

Christ Church Hilderstone
PARISH MAGAZINE



A celebration of village life

Autumn Edition 2022

WHAT'S ON:

SEPTEMBER:

Saturday 3 rd	Scarecrow Weekend Stalls, Tombola & Café	1.30pm – 4.30pm	Village Hall
	Art Exhibition & Open Church	1.30pm – 4.30pm	Christ Church
	Family Barn Dance With Hot Stuff Catering	6pm – 9pm	Village Hall
	Pop-Up Pub	5.30pm – *10pm	Village Hall
Sunday 4 th	Family Scarecrow Service	11.15am	Christ Church
	Dressing up encouraged!		
	Scarecrow Weekend Stalls, Tombola & Café	1.30pm - 4.30pm	Village Hall
	Art Exhibition & Open Church	1.30pm – 4.30pm	Christ Church
	Scarecrow Competition results	4.30pm	
	Kids' Scarecrow competition	4.30pm	
Tuesday 13 th	W.I.: Talk on Povey's Oatcakes	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 17 th	Churchyard Tidy Up	10am – 12 noon	Christ Church
	Limestone Brewery Night With Wood Fired Oven Pizzas Pop-Up Pub	5pm – *10pm	Village Hall
Sunday 18 th	Harvest Celebration Service	11.15am	Christ Church
Monday 19 th	Harvest Supper & Auction	7pm – *10pm	Village Hall
Saturday 24 th	Monthly Arts & Crafts Market Pop Up Pub With Track & Taste Food	10am – 1pm 5pm – * 10pm	Village Hal Village Hall

OCTOBER:

Saturday 8 th	Elvis is coming to Hilderstone With Mark Clay Pop-up Pub With Cod of Duty food	5pm – 11pm	Village Hall
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Tuesday 11 th	W.I.: 88 th Birthday Celebration	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 15 th	Churchyard Tidy Up	10am – 12 noon	Christ Church
Saturday 22 th	Village Dinner	7pm – 11pm	Village Hall
Saturday 29 th	Monthly Arts & Crafts Market	10am – 1pm	Village Hall
	Pup-up Pub	5pm – *10pm	Village Hall
	Food option to be confirmed		
Monday 31 st	Closing date for village Photographic competition.		

NOVEMBER:

Tuesday 8 th	W.I.: Blis Cakes	7.30pm	Village Hall
Sunday 13 th	Remembrance Service	10.50am	Christ Church
Saturday 26 th	Monthly Arts & Crafts Market	10am – 1pm	Village Hall
	Pop Up Pub	4pm – *10pm	Village Hall
	With food by John Hill		

DECEMBER:

Sunday 4 th	Christingle Service	11.15am	Christ Church
Tuesday 6 th	W.I.: Christmas Party	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 10 th	Christmas Fair	10am – 1pm	Village Hall
	Christmas Tree Festival	10am – 4pm	Christ Church
Sunday 11 th	Christmas Tree Festival	2pm – 4pm	Christ Church
Saturday 17 th	Village Christmas Panto	7 - *10pm	Village Hall
	With bar		
Saturday 24 th	Family Crib Service	4.45pm	Christ Church
	Midnight Mass	9.45pm	Christ Church

Dates & Times may change. Please check in advance of an event. *Last orders at the bar in the Village Hall are 10pm, with the bar closing at 10.30pm prompt.

Helping you Keep in Touch with Events:

Christ Church, Hilderstone:

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

Parish Council: 7.30pm on 4th Wed. of each month in the Village Hall
Parish Clerk Nikola Evans, Email: clerk@hilderstone.staffslc.gov.uk
www.hilderstone.org.uk

Visit their 'Events' page for details of forthcoming activities.

Hilderstone W. I.: 7.30pm on 2nd Tuesday of the month, Hilderstone Village Hall.
President Miss Pat Saul Tel: 01785 812580

Hilderstone Village Hall:

Bookings Debbie Britton Tel: 07810 332559

For news on forthcoming events, timings etc, visit:

*Facebook @HVVH60, Twitter @hvh50, Instagram hilderstone_village_hall –
Web Site www.hilderstonevillagehall.com*

The Village Hall also has an email service, notifying those on the mailing list of forthcoming events.

