

THE ECTON VIEW



July 2012 issue 89



Our Friend

Stuart Harrington, known to everyone as Lofty, suffered a massive heart attack and passed away on Friday 15th June 2012. As I write these painful words my grief is so tangible I can taste it. Everyone in Ecton reading this will feel the same sense of loss, I am certain of that. However I am also certain that Lofty wouldn't want a great deal of "wailing and gnashing of teeth" (well not too much!) either, so I am going to use this piece to recall some of the great moments from my time of knowing Lofty, especially in relation to Ecton village life.

For those of you who have moved into the village more recently Lofty was the Game-Keeper in Ecton from 1987 until his move to Muscott Mill in 2009. Many of you reading this will have known him for much longer than Kerri and me and I know you will be totally devastated by his passing.

Kerri first met Lofty in 1999 when she took a bottle of whisky round to Keepers Cottage to sweet-talk him into keeping the gate closed at the end of Barton Fields so that vehicles wouldn't fly in and out and run over our cats. We joked that she'd later presented him with a WWII-style silhouette chart of our cats so he didn't shoot them either!

Our friendship sprang from that meeting and subsequent meetings with Lofty and Sandy in the pub at Mears Ashby. Finally we were invited to their cottage for an after-shoot night and whilst I sat there with an upturned beer bottle top stuck on my forehead he leant down between us wearing one of his many 'drinking hats' and whispered: "you two have slipped in here like a pair of silk drawers". The rest is history. I can't think of any important event in my life that hasn't included him since.

From riotous nights in the Three Horseshoes, or the Ecton International Caberet Lounge as he called it, to many many fantastic evenings in 'The Pavilion' here in Ecton, or when so skilfully reconstructed by Ady & Liam Stones at Muscott Mill, they were all parties to remember. "You can't get drunk on Pimm's" he declared one time whilst single handedly proving himself wrong! It was probably the bottle of gin he slipped in it before picking up the bowl and guzzling it. His 'Tours of the Highlands' were legendary whether from his extensive collection in 'The Shed' (as he called what Sandy called The Pavilion) or from his basket of fun with which he would pitch up at parties and village events. Drinking whisky from the back of his LandRover is a tradition that many of you reading this will sorely miss, won't you?

After many of these memorable (well, the first bits anyway) events Lofty would regale us with interesting tales of late night escapades and difficult 're-entries'. He woke up one morning with a tyre track across his back thinking he'd been run over, but he'd merely been asleep up against the wheel of the Land Rover ("a fine example of British engineering" by the way). He would say that if he had a late night kebab he always woke up with some of it down the front of his underpants, but I have no way of proving or disproving this I can assure you, dear reader.

Occasionally, ahem, Lofty would partake in the consumption of an 'exotic cigarette' and that fitted perfectly with his Caribbean fancy dress at a summer party we all attended in Ecton. With his blacked-up face and colourful shirt he walked past his dogs when Tyson went crazy and started snarling at him "it's me you tw*t Tyson" Lofty shouted, and the dog calmed down slightly puzzled. Tyson was a ex-Police Alsatian.

Lofty's prowess with fireworks was another facet of this multi-talented man's list of specialities. We've seen rockets going off between his legs, late starting roman candles being returned to and then going off and even a rocket falling sideways, travelling along the ground straight at the audience standing outside the Pavilion! No Ecton future firework display will be quite as entertaining without Lofty's input.

Finally, going back to the riotous nights in the Three Horseshoes, many of our local's clientele will have from time to time witnessed the appearance of 'The Masked Man' who would run naked from the front door to the back door of a full pub with a flaming newspaper trailing from his rear end. Now the strangest thing is, despite all the years Lofty spent in Ecton, he never once was around to witness these appearances of 'The Masked Man'. Very odd.

Well, these are just a few anecdotes from hundreds that will be told about Lofty over the next few weeks and, I am certain, for many, many years into the future. Forgive me if I've missed out any of your favourites but, by nature, this piece is bound to be from my personal perspective.

From his love of bawdy limericks and rugby songs to to his genuine desire to help anyone who asked, Lofty was a giant of a man in stature with a giant personality to match. We'll never meet anyone else quite like him again that's for sure. God Bless Lofty Harrington, the man so many of us were proud and grateful to call **'Our Friend'**.



**The funeral will take place on
Thursday 5th July 2pm
at Ecton Church**

Immediate family to the Crematorium

**There will be no flowers but donations
can be made to Hollowell funeral directors.
There will also be collection envelopes
at the church on the day.**

Before I start my ramblings it is with sadness that I must tell you of the loss of our friend Stuart LOFTY Harrington who passed away on Friday 15th June. The Ecton gamekeeper for many years, a larger than life person in everyway will be sadly missed by us all. Thank you to Adrian Pulford for expressing our feelings and memories of 'OUR FRIEND'

Summer is now at its height here in the costa sapping your strength during the long long days, so I have started to do the magazine in the cool of the evening. I notice that the local residents do not go out during the week but make every effort at the week-end despite the temperature.

