

# THE *Moreton* *Morrell* VILLAGER

December 2024

*Merry*  
*Christmas*



*Dale.c*

Painting by Dale Collett

# *The Parish Council*

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*Chair:* Gerry Slora

*Vice Chair:* Eileen Edwards

*Councillors:* James Gordon, Robert James, Bernard Keavy & David Butler, Anne Parry

*County Councillor:* Penny-Anne O'Donnell

*District Councillor:* Anne Parry

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The next Parish Council meeting

will be held at The Room on

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30<sub>pm</sub>

and all are welcome to join

For more news from the Parish Council visit

[www.moretonmorrell-pc.gov.uk](http://www.moretonmorrell-pc.gov.uk)

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**Pick it up!**

Whatever some people may believe, there's no such thing as the dog poo fairy. So dog walkers, bag that poo - any rubbish bin will do.  
*(This includes Box Field)*

**Together let's put an end to this offensive, harmful litter.**

# News from the Parish Council

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## Moreton Morrell Parish Plan

Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) has now concluded all the internal and external consultations which means the final version of the Moreton Morrell Parish Plan will be submitted to SDC's Cabinet Meeting in January 2025 for adoption. The parish plan has been in development over the last three years and this has involved extensive involvement with villagers including surveys and public consultations and once adopted will help to shape the future of the parish.

## Christmas Community Lunch

The Black Horse is kindly hosting a Community Buffet Lunch on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December which is being supported by Moreton Morrell Parish Council. The event is specifically aimed at bringing some Christmas cheer and a festive hub to the community as a meet and greet style event with other villagers at this time of year.

Fabulous Suppers which kindly organise Tasty Tuesday's courtesy of Tracy Benbow, will be providing a delicious buffet during the afternoon from 12 noon until the pub opens later in the afternoon and those wishing to attend should contact Jill Slora

on 07802 634832 to help her ascertain likely catering numbers.

## Christmas Tree for Moreton Morrell!

Following the suggestion received from one of our younger parishioners proposing the idea for Moreton Morrell to have its own village Christmas Tree, MMPC has taken the suggestion on board and has agreed to fund an appropriately sized tree with lights at the top of Brook Lane near the post box for everyone's enjoyment, so watch this space!

## Village Maintenance

The parish council would like to extend special thanks to Malcolm Whyte and Victoria and Philip Frost of Chestnut Grove who kindly helped Gerry Slora (PC Chair) in extensively clearing Old Farm Drive last month, which was greatly appreciated. Our thanks are also extended to Carl Cleeton for kindly repairing one of the village signs in his own time FOC.

As we approach the end of 2024, Moreton Morrell Parish Council wishes to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Heathcote Farm Christmas Poultry**

- \* Farm fresh traditional poultry produced for over 50 years by four generations
- \* Turkeys, cockerels and geese
- \* Hand reared plucked and prepared on our traditional family farm
- \* Butchers quality and farm gate price
- \* Buy local and reduce your carbon footprint

**Call or text Thomas 07833 474488 for more details**



# *District Councillor Report - Cllr Anne Parry*

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## **Planning Matters**

Consultation in respect of the preferred options for the South Warwickshire Local Plan will be launched early January for 8 weeks, following approval of the Joint Cabinet Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December. This is a significant stage in the development of the new local plan, however, it is important to bear in mind more sites than required have been identified which include 12 potential options for new settlement sites and 24 potential strategic growth sites across SDC and WDC.

Options for potential strategic growth sites in our area includes

- North of Wellesbourne
- South of Wellesbourne
- Gaydon Lighthorne Heath
- East of Gaydon

Options for potential new settlements in our area include:

- Land south of Leamington/north of Wellesbourne/east of Barford and near Bishops Tachbrook
- Land to the west of Knightcote
- Land north east of Knightcote

Existing reserve sites identified in SDC's site allocation plan are still relevant as the developing South Warwickshire Local Plan period is up to 2050 and will require smaller development sites to maintain the five year housing land supply.

Further information can be found via [www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/](http://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/)

## **Budget**

Biggest concern for our district are the changes in respect of Inheritance Tax to agricultural estates, businesses and

pension pots and we have raised our concerns with Sir Jeremy Wright KC MP in these respects.