Neighbourhood watch:

Stone Ash Connor Tel: 01785 234129
Hilderstone 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

V.I.N. (Village Information Network)

This email service notifies those on the mailing list of events, news, etc in the village or affecting those living here. Contact: richard.pilcher1@btinternet.com.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



It would appear that there has been no 'sleeping on the job' for the good people of Hilderstone in recent months. As you will see in this edition of the magazine, we have enjoyed a host of village events: the superb Jubilee Celebrations, culminating in a fabulous performance by Beyond the Barricades; we have been royally entertained by guitar legend Gordon Giltrap; it was party atmosphere at the Roaring 20's Night; and last, but not least, there was the Big Village Party. On top of all this, we have had the usual monthly Arts & Crafts Village Market, Youth Club and Holiday Clubs, and more besides.

As we approach the Autumn and Winter months, there is no sign of a slow-down in village activities. Quite the opposite, in fact, if our 'What's On' pages are anything to go by. We have the long-awaited return of the Hilderstone Scarecrow Weekend (3 & 4 September), our annual Harvest Celebrations, a musical extravaganza with Elvis (8th October), the Village Hall Christmas Fair (10th December) alongside Christ Church's Christmas Tree Festival and, of course, the return of our fabulous crew for the Village Christmas Panto (17th December). We're going to be busy!

Looking back over the past year, we have achieved a great deal in our village. For example, it does not seem a year since Peggy Shelley re-opened the newly-refurbished Hilderstone Village Hall during our first ever Big Village Party, and the Hall has been brimming with activity ever since. Christ Church has also been busy during its period of Interregnum (no Vicar) and we are all slowly recovering from the awful effects of the Pandemic on our community. But, whilst much has changed for the better, some issues, such as litter in our lanes, continue to plague us and we seem to be forever clearing up after thoughtless drivers.

We hope you enjoy reading this magazine and please do let us have your thoughts, feedback, pictures, recipes etc.

Hilderstone Parish Council

Hilderstone Parish Council has noted that various areas are looking a little untidy and politely request residents maintain their frontages, including the curb side. Should anyone require assistance with this, please contact us and we will be able to put you in touch with a landscaper who can help.

The areas that Hilderstone Parish Council is responsible for are as follows:

- Eastholme/Whitesytsch island
- Severn Trent Corner
- Grass verge at the railings
- Roebuck Hill
- Small area in Dingle Lane
- Village Green
- Roebuck Flowerbeds
- Various flower boxes around the village.

Public areas not shown above are not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Local Footpaths

If you would like to find our local foot paths, please visit: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/rightsofway/footpaths-bridleways.aspx

As the Parish Council Footpaths Officer, I would encourage you all to use our local footpaths and enjoy our village scenery but if you should come across any problems, such as damaged stile, blocked footpaths etc, please take photos if you can & please email myself and I will inform the Rights Of Way department at the County Council.

Also, if you come across litter can you either pick it up or report it to either myself or Street Scene at Stafford Borough Council, however if you come across any fly tipping please report it to Street Scene at Stafford Borough Council on 01785 619000.

My email is philip.davies73@btinternet.com

HILDERSTONE WI



We meet on 2nd Tuesday in the month, at 7.30pm at the Village Hall in Hilderstone.

We are delighted to say we have 23 members, some of whom live outside the village. Thanks to V President, Gill, there is a growing Craft group.

Recently, on Big Village Party Day, we raised money for Dougie Mac Hospice, by selling scones & cream & tea/coffee.

We are cheerful and welcoming and would be very happy to see visitors who want to investigate what we are all about.

- This month, 15 of us are having afternoon tea together in Stafford.
- Our September Meeting on Tues 13th has a talk on Povey's Oatcakes.
- Our October meeting is especially important, as we will celebrate our 88th birthday.
- November meeting features Blis Cakes
- And we will hold our Christmas Party on Tues 6th December.

So , DO come & see us! There is plenty going on.

For more information on the Hilderstone Women's Institute, please contact Pat Saul (Hilderstone President) on Tel: 01785 812580.

The Big Village Party

After lots of planning and preparation The Big Village Party took place on Saturday July 30. We were blessed with largely good weather.

We hope you all enjoyed the day: we tried to organise something for everyone, and it was fantastic to see people in and around the village, and we saw some new faces as well as some regulars throughout the day.



Special thanks go to people who helped organise the day: Tim Handley, Iain Britton, Sam Shaw for everything from poo picking the field to helping in the café, to running the bar and everything else in between.

To Debbie Britton for running the raffle, tireless work in the café and for helping the little ones on the treasure hunt.

To Andy Reiss for running the field events (Nerf guns, football), and for rounding off the day, (with Kate Leeming), doing what he does best - entertaining!



To Hazel Woodward for running the Play Your Cards Right game.

To Sam Handley and Caru Musa (*LEFT*) for the food challenges on the field, and running the bar at the hall, and to Hannah Heath for organising the craft sessions.

