

# THE ECTON VIEW

“A wet May makes a big load of Hay.  
A cold May is kindly and fills the barn finely”

Issue 47

May 2008

## 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

Mrs Gillian Littlewood  
22 Church View, Ecton  
Northampton NN6 0QL  
Tel: 01604 409422

### 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

### Fellowship

Contact: Joyce Orford  
Tel: 01604 414245  
2nd Tuesday in month  
2.30pm Village Hall

### Cricket Club

Captain: Steve Wheatman  
Tel: 01604 401714

### Ecton Village Hall

Contact: Rodney Ingram  
Tel: 01604 406038  
Booking Clerk: Linda Richards 405888  
Jenny Moffett 407474

### Short Mat Bowls

Contact: Maurice Creed  
Tel: 01604 407864

### Parish Council

Chairman: Chris Petrie  
Tel: 01604 788810

### Pre-School

Now relocated to the school  
Contact: Mrs Vicki Burrows

### Primary School

Head: Vicki Burrows  
Tel: 01604 409213

### Womens Institute

Contact: Gill Leggett  
Tel: 01604 414216  
1st Tuesday in month

7.30 Village Hall

### Youth Club

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

## Editors Ramblings

I am ready for summer, but will we have one? During April last year we thought summer had come early, but unfortunately it only lasted three weeks followed by a miserable wet summer.

A Sunday afternoon in 1949 looks as though the weather was good as can be seen in a picture on the next page, villagers on 'the old mans seat'.

In this issue we have a return of Ecton's dessert island disc page with strawberry fields, one of my favourites, getting picked. Also we have the return of the country file.

Put Sunday June 8th in your diaries for a new event at the village hall, 'The Great Ecton Breakfast', come between 8am and mid-day and enjoy having breakfast cooked for you. Details in this issue, so book your tickets as soon as possible.

Whilst writing this I have learnt of the death of a friend 'Gentleman Tony Weddle', it will seem strange not to see him picking up the papers from the pub and doing his circular route through the churchyard and back up the high street. He will be greatly missed.

For previous 'Lunch Club' members there is a special summer lunch being arranged by Sheila Ingram, details in this magazine. You will also find a picture of Ecton's newest resident, or was at time of writing but probably not by the time you read this.

If you are interested in walking join an arranged walk around Summerleys nature reserve on the 18th May, perhaps the start of the 'Ecton Walking Club'.

The end of a successful rugby season at the Saints with promotion back to the premiership where we belong, but what do I do on Saturday afternoons now? Answers on a postcard!!

Copy for *The June* magazine to  
Colin Tinston Rectory Farm House High Street  
Telephone: 412233  
e-mail: [navigator@ectonvillage.co.uk](mailto:navigator@ectonvillage.co.uk)  
**by 22nd May**

Walk lightly in the spring; Mother Earth is pregnant

## Sunday Afternoon - 1949



back row.....Francis Wright - David Pinney - Jean Tebby - Sam Labrum

front row.....Stan Johnson - Alan Wright - Lionel "Chas" Johnson -  
    Sylvia Johnson - Vic Lester - Dick Smith and Rita

**Letter from Pauline & Len Arlott sent with the above picture**

Dear Colin

Len and I are not computer literate, but our son often looks at the Ecton Website. He saw a photo of Geoff Harlott and Tom Dicks recently which prompted me to look at my old photos of Ecton.

Geoff is Len's brother (we dropped the H many years ago). He gave us your address and I thought you might be interested in this photo taken in 1949. We called it 'the old man's seat' at the top of the village. It was at the junction of the old A45 and Sywell Lane.

Well, many memories, some happy some sad. Both len's cousins Lionel and Stan died relatively young but Dick Smith died very tragically. He was only 22 doing his National Service in Pakistan and was electrocuted accidentally whilst developing photos in the club room. His dad was the local gamekeeper.

I spent some of my happiest years in Ecton.

