

THE ECTON VIEW



March 2012

Issue 85

Parish and Village Organisations

Parish Council

Chairman: Anne Nicholson
Tel: 01604 410908

Bell Ringers

Contact: Jude Coulter
Tel: 01604 408588

Pre & Primary School

Head: Esther McIntosh
Tel: 01604 409213

Cricket Club

Captain: Steve Wheatman
Tel: 01604 401714

Youth Club

Contact: Margaret Tinston
Tel: 01604 412233
Margaret@ectonvillage.co.uk
Wednesday at Village Hall
6.00-7.30 Junior Youth Club
7.30-9.00 Senior Youth Club

Ecton Village Hall

Contact: Rodney Ingram
Tel: 01604 406038
Booking Clerk: Carol Armstrong
Tel: 01604 402907
Mobile: 07515 156419

Mums & Tots

Contact: Jenny 407474

Short Mat Bowls

Contact: Maurice Creed
Tel: 01604 407864

Church Directory

Priest in Charge

Chris Pearson
The Vicarage
72 High Street
Great Doddington
Wellingborough NN29 7TH
Tel: 01933 226711

PCC Secretary

Mr. Tom Pearson
The Vicarage
72 High Street
Great Doddington
Wellingborough NN29 7TH
Tel: 07745 133867

Churchwarden

Mark Aveyard
01604 811821

PCC Treasurer & Churchwarden

Mark Aveyard
28 Clarke Court
Earls Barton NN6 0XX
Tel: 01604 811821

Electoral Roll Officer

Mary Dicks
Field House
West Street, Ecton NN6 0QF
Tel: 01604 407145

**Our Local Police Constable
Elliot Lee. Tel:03000 111 222**

**Our Local Councillor
Jim Bass**

(Councillor for Sywell, Ecton and Mears Ashby, Wellingborough Borough Council)
e-mail: jim.bass@sky.com Tel+44 1604 647594 Mob +44 7711 103816

Editor's Ramblings

First an apology as I seem to have got the blame for the recent winter conditions following my comments in the February magazine, I will not tempt fate again! However there was the opportunity for the young and not so young to enjoy the snow, plenty of sledging took place, and some giant snowballs appeared along with an igloo. Hopefully now we can look forward to Spring with warmer days and even a chance that garden waste collections will start again, as they ended very early last year, before the garden stopped growing!

During February we had the classical guitarist Craig Ogden come to the village hall and give a superb performance, a report appears in this issue. The arrangement of the tables gave a relaxed bistro effect to the hall, a thank you to all involved and to Alistair and Pat MacRae for making it happen.

The next event is the FILM NIGHT at the village hall with a great film 'SAVING GRACE', a good choice. In this issue are dates for the ECTON WITCHES meetings for the year and forthcoming events for Ecton Golden Oldies. There is some really useful information on saving energy, changing energy suppliers, problems with loan sharks and bogus charity bags.

Had anything delivered badly, not delivered at all, if so have a word with Paul Godby, Ecton's expert in home delivery.

Copy for The April magazine to

Colin Tinston, Rectory Farm House, High Street

Telephone: 412233

e-mail: navigator@ectonvillage.co.uk

by 20th March

**In a curious way,
age is simpler than youth,
for it has so many fewer options**

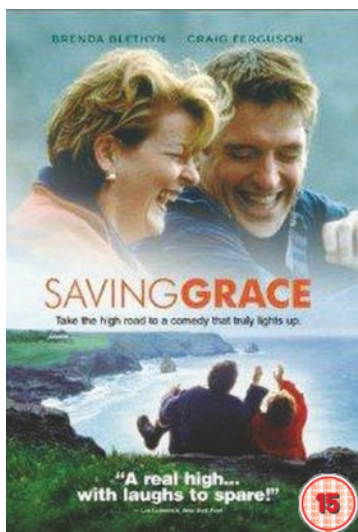
WINTER COMES TO ECTON



Ecton Cinema Night

Friday 23rd March, 8.00 pm

Licensed bar, doors open 7.30 pm



Saving Grace is a British comedy in which a small-town widow, facing financial troubles after her husband's death, turns to agriculture of an illegal kind.

Saving Grace was an award winner at the Sundance festival and nominated for BAFTA and Golden Globe awards.

The cast includes Brenda Blethyn, Craig Ferguson, Martin Clunes, Phyllida Law and Leslie Phillips.