ABOVE: Ghostbusters and Jurassic Park cars made an appearance, much to the delight of the children.



To Tom Nicholls for making the field available and Matt Hammond for bringing his Jurassic Park and Ghostbusters vehicles.

To everyone who contributed prizes to the raffle: Beyond The Barricade, Amerton Farm, Mavis Hammond, Shape Your Future, Dawn Shewell, and Liz Dyer.

Thanks also to Barbara for running a very busy café, and to Alison Nicholls & Weeman for their help too.

To Pat Saul and the WI for organising the Victoria Sandwich competition

and the 7 entrants, and for hosting a fabulous afternoon cream tea.

Apologies if I have missed anyone out.

Finally: well done to all my little pirates who took part in and solved the Village Treasure Hunt: if you know, you know!

Tim Dyer



ABOVE: The children enjoyed a range of events, including craft activities (TOP) and traditional football games and Nerf guns (ABOVE AND LEFT).

FROM YOUR VILLAGE HALL

Alongside our monthly Arts & Crafts Market with Café, and the Pop-up Pub evenings, we are also hosting:

Scarecrow Weekend Family Barn Dance – 3rd September, 6-10pm. Barn Dance (with bar), with a live caller - Victoria Berringer – to help you master various square dances. Dancing finishes at 9pm, and bar at 10pm.

Contact hilderstonevhbookings@gmail.com to book your tickets.

Elvis is coming to Hilderstone – 8th October, 5-11pm. Mark Clay promises a night to remember in this special evening of music. There is also our Pop-up Pub and Cod for Duty will be serving up Fish & Chips. What could be better?

Contact hilderstonevhbookings@gmail.com to book your tickets.

The Hilderstone Village Dinner – 22nd October, 7-11pm. Tables of 8 are £25, with Hall capacity limited to 64. Each table to have a host and guests to choose a "theme", and hosts to organise food for their table (village hall kitchen available). There is a free glass of prosecco on arrival & the bar will be open and live music by Joni after supper.

Contact Tim Dyer on: timie.dyer@talk21.com

Christmas Fair – Saturday 10th December, 10am–1pm. Christmas is coming to Hilderstone Village, with a wonderful array of Christmas Gifts to purchase from our stall holders and, of course, our Café.

The Village Christmas Panto – Saturday 17th December, 7-10pm. Of course, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without our village panto and this year is no exception! With a fabulous cast at the ready, this promises to be a real family-favourite and not to be missed. There will be a bar available to add to the Christmas cheer!

And don't forget to book tickets for our Burns' Supper 21st January 2023.

Please note that at our Pop-Up Pub events, last orders are at 10pm, with the bar closing promptly at 10.30pm.

The Scarecrows are Back in Hilderstone

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th September

1.30 - 4.30 pm, with Barn Dance 6 - 10pm on Saturday



Hilderstone Scarecrow Weekend is back! Get your scarecrows dusted off and out of the attic, your paint brushes and old clothes at the ready and get your scarecrows ready for our scarecrow competition or take a tour of the village and its special friends, using our Scarecrow Trail Map (available from the Village Hall during the weekend).

Various events have been arranged at the Village Hall and Christ Church during the weekend, including our Scarecrow Café, locally run stalls, a fabulous raffle in the Village Hall, and an Art Exhibition in church.

But don't just leave the dressing up to the Scarecrows: there is a Scarecrow Fancy-dress Competition for the kids, with prizes for the winners, and we would love to see some adult scarecrows too, to add to the fun.

Saturday will then round-off with a great family Barn Dance (with bar) starting at 18:00. We have a live caller - Victoria Berringer - who will be helping you to master various square dances. Fun for all the Family!

On Sunday 11.15am, a Scarecrow themed family service (fancy dress is encouraged) takes place at Christ Church, complete with slide show of all the scarecrows around the village.

At 4:30pm the Scarecrow Competition winners will be announced in the Village Hall, with prizes for the Most Original, Most Humorous, Most Traditional and of course the Best in Show.

To register your scarecrow on the Scarecrow Trail Map (and to enter the competition), or you are interested in displaying an exhibit at the art exhibition, please email Simon at: sa.shaw@rocketmail.com.

Hilderstone Youth Club



We have been very busy lately at our Youth Club.

Our main project was to sort out the Bug Hotel by the pond at the back of the Village Hall in time of the Big Village Party



We also made star decorations for the old bus shelter by the pond and bird feeders to hang in the trees to help the birds, along with lots of other fun activities!

For more information on the Youth Club, please contact Debbie on Tel: 07989 130014.