## Church Diary

**Thursday 1st May**

7.30pm

St. Nicholas, Great Doddington

**Saturday 3rd May**

10am-12noon

**Sunday 4th May**

6.00pm

**Tuesday 6th May**

10.30am

**Sunday 11th May**

9.15am

**Tuesday 13th May**

10.30am

**Sunday 18th May**

11.00am

**Tuesday 20th May**

10.30am

**Sunday 25th May**

9.15am

**Tuesday 27th May**

10.30am

**Ascension Day**

Holy Communion at

**Open Church**

Quiet Prayer/Tea Coffee

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Parish Communion

Holy Communion

**Day of Pentecost**

Parish Communion

Holy Communion

**Trinity Sunday**

Parish Communion

Holy Communion

**First Sunday after Trinity**

Morning Prayer

Holy Communion

## Ecton Summer Lunch Party

You are invited to lunch on Wednesday 11th June at 12.30pm at the village hall.

The cost will be £4 to include a glass of wine or a soft drink. **All previous Lunch Club members** and anyone else who would like to come will be most welcome.

Please let me know if you will be joining us by Monday 2nd June.  
Sheila Ingram Tel: 01604 406038

### ECTON WALKERS

Explore the lush Nene Valley below great Doddington, an area transformed from disused gravel pits into beautiful lakeland.

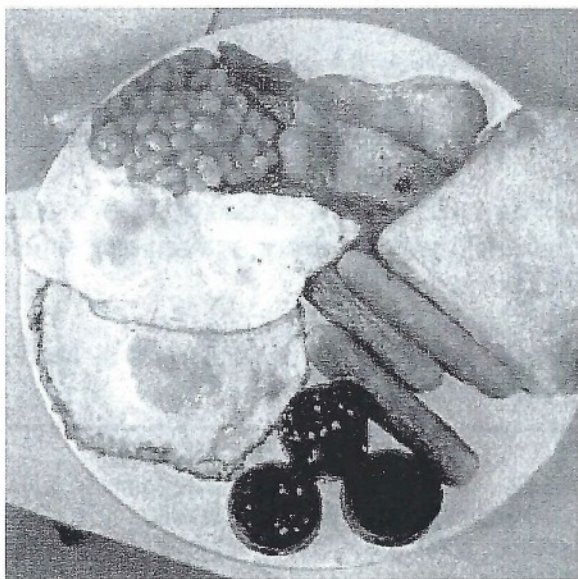
It is a marvellous place to see a wide range of wildlife, including migrant birds, wildflowers, dragonflies and bats.

I will arrange a walk for Sunday 18th May, around Summer Leys and Great Doddington, approx 4 1/2 miles

**Anyone who would like to come needs to book a place by telephone John or Nicky on 01604 406443 or email: nicola\_buckley@sky.com**

**The Great Ecton Breakfast  
at the Village Hall  
on June 8th between  
8am and mid-day**

**Come and enjoy  
a good Sunday morning breakfast  
read the papers (provided)  
without the effort of doing it.  
Cost £5 & £2.50 for under 10's**



**Tickets from  
Kerri Pulford 413585 or  
Margaret Tinston 412233**

## Country File.

*"As the days lengthen, so the cold strengthens" – this has certainly been true following the mildness of February. This year March came in 'like a lion' but did not 'go out like a lamb'! However, we are now truly into Spring which is a long gradual process and not something that happens overnight. There are so many wonderful changes to the countryside and our gardens at this time of year with a lot of things starting to burst back into life again and creating such a dramatic background to our daily lives. The birds have started to sing their songs again, the hedges are already greening-up, the fields of grass and corn are starting to grow again, the fields of oilseed Rape are turning bright yellow but the recent display of white blossom in the hedgerows and the late reminder of wintry weather has heralded in the blackthorn winter. It is to be hoped that the frosts will not have ruined the plum blossom which is very vulnerable. Hopefully it will be that the 'March winds & April showers bring forth May flowers'.*

