# Around Pattishall 221 - Ghristmas / Winter 2020 Pattishall Parish Hall Car Park, September 2020

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## *Christmas Postal Service in the Parish*

The Pattishall Scout Group is planning to do the Christmas Postal Service in the Parish again this year. Delivery of Christmas Cards is free for Senior Citizens but others are welcome to use it for a donation to the Scout Group. The delivery goes towards the Community Service that the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers do for their Awards.

The post collection points are 10 Hodge Close, Astcote; Grove Close House, Gayton Road, Eastcote; and 59 Leys Road, Pattishall. Please put your cards through the door of your nearest collection point.

Cards will be delivered to the villages of Astcote, Eastcote, Dalscote, Pattishall, Cold Higham and Grimscote. They need to be clearly marked with the name and full address on the envelope so that the children can deliver them correctly.

The last day for posting is Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec as the post will be sorted on 19<sup>th</sup> and delivered around the Parish that weekend.

Thank you for your support with this service.

Barbara Parkinson, Group Scout Leader

## Pattishall Parochial Charities

#### Widows' & Widowers' monthly pension

Currently we have vacancies for the above pension.

If you would like to apply, please write to the Clerk giving details of age and the length of time you have been resident in the Parish. If there are several applicants, the eldest will be selected f rst. Closing date 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

#### Winter Fuel Grant

Have you been a resident in this parish for more than 3 years? Do you receive the government winter fuel allowance?

If the answer to both these questions is yes, then you are eligible to apply to the above Charity for a further grant towards your winter fuel costs. Applications should be made to the clerk conf rming your address and date of birth.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions the closing date will be 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Previous recipients should have received their grant in the f rst week of December as usual.

Letters should be addressed to:

The Clerk to the Trustees Mrs Wendy Watts 59 Leys Road Pattishall NN12 8JY

Further information on Pattishall Charities can be found at :

www.pattishallparish.org.uk/parishcouncil/pattishall-charities

## Pattishall Brownies -Closure

After much deliberation, we regret to inform you that we will be closing Pattishall Brownie Pack. This has taken a lot of soul searching and we are very disappointed that it has come to this. We have been struggling with numbers now for the last 2 years and have tried to keep it going. Unfortunately, with the Covid restrictions, the fact that we have girls from mixed bubbles and different schools, and the f nancial implications we have, it is now no longer viable to run the pack with so few girls.

It is with a heavy heart that we are writing this as Diane Hart started this pack back in the 1970s and has been here ever since. Julie Rowley (née Wallage) was one of the f rst Brownies in the Pack (only 6 years old at the time), and with only 1 year out at Guides, has been with the pack in some capacity since then too.

We really did not want it to come to this but with so many girls now joining Beavers and Cubs and children doing so much these days as after school activities, we just do not have the numbers coming through to remain viable.

We do hope that you can understand the reasons for the decision that has been made, and we are hoping to support the current girls in Guiding albeit in another pack.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported Pattishall Brownies over the years for which we are very grateful.

Kind Regards,

Julie Rowley (Brown Owl) Diane Hart (Tawny Owl) Pattishall Brownies

## Pattishall Good Neighbours Club

We are fast approaching the end of 2020 and can look back and view so little social activity for the club to comment on that perhaps it will be a year to remember with negative feelings.

The committee would like to express our sadness at the passing of Sid Hall, someone who very rarely missed a meeting and always joined us on our various outings, more often than not covering more of the destination than many of the younger members. We would enjoy asking him how many miles he had clocked up that week walking and be amazed at the answer. We will miss him.

We can now look forward to the New Year in the hope that we will soon meet up, renew friendships and enjoy seeing everyone again at our social gatherings.

We wish you all good health and a more interesting New Year.

Brenda Pitcher



# Sid Hall

It was with great sadness that in September 2020 Sid Hall passed away aged 104.

From all of the Hodges Family we would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who paid their respects to Sid. The community spirit we have in our villages has meant so much at this diff cult time. For all the cards and donations – thank you. To everyone that lined the village roads to say goodbye, we cannot emphasise how special this was. Thank you everyone and keep on walking!



## Pattishall Parish Hall & Playing Field Associations

What a difference to the car park! We f nally achieved one of our long-term objectives to improve the parking for the hall and playing f eld. Our thanks to Johnny Smith who successfully managed the project. It has taken several years of fund raising by the Committee with the help of many residents. Picnic in the Park helped to raise funds along with events over several years such as car boots, Bonf re Night, the Tote and a grant from South Northants Council. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the fund over time. It is a further asset for our community.

We are grateful to members of Astcote Chapel for a tree which has been planted in the raised bed in the car park. This has also been planted with bulbs and pansies so we hope it will be looked after and add some colour in the spring.

It is hoped to restore the humps used by children as a bicycle track behind the hard court next year. The Parish Council, who maintain the play equipment, has made improvements to the swings. Work has been undertaken to improve the drainage on the top football pitch. Grants from South Northants Council and from Sixf elds Rangers have contributed towards the cost. However, we are not resting on our laurels. Improvements to the hard court are well overdue. We are fortunate to have a tennis/hard court for the parish but it does need re-surfacing. This may well have to be the next project, along with a new front fence.

