



Christ Church Hilderstone
PARISH MAGAZINE

A celebration of village life

Christmas Edition 2021

WHAT'S ON:

DECEMBER:

Thursday 2 nd	Christmas Wreath Workshop	1pm – 3pm	Village Hall
Tuesday 9 th	W.I. Buffet & 'The Shadows man'	7.30pm	Village Hall
Sunday 12 th	Christmas House Decorating Competition		12 th - 16 th December
Thursday 16 th	Reindeer at the Village Hall Hilderstone Youth Club	5.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 18 th	Christmas Tree Festival	10am – 4pm	Christ Church
	Monthly Art & Craft Market	9.30am – 1.30pm	Village Hall
	Hilderstone Panto	7pm – 8.30pm	Village Hall
	Christmas Pop-up Pub (Featuring Andy & Kate from 'Beyond the Barricade')	8.30pm – 10pm	Village Hall
Sunday 19 th	Christmas Tree Festival	2pm – 4pm	Christ Church
Friday 24 th	Crib Service	4pm – 5pm	Christ Church
	Midnight Mass	9.45pm – 10.45pm	Christ Church

JANUARY:

Tues 11th	W.I. Ten Minute Talks	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 22 nd	Burns Night	7.30pm – 10.00pm	Village Hall
Saturday 29 th	Monthly Art & Craft Market	9.30am – 1.30pm	Village Hall
	Charity Event: A Child of Mine	2pm – 4pm	Village Hall
	Pop-Up Pub	5pm – 10am	Village Hall

FEBRUARY:

Tues 15th	W.I. Painting & Poetry	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 26 th	Monthly Art & Craft Market	9.30am – 1.30pm	Village Hall
	Charity Event: TBC	2pm – 4pm	Village Hall
	Pop-up Pub	5pm – 10pm	Village Hall

Editor's Letter



Christmas has arrived! Houses are being decorated, Christmas songs are playing on the radio and Letters are being written to Santa. We are all getting into the festive spirit and this edition of the Parish Magazine is no exception as it is, I'm delighted to say, packed full of Christmas activities.

We also have a wonderful array of pictures and I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to the children from the Youth Club who, yet again, have supplied me with some fabulous pictures. I don't think I have ever seen quite so many Christmas Trees or Reindeer in a single publication.

I would also like to extend my thanks to Sue James for her beautiful graphic designs which you will find throughout the magazine, featuring snowflakes, angels and reindeer, to name but a few. And finally, my thanks to Marian Baldwin whose charming characters grace the pages of our festive poems.

It is wonderful to see our community coming together and putting on a spectacular show at this special time of year: our houses will be festooned with lights (for the House Decorating Competition); the church will be resplendent with holly, ivy and, of course, Christmas Trees; the Roebuck will welcome all with its cracking fire and festive cheer; and, of course, the Village Hall will be Panto-ready and festooned with Christmas decorations for its many events during this December.



It is just left to wish you all a
wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

(ABOVE): Elsie Flint, aged 9, drew this lovely tree and (LEFT) we have a very happy-looking Santa from Tommy Hammond, aged 6. Thank you both very much.

From your Parish Council

Hilderstone Parish Council would like to wish everyone a **Happy Christmas and New Year** and are hopeful that things are returning to normal as we continue the fight against Covid 19.



Councillor Jim Davies, Chairman of Hilderstone Parish Council, presenting the Certificate of Thanks to Iain Britton, representing Hilderstone Village Hall.

A Thank-You to the Village Hall: The Village Hall Committee does valuable work in providing and supporting various services and events that would otherwise be unavailable in our village. That work was never more necessary and welcome than during the worst days of the Covid-19 lockdowns. The Parish Council has been pleased to present to the Village Hall Committee a Certificate of Thanks which states:

"The Coronavirus pandemic of 2020-2021 put all human societies in the world under strain and the community of Hilderstone was no exception. During that unprecedented and fearful time, the Hilderstone Village Hall Committee used its initiative and energy to provide many

supporting services to the village community in the face of the serious challenges of the pandemic.

"On behalf of the people of Hilderstone the Parish Council is pleased to record publicly its great appreciation and thanks."

It is always to the huge benefit of our community when we villagers and the institutions of the village - the Parish Council, Christ Church, the Roebuck Inn and the Village Hall Committee - work together. Long may that continue.

Speed awareness - Speed continues to be an issue and we ask all in our community to respect the speed limit and help keep our residents safe. Hilderstone Parish Council continue to monitor this issue using the speed indication device, the information can be viewed on our website (hilderstone.org.uk/news-article/new-speed-data-available).

