



West Haddon News

Proudly funded by West Haddon Parish Council

February/March 2025

WEST HADDON PARISH COUNCIL

SURGERY

HERE
FOR
YOU

**WE ARE OPEN
THURSDAY THE 20TH OF
FEBRUARY FROM 9:30-
11:30AM IN THE CABIN
OUTSIDE OF THE
PAVILLION.**

**AS A PARISH COUNCIL, WE ARE
HOSTING A SURGERY TO HELP
THE COMMUNITY OF WEST
HADDON WITH ANY QUESTIONS
OR QUERIES.**

**We may not know the answer
however we will try our best to
point you in the right direction.**

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Car Tax (groan)!!!

It seems there is some confusion as to how the new car tax rules will impact our pockets from April 2025. It is, as usual, perhaps not as simple as it looks because vehicles are taxed according to their emissions; list price; purchase dates etc. Anyway, sorry to say but it looks like we are all going to have to pay more in some way, or at some point in the future as electric cars, currently seem to be quite pricey (but they are very nice). So, please wave when you see the Executive Officer travelling along the A428 on a cart pulled by her beloved horse – a return to the old ways may be the best, and the manure is good for the garden! Until manure is taxed too!

From 1 April 2025, registered keepers of electric, zero or low emission cars, vans and motorcycles will need to pay vehicle tax in the same way as registered keepers of petrol and diesel vehicles. This change will apply to both new and existing vehicles. This new measure removes band A under the existing VED system which is currently £0. Vehicles in this band will be required to move to the first band where a rate becomes payable.

Electric, zero or low emission cars registered on or after 1 April 2025 - You will need to pay the lowest first year rate of vehicle tax set at £10 from 1 April 2025. From the second tax payment onwards, you will pay the standard rate. This will be £195.

Electric, zero or low emission cars registered between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2025 - You will pay the standard rate. This will be £195.

Electric, zero or low emission cars registered between 1 March 2001 and 31 March 2017 - These vehicles will move to the first band that has a VED value. This will be £20.

Hybrid and alternatively fuelled vehicles (AFVs)

The £10 annual discount for hybrid and AFVs will be removed, and the rate you will pay will depend on when the vehicle was first registered. If the vehicle was:

- registered before 1 April 2017 - this rate will depend on the vehicle's CO₂ emissions – details can be found on the Government website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/vehicle-tax-for-electric-and-low-emissions-vehicles>
- registered on or after 1 April 2017 - you will pay the standard rate (this will be £195)

Electric vans - Most electric vans will move to the standard annual rate for light goods vehicles – details can be found on the Government website <https://www.gov.uk/vehicle-tax-rate-tables/other-vehicle-tax-rates>

Electric motorcycles - Electric motorcycles and tricycles will move to the annual rate for the smallest engine size – details can be found on the Government website <https://www.gov.uk/vehicle-tax-rate-tables/other-vehicle-tax-rates>

Additional rate (expensive car supplement) - New electric and zero emission vehicles registered on or after 1 April 2025 with the list price exceeding £40,000 will attract the standard rate, plus the expensive car supplement for the first 5 years from the start of the second licence.

Motorhomes - The rate of vehicle tax is based on the vehicle's revenue weight (also known as [maximum or gross vehicle weight](#)).

WEST HADDON PARISH COUNCIL
WEST HADDON NEWS ADVERTISING PRICING STRUCTURE, TERMS & CONDITIONS

If you would like to advertise in this publication, which is delivered to each household in the village every two months, please cut out this application form, fill in and forward to:-
executiveofficer@westhaddonparishcouncil.gov.uk or PO Box 6583, Rugby, CV21 9QT.
Alternatively, please email the Executive Officer directly for an online copy of the application.

Application Details:-

Company / Group / Organisation

Title:

First Name:

Last Name:

Telephone:

Mobile:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Application Type:

Commercial Advertising – advertising for those enterprises trading as a business and which are profit making in nature. Minimum 3 edition commercial advertising period.

- ¼ page advert - £60.00 / 3 editions
- ½ page advert - £120.00 / 3 editions
- Full Page advert - £240.00 / 3 editions



WEST HADDON PARISH COUNCIL

WEST HADDON NEWS ADVERTISING PRICING STRUCTURE, TERMS & CONDITIONS

West Haddon Community Event Advertising – advertising for events where members of the public are invited and any monies received are used purely to cover the costs of providing the event and / or are used to contribute towards the costs of future events for the benefit of the whole community.

No charge

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

By completing the application form you agree to comply with the GDPR regulations (2018). Permission to use images or names within adverts lies with the advertiser / group or organisation supplying the information and not West Haddon Parish Council. By completing the application form you give consent for your organisations details to be printed in the publication under contact details. West Haddon Parish Council will not sell on or forward your details to any other organisations knowingly but you should be aware that the publication is in the public domain.

COPY ERRORS

West Haddon Parish Council accepts no responsibility for errors in adverts / reports received. Any amendments should be notified by 1st month preceding publication. Adverts / artwork must be forwarded to the Editor:- editorwhnews@outlook.com

ADVERTISING

Advertisers must forward an application form with payment to the Executive Officer, West Haddon Parish Council, PO Box 6583, Rugby CV21 9QT. Advertisers will be invoiced, and payment is to be made by BACS or cheque no later than 1st day of month preceding publication. Failure to pay by 1st will result in the advert being omitted from publication.

Banking details for payment are as follows:-

Unity Trust Bank PLC,
West Haddon Parish Council
A/C Number:- 20399296
Sort Code:- 60-83-01

Payments made by cheque should be made payable to West Haddon Parish Council and forwarded to:
West Haddon Parish Council, C/O PO Box 6583, Rugby, CV21 9QT.

There is a minimum period of 3 editions for commercial advertising. There will be no refund should you decide to give notice on the advert.

FORCE MAJEURE - If circumstances beyond the Parish Council's control render it impossible to publish / distribute the magazine you will be notified and extensions to advertising periods will be made.

West Haddon Parish Council reserves the right to amend these Terms and Conditions at any time and without notice. Notice will be given wherever possible however.



Interested in becoming a Volunteer? The Parish Council would love your help!

Have you got spare time and would like to volunteer? If so, then please complete the volunteering application form found on the website...