The Jubilee celebrations in Ecton proved an outstanding success, the Monday being the warmest day of the week allowing everyone to enjoy their picnic in the cricket field. A really good turnout of children for the fancy dress competition, and parade from the school to the village hall started the event, as did the sound of bells from the church. A first for the village was the pork pie competition and with 12 pies to choose from the judges were hard pressed to find a winner. The dog show had the biggest crowds of the day (or so I am told as I was doing the bar during the show).

Whilst all this was going on there was also a bouncy castle and face painting for the children, and the EGO's had afternoon tea and cakes. In the evening a sold out barn dance and pig roast concluded the day. Loads of pictures in this issue.

NOTE FOR ORGANISERS

We cannot wait another 10 years, so how about next year doing something similar!

AN ECTON FETE

(No Pressure)

On that note can I thank the organising committee for their work in making this jubilee day a brilliant event enjoyed by young and old and those in-between.

(there is nothing as good as positive re-inforcement)

On behalf of the village can I welcome recent newcomers, Ian, Wendy, Andrew and Michael Stephens who have moved into Rectory Farm House (I think that is on the high street).

Copy for The *August/September* magazine to

Colin Tinston, Telephone: 412233

e-mail: navigator@ectonvillage.co.uk

by 20th July

I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe



Diamond Jubilee



A quarter peel (1260 changes) of Plain Bob Doubles was rung in 50 minutes at St Mary Magdalene Church, Ecton on Thursday 7 June 2012 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee.

The following ringers took part:

Treble - Vickie Jaffee

2 - Charlotte Eley

3 - Jude Coulter

4 - Denis Pearson (Conductor)

5 - Mike Ward

Tenor - David Dicks



CHURCH LOTTERY June	
£50	D. Richards
£10	Alistair McCarter
£10	Fiona Ingram

CHURCH LOTTERY May	
£50	Sue Collins
£10	Steve Hunt
£10	Anne Henderson

Coffee Rota		
July	1st	Wendy & Ingrid
	8th	Anne Henderson & Charlotte Ely
	15th	Joy Wilson & Chris Jordon
	22nd	Fiona Major & Linda Richards

Sidespersons			
July	6pm	1st	Brenda & Philip Foster
	9.15am	8th	Mark Aveyard & Charlotte Ely
	11am	15th	Marian Gleave & David Fuller
	9.15am	22nd	Brian & Sylvia Saunders

Church Cleaning Rota			Brass Cleaning
Week			
July	7th		Dorothy Creed
	14th	A	
	28th	B	

CALENDAR FOR JULY 2012

<u>Sunday 1st</u>	18.00	Holy Communion
<u>Tuesday 3rd</u>	10.00	Holy Communion(<i>at Wilby</i>)
<u>Saturday 7th</u>	10.00	Open Church – coffee is available
<u>Sunday 8th</u>	09.15	Holy Communion
<u>Tuesday 10th</u>	10.00	Holy Communion(<i>at Wilby</i>)
<u>Sunday 15th</u>	11.00	All-Age Worship with Holy Communion
<u>Tuesday 17th</u>	10.00	Holy Communion(<i>at Wilby</i>)
<u>Thursday 19th</u>	14.15	Pre-School Praise(<i>at Gt. Doddington</i>)
<u>Sunday 22nd</u>	09.15	Morning Prayer
<u>Tuesday 24th</u>	10.00	Holy Communion(<i>at Wilby</i>)
<u>Sunday 29th</u>	10.00	Fifth Sunday Joint Churches Celebration (<i>hosted at Ecton</i>)
<u>Tuesday 31st</u>	10.00	<i>There is no midweek service this week</i>
	14.30	Afternoon Songs of Praise

From the Vicarage,



We live in times of great excitement at the moment. We have just passed the celebrations surrounding the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and straight away we are into the football European Cup. We are also well into all the preparations and run-up to the 2012 Olympic Games and during this month the torch will be passing through Northampton and Wellingborough. I do want here to pay tribute to the many in Ecton who worked so hard to mount the Jubilee celebrations on the Bank Holiday Monday. I was present and had a wonderful time although sadly I was unable through other commitments to stay for the barn dance in the evening. It was all so well run and efficiently and beautifully presented. The official Jubilee service the previous evening was also a lovely occasion when our three communities (Ecton, Wilby, and Great Doddington) could celebrate together and I must thank in particular **David Major** for the huge amount of work he put in to the planning and preparation of that service. The only disappointment was that so few from the village were there with us when it had been fully advertised along with the other events.

But there's more excitement. Readers may remember that many months ago now the diocese informed us that they intended to make official the linking of our three parishes into one United Benefice, which wasn't done originally. This is a great tribute to the many people who have worked hard to ensure that our three parishes have been growing ever closer together. We have now heard that the scheme has in principle been agreed by the Church Commissioners and if there are no local objections it will be finalised very soon. Each church now has notices posted giving people the opportunity to make their comments (positive or negative), and they must be received by the Commissioners in London by **July 9th**. I do encourage our readers to make comments through this channel so that the decision-makers will have an accurate impression of opinion from local people.