Despite the hall being closed (except for Pre School) we have continued to improve the facility. New tables have been acquired and now are easier to handle by being stacked on a trolley. We have arrangements in hand for replacement chairs and already have some more comfortable ones for use in the small hall. There are some unwanted old chairs available – if interested please contact Suzanne 01327 830279.

We are sorry that we have had to cancel the Senior Citizens Christmas lunch this year. We have joined with the Parish Council and intend making a seasonal gift to those residents who have attended the event over the past three years.

#### Pattishall Playing Field Tote

You have to be in it to win it! The Tote is drawn monthly and helps to fund the upkeep of the playing f eld. This is a valuable community asset and we are fortunate to have six acres of green space with a tennis/hard court for everyone to enjoy. As a charity we have to maintain it and this is helped by the Tote.

Every month three prizes (£20, £10 and £5) are distributed to the winners. If you would like to be in the draw the cost is  $\pounds 1$  a month, which can be paid half-yearly or yearly. Please contact Karen Stewart (email treas@stewarts.me.uk) or Iris 830829.

Iris Illingworth



## Pattishall Neighbourhood Watch

#### **Reporting Crime and Incidents**

Please be vigilant and continue reporting any suspicious incident/persons/vehicles straight away on 101 – don't wait! If it is a long wait you are offered a call back.

Sometimes the phone is not answered – this is because 999 phone calls at that time are so high there is no one to answer 101.

You can also report non-urgent incidents online. If it is urgent do not report online.

If you ring 999 and when relaying the details they decide it is not an emergency they will say and put you in a queue in the 101 system.

#### When to call 999

In an emergency If a crime is in progress If a life is at risk Offenders are nearby Injury caused/threatened

#### Reporting a Scam.

Scams are becoming more and more sophisticated. Please be very alert.

If you or someone you know has fallen victim to a scam, you should report it to the Police on 101 and to Action Fraud (actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

#### **Welcome Packs**

Welcome Packs are provided to new residents in our Parish. If you have recently moved in to Pattishall Parish and would like a welcome pack please contact your street warden or the Coordinator.

#### **ANPR Cameras**

A recent SNAST meeting (South Northants Area NHW Team) was held on 'Zoom' and we were updated on the expansion of the ANPR network in the County. This will create a 'ring of steel' around the County. A lot of cameras will be put into the rural areas. The cameras will be a huge beneft to South Northants.

SNAST holds meetings 4 times a year to which all NHW Coordinators are invited to attend. These meetings are also attended by the Police who update us on local crime and criminal trends.

If you would like to receive up-to-date information on crime and suspicious incidents in our Parish it is easily accessible by:

- Joining our email loop: Contact the Coordinator
- Pattishall Parish Website:
   There is a quick link to the <u>NHW page</u>
- Facebook: PattishallParishNeighbourhoodWatch

Linda Hemming (NHW Coordinator) Linda\_hemming@hotmail.com Tel 01327 830744



## Cold Higham Parish Hall Update

Following a period of closure owing to the Coronavirus pandemic, and the implementation of necessary measures to keep people safe, Cold Higham Parish Hall re-opened on 1<sup>st</sup> September to all regular users and those wishing to make function bookings. The Parish Hall Committee took the opportunity to 'Spring clean' the hall prior to reopening, and some clever reorganisation of the storage areas has allowed all areas to be fully sanitised ready for use by residents.

Unfortunately, owing to the further lockdown restrictions which came in to effect on 5<sup>th</sup> November, we are aware that use of the hall will be limited over the next few months. However we welcome all enquiries for the future. If you are interested in securing the hall for a future function, or regular event, please contact Gill Rowe on 01327 830990 or <u>steve.rowe2@btinternet.com</u>. Current rates for ad hoc event or party bookings are £6 per hour for Cold Higham Parish residents and £7 per hour for non-residents.

Thank you to all for your continued support of our local services

Cold Higham Parish Hall Committee



Some of you may have already spotted the Living Advent Windows lit up at school and around the Parish, which will be displayed until Christmas. Organised by FOPS as a community event to bring some much needed, socially distanced cheer to the end of an extraordinary year, one or more households will be lighting up their unique window design each day of Advent, forming a festive trail around the Parish. If successful we hope this may become an annual event. For daily online 'reveals' and details of the trail visit our Facebook page: Pattishall Parish Christmas Advent Windows 2020.

2020 has been a tricky year for our normal fundraising events which support Pattishall School with the 'extras' that enhance school for all the pupils. To support FOPS online, at no cost to you, please do sign up for Amazon Smile and choose Friends of Pattishall School. We're also registered with Easyfundraising.org.uk for other online purchases. Direct donations, if you have a historical link with the school and wish to support us during these unprecedented times, are of course incredibly welcome - please do email friendsofpattishallschool@outlook.com for details



Along with everyone else this has been, to say the least a strange season. We started by completely overhauling our website <u>www.t-daa.uk</u> at the end of May. This now enables people to obtain membership online for all categories. This was later extended to day tickets for those waters where we have them. So successful was this move that the vast majority of new and renewed memberships were bought online. We are selling books as usual through

f shing shops and venues and they are continuing to supply their customers. We had an upsurge of new members, due to the furlough scheme I suspect, and numbers seen out on the bank enjoying some good sport have been encouraging.