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY DRAW WINNERS:

May:

Ball: 51 £100
7 £ 50
38 £ 25
63 £ 10
85 £ 10

June:

Ball: 35 £100
58 £ 75
20 £ 50
23 £ 40
40 £ 30

July:

Ball: 32 £100
1 £ 50
30 £ 25
14 £ 10
46 £ 10

Kids' Corner: Craft Ideas for Autumn

Autumn is all about jumping around piles of crunchy colourful Autumn leaves and collecting pinecones and acorns. So why not use some of your cones to help the birds in your garden?

Bird cake mixture:

Packed full of energy to keep birds going, especially important in cold weather, this mixture is quick, easy and fun to make. You can use a wide range of ingredients, such as:



- sunflower hearts
- peanut pieces and other bird seed mixes
- dried fruits softened with water
- crumbled or grated cheese
- cooked rice and other leftovers
- breadcrumbs.

Things to avoid

- uncooked rice
- salted nuts or other foods
- whole nuts or fruit.

Method:

Combine your chosen ingredients in a bowl and add softened lard or dripping and mix together into a firm paste.

Tie a piece of string around the bottom of the cone (the fat bit) – you will use this to hang the fat cone from your tree, bird table etc.

Now take your bird cake mixture and press it between the cones, building it up in layers.

You are now ready to hang them up outside. Why not try using yogurt pots, small garden pots or coconut shells too?

Homemade Toffee Apples

Ingredients

- 15 Apples
- 400g Golden Caster Sugar
- 350g Golden Syrup
- 350ml water
- 15 Lollipop Sticks
- 8 drops red food colouring (optional)

Method

- Lightly grease a few baking trays. Insert lollipop sticks into the whole, stemmed apples
- In a medium saucepan over medium-high heat, combine sugar, golden syrup and water. Heat to 149 - 154°C or until a small amount of syrup dropped into cold water forms hard, brittle threads. Remove from heat and stir in food colouring.
- Holding the apple by its stick, dip in syrup and remove and turn to coat evenly.
- Place on prepared trays to harden.



ANIMAL WORD SEARCH:

P	R	E	A	M	D	R	I	Z	Q	U	E	A	M	O
E	U	R	C	H	I	N	E	O	U	F	M	P	O	U
N	E	M	H	H	R	B	P	T	F	O	O	W	I	L
G	R	O	A	P	R	R	A	A	E	M	I	W	C	H
U	G	U	A	A	R	A	R	E	R	Z	T	O	L	F
I	T	S	M	U	L	I	O	N	R	A	O	L	E	S
N	N	E	W	T	G	Y	A	G	E	L	F	F	O	A
B	P	A	N	C	A	Q	N	J	T	W	E	O	P	K
F	O	W	H	Y	Z	F	O	X	R	X	N	Y	A	T
I	S	H	E	E	E	E	I	M	P	A	L	U	R	E
S	T	K	B	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T	Q	D	V
C	R	A	W	L	L	A	M	H	B	A	U	X	I	F
O	I	H	V	A	E	G	Z	Q	O	D	R	F	R	E
N	C	F	P	B	E	A	R	K	N	N	T	A	R	M
Y	H	M	E	L	K	M	A	X	G	A	L	Z	A	B
L	I	O	M	A	N	T	E	L	O	P	E	G	M	J

Clue may run forwards, backwards, diagonally, up, or down.

Puma
Elephant
Gazelle
Turtle
Giraffe
Fowl
Lion
Wolf

Zebra
Bear
Antelope
Rat
Fox
Mouse
Elk
Ram

Penguin
Urchin
Newt
Ferret
Leopard
Lyxn
Panda
Bongo

Make it Snappy!



Hilderstone Village Hall has announced the launch of a brilliant new village-wide event, aimed at celebrating our lovely rural community. The first Hilderstone Village Photo Competition is open to everyone in our village from now until 31st October.

The Village Hall is asking for photographs to be taken that capture images of our village and surroundings.

The aim is then to select the "best 12 photographs" and use these images to create a Hilderstone Village Calendar 2023.

The calendar will then be sold at The Christmas Fayre and all proceeds will be split between The Village Hall and Christ Church.

Entries can be:

***Portrait or Landscape
colour or black & white***

*Entries to be sent to Tim Dyer
email timie.dyer@talk21.com*

***Closing date: 31st October
2022.***





Harvest Supper

Our popular Harvest Supper is on

Monday 19th September 2022
7pm for 7.30pm

at Hilderstone Village Hall
with the auction of produce afterwards

Cost of tickets Adults £10.00 Children £5.00

Tickets available from
Phil Davies on: 01785 747836
Fully licensed bar available during the event.