Tickets £5 from Rodney Ingram on 406038

Coffee Rota		
March	4th	Wendy & Ingrid
	11th	Dorothy Creed & Ingrid Wright
	18th	Joy Wilson & Chris Jordon
	25th	Fiona Major & Linda Richards

Sidespersons			
March	6pm	4th	Marian Gleave & David Fuller
	9.15am	11th	Brian & Sylvia Saunders
	11am	18th	Linda & Steve Richards
	9.15am	25th	David & Mary Dicks

CHURCH LOTTERY February	
£50	P. Bilson
£10	Jean Haycox
£10	Colin & Claire Reid

CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2012

<u>Saturday 3rd</u>	10.00	Open Church – refreshments served.
<u>Sunday 4th</u>	18.00	Holy Communion
<u>Tuesday 6th</u>	10.00	Holy Communion (<i>Gt. Doddington</i>)
<u>Sunday 11th</u>	09.15	Holy Communion.
<u>Tuesday 13th</u>	10.00	Holy Communion (<i>Gt. Doddington</i>)
<u>Thursday 15th</u>	14.15	‘Pre-School Praise’ (<i>Gt. Doddington</i>)
<u>Sunday 18th</u>	11.00	All-Age Worship with Holy Communion.
<u>Tuesday 20th</u>	10.00	Holy Communion (<i>Gt. Doddington</i>)
<u>Sunday 25th</u>	09.15	Morning Prayer.
<u>Tuesday 27th</u>	10.00 14.30	Holy Communion (<i>Gt. Doddington</i>) Afternoon Songs of Praise.

From the Vicarage,



Over the past month we have had received two substantial falls of snow, causing some disruption to our lives, but as far as I know, none of our schools suffered closure this time, which is very good news. Once again this year I have been much impressed with the courage of the very fragile-looking snowdrops, aconites, and crocuses as they determinedly push their way through the snow and frozen ground to herald the end of the winter. As well as an encouragement I think they present us with a challenge too to face the difficulties that come around in life with a similar determination and courage. March sees (or should see) the beginning of the Spring and better weather approaching. Much as I enjoy our open log fires in the Vicarage I also love it when the time comes to empty the grate, put away the fire irons, and exchange the fire guard for the fire screen that we use during the summer months. We may not be there yet, but there are signs that that time is on the way.

Readers may be aware that the south aisle of the church building is still covered with plastic sheeting following the lead theft some time ago. Why is the repair taking so long? That's a very good question, but it does have an equally good answer. Having suffered two attacks in less than a year the Church Council decided that rather than simply repair the damage which would leave us vulnerable to further problems we would take the painful decision of using a substantial proportion of our financial reserves to have the whole of that roof replaced with an alternative material which cannot be stolen. Two different materials were considered and we have eventually decided upon a steel alternative with a coating that looks like lead, a material that is acceptable to all those from whom we have to gain permission. It is because of these necessary permissions (principally the diocese and English Heritage) that the work is delayed. We are very nearly there now and hope to have work on site very soon now.

At the beginning of this year we have had the sad but privileged task of conducting several funerals of elderly friends at Ecton Church. We began with **Diana Fry**, a member of the Sotheby family, on January 10th. The funeral of **Dorothy Austin** was on January 25th, **Godfrey Philcox's** was on January 31st, and more recently **Stella Bayes'** funeral took place on February 7th. Our sympathy and prayers are with all these families at this difficult time.

In the Church calendar this year the whole of March is in the season of Lent. There are two events or series of events which are coming up and I've deliberately cut my article a little shorter than usual to make room for little blocks to advertise them. The first is the Lent Course being run by 'Churches Together in Earls Barton and District' of which we are members, and that will already have begun by the beginning of the month. The second is the exciting 'Bishop's Bible Day' to be held on Saturday March 17th. Do come and join us.

With every blessing,

Chris Pearson.



The CountyConnect service is based on Lincolnshire's successful Call Connect service that has been running for over 10 years. It is designed to allow the bus to fit around anyone's needs, rather than an occasional service that really could only meet shoppers' needs.

Today we can take advantage of computer and mobile communications technology to schedule the bus to take people to their local towns when they need to go, six days per week. Many villages therefore have a daily service for the first time, and because the service is available from 7am-7pm Monday-Friday, as well as on Saturdays, it can meet demand for journeys to work or college, creating opportunities especially for younger people. You can also now easily reach a doctor's appointment, or take advantage of events and clubs, which was not possible when there was only a bus or two each week. Staying late after school for music or sports practice also now need not involve mum's taxi!

The service runs from bus-stop to bus stop. That means that many much more direct routes are available on CountyConnect. You can go directly to medical centres and supermarkets. Rather than change buses or walk a distance from the town centre bus stops as you did with fixed routes. We also have modern low-floor buses with plenty of space and wheelchair/buggy access. They are clearly branded.