*The sheep returned to their fields with their new lambs a few weeks back and now that the lambs are getting stronger they can be seen gathering in the early evening for their daily routine of racing each other around the field !*

*Although the oak trees are very much in bud at present it is difficult to know if it will be 'oak before ash we shall only have a splash' as normal or whether it will be a repeat of last year when the ash won the contest and we certainly 'had a soak' !!*



Church Cleaning Rota		Brass Cleaning	
Week		Team	
May	3rd	C	Volunteers needed
	17th	A	
	31st	B	
June	7th		Marlene Green & Ingrid Cartwright

Coffee Rota			
May	6pm	4th	No Coffee
	9.15am	11th	Margaret Weddle & Anne Henderson
	11.00am	18th	Gilly Littlewood & Joy Wilson
	9.15am	25th	Fiona Major & Sue Bush
June	6pm	2nd	No Coffee

Sidespersons		
May	4th	David & Mary Dicks
	11th	
	18th	Marian Gleave & Nick Greene
	25th	Brian & Sylvia Saunders
June	1st	Mick & Pauline Cook

**This is the last lottery draw for the year 2007/8**

Collectors will be going around the Village to collect the annual lottery payment of £12 from those people who wish to continue for 2008/9 Anyone in the

Village is eligible to take part and newcomers are very welcome. The money raised through the lottery is divided :- 50% going towards the upkeep of Ecton Church and 50% is spent through the year in monthly prizes.

If you miss out on a collector calling and would like to take part please contact Angela 404777.

CHURCH LOTTERY April	
£50	B. Beck
£10	R. Ward
£10	P. Baylis
£10	J. Coulter
£10	Y. Miller

**ECTON FELLOWSHIP**

Our next meeting is on Tuesday May 13th, 2.30pm at 40 High Street. Tony Green is coming to tell us more of his life and work in the parish.

Everyone is welcome.

**Joan Dickins**

Our Christian Aid Lunch will now take place in the Autumn.

Details will follow in the village magazine.

## From the Vicarage,



Since I last wrote an article for the village magazine a great deal has happened in the life of the Church. We have had Easter for a start – the greatest of all the Christian festivals. It seemed odd this year with the school children not being on holiday, but it was a good time with some very memorable moments. A highlight for a number of us was the Passover Supper we held on Maundy Thursday evening. This took place in Ecton Village Hall, but was for all three of our villages. We were most grateful to Sheila Addison for organising the ceremonial meal and its explanation, and to Fiona Major from Ecton with a great team who served an excellent meal. This is but one example of a whole series of events that took place, leading us through Jesus' passion, death, and on to the resurrection on Easter Morning.

On a less celebratory note, we have been hit again by lead thieves at both Wilby and Doddington churches, although again Ecton seems to have escaped so far. We would ask that all readers remain very vigilant and please report anything suspicious to the police, one of the church wardens, or to me – whatever the time of day. In broad daylight thieves will often come for a reconnaissance visit to prepare for an attack. We would far rather be alerted to something that in the end is a false alarm than to miss the opportunity to protect the Church property and apprehend those responsible.

Plans are now being laid for more events during the summer, for many of which we hope that more folk from the village will join us. Just one example is that very soon we shall be publishing details of this year's holiday club for primary-age children. This has been organised for primary-aged children in Doddington and Wilby for the last few years and this year we shall be inviting children from Ecton to join in. Called 'Waste Watchers', this year's theme will be on looking after our planet and will take place at Croyland School, Wellingborough, August 18th –22nd. As last year there will be much fun and games, laughter, craft, and a full day out, as well as Bible teaching, worship, and learning more of how God wants us all to live. Make sure you book your child's place when the application forms are released.

