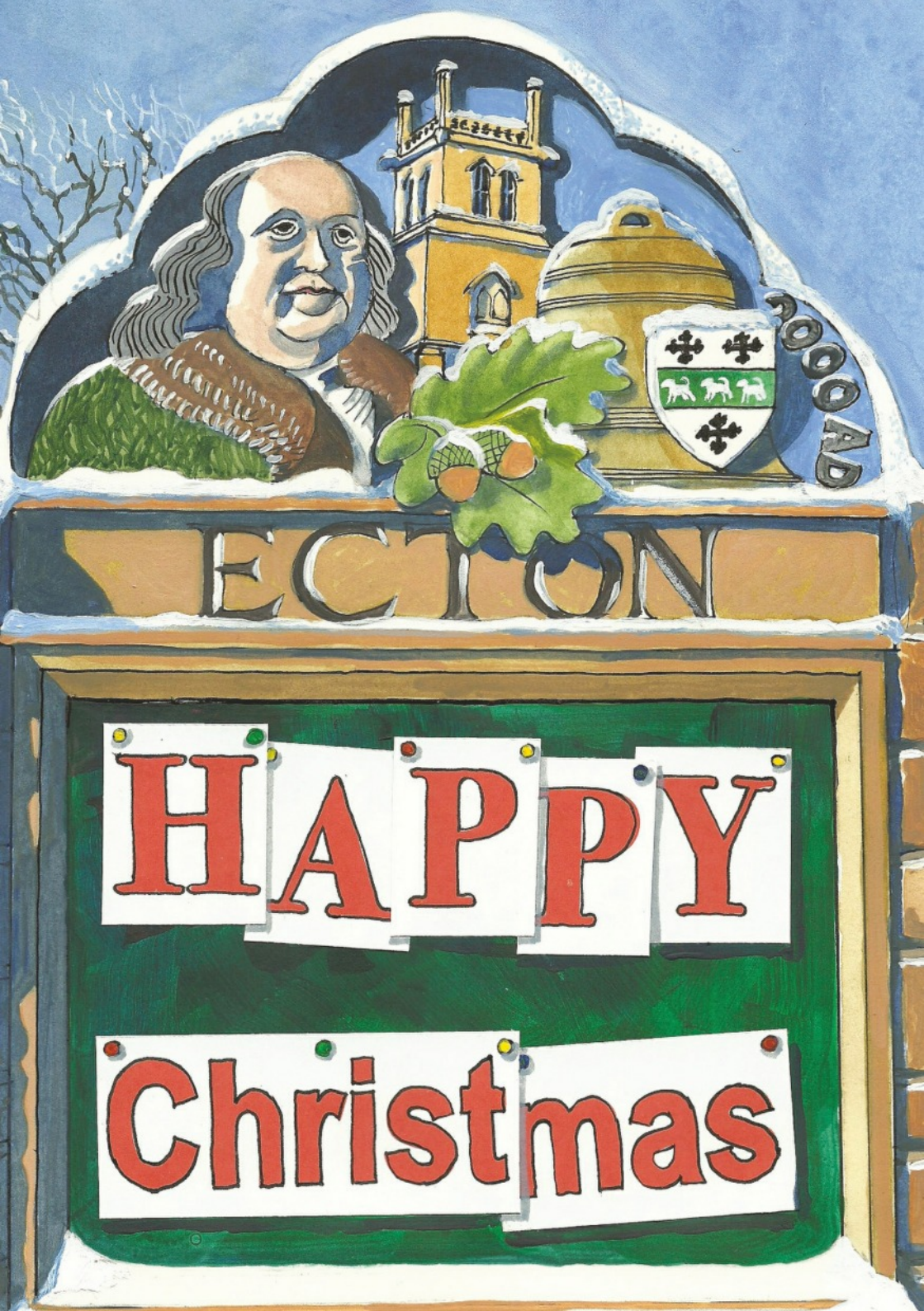




LECTION

HAPPY

Christmas

ECTON PARISH COUNCIL

JOHN WILSON
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL
LEESIDE
HARBOROUGH ROAD
BRIXWORTH
NORTHAMPTON NN6 9BX
Home phone 01604 880490
Email hazjohn@tiscali.co.uk

Mrs ANNE NICHOLSON
CHAIRPERSON
31 WEST STREET
ECTON
NN6 0QF 01604 410908
Email: annenicholson@tiscali.co.uk

Mrs. Janet Bradley
49 WEST STREET
ECTON
NN6 0QF 01604 406420
Email: janetbradley1@live.co.uk

Mr. William Brophy
CHAIR OF PLANNING
2 WELLINGBOROUGH ROAD
ECTON
NN6 0QH 01604 408588
Email: william_brophy@tiscali.