Dog Fouling - Unfortunately, the Parish Council has received reports of dog fouling in Dingle Lane, in the track leading to Bank Farm which is adjacent to Dingle Lane Farm. Dog fouling offenders can be issued with a £100 Fixed Penalty Notice or a fine of up to £1,000. If any resident would like to report any offenders please contact Stafford Borough Council - 01785 619 000 or ehenvirocrime@staffordbc.gov.uk.

Covid 19 - Covid 19 is still here and we ask that you remain vigilant, book your booster vaccination if you are eligible, continue with regular lateral flow testing and, if you have symptoms, book a PCR test.

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY DRAW WINNERS:

September:

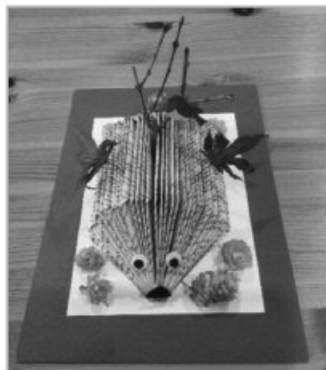
Ball No.:	43	£100
	33	£ 50
	49	£ 25
	2	£ 10
	10	£ 10

October:

Ball No.:	83	£100
	26	£ 50
	10	£ 25
	25	£ 10
	29	£ 10

The November lottery was drawn at the Monthly Craft Market on 27th November 2021. Lottery winners are published each month on the Village Hall Website and on the noticeboard in the hall also. Interested in joining the Village Hall Lottery? Email: hilderstonevillagehall@gmail.com or visit the website for an application form (www.hilderstonevillagehall.com).

FESTIVE HEDGEHOGS WITH THE W.I.



Pictured (ABOVE) is the charming Brillo the Hedgehog by Christine Clark.

Our 'Christmas Hedgehog' craft meeting in November was led by four of our very talented members: Alison, Gina, Lynda and Shirley. We sat, ready to fold, with our scissors, glue and old, slender paperback books. How could we possibly produce hedgehogs as superb as the samples made by our instructors? Well, we did – with some folding, cutting, pasting and the help of a few Christmas decorations! Even President Pat produced a likely lad, named Harold! We were really delighted and so grateful to our 'craft' friends. We set them out ready for display on a table and photos were

taken! Unfortunately, some picked up the wrong hedgehog when we were packing away ... where had Sue's boy gone? Well, it was discovered in the President's bag – she had mistaken Harold for another boy. So, disaster averted! A great evening was had by all. Thank you to our talented craft team.

Dates for your Diaries: Do ring me if you would like to come along & have a look at us! We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm, Village Hall.

Tues 11th January – 7.30pm - Ten Minute Talks:

- Pat Gates – an outing to the Morgan Car Factory, Malvern
- Gill Miller – training Guide Dogs for the Blind
- Sue Boulton – Short Story Writing

Tues 15th February - 7.30pm - Painting & Poetry by Ingrid Wagner and a Competition: A Poem

Tues 15th March – 7.30pm - 'Little Acorns ... Ancient Woodlands' by Mike Taylor plus a Competition: Small wooden object

Pat Saul (President) - Tel: 01785 812580

Hilderstone Village Hall

Whilst for many of us the closing of the Thursday market was sad, we did recognise that, with dwindling numbers as more and more villagers return to work, it was no longer sustainable. We would like to thank our loyal customers and the stallholders who showed us so much support and commitment during the months we were trading. This market served an important function within our community during difficult times, and we were delighted when Hilderstone Parish Council invited us to a special presentation in acknowledgment of all our efforts to serve and support our community during the Covid period.

We are continuing with our very popular Arts & Crafts Monthly Market on the last Saturday of each month, from 9.30am – 1.30pm. Shoppers are treated to a wide array of gifts, from hand-made soaps, beautifully crafted wooden children's toys and hand-made jewellery to home décor items and delicious cakes. Our Café remains popular too, thanks to Barbara's delicious home-made oatcakes, with bacon and cheese, served with tea or coffee.

We are also keen to support community activities, and especially those small local charities which have struggled over these difficult few months, by offering a Saturday afternoon venue free of charge. The next event, on Saturday 29th January 2022, will be local charity 'A Child of Mine', which supports bereaved parents and families, and those who have lost a baby during pregnancy. It's a small charity based in Stafford but does lots of work both locally and nationally.

The ever-popular monthly Pop-up Pub goes from strength to strength too and, of course, Christmas in Hilderstone wouldn't be the same without our annual charity performance, this year being the Panto Aladdin, on Saturday 18th December. A MUST for your diary!

We look forward to working closely with all the various groups and clubs in Hilderstone throughout 2022 after all that we, as a community, have built during these past few difficult months.

