

# IRCHESTER VILLAGE VOICE DECEMBER 2022



## Editorial

There have been some changes in this version of the Village Voice as a new team has taken over the production of the magazine. We would like to thank the previous editorial team for all their hard work over the previous years.

The new production team wanted to make sure that the Voice was produced before Christmas. We would value any experienced advice on how to improve our efforts. Some things have changed and we are open to new constructive ideas and would welcome any support that you can give. This magazine will continue to be produced for the foreseeable future.

The competition in the last Village Voice was won by: - Mossy Waters, Margaret Smith and Julie Moorby. Congratulations to them all for getting full marks.

Thanks also to all that Sue Apps and all the volunteers who sort and deliver the Village Voice.

Happy Christmas  
The Village Voice  
Production Team

**Irchester Parish Council**

**Report from the Chair**

The council have now appointed a new Parish Clerk, Sarah Tweddell who started in this post during September. Her details can be found on the Parish Council contacts page. We wish her well in her new role.

Most of the councillors and both members of staff went on the recent training and were all successful in gaining their certificates for 'off to a flying start'.

The library has finally opened and is beginning to have an impact, so hope everyone heard the BBC Radio Northampton broadcast promoting its work. The volunteers have a list of events planned for villagers to enjoy so please support them. The councils' thanks go to all those supporters who have worked hard for this long, awaited opening to take place.

Some of the older equipment is to be repaired on the Recreation Ground in Wollaston Road. Those older members of the village will be relieved to know that the rocking horse is to get a new lease of life and not be scrapped as some people feared. It would be interesting to find out just how old it is. I know it's at least 63 years old but can anyone remember when it first appeared? The recreation working party are looking at equipment for the over 10's to make the recreation ground more interesting but this has had to be put back for a short while because of the repair costs. Any good ideas will be much appreciated.

We have had good feedback on the new seat that we put on Pear Tree Corner in memory of all those people who died in the covid pandemic. It certainly brightens up that area. It does make the other seat look a bit dull but plans are afoot to replace that one with something more colourful. The seats that are removed will be used to replace old, damaged ones elsewhere.

The bus shelter at the entrance to the Recreation Ground has been painted as have the railings around the War Memorial at Little Irchester. There is still some work to be done on other items around the village.

The car park next to the bowls club is to be marked out with parking bays. Thursday is the best day to do this but every time they come to mark it out it pours with rain. Oh, how we longed for rain in the summer but now I wish it wouldn't rain on a Thursday!! It will be done before it snows, I hope.

In November we will be setting the budget for the next financial year and considering plans for the future.

I hope that you all have a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Take care

Pam Armstrong – Chair Irchester Parish Council

The Parish Council have installed Lest we Forget signs on the War Memorials in Irchester and Little Irchester



There is also a new rainbow bench fitted opposite the War Memorial in Irchester in memory of all those who died during the Covid 19 Pandemic



### **IRCHESTER COMMUNITY ORCHARD.**

All the trees got through the heatwave, although not bearing a great deal of fruit, it was their first season. I am hoping for a better crop next year of course weather permitting.

We have measured out for four raised flower beds, these are not solely for flowers but vegetables as well. The beds will be made from old sleepers, treated to take the extremes of the weather that we keep experiencing. They will be low lying so that the disabled and children can use them and wide enough for anyone to perch on them and be able to reach across.

We will also be planting daffodil and tulips amongst the trees, these will hopefully attract bees, butterflies and, other insects to help with cross pollination.

We have listed the Orchard on various sites showing that the Parish is helping with our carbon footprint none less than H.M The Queen's Green Canopy. It is vital that we try and restore the imbalance of house building, the loss of land and trees needs to be redressed and if our Orchard helps in its small way then that can only be a good thing.

Again, please can I remind you all that this is your Orchard, we are trying to do our best, if there are any keen gardeners that have just a hour or two a week to lend a hand please contact either Councillors Armstrong or Watts (our telephone contact numbers are published in the village voice) we will be happy to have you on board also if you have any extra bulbs over and would like to give to the Orchard again please contact either Councillor.

Finally, please can the lady who contacted me at the beginning of the Orchard re-donating a tree get in touch as it is coming around the time for the planting of fruit trees. The two ladies who have donated a walnut and a sweet almond thank you these were given to the Northampton Orchards as they have larger areas to take those type of trees.

I would on behalf of All concerned with the Orchard like to wish you a Joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kevin.

Councillor Kevin Watts.

# Now Open Irchester Library



Opening Times are:

Wednesday's 10am-2pm  
Friday 2pm-6pm  
Saturday 10am-12noon

The library finally re-opened on the 19<sup>th</sup> October after being closed since March 2020 when the Pandemic first started. During the period of closure building work has been undertaken on the library, the lease was signed with the Parish Council from North Northamptonshire Council, and more recently Volunteers have been undertaking training to run it. It is still early days and the volunteers are still learning. Please do pop along and see all the new stock that has been provided by the library service.

We hope in the New Year to start Rhyme time, Craft and Book Clubs, and other community events to support the library, so please do look out for details. If you have any ideas we would like to also hear from you.