<https://www.westhaddonparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/2025/01/interested-in-becoming-a-volunteer-we-would-love-your-help>

and return to:- West Haddon Parish Council, C/O executiveofficer@westhaddonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Or maybe you'd like to volunteer to help with the West Haddon News?

We always welcome your comments, suggestions and submissions. You could submit a one-off article, a regular piece, or an advert for a group or event. Contact the editor at editorwhnews@outlook.com

On-call Firefighters

Can you see yourself working as part of a close-knit team and would like to gain new skills? Fancy a job that earns you extra money, fits around your work and family commitments and can make a difference in your local community? If your answers are yes, we are recruiting on-call firefighters.

An on-call firefighter must:

- Live or work within a reasonable distance (5 to 8 minutes travelling time) of station that has On-call Firefighters: Brackley, Brixworth, Burton Latimer, Daventry, Desborough, Earls Barton, Guilsborough, Irthlingborough, Kettering, Long Buckby, Moulton, Oundle, Raunds, Rothwell, Rushden, Thrapston, Towcester, Wellingborough, Woodford Halse.
- Be at least 18 years of age at point of application
- Be physically fit

On-call Firefighters who are planning on responding to incidents whilst at their place of work, must have permission from their employer.

To find out more about joining us as an On-call Firefighter please visit our website: <https://www.northantsfire.gov.uk/on-call-firefighters-3/>



Food Waste and Climate Change



**Breads
and pastries**



**Leftover and
out-of-date food**



**Tea bags and
coffee grounds**



**Fruit and
veg peelings**



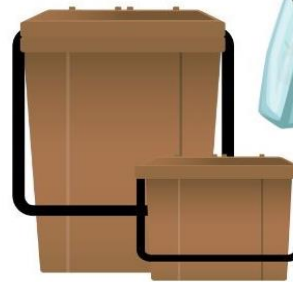
**Fish, meat
and bones**



**Egg shells and
dairy produce**



**Rice, beans
and pasta**



Did you know?

In the UK we waste a quarter of all the food and drink we buy! This is responsible for producing 18 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year (imagine 36 million standard sized water butts full of petrol on fire) which contributes towards climate change.

Food Waste Prevention

One of the best things we can do for the environment and our wallets is not waste our food and drink. An average family can save £1,000 a year by reducing their food waste.

Some top tips to reduce food waste include:

1. **Planning ahead** – by planning your meals and sticking to a shopping list you will avoid overbuying food and use up food you already have – remember to check what food you already have before going to the shops.
2. **Know your dates** – remember that a 'Best Before' date only refers to the quality of food, but most items are ok to eat after this date. 'Use By' dates refer to safety and food should not be eaten after this date.
3. **Make the most of your food** – correct storage of your food can extend its life by weeks (or months in a freezer), your fridge should be below 5°C and you can freeze any food right up to the 'use by' date – ideal if your plans change.
4. **Perfect Portions** - cook only what you need and if you do have any leftovers they can be stored in the fridge for another meal another day. You can take the guess work out of portion sizes by using the food portion calculator on the love food hate waste website.

The Love Food Hate Waste website has lots of great hacks and guidance for making the most of food at home and saving you money. See www.lovefoodhatewaste.com **Food Waste Recycling**

Any food that can't be used (for example tea bags, bones, plate scrapings etc) or does become wasted, should be placed into your food waste bin and put out for collection each week, on the same day as your other bins (currently unavailable to most flats but will be available to all by April 2026).

More and more people in West Northamptonshire are recycling their food waste when they see how easy it is.

Visit www.westnorthants.gov.uk/foodwaste for more information or to order a free food waste bin.

TUESDAY BUS SERVICE TO DAVENTRY

Since early 2023, CommMiniBus – a non-profit making organisation – has provided a once-a-week service on Tuesday mornings from the village to Daventry, giving the opportunity for over two hours of shopping on market day before returning to the village. Originally, this started out as a service which needed pre-booking but now operates as the number 52 route just like any other bus service.



The service leaves from the bus stop by The Crown at 9.30am, stops on Guilsborough Road and then heads off to Guilsborough, Coton and Ravensthorpe before making its way to the bus station in Daventry via Long Buckby and Long Buckby Station, arriving at 10.10am. The return journey is at 12.30pm and gets back to the village at 1.10pm. Concessionary bus passes are accepted. For paying passengers, the one-way fare, payable by cash or card, is £3.

There is a reasonable amount of space for shopping bags and trolleys. The majority of users so far take the opportunity to go shopping in Daventry, but some have used the service to get to Long Buckby Station. But people can get on and off wherever they like, so there is also the opportunity to visit friends in any of the other places along the route. The full timetable can be viewed at www.cmbus.org/bus52.

CommMiniBus also provide rural services in the Wellingborough and Kettering areas. I am now their volunteer West Haddon driver, so much of the time it will probably be me driving if you take advantage of the number 52 service.

A 'Haddon Hopper' service is also operated on the fourth Thursday of the month to Rugby – to the town centre and to Junction One and Elliott's Field Retail Parks. This remains a pre-booked service. To book, ring 07888 011891, or fill in or take one of the forms when on the 52. CommMiniBus also hope to start running a service on the second Thursday of the month, varying the destination each month. The shopping centre at Rushton Lakes is likely to be the first journey.

Jim Urwin, Foxhill Road

Eliza and Scarlett at the Paralympic Games

You may remember the article about the twins going to the Paralympics, below they let us know how they found the experience...

"Competing at our first Paralympic Games was an incredible experience. Hearing the roar of 15,000 people as we walked out to race was something we will never forget. We really enjoyed our time in Paris, making finals in all our events, which we are very proud of. Racing in front of so many people and on such a big stage was slightly overwhelming, although once we stepped out to race, we were focused on doing our best."

Being in the Athlete Village is unlike any other swimming competition meeting athletes from so many different countries and so many different sports is something unique to the Paralympics. When we were not racing, we were training, relaxing in the Village, or supporting our teammates from the stands."



"We really enjoyed the racing itself too, as we were able to compete against athletes we have looked up to in the past. It was lovely to have friends and family watching in the crowd and back at home, as they have all played a part in our swimming journeys to allow us to reach this point."

Finding ways to live more sustainably in our village

The Parish Council is developing a section on its website to give more information on how to enrich biodiversity in our gardens and open spaces. There will also be further suggestions as to how our community can find more ways to live in a more sustainable way together.