In the world arena, in the past month we have all been appalled, I've no doubt, at the manner in which the Zimbabwean elections have been conducted. The refusal to publish a result of the presidential election is totally inexplicable. At best it is very childish, and at worst, I suspect something rather more sinister. By the time you read this we shall no doubt have moved on again, but as people who have had family in that country for a couple of generations now, Jo's heart and mine are especially torn. We must pray very urgently for the people of Zimbabwe, many of whom have a strong Christian faith, which, praise God, carries them through.

With very best wishes,  
**Chris Pearson**

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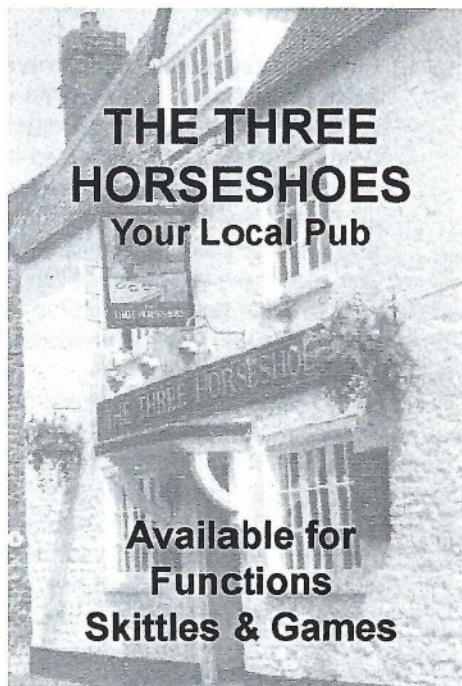
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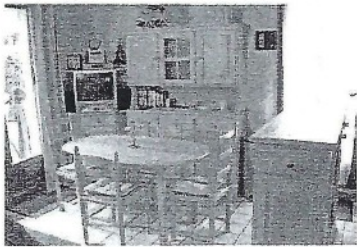
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## A few observations of the first ten years of Ecton W.I.



Women's  
Institute

Sometime previous to 1920 a Men's Institute had been set up in the old reading room, the ladies of the village not to be outdone decided to set up their own Ladies Institute on October 21st 1920. The Initial meeting was opened by Canon Jephson and a 'large number of ladies attended'. Mrs Sotherby was asked to be President with Mrs. Fields the first Chairman and Mrs Phipps the Secretary, six ladies were nominated for the committee, Mrs. Tangett, Mrs. Copnal, Mrs. Middleton, Miss Bazely, Miss Wigley and Mrs. A. Langley. Almost immediately it was decided to join The National Federation of Women's Institutes and so on January 20th 1921 a Mrs. Baker of Maidwell gave an excellent address on the advantages of being a member of the W.I. and the ladies voted by a large majority to join. The subscription for each member was 2 shillings a year with 6d to go back to the Federation 'to provide instructors in their different work'. It was decided that the age of admittance should be 14 years, but no one under 16 except members to be admitted to any social at the Institute.

The following is a list of miscellaneous items purchased

	£	s	p		£	s	p
matches & candles	0	0	4	1/2cwt coal	0	1	6
Hearth brush	0	1	9	Fire wood	0	1	0
picture hangers	0	1	0	Kettle	0	4	0
2 lamp glasses	0	3	6	ping-pong bats	0	3	0
hire of motor for althorpe	0	17	6	rent of room	0	8	0
spirit lamp tools	0	4	0	chairs mended	0	2	0

Like now the institute had to find ways to raise revenue and the most popular seems to have been Whist Drives in various guises, in 1922 there was a "Fancy Dress Whist Drive with each member bringing a male friend". Occasionally there were Orange & Lemon Whist Drives, these social occasions often included dancing and games.