The library is also still looking for enthusiastic volunteers to be involved in running the service. This volunteering could involve helping on the front desk with issuing of books and dealing with enquiries, helping to plan and run events, helping run our Facebook Group, or even doing some general maintenance or gardening. Please just call into the library or email: [IrchesterCML@gmail.com](mailto:IrchesterCML@gmail.com)

Jon-Paul Carr, Chairman of Library Management Committee

## ***Litter Picking Hub***

The Wellie Wombles have kindly provided Irchester Community Library with litter pickers, rubbish hoops and bags. If anyone feels when they are out walking around the village, they would like to borrow these items to help make the community a cleaner place they are there to be borrowed. There are instructions if you do pick the items up available from the library as well. The items can be collected and returned during library opening hours. It is hope that in the New Year a regularly community litter picking group could be established to start and finish at the library. If you are interested in being involved with a possible new group email: [IrchesterCML@gmail.com](mailto:IrchesterCML@gmail.com) or pop into the library to express your interest

# Irchester Parish Historical Society

## MEMBERSHIP

We are a group of people who love different aspects of Irchester, Northamptonshire, national and world history. New Members are always welcome. Subscription is £15.00 for a year (May to May) for Adults and £7.50 for Children. There is a small charge at each meeting of £2.00 for members and £4.00 for non-members.

Our talks take place at Irchester Library at 7.30pm usually on the second Thursday of the month. Working Party Meetings, where no charge is applied, are held at different locations. These meetings concentrate on researching the parish history, preparing exhibitions and publications.

Further details of the Society can be obtained from the Chairman, Jon-Paul Carr at 23 High Street, Irchester, NN29 7AA. Tel: 01933 382476 or email : jpcarr01@hotmail.com

## EVENTS DIARY 2023

**12<sup>th</sup> January 2023          Working Party**

**9<sup>th</sup> February 2023          American Connections with Northamptonshire**, an illustrated talk with Jon-Paul Carr.

**9<sup>th</sup> March 2023          Working Party**

**13<sup>th</sup> April 2023          ‘Radio Day’s’** an illustrated talk by historian Kevin Varty about the programmes that we listened to when the wireless hummed and the dial took us to Hilversum, Luxemburg and the trawler band.

## *Little Irchester Highways Report*

Speeding and traffic overtaking on A509. Please take extra care when crossing at the Pelican as there has been some very near misses.

War Memorial is looking very neat and tidy branches will be cut back. The Tommy has been reinstated the railings have been painted and memorial plaques have been fitted and the seat is a very nice tribute.

Please take bins in off Highway asap as it is dangerous for pedestrians, unsightly and a fire risk.

## **St. Katharine's Morris.**

As Irchester grows with the addition of new housing we welcome existing and new members of our expanding community to try out our approach to Morris Dancing and offer a warm welcome to new members.

Sadly since the lockdown our numbers have reduced and if we are to continue to have fun and entertain audiences into 2023 and beyond, then **we need new members to come along and join in, to enjoy the music, the laughter and the exercise and to add their ideas into the mix.**

Our approach to Morris dancing is relaxed, we have a mixed side and we aim to enjoy ourselves whilst providing a performance that brings colour, music, fun and originality to our audiences.

Some people may think of Morris dancing as just something that is stuck in history and performed by old bearded men waving hankies but this is far from the reality.

Without a pre-existing Irchester tradition to preserve, we have always been free to pick and choose what and how we perform, often creating our own unique dances with opportunity for individual expression and inclusivity. We also incorporate dances from different Morris traditions.

There are sides who exist mainly to preserve their traditions, but we find plenty of room to create new and varied experiences for audiences to enjoy.

We practice each Thursday evening at St. Katharine's church since it was at St. Katharine's church that the side originated, however, whilst respecting our roots, we see ourselves very much as representing Irchester and from a religious perspective our side includes both believers and atheists and as such offers a home for all.

For more information see details below or come along one Thursday at 19:30 and we will be pleased to welcome you.

Charles      01933 386296

Margaret    01933 359166

<http://stkatharinesmorris.wixsite.com/st-katharines-morris>

or find us on Facebook





## Book Corner

If you are reading this article then no doubt you will have heard of Alexander McCall Smith's book called '*The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*' which is set in Botswana and features Mma Precious Ramotswe. How many of you knew, though, that McCall Smith has written 23 books in that series alone (one of my favourite chapter headings being 'How to Deal with an Angry Ostrich') with 15 in the Scotland Street series and 17 in the (my favourite) Isabel Dalhousie set, as well as the Corduroy Mansions series, plus children's books and various academic books? My goodness, I think the word 'prolific' could have been coined just for Mr McCall Smith. I daren't add up the total number of books as no doubt it would be out of date before I finished the sentence – but it must be over 100.

Alexander McCall Smith, CBE, FRSE, is a British writer who was raised in Southern Rhodesia and was formerly a Professor of Medical Law at the University of Edinburgh, as well as a respected expert on medical law and bioethics and who served on British and international committees.

