

THE ECTON VIEW

Issue 57 May



Church Directory

Priest in Charge

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

Churchwarden

Walter Barty
1 East Butterfield Court
Northampton NN3 8JG
Tel: 01604 642117

Churchwarden

Marlene Green

Reader

Tony Green
63 West Street
Ecton NN6 0QF
Tel: 01604 407141

PCC Secretary

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

PCC Treasurer

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

Parish and Village Organisations

Bell Ringers

Contact: Colin Tinston
Tel: 01604 412233

Cricknet Club

Captain: Steve Wheatman
Tel: 01604 401714

Ecton Village Hall

Contact: Rodney Ingram
Tel: 01604 406038
Booking Clerk:
Linda Richards 405888

Short Mat Bowls

Contact: Maurice Creed
Tel: 01604 407864

Parish Council

Chairman: Chris Petrie
Tel: 01604 788810

Pre & Primary School

Head: Esther McIntosh
Tel: 01604 409213

Womens Institute

Contact: Margaret Scott
Tel: 01604 414587

1st Tuesday in month
7.30 Village Hall

Youth Club

Contact: Margaret Tinston
Tel: 01604 412233
Margaret@ectonvillage.co.uk
Wednesday @ Village Hall
6.30-7.30 Junior Youth Club
7.30-9.00 Senior Youth Club

**Our Local Police Constable
Elliot Lee. Tel:08453 700 700**

Editors Ramblings

Alay I start this month with a huge thank you to the **Parish Council** for their increased contribution to the magazine, which will allow it to continue unaltered, and hopefully we will even be able to have a front cover in colour for the Christmas edition, (if I speak to our new printers nicely). However we will not rest on our laurels and intend to have a serious advertising drive, if you can help or have suggestions let either Sally Bresnahan or myself know.

Last month was the first printing of the magazine by **Minuteman Press** from Moulton Park Industrial Estate, and I think the standard was so much higher than previously and the sheen on the paper added to that. Well done **Minuteman!** And here's a '**did you know**' that the Minuteman statue was unveiled on the 19th April 1875 in Concord Massachusetts, not a lot of people know that!

Now I will start to ramble, the next page is all about church recording and this year Ecton Church is the chosen one. If you want to know more ring or email Jennifer Harrison, details included in the piece. We have a Parish Council report and a missive from Jim Bass, and for those who missed out by not knowing about the auction of the Ecton envelope sans letter its in this issue. The big event in the village last month was the planting of our new walnut tree in the park and there are pictures of this. However I have yet to be convinced (by WI members or others) how Penstemons can be interesting!

There is no quiz this month but if you would like to see one in the future give me a call, also if you are into music and would like to give me the 8 or 10 records you would take to a dessert island I would be pleased to receive them. Next month the music will be selected by **Simon Taylor** who is also allowed to take a bottle of his favourite red and white wine, and as it might be hot perhaps a bottle of rose as well. No pressure Simon.

Oh, yes, the sculpture in last months issue was 'The gates of hell' by Rodin and can be found in Paris.

Late news or rumour, high flyers from Surrey are moving into the Bakehouse so if they land I hope you will make them very welcome.

*Copy for The June magazine to
Colin Tinston Rectory Farm House High Street
Telephone: 412233*

**e-mail: navigator@ectonvillage.co.uk
by 22nd May**

"If you dont know where you are going, any road will get you there."

CHURCH RECORDING INFORMATION

Some years ago after a spate of raids on empty churches, NADFAS decided that it's members were ideally placed to organise the recording and photographing of everything that was inside their local churches, in the hope that some stolen items might be found and returned. In 2008 NADFAS presented the 1,000 Church Recording.

The information contained in the NADFAS Recording is a completely detailed record of a particular church at a certain date, they are proving a useful reference for researchers. As well as the principle Recording which goes to the Church that has been recorded, one copy goes to the V & A, who has devised the method of Recording, one to the local Record Office and one to NADFAS HQ.