Mr. Paul Godby
STREET LIGHTS CONTACT
16 WEST STREET
ECTON
NN6 0QF 01604 416184
Email: wobblypost@live.co.uk

Mr. Robert East
66 HIGH STREET
ECTON
NN6 0QF 01604 402907
Email: roberteast1@googlemail.com

Mrs. S Bresnahan
VICE CHAIRPERSON
12 THE COURTYARD
CHURCH WAY
ECTON NN6 0QE 01604 403027
Email: sally_bresnahan@hotmail.com

Mrs. Pat Bright
24 WEST STREET
ECTON
NN6 0QF 01604 400456
Email: pat.bright@hotmail.co.uk

Mr. David Dicks
40 WEST STREET
ECTON
NN6 0QF 01604 407145
Email: dandmdicks@btinternet.com

Mr. Tyrone Moffett
36 WEST STREET
ECTON
NN6 0QF 01604 407474
Email: tymoffett@tiscali.co.uk

Editor's Ramblings

Another Christmas issue which I must start by thanking all the people who sponsored the Christmas card, which will allow us to give our senior citizens a superb Christmas Lunch on the 14th December. If you have not already booked your place ring Margaret on 412233 soon. My next thank you is to Rodney Ingram for his excellent artwork for the card. Continuing my thanks, to all the people who without their work every month in all weathers, go out and distribute this magazine, Joy Wilson who also organises the distribution and Barbara Jones, Jude Coulter, Dorothy Creed and Anne Henderson, you are much appreciated.

A reminder that the ECTON BIG BREAKFAST is fast approaching on the 4th December, so if you do not have your ticket buy it NOW! Details in this issue. Also in this issue are details of a classical guitar concert at the village hall in February by Craig Ogden, who has played at such places as the Barbican and the Albert Hall. I think for a village of this size we are so lucky to have this performance.

Now for past events, and those that attended 'How Steeple Sindeby Wanderers won the FA cup' did not go home dissappointed. The solo performance by Mark Jardine left the audience exhausted with its speed and involving so many characters, a truly outstanding performance. Our thanks to Alistair MacRae for making this happen. Also in November (which unfortunately I missed) was the Game Supper another splendid sell-out evening.

There is no midnight service at the church this Christmas so if you hear the bells it will be your imagination playing tricks. The last few Ecton books are for sale at a reduced price, an essential item for newcomers to the village, details on next page.

It is the first time I have printed the make up of the Parish Council which I hope proves useful.

***Have a great Christmas and hope to see you at the BIG BREAKFAST
and CHRISTMAS STARTERS***

Copy for The February magazine to
Colin Tinston, Rectory Farm House, High Street
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Sidespersons		
December 6pm	4th	Brian & Sylvia Saunders
9.15am	11th	Linda & Steve Richards
11am	18th	David & Mary Dicks
2.30pm	24th	Volunteers needed
January 6.30pm	1st	Brenda & Philip Foster
9.15am	8th	Mark Aveyard & Charlotte Eley
11.am	15th	Marian Gleave & David Fuller

Coffee Rota		
December	4th	Wendy & Ingrid
	11th	Dorothy Creed & Ingrid Wright
	18th	Charlotte Eley & Anne Henderson
	24th	Volunteers needed
January	1st	Volunteers needed
	8th	Joy Wilson & Chris Jordon
	15th	Fiona Major & Linda Richards
	22nd	Dorothy Creed & Ingrid Wright

Church Cleaning Rota			Brass Cleaning
Week			
December	3rd	C	
	10th		Anne Henderson & Joy Wilson
	17th	A	
	31st	B	
January	14th	C	