The Man in the Field

A traveller wandered on a well-used track
and paused at a gateway, that revealed a scene
of hills and woods and a misted horizon.

The view was broken by a man, standing in the centre
of the field, who also appeared to be gazing at the hills.

The man was still and very tall, his arms outstretched
as if to catch the wind in his gloved hands.

The erect stillness of the man
made the traveller curious;
carefully he climbed the gate
and strode across the furrowed land;
he called out "Hello there,"
but the calls were unheard.

And then he saw that the coat was tattered rags,
straw poking through sleeves remaining immobile.

The traveller laughed!

This was no man to converse with ...

Here was a Scarecrow waiting for birds.



Church Matters: Readings & Prayers

Even though the Covid restrictions seem far behind us now, we appreciate that many, especially those who are infirm, are still hesitant to come to church and join in our worship. Should you wish to 'join in' from afar, we have listed the readings for each week. We hope to see you soon.

As always, our services begin at 11.15am every Sunday.

Date	Service	Reading 1	Reading 2	Visiting Cleric
4th Sept	Scarecrow Trinity 12	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14.25-33	John Hall
11th Sept	Trinity 13	1 Timothy 1.12-17	Luke 15.1-10	Roy Ball
18th Sept	Harvest	1 Timothy 2.1-7	Luke 16.1-13	David Howard
25th Sept	Trinity 15	1 Timothy 6.6-19	Luke 16.19-31	TBA
2nd Oct	Trinity 16	2 Timothy 1.1-14	Luke 17.5-10	John Sterling
9th Oct	Trinity 17	2 Timothy 2.8-15	Luke 17.11-19	David Howard
16th Oct	Trinity 18	2 Timothy 3.14 - 4.5	Luke 18.1-8	Brian Whittaker
23rd Oct	Bible Sunday	2 Timothy 4.6-8,16-18	Luke 18.9-14	Linda Lucking
30th Oct	All Saints	2 Thessal's 1:1-4, 11-12	Luke 19:1-10	United H'stone Michael Metcalf
6th Nov	3 before Advent	2 Thessal's 2:1-5, 13-17	Luke 20:27-38	Alan Betts
13th Nov	Remembrance 10.50am	2 Thessal's 3.6-13	Luke 21.5-19	Roy Ball
20th Nov	Christ the King	Colossians 1.11-20	Luke 23.33-43	Brian Whittaker
27th Nov	Advent 1	Romans 13.11 to end	Matthew 24.36-44	Alan Betts
4th Dec	Christingle Advent 2	Romans 15.4-13	Matthew 3.1-12	Gerald Gardiner

11th Dec	Advent 3	James 5.7-10	Matthew 11.2-11	Linda Lucking
18th Dec	Advent 4	Romans 1.1-7	Matthew 1.18-25	Brian Whittaker
24 th Dec	Crib Service 4pm start			TBC
	Midnight Mass 9.45pm			David Howard

SPECIAL EVENTS AT CHRIST CHURCH

SCARECROW WEEKEND:

As well as hosting an array of visiting scarecrows in our churchyard, we will also be holding our Family Scarecrow Service, during which we will present a slideshow of all your fabulous creations. With the Art Exhibition displayed around the church also, it will be a lovely celebratory event for our village.

Feel free to dress up as a Scarecrow for the service and head over to the Village Hall in the afternoon, where the celebrations continue.

HARVEST:

We have all been reminded over recent weeks about just how crucial farming is to this country, and indeed the world. Traditionally Christ Church has focused on fresh, tinned, or dry good and flowers at this service of thanksgiving. This year, however, we are planning something a little different.

In **addition** to the donations of food and flowers, we are looking to present the 'Tools of Occupation' in recognition of all the jobs people in our village do,



and the tools they require to do them. For instance, a student may use a calculator, pencils, note pad or laptop etc.

Can you help us to decorate our church for this important event by bringing along something which you use for your work or even hobbies? We are planning to decorate the church on Friday 16th & Saturday 17th September so any donations you can bring on either Friday or Saturday would be most gratefully received. You can also bring produce to the service itself.

All produce and flowers will, as usual, be auctioned off for charity at our annual Harvest Supper on Monday 19th September.



We start Christmas in style with the **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL** in the church on 10th & 11th December. Like last year, our beautiful Georgian church will be a riot of colour, with a host of decorated Christmas Trees twinkling away, and Christmas decorations

adorning the church. This is one event not to be missed. (*See our advert in this magazine for details*).