The Northamptonshire Branch has so far recorded six churches. This year we will be presenting our Record to the Church of St. Etheldredas in Guilsborough. Last year we Recorded Ashby St. Ledgers Church, with it's strong connection with the Catesbys, we are beginning to put this Record together and when this has been done we shall begin to record the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Ecton.

It is not necessary to be a member of NADFAS to join a Church Recording Group, an interested member of the local church often joins us, we find this very useful as their local knowledge can often help with queries that arise, so we are always delighted to welcome new members to our group.

If you are interested in joining the Group for the Recording of Ecton Church, please let the Group Leader know, either by telephone 01-604-784980 or email: dobellharrison@aol.com.

Jennifer Harrison



*luxurious nightwear
with hidden talents...*

- back opening
- split sleeve
- can be opened
completely flat
- soft lingerie fasteners
- innovative easy
care fabrics

An easier life for wearers and carers

*"I only wish I had known about
you two years ago"*

- Carer with mother in nursing home

*"I found your nightdresses to be
invaluable"*

- Lady with MS

*"...for residents with painful stiff
limbs it's made dressing much
more comfortable"*

- Nursing Home manager



ALLANA www.allanasmyth.co.uk (01536) 764267

Church Cleaning Rota		Brass Cleaning	
Week		Team	
May	2nd	B	Marlene Green & Ingrid Cartwright
	16th	C	
	30th	A	

Coffee Rota			
May	6pm	3rd	No Coffee
	9.15am	10th	Dorothy Creed & Ingrid Cartwright
	11.00am	17th	Nick & Mary Greene
	9.15am	24th	Angela Allen & Rita Ward

Sidespersons		
May	3rd	Mick & Pauline Cook
	10th	David & Mary Dicks
	17th	Margaret Weddle & Walter/ Marlene
	24th	Marian Gleave & Nick Greene
	31st	JOINT SERVICE WILBY
June	7th	Brian & Sylvia Saunders

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR MAY 2009

- Saturday 2nd 10am-12noon Open Church
1.00pm Wedding of Stephen Brock and Amy Bresnahan.
- Sunday 3rd 6.00pm Holy Communion
- Tuesday 5th 10.30am Holy Communion
- Sunday 10th 9.15am Holy Communion
- Tuesday 12th 10.30am Holy Communion
- Sunday 17th 11.00am Holy Communion
- Tuesday 19th Please note, there is no midweek celebration of Holy Communion this week
- Thursday 21st **ASCENSION DAY**
7.30pm Holy Communion (hosted at Wilby)
- Sunday 24th 9.15am Morning Prayer
- Tuesday 26th Please note, there is no midweek celebration of Holy Communion this week
2.30pm Afternoon Songs of Praise
- Sunday 31st PENTECOST (Whitsun)
10.00am. Fifth Sunday joint Service (hosted this time at Wilby)
N.B. There is no service at Ecton today

From the Vicarage,



I am writing this month following Easter. In our group of three churches we had a very full programme and I must say I have been very grateful for a few days' break to recover since! As always it was a wonderful time, though, not least in the events that took place at Ecton. Two in particular stay in my mind, both of which took place on Good Friday. Sadly, the first I was unable to attend because of duties elsewhere, but people are still talking about the wonderful Family Service on Good Friday morning. This was led by Tony Green and Christine Burnett (another Reader from our area) and I understand there was a large congregation with lots of children present – whoever said there were no children in Ecton?

Secondly, on Good Friday afternoon we were privileged, at our 'Hour Before The Cross' to have a visiting minister to lead us through our meditation. Charles May, a retired clergyman from Peterborough, is a very old friend of mine and it was a delight to receive from him this year. The service was divided into two parts and He spoke very movingly of the place of the crucifixion and the person crucified. Then as usual the Church was beautifully decorated with flowers for Easter Day and we are most grateful to all those who worked very hard to achieve such a lovely effect and atmosphere for our worship.

At the end of May comes Ascension Day (Thursday 21st) and Pentecost (Sunday 31st). These are both important events in the annual calendar and on both occasions this year the special services for our group of churches will be hosted at Wilby. Do come and join us (see the services list for full details).