We have more news yet! During last month it was announced that the diocese intends to place one of its students in training for ordained ministry with us for the three-year period of his study to gain a wider experience of church and parish life. **Jonathan Aldwinckle** is a member of St. Andrew's Church in Wellingborough and we shall be welcoming him among us at the beginning of September. No doubt I shall write much more about that in the future and I hope that many in our villages will have the opportunity to get to know him.

In the mean time I hope that as the holiday season begins all our readers will be able to cope with so much excitement, for we are certainly experiencing a time of great blessing from our wonderful God,

With every blessing,

Chris Pearson.

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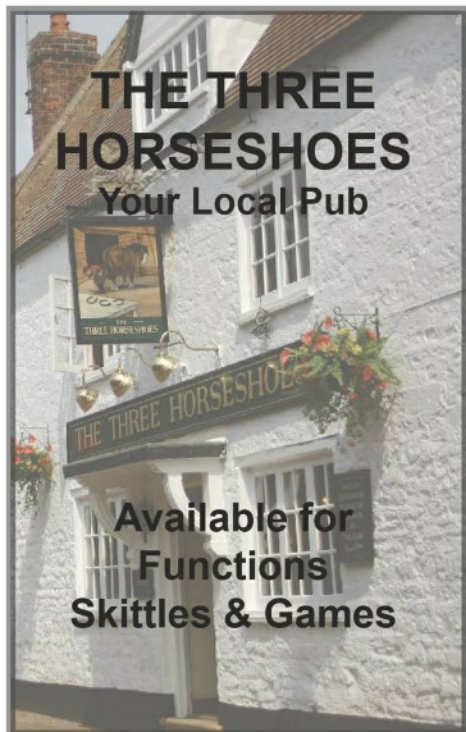
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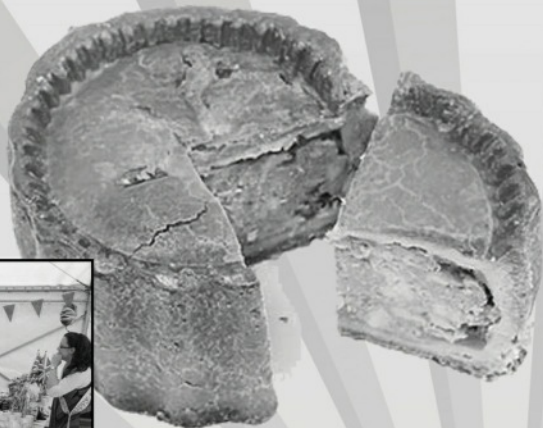
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A GREAT DAY HAD BY ALL



ECTON DOG SHOW



Jubilee Raffle



A fantastic raffle made a wonderful centre piece in the village hall. As usual everybody pulled together to make it very special.

Sincere thanks to Reg for his Whiskey donation, it raised

£112

towards the Jubilee fund

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LOST SOUNDS

BY BRIAN SAUNDERS

AS I LOOK BACK OVER SIXTY YEARS AND MORE TO THE TIME I WAS A SCHOOLBOY LIVING IN THE BLACKSMITHS YARD I RECALL THE EVERYDAY SOUNDS WHICH ARE NO MORE.

ANIMALS:

HEAVY CART HORSES AS THEY PULLED THE CARTS AND WAGONS UP AND DOWN THE LANE. PONY AND TRAP USUALLY MR. TOM PINNEY OR THE CHIMNEY SWEEP.

PIGS GRUNTING, THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE HAD A PIG-STY IN THEIR GARDEN. FLOCKS OF SHEEP BEING DRIVEN IN THE LANE BY MEN AND DOGS.



CATTLE CONGREGATING IN THE GATEWAY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LANE WAITING TO BE MILKED.

THE RING OF THE BLACKSMITH'S HAMMER ON THE ANVIL. MR. GEORGE RANDS' STEAM ENGINE TOWING THE THRASHING TACKLE. STEAM TRAINS SOUNDING THEIR WHISTLE AT BILLING STATION (AN INDICATOR OF THE WIND DIRECTION). THE DOOR BELL THAT RANG WHEN ENTERING MR. GREENHAM'S SWEET SHOP. EARLS BARTON SILVER BAND PARADING ROUND THE VILLAGE BEFORE GOING TO THE CHURCH TO PLAY IN THE GALLERY FOR ECTON FEAST. STRUDWICK'S FAIR IN THE FIELD NEXT TO THE WORLDS END PLAYING HIT TUNES OF THE DAY. IT WAS HERE I SAW THE FIRST AUTOMATIC RECORD PLAYER FOR 78 RECORDS.

ALSO A FEW SMELLS:

THE BLACKSMITH BURING THE HOT SHOE ON TO THE HORSES' HOOF. THE HOT TAR WHEN THE ROAD WAS GRITTED. EVEN NICER THE SMELL OF NEW BREAD WHEN YOU FETCHED A LOAF FROM MR. CAMPION'S BAKERY.



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