CRIB SERVICE:

This marks the beginning of Christmas for many of us, with the candles lit, Carols sung and, of course, mulled wine and mince pies at the end. This family service is always a popular event with families of all ages and we look forward to welcoming you to this special service, which starts at **4pm** on Christmas Eve.

Families are at the heart of all our services at Christ Church, with a dedicated Children's Corner available with toys, crayons etc for small children. Please do feel free to join us at one of our services, especially our Family Services.

The Future for Christ Church

Christ Church is not alone in trying to recover from the difficulties of Covid, but we find ourselves facing two additional challenges at present: the appointment of a new Incumbent; and the installation of a toilet in church.

The appointment of a new Vicar. This will be a HOUSE FOR DUTY post, as it was with the Rev'd Marion Reynolds. The Incumbent will provide 1.5 days per week for Hilderstone and 1.5 days per week for Fulford. The Incumbent will live at the Vicarage in lieu of a payment.

In early 2022 we completed our Parish Profile, a copy of which is available in the church, or on request. This sets out who we are and what we wish from a new Incumbent, with the aim of attracting applicants for our Benefice of Hilderstone with Fulford. The appointment was advertised in the Church Times in July, but without success, so the next stage is to advertise again in late September, with interviews scheduled for October. In the meantime, Christ Church continues to function as normal, with Audrey Stringer (Church Warden) inviting locum retired Vicars to officiate each Sunday. Those attending are finding this to be interesting, as we have benefitted from a rich variety of styles and sermons over the months.



The second challenge we face is providing toilet facilities in the church, as part of our Access for All project (Afa). The Chancellors office at Lichfield approved the Faculty for this work back in 2021 and the architects completed detailed drawings and gained tenders in the order of £50k for the installation of the toilet. However, sadly following the financial difficulties experienced during two years of Covid, where we were unable to do any fundraising, we do not have the funds required to go ahead with the works.



The early part of the Project to create an access for all via the car park to the Baptistry is almost complete (*SEE PREVIOUS PAGE and LEFT*). This cost approx. £14k and was gained through donations and fund-raising activities. We are most grateful to all those who supported us and enabled us to put this permanent ramp and access point into the church.

You may ask why we need a toilet, especially given the cost. It is evident from all clergy visiting the church that

there is not a future unless the church has a toilet. For many planning a wedding or funeral, having such facilities is a requirement, especially when the event is to be attended by those with an infirmity or very young children. Without facilities we are, in effect, often preventing people from attending events or the family will choose a more suitable venue where such facilities are offered. It also limits the events we can host at this beautiful Georgian church, impacting our ability to undertake necessary fundraising and social events for our community.

I am sure everyone in Hilderstone would wish the future of Christ Church to continue with a new Incumbent. To attract applicants, however, we have to show we are an active and thriving church community, but this is hindered by our lack of basic facilities. We have done well to maintain the church fabric and churchyard, and all the other financial overheads involved in running a historic church during these difficult times, but we must look to the future and what we need to offer our community if we are to continue to serve the village.

So, if any person in the village considers they have the appropriate skills in raising funding, or would like to help in any other way, then please contact Audrey Stringer (details at back of magazine). Thank you.

Roy Clark, Lay Chairman PCC.



Church Yard Tidy Up

A big thank you to all the members of the Team who have worked really hard over the summer months to keep the church yard looking so nice. It hasn't been easy some months as it's been so hot but everyone is appreciative of the cool of the church for our break at 11am.

Thanks to the stalwarts who managed to trim and edge the long path down to the Garden of Remembrance. The pathway looks really tidy.

The wildflowers in the church yard have made a really a beautiful display to which many have commented on, including the Foxes & Cubs (see below).

Thanks to the father and son duo who did an amazing job in cutting the laurels back in the car park and those who made such an impact in tidying the border after all the Spring flowers had gone over.

The next session will be held on Saturday 20th August, and all are welcome to join us. We want the church yard to look good for all the visitors coming to the activities on Scarecrow Weekend.

Christine Clark

(Last two sessions 17th Sept and 15th Oct)



The churchyard was looking wonderfully colourful during July & August, with the bright orange and yellow hues of the delightfully named 'Foxes & Cubs' (*pictured RIGHT*). For the past two years, we have also seen the rather rare fungus 'Pink Wax Cap' too which, though short-lived, are worth looking out for in October.

We are planning to allocate parts of the old churchyard area for a Wildlife haven for insects and animals who call it home. Amongst our visitors this year is an owl, which has taken up residence in the Bell Tower!