Since I last wrote there have been more important world events. We have been shocked by not one, but two helicopter crashes, one including fatalities. There were also the terrible earthquakes in Italy. Our hearts go out to those who were injured as well as to the relatives of those who were killed. We have been remembering them in our prayers both in Church services and through our regular prayer list on the weekly notice sheet.

With Easter past, and somewhat later than last year, our thoughts are turning towards what the summer holds for us. I am very much enjoying time in the garden as I'm sure many of our readers are, and perhaps we are planning holidays too. For the youngsters, of course, there are important things at school before then – exams, or S.A.Ts. perhaps, sports days, and all the other things that the summer term regularly holds. One piece of advance news for children – we shall again be holding a Holiday Club during August for all primary age children. This will take place in the Memorial Hall at Great Doddington, but as last year children from Ecton will be most warmly invited. This takes place in the week beginning Monday August 24th and full details will be published, together with application forms, straight after half term.

For the grownups, perhaps as well as the gardening there is Spring Cleaning at this time of year, or even the need to wield a paint brush! There is always so much to do, our lives always seem over-full these days. However, it's really important to find space in all the busyness, just to stop and reflect. We all need that whether we have a Christian faith or not. It's so easy in our busy world to lose our sense of perspective and then things get out of proportion and the wrong things gain the most importance.

With very best wishes,

Chris Pearson



Friends of Ecton Village Primary School

West Street, Ecton

Northamptonshire

NN6 0QF

Tel: 01604 409213



The Friends of Ecton Village Primary School are looking for local stallholders to run their own stall at our Summer Fete on Friday 3rd July 2009.

Do you:

- make your own craft items?
- make your own jams/chutneys?
- grow your own vegetables to sell?
- or bedding plants/vegetables that you've grown?

If so, I would love to hear from you if you would like to have a stall at our Fete.

Please contact me on 01604 787810 or

email me – ali@brandham.co.uk

I look forward to hearing from you!



Alison Brandham



Chair – Friends of Ecton Village Primary School

Envelope fails to sell at auction

The stamps were among the first to be issued from the Straits Settlements. An envelope posted from the Far East to Northampton more than 140 years ago has failed to sell at auction.

The letter inside is missing, but the envelope has three first-issue stamps from the Straits Settlements - now part of Malaysia.

It was sent to a Mrs Isted at Ecton Hall, near Northampton, in 1868.

The envelope, for sale by V.T. Nathan, president of the Philatelic Society of Malaysia, had been expected to fetch more than £1,500 at Spink in London.

Red Sea

The Straits Settlements became a British crown colony in 1867 but was later dissolved as part of the British reorganisation of its Southeast Asian dependencies after World War II. Senior stamp specialist at Spink, Nick Startup, said: "The stamps are first-issue stamps from when the Straits Settlements became a crown colony.

"These were part of one of the first sets that were issued.

"Unfortunately the letter is not with it, which is usually the case with these old letters, and means it is hard to know the story around it.

"The letter would have come over by boat, it was before the Suez Canal was open so it would have gone through the Red Sea then taken across land, then on another boat to Southampton and up to London, then Northampton."



The month of April gave us the privilege of having John Lee of Froggery Cottage Gardens, Desborough giving us a very interesting talk on Penstemons. John has the worlds largest collection of over 450 varieties on show of these plants. His garden is open to the public during the summer with lunches and teas served.

That evening all of us who attended managed to purchase one of these plants. They have a very pretty flower which lasts for many months outdoors. So Ecton gardens should have a good show this year.

The next meeting is the AGM Tuesday 5th May followed by a walk, weather permitting.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Denise Collacott

Stones

Telephone: 01604 406466
Fax: 01604 785020
Mobile: 07802 836086
Email: Buildwithstones@aol.com

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QUARTER PAGE	£40.00
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CONTACT
SALLY BRESNAHAN
01604 403027