Thankfully the season started well with many good catches and this seems to be continuing still, with a number of excellent specimens coming from Silverlake and Astwell.

Our improvements to Astwell Mill have continued apace, with the re-opening of the far bank via a "bridge" and a new pathway (the old one slipped perilously close to the water!) We have also created a new parking area. Our biggest improvement for members has f nally been achieved: after months of delay caused by a combination of the virus and bureaucracy, hundreds of small Tench – plus more than 250 fast-growing Carp – have just been added to Towcester & District waters. The Carp – stocked into Silverlake – are from the same source as some added (at 6 to 8 inches) to another lake more than 15 years back...a lake which produced f sh of 47lb and a 50-13 over the past few months!

No one can say our f sh will hit quite those heights as the other water is extremely fertile, and other factors such as average temperatures probably played their part. But stockings elsewhere have shown time and time again that there is no reason why they should not go well into the upper 30s in Silverlake.

Silverlake's f sh included around 200 f sh of 6 to 8 inches (which may well be 2lb+ next summer or the following spring) and some 65 in the 4lb to 5lb bracket.

TDAA contributed to the cost... but the majority of the bill is being footed by lake owners Aiden and Chris Jones – and on our members' behalf we sincerely thank them for their most generous initiative. Thank you.

At Astwell some 200 chunky little Tench, between six and nine inches in length, have gone into the top pond in a bid to kickstart a tinca population boost.

OK, the new Tench will not grow quite as fast as Silverlake's new carp – but they are guaranteed 'good growers' none-theless – and are intended to add new blood to the water's gene pool.

That stocking is being funded via a three-way split between water-owner Edwin King, the club... and an incredibly keen and generous TDAA member. That man, such is his love for the pond, stumped up £500 (while wishing to remain anonymous) towards the cost! Again, thank you that man and thank you Edwin. Your contributions are really appreciated.

Astwell's stocking (which we f nally managed to get in between lockdowns) follows on from the thousands of pounds spent – with the help of an Environment Agency grant – on physical improvements, more of which are to come, carried out on the top pond over the past couple of years.

Please note, small Tench are notorious for 'disappearing' until they reach weights of around a pound-plus. Hopefully that will be late next summer or early in the following one.

All in, the future is looking good for both waters

John Newman Development Off ce

## Stargazing for Beginners

Hello! Some of you may have seen some of my photographs of the moon posted on the Facebook page Pattishall, Eastcote & Astcote site, from this I have been asked to write an article on my 'new' hobby.

**Getting Started** – I hadn't appreciated when I started just under a year ago that the clearer the sky equalled the colder the night! But the colder the night the less chances there are of problems caused by temperature inversion, heat or dust disturbing your viewed object which sometimes manifests itself as a star 'twinkling'.

Where to Look – The moon is pretty obvious and large, although not always in the night sky. If you are wondering what that bright star is, or where you can f nd a certain star, constellation, nebula or even the International Space Station, there are a myriad of smart phone apps available. These will either guide you to where your object is; or you can hold the phone up to the sky and it will tell you what you're looking at. Most are available on Android and Apple stores. The ones I am using at the moment are:-

Clear Outside – A weather app that includes information on cloud cover.

ISS Spotter – This will give you date, time, angle & elevation of visible passes of the Space Station.

Find Starlink – This gives the same information as above but for the strings of up to 60 internet satellites launched by Elon Musk (Mr Tesla) although the later batches are less ref ective and as they gain height towards their operational orbit are quite diff cult to spot. Moon Phase – This shows phases of the moon, times it's visible, distance away and more.

StarWalk2 – This app has a great search facility to f nd almost every star and planet you would want to f nd, plus constellations, nebulae etc and has very interesting notif cations of what's coming up either in the next couple of days, weeks or the following month.

SkyPortal – Similar to StarWalk but at times I f nd it slightly more accurate.

There are also some very good books around including Stargazing for Beginners and Turn left at Orion, plus all the very many websites for clubs, shops and manufacturers. Also my favourite Facebook group UK Astronomy which is a charity based in MK that host events for clubs and schools and where you can ask every question you can think of from what scope do you recommend for a beginner; to what settings should I use on my camera to photograph xyz.

**Equipment to Use** – Everyone thinks you need a big telescope to get some decent images and views, but many people start off with an old pair of binoculars, or of course the naked eye and a camera if you wish to record what you've seen. Just remember the human eye has a f eld of view of around 120 degrees meaning you can see almost half the sky! The more magnif cation you use the narrower the f eld of view and the harder the object is to f nd. Hence telescopes have a small telescope or f nder/spotter scope mounted on them.

**Future** – Keep an eye on our Facebook page where I will post any up and coming events!

Nigel Emson



## Christmas Greetings from Pattishall Rectory

#### Dear Friends,

This has been a year full of surprises, some have given great joy. Others have been unexpected and have caused a change to the routines that had been gradually shaping our days.

The lockdown earlier in the year gave me the opportunity to spend more of my time in reading, study and prayer. It offered a unique position to walk and linger, so as to enjoy the beautiful countryside, to pause and listen to the birds, consider and smell the freshness of the hedgerow dog roses.