Sustainability is about living in a way that protects our natural resources, our environment and our future. It's one of the most important concepts when it comes to fighting climate change and protecting communities and nature.

Personal actions and habits which reduce our carbon footprint can have a big cumulative impact and can also save money. For example, did you know that around a quarter of the food we buy in the UK goes to waste costing the average family around £1000 year – shocking isn't it? More on this subject in the next edition of WHN....

So many of our neighbouring villages have set up environmental groups supporting their residents on a greener journey. "Better Crick" for example has held a repair café for electrical repairs this month and a "tech rescue" week encouraging donations of all unwanted phones, computers and gadgets for re-use, where possible.

If you have some sustainable ideas for West Haddon, then please contact me.

Rosie Humphreys 07890112504



WEST HADDON VILLAGE HALL

Village Hall News February 2025

Hello everyone and welcome to nearly Spring!

Talking of Spring make a note in your diaries for Sunday 6 April. Ann Varley is arranging a splendid Spring Flower Show in the hall, more details will follow in our next edition.

There is lots going on as well as the regular groups – Pilates, Zumba, Clubbercise, Tae Kwon Do, Lunch Club. Do consider us for your events, the hall really is an excellent venue. For bookings and to check our facilities: www.whvh.org.uk

As you read this West Haddon Players will be performing two more of the outrageously funny Little Grimley plays – Lockdown and Last Panto, (6 – 8 February check for tickets – Jane 01788 510503).

If you fancy joining us in running the hall – it is friendly and fun, and your qualification just needs to be wanting to be part of the team. We are particularly pleased to have recently co-opted to the committee a person experienced in making grant applications to fund our improvement projects. Find out more about the committee by contacting Richard: chair@whvh.org.uk



West Haddon Wassail

The organisers of the 2024 Wassail would like to thank the volunteers, stall holders and everyone who attended for making this event the resounding success that it was.



We were delighted to welcome both the children's choir from Brington Primary School and Long Buckby Scouts for the first time; Santa was a great addition to the evening's attractions and a massive hit with the children.

We will be distributing £500 between three local groups in the next few weeks.

The weather was undoubtedly kind to us last year. Let's hope that it will be the same this year as planning is already underway for the end of November.

Very many grateful thanks to you all again.
Friends of West Haddon Wassail



**Do you or a loved one
need support getting
online?**



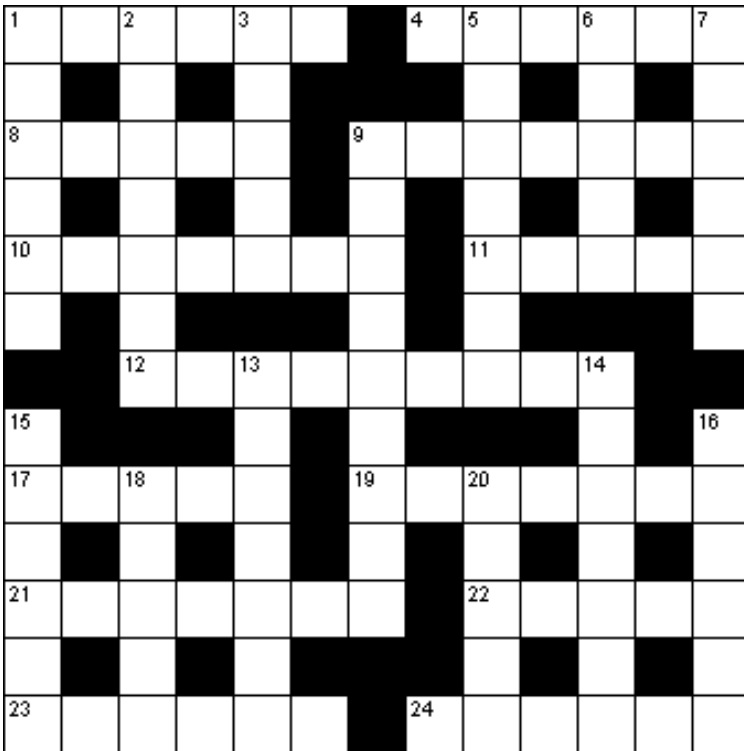
**Ordering prescriptions
Online shopping
Booking appointments
Video chats with family
and friends**

**Please contact Chris at the Happy@Home
project for more information**

Tel: 07729 682098

www.daventryvolunteers.org.uk

Email: chrish@daventryvolunteers.org.uk

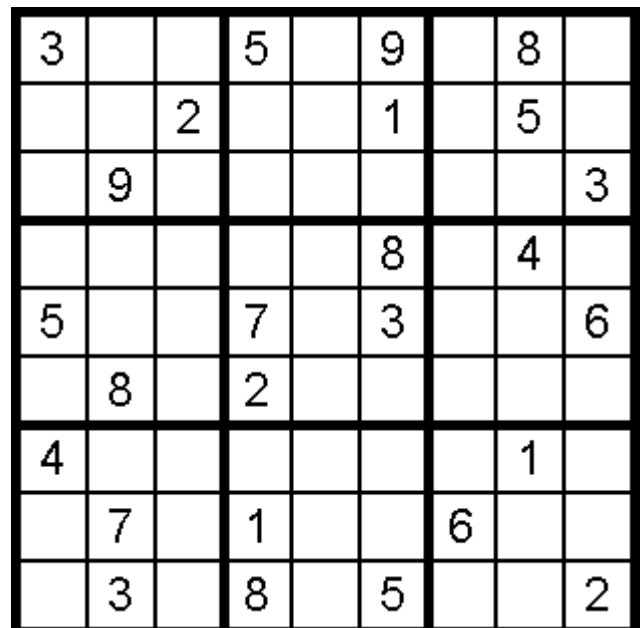


Across

- 1 Fidget (anag) (6)
- 4 University grounds (6)
- 8 Beneath (5)
- 9 Laborious, gruelling (7)
- 10 Song from South Pacific (4,3)
- 11 Move (5)
- 12 Occurring repeatedly (9)
- 17 Something worth having (5)
- 19 Female singing voice (7)
- 21 Opportunities (7)
- 22 Physical appearance (5)
- 23 Gas essential for life (6)
- 24 Opera by Bizet (6)

Down

- 1 Soiled (6)
- 2 Violin player (7)
- 3 Terra firma (5)
- 5 Capable of being heard (7)
- 6 Haughty (5)
- 7 Methodical procedure (6)
- 9 Beekeepers (9)
- 13 Skin at the base of a nail (7)
- 14 Place for light refreshments (3,4)
- 15 South American cowboy (6)
- 16 Deteriorate (6)
- 18 Disreputable - umbrageous (5)
- 20 Lively Bohemian dance (5)



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Puzzle solutions
can be found on
Page 16.