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ON THE ECTON VILLAGE WEBSITE
UNDER THE MAGAZINE SECTION



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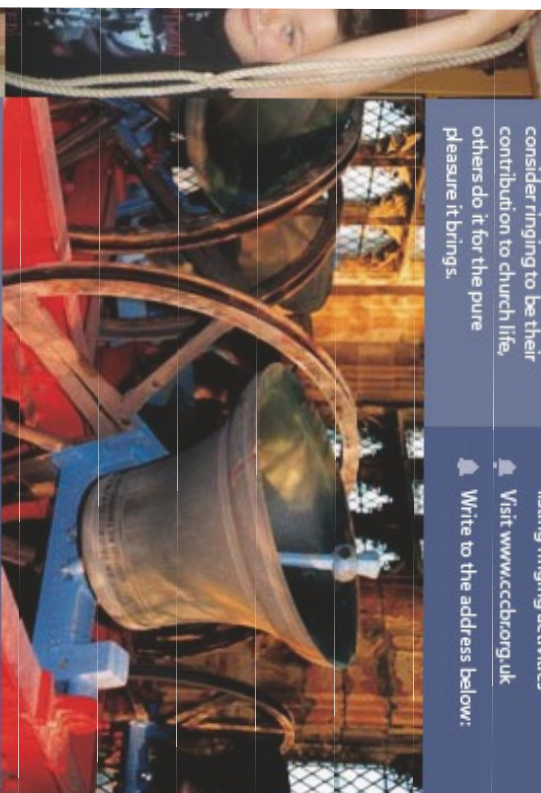
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Ecton Witches



“Dogs have Owners, Cats have Staff.”

The White Witch

by James Weldon Johnson

O brothers mine, take care! Take care!
The great white witch rides out to-night.
Trust not your prowess nor your strength,
Your only safety lies in flight;
For in her glance there is a snare,
And in her smile there is a blight.

The great white witch you have not seen?
Then, younger brothers mine, forsooth,
Like nursery children you have looked
For ancient hag and snaggle-tooth;
But no, not so; the witch appears
In all the glowing charms of youth.

Her lips are like carnations, red,
Her face like new-born lilies, fair,
Her eyes like ocean waters, blue,
She moves with subtle grace and air,
And all about her head there floats
The golden glory of her hair.



NEXT
GATHERING
JULY 24th
at
Mary Dicks
407145

“How can a woman be expected to be happy with a man who insists on treating her as if she were a perfectly normal human being.”

Letter sent to the

101 Coton Lane,
Tamworth,
Staffordshire.
B79 7SP

24th March 2009

The Secretary,
Ecton Parish Magazine,
Ecton,
Northamptonshire.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am hoping that you might be able to help me. I saw a page from your magazine, dated December 2005 on the internet. It was written by Betty Shearing. It mentioned a blacksmith "Fob" Frost Baker. He was my great uncle, the brother of my grandfather, Montague Baker. They were both born in Bugbrooke. There was a photograph of Frost and he looked very much like my grandfather.

I remember, as a small child, being taken to see him and aunt Lizzie at Ecton.. They lived in a tiny old cottage and had a large rabbit, called punch.

Would it be possible to obtain a copy of the photograph and are there any more available of him or his cottage? I would, of course, cover the cost. I enclose a s.a.e. in case you can help.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret A. Smith

+++++

Our thanks to Rodney Ingram who sent her a photo

CHURCH LOTTERY	
April	
£50	P. Charles
£10	V. Price
£10	N. Greene
£10	R. Ingram
£10	B & S Hilton

This is the last draw for 2008/9

The new lottery year will start in May as usual £12 for the year to April 2010.

If anyone new to the village would like to join in please contact: Angela Crabtree, 1 Barton Fields.



The Diary.

Since the last Missive I have attended some sixteen formal meetings on Council business of varying importance and relevance. So I was intrigued when a villager recently said to me “You attend an awful lot of Council Meetings at which I gave a casual shrug and said “part of the job”, but then this person said “you get paid for each meeting you attend don’t you” I said “I wish I did” at this point it occurred to me that maybe I was being linked with the full time politicians some of whom appear to be extracting income and expenses beyond what they should do, so it occurred to me that perhaps there was some public interest in the amount I get paid as a Councillor, my annual gross allowance is £3,356.00 I also receive travelling expenses for formal Council business but not for Ward Councillor activities. The list and amounts for this year are as below:

Period	Reason	Amount
May to July 2008	Travel/Mileage	£115.53
Sept to November 2008	Travel/Mileage	£114.42
Nov to December 2008	Travel/Mileage	£93.77
December to February 2009	Travel/Mileage	£117.21
February to March 2009	Travel/Mileage	£40.04
	Total	£480.97

So it is a princely sum is it not! I have always said that I do not do this job for money and I think most would agree that these amounts just about cover most of my costs.