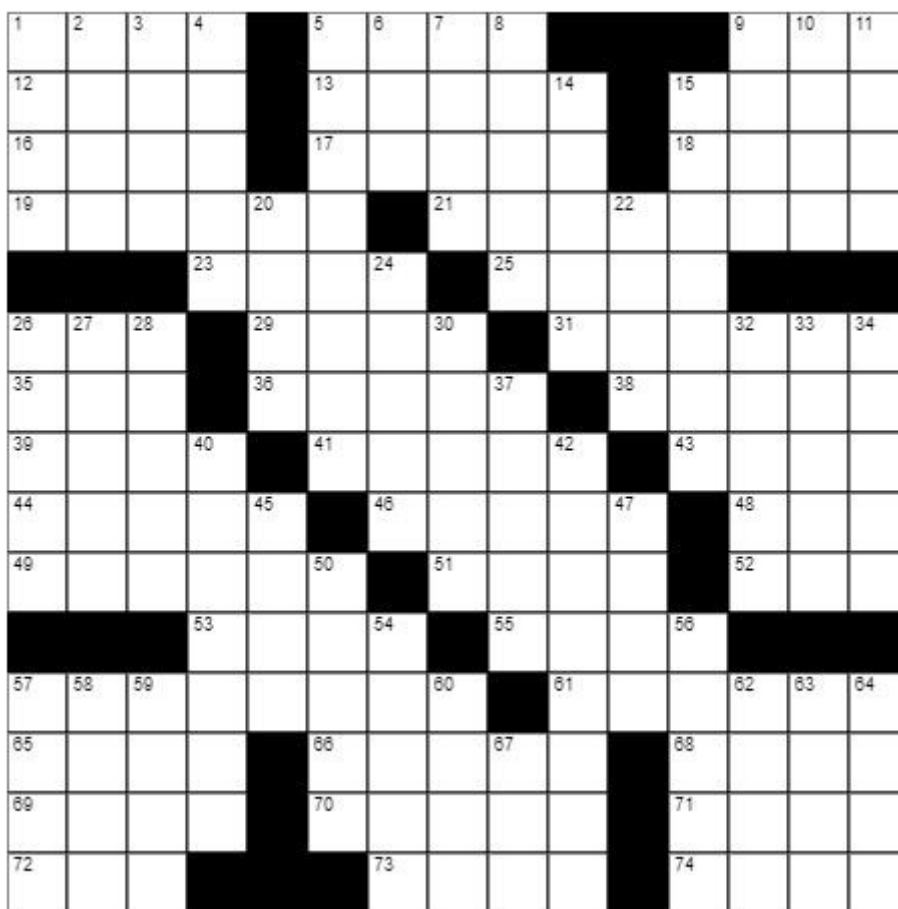
I first read *The Right Attitude to Rain* (2006) which I picked up in a charity shop as I had enjoyed *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*. Readers of novels will know the pleasurable feeling of "oh, that was good. I wonder if there are any more in the series" – and finding that, yes, there are, several! *The Right Attitude to Rain* is actually the third in the series of Isabel Dalhousie novels and, although they can be read independently of each other, they are probably best read in order (which I am now doing).

*The Sunday Philosophy Club* (2004) is the first of this group and is where we are introduced to Isabel Dalhousie, a Philosopher who somehow always gets involved in other people's difficulties, despite the fact that she edits the *Review of Applied Ethics*, a respected magazine. A moral philosopher who edits a magazine on ethics, will this be a difficult read? No, not at all, and that is down to Isabel herself who is quirky and funny and intelligent and thoughtful. The books are not complicated mystery or detective stories but are in fact, charming and, IMHO, very enjoyable.

Apart from that, Isabel Dalhousie novels are set in Edinburgh, which is now firmly on my list of places I want to visit. I hope you find them as satisfying as I do (and I am only half way through the series).

Angela Scheidegger

# CROSSWORD



## Across

- 1 Waterfall (8)
- 5 Cans (4)
- 8 Pulsate (5)
- 9 Border plant (7)
- 11 Diminish, shrink slowly (7)
- 12 Precious stone (5)
- 13 Christmas songs (6)
- 15 Commotion (6)
- 18 Snug (5)
- 20 Saviour (7)
- 23 Knee bone (7)
- 24 Thrown (5)
- 25 Petty quarrel (4)
- 26 Surprised (8)

## Down

- 1 Quoted (5)
- 2 Breed of dog (7)
- 3 Dressed (5)
- 4 Young cattle (6)
- 6 Relative by marriage (5)
- 7 Vivid red (7)
- 10 Small and elegant (5)
- 13 Pilot's compartment (7)
- 14 Faithful (5)
- 16 Out of the ordinary (7)
- 17 Bosom (6)
- 19 Theme (5)
- 21 More secure (5)
- 22 Inflexible (5)

# SUDOKU

		7			4			3
				1		7		
		1	7					8
	4			8		5		2
1		2		7	5			
	3			6		4		1
		3	6					7
				9		3		
		5			2			9



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## Higham and Rushden u3a

Our monthly meetings are held at Flutters Bingo in Rushden. Upcoming meetings/talks are as follows:-

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Festive songs with our Singing for Fun Group. This will follow our branch AGM.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January – 'Walking across Africa' by Fran Sandham

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February – 'Dancing with Diana' by Colin Hill

Doors open at 1.30pm for a 2.00pm start. We look forward to seeing all members, current and new.

For full details of our activities please visit our web site: [www.highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk](http://www.highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk)

## ***Irchester Players***

I cannot believe that another exciting year has passed us, with so many historical moments involved and many projects and events for Irchester Players. We started off the year incredibly strong with our annual pantomime *'Dick Whittington'* in February 2022. This was held at Parsons Hall between 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> February. It was amazing to have our first pantomime back on stage in such a long time after COVID and was loved by all the audience members that came to watch.

In May, we held an event to celebrate all film songs known as *'Saturday Night at the Movies'*. This was a one night fundraiser, including some very memorable songs from films of all genres and decades. This helped us raise a large amount of money to be able to continue to put on our productions in the Village.