Don't forget that the
clocks 'spring' forward on
Sunday 30th March
at 2am!

Gardening Jobs for February and March

As winter slowly gives way to spring, avid gardeners know that February and March are crucial months for preparing the garden for the growing season ahead. Here's a comprehensive guide to essential gardening tasks during these transitional weeks.

February

1. Soil Preparation - February is an excellent time to start preparing your garden soil. If the ground is not frozen, work in some organic matter such as compost or well-rotted manure. This will improve soil structure and provide nutrients for the upcoming planting season.

2. Pruning - Late winter is the ideal time for pruning many trees and shrubs. Focus on removing any dead, diseased, or damaged branches. For deciduous trees and many fruit trees, this will help promote healthy growth in the spring.

3. Starting Seeds Indoors - For many gardeners, February marks the beginning of seed-starting season. Vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, and aubergines can be sown indoors. Use seed trays with a quality seed-starting mix, and provide adequate light, either natural or through grow lights.

4. Planning the Garden Layout - It's time to reflect on what worked (and what didn't) last year. Review your garden layout and decide what crops you'd like to grow this season. Consider crop rotation and companion planting to maximize yields and minimize pests.

5. Checking Garden Tools - Beat the spring rush by giving your tools some love. Clean, sharpen, and oil tools to ensure they're in good working condition. A little maintenance now will save you time later in the busy season.

6. Cleaning Up - Clear away any remaining debris from the garden. Old plant material can harbour pests and diseases. This is also an excellent time to tidy up flower beds and start thinking about your garden's aesthetics.



March

1. Preparing Garden Beds - As the weather begins to warm up, it's time to start working on your garden beds. Create clear rows or raised beds for your crops, depending on your gardening style. Consider using cloches or row covers to protect young plants from late frosts.

2. Sowing Seeds Outdoors - March is suitable for sowing hardy crops directly into the soil, such as peas, carrots, and radishes. Check seed packet instructions for the best planting depths and distances to ensure optimal growth.

3. Planting Early Bulbs - If you haven't done so already, March is a perfect time to plant early bulbs such as daffodils and tulips. These will provide a burst of colour as they bloom, signifying the transition to spring.

4. Dividing Perennials - For established flower beds, now is a great time to divide certain perennials. This will promote healthy growth and offer a chance to rejuvenate overcrowded plants.

5. Fertilizing - As the soil temperatures rise, apply a balanced slow-release fertilizer to your garden beds. This will help nourish the plants as they come out of dormancy and prepare for growth.

6. Pest Monitoring - Keep an eye out for emerging pests, especially as the weather warms. Start monitoring for signs of trouble and consider using organic methods for pest control to protect your garden.



As February and March usher in a new gardening season, these tasks will set the foundation for a productive and beautiful garden.

Embrace the early signs of spring and get ready for the rewarding experience of growing your own plants!

Biodiversity February/ March 2025

It seems a long time since Fireworks illuminated the cover of WHN. So, a Happy New Year to 2025 and a bi-monthly edition. Watch out for Biodiversity news on social media and the Parish Council website, in between editions.

The really good news is that the Parish Council has approved our 5 Year Plan. We hope it will safeguard the wildlife we have, beautify the village, foster community relations, be inexpensive to implement and spread interest and knowledge to everyone especially the children.

The plan has 5 main aims. 1 Raise awareness of Biodiversity. 2 Preserve the wild flowers natural to West Haddon. 3 Maintain the village tradition of Royal Oaks. 4 Plant native flowering trees 5.Transform the Crown Lane Footpath (part of the Juraissic Way) into a butterfly friendly walk.

You can find out so much more by coming to the Flower Show in the Village Hall on Sunday April 6th from 12 -5pm. The Hall will be open from 2-4pm on Saturday, April 5th to take in pots of bulbs and arrange the display.

If your pots are in a dark place, get them out now into light but still keep them cold. If by chance your bulbs are up and blooming now, you may have bought forced ones for Christmas. Don't be put off, there will be plenty of spring flowers with roots available for you to make a display in time for the day.

Raffle prizes and promises.The Photoclub Spring Flower Display. Molly's teas. What a lovely afternoon. Free entry but we are hoping you will give a donation to the Village Hall. We should have an electronic device by then! And we want to meet you and have your name if you are happy to join us on occasional planting activities.

The full version of the biodiversity 5 year plan and agreed actions can be found on the Council website:- <https://www.westhaddonparishcouncil.gov.uk/biodiversity-and-sustainability>

Spring Flower Show



When? Sunday April 6th, 2025

Where? W.H. Village Hall

Time? 12 to 5 pm

So please get busy, set Spring flowers with roots: primroses, cowslips or wallflowers. Garnish the pot with twigs and moss but no plastic! Not a competition, just joy.

There will be Molly for teas, a Photo Club display & perhaps a little music.

School Class entries and yours! A raffle (of course). Everything to like to lift spirits after the winter.

The Village Hall will be open from 2-4pm on the Saturday, April 5th, to take in flower displays.

FREE ENTRY Donations to the Village Hall

Pancake Day/Shrove Tuesday - 4th March



Pancake Day, also known as Shrove Tuesday, is a cherished occasion celebrated in many countries around the world. It marks the day before Ash Wednesday, kicking off the season of Lent in the Christian calendar. While the specific customs may vary by region, the essence of the day remains centred on the delicious pancakes that bring people together.

The origins of Pancake Day are deeply rooted in Christianity. Traditionally, it was a time for Christians to prepare for Lent, a period of fasting and reflection leading up to Easter. To avoid wasting food, households would use up rich ingredients like eggs, milk, and sugar before the fasting season began. The result? A delightful feast of pancakes!