I took time each day to put down on paper my thoughts, and I delighted in a new found freedom to just simply be at peace with the world myself and God.

Then almost simultaneously I began learning to articulate my thoughts and prayers via this new way – known as 'Zoom'. Technology came to the rescue and transported the Church of England, including the Churches here in Pattishall and Cold Higham, into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. So that alongside the halcyon days of gentle contemplation, came the urgent requirement to immerse myself in learning a new way of being Church.

Just as this new way began to become familiar, we were able to have services back in our lovely Churches, with of course distancing, but sadly no singing. Then, words like Streaming and YouTube were being used by two 'Technical Wonder' members of Pattishall Church who thjen spent hours creating a way to 'live stream' the service. Now as Christmas approaches, I wait with all of you wondering if this latest enforced Lockdown will enable our Churches to be open for Worship, again, albeit with more strict guidance.

Advent calls us to wait, expectantly, for the Christ Child to be born. And as we wait for the opportunity to be with family and friends I look forward to celebrating the amazing gift and the birthday of Jesus.

We will worship, pray and hear again the story of that f rst Christmas. If not in Church, then the Zoom technology will allow us to come to His lowly manger. As before we will pray and sing, and listen once more to the telling of the birth of the Son of God, and Worship His Majesty.

Wherever you are this Christmas Day, pause, and give thanks, as you celebrate the Birth of the Son of God. May you be richly blessed, this Christmas, and the coming year.

👯 Love in Jesus,

Reverend Canon Kàren

## Winter 1946-47 Memories Margaret Stretton

1946/47 had been an 'ordinary' winter until the snow began to fall on the  $23^{rd}$ January and then continued to fall for the next six weeks. There were drifts of snow 7 metres deep in places where the wind had blown it – covering roads and hedges.

At that time, I attended Towcester Grammar School and was unable to get there. In those days I and others from Maidford and Adstone cycled three miles to Blakesley Railway Station to get the train to Towcester. We then walked along the A5 and Brackley Road to the school. The train station was where Tesco is today, quite a walk as well as the ride to Blakesley! I missed about six weeks schooling that January and February. I never did catch up with Maths – the teachers hadn't time to help so geometry and algebra are still a mystery to me. I think Maidford School was open as my sister went some days. The Head Teacher (Mrs Chambers) lived in the school house attached to the school and her assistant (Miss Peggy Gulliver) lived at the George Public House opposite School Road.

We had no mains electricity at Maidford Lodge and mum used a 'black-leaded' range and an oil-f red oven with three burners. She made the most gorgeous cakes and pork pies in these two ovens. We had a paraff n "Aladdin" lamp for light and candles when we went to bed.

Dad milked the cows by hand at this time and the milk was collected in churns daily by Limited Dairies based in Banbury. During the severe weather the milk lorry was unable to do its rounds and dad had no means of keeping it so he poured the milk into the brook (though frozen) by the side of the lane. During this snowy period Mum ran out of f our so dad tried his hand at making some with wheat using the 'grinder'. Mum made the bread using the f our but the loaf was just like a brick – solid and heavy. I don't think even the hens would eat it!

The water pump in the kitchen pumped water from a well in the cellar which never froze or ran dry. As all the outdoor troughs (which the cows and calves used) were frozen solid we could pump water from the kitchen to the troughs in the farmyard. My sister and I had the job of this pumping – 100 pumps each and then a rest!

Maidford village, which is about one mile from the Lodge, had at least two good frozen ponds – one near the Rectory and one near Rectory Farm. We would meet our friends there and keep warm by sliding over the frozen ice – great fun!

We did have a telephone but were unable to use it as all the lines were down due to the snow and ice on the cables.

I can't remember being hungry or cold. In those days we kept a few pigs and one would be killed for home use, so we always had ham and bacon to eat. The hams and 'f itches' hung on the kitchen walls and Mum cut off what she needed.

When the snow melted there must have been f oods but I can't remember. In a way it was nice to be back at school but trying to 'catch up' was diff cult. However, I did manage to get my School Certif cate in 1949!

# Winter on the Farm Through Covid-19

#### By Nita Pearson

**Grimscote 2020 - 2021.** The long warm days of summer seem an age away. With the cold shorter days of winter fast approaching we are entering another period of 'lockdown' but life on the farm continues.

At last a time to look back on the past year and to take stock of all that has been achieved.

The harvest grain is stored in the sheds and next year's seeds sown and in the ground. It is now time to bring in the cattle from the f elds to be housed in warm sheds for the winter.

Looking forward to next year the rams are prepared to be put with the ewes ready to lamb next spring. Hay and silage have to be brought to the farm for feeding the cattle during the winter.

The f eld work has been completed until next spring. With shorter, colder days time is spent catching up on the maintenance of fences and buildings – there is no shortage of work to be done.

When we approach the end of the year we 'scan' and mark with a colour all our ewes to see how many lambs they are going to give birth to. We do this so we can adjust their food and know when they lamb how many lambs they are going to have in March.