Come July, and it was the turn of Irchester Players Youth to take to the stage with their solo performance of *'Annie JR'*. This was the first time our Youth Division had taken to the stage on their own and they did themselves, their parents/carers and anyone watching proud as they belted out many famous songs from Annie.

Our most recent production was *'A Night in the 90's'*. This was a joint fundraising event raising money not only for Irchester Players but also for the MS Society and Cransley Hospital. The show contained a range of songs from across the 90's performed by our members. We were successfully able to raise over £100 for each charity!

This brings us to our next upcoming project *'Jack and the Beanstalk'*. This is our annual pantomime for 2023. This is going to be performed at Parsons Hall between Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023, with shows starting each evening at 7:30pm and a Saturday Matinee performance starting at 2pm. Tickets for this are available for purchase through our Box Office now at [www.irchesterplayers.co.uk/boxoffice](http://www.irchesterplayers.co.uk/boxoffice).

Tickets for our pantomimes do sell out quickly, so get yours now!

### **Membership**

At Irchester Players, we are always looking for members to come and get involved, whether it is on stage or off stage and within all of our divisions. If you are interested please get in touch via our Facebook page or email [info@irchesterplayers.co.uk](mailto:info@irchesterplayers.co.uk)

### **Mailing List**

Irchester Players currently operate a mailing list, giving you frequent information about what shows we have coming up and when tickets are available. If you would like to be added to our mailing list please email [info@irchesterplayers.co.uk](mailto:info@irchesterplayers.co.uk) and mention that you would like to be added.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook as well to receive the most up-to-date information on Irchester Players and our upcoming performances and events.

That's all for now and I hope that everyone has had a fantastic year and here's to another glorious one!

Alex McKenzie

Irchester Players CEO



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## **ABC PRE-SCHOOL**

What a wonderful start to the year we have had! The children at ABC Pre-school (both those that spent time with us last year and those that are new) have settled in fantastically and are adapting really well to their new routines. New friendships have been formed and old ones rekindled, as the children have enjoyed exploring and engaging in the various activities offered.

During the first few weeks back, we have focussed on settling the children in and supporting them in building and developing new relationships, along with understanding routines and rules. We have spent a lot of time supporting the children's physical development, both on a large and small scale.

Outside, we have been making the most of the lovely mild weather. The children have been using the trampoline, climbing the steps to the slide and pedalling the bikes around the track, remembering to stop for petrol when they are low and visiting the garage for essential repairs! We have been using balls to both kick and throw at a target and running around, negotiating pathways and avoiding obstacles.

Inside, we have been building homes for animals and garages for cars with the construction materials. The children have enjoyed using sand and rice to scoop and pour into containers...many cups of tea have been made for the staff to enjoy! And we have been working with the children to develop their pencil and scissor skills.

We have talked about autumn and the changes that we might see in the environment during this season, and sung lots of autumn and Harvest songs.

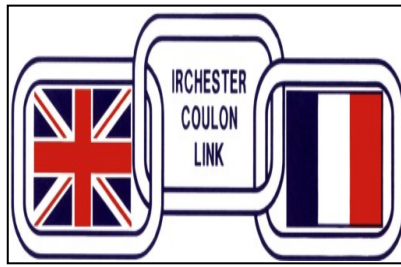
After the half term break we will be finding out about fireworks, Diwali, Remembrance, Children in Need and continuing to follow the children's interests to support their further development. There will be more opportunities to explore colours and colour mixing before moving on to our Christmas activities!

We welcome feedback from our families and will always ensure that there is somebody available to answer questions or have a chat as required.

We are open in the Village Hall on Monday to Friday 8.50 – 11.50 and Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 12.20 – 3.20 during school term times.

Now may be an ideal time for you to place your child's name on the waiting list for when they are ready to begin pre-school. We have spaces available for this academic year. For further information or to come and have a look around please telephone ABC Pre-school on 07906086995 or email [nickyabc@virginmedia.com](mailto:nickyabc@virginmedia.com)





So here we are again with Christmas just around the corner and winter yet to enjoy!! However cold it may get, a warm welcome awaits you at our monthly events, so why not come and join us.

Our annual AGM and quiz was held in September followed by an October wine appreciation evening. A new venture for us was the murder mystery evening held in November with a two course meal and chance to dress up for the occasion.

Our forthcoming events include:

**Backbeat at Christmas** - our very own local band - Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December Village Hall doors open at 7.30 for an 8pm start Tickets £8.00, please bring own drinks and nibbles

**Quiz and Pudding Night** - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January, Village Hall, 7.30 start, tickets £6.00. Please bring own drinks.

**Wine Tasting** - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February, Village Hall, 7.30 start, tickets £8.00. Nibbles and light refreshments provided.

We are delighted to announce that our French friends in the Coulon Link are busy planning their visit to Irchester in April and our own plans are now being made to welcome them back following the disruption caused by the pandemic.

So as we head up to celebrating Christmas here are a few traditions held in France during the festive season.

As in many countries in Europe, the French celebrate Christmas with a Christmas tree or sapin de Noël which they decorate with lights, ornaments and tinsel. The tradition originated in Alsace in the 14th century when decorations included apples, paper flowers, and ribbons. It was introduced into France in 1837.

Traditionally, children place their shoes in front of the fireplace hoping to have them filled with gifts. Nuts, sweets, fruit and small toys are hung on the tree over night ready to be discovered in the morning. However, along with *Père or Papa Noël (Father Christmas)*, comes a rather less welcome character, *Père Fouettard*.