CountyConnect is transforming rural accessibility. In fact, at a time when running a car is becoming especially expensive, it really might become possible to live without a second car in many villages. We have designed fares to be competitive with other bus services by distance. with returns and child discounts available to the age of 16. CountyConnect also discounts for regular users: a 12-journey ticket costs £29.50, for any distance trip. For families or groups of up to five people, you can take advantage of a group fare where up to 5 can travel for less than the price for two.

You do have to register to use the service, which is free of charge. Then you book each journey, as you need to, and pay or show your pass as you board. While we encourage people to book ahead to secure their journey, up to a week in advance, if you do need to go to town at up to an hour's notice it may well be that you can be accommodated.

Finally, if you need to travel further, we have a deal with Stagecoach that allows you to connect to most longer-distance buses within Northamptonshire and to some neighbouring counties. In the same way if your journey starts on a Stagecoach bus, show your valid Stagecoach ticket or pass to get the same deal on CountyConnect.

CRAIG OGDEN - CLASSICAL GUITARIST AT THE VILLAGE HALL



I feel very sorry for anyone who did not turn up to Ecton Village Hall on 18th of February, whatever excuse they might give themselves, because they missed a landmark event. I shall go so far as to say that Saturday, 18th February 2012 might even be one of the last chances to hear Craig Ogden play before he becomes the next Classical Guitarist Icon, taking his place alongside Andres Segovia, Julian Bream and John Williams.

A great musician is overwhelmed by their love for every aspect of the music they play. The hallmark of a really great musician is their ability to share that overwhelming love with their audience. On Saturday evening, Craig Ogden clearly showed his audience just how much he loves playing his guitar and how much he loves playing it really well. How he loves every sound, every tone, every colour that his guitar will produce. When he plays you have a sense that he can't wait to delight his audience with the next wonderful chord, the next surprising harmony, the next virtuosic progression of notes that the composer has placed on the page. As if he can hardly wait to show his audiences just how wonderful all of these notes and harmonies will sound when he strikes the strings of his beloved Greg Smallman guitar, just so... with just that colour, using just that gesture... There were times during the concert where I could almost hear him thinking, "and now listen to THIS!"

It is guitar playing that wants to share all of the music that he has discovered is wonderful, surprising and beautiful and the whole concert was filled with his enormous generosity of spirit. He presented a very brave programme. A lot of things you wouldn't expect in one place, Classical, Modern (not modernist, but pieces written recently by friends and colleagues), Jazz, Tango and Flamenco fusion all tied together with his own 'stand-up comic' presentation. The choice of programme was delightful, his stories had us rolling in the aisles, it was a treat. Try to hear him play as soon as you can.

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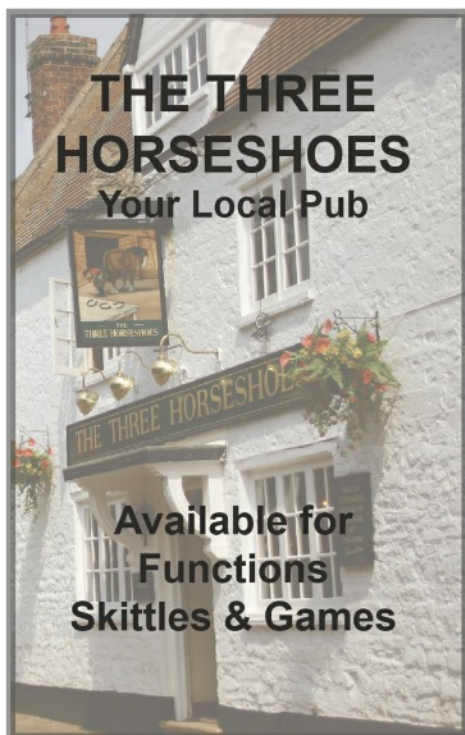
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Eyebrow Tint.....£4.00

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ECTON GOLDEN OLDIES

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

MARCH 2ND: music and lunch at the Three Horseshoes. 12noon for 12.30p.m. Simple lunch followed by music and a singsong with Brian Saunders. Please let your contact person know that you are coming.

APRIL (date to be confirmed) visit to Sywell museum and tea at the Aviator.

MAY (date to be confirmed) films and stories of old Ecton.

In addition all Ego's are welcome to come to the film night in March.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to: Joyce Orford, Phyllis Berrill, and Jean Ackroyd, all of whom have been in hospital recently.