Our next major task is to test all of our cattle on the farm for Bovine Tuberculosis. This has to be done every year. It is a very stressful job

as handling very large and strong animals can be dangerous for those helping the vet. We have a 'crush' to pass the animals through to minimise the dangers. The animals are contained so the vet can perform the tests. This is similar to a human having a BCG test for tuberculosis. After four days the area is inspected by the vet to see if there is any swelling – this is always a nervous time as if there is any swelling they may have TB in which case they have to be slaughtered and the whole process has to be repeated in 60 days until you have a clear test. This has huge implications for farmers as you cannot move any cattle from the farm except for slaughter.

We are moving through the winter months feeding and looking after all our livestock through to spring where the cycle of life on the farm starts a new season with lambing and new life brings hope of a new year after this very diff cult year with the Covid-19 pandemic. Let us hope for a better year for everyone in 2021.

## How Covid-19 has changed shopping, community and our lives in the UK

By Danny Everest Hayes, Cold Higham (Sainsburys Cluster Manager)

Covid-19 has radically changed the way we go about our day-to-day lives. It has shifted where we turn for help and support and how we interact with friends, family and our neighbours. Since April we've all lived a different life through lockdowns & restrictions on our daily lives, through which we have revealed tales of hope, community solidarity, family struggles, boredom, anxiety and resilience. And as the pandemic continues to unfold, as we get closer to Christmas uncertainty remains as to whether we'll be celebrating within the conf nes of restrictions. Working within food retail myself I have seen f rst-hand the profound impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on consumers' lives. As government orders to stay-at-home & and country-wide lockdowns continue, consumer behaviour continues to be driven by changes in personal circumstances, whether that be f nancial impact, adapting to working from home, or reconsidered values and priorities.

Changes to disposable income and available leisure time are inf uencing consumers' attitudes, behaviours and purchasing habits. Some consumers are f nding themselves 'f nancially squeezed', with less disposable income compared to before the crisis, and therefore are shopping more cost consciously, whereas others have increased both their disposable income and free time through no longer having to commute to work, and are enjoying new leisure pursuits.

Recent research has shown that food banks are forecast to give out six emergency food parcels a minute this winter. Coronavirus has massively affected food bank usage, with a huge rise in people needing to use them, which is why now has never been such an important time to help where we can and drop an item or two in the collection units found in most supermarkets. Families with children are being hit the hardest during the crisis and are struggling to make ends meet, and at time feel embarrassed to ask for help.

If changes aren't made, there is likely to be a 61% rise in need at food banks in the Trussell Trust's network this winter, equating to 846,000 food parcels being given out. The charity warns that with mass unemployment predicted on a scale not seen since the early nineties, there will be further rises in poverty with 670,000 additional people classed as destitute by the end of 2020, meaning they cannot afford essentials like housing, energy and food. This is on top of year-on-year rises in the number of people unable to afford food and forced to food banks across the UK.

Although fears about health are gradually subsiding due to the prospect of a vaccine, consumers remain uncomfortable about visiting public places, although we are relatively more comfortable with familiar places such as supermarkets.

With lockdowns in place and many nonessential stores closed, e-commerce/ online channels have surged. Digital adoption has accelerated particularly in Grocery & General Merchandise, in Sainsbury's 40% of our f rst half sales were made online through both <u>sainsburys.co.uk</u> & <u>argos.co.uk</u>. Customers have also increased their use of omnichannel services like contactless payment, mobile pay, virtual consultations and click & collect services.

With more time spent at home, consumers are engaging in new or renewed activities during their spare time. More than half are trying new recipes and spending time on home improvements with some embarking on new skills or online education. In each case, the vast majority expect to continue with these activities.

Lockdown provided that opportunity or nudge for people who don't usually get involved in their neighbourhood to get involved. I've read so many great stories of how neighbours are coming together and supporting one another. It was particularly heartwarming seeing older people offering support as well, despite being classed as vulnerable themselves, but through sheer determination they want to play their part whatever the personal risk.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, communities have sprung into action. Neighbours are connecting and looking out for each other more than usual, informal support groups in local areas have organised to support people in need. Many people have stepped forward as volunteers across the NHS, community hubs and local charities.

Communities have shown and built their resilience over recent weeks, but extra support is needed to support the seldom heard, isolated and excluded individuals and communities. Not everyone can contribute to or benef t equally from neighbourhood action, and those who are already disadvantaged may f nd it challenging to maintain resilience and participate in social networks in the face of the outbreak. Volunteer and community organisations play a valuable role here along with our neighbours next door. The pandemic has not only highlighted the importance of communities but also the huge benef t it gives to those individuals that need help. In order not to lose these new relationships as we recover from the pandemic it is vital we maintain the centrality of communities and continue to strengthen community resilience through our ongoing efforts to improve everyone's wellbeing.

With all that said; family, friendship and community has never felt so important and it is at times like this that we should all ref ect and cherish what we have and what we can do for each other.







## Pattishall Primary School

These are very strange times to be involved in education! Once again, our children and their families have shown immense f exibility and resilience as our way of life evolves and adapts to the restrictions that we f nd ourselves under.

The silver lining to all of this has been how even though we have had spells when we have had to be apart, we have been able to utilise modern technology in order to keep the learning going. Children have even accessed some of their lessons via Zoom. Hats off to the teachers for mastering the tech, to the parents for their support in taking over at home once again and the children for their resilience.