And now for the name dropping bit, at the end of March we enjoyed a “Lunch with David Cameron”. For me this was a memorable occasion. David was very impressive, he spoke for about ten minutes and then answered questions. There was supposed to be a protocol of who would ask the questions as a result of a “draw” but he would have none of it and said “I don’t do it like that, I take questions from anybody in the order I see them with their hands up. “He then spent the next hour or so answering questions!

Council Meetings

We have had a lot of Council meetings since the last missive, Resources are working through new protocols of expenditure based more on private enterprise operation and justification. I mentioned in an earlier note that our Financial Department have been most prudent and unlike many other Council’s our Investments are in “solid” fund management, nevertheless our dividends and interest are almost at rock bottom. This means that we are down in income by approximately £3million. To a Council of some £13 million Revenue this is a significant figure which in effect means we have to save this amount or continue to draw from Reserves and or try any other combination. I hope that we do not have to make any staff redundant as when I was in private business this was the hardest and toughest task I ever had to do.

The Zero Budget Based (ZBB) groups are tasked with saving money and reducing costs and increasing efficiency I am personally working in three areas of the Council namely Business Support Unit, Planning and IT. Each of these sections will be investigated with meticulous care to wean out any unnecessary expenditure.

On the 2nd April we had the Annual Report of the Council which enabled us to interrogate the Officers in an open forum, It is always good to have Officers face the Members and have a good discussion across the board of Council activities, it seems so easy for some, to get “closeted” and that does not lead to good governance.

The Public Inquiry into the Core Spatial Strategy (CSS) Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF) began at the Saints Rugby Ground. The Inquiry is to determine the strategy for the disposal of waste (such as kitchen waste) and the Mineral extraction from the Nene Valley. It is forecast that we will need to handle nearly 800,000 tons of waste per annum by 2012. I attended the first session in order to develop a sense of this procedure and the type of Inspector involved. I have hitherto not been very impressed with Inspectors as they seem to run only to the Central Government agenda and will completely over rule local Councils. This Inspector however was fastidious in the extreme and within the space of the first few hours he had given one of the County Council officers what amounted to an inquisition.

Local Activities

I was pleased to attend a tree planting in Ecton, this was a replacement Walnut tree in the play area behind the Worlds End Pub. It was great to see so many youngsters helping to dig the hole and clearly taking a great interest in the tree, let's hope they continue to do so.

Part of my Borough Councillors Fund has been spent by Sywell Parish Council on a range of shrubs at the Playing Field, We were please to attend the planting and look forward to seeing the benefit to the community in due course.

We also attended the Official opening of the Beckworth Emporium I imagine most have been to "check it out" but if you haven't you should!

Aviation

I mentioned in the last Missive that a date was set to meet with Blades, This has now taken place and I was accompanied by **Chris Petrie (Chairman of Ecton Parish Council)** we had an interesting, informative and hopefully productive discussion. One of the main concerns is that the flying "in formation" at high speed over the villages was very disturbing particularly in the mornings when people who had been on nightshift were trying to get some sleep. Blades have agreed to look at their program and see how it can be modified they have also agreed to try not to join into formation over Ecton village to begin what they call their "Arrival" routine. We will be happy to continue to work with Blades in the interests of being "good neighbours".