Each year the Institute provided a tea for old people, this is the account of the January 2nd 1929 tea party. When 26 guests sat down to tea with the members, Canon Jephson kindly came down and said Grace for us. Mrs. Sotherby was unable to attend through illness but Col. Sotherby came down in her place and said how sorry she was to miss the one treat she looks forward to every year. Cakes were given by Mrs. Sotherby and 2 dz Oranges by Mrs. Fields. The members entertained with songs, competitions, games and monologues and all spent a very happy evening

Times were hard in the 1920's and so people were thrifty discarding nothing, instead finding another use. Various demonstrations were given to the members of the WI on how to be thrifty, Dust Brushes made from string, lessons on mending kettle lids and knife handles, Mrs. Middleton (Vera's mother-in-law) showed members how to make bedroom slippers out of cloth.

In April 1921 there was a prominent speaker, Chief Inspector Campbell on her work in the women's police. The fee for the speaker was one guinea, Mrs. Sotherby paid for the speakers travelling expenses and Mrs. Middleton paid for a room, supper and breakfast at Mrs. Johnson's. Members from local Institutes were invited to this event.

In the early 1920's there seems to have been a few altercations with the Men's Institute where an AGM was held to discuss the future control of the Piano which was handed to E W T for free use by Mr. Langley and Mr. Hall. A proposal was made to the men's committee to enable us to keep it locked after we had it repaired. Mrs Sotherby kindly paid for it.

By the late 1920's the institute was finding it hard to cover the rent and for a time members met at Mrs. Drummond'd house. However this was only a temporary arrangement and in 1929 the fortnightly meetings were held in the Rectory Room where they remained until the 1990's.

The research for this article was done by reading the WI committee minute book 1920 - 1930 and extracting information that may be of interest to the residents of Ecton in 2008.

Betty Shearing



Women's  
Institute

" Ecton Women's Institute continues to meet at the Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. We have a varied programme of speakers. On the 6th May we shall ask members to make the final choice on the Resolutions that will then be presented to the National Annual General Meeting by our delegate. There will be a short break after which we look forward to Mr. Tony Green introducing members to a set of Hand Bells.

More information from Gill Leggett, President  
(01604 414216) or

Susan Lewis Secretary (01604 785847.)

#### **As at 07/04/2008 - WARNING TO ALL MEMBERS OF C.A.T.**

There are two very strange things in the garden of our mentor A.Witch. (I have been in there a lot lately as my own small estate is being landscaped.) Yesterday I noticed two very large white things on the lawn. They were wearing hats, had what looked like carrot noses and corks for eyes and buttons. A Witch when approached said they were "Snow Chickens" - Chickens? They are huge! She watched me as I stalked them and thought it was very funny when I crept up on them from the back and licked them to see what they were - they were cold. When I asked how long they would be there she said that it could take weeks as they were solid ice and had been rolled right across Barton Field collecting snow as they went along. (From the smell they also collected grass, mud and sheep poo). She suggested I just make friends with them - she must be joking.

## Desert Island Discs

By Adrian Pulford

When I challenged the Editor/Navigator regarding the absence of this feature from the pages of this august journal I was hoisted on my own petard as he asked me to contribute accordingly. (I've forgotten what petard means but my Dad always used this expression and I continue the tradition in his honour). Anyway, here goes:

**Strawberry Fields Forever.** This classic Lennon-McCartney single was a Beatles double A-side with Penny Lane so I get two great songs for the price of one don't I? Released in 1967 when I was fifteen during the 'Summer of Love', this was the 'Lennon song' with Penny Lane the 'Macca song'. Recorded at Abbey Road during the Sergeant Pepper sessions it was released prior to the album to placate EMI, keen for a guaranteed number one single. As was Beatles custom the two songs were not included on Sergeant Pepper so as no to 'rip-off' their fans. Can you imagine that today!! Anyway, my favourite track of all time, I have played Strawberry Fields to wind up every DJ session I have ever done.