In spite of the circumstances, we have tried to keep some form to the calendar of events. Firstly, with a series of Harvest Assemblies, which were either recorded or live streamed to the parents and were delightful. The children came dressed for the great outdoors and donated money to the tune of £210 to the Towcester Food Bank.

On 11<sup>th</sup> November, as a whole school, we observed Armistice Day and the twominute silence outside the front of the school. You may have seen our display of poppies and artwork. Once again, our very own Mr May led the silence with the Last Post and Reveille. Year 4 f Imed a beautiful service that we all watched in our class bubbles prior to the silence. It was very moving.

Moving into December, Years 1 and 2 hope to put on a retelling of the Christmas Story, done through the eyes of a family on Christmas Eve. Whilst they are learning at home, they are also practising their lines and songs, ready to rehearse on their return to school. Reception Class is also busy getting ready for their traditional Nativity, which they will perform to camera: so, whilst we cannot gather at this time to sing and enjoy traditions from 'normal times', we will at least have the memories on f Im to treasure.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> December, look out for our Advent window as we take part in the village Advent window celebrations, organised by our wonderful Friends of Pattishall School!

I am so proud of the children and to be Head Teacher of our little school – and of all that we have achieved together in the hardest of times.

Who knows what the new year brings? Hopefully positivity and a fresh start; but for now, to you and your families, have a happy Christmas and new year – in whatever form it takes.

> Mrs McLean Head Teacher.

If you are looking for an ambitious, small school with a big heart for you children, we have a few spaces left in selected year groups and are recruiting for Reception Class September 2021. Please do get in touch for a personal (socially distanced) or virtual tour and take a look around our website:

www.pattishallschool.co.uk

## Pattishall & District Produce Show 2021 Winter Update

The committee was sorry to cancel this year's show, but unfortunately it was the only decision possible in the circumstances.

We look forward with optimism to 2021 and very much hope that the show will be able to take place, provisional date is Sunday 12 September (second Sunday in September). While we continue to socially distance and go through the various lockdowns, the shorter days and colder weather make this the perfect time of year to think about your art, craft and photography entries and let your creative side shine through.

#### The 2021 categories will be:

#### SECTION H: ART

Painting in watercolour, oil, or acrylic – any theme / subject / size

Sculpture or mixed media work – any theme / subject / size

Art on a postcard – any subject / any media; maximum size 4"x6"

#### SECTION J: HANDICRAFTS

Completed since September 2019 & not previously exhibited.

Greetings card Tapestry or cross-stitch item Knitted, crocheted or woven item (or other yarn-based craft) Patchwork or quilted item Doorstop (any material) Handmade toy (any material)

#### **SECTION K: PHOTOGRAPHY**

Max. 6"x8", including mount. Animal or animals Colour in nature Ref ections on 2020 Movement Farming

"A view through..."

Please mount all photos so that they are not damaged when displayed. Any images of children MUST have parents' permission.

# Keep safe and well, everyone, & we look forward to life getting back to some sort of "normal" in the next months!

### November Ref ections

Trees outlined against the sky stretch bony f ngers up on high, while that mischief maker wind blows tree tops and soughs among the pines. Leaves come falling, twirling, swirling, piling and drifting like early snows.

Who has not stopped and gazed at autumn's splendour? The warm ember colours of gold, yellow, red, brown and orange unfailingly stir us to marvel at the changing scene, for a year of pain and sorrow is growing old.



Holly berries hold the vivid promise of winter evenings and candlelight. Surely all is not lost, for those bright sprigs arrest us on our walks. Like harbingers of frosty cold and f reside cheer they bring to mind mulled wine, carols, nuts and f gs.

Bare twigs and brown earth conceal nature's work. Birds, silent now, come pecking for seed and sustenance through wind, rain and cold. They disappear to holes, nestling for warmth against the wintry blast, a lesson we can heed.

Time is spinning its stories of life, as spring follows winter, the day the night. The countless fallen, those we remember, like grains in the earth which sprout again, that haunting reveille, the brass band pomp, seals the memory in our heart of every November.

By a Pattishall Resident



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## Pattishall Parish Council

The Council meets at 7:45 in the Parish Hall on the second Thursday of each month throughout the year, except for August. An agenda and draft minutes are available on the Parish website (http://www.pattishallparish.org.uk) and all notice boards. Parishioners are very welcome to attend or contact one of the council members listed below, should they wish to raise a point but cannot be at the meeting in person. **Please note that meetings are now held using zoom and start at 7:30pm.** 

#### The Parish Council

Ann Addison (Clerk) ann.addison97@gmail.com 01604 858226

Barry Evans (Chairman) sixpencesheep@aol.com 01327 830523 Environment, Around Pattishall & Allotments Liaison

Martin Gardner (Vice Chairman) gardnermjuk@yahoo.co.uk 01327 831671

Neighbourhood Planning

Roger Clarke rogerwas.clarkeltd@btinternet.com 01327 830509 Trees & Hedges, Finance & Lighting

David Keeble Grass Cutting keeble855@btinternet.com 01327 830792

David Hodges Highways hodgesm@hotmail.co.uk 01327 830679

Robert Hart Maintenance roberthart885@btinternet.com 01327 830746

Mark Mitton Planning mbm@pwc.uk.net 01327 359400 Jayne Hawtin School Liaison Jayneyh40@gmail.com 07761402512

Phil Parris *Planning, Trees & Hedges* philparris@hotmail.co.uk 07867932744

Should parishioners have a concern or require advice on any of the above then please contact the councillor concerned and/or Ann Addison, the parish clerk.