Details of all our activities can be found on our Facebook Page and our website.

Hilderstone Panto!

Aladdin

Hilderstone Village Hall



Saturday 18 December
7pm

Hilderstone Youth Club



To celebrate a fantastic year, we at the Youth Club thought we'd leave 2021 with a bang. Here's what you can look out for in December:

Firstly, as part of the village's festive celebrations, we have decided to decorate our very own Christmas tree which will be displayed alongside many others at the CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL at Christ Church Hilderstone on Saturday 18th December – Sunday 19th December.

Secondly, on Thursday 16th December at 5.30pm we are expecting a visit from some very special guests at the Village Hall. Please make sure to visit the hall so you can meet not one, but two of Santa's Reindeer (on secondment from Amerton Farm)!

For any more information please contact Debbie on Tel: 07989130014.

We hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Debbie & Sam

Thank you to Alice Norville (aged 8) for her very happy-looking reindeer and Christmas Tree (ABOVE). Thanks also to Seth Evanson (aged 10) for Santa (RIGHT) as he gets his reindeer ready for their trip around the world!



Christmas Paper Lanterns

Christmas Paper lanterns are incredibly quick and easy to make, and they're extremely versatile to use as decorations. They look great on Christmas Trees, on tables as centrepieces, as hanging decor, and more.

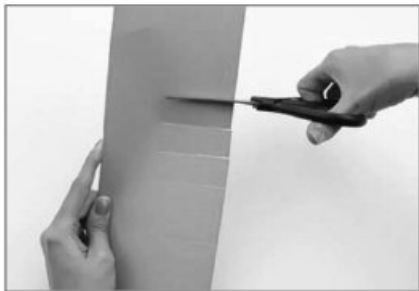
Equipment / Tools

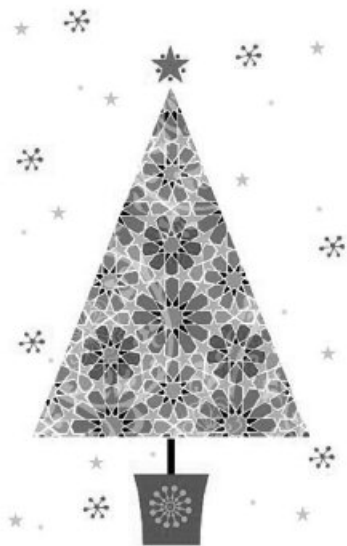


- Sheets of craft, coloured, or white paper OR thin card
- Pencil, Ruler and Scissors
- Stapler or Paper Glue
- Crayons, Paint, Ribbon, Buttons, Stickers, or anything else you decide to use for decoration

Instructions

1. First, select which colour or patterned paper that you want to use to make the lantern(s). Cut these sheets of paper to 10 cm by 10 cm (Tree Decoration) or 20cm by 20cm (Tabletop).
2. Decorate one side of each square using Crayons, Paint, Ribbon, Stickers, or anything else you decide to use for decoration.
3. Fold each piece in half lengthwise. Then, cut slits evenly into the folded side about every 1 cm, stopping about 2.5 cm from the other edge. (you might want to use the ruler and pencil to draw light guide lines).
4. Unfold the square and join the two ends together using either a stapler or paper glue. Pinch the slits in their centres, so they pop out.
5. Cut a handle to attach to one end of the lantern and fix it to each side using a stapler or paper glue.





Chocolate Shortbread Treats

This is a lovely tea-time treat which is easy for children to make at Christmas.

Ingredients:

- 4oz Caster Sugar
- 8 oz Butter
- 10 oz Plain flour
- 2 oz Rice Flour

Method:

- Soften the butter and cream together with the sugar. Mix in the flour and *rice flour to form a dough. Wrap in cling film and chill in the fridge for 20 minutes.
- Roll out on a floured surface. The thickness is a personal choice depending on how thick you like your biscuits.
- Cut into lovely Christmas trees, etc and place on a baking tray. They will spread out a little so space them out.
- Cook on Gas 3 (150°C) for approx. 30 minutes and transfer onto a cooling wire.
- When cool, melt some chocolate and spread on the biscuits with a knife or pastry brush, then add sprinkles or your own choice of topping. If they are to hang on a tree remember to make a hole in the top of each one when still soft after they come out of the oven.