**Beethoven's 'Emperor' Concerto No.5 in E flat, Op.73.** Sorry to be specific but it must be by Daniel Barenboim, Otto Klemperer and the New Philharmonic Orchestra. I have other recordings of the 'Emperor' but this vinyl LP from 1969 is the only one for me. The second movement always brings me to tears when I play this recording but other recordings of the same piece do not have the same effect. Odd but true. My father and grandfather informed my appreciation of Beethoven and it just grows as I grow older. Surely the world's greatest composer?

**Comfortably Numb.** I bought 'Arnold Layne' half-each with my brother in 1967 so we were always big Pink Floyd fans. 'The Wall' came out in 1979 and produced Floyd's first number one single "Another Brick In The Wall (Part 2)" but my desert-island track from the album is "Comfortably Numb". Memorably, we took our father to see "The Wall" played live at Earls Court and during the first half they built a massive wall between the band and the audience. In the second half, a door opened in the wall thirty feet above us and David Gilmour played the towering guitar solo from this track whilst we sat below with our mouths open. Awesome then, and essential now.

**Cuddle Up.** The Beach Boys, along with the Beatles and the Bee Gees were etched onto my 1960's school satchel in undying allegiance and history has proved me sage I think. This track is from the Carl and the Passions "So Tough" album released in 1972 during an unhappy time in the convoluted history of the Beach Boys. Carl Wilson de facto leader of the band in Brian Wilson's drug-addled, mentally unstable absence somehow produced this wonderful song from the debris. Still utterly brilliant.

**God Only Knows.** Arguably one of the best songs ever written, with great intro, wonderful vocals and economical, brilliant lyrics – perfect. I cannot imagine being on a desert island without this joyous record. It is a love song of course, but you may not know that Brian Wilson wrote it for himself to sing but sacrificed the lead vocal to his brother Carl and to me that is particularly moving. He and Bruce Johnston provided backing vocals.

**There She Goes.** The La's released their eponymous album to little critical acclaim in 1990 and "There She Goes" had been previously released in 1988 without anyone noticing. Written by Lee Mavers the song, re mixed for the album by Steve Lilywhite, gained momentum through movie sound track use and is now rightly acknowledged for the influential indie icon that it is. Oh, and its not about heroin, apparently. Just a great song and a must-have in my DJ playlist.

**Quelqu'un m'a dit.** (Someone Told Me) The title track from Carla Bruni's debut 2003 album is one of my guilty pleasures. I mean, we can't let Nicolas Sarkozy have all the fun can we? If You Go Away. Written by Jacques Brel as 'Ne me quitte pas' Dusty Springfield's cover is my desert-island choice. Dusty's great vocals in English (as translated by Rod McKuen) are interjected by one chorus prettily spoken/sung in French. Lovely.

**If You Go Away.** Written by Jacques Brel as 'Ne me quitte pas' Dusty Springfield's cover is my desert-island choice. Dusty's great vocals in English (as translated by Rod McKuen) are interjected by one chorus prettily spoken/sung in French. Lovely.

**Mr Jones.** Counting Crows – one of the best live bands I have ever seen (and yes I've seen Pink Floyd three times, Rolling Stones and The Who etc, etc) and this track from 'New Amsterdam: Live At Heineken Music Hall' sums up just how great this band is, especially live. Adam Duritz for President!

**Waiting In TheWeeds.** Its not easy this, because I love so much music I really had to think hard about my last choice. But this song will cover my need to take the Eagles talents with me on that island and although its off their latest album "Long Road Out Of Eden" it summons up everything that's great about this legenday group of talented musicians. I won't get tired of listening to it I am sure, not for twenty years or so anyway.

I get to choose a book don't I? Well it would have to be George Orwell's **Nineteen Eighty-Four** as it would remind me of everything I have left behind in Britain 2008 and would not be missing. "War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength". In 1948 Orwell wrote this book as a warning, it's a shame that current western world leaders are using it as an instruction manual. A little bit of politics there for you, sorry.