QUEEN'S JUBILEE

Plans are underway for lots of fun in the village over the Jubilee weekend. We do, however, need to raise some money to support the entertainment. If you have any ideas for fundraising or know anyone who might donate something for us to raffle please let Sally know on 403027.

Watch this space for more details.



Ecton Witches

Ladies could you host / assist a witches evening??

Suggested dates

April 27th

June 29th

September 14th

October 26th

Witches bring £5.00 to cover cost of food and their own drinks, crockery, glasses etc.. are supplied. If you would like to volunteer or need more details – contact Nicky on 07973 353498 or 01604 406443.

Save money by switching your energy supplier or tariff?

Why switch

Energy prices are a big worry for people this winter. Consumer Focus is the consumer champion organisation for England and offers the following advice:

CHECK if there's a cheaper way to pay – you could save the most money by paying by Direct Debit, or moving to an online or dual fuel tariff. Monthly Direct Debit is on average £100 cheaper per year than paying by cash or cheque.

SWITCH to a cheaper energy tariff or energy firm – see below - you may be able to save up to £200 off your annual bill by shopping around for a different supplier, particularly if you have never changed energy firm.

INSULATE your home – energy suppliers are offering loft insulation, cavity wall insulation and other measures. Full loft and cavity wall insulation could help stop your home leaking heat and save you more than £100 per year on your energy bill.

How to Switch

Changing energy supplier can be one of the easiest ways to save money on your gas and electricity bills. However with so many different deals out there it can be difficult to find the best one. There are a few different ways you can find out about better energy deals. You can: visit the website of the supplier you would like to switch to or phone them to find out about their tariffs you can use a Consumer Focus accredited switching service from the below list:

www.beatthatquote.com 0845 652 1546

www.confused.com Online only

www.energyhelpline.com 0800 074 0745

www.energylinx.co.uk 0800 849 7077

www.fuelswitch.com Online Only

www.moneysupermarket.com 0845 345 1296

www.simplyswitch.com 08000 111 395

www.switchelectricandgas.com Online Only

www.theenergyshop.com 0845 330 7247

www.ukpower.co.uk 0800 093 2447

www.unravelit.com Online Only

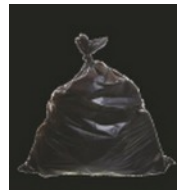
www.uswitch.com 0800 404 7908

www.whichswitch.co.uk 01992 822867

Consumer Focus publishes independent price factsheets that will help you see what prices the major energy companies charge you can find these and an online energy price comparison tool at <http://energyapps.consumerfocus.org.uk/price/> or you can phone Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06 to request copies. Remember you may be able to get a cheaper energy tariff from your current supplier so it is worth contacting them to discuss if you are on the best tariff they offer.

Bogus charity bags

Over 90% of the goods sold in charity shops are donated by members of the public and charities rely on this support and generosity. Household collections are a popular way for charities to collect donations, but beware – some of these collections are bogus.



Following a tip off from a member of the public, Trading Standards have seized a number of bogus charity collection bags which state that a pledge will be made to a named charity. In fact, the charity has not received any donations for nearly 18 months. The investigation into this incident is ongoing.

Donating your clothing and other goods to genuine charities helps to raise vital funds. But please make sure that your donation goes to a legitimate charity or organisation collecting on their behalf. Taking care when making your donation means that you can be sure that your help goes to those who really need it and that charities don't lose out.

Unfortunately, anonymous bogus collectors may try to exploit your generosity for their own gain. They may also steal donations left for collection by genuine charities. These bogus collections cost charities at least £2million every year.

Our advice is don't be taken in. Read the small print. Know where your donation is going – will it go direct to the charity or will the collector make a small donation based on an amount per tonne of clothing collected? Check contact details as they may be false. Are they clear? Is the charity specified?

If you have any doubts about bags or leaflets asking for donations, check them out.

Ring the Charity Commission helpline 0845 300 0218 or visit their online register of charities at www.charity-commission.gov.uk to see whether the name or number belongs to a legitimate registered charity

Contact your local borough or district council to see whether the collector has been licensed

If you are unsure take your donations directly to a charity shop

To report a concern to Trading Standards ring Consumer Direct on 08454 04 0506.

Surviving Winter

This is a national appeal initiated by people who wanted to donate their annual Winter Fuel Payment to support elderly and vulnerable people who cannot afford to stay warm.



Here in Northamptonshire we are urging local over 60s who receive but don't rely on the Winter Fuel Payment to DONATE IT. This is also a wider appeal so everyone can donate whatever they can afford to help.

Northamptonshire Community Foundation's Surviving Winter Appeal is raising much needed funds to help older and vulnerable people who will face the very real issues of whether they can afford to HEAT or EAT in Northamptonshire this winter.