(known as The Whipping Father) who might hand out lumps of coal and has a stick with which to 'chastise' the naughty children!

In churches and many homes the 'crèche' can be found. These are filled with santons or little Saints. When driving round France at Christmas time these scenes can often be found displayed in front gardens.

*'Living crèches' such as plays and puppet shows and based on the Nativity, are often performed to teach the important ideas of Christianity and the Christmas season.*

And of course you couldn't describe Christmas traditions in France without mentioning food. *Le Réveillon de Noël is eaten on Christmas Eve evening and also on the evening prior to New Year's Day. It is a meal that can last for a number of hours and it's name comes from the word réveil, which literally means 'waking'. Attending a réveillon means staying up [and probably eating] until after midnight. The food is often rich and is accompanied by plenty of wine or champagne. Seafood is very popular as well as a variety of fowl.*

The pièce de résistance of the meal is often *la bûche de Noël, a log-shaped cake similar to a swiss roll. It has a fluffy frosting and is a light, airy cake.*

Following the meal a candle is often left burning just in case the virgin Mary should pass by.

We would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing many of you at our events during 2023.

You can find us on Facebook but you are most welcome to get in touch with one of our committee members

<b>Charlie</b>	<b>Sue</b>	<b>Pete</b>	<b>Sandra</b>
<b>386296</b>	<b>385352</b>	<b>312224</b>	<b>386296</b>
Chairperson	Secretary	Vice Chairperson	Members
		Tickets	Secretary



CAL/SERV:**451** MAKES:**6** servings PREP TIME:**0** hours **15** mins  
COOK TIME:**0** hours **10** mins TOTAL TIME:**0** hours **25** mins

### Ingredients

100 g (3½oz) butter, softened, plus extra to grease  
100g (3½oz) ready-made cranberry sauce  
2 tbsp. golden syrup  
100 g (3½oz) dark brown soft sugar  
2 medium eggs, beaten  
100 g (3½oz) plain flour  
1 tbsp. mixed spice, heaped  
300 g (11oz) mixed dried fruit  
1 medium apple, peeled and grated

### Directions

Grease a 1.2 litre (2¼ pint) pudding basin. In a small bowl, stir together cranberry sauce and golden syrup. Spoon two-thirds of the mixture into the base of the prepared basin, reserving the remaining mixture.

In a separate bowl, beat together the butter, sugar, eggs, flour, mixed spice, dried fruit and grated apple until well combined. Spoon the mixture into the prepared basin and press a large piece of parchment paper on to the pudding to cover the surface.

Microwave on medium power for 9min until firm to the touch. Leave to stand for 10min before turning out on to a plate. Spoon over reserved cranberry mixture and serve immediately with the Amaretto Sauce.





# Winter Fayre

**Saturday 3 December 2022**  
**11am – 4pm**

Stalls including Christmas crafts,  
soft toys, toiletries, and second-  
hand books

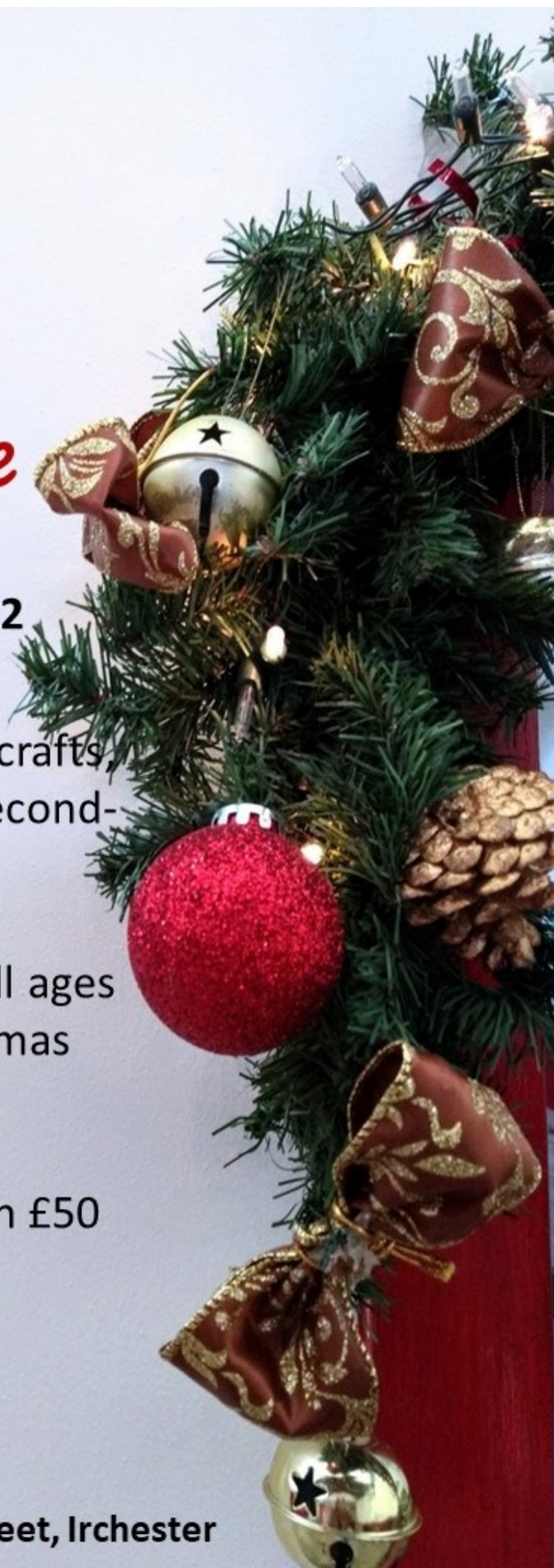
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craft