## **Cyber Crime Awareness**

Residents are reminded about Cyber safety as scams are on the rise and with more people using devices connected to the internet this will only continue. To avoid becoming a victim of online crime you don't need to be a computer expert. Developing a few good online habits drastically reduces your chances of becoming a victim of cyber crime, makes you less vulnerable and lets you use the web safely.

Visit [www.ncsc.gov.uk](http://www.ncsc.gov.uk) for advice on keeping your devices up-to-date with the latest security updates, and for more online security advice.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of cyber crime you can reported this a number of ways. If you are currently being subjected to a live and ongoing cyber-attack then please contact Warwickshire Police on 101.

If you suspect you've been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber crime, the Action Fraud team can also provide the help, support and advice you need. Call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 (textphone 0300 123 2050).

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

# *Your Church in Your Community*

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As many villagers will know, your church is now part of a new group under the leadership of the Reverend Barry Jackson who lives in Kineton. Barry is very keen to meet as many people as he can and you may well see him out and about at various activities in the community. He has already forged a strong link with our school, and we offer him a very warm welcome.

The changes mean that there will no longer be a separate Parish magazine distributed to you each month but we are delighted that the Villager has stepped in and the series of contributions below will be a regular feature informing you about church and related activities.

*John Moverley*

## **Message from the Reverend Barry Jackson**

In the build up to Christmas, the shops are starting to fill with decorations and gift ideas. For several months we've been planning the various Christmas and carol services, and I am looking forward to getting together with people from around the area at many festive events over this season.

For our family Christmas will be a bit different this year as our eldest has moved to Australia. When I get back from midnight communion, we'll be calling her to wish her Happy Christmas as it will be past 10am in the morning for her.

But for many people Christmas will be more than different, it will be difficult, if not impossible. Wars continue to escalate around the world, the impact of climate change is bringing huge suffering. On top

of that, the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury over the findings in the Makin report reminds us of the great suffering that can occur when we fail to safeguard the most vulnerable among us.

It was not that different when Jesus was born. There was a military occupation, there was the killing of children, and Jesus' family were displaced as refugees fleeing to Egypt for safety. In that dark time, fanfares of angels announced the coming of the prince of peace, the saviour who would bring light and hope to the world.

Sending a baby might seem an odd way for God to bring hope to the world, but God isn't looking for a quick fix (there isn't one), but something more profound. The heart of the problems we face are the way that humanity treats one another. My years leading strategic change management in industry, and now in the church, taught me that you can never force lasting change on anyone.

God knows that too, so he doesn't force change, but through Jesus sets in motion a long-term strategic plan to show humanity a different way to live. Jesus comes not in force, but humbly and vulnerably. He grows up and starts a movement, a community founded on love and compassion with a mandate to change the world through sharing that love.

Over the centuries there have been many times the church has got things badly wrong, and it still does. But God has continued to work with anyone (whether they are part of the church or not) who wants to be part of that long-term strategic plan to heal our world.

# *Your Church in Your Community*

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I feel very fortunate to have witnessed many times where lives have been transformed by acts of love and compassion. Not only through things like the foodbank and the many community events that bring people together, but also in the many everyday ways that people in our communities go the extra mile to help others. And these same sorts of acts of kindness go on all over the world.

As we gather at Christmas, we remember the birth of the child who started this peaceful revolution, we share hope and love to encourage one another, recommitting to do our part wherever we are to join in with God's long-term plan and transform the world through the love he offers.

