bear the cost of future electricity costs.

This machine was fitted in July on the fencing at the side of the pub as the main building is obviously listed which would have complicated the process considerably.

It was decided to try and see if the second machine could be fitted at St John the Baptist Church at the other end of the village so ALL residents had convenient access. Once again the church building is Grade 1 listed so installing a defibrillator on this would be very complicated.

However, it was pointed out by Stephen York the Church Warden that the church porch was not subject to this restriction as it was added much later. He approached the diocese and obtained permission to fit the machine just inside the porch.

Local electrician Neil Craig fitted the machine in October and both machines are now fully operational to provide cover for all of the residents of Holywell.

The machines were handed over to the Parish Council in view of their future commitment to maintain and service them. The small residue of the appeal was split between the church to cover the future electrical costs and the British Heart Foundation



Grove Medical Practice



NHS App – technical help is now available

We encourage all our patients to download and use the NHS app. This app will allow you to order repeat prescriptions, access your test results, cancel appointments and much more. Visit the Grove website <https://www.grovemedicalpractice-stives.nhs.uk/> to download the app. If you would like help with downloading the NHS app or any other technical issue, our Digital Champion, Zoe Halliday, will be in the waiting room every Tuesday 8am – 11am and 12 midday – 3pm. Just drop in and see her.

Have you been waiting more than 40 weeks for your hospital appointment?

From 31st October 2023, patients who have been waiting over 40 weeks for treatment and do not have an appointment within the next 8 weeks could be eligible to request a move to a different hospital to be treated sooner. Those eligible will receive a text message, letter or email which will contain details of how to submit a request to explore your options. See Grove website <https://www.grovemedicalpractice-stives.nhs.uk/have-you-been-waiting-more-than-40-weeks-for-your-hospital-appointment/> for more information.

Health & Wellbeing Coach

Grove Medical Practice now has a wellbeing coach who is able to help patients change habits and reach goals in relation to their health. The Health & Wellbeing Coach works a part of a team with the Social Care Prescriber and Care Co-ordinator. Visit the Grove website <https://www.grovemedicalpractice-stives.nhs.uk/> for more information and links to services available locally.

Ear wax removal

Grove now has a nurse in post and can offer a limited service providing 6 appointments a week.

Patient Participation Group

Would you like to have your voice as a patient heard? The PPG is a group of patients who work with staff from Grove Medical Practice to improve the quality of care and outcomes for patients. The PPG meets 4 times a year to share updates from Grove and discuss issues raised by members of the PPG. You do not have to attend meetings to be part of the PPG.

Interested? Visit <https://www.grovemedicalpractice-stives.nhs.uk/patient-group/> to find out more.

BUS TIMETABLES

Details of the Dews Coaches services no 21 and 301 are given on page 30 but we recommend checking the web site www.dews-coaches.com before travelling. Vectare service no 22A (Saturdays) is also detailed on page 30. To check times go to <https://vectare.co.uk/local-bus-services/> For guided bus service from St Ives to Cambridge or Huntingdon telephone **01223 433 250** or go to web page <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/regional-service-updates/east/>

POST OFFICE (within One-Stop Shop)

Please note current Post Office opening hours are: **9 am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday** and **9 am to 1 pm on Saturdays (closed Sundays)**

POST COLLECTION TIMES

from the post Office:
Monday to Friday, 4.15 pm;
Saturday 9.45 am
(Sundays & Bank Holidays no collections)

MOBILE LIBRARY

1st Wednesday of every month

Holywell - Ferry Boat car park
3.25pm to 3.45pm

Needingworth - Playing field (Overcote Lane)
3.50pm to 4.30pm

For renewals or enquiries ring 0345 045 5225

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

To print a calendar of collection dates go to the following web site, enter your post code and click on your address.

<http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins>

Most addresses in Holywell-cum-Needingworth have collections on the following days:

GREY BINS (normal waste)

Dec **Wed. 13th** and Thur. 28th
Jan Thurs. 11th and 25th
Feb Thurs. 8th and 22nd

GREEN BINS (garden waste)

Dec Wed. 6th and **Mon. 18th**
Jan **Thur. 4th**, Wed. 17th and 31st
Feb Wed. 14th and 28th

BLUE BINS (recycling)

Dec Thurs. 7th and **Tue. 19th**
Jan **Fri. 5th** and Thur. 18th
Feb Thurs. 1st, 15th and 29th



EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

24 HOUR EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Hospital - Huntingdon (Hinchingsbrooke) 01480 416416
Hospital - Cambridge (Addenbrookes) 01223 245151
Gas Leaks (Any Supplier) Transco 0800 111 999
Electricity Power Cuts & Emergencies 0800 316 3105 or 0333 323 2105
Drinking Water - Supplies Failure/routine enquiries (Cambridge Water Co) 01223 706050
Sewerage, Services Failure (Anglian Water) 0800 145 145
Rivers - Pollution and Flooding (Environment Agency) 0800 807 060 or Floodline 0345 988 1188

PUBLIC & IMPORTANT SERVICES - ROUTINE ENQUIRIES

Cambridgeshire Country Council 0345 045 5200
Electricity (UK Power Networks) 0800 029 4285
Sewerage Services (Anglian Water) 03457 145 145
Telephone Services (British Telecom) 0800 150 111
Police (non-emergency no.) 101
Trading Standards (business queries) 0345 045 5206
Age UK 0300 666 9860
To stop unwanted mail 0845 703 4599
To stop unwanted phone calls 0845 070 0707



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Village Hall tel:		
Outgoing calls emergency line only		
Incoming calls		01480 498351