#### **Play Equipment**

The Council still hopes to install play equipment at Booth Close, but the present situation has rather put things on hold for the time being. During the summer, the zip wire was mended and has since been well used, along with the other play equipment. A new matting has been laid under the swings on the playing f eld and some of the older and more worn swing seats have been replaced. Members of the Council undertake an inspection of all equipment once a month with repairs and maintenance being carried out on a regular basis.

#### **Community Spirit**

We saw the very best of community spirit during 'Lockdown' with volunteers collecting prescriptions, shopping etc. and neighbours helping each other. Sadly, many annual events could not take place this year, but hopefully Picnic in The Park, The Produce Show, Bonf re Night and The Seniors Christmas Party along with the many other parish events will be back before too long. Three new trees have been planted to replace the dead ones along the Gayton Road leading out of Eastcote. Our thanks to Robert Hawtin for the removal of the dead trees and to Ian Cockram for the donation of the three new ones. The Council has been in contact with The Woodland Trust about acquiring whips (small-rooted trees) to plant throughout the parish. If successful in our

application, then the council would be pleased to hear where residents would like to see them planted.

#### Traff c

Speeding along Butchers Lane continues to be a problem as does the speed of vehicles through Astcote High Street. The Council has been in contact with the Highways Department requesting a visit from one of their personnel to advise about the situation.

#### **Dog Waste Bin**

After much discussion, a new dog waste bin has been installed along the Dalscote Road by the gate that leads to the f eld with the solar mast. There is another bin available and the Council would be pleased to receive suggestions of a further location.

#### **Grass Cutting**

The last cut of the year has been completed and in general the Council has been pleased with the contractor. A few minor problems were quickly addressed, and it is hoped that we will continue with the same company for next year. Mick Fleck retired after many years of tending the Garden of Remembrance. The Council thanked him and sent a gift voucher in appreciation.

Without doubt 2020 has been a challenging year, although there appears to be some hope on the horizon with various vaccines being developed. The Parish Council would like to extend their best wishes for the future and hope you all keep safe and well.

## Cold Higham Parish Council

#### **Parish Council Meetings**

The Council continues to meet virtually. Members of the public are welcome to participate. The Zoom links are appended to the meeting agendas which appear on the parish web site about a week before each meeting. The next meeting is on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021.



#### Street Lights

This seemingly neverending project took a step closer to completion on 16<sup>th</sup> October, when K&M Lighting replaced three of the lights on Church Lane with the same

LED lanterns that have been used elsewhere in the parish. The fourth light could not be replaced as the pole to which it was attached had to be removed for safety reasons. This pole will be replaced shortly with a solar light, thus avoiding the expense and inconvenience of digging up Church Lane to bring power to another LED. The delay to the installation of this pole was due to some of the contractor's employees catching Covid-19.

#### Remembrance

This year's remembrance was obviously notable by its limitations, due to Covid 19. However, Kevin Hawkins from Grimscote was able to record himself playing The Last Post and Reveille at the Parish War Memorial,



and this was 'broadcast' via Zoom to the parish twice on Remembrance Sunday and once again on Remembrance Day, at 'the eleventh hour'. Our thanks to Kevin for enabling the parish to at least mark its respects to the fallen commemorated on the War Memorial.

#### Litter

It is very noticeable that litter is once again a big issue, especially on the major roads in the Parish. A few gallant warriors carried out a 'virtual litter pick'

over the weekend 18/19<sup>th</sup> September, and we are grateful for their efforts. But the issue remains, as does the matter of 'dog poo' which has returned for some reason. On your daily exercise please keep a lookout for offenders and report any issues to the Clerk.

#### Speeding in Cold Higham

The Council is concerned about the number of vehicles which are exceeding the 30mph speed limit on Banbury Lane through Cold Higham. We are now actively investigating short- and longterm measures to reduce the number of offenders. Their actions are endangering residents, including school children waiting for school buses. The website will be kept up to date with decisions made.

#### Covid 19

Cold Higham residents are reminded that, should they need help during the Covid-19 crisis, they should email <u>chhelpchpc@gmail.com</u> or ring 01327 830521.

#### Parish web address:

www.coldhigham-pc.gov.uk.

Digby Carter, Chairman 01327 830521



## **Bus News**

The bus continues to run between Towcester and Northampton. Any queries etc. please contact Ann Atkin.

ann.atkin51@btinternet.com, 830907

Brackley • Silverstone • Towcester • Greens Norton • Pattishall • Hunsbury Meadows • Northampton



MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS exce	pt Publi	c Holid	ays								
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Pattishall ChurchStreet	0720					1028	1307				
Fosters Booth Butchers Lane	0723					1031	1310				
Eastcote Greenway	0726					1033	1312				
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Northampton Rail Station	0749		0905			1053	1332				
Northampton The Drapery	0755		0911			1059	1338				



# Scouts

Pattishall Scout Group will once again be providing a Christmas postal service this year.