How will the appeal help?

Funds will go to local charities and groups to ensure the most vulnerable and older people they are in direct contact with, will benefit from the funds we raise.

How can you help? Please give your support to this urgent local appeal and if you know others who may be willing to support us, please spread the word. Working together we can help local people stay warm, eat well and remain mobile this winter.

Call us on 01604 230033 or online at www.ncf.uk.com

Have you been bitten by a Loan Shark?

Have you or any one you know: Been offered a cash loan without paperwork? Been threatened when you couldn't pay? Had your benefit or bank card taken from you? Had a loan which keeps growing even though you are making payments?

If you can answer yes to any of the above you may have been bitten by a loan shark.

For confidential help and advice contact the **Illegal Money Lending Team on 0300 555 2222**

(Local call rate, including inclusive minutes from mobiles)

Email: reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk

Text: loan (space) shark (space) + your message to 60003

Web: www.direct.gov.uk/stoploansharks

Do you need help with debt?

Recent energy price rises, along with other rising costs and falling incomes, have left many people struggling to pay their energy bills. With the extra cost of winter heating bills ahead, many more people may go into debt to their energy supplier.

It can be daunting to be unable to afford your bill, with many people unaware of where to turn for help and what their next steps should be. That's why Consumer Focus and Citizens Advice are launching the joint campaign, 'Plug the Debt'. The aim is to help you find out what to do and what your rights are when you fall behind on your energy bills.

Anyone who wants to find out more about getting help or advice through the 'Plug the Debt' campaign should visit www.consumerfocus.org.uk/plugthedebt or

contact **Citizens Advice Bureau on 0844 855 2122 or 08444 111 444**

For further help and advice with any type of debt you can contact the following not-for-profit organisations for free, confidential and impartial advice, or for details of where to get advice in your area:

National Debtline: Telephone 0808 808 4000 or visit www.nationaldebtline.co.uk

Citizens Advice: For advice and information on debt and other topics, visit your local Citizens Advice Bureau or go to www.adviceguide.org.uk or 0844 855 2122 / 08444 111 444

If you would like advice on managing your money better contact -

The Money Advice Service: Telephone 0300 500 5000 or visit www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk



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PRESS RELEASE

Wrapped up for Winter

Serve, the Rushden based charity that provides services for older people, are one of the lead agencies in a new initiative aimed at helping vulnerable people, for example older people or those with long term health conditions, to keep warm and safe and to prevent them needing to go to hospital during the winter months.

The scheme, which has just been launched, is a partnership between NHS Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire county council, Nene Commissioning, Serve and other voluntary agencies and is part of a national initiative by the government.

Serve's Chief Executive, Barry Graves said "this is a very timely intervention in view of the recent cold weather and we are really pleased to be so actively involved. Any help that can be provided to ease the misery of people living in cold surroundings is welcome."

Winter packs informing people how to keep warm and well will be distributed by Serve throughout East Northants & Wellingborough during now and the end of March. These packs are for those most at risk and include thermometers, information on agencies that can provide immediate assistance and a practical checklist to ensure that you or some that you care for is warm this winter.

According to Mr Graves severe winter weather is a real threat to vulnerable people " we do urge you to check on neighbours, friends and relatives in high risk categories and let us know if you feel that help is needed. The sort of help that we can offer is providing hot drinks, meals and shopping. We have also been able to secure assistance with people's heating boilers and have issued blankets and heaters."

For further information about the support available
please call 01933 315555 or visit www.wrappedup.org.uk

TWO BIG EVENTS IN THE GODBY FAMILY



Welcome Silas Christopher Godby to the village
Born Saturday 14th January 00.18 weighing 6lb 6oz
Delivered at home by his stunned father!!!



Paul Godby's 30th birthday
(He is on the left of this picture)

Need Help in the Garden?

Royal Horticultural Society qualified,
experienced, friendly, reliable, lady Gardener.
Can provide reference if required.

Call Rowena on 07887 561574 or 01933 679597
until March, then 01604 812192.

A small cremation casket bearing the name 'Toby' was recently left in the church porch.
We suspect, but are not certain, that this contains the remains of a pet.
If the owner of the casket cannot be traced within 12 months,
then a decision will be made as to how best to dispose of the casket.
If you have any information please ring Chris Pearson on 01933 226711.

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Age 27

References available from Ecton Village
residents upon request.

Please call
07715 10 20 83

ECTON EDUCATIONAL CHARITY

This charity is available for persons
under the age of 25 years who or whose
parents are residents of Ecton, for
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