(*The rice flour makes the biscuits crunchier). **Happy baking!**



MINCEMEAT AND MARZIPAN TEABREAD

200g/8oz self-raising flour
100g/4oz cold butter, cut into pieces
85g/3oz light muscovado sugar
85g/3oz marzipan, cut into 1cm cubes
2 eggs
300g/10oz mincemeat
2 tbsp flaked almonds
icing sugar , for dusting (optional)

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/Gas 4/fan oven 160C. Butter a 1kg/2lb loaf tin and line the base with greaseproof paper. Tip the flour into a bowl, add the cold butter and rub until the mixture to form fine crumbs. Stir in the sugar and marzipan cubes.

2. In another bowl, lightly whisk the eggs, then stir in the mincemeat. Stir this into the flour mixture until evenly combined. Spoon into the prepared loaf tin, smooth, and sprinkle the flaked almonds over the top. Bake for 1 hour until the teabread is risen and golden brown, or a skewer inserted comes out clean. Lightly dust the teabread with icing sugar while it is hot.

3. Allow to cool in the tin for 10 minutes, then tip onto a wire rack to cool completely. Peel off the lining paper and cut into slices - it's also very good spread with butter.



CHRISTMAS TREE

WORDSEARCH

Can you find all the Christmas words on the Christmas Tree?

Try our festive puzzle and find out.



AN
FR
YJWZ
KZ IY
TWKPEY
KFUDCV
XJOLLYGJ
GMYSJVSL
GBUBLMJZSC
DHVSLPXVIG
TRQOPERHLHBA
TFINTBCWPJNL
RSYZOKIBMOSOIZ
ETYL PW OAEURUUT
CEJCYITTTJLUHCLPP
NDCVDUGKAI VPFQBT
OSNYLEDMSQWGYVBPSA
PKIGFAI IWUSSQEHVVR
TREEXSYESWZTPOBJGSLP
LWVRELUCTELVESNDYUFC
IQPNLFEKELEGGNOGOFTMIX
AYGSRZDJLEQVNT OJGXSBBN
PPTBOCXRZETNBIMUIEPJDMDY
YYP SOHJBSBOMMPOBVCJNNHLH
UNRUALIVMFREQVMQIXTWDHWXGP
RFRMNBMSCHAXQSGNIKCOTSCTFE
MLPEPTQNI IHTNGTGCOEXARMAZAKW
CVXMQAYEOREERPRVNWXB DLCKOYXR
UGKFJZJHYNHTAERWXBHMTUOHOQPFWO
FWIVOGBINXKCOVXAYNOA IWZNPYOVL M

BELLS

ELVES

MERRY

STOCKINGS

TREE

MISTLETOE

WREATH

JOLLY

CHIMNEY

CELEBRATE

SANTA

REINDEER

Christmas Decorations

Who is going to help me decorate my house?"

Mole invited Badger and Ratty and Mouse.

They set off for the Wild Wood to find bushes of Holly,



Red berried and shining
with branches so jolly.

Mole found Ivy, Badger smelt Bay,

Mouse was so busy he lost his way.

Then Ratty found Rosemary,
the sweetest Herb of all,

Growing for remembrance near the donkey's stall.

Squirrel showed them Mistletoe deep in the wood,



And each little creature was in a happy mood.

So back they all scampered to decorate Mole's
home,

Prepared to welcome Christmas and friends who
would come.





HILDERSTONE @ CHRISTMAS

Christmas has traditionally been a busy time in our village but following the cancellation of so many celebrations last year, we seem to have had a determination to really put on a good show this year and fully immerse ourselves in the celebration of Christmas.

It's Panto Time

Join Aladdin for an unforgettable adventure, accompanied by a wish-granting Genie, as he battles the evil sorcerer Abanazer! Widow Twankey and Wishee Washee will be on hand to assist with the mayhem. Featuring a lamp-load of comedy and spectacular Hollywood-style jaw-dropping special effects (huge imagination required!) The Hilderstone Village Pantomime will be sure to bring festive magic, and plenty of boos and hisses (for various reasons!)

“Aladdin” will be performed on Saturday 18 December at 7pm. There are limited tickets available so please Book Early!

After the panto, the Village Hall pop-up Bar will be open, and there will be additional Christmas entertainment from Andy & Kate which is all included in your ticket price.

Tickets can be booked via hilderstonevhbookings@gmail.com or call Debbie on Tel: 07810 332559. Alternatively, Booking Forms can be dropped off, and tickets collected from Debbie @ Mill Farm, Sandon Road, Hilderstone, Stone, ST15 8SF, or through any cast member. Adult - £7.50. Child - £5.00. Family Ticket (4) - £22.00. Family Ticket (5) - £25.00. All profits from the evening will be donated to UHNM Hemodialysis Unit, and Hilderstone



Village Hall who kindly allowed all rehearsals, and the performance to take place without charge.