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**St Katharine's Church, High Street, Irchester**





## Come together to celebrate Christmas



Seasonal events for the whole community  
at St Katharine's Church, High Street, Irchester

DECEMBER Sunday services 4th, 11th and 18th	10 am	<b>Services for Advent</b> – our usual Sunday service at 10 am will guide us through the Advent season week by week, with Sunday Stars activities for younger ones. Bishop Jonathan joins us on 4 <sup>th</sup> for a special Confirmation service.  <b>IN ADDITION, everyone is welcome to the following festive services:</b>
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	3 pm	<b>Family Christingle</b> – a family afternoon of Christmas craft and activities with refreshments ending with the lighting of our Christingles. More details on our Facebook page
Sunday 18th	6 pm	<b>Village Candlelit Carols</b> with mulled wine and mince pies
CHRISTMAS EVE	6 pm	<b>Nativity service</b> for all the family
CHRISTMAS EVE	11 pm	<b>Midnight Mass</b>
CHRISTMAS DAY	8.30 am	<b>BCP Communion</b> a said service in traditional language

Please note there will be no Thursday service on 29 December



## ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH      Ceri-Anne writes.....

**Ceri-Anne Ashby is the Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) at St Katharine's. She works mostly with children, young people and families in the community but has been covering some services etc. during Revd Catherine's sabbatical. Revd Catherine returns to the parish at the end of November 2022.**

Dear friends, as I write this, we are approaching the end of October and I am drawing together plans for the Advent and Christmas season at St Katharine's. There is a rhythm to Church life which I find really powerful at this time of year – the weeks of Advent, our carol services, Christingle and Midnight Mass, are all waymarkers through the preparation for our Christmas celebrations as we meet the baby Jesus afresh each year.

As a child growing up here in Irchester, I cannot recall the excitement for Christmas really beginning before December, although my family were subjected to me practising The First Nowell and the like on the recorder, violin and later the clarinet, from early November in anticipation of the many Christmas concerts and carol services I would play in. Christmas carols conjure up for me many happy memories of my childhood, with words printed on two huge hanging

I love the fact that young children meet Christmas afresh each year – never losing sight of the mystery, awe and wonder of the season. However, that awe and wonder needs to be savoured and enjoyed. Imagine setting out to make the most amazing decorated chocolate cake (other flavours are available!): creaming, beating, sifting and folding until your arms ache. Then you pop it into the oven and, as soon as it is ready, lift it out onto the cooking rack.....and eat it there and then, standing at the kitchen counter. I suggest that you would be disappointed. Imagine how much better it would taste with butter icing and chocolate decorations sitting on the sofa with a cup of tea. Worth the wait.

For Christians, Advent is that period of waiting, that time of anticipation of the joy which is to come. A time to slow down as the Christmas story slowly begins to unfold. In our busy world we could all do with some slowing down and some stillness in our lives, so I would invite you to take some time out this Advent. Amid the lights, tinsel, shopping and gift wrapping take some time to be still, spend time as a family, and make some special memories.

Details of St Katharine's Christmas services, our family activities, and our Winter Fayre on Saturday 3 December can be found elsewhere in this edition of the Village Voice and you are warmly invited to join us for any of these.

With every blessing,

**Ceri-Anne**      If I can be of any assistance, please contact me on 07872 052175 or at [ceriannethereader@gmail.com](mailto:ceriannethereader@gmail.com)

From the end of November, you will be able to contact Revd Catherine on 01933 312674 or at [vicarstkatharines@gmail.com](mailto:vicarstkatharines@gmail.com)

## REACHOUT CHURCH

As I sit to write this, I am very mindful of the worrying times in which we live. There are so many people facing difficulties, worrying how they will provide for their families and pay the bills. Some will be worrying about what sort of Christmas they will have, and if they will be able to afford gifts for their loved ones. Many have health issues and worry how long they will wait for treatment; some worry about job security, climate change, the war in Ukraine, the state of the world and our nation, strikes, power cuts ... and I could go on and on.

When I'm worried, I take comfort in the Bible and the book of Ruth, in the Old Testament, is a favourite of mine. It's only a little book just four chapters long, but it gives a big message on how God provided for some women who experienced tragic circumstances.

When a famine hit Israel, a family from Bethlehem moved to Moab. Whilst there, the husband died, leaving his wife Naomi a widow. They had two sons who married Moabite women, and both sons died too, leaving two daughters-in-law, one of whom was called Ruth. There were no social security benefits to help them, and their custom dictated that a near relative should look after them, but they had migrated to a foreign land. One of the daughters-in-law went back to her own Moabite family, but Ruth determined to stay with Naomi, and when they heard that the famine had ended in Israel, they returned to Bethlehem. They arrived as poor widows with no prospects, but Ruth went to work in the field of a good and kind man called Boaz, who just happened to be a near relative! Ruth married Boaz, had children and eventually Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David, and a descendant of Jesus Christ! How well God provided for these women, and what an honour to be listed in the genealogy of the Messiah! (Ruth and Boaz are listed in Matthew 1.8)

No matter how devastating our present situation may be, God can turn it around if we believe and hope in Him. His resources are endless, and He will provide what we need. And, if we are willing, He will use us to help others in need too.