Interestingly, the word "shrove" comes from the Old English term "shrive," which means to confess. In earlier times, people would confess their sins and seek absolution on this day before the Lenten fasting commenced.

Pancake Traditions Around the World:

United Kingdom: Here in the UK, Shrove Tuesday is synonymous with pancake races. One of the most famous races takes place in Olney, where contestants must flip pancakes while racing to the finish line. The winner is determined not just by speed but also by skill in flipping the pancake without dropping it. Pancakes in the UK are typically thin and crepe-like and served with a simple squeeze of lemon juice and a sprinkling of sugar.

France: French Pancake Day is known as "Mardi Gras," which means "Fat Tuesday." Though it's more renowned for its lavish festivities and carnivals, it also boasts the tradition of eating crêpes. In some regions, people make a wish with their right hand while holding a coin in their left hand when flipping a crêpe, believing that it will bring prosperity throughout the year.

Germany: Known as "Fasching" or "Karneval," Germans indulge in pancakes called "Pfannkuchen." These pancakes vary in thickness and are often filled with sweet jam or custard. The festive season leading up to Lent is celebrated with parades and parties, where pancakes play a significant role in the festivities.

Traditional English Pancake Recipe:

100g plain flour
Pinch of salt (optional)
1 large egg
300ml milk
Oil/lard for frying



1. To make the batter, sift 100g plain flour with a pinch of salt into a large basin.
2. Make a well in the centre and break in the large egg.
3. Using a balloon whisk gradually beat in 300ml of milk.
4. Heat a little lard/oil in a heavy frying pan until really hot. Pour off any excess.
5. Pour in a little batter – just enough to coat the base of the pan thinly when quickly swirled around.
6. Cook on a moderate heat until small bubbles appear on the surface.
7. Turn pancake over using a spatula, or the more adventurous can toss the pancake, and lightly brown the second side.
8. Serve with lemon and sugar or your own favourite toppings!

Celebrating in February and March

February and March are vibrant months, brimming with celebrations and events that bring communities together and add a dash of cheer to the often-dreary winter days. As we transition from the cold and dark of winter to the promise of spring, there are several notable occasions that people enjoy, each offering unique experiences and opportunities for revelry.

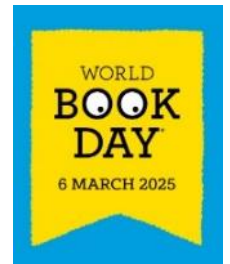
One of the first celebrations to mark the beginning of February is Imbolc, an ancient Celtic festival that falls on February 1st. Traditionally, this festival symbolizes the halfway point between winter and spring—an ideal time to celebrate the returning light and the first signs of spring's warmth. Communities often gather for candlelit ceremonies, symbolizing hope and renewal. While not widely observed in modern times, its themes resonate today, inspiring individuals to reflect on their own journeys and aspirations for the year ahead.



Valentine's Day on February 14th is dedicated to love and romance. Streets and shops are filled with red roses, heart-shaped chocolates, and an array of gifts. Couples make plans for romantic dinners, and schools even recognize the day with fun activities, allowing children to exchange cards and treats. It's a day that highlights not only romantic love but also friendship and familial bonds, prompting us all to express our affection for those we cherish.



6th March - World Book Day is an annual celebration that aims to promote reading, writing, and a passion for literature among children and young people. Launched in the UK in 1995, this special day often falls on the first Thursday of March, and it has become a significant fixture in the calendars of schools, libraries, and literary communities across the country. The day aims to inspire a love of reading by encouraging children to explore the richness of books and stories that can transport them to different worlds, spark their imaginations, and enhance their literacy skills. Schools often engage students with a variety of activities, including book-themed dress-ups, character parades, and writing competitions, making the day not only educational but also fun and interactive.



March 17th sees the arrival of St. Patrick's Day, a celebration that extends beyond Ireland and captivates the hearts of many across the UK. Pubs and streets come alive with music, dancing, and vibrant parades in cities like London, Manchester, and Birmingham. The wearing of green and the clinking of pints create a jovial spirit that transcends cultural boundaries. It's an opportunity to celebrate Irish heritage and culture, with everyone invited to join in the festivities, regardless of their roots.



Mothering Sunday, also known as Mothers' Day, occurs three weeks later in March and is another significant celebration. In 2025, it will fall on March 30th. Traditionally observed on the fourth Sunday of Lent, this day affords the chance to show appreciation for mothers and maternal figures. Families often gather for special meals, and children make heartfelt cards and gifts to express their love. Many opt to treat their mothers to a day of relaxation, pampering, or simply quality time together. It's a day that reinforces the importance of family bonds and gratitude.



As February and March unfold, we can embrace a variety of celebrations that serve to brighten the dark winter days. From ancient rituals to contemporary festivities, these occasions foster unity, love, and reflection, bringing joy into the hearts of many. Whether you're celebrating with loved ones or engaging in local community events, these months offer a wonderful opportunity to create cherished memories.

Village History Shorts

This is no. 55 in a series of brief sketches of earlier village lives...

Lavinia Bush and the Fauquier bequest

As a girl, Lavinia Garrett had worked as a maid at the Vicarage when the Rev Fauquier was Vicar.

The Vicar's daughter, Mary, seems to have taken an interest in the young maid's life, including acting as a witness when Lavinia married George Bush, a groom at Watford Court, in 1879.



Mary was an only child. Her mother was reclusive (agoraphobic?) and so it was Mary who stood in for her at social occasions and parish duties. She never married. After her parents died, Mary was left alone in the world.

She had to leave the Vicarage to make way for the new Vicar and so she took on the tenancy of this house at the bottom of Station Road (now demolished, leaving only the cottage on the left still standing), with Lavinia as her housekeeper. Lavinia and her husband raised a lively family of six children in this household.