CHURCH LOTTERY October	
£50	David Major
£10	Vickie & Mike Ward
£10	John Cain

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2011

<u>Saturday 3rd</u>	10.00	Open Church – refreshments served.
<u>Sunday 4th</u>	18.00	Holy Communion.
<u>Tuesday 6th</u>	We regret there will be no midweek service this week.	
<u>Wednesday 7th</u>	13.00	Ecton School Nativity – in Church.
	18.00	Ecton School Nativity – in Church.
	There is no Compline this month.	
<u>Sunday 11th</u>	09.15	Holy Communion.
<u>Tuesday 13th</u>	10.00	Holy Communion.
<u>Thursday 15th</u>	14.15	‘Pre-School Praise’ – Great Doddington.
<u>Sunday 18th</u>	11.00	All Age Service (Christingle) with Holy Communion.
Tuesday 20 th	10.00	Holy Communion.
	14.30	Afternoon Songs of Praise.
<u>Saturday 24th</u>	CHRISTMAS EVE	
	14.30	Crib Service.
	16.00	Christingle - at Gt. Doddington.
	23.00	Holy Communion - at Gt. Doddington.
<u>Sunday 25th</u>	CHRISTMAS DAY	
	09.30	Holy Communion – at Wilby.
	10.15	All-Age Worship – at Wilby.
<u>Tuesday 27th</u>	We regret there will be no midweek service this week.	

From the Vicarage,



We have a two-month edition this time so I find myself writing in the middle of November, but wishing everyone both a blessed Christmas and New Year! It all seems a long way off yet, but no doubt, as usual it will come around amazingly quickly. Last month I mentioned Remembrance Sunday coming up. It went well for us in Ecton, with the usual Act of Remembrance very well attended at the village war memorial in the morning following the regular Communion service in Church.

I feel I must say something about the protest that has been going on outside St. Paul's Cathedral in London. I have spoken of it in the churches, but not so far written of it in the magazines. I know little about the anti-capitalist issue, but am extremely saddened by the way it has been handled. That it has led to two resignations of senior staff members of the cathedral is more sad still. Even before we heard of those resignations I was saying that I thought it appalling that the message coming from the cathedral was 'please go away'! We should **never** be saying that to anyone who comes to any Church building for whatever reason (unless it's to steal the lead from the roof, perhaps!). Instead we should be welcoming the protesters and sharing our messages. We should listen respectfully to theirs and we should be sharing ours with them. I'm never likely to be the Dean of St. Paul's (thankfully), but if I were, I would have offered the protesters hospitality and set up a public address system outside from which to preach the gospel. It's surely both a sad opportunity missed and also a very significant 'own goal' for the Church of England which has already lost so much respect in this country.

We have all been surprised and delighted by how long the mild weather has continued this autumn. I write today, however, on a very chill and foggy afternoon so it looks as if the weather has changed at last. This change comes with the usual annual reminder to look out for the elderly and vulnerable in our communities. At St. Mary Magdalene's we are most fortunate to have an efficient heating system and anyone who comes to a service in the winter time can be assured they will not be cold (I hope that's not 'famous last words').

We have a full programme of Advent and Christmas services as usual. They are listed here and our regular Christmas leaflet will also be coming through your door in time for the first events. I do hope very much that we shall see very many of our readers at some of those events as we celebrate again the best news of all time, that the mighty God, the creator and sustainer of all that is, became human to experience everything that humans can experience and provide for us the only possible solution to our problem – a damaged and fallen human nature. Hope to see you there.

With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year,

Chris Pearson.

CALENDAR FOR FOR JANUARY 2012

Sunday 1st	11.00	Holy Communion (brief said service) – at Great Doddington
	18.30	Joint Carol Service and Tableau (at Ecton). (this is also a ‘Churches Together in Earls Barton & District’ event).
Tuesday 3rd	10.00	Holy Communion.
Wednesday 4th	19.30	Compline and Prayer.
Saturday 7th	10.00	Open Church – refreshments served.
Sunday 8th	09.15	Holy Communion.
Tuesday 10th	10.00	Holy Communion.
Sunday 15th	11.00	All-Age Worship with Holy Communion.
Tuesday 17th	10.00	Holy Communion.
Thursday 19th	14.15	‘Pre-School Praise’ – Great Doddington.
Sunday 22nd	09.15	Morning Prayer.
	16.00	Annual Unity Week Service - at All Saints, Earls Barton.
Tuesday 24th	10.00	Holy Communion.
Sunday 29th	10.00	Fifth Sunday Joint Celebration Service - hosted at Wilby.
Tuesday 31st	10.00	Holy Communion.
	14.30	Afternoon Songs of Praise.