Christ Church Christmas Tree Festival

For many of us nothing is more festive than a twinkling Christmas Tree. Hilderstone's beautiful Georgian church will host its first ever Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday 18th – Sunday 19th December. Featuring a wonderful array of trees, decorated and sponsored by local families, groups and businesses, the church will be resplendent

with festive decorations.

The Festival is open on Saturday 18th December, 10am – 4pm and again on Sunday 19th December, 2pm – 4pm. Prizes for the best trees, the House Decorating Competition and the draw for the Tombola will all take place at 3.30pm in the church. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served.

If you would like more information on the Festival, see our advertisement in this magazine for details.

The Christmas Crib and Midnight Mass

With the festive backdrop of the Christmas trees, the Crib and candlelight, the Crib Service has traditionally been a popular and important part of family Christmas celebrations on 24th December. At this time of year especially, the doors of Christ Church are open to all in our community to join us in celebrating the Birth of Christ. Service starts at 4.30pm.

This family service is followed by Midnight Mass which, despite its title, actually takes place at 9.45pm. There will be mulled wine and mince pies available after the service so friends can stay and chat awhile.



The Christmas Tree



Look at the tree! Look!

Look at the Sparkles

Shimmering in the dark!

Once this tree stood lonely in the forest,

Once small birds sang sweetly in its branches.

We have scattered Stars and Decorations,

And placed our presents round about its roots.

Look at the tree! Look at the glitter!

Look!

This tree tells friends that Christmas Day has come.

Christmas House Decorating Competition



The Christmas House decoration competition is here, hope you have been thinking, the judges will be looking for the best original / Humorous & Unique decorations on the outside of your houses or on the front garden.

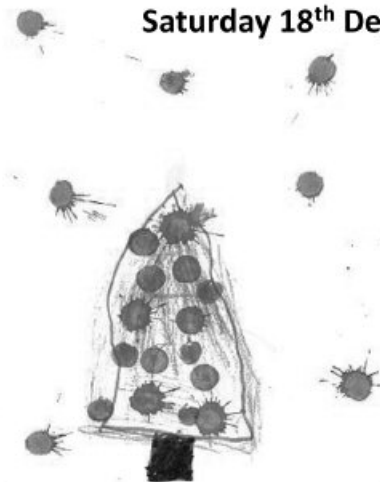
To enter your house for the competition please call Phil Davies on 01785 747836 or email philip.davies73@btinternet.com. Judging will take place during week commencing Sunday 12th December 2021 Please email your entry by this date with the prizes for the best houses in the categories will be presented on Sunday 19th December at 3.30pm in Church.

Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 18th December - Sunday 19th December

Christ Church is running its first ever Christmas Tree Festival, bringing festive cheer to the village during this special time of year.

Any business, organisation, or group (whether that be friends or family) are welcome to participate in designing and decorating a tree. A Christmas Tree and Lights will be supplied to each sponsor to decorate in their own special way on **Sunday 12th (2-4pm) or Friday 17th December**. Sponsorship costs just £25 per tree, with all proceeds going to the Access for All Project at Christ Church.



(ABOVE): Will Edwards, aged 7

There is a prize, donated by Emma Bridgewater, for the best dressed tree in the festival that will be presented at around 3:30pm on Sunday 19th December along prizes for the winners of the Christmas House Decoration competition and Christ Church's Christmas Raffle. For further information please contact Simon on Tel: 07772 600363.

THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN THIS WINTER:

Now is the time to tidy up the garden shed and greenhouse: brush out and wash pots, clean plastic plant labels to reuse, service your garden mower and sharpen and clean your tools.

Plant bare root plants between November to March. It is a cheaper way of planting hedges, trees, fruit bushes and canes, shrubs and some perennials.

Attract wildlife into your garden. Garden wildlife really needs your help in winter. Provide the right foods for the birds, sunflower hearts and seeds, nyjer seeds, seed mixes, peanuts, suet balls and fat cakes. Remember to provide fresh water and change daily if possible.

Plant up a winter container with winter flowers such as cyclamen, hellebores, snowdrops, crocus, aconites and winter iris.

Appreciate seedbeds - leave some plants with seedheads as many are attractive to wildlife, providing much needed food and shelter in colder months. They look great in dried arrangements and seasonal wreaths.



Prune fruit trees, bushes, shrubs and roses. Winter is the main time to prune many types of fruit, including pears, apples, blackcurrants, autumn fruiting raspberries, redcurrant and gooseberries. It's also a good time to tackle trees, shrubs and roses.

Keep harvesting veg in the winter, including parsnips, kale, Brussel sprouts, leeks, winter cabbages and winter salad.

Collect leaves to make leafmould for a great soil conditioner. The best quality leaf mould is from leaves of oak, beech or hornbeam.