Merry Christmas

Rev Barry Jackson

## **Special Christmas Services**

Sun 1st Dec 4pm – Tree of Light Service at Newbold Pacey

### **Sun 15th Dec (time tbc) – Christmas Carols at The Black Horse**

Sun 15th Dec 5.30pm - Candlelit Carol Service, Chesterton

### **Wed 18th Dec 6.30pm – School Carol Service, Moreton Morrell**

Fri 20th Dec 7pm - 'Spirit of Christmas' carols, Lighthorne Church

Sun 22nd Dec 5pm - Carol service - Upper Lighthorne

Sun 22nd Dec 4pm – Carol Service, St Georges, Newbold Pacey

### **Sat 23rd Dec (time tbc) - 9 Lessons and Carols, Moreton Morrell**

Christmas Day 10:30am - Communion service, Lighthorne Church

**Christmas Day 10.30am – Communion,**

## **Moreton Morrell**

### **Remembrance Sunday**

As ever, this was a moving occasion when we remember all those who give their lives in wars and conflict for our future. This year a record number attended both the church service and at the war memorial. The proceedings were conducted by the Reverend Christopher Lamb, a great friend to church and village. Thank you to all who attended and a special thanks to our school for the excellent display mounted in the church.

*John Moverley*

### **Celebration service and licensing of our new vicar**

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, a special service was held at Lighthorne to celebrate the many years the four parishes in Míd- Fosse have worked together and to formally install our new priest in charge supporting Moreton Morrell, Barry Jackson. It was very well attended.

Barry has already been very active in the village and our school. He fully shares the view that our church is more than the building. Its key role is in working together across the community. Many opportunities ahead we believe.

*John Moverley*

# *Your Church in Your Community*

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## **Christmas Normal Service dates in December and January**

We will continue to publish in the Villager dates of services across the four parishes in Mid Fosse and these are as follows:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b><u>Sunday 1st December</u></b><br/>9am Morning Service – Lighthorne<br/><b>10.30am Communion - Moreton Morrell</b><br/>5pm Evening Service - Newbold Pacey</p> <p><b><u>Sunday 8th December</u></b><br/>10.30am Harvest - Newbold Pacey<br/>6m Evening Service - Lighthorne</p> <p><b><u>Sunday 15th December</u></b><br/>8.30am Morning Service - Newbold Pacey<br/><b>10.30am Prime Time - Moreton Morrell</b></p> <p><b><u>Sunday 22nd December</u></b><br/>8.30am Morning Service - Newbold Pacey<br/>10.30am Communion – Lighthorne</p> <p><b><u>Sunday 29th December</u></b><br/>10.30am Lighthorne Heath service</p> | <p><b><u>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January</u></b><br/>9am Morning Service – Lighthorne<br/><b>10.30am Communion - Moreton Morrell</b><br/>5pm Evening Service - Newbold Pacey</p> <p><b><u>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January</u></b><br/>10.30am - Newbold Pacey<br/>6m Evening Service - Lighthorne</p> <p><b><u>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January</u></b><br/>8.30am Morning Service - Newbold Pacey<br/>10.30am Communion – Chesterton<br/><b>10.30am Prime Time - Moreton Morrell</b></p> <p><b><u>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January</u></b><br/>8.30am Morning Service - Newbold Pacey<br/>10.30am Communion – Lighthorne</p> |
|---|--|

## **News from your church**

This is the first Church update since the last Parish magazine was distributed in early November.

The Mid- Fosse group of parishes have been realigned with neighbouring Churches and Moreton Morrell is now in a group of rural churches led by Rev Barry Jackson and his team based in Kineton. This is a real blessing as Christmas is upon us and the Church and community can now look forward with certainty and optimism.

After another Churchyard clear up in early October, the PCC would like to thank all those who helped. The Craft fair held the week after inside and out was a major success in terms of attendees and fundraising. Our grateful thanks go to all

the stall holders who turn up early and contribute generously to the raffle, also to all the supporters who provided a steady stream from 11 am through till well after lunch.

Rev Brian Russell continues to support Communion services on the first Sunday of each month at 1030 am which is followed by refreshments and fellowship in The Room straight afterwards. Primetime occurs on the third Sunday of each month at the same time and is led by the in house Church team directed towards families and community.

The whole school led by Head teacher Sarah Eadon attended Church on Weds 23rd October for a Harvest service led by the children and supported by Reverend

# *Your Church in Your Community*

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Barry. It was a joy to see the Church so full with parents and supporters spilling over in the corridor to The Room. The service was both happy and inspiring with readings and lovely singing led by Music teacher Hannah James. The generous food donations collected on the day were shared between the mid-Fosse Food Bank, and the Leamington Night Shelter.