Sywell Aerodrome

I received a telephone call late in March to inform me that there was a serious amount of "felling" going on in Sywell Wood. Sywell Wood is at the eastern end of Sywell Aerodrome and is owned by the Pytchley Hunt and let to the Forestry Commission (FC) on a 999 year lease. Together with a member of the Pytchley Hunt I visited the site and was amazed (as he was) to find some 40 acres of total waste-land filled with wood chips. We are attempting to determine who has felled the trees and upon whose instructions. According to the FC part of this area of the wood is designated "ancient woodland" with trees up to 80 years old and is adjacent to a Roman Pottery Discovery Site which also seems to have been destroyed. It may be that the Roman site has determined as required by the Secretary of State but we will need to see evidence to support this. There is another point at issue that is that the hedge and ditch boundary have also been destroyed and ploughed over.

I have said for some time that the runway is not in the correct position and now have the evidence to confirm the point, interestingly there was a heated discussion with a prominent member of the community recently who said that I was talking nonsense with respect to the alignment of the new all weather runway and that I was totally wrong to state that the runaway pointed to the Pub Car Park and over the pond. So I sent him the photographs I had taken from the air to prove it, some two weeks ago, I have not heard anything since!

As ever if you have any queries please contact me and remember, I cannot help you if I do not know of your problem.

Jim Bass

(Councillor for Sywell, Ecton and Mears Ashby, Wellingborough Borough Council)

e-mail: jhbass@btconnect.com Tel+44 1604 647594 Mob +44 7711 103816

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Ecton held in The Village Hall, High Street, Ecton on Tuesday 17th March 2009 at 7.00p.m.

Mr. C. Petrie - Chairman

PRESENT: Mr. W. Brophy, Mr. J. Crabtree, Mr, D, Dicks, Mrs. K. Humphreys, Mr. T. Moffett, Mrs. A. Nicholson

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillor Mr. J. Bass
2 Parishioners

15/09 APOLOGIES for non attendance were received from Mrs. C. Montgomery and Mr. A. Stones

16/09 MINUTES of the meeting held on 20th January 2009 as previously circulated, were read, confirmed and with a few minor corrections were signed as a correct record.

17/09 MATTERS ARISING
Lower Ecton Lane

Reported that fly tipping continues at Anglian Waters pumping station but is cleared on a regular basis.

The re-alignment of the entrance is still awaited, Clerk asked to contact Anglian Water when work is expected to be completed

Communities in control real people power

Following the attendance at the last meeting of The Leader of the Borough Council Mr. J. Bailey and Mrs. Martin-Bennison, Chief Executive, the Clerk presented a letter from Mr. S. Wood, Head of Built Development in response to the various points raised.

The Parish Council noted the contents

Notice Board

The Parish Council considered a quote for a replacement notice board at a cost of £1,318.33 plus VAT.

Members considered the cost high and agreed to obtain a further quote.

The Council were reminded that funds were available from their County and Borough Councillor's

18/09 SYWELL AERODROME

Noted that a meeting between Sywell Aerodrome and the Department of Transport at which Sywell Aerodrome were informed that membership of the Joint Consultative Council is as laid down in the constitution and no one party can decide the make up of the Committee

Mr. Bass advised that he was still receiving complaints regarding Blades flying over villages either undertaking aerobatics or flying information.

A meeting is now to be arranged with Blades to discuss the problem, Mr. Petrie agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

Complaints are still being logged regarding the amount of mud being deposited on the highway, Mr. Bass had visited the site and found that there no wheel washing facilities and drivers were no aware of the need to clean their vehicles. Mr. Bass had asked the County Council to suspend any lorry movements until the proper cleaning equipment had been installed also the roads cleaned of all mud deposits.

19/09 PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk advised that he had contacted Wilby Trees on two or three occasions regarding arranging a new date for planting of the Walnut Tree.

Unfortunately he had not received a reply directly but understood Wilby Trees had contacted Jim Crabtree.

Agreed to hold the tree planting during the Easter Holidays and the Chairman agreed to liaise with the Youth to agree a date. Wilby trees again are asked to provide a quote for providing a guard for the tree

20/09 STREET LIGHTS

Light No 30, Church Way has been reported as damaged, unfortunately it is one of the ornate type and difficulties may be experienced in finding the necessary parts.

21/09 POLICE

Reported that the Police are undertaking a 12 week survey of speeding along the A4500.