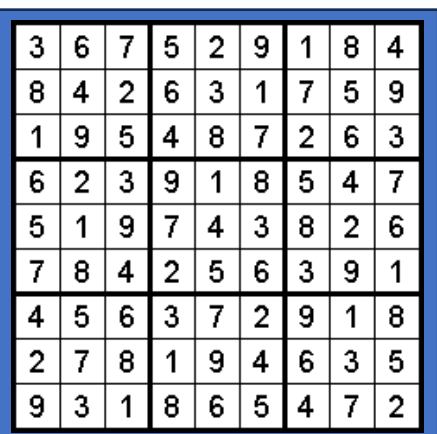
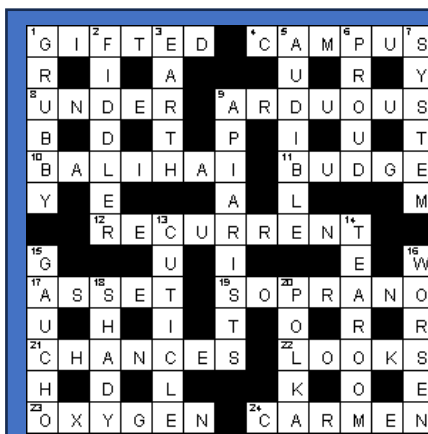
In 1910 Mary died, at the age of 82, leaving all her belongings to Lavinia and her family. To begin with it was all valued at about £20, but then her old desk was opened to reveal unexpected treasures...

The 'old desk' was an escritoire that had belonged to Thomas Fauquier, who had once been part of Queen Charlotte's household. It had stood in a grace and favour apartment at Hampton Court Palace, where Rev Fauquier, and later Mary herself, had been born! It contained a collection of valuable portrait miniatures and other items that, when sold, enabled Lavinia to buy five cottages around the village, including Woodbine Cottage at the bottom of West End, where the family lived until her death in 1939. Interested in village history?



Try the Facebook group:
Old Photos of West Haddon.

Wendy Raybould
(wjraybould@gmail.com).



What is a defibrillator?

Defibrillators are devices that apply an electric charge or current to the heart to restore a normal heartbeat. If the heart rhythm stops due to cardiac arrest, a defibrillator may help it start beating again. You might also hear it being called a defib, a PAD (public access defibrillator) or an AED (automated external defibrillator).

How to access the village defibrillators

If someone is in cardiac arrest, call 999 and start CPR. If you're on your own, do not interrupt CPR to go and find a defibrillator. If it's possible, send someone else to find one. When you call 999, the operator can tell you if there's a public access defibrillator nearby.

The defibrillators in our village are located at The Old Post Office, The Village Hall and The Sports Pavillion. They have a keycode lock, the operator will give you the code for the chosen location. Once you have the code, press C, then enter the code and turn the knob to open. Take the defibrillator to the person in arrest.

How to use a defibrillator

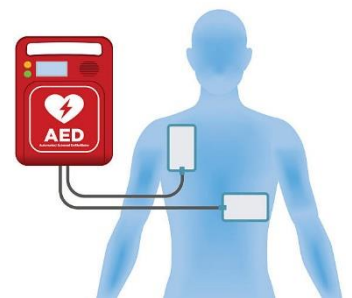
Anyone can use a defibrillator. You do not need training. Once you turn it on, it will give clear step-by-step voice instructions.

Many defibrillators also have visual prompts and images showing how to use it.

The device checks the person's heart rhythm and will only tell you to give them a shock if it's needed. You cannot shock yourself or someone else accidentally.

Steps to using a defibrillator

- **Step 1:** Press the green button to switch on the defibrillator and follow the instructions.
- **Step 2:** Remove the person's clothing above the waist.
- You might have to remove a person's bra by slipping the straps down or cutting it off. Most defibrillator packs have tools like scissors to help you to do this. It might feel odd or embarrassing but do not let that stop you. Remember, this is a life-or-death situation.
- **Step 3:** Peel off the sticky pads and attach them to the person's bare skin. Put one pad on each side of the chest as shown in the picture on the defibrillator.
- **Step 4:** Once you have attached the pads, stop CPR and do not touch the person. The defibrillator will then check the person's heart rhythm.
- **Step 5:** The defibrillator will decide whether a shock is needed. If so, it will tell you to press the 'shock' button. An automatic defibrillator will shock the person without you needing to do anything. Do not touch the person while they're being shocked.
- **Step 6:** The defibrillator will tell you when the shock has been given and whether you need to continue CPR.
- **Step 7:** If the defibrillator tells you to continue to do CPR, continue with chest compressions until the person shows signs of life, or the defibrillator tells you to stop so it can analyse the heartbeat again.





All Saints Church – Service arrangements

All Saints Church is open for private prayer every day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Service times at All Saints for February and March:

Sunday 2nd February 10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 9th February 10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 16th February 10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd February 10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 2nd March 10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 5th March	Ash Wednesday TBA
Sunday 9th March 10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 16th March 10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd March 10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 30th March	Mothering Sunday TBA

For more information visit – www.onechurch4parishes.co.uk

Church cleaning

We are very grateful to all those who come, usually **the first Saturday of the month**, with dusters and polish to give an extra sparkle to the inside of the church. If you feel able to join us, we would be delighted to see you. We arrive at **10am** and work hard for an hour, sometimes when it is warmer for two, then treat ourselves to tea, coffee and biscuits. Do come if you are able.

Mary and Joseph and the donkey

Thank you to all those who offered hospitality to Mary and Joseph as they made their journey round West Haddon as a reminder of the real characters who travelled from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the birth of the Christ child. The little woollen figures are now back in their box until the season of Advent in December this year. However, if you are going on holiday and would like to give them a special treat you could take them with you on your journey. Please contact me if you could offer this to them. Sue Tringham

Floodlights

The Church floodlights were put on for the following occasions:

- **Tuesday 10th December** from an anonymous donor
- **Sunday 15th December** by Sue Martins to wish “Happy Christmas” to all her friends in West Haddon
- **Tuesday 17th December** in memory of Les Gearing
- **Thursday 19th December** in memory of Joy and Ken Inley
- **Tuesday 24th December** in memory of Mary Bush on her birthday
- They were on for **the twelve days of Christmas** courtesy of the Parish Council.
- **Wednesday 8th January** in memory of Roger Poole on his birthday.
- **Sunday 14th January** remembering, “Shirley by Janet who loves you and misses you”

If you would like the floodlights put on from dusk until midnight please get in touch with me on at

Sandyandsue@btinternet.com,

01788 510275 or at
4 Guilsborough Road.

If you want an entry in the newsletter, please put what you would like in writing. A donation of at least £5 would be appreciated. Sandy Tringham

THANK YOU FROM EVE

We made two journeys to the Women’s Refuge to take all the gifts you had given to us for them. They were very pleased to receive them, and we were delighted to be able to provide surprise presents for all who use the refuge or are supported by them. Many thanks to you all.