## Letter to Jim Bass (Councillor for Sywell, Ecton & Mears Ashby)

Mr Bass

After recently moving to the village of Ecton, I was the victim of having my car window smashed on Sunday night where it was parked on the High Street. It follows on from my friend having his stereo stolen from his vehicle on the Thursday before Easter. I am a little concerned by the amount of vandalism of this kind that appears to be happening within the village, especially when locals I spoke to all seemed to have a similar tale of their own. 'Welcome to Ecton' was what most of them said. This is worrying.

I reported the incident to the police who of course said that there is little that they can do with no witnesses CCTV in the village. I understand this on this occasion, but what concerns me more is that it could happen again. I am on a modest income and I cannot afford £60 for a new window every time some cretin decides to break mine for a laugh. I just hope that you can reassure myself and my family by telling me how you are tackling this kind of incident. I cannot afford to pay a job tax on top of all my other bills, and £60 every couple of months is no laughing matter. I would like these kind of people to be caught and forced to pay for these crimes in both time and money. The crime rates reported in this months Ecton magazine compare poorly with the other villages in the area. There was at least one other car window smashed on Sunday also, as the man from Autoglass told me he was off to fix another one after mine. There may even have been more, as I saw an Autoglass van drive up from Church View as I was tidying the remnants of my window into a bucket.

What do you expect me to do if it happens again this weekend, cough up another £60? How many times will this kind of instance have to happen before action is taken? If it's a common occurrence why is it still happening?

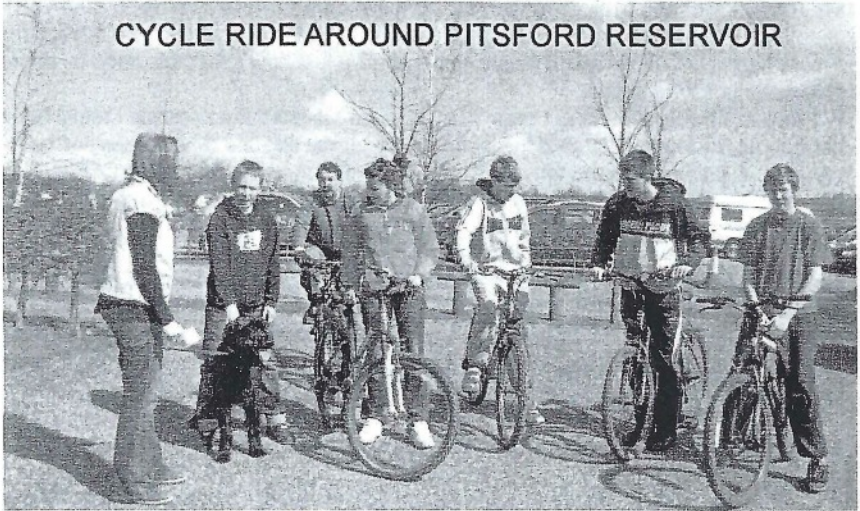
Many thanks, I enjoyed reading your column in the local magazine.

Kind regards,

Paul Glanfield

# YOUTH CLUB

## CYCLE RIDE AROUND PITSFORD RESERVOIR



## ECTON'S NEWEST RESIDENT



Lilli Sophia Taylor  
Born 11.46 on 15th April  
congratulations to Sarah, Simon and big sister Isabella

## An American in Ecton

New year, new year's resolution. How's yours doing? Has it made it to May? Do you feel that little niggle, like I do, "Oh dear, if I don't do something, this is going to come back and bite me soon."

First week in January I woke up to the news on the radio that foreign nationals were going to have to obtain a biometric identity card and carry it at all times. My first thought was that it's about time I sorted out the mess with my passport, because this news means that if I don't, I will have to carry three identity documents on me at all times. British citizens only need to worry about having one passport stolen when they are on holiday, I need to carry two passports everywhere I go unless and until I am willing to make the dreaded trip to Lunar House.