Finally, put the kettle on and browse through seed/garden catalogues on cold wintry days to give you ideas for next year!

By Sue James

Saint Nicholas

There was a good man called Nicholas,
So good that they made him a Saint.
He gave gifts to all the town's children
At Christmas Time in Ghent.

Since then, when we celebrate Christmas,
We remember Saint Nicholas' name.
We remember his gifts to the children,
And we try to do the same.

So we gather our gifts for children
Whose names we do not know,
And as we wrap and tie them
Our love for Jesus we show.



Merry Christmas



*From all of us at
Christ Church Hilderstone*

***Joy to the world,
the Lord has come!***



*God so loved the world that he sent his only son
that whoever believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.*

John 3: 16

***The PCC and
all the Congregation
at
Christ Church***

***wish you a
Happy Christmas
and a peaceful, joyful
2022***

Church Matters: A Letter from the Rural Dean

And so to Christmas once again; hopefully this will be a much happier time this year than last, when we were given one day to meet with family and friends – and even Carols in Church had to be done via pre-recorded music. In my own parish we did manage to sneak in a video of me singing “A Christmas Hallelujah” though, together with some friends!

Let’s spare a thought, though, for people who are sad at Christmas. We all know about those who are forgotten, or who live in faraway countries; but this year, with the pandemic still being active, there are many people who face Christmas on their own or just with an empty place at the table.

Christmas isn’t just about coloured lights and fancy gifts, you see. In some ways the Christmas story isn’t a nice one at all. We dress up small children in outfits and tell an approximation of the gospel stories – but truthfully, the real story is about an evil ruler, fleeing refugees and going through childbirth in the most insanitary of conditions! Like some of our museums, good though they can be, they speak of a past that never was!

The real point of the story therefore, is about a God who takes the most gigantic risks – and all for a people who are estranged from him. We probably all know the feeling of giving a gift that is not altogether appreciated by those receiving it. This Christmas, let’s take the time to appreciate God’s gift to us of his Son.

God bless you all at Christmas and in the coming year. May that overwhelming love from Heaven surround and uphold you in this precious time

Ian Cardinal, Rural Dean of Stone

Churchyard Tidy Up



ABOVE: The older part of the churchyard which is a possible site for swathes of wild flowers.

After several really wet Saturday mornings early in the season we have managed to keep an enthusiastic team of people working each month on keeping the church yard tidy. We were all aware of the social distancing in place but that didn't stop the amount of work which has been done.

We have been fortunate to have had all the overgrown part of the churchyard - down by the hedge adjacent to the public footpath - cleared away, right down to the grass and this has made it very much easier to start planning for the wild

flowers to be sown and access to the Bug Hotel and natural habitats for hedgehogs, field mice etc to be saved.

With the blessing of the PCC we are hoping to have a wonderful display of wild flowers sown in swathes through sections of the older part of the churchyard.

I would like to sincerely thank all the people who have volunteered during the year and who have worked so hard in keeping our Village Churchyard looking so nice and cared for. I realise how much work is done in our churchyard when we see other country churchyards and some do need more care and attention.



We would welcome more members of the church and villagers to join us next year. Some members of the team are able to do heavier work but there are lots of smaller jobs and we always enjoy coffee and a chat at 11am.

Christine Clark (01889 505676)

One source of expertise we follow at Christ Church is 'Caring for God's Acre' (CfGA). Sue Cooper from CfGA, comments: "Despite the pressure on space, the persistence of those who wish to over-tidy, closure of burial grounds and problems associated with neglect, these unsung, unscheduled nature reserves are still some of the most biodiverse environments in the UK. For people, cemeteries and churchyards are places of reflection, celebration and coming together. They are neither bleak nor morbid – even in winter.



"Next time you pass a churchyard, step through the gates and see for yourself. Take your binoculars and field guide or just sit and enjoy the birdsong, count stone lichens or admire the wildflowers. Religious or not, treat it with respect and if you can spare the time, join a local conservation group and do your bit for the wildlife in God's acre."

HILDERSTONE HERITAGE: PART 35

Joy Philips (nee Snape) kept a diary from 1940 onwards. Obviously, much of it is of a personal nature but what stands out is the fact that it is also a social history of the village.



(ABOVE): Heathy Grove Farm, Stone Heath, in the late 1940s (Joy is on the left in the first photograph). The farm was later demolished.

The following entries refer to a foot and mouth outbreak:

10/05/52 – F & M disease has broken out at Blakelow.

11/05/52 – Helped milk cows at Horseshoe in field because of F & M [Home of Mum's in-laws].