Lent Lunches

Delicious home made soup

All are welcome

Wednesday 12th & 26th March 12-2pm
Baptist Church Hall

Hosted by All Saints Church

VILLAGE QUIZ NIGHT

West Haddon Village Hall

Friday 14th March 7:00pm-7:30pm start Bar opens 7:00pm

£10 per person - includes Ploughman's Supper

Come as a team of 6 or join a team

Prize for winning team Raffle

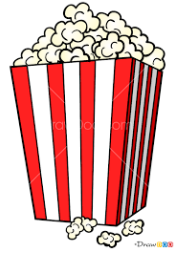
Bookings: Dorothy Whittaker 01788 510392

Proceeds to All Saints' Church

Buckby Library & Hub

Our film nights in February and March:

- **Tuesday 25th February** is *Thelma*: "When 93-year-old Thelma Post gets duped by a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson, she sets out on a treacherous quest across the city to reclaim what was taken from her. Inspired by a real-life experience of the director's own grandmother, Thelma shines the spotlight on elderly people as unlikely action heroes and tackles the themes of aging, mortality and human frailty with affectionate humour."
- **On Tuesday 25th March** we are showing *Poms*: Martha is an introverted woman who moves to a retirement community. Hoping to be left alone, she meets Sheryl, a fun-loving neighbour who insists that they become best pals. After coming out of her shell, Martha and her new friend decide to form a cheerleading squad with their fellow residents. As the two women hold auditions, they soon learn that it's never too late to follow your dreams, even when the odds are stacked against you.



Doors open at 7pm; films start at 7.30. Tickets £7 and will be available from the Library and Peephole.

You can also buy refreshments, including ice creams!

Our art exhibitions in February and March are:

- **February:** a wonderful display of **wildlife photography** from **Sue Ebbage**.
- **March:** the latest **paintings** by local artist, **Anna Langton**.



Other events coming up:

Saturday 8th February 10am-2pm: Books, books, books!

We are having a book sale. Come and find your bargain books!

Tuesday March 11th 7.30-9pm (doors open at 7pm): **A musical entertainment in the life of John Clare** with the band, **Cut-a-Caper**,

which gave us a wonderful evening on Thomas Hardy last year. Sometimes called the 'Northamptonshire Peasant Poet', John Clare was a self-declared scraper of the fiddle and a much-loved poet of Nature. The Cut-a-Caper Band plays his music, reads his poetry (with readalong texts) and describes his life and times. There will be an opportunity to join in a simple country dance typical of John Clare's time. Tickets are £7 and will be on sale in due course at the library and the Peephole in Long Buckby High Street. Refreshments available on the night.

Saturday March 22nd, 10am-2pm: after 2024's successful event, Buckby Library & Hub and Long Buckby Community Centre are holding another **Spring Fayre** at the Community Centre (NN6 7QB). This is a fundraising event with proceeds divided between the two charities. There will be crafts, cakes, jewellery, plants, Bric a Brac, games and activities for children, tombola, raffle, refreshments and much more. Come along and enjoy!

Health and Wellbeing:

Lou Tassell, an Integrated Wellness and Family Practitioner with 15 years' experience, is running a fortnightly **Stresses to Smiles™** community wellness hub at the library. These fortnightly Tuesday morning sessions will start at 11am and last about 30-40 minutes. During each session, there will be a discussion on a wellness topic with simple self-help wellness tools and helpful tips. Donation for the session: £1. Refreshments will also be available after the session, when you might want to stay for a friendly chat. No booking required - just turn up on the day. For more information, please contact Lou Tassell 07966 502611 lou@optimalvitality.co.uk or inquire at the library.

More on health and wellbeing at the library:

- **Thursday February 13th, 10am-12pm:** The Northampton Association for the Blind will have their advice bus in our car park.
- **March 4th-11th:** we will have a **book display on women's health and wellbeing** in honour of **International Women's Day (March 8th)**.
- And don't forget: our **Chatty Café** (10.30am-12.00pm fortnightly on Tuesday mornings, alternating with Stresses to Smiles™!), our **Social Games Afternoons**, weekly on Wednesdays, 2-4pm, and our **Warm Space** with free scones and jam, every week during the cold season on Friday afternoons.



See: <https://buckbylibraryhub.org/calendar/> to find out more and information or drop in and see us!

Join us for an evening of light-hearted laughs with two terrific one act comedies.

WHP WEST HADDON PLAYERS present

LOCKDOWN & LAST PANTO IN LITTLE GRIMLEY

TWO ONE ACT COMEDIES BY DAVID TRISTRAM

THURSDAY 6TH — SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2025

WEST HADDON VILLAGE HALL
DOORS AND BAR 7:00PM SHOWS START 7:30PM
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WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/WEST-HADDON-PLAYERS
EMAIL: WESTHADDONPLAYERSBOXOFFICE@GMAIL.COM
PHONE: JACKY ON 07771 968878



We gave Gordon and his little band at the Little Grimley Amateur Dramatic Society a very well received outing in West Haddon a year or so ago and they are back with another couple of comedy capers.

These are standalone stories so you will have no problem enjoying them whether or not you came to "Last Tango" and "Murder".

Firstly, in "*Lockdown in Little Grimley*" we join Gordon as he tries to rally his hapless little band with a socially distanced meeting to relaunch the group and help the NHS with a fundraiser – or will they be more of a hindrance?

Then in "*Last Panto in Little Grimley*" they turn their attention to that great tradition of English theatre; a pantomime. Needless to say, things once more don't go entirely to plan!

Please do come along for a nice little (you'll be home by ten!) slice of West Haddon and Little Grimley village life.

Tickets are £10 and available online at:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/west-haddon-players

WEST HADDON CATERPILLAR CLUB

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Includes hot drinks for adults and toast / drink for children.

Every Wednesday during term time,
9:05 – 10:30 am

West Haddon Primary School Hall

£1 donation per person attending.

Find us on Facebook:
@WHCaterpillarClub

Brownies

1st Guilsborough Brownies

Guilsborough
Brownies meet on
Monday evenings at
Guilsborough
Primary School Hall
from 6.15pm to
7.30pm.