Up and coming events as we approach Christmas include the alternate Tuesday lunchtime Tasty Tuesdays in The Room which provide the opportunity for free refreshments and a light lunch alongside a chance to meet and chat. Dates in December 3rd and 17th between 12 noon and 2pm in The Room.

The Church itself remains open for visiting during daylight hours for private reflection and prayer. Thank you to those who lock and unlock daily.

The new Pocket Park in the corner of the Churchyard can be accessed via the metal gate on the path just down from the gated entrance to Moreton Hall.

The Room is available for use by individual or Community groups- enquiries or reservations via the TRAMM website or email [contact@tramm.co.uk](mailto:contact@tramm.co.uk)

Finally, any enquiries regarding special or individual services at Moreton Morrell can be made to John Moverley, Church warden, or to Reverend Barry Jackson direct.

With all good wishes for a happy, healthy and blessed Christmas season .

*Clive Irwin*

**Christmas seasonal events & services at**

**Moreton Morrell include the following:**

Fri 6th December Moreton Morrell Village Choir Christmas Concert Evening, time tbc

Mon 9th December Christmas Wreath Making 1800 in The Room- enquiries/bookings to Sarah Irwin:  
[Sarah\\_Irwin1964@icloud.com](mailto:Sarah_Irwin1964@icloud.com)  
or 07879 820804)

Weds 18th December School Carol Concert 1830

Mon 23rd December Nine Carols and Lessons, time to be confirmed (early evening)

Weds 25th December Christmas Day service at 1030 (Rev Brian Russell)

By the time this article is published, the licensing of the Priests in charge to support the 4 Churches in the previous Mid-Fosse Benefice will have happened (13th November at Lighthorne Church)-

Rev Barry Jackson for Moreton Morrell  
Rev Gregg Bartlem for Lighthorne  
Rev Andy Batchelor for Chesterton  
Rev Linda McDermott for Newbold Lacey

We are really pleased that all 4 Churches have nominated Priests in charge , with the promise of new troops to arrive and support rural ministry particularly in the new development at Upper Lighthorne.

Finally, any enquiries regarding special or individual services at Moreton Morrell can be made to John Moverley, Church warden, or to Reverend Barry Jackson direct.

With all good wishes for a happy, healthy and blessed Christmas season



# NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT



**23RD DECEMBER**  
**5.00 p.m.**

**Church of the Holy Cross**



## *From the Allotments*

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We are now in the close season for the allotments. The advanced ones have already dug over their plots ready for spring. Others including me still have quite a bit to do. It is the time of year to study seed catalogues and decide what we might grow in 2025. What worked this year and what did not? Should I really try to grow carrots on our heavy land or not when over recent years I have failed? And many other such decisions.

We held our association AGM on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Members received the accounts and reports from officers. We have some vacancies that have arisen for next year. So, whether interested in a quarter, half or full plot do get in touch with me. Having an allotment and growing your own can be so rewarding.

So happy Christmas to all and here's a poem that I hope you like:

*Through the gate and into another*

*world*

*Leaving my cares on the outside  
Breathing in the air of my sanctuary  
That's where you'll find me,  
When life feels hard to bear.*

*Hands deep in the soil  
The rich smell filling my mind  
Feeling the cold earth between my  
fingers*

*Gently planting new crops  
Watering them into the ground  
Whispering soft words of  
encouragement*

*Digging over a plot of land  
Pulling out weeds to start a clean  
slate*

*Leaning on my spade for a rest  
My joy, my deep breath  
My allotment, my other world  
A place that waits for me no matter  
what happens in my day*

*That's where you'll find me,  
When life feels hard to bear.*

John Moverley  
Chairman – Moreton Morrell Allotment  
Association  
[John@dunmovin.co.uk](mailto:John@dunmovin.co.uk)

Moreton Morrell is on



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# November Nature Watch

Autumn seemed to arrive quickly bringing a different feeling to the air. We had a couple of early frosts - at least they were followed by blue sky Autumn days. Right on seasonal cue the Canada Geese started their daily commuting in the mornings, calling loudly as they flew over the cottage to the lakes at Ashorne and evening back across here, probably to a river for the rest of the night