THE ECTON GAME SUPPER

The Ecton Game Supper was held on 12th November and once again proved to be a great success. It is always good to hear comments such as ‘a great night out’. Events such as this are not due to chance and we have to thank everyone involved in providing the game, vegetables and pies, those who prepared and cooked, served and washed up, put out chairs and tables (and put them all back), made table decorations and generally did their bit. You know who you are. And of course we are grateful to everyone who bought a ticket to support this event; we kept the cost down as much as we could and I think this was appreciated.

We should mention how pleased we all were to welcome several new residents to the supper and great to see new people getting involved in village life.

Although it is invidious to name names we should mention Colin Sotheby, who came up with the idea for the game supper and who once again provided and prepared the game and Bill Brophy, who provided the Northamptonshire quiz to entertain us between courses.

So, a big thankyou to all involved. What a wonderful community to be part of!

Rodney Ingram



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CHRISTMAS STARTERS



To open the Christmas season we are holding “open house” at the Village Hall on December 9th from 7pm. All we ask is for you to bring a plate of festive food that can be shared with others (e.g. mince pies, sausage rolls or other canapés). There will be a licensed bar.

If you would like to join the festivities please let Sally (403027) know if you will be coming by 1st December.



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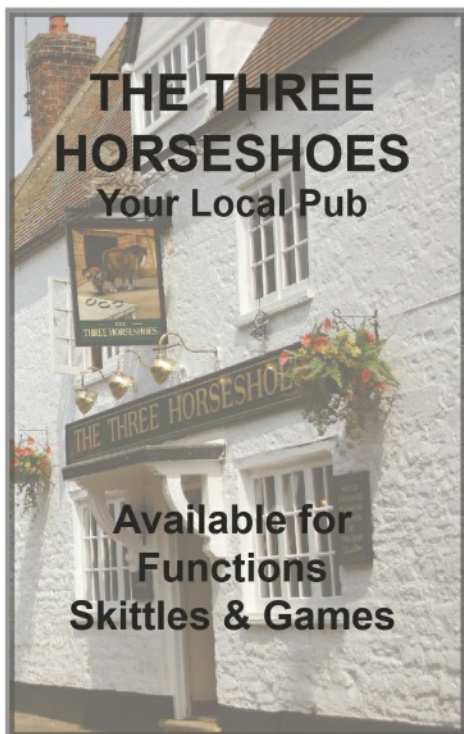
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Youth Club Trip to Whitemoor Lakes