Helping our Garden Friends in Autumn

During Autumn, we busy ourselves preparing for Winter by clearing the garden, de-cluttering the greenhouse and clearing up all those fallen leaves. Our wildlife friends are also busy in our gardens: Hedgehogs are looking for a place to hibernate, insects are hunkering down in the undergrowth and birds are flocking to our garden feeders. It's time to give them a special pre-Winter boost to help them through the cold season.

1. Clean and refill bird feeders. Cleaning bird feeders is vital to preventing the spread of diseases. Scrub your feeders with soap and boiling water and rinse thoroughly. Allow to dry and fill with high-calorie winter foods such as fat balls. Don't forget to keep your birdbath full and free of ice.

2. Make compost. Decomposing organic waste produces a nutrient-rich and biologically active substance, which can be added to the soil, giving your flower beds a much-needed boost. The heat the pile generates will also provide the perfect winter home for insects and reptiles.

3. Clear out nest boxes. Every couple of years or so, it helps to empty out tit and sparrow boxes to clear them of parasites. If you can, remove the box from the tree, give it a quick sploosh with boiling water, leave to dry and then put back up again.



4. Feed hedgehogs. Hedgehogs are preparing to hibernate. So now is the time to put out some dry (non-fish) cat food or specialist hedgehog food. This will help them gain the weight they need to hibernate safely.

5. Make a leaf litter pile. Even a simple leaf litter pile will make a great winter home for insects, or maybe even a hedgehog. Leave a small doorway in the bottom to allow access for hedgehogs.

What garden projects will you be doing this autumn in your wildlife garden?

Jobs in the Garden: Autumn

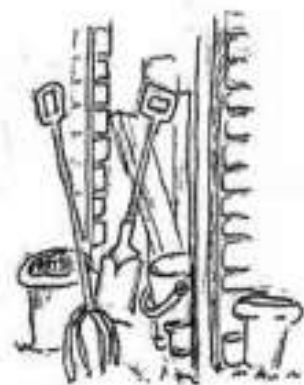
Autumn is always a busy time for gardeners as we prepare for Winter and the Spring ahead. Here are a few jobs to be getting on with before Winter sets in:

- Raise plant pots off the ground to prevent them getting waterlogged.
- Tidy up your greenhouse before you overwinter tender plants, remove everything from your greenhouse, sweep out and disinfect the area, including the inside of the glass. A hot solution of garden disinfectant or Jeyes Fluid will help to prevent pests and fungal infection.
- Clean the glass, allowing maximum light in during shorter Autumn days.
- Clean your empty garden pots, with a mix of water and bleach and leave outside to dry ready for use next year.
- Rake up and store leaves to create valuable leaf mould. Worms love it and drag it down into the earth where it improves soil structure and water retention. You can also mix it with potting compost for a nutrient-rich start for plants. Best of all, it's free.
- Dig up annuals and plant your beds with pansies and/or wallflowers. Cut back faded perennials to 5 cm above ground level. Don't be too tidy – seed heads are great for insects.
- Once your borders are clean and tidy, spread a thick layer of compost, bark chips or well-rotted manure.
- Clear out last year's compost and use it around the garden, making

room for this year's waste. If your compost isn't quite ready, turn it to improve decomposition, and start a new compost heap for this year.

- Warm soil and cooler air temperatures make Autumn the perfect time to fill gaps in your borders with evergreens, including Box, Laurel etc.

- Last, but not least, clean all your tools, sharpen (where necessary) and store away ready for a busy Spring.





Oh No - Not Christmas Already!

The Hilderstone

Christmas Tree Festival

10th - 11th December 2022

Following last year's success, Christ Church is again holding its Christmas Tree Festival.

We are hoping for even more sponsors and therefore more trees, Aiming, as always, to bring festive cheer to the village during a special time of year. This year's event will be even better, featuring Nativity sets from around the world.

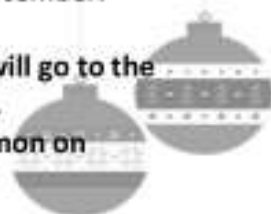
Everyone will be welcome to visit the Church to enjoy this Festival and maybe indulge in a glass of Mulled Wine and a Mince Pie or Two (it is Christmas after all)! There will also be a Craft Table, where children (or those who are young at heart) can make a Christmas Tree Decoration.

Any business, organisation, or group (whether that be friends or family) are welcome to participate in designing and decorating a tree.

Costing just £25 to sponsor a tree, each tree comes complete with lights to sponsors for decoration w/c Monday 5th December.

**All proceeds from the Christmas Tree Festival will go to the
Christ Church Access for All Project.**

For further information please contact Simon on
sa.shaw@rocketmail.com



Hilderstone Heritage: Part 38



To start, two similar views of the centre of the village taken at different times - c1905 (LEFT) and the 1940s (BELOW LEFT): In Part Thirty-Seven we looked at Cotwalton Camp.