16/05/52 - Mr Knobbs has F & M disease on his farm.

18/05/52 - Dales and Elkins have F & M.

19/05/52 - Shelley's and Boulton's cattle slaughtered.

21/05/52 - Play [Dramatic Society] postponed until August because of F & M which has now broken out at Pickfords.

23/05/52 – Fairbanks now have F & M. Saw diggers working tonight. [This refers to the pits that were dug to bury the carcasses].

24/05/52 - Inspector out to see cattle this afternoon [Heathy Grove, Stone Heath – Joy's home].

The winter of early 1947 was one of the worst on record, as recorded in Joy's diary:

03/02/47. I have had to walk to work again [Blythe Colour Works]. The roads are very bad and snow is deep everywhere. Mr Allan and I walked home tonight. It was dusk as I was passing through Sharpley Heath and I was caught in a snowdrift and had to go through Bonfield's fields.

04/02/47. I have not been to work today as I cannot get through. I made a track up to top gate with Mam and Dad to enable us to take milk up. This has not gone. There is no traffic at all on roads.

05/02/47. Milk has still not gone to dairy. We have over 20 gallons here and yet in town people are short.

06/02/47. Still have not been to work. Roads are being slowly cleared. Dad and neighbours took milk to Dayhills. Mam and I washed with melted snow.

08/02/47. Another bitterly cold day. The road is again blocked. This has been cleared once but the wind has filled it.

10/02/47. I am still at home due to weather. I went with mother to fetch churn from Mardlings and Dad went to station for corn with Mr Emery.

12/03/47. Walked again. It has been snowing nearly all day. I walked home with Mr Allan and the wind was facing me from the Bird. I put my handkerchief to my face and it froze. When I arrived home my hands were absolutely frozen. I don't think they've ever been so cold. I could have cried with pain.

Interviews conducted by Martin Philips for a school project in the 1990s.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MY GRANDPA (Bob Philips)

How old were you during the war? 13-19 years old.

Were you in the Home Guard or an ARP Warden? At 15½ years old I joined the Home Guard in Hilderstone.

Which force did you join and where did you train? I joined the Army, first in the Queen's Royal Regiment and then in the Wiltshire Regiment. I trained in Northern Ireland. My rank was Lance Corporal.

Which countries did you fight in? Belgium, Holland and Germany. I did prisoner of war escort duty. I went to Belsen after liberation and was on guard duty.

Did you meet any local people? Germans, they were very nice.

Where did you eat and sleep? We had our own cooks. There were different canteens you could go to in the barracks.

Did you know what was happening in Britain? Yes, but we didn't have a radio.

What entertainment was there? ENSA groups gave concerts. We watched films.

What ships did you sail on? To Ireland and a troop ship to Belgium.

How did you celebrate the end of the war? We had no celebrations.

How many medals do you have? 4

AN INTERVIEW WITH MY NANNA (Joy Philips)

How old were you during the war? 11-17 years old.

Did you have an allotment or grow vegetables in your garden? My dad grew vegetables in the garden.

What did you listen to on the radio? Workers' Playtime and Rob Wilton. I went to the cinema as well.

What do you remember about being rationed? Tea, sugar, butter and sweets. You couldn't get bananas and I love bananas!

What was it like at school? We had air raid practices.

After leaving school where did you work? I fetched orders for a grocer's and then I worked in an Accountants.

What did you use for the blackout? Special material, and very dark green material which I still have.

Did you like wearing a gas mask? No. We had to have practices.

Did you hear or see any bombing? Incendiary bombs dropped in the fields behind our house.

Did you use an Anderson shelter? Yes, in the field. We also went in the cellar in the shop next door and a railway tunnel in a builder's yard.

Did you meet any Americans in the war? I met one through my brother. He wanted me to marry him and go back to America with him but I didn't want to. We still exchange cards at Christmas.

What did your parents and siblings do in the war? My dad was an overman in the mines. My sister was a nurse looking after children while their mothers did war work.

MR ED'S SHED

We are a private facility set up by two people who through passion, academia, family experience and working with people affected by mental health difficulties, saw a real need within Staffordshire for an alternative intervention, because we were fully aware that mental health does not discriminate who it targets and who it effects, nor does 'one size fit all'. Our aim is to offer help whilst those suffering are within any transitional period in provision, by tackling interfering behaviours, allowing them to be at peace and breathe, whilst providing understanding to those carers who are essential within the journey.