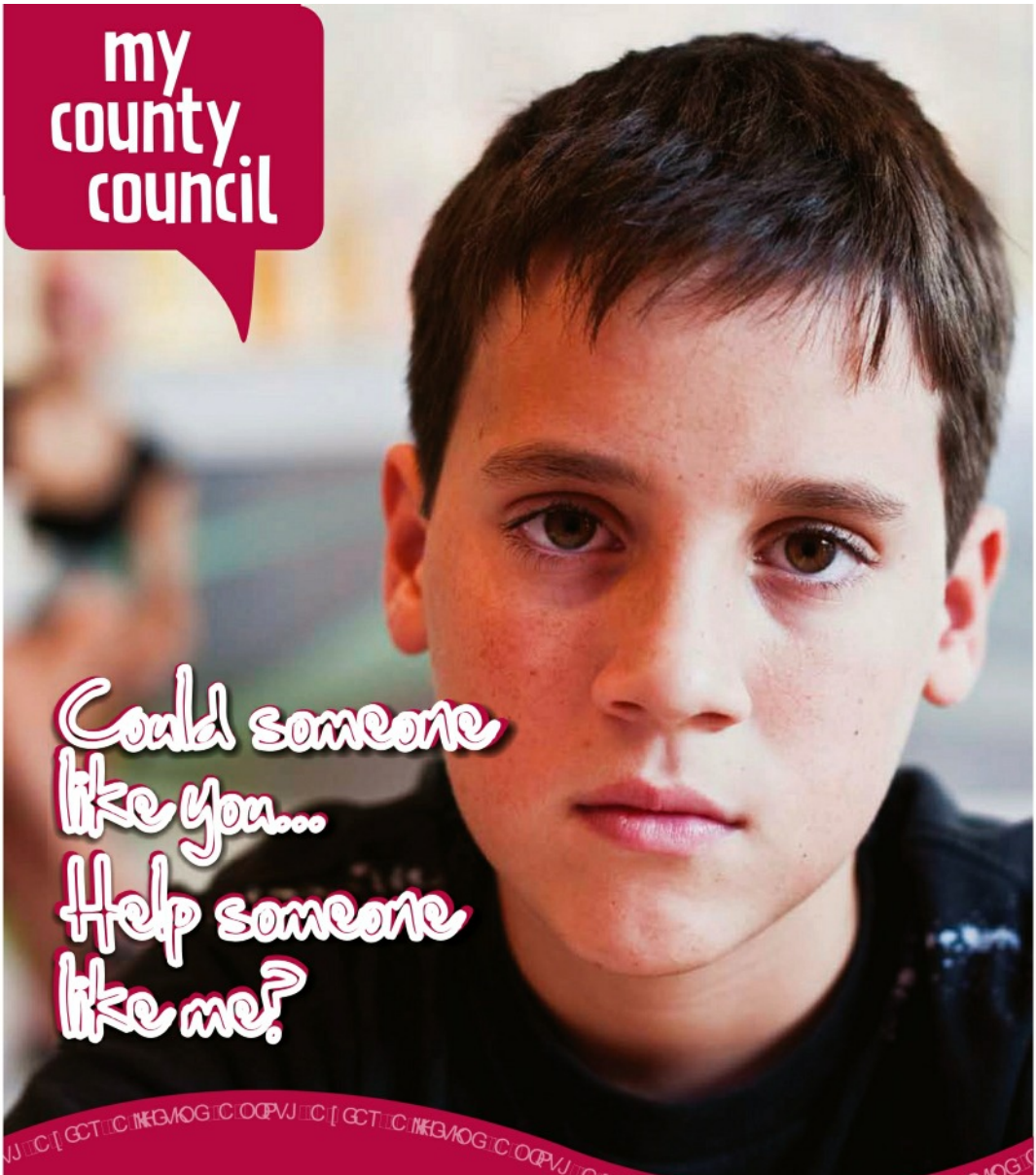


During October half term I took the youth club children to Whitemoor lakes, a new residential centre in Shropshire. We took part in lots of activities including climbing, absailing, archery, fencing, crafts, drama, quizzes, football, zip-wires and high wires.

No wonder we all came home exhausted! The food was fantastic and the children were very well behaved, I was proud to be their leader.

Most of the team managed 'the leap of faith' from the high platform (see photo) Well done!

Margaret Tinston



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26 Golden Oldies met for afternoon tea at Beckworth Emporium, what a great place to have on our doorstep. Tea, cakes, sandwiches, chips and even a glass or two of beer were enjoyed by everyone. Doggy bags were needed for some - goodness the afternoon tea platters are huge. Some people also enjoyed a little shopping. This outing was made possible by the generous David Cross bequest.

Severe Weather

Whilst we have been enjoying extraordinary mild weather I am sure we shall experience some wintry weather before long. If we have snow that cuts us off or makes it difficult for you to get out please do ask for help. We have a number of willing volunteers who will come and assist you with shopping or putting bins out etc. Don't be afraid to ask. The following people will either help you themselves or will find someone to help.



January event

We have been thinking about events for next year and we would like to start in January with a soup and sandwich lunch on January 27th at the Village Hall at 12 noon. Put the date on your calendar and we will be in touch after Christmas to confirm who is coming and who need a lift.



Sally, Pat, Alex, Kathy and Anne would like to wish all the Ecton Golden Oldies a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and all good wishes for 2012.

An Evening with Craig Ogden



Ecton Village Hall, Saturday 18th Feb at 7.30pm

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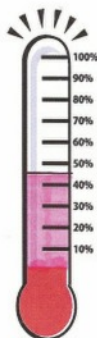
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Christmas 2011

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