To date 9 speeding incidents had been recorded but there had been no serious accidents

22/09 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Following discussions with the County Council regarding lack of directional signage to Ecton they have now agreed to the following additional signs

Sign 1 - Wilby Way Roundabout, Wellingborough - on the splitter island as you enter Wilby.

Sign 2 - Earls Barton - on the A4500 approach to Earls Barton crossroads.

Sign 3 - Great Billing Way - at the Ecton Brook roundabout.

Sign 4 - I will arrange for the local direction sign on the A45 slip road to be amended to indicate 'Ecton' to the left and for the existing 'Ecton' to the right to be plated over (this indicated the route via Lower Ecton Lane).

The County Council have advised that consideration for installing VAS signs on the A4500 will be considered under Phase 4 which will start in the Autumn.

Crash barriers adjacent to the bus stop on the A4500 have now been replaced.

All though reported that repairs had been undertaken to the footpath which runs from adjacent to 27 High Street to the Church, unfortunately the work has not been completed. Clerk to pursue.

Clerk to ask Wellingborough Borough Council to undertake a litter pick on the A4500 from the Northampton Borough boundary to Wilby roundabout

A village litter pick has been arranged for 19th March 2009

Problems still persisted in West Street with heavy and long vehicles entering and having to turn round, the latest was a County Council lorry.

Clerk to advise the monitoring officer for the County Council who is dealing with the problem

23/09 PLANNING

DA/2009/0026/LN:	West Lodge, Sywell Road	
	Upgrade of communications station	APPROVED
DA/2008/0511/F:	4, Barton Fields	
	Single and two storey extension	APPROVED

24/09 MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Noted that representations have been made to the Programme Officer for the Northamptonshire Minerals & Waste Core Strategy Independent Examination
RESOLVED that the balances as presented be accepted .

Agreed not to participate in the 2009 Village of the year competition

27/09. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on Tuesday 19th May, 2009 at 7.00pm.

OUR NEW WALNUT TREE

with the installation team

Many thanks for your help. I know it has been a long drawn out process. I was surprised at the turn out and was nice to see such community spirit (which is rare these days).

Regards

Steve

Wilbytree Surgeons Ltd

Towerfield Farm

Sywell Lane

Ecton

Northampton



You may have noticed that the play-park has recently benefited from a new black walnut tree, near to where the old walnut tree used to be. The old tree was diseased and falling branches had caused physical damage, but many of us were disappointed to see it go. We were very grateful therefore when Wilby Trees offered a replacement tree, free of charge, as a donation to our village. Mrs Freda Richards, of Mears Ashby, also had an old fund from previous times, which she kindly agreed to donate for the very nice black frame to protect the young tree. With the help of Margaret Tinston and Any Reid, a good number of children and youths in the village agreed to help plant the tree; many of them use the park regularly and we hope this involvement will help engender some pride and ownership of the tree and the park generally among the younger people.

On the day, Tuesday 7 April, Steve Bassford of Wilby Trees brought along the tree and guard, and proved his strength by carry the tree in by himself – I could hardly lift it, never mind carry the thing! But he was happy to step back and let the children dig much of the hole themselves, occasionally assisted by members of the Parish Council (usually when they thought a camera was near them!). I should particularly mention Liam Tinstons' efforts, as he put in much of the tree guard in himself.

When the tree was successfully planted, we all moved to the wall between the park and The Worlds' End, where some paint had been sprayed on. Further considerable time and effort was made by the children, youths and adults in cleaning much of this off. We had a few materials to help us, but elbow grease was basically the main component. By the end, much of the unsightly paint was cleared and Amy took the opportunity to sell part of her tuck-shop to the hungry children – never a missed opportunity! They say the sun shines on the righteous, well it shone well for us that day, and by the end we were all pleased with our new tree and the general appearance of the play park. My thanks again to all those who got involved, and I hope as many people as possible continue to use and enjoy our village park.

Chris Petrie,

Chairman, Ecton Parish Council



AND THE WORK DID NOT STOP AFTER THE PLANTING
AS THE YOUTH CLUB SET ABOUT REMOVING
GRAFFITI FROM THE PARK



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