So this decided me. If I have to go to Lunar House and do the dangerous trying to queue in the middle of the M23 Motorway thing again, then I want it to be for the last time. Lunar House, the Home Office, is a building on an island in the middle of the M23. Just picture 100+ people standing in front of a locked door at 8 am, families with small children and mothers holding babies, all struggling to stay standing on this motorway island and not fall into the path of cars whizzing past at 70 mph. I suspect it is a crude attempt at immigration control. New Year's resolution - one last test to see if I will survive the Lunar House queue unmaimed - it's time to apply for British citizenship.

Well, that resolution lasted a long time. Here it is May and only the prospect of going on holiday has reminded me that I was going to get the two passport problem sorted out. And what do I discover? Even if I survive the car dodging at Lunar House, I must take the 'Life in the UK Test'. This is a test I cannot fail if I am to qualify for citizenship. Initially I thought that as a resident of this country for 30 years, someone who owns a house, pays income tax, lives in a village and rings the bells on a Sunday, I felt pretty sure that I wouldn't have any trouble with just such a test.

But the example tests are not called 'mock' tests for no reason. One of the questions, "What services are offered by Vets?" is obviously in there to catch out the Americans. The authorities just know that we will slip up and say, "A Vet is a veteran of one of the last two world wars, and it is likely that they are retired and offer no services whatsoever". They don't want Americans coming over here and shamefully neglecting their pets. This is clearly important for the UK, well known as a nation of animal lovers.

So maybe I wasn't wrong to worry that there are lots of trick and tricky questions. Question 37 - "How do university students pay their tuition fees?" My answer would be, that is such a good question. How on earth do they do it? Question 105 "What does local government spend council tax on?" Hmmm, something about Environmental Health and Anglian Water springs to mind, but that's not one of the multiple choices. I suspect that if I supplied an answer I would be deported immediately.

Last, but not least, can you, citizens of Ecton, sitting there, snugly reading this magazine, basking in the warm glow of your British Passports, can you tell me whether you would have that passport if it depended on knowing "When are the Patron Saint's Days of each of the four countries of the UK?" What New Years resolve could withstand such testing challenges? Yet I can see that I am just being churlish. I suppose I should really just be grateful that British Citizenship doesn't depend on knowing the rules of cricket or reciting the rhyme of the ancient mariner from memory. Of course if my New Years resolution stalls until next year, it probably will.

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## **CAR CRIME ADVICE FOR USERS OF COUNTRY PARKS**

With spring beginning to bloom members of the Wellingborough Rural Safer Community Team are aiming to ensure that people out enjoying the weather in our country parks don't fall prey to car criminals.

Police officers, PCSOs and Specials will be on proactive patrols at Sywell, Irchester, Overstone Lakes and Summerlees Wollaston country parks, which are already becoming busy with people taking advantage of the lighter nights and sunnier days.

Officers will be reminding people of the need to take everything with them when they park their car, or risk having their country walk spoiled by thieves.

With the increased number of people using the country parks and other beauty spots in the spring and summer months, the chances are criminals will be out to target vehicles whose owners have left bags, purses, glasses and CDs inside and on display.

Posters and leaflets will be on display in the country parks and they will urge people never to leave items on display – even if they attempt to hide items away in the boot or under seats, as thieves will search there too.

Officers on off-road motorbikes will join the patrols when they can with the aim of deterring offenders and disrupting crime and police will also be writing to the owners of cars they see that have been left with tempting property inside.

PC Nick Price of the Wellingborough Rural SCT has been organising this initiative. He said: "Thefts from cars at country parks and other beauty spots traditionally increases at this time of the year. We are keen to warn people that if they don't want crime to spoil their fun, they should leave nothing in their car when they park it.

"The best advice for those people who want to enjoy the countryside is that if there is something you will not need on your walk, then leave it at home."

PC Price also encouraged people to park in the car park, not on the road where cars have also been targeted.



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