My sister has a log she made when she attended the camp (at age 14) 7th -14th May 1971. This is her campcraft badge (BELOW RIGHT): By 1971 at least three of the original huts were in use as showers, common room, and dining room respectively. Visitors

to the camp used tents. Hilderstone brook featured prominently in the week of activities:

"We all went down to the stream. We climbed the ropes and were swinging across the stream. We went into the marshy ground, and we paddled in the stream."

"We went for a walk to the Petrefactions where there is a waterfall running over the rocks. We went through Cotwalton and through the fields to the river [sic]. We were paddling in it and were walking under the waterfall. Some girls slipped down the rocks into the water. Nearly all of us got soaked."



"We went to the stream further along from the commando course and put our tents up. After lunch we all went down to the commando course. We were swinging on the ropes and some girls were climbing the ladder and worked themselves along the ropes, then they jumped into the stream. Quite a few girls had their costumes on."

"We walked down toward Cotwalton. We turned off along a little lane through some nurseries [Boulton's] and fields until we came to the main road. After eating lunch we set off walking along the main road. Then we turned off down a small lane. We walked through some nurseries [Hill's], then we came to the main road leading to Moddershall. We walked into Moddershall and had a look at the lake. Then we sat down by a stream. Some girls had a paddle in it."



The girls also went on trips to the Dane Valley, and to Aston where they canoed on the canal. On both occasions they went via minibus. Years earlier school related journeys from the village would undoubtedly have been via a coach owned by the Greatorex family. This photograph dates from the late 1940s / early 1950s. The family name features on the bus: The nearest railway stations to the village were Aston-by-Stone and Cresswell (LEFT). The latter was opened on 07/08/1848 and closed to passengers on 07/11/1966. It also served as a terminus of the Cheadle Branch line between 1892 and 1963.



The station has long gone but the signal box survived until 1989. The below is a delivery slip from 1947.

TO		FROM		DATE		TIME		PLACE	
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RECEIVED 1/1/47									

Let's Dance!!



With Strictly back on our screens, 'would be' dancers throughout the country are taking to their sofas, absorbed in the wonder of dance. So why not put on your dancing shoes and give it a go yourself?

The benefits of dance are huge! Starting with the fitness side, it is a superb way to keep fit and can be tailored to your own fitness level. Dancing requires you to use lots of different parts of your body from your head to your toes, so it can be a full body work-out that gets the heart rate going or a gentle way of exercising to improve your fitness level, as well as mobility. BUT dancing is so much more than this.

Some people choose dance as a way of making friends and socialising, opting to learn a few basic steps so that they can attend a tea dance or a social dance, where they can dance as much or as little as they like. Over the course of a week, we see all ages & abilities come through the studio door, every person dancing for their own reason.

Dance is proven to be a huge benefit to mental health and wellbeing too: It can help you to engage with your emotions and connect with other people. Research indicates that regular dancing can help you feel less stressed. People often say that when they attend a dance class or a social dance that for an hour or two, they can forget their problems & relax.

Having danced from a very young age, I am a strong advocate of dance, and am often asked: "Have I left it too late to start?" "Am I too old to learn?"

In short, no. It's never too late and you are never too old to learn. Dancing is for everyone, whether you have a partner or not. If it is something you have always wanted to do or like the sound of, then give it a go. At Quick Quick Slow Dance Studio, Creswell, we offer classes in Ballroom, Latin, Sequence, Tea Dances & regular social events in our Ballroom.

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- Send us your pictures, articles etc for our Parish Magazine. Email: Eleanor.bane@safersystems.co.uk
- Make a donation towards the upkeep of the Parish Magazine.
Contact: philip.davies73@btinternet.com
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- Support our annual Best Kept Village initiative and keep our paths, driveways etc clean, tidy and attractive. Contact Hilderstone Parish Council for details.

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We wish you all the best during this Autumn time from all the team on the Parish Magazine.



Whether you like to crunch through all those Autumn Leaves with your wellies on, or just sit back with a hot cup of coffee and admire the beautiful colours of Autumn, we wish you all the very best for this special time of year.

See you for our Christmas Special Edition in early December. And remember, any pictures, comments, stories etc, would be most gratefully received!

Email: Eleanor.bane@safersystems.co.uk.

Parish Magazine Donations. If you could help towards the cost of printing this magazine, we would be so grateful. Contact Phil Davies: phil.davies73@btinternet.com

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