One of Jesus' brothers, James, wrote a letter to the early believers who were being persecuted for their faith and suffering terribly. At the beginning of the letter James wrote, "Consider it pure joy my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." It is very hard to consider it pure joy when we go through hard times, it's a big ask, but I can tell you from personal experience that if we can trust the LORD, we will experience His care and provision, just like Naomi and Ruth.

None of us knows what is around the corner and what we will face tomorrow. And trouble will come to us all, whether we are believers or not. The verse in James says, "**whenever** you face trials", not "**if**". Speaking personally, we recently learned that my husband's cancer has advanced, and at the time of writing, Jim is waiting for a referral to Northampton Oncology. We know that there is a difficult road ahead, but we trust God to give us strength for each day. We know that He will, because He has done it before, many times.

So whatever difficulties you are facing today, don't face it alone. Talk to the LORD about it, say sorry for all the times you have ignored him or rebelled against Him. He cares about you and will make a way where there seems to be no way. And you will always be welcome at Reachout. Our service starts at 11am each Sunday.

Every blessing,

Mary



# Irchester WI

**TWTWTW how many among you** can remember what that series of letters stood for? If you are, then perhaps you will understand why I believe that 2022 was 'That was the Year that Was'.

At the beginning of the year, we did begin to feel that we were at last moving out of the worst of the Covid pandemic and that life might begin to return to a little more normality and the celebrations planned for later in the year would be able to take place. My last contribution for the Village Voice made mention of the Jubilee Tea Party the WI held in June but, since then, we have of course had the sad news of the death of our wonderful Queen and all the ceremony of her state funeral. Added to that there has been the political turmoil of recent weeks, so we can perhaps be forgiven for thinking 'That was the Year that Was.'

Amidst all this it is good to know that some things remain static and go on regardless of external events and upsets. The weekly and monthly meetings, sporting events or interest groups some of us belong to give purpose, enrichment and enjoyment to our lives and bring us into contact with like-minded people and friends. We, at the WI, value the times we share together and in recent weeks we have been delighted to welcome some new members. We recently held a Line Dancing evening and from this we are holding Line Dancing sessions on Monday mornings 10.00 – 12.00 noon in Irchester Methodist Church Hall. All welcome, come along and join in - £3.50 per session.

By the time the Village Voice lands on your doormat we hope you will have seen the display of 'Poppies for Remembrance' which the WI has again arranged at the War Memorial. This would not have been possible without all the help given by local 'knitters and crocheters' who have again come up trumps with their needles and hooks to supply the poppies – a heartfelt thanks to you all.

Meetings in the coming months of 2023 will include talks on 'Fire Safety in the Home', the life of Emily Wilding Davison, who drew attention to the rights of Women's Suffrage by throwing herself in front of the King's horse at the Epsom Derby in 1913 and the charity Medical Detection Dogs. These dogs are at the forefront of innovative research into dogs' ability to detect the smell of human diseases and save lives. We hope there may be something of interest to you so please come along. Details of who to contact for more information are at the foot of this page.

We're always pleased to welcome visitors to our meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

**If you are interested in knowing more about us, please contact Sheila on 01933 392278 or Sandra**



**on 386296**

Find us on Facebook Irchester WI



## IRCHESTER BOWLING CLUB CLUB COMPETITION RESULTS 2022

	WINNER	RUNNER UP
MEN'S 4 WOOD SINGLES	MATT HICKS	VIC WALLACE
MEN'S 2 WOOD SINGLES	MICK MALINS	PHIL GIBBONS
LADIES 4 WOOD SINGLES	BRENICE WILLMOTT	RACHEL FAIR
MEN'S PAIRS	MATT HICKS/ ROY ROMAIN	PETER GUNN/ STAN RIDPATH
LADIES PAIRS	JULIE WEIR/ BRENICE WILLMOTT	RACHEL FAIR/ JANET GHANIE
MIXED PAIRS	PAM ARMSTRONG MATT HICKS	JANET GHANIE/ ROY ROMAIN
TRIPLES LEAGUE	BASHEER GHANIE SAM SIMPSON TOM KINLOCH RAY CAMPBELL BETTY HEATH	
TRIPLES KNOCKOUT	BASHEER GHANIE DAVID JONES IAN ROBERTS	SCOTT GARNER STEVE VILLIERS JULIE WEIR
MEN'S SCROXTON PLATE	DICK CLARK	BASHEER GHANIE
AUSTRALIAN PAIRS	DEREK ROBERSON IAN ROBERTS	DENIS SEWELL CHRIS BROWN
LADIES SCROXTON PLATE	JULIE WEIR	NIKKI DAFT
SANDY CUP - MEN - LADIES	BASHEER GHANIE NIKKI DAFT	CHRIS BROWN PAM ARMSTRONG
ROMANS CUP - MEN - LADIES	OLI HICKS ANN OSBORNE	
SCOTT'S MAN & VAN	BASHEER GHANIE OLI HICKS MATT HICKS	STEVE VILLIERS BRIAN CARNRY PETER MARSHALL
GALA ROSE BOWL	JAYNE NUTT MATT HICKS STUART WEBSTER	