The Scouts, Cubs and Beavers deliver the cards as part of the requirements for their Challenge Awards.

The service is free to Senior Citizens, and others are welcome to use the service for a cash donation to the Scout Group or this can be made online to Pattishall Scout Group Acc No: 61004719 Sort Code: 404426

Last posting date is Friday 18th December.

Leave Your Christmas cards at your nearest drop off point:

Pattishall: 59 Levs Road Astcote: 10 Hodge Close Cold Higham: 7 Church Lane Fastcote: Grove Close House, Gayton Road



No need to knock, just put them through the letterbox.

Please ensure your cards are clearly marked with the name and full address of the recipient on the envelope.

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includes relevant X91 journeys between Silverstone & Brackley -see seperate timetable for full details also extra buses run on route 55 between Northampton& Swan Valley -see seperate timetable for full details

#### MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS except Public Holidays

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### ASTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH Sharing God's Love with All

Team Ministry: Rev Romeo Pedro, Rev Phil Snelson Deacon Richard Beckett, Rev Brian Kennard, Rev Francis M'Itiiri. The Chapel and Ministers are available for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. To contact a Minister please ring the Circuit Off ce: 01604 702178

#### Weekly Services & Lockdown

When permitted we have been holding a short 30 minute service twice a month on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays with all the necessary Covid precautions in place. Our Harvest Family Celebration was very well attended with three family groups swelling our numbers. We hope that services will continue again in December after the current lockdown. Please see our noticeboard for details.

On Sundays when services have not been arranged a few of the congregation have been meeting to Pray for the Community from 10-10.30am. Any prayer requests can be put in the box by the Chapel gate.

**Christmas Offering.** Whether services are arranged during December or not, we will be having an offering to help The Manna House Counselling Service in St. Giles Street in Northampton. Their services are always in demand, and no doubt even more so this year. For more details please look at their website: www.themannahouseonline.com.

#### **Other News**

Unfortunately the Lunch Club has been unable to operate but the Well Group was able to meet via Zoom in November, as well as contribute to the work of the Hope Centre in Northampton which works with homeless and deprived people. This is how it went ....

The Well Group had a successful Zoom meeting with the Hope Centre Resources Manager on 19<sup>th</sup> November. We all became much better informed and learned about the different projects, which include providing housing as well as the allotment growing fresh vegetables and providing horticultural therapy. Their Charity Shop, in Abington Street (opposite the library) will open again after lockdown. The Hope Centre depends entirely on voluntary donations and grants. The Covid situation has increased the number of service users, and their Food Club coordinates with other food poverty providers such as food banks in Northampton and Towcester. The total donated by Well Group members was £405, a terrif c result, and Louise expressed their thanks.

#### **Christmas Blessings to you all!**



### The Parishes of Holy Cross, Pattishall and St Luke, Cold Higham

(part of the Amelcote Benef ce)

During December it is hoped that we will be able to resume services in church, with restrictions in place, such as wearing face masks and separated seating, to make it as safe as possible.

Sunday and **Christmas** services for December and January are planned as follows, but may need to revert to Zoom if the lockdown is extended. We hold a Morning Prayer service on Zoom, every Wednesday at 10.00.

#### You are very welcome to join us but if you wish to attend any of our services in church, it is essential that you let Revd Káren know in advance so that we can plan seating accordingly. Call or text Revd Káren on 01327 830569 or 07980 881252 to book your place.

Services held at Holy Cross church and all our Zoom services are also streamed live on YouTube. Search for Amelcote on YouTube and subscribe to our channel.

Please check our weekly information sheet or the Holy Cross Pattishall Facebook page, for notif cations of any changes and details of how to join our Zoom services.

To request the weekly sheet, or if you have any other queries email or phone Chris Bulleid on <u>amelcote.info@gmail.com</u> 07934 589685

Date	Time	Venue	Service
6 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00	St Luke, Cold Higham	Holy Communion
13 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00	Holy Cross, Pattishall	Holy Communion
20 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00	St Mary, Gayton	Holy Communion
20 <sup>th</sup> December	18.00	Zoom	Carol Service
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	16.00	Zoom	Christingle Service
Christmas Eve 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	17.00	St Luke, Cold Higham	Readings, prayers, Communion
Christmas Day 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00	Holy Cross, Pattishall	Christmas Communion
3 <sup>rd</sup> January	10.00	Zoom	Holy Communion
10 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00	Holy Cross, Pattishall	Holy Communion
17 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00	St Mary, Gayton	Holy Communion
24 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00	Holy Cross, Pattishall	Holy Communion
31 <sup>st</sup> January	10.00	Holy Cross, Pattishall	Holy Communion

Holy Cross church is open daily during daylight hours.

We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas



All being well, f nal copy date for the March-April newsletter is 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Copy should be sent to The Old Farmhouse, 13 High Street, Astcote (email ap@stewarts.me.uk, tel: 830042). Please use email if possible.

Pattishall Parish Council undertakes the production of the newsletter, it does not take responsibility for the accuracy of articles. Any views or opinions expressed are those of the author in each case.

Would you like to see your photograph or artwork on the cover of the next *Around Pattishall*? If so, please email. It should be something with a local and seasonal f avour.

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