As you know being outdoors has its own beneficial factors, one we all know personally whilst being in a pandemic and having outdoors as our one recreational saviour to keep us going. We combine the outdoor element with the use of our three resident RSPCA rescue horses (not currently suitable for riding). We prefer to tailor programmes to each client, where they choose the horse they are most akin to, because the energy horses can give to a person's journey can be unlike any other animal. This holistic approach uses our methodology to educate, empower and increase self-efficacy to enable them to better manage their mental health, thus 'taking back control'.

We are also creating a new garden, called 'Propagating Health' – an outdoor space to support well-being, which offers a place to create, teach, learn and work within, with Hilderstone as the perfect backdrop.

So we are relaunching 'Hippofit' - a three tier sessional programme that trains brain, body and being using agri-active activities. Whether you are 7 – 70 +, we have a programme that suits you and all levels of movement, we never go beyond a group of six to maintain the bespoke nature of the wellness programme.

Where better to engage with nature in these challenging times which have caused anxiety, fatigue, and brain fog for so many of us? Watch out for our taster days and, whether you are inquisitive or generally interested in what we do, we would love to hear from you on: contact@mr-eds-shed.com or Telephone: 01889 597842.

Todd and Marcella, Mr Ed's Shed.

Together we can make a Difference!

As you can see, Hilderstone is very much a thriving community, with a wide range of activities planned for the festive period.



A good deal of effort goes into planning these events and your support is very much appreciated. Whether you get involved by sending articles or pictures to the Parish Magazine, decorate your house for the Christmas House Decorating Competition, pick up litter or just turn up and support us, we do need your help to keep these activities going. So please read through our programme of activities and come and join in the fun - and celebrate community life.

You can help us make a difference in our community - whatever your skills, spare time or age. Here are just a few things to consider:

- *Litter picking.*
- *Churchyard Tidy-up Group.*
- *Send us your pictures, articles etc for our Parish Magazine.*
- *Make a donation towards the upkeep of the Parish Magazine.*
- *Recycle your old ink cartridges (see overleaf).*
- *Support our annual Best Kept Village initiative and keep our paths, driveways etc clean, tidy and attractive.*

Finally, thank-you to all those who have helped make this Christmas Edition happen: the contributors of articles and pictures; the proof-readers and, of course, the advertisers. **We are grateful to you all.**

Together we can make a Difference



Recycle  Charity

Recycle your empty Inkjet Cartridges. Help us raise money for our village church and reduce landfill. There is a box inside church for your donations. If you need your

donation to be collected, please call Phil Davies on Tel: 01785 747836.
Please note we can no longer recycle phones

Parish Magazine Donations. Last year, the advertisers and readers of the magazine generously donated enough money to keep our publication running. This year we all face difficult times, but if you could help towards the cost of printing this magazine, we would be very grateful. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Phil Davies in the first instance.

Advertising in the Parish Magazine. Our Parish Magazine offers advertisers a valuable opportunity to reach new and existing local customers and support their community. It also offers real value for money, and we are most grateful to all those who continue to advertise in this magazine.

If you are interested in placing an advert, please contact Audrey Stringer (Tel: 01889 505638). Annual Advertising rates are as follows:

1/8 page	-	£21.00	1/2 page	-	£78.75
1/4 page	-	£36.75	Full page	-	£99.75

(OVERLEAF): A drawing by Elsie Evanson, aged 6, of Father Christmas, a snowman and reindeer. (ABOVE): Thank you to Lily Mae, aged 8, for her 'groovy' Father Christmas.

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There is currently no Incumbent at Christ Church.
Audrey Stringer
Tel: 01889 505638

Parish Council:

Parish Clerk
Nikola Evans
Email: clerk@hilderstone.staffslc.gov.uk

Hilderstone Women's Institute: 7.30pm on 2nd Tuesday of the month, Village Hall.

President
Miss Pat Saul
Tel: 01785 812580

Hilderstone Village Hall:

Bookings
Debbie Britton
Tel: 07810 332559
www.hilderstonevillagehall.com

Neighbourhood watch:

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Ash Connor
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Sue Stubbs
Tel: 01889 505203

Staffs. County Councillor:

Ian Parry
Tel: 07831 510381
Email: ian.parry@staffordshire.gov.uk

Stafford Borough Councillor:

Andrew Harp
Tel: 01889 505400



*(LEFT): Santa ready on his sleigh
by Mea Ward, aged 10.*

*(FRONT COVER) Another fabulous
village photograph from Charlie
Hughes.*

'Tis the season to be Jolly. Merry Christmas from all the team on the Parish Magazine.



Thank you to our wonderful artists: (TOP LEFT) Lilly Kite, aged 8; (TOP RIGHT) Charlie Edwards, aged 4; (BOTTOM LEFT) Lyra Edwards, aged 11; (BOTTOM RIGHT) and Lucy Clark, aged 5.