WELL DONE TO ALL THOSE WHO TOOK PART

**CHRISTMAS PARTY & GRAND DRAW  
DANCING TO J-J DISCO**

**Saturday 17th December 7.30pm - 11pm**

**All Members & their guests most welcome**

**FREE ENTRY**

**'American Supper'**

# MAKE A BEE HOTEL



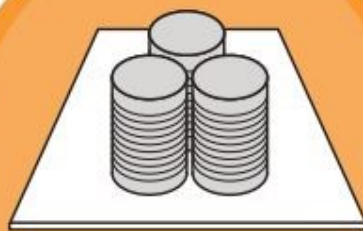
## What you need

- Three clean tin cans
- Bamboo canes
- Non-toxic PVA glue
- Wood glue
- Paint
- Two thin pieces of wood for the roof
- A thin square piece of wood for the back of the hotel



## Instructions

1. Place the piece of wood you have chosen for the back of your bee hotel on the floor. Put wood glue on the bottom of the cans and stick them to the wood in a pyramid shape (two below, one on top). Leave them to dry for an hour.



2. Take the pieces of wood for your roof and place them in a triangle shape covering the cans. Glue the wood into place and leave them to dry for an hour.



3. Ask an adult to help you cut the bamboo canes into short sections the depth of the tin cans. Place a little PVA glue on the end of each cane and push it into the can. Fill up the can with the canes.



4. Now your bee hotel is nearly ready. Paint it in bright colours and patterns (with non-toxic paint) and leave it in a quiet, sunny, place outside for the bees to start using.



## GET SOCIAL:

We're a social bunch here at WWF, so we'd love to hear from you on social media. Please share your 'green' stories and activities with us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag **#GreenAmbassadors @wwf\_uk**

Learn more about our work and how you can get involved:  
**wwf.org.uk/youngpeople**



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## *Gardening Tips*

### *Flowers*

Plant bare-root roses, shrubs, hedging and ornamental trees, as long as the ground isn't frozen.

Take root cuttings of fleshy-rooted perennials such as oriental poppies, acanthus and verbascums.

Establish new colonies of snowdrops and hellebores by buying plants in flower, so you can choose the prettiest blooms.

Clear away soggy, collapsed stems of perennials and compost them.

Take hardwood cuttings from deciduous shrubs, such as forsythia, willow and viburnum.

Remove and bin hellebore foliage marked with black blotches, to limit the spread of leaf spot disease.

Press mistletoe berries into the bark of apple trees to establish your own mistletoe plants.

Check that small alpine don't become smothered by fallen leaves and other wind-blown debris.

Deadhead winter pansies and other bedding regularly, and remove any foliage affected by downy mildew.

Move dormant plants that are in the wrong place to more suitable sites.

Colour Me In



## Children's Jokes

**Q:** What creature is smarter than a talking parrot?

**A:** A spelling bee.

**Q:** What kind of dinosaur loves to sleep?

**A:** A stega-snore-us.

**Person 1:** Knock-knock.

**Person 2:** Who's there?

**Person 1:** Wooden shoe.

**Person 2:** Wooden shoe who?

**Person 1:** Wooden shoe like to hear another joke?

**Person 1:** Knock-knock.

**Person 2:** Who's there?

**Person 1:** Atch.

**Person 2:** Atch who?

**Person 1:** Bless you!

**Q:** Where do cows go for entertainment?

**A:** The mooooo-vies!

**Q:** Why did the computer go to the doctor?

**A:** It had a virus.

**Q:** Why did the student eat his homework?

**A:** Because his teacher told him it was a piece of cake!

**Q:** How does the ocean say hello?

**A:** It waves.

**Q:** Where do hamburgers go to dance?

**A:** They go to the meat-ball.

## Answers to Crossword

1	C	A	2	T	A	3	R	A	4	C	T		5	T	6	I	N	7	S
	I		E		O				A						N			C	
8	T	H	R	O	B				9	L	O	10	B	E	L	I	A		
	E		R		E				V			I		A			R		
11	D	W	I	N	D	L	E					12	J	E	W	E	L		
			E						S			O					E		
13	C	A	R	O	14	L	S			15	T	U	M	16	U	L	T		
	O					O			17	B					N				
18	C	O	19	M	F	Y			20	R	E	21	S	C	U	E	22	R	
	K		O		A				E			A		S			I		
23	P	A	T	E	L	L	A					24	F	L	U	N	G		
	I		I						S			E		A			I		
25	T	I	F	F				26	S	T	A	R	T	L	E	D			

## Irchester Parish Councillors

Mrs P Armstrong (Chair)	01933 311222
Miss L Brown	01933 356337
JP Carr	01933 382476
T Maguire	07741 162619
M May	01933 311011
P Smith	01933 312224
K Watts (Vice Chair)	07941 571661
Ken Clarke	07879 651057
Stewart Bridge	07864 564920
Claire Ashford	07864 564920
Syliva East	07956 050328

## Little Irchester Parish Councillors

J Dunkley	01933 274245
Mrs D Shroll	01933 278185

## Clerk

Miss S Tweddell email [irchesterpc@gmail.com](mailto:irchesterpc@gmail.com) 07521 243980

## Projects Officer & Cemetery Officer

Nikki Daft email [irchesterpc@gmail.com](mailto:irchesterpc@gmail.com) 07525909528

## North Northamptonshire Council Contacts

Cllr Jon-Paul Carr [jon-paul.carr@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:jon-paul.carr@northnorthants.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01933 382476

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Tel: 07968 551360

Cllr Tom Partridge-Underwood [tom.partridge-underwood@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:tom.partridge-underwood@northnorthants.gov.uk)  
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