We are a friendly group, playing games, making new friends and working towards badges for a wide range of subjects including "Space", "Aviation", "Painting" and "Grow your own".

If you have a daughter aged between 7 and 10 years, she may be interested in joining us. The girls can come to us for a taster evening.

If you are an adult who could spare an hour or so on Mondays or have previously been involved with Guiding, my Brownie Guiders and Unit helpers would be keen to welcome extra help with the girls.

If you would like more information, I can be contacted on 07989 194282 or on maryfowler1412@hotmail.com

Mary Fowler, Brown Owl

Daisies Café

FEBRUARY & MARCH
EVENTS

13th of February : Games
Afternoon

18th of February : Usborne
Books 1pm - 4:30pm

13th March : Bingo

Hot lunches will be served on Tuesdays from 1 - 3pm and Thursdays will hold Daisies Chatty Cafe from 2 till 4.

Daisies Cafe will be closed during half term and will re-open on the 25th of February.



West Haddon Parish Council
Breakfast Café

**OPEN ON THE 6TH OF
FEBRUARY**
Every Tuesday
9:30 - 11:30am
Located in the Pavillion

Dogs walking their owners are welcome!

T@3



The next meeting is on Monday 10th February. Please join us, everyone is welcome at the Baptist school room from about 2.30pm onwards for tea, homemade cake, company and conversation.

On Monday 10th March we are holding our annual fundraiser for The Children's Society. There will be a raffle and Bring and Buy stall. Contributions for either are welcome. Boxholders unable to attend, please contact me.

Thank you, Dorothy. 01788 510392.

West Haddon Crochet Club Thursdays 7pm 12 High Street

Bring your hooks if you have them but complete beginners are very welcome!



Kate Butler

07923 540985

WEST HADDON PARISH COUNCIL YOUTH CAFÉ FEBRUARY DATES

FEB
3

TIME TO TALK DAY AND BINGO!
4PM - 6PM

FEB
10

XBOX CHAMPIONSHIPS
4PM - 6PM

FEB
17

POOL TOURNAMENT
4PM - 6PM

FEB
24

WE ARE CLOSED BUT WILL
BE BACK OPEN ON THE 3RD
OF MARCH

We look forward to seeing you!

WEST HADDON PARISH COUNCIL YOUTH CAFÉ MARCH DATES

MAR
3

PANCAKE FUN DAY
4PM - 6PM

MAR
10

PYJAMA DAY
4PM - 6PM

MAR
17

ST PATRICK'S DAY ACTIVITIES
4PM - 6PM

MAR
24

USUAL CAFE
4PM - 6PM

MAR
31

BINGO!
4PM - 6PM



Northampton Road,
West Haddon,
NN6 7AS

Any questions or to
let me know you're
coming,

please contact
Rob Paul
07982 468834

West Haddon Junior

Football Club

U5/6's, Year 1 + Reception

Is your child in Year 1 or in Reception? We train on Saturday mornings

Boys and Girls, all Welcome. No need to buy new football boots if you don't have them, trainers will be fine.

The subs will be £50 for the year but nothing to pay immediately; come along and have a trial run until half-term and ensure your child is enjoying it before paying any money.

If any parents fancy helping out with these sessions, it would be fantastic and very much appreciated.



WEST HADDON PARISH COUNCIL

E-mail:- executiveofficer@westhaddonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website:- www.westhaddonparishcouncil.gov.uk

telephone:- 07493366527

Twitter:- @WestHaddonPC

Facebook:- West Haddon Council

Newsletter Editor:- editorwhnews@outlook.com

Full Council meetings are normally held on 1st Tuesday of each month.

Please see the website for further information and agenda items.

Deadline for the April/June edition:

Tuesday 18th March

Please send your submissions

to

Christina Betson at

editorwhnews@outlook.com

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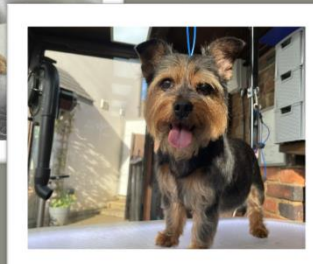
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WHPPhoto.club – October 2024 Meeting - Seen Better Days

Our fears that members would simply submit a load of selfies for this month's theme of 'Seen Better Days' was unrealised, thankfully. Instead, we were treated to photos showing a large range of atmospheric and forlorn subjects. Wherever we live or work there are things around us that, once new, bright and shiny, are suffering from the passing of time; their importance and utility has declined and they remain unloved and overlooked. Yet there's something romantic about ruins - old abbeys and castles covered with ivy have long attracted people. Even the more prosaic and utilitarian structures and objects gather an interesting patina of age.

Members submitted photos containing a wide range of subjects in various states of decay and decrepitude. Boats, cars and buildings caught our members' eyes as well as objects that have been abandoned or forgotten. When the votes were counted for the favourite image, it was clear that it had been a difficult choice, with many photos receiving at least one vote. Colin Waite's picture of a well-worn statue's face and Alastair Bell's suitably Gothic-looking Whitby Abbey received a few more votes, but the favourite image was **Frozen in Time** by **Tony Teague**. His photo showed a clock, its face pitted with rust, hanging in an abandoned cold-war command centre - very atmospheric.



The Image of the Month section of our Show and Tell meetings are photos taken by members since the last meeting. From the images submitted it was clear people had been out and about in both this country and others - from statues in Spain to a man in Market Harborough. Photos of a sparrowhawk and a comet showed you don't even need to go further than your own garden to find an interesting subject. However, it was in the north-east of England that **David Kallmeier** took **Scarborough**, the members' favourite Image of the Month. In it, Scarborough lighthouse stands lit by the sun in front of a bank of dark grey storm clouds; brightly coloured fishing nets on the harbourside draw you into the photo.

[An Evening of Wildlife Photography by Nigel Spencer - 31st October](#)

For our last talk this year we welcomed [Nigel Spencer](#) to present 'An Evening of Wildlife Photography' to our members and guests. Wildlife photography is quite rightly very popular, not just because of the enchanting images, but also because of the desire of many photographers to take one themselves. Those of us who have tried, know how hard this is, but Nigel's superb images made it look easy.



All of the images shown at our main meeting can be found on our website at www.whphoto.club, together with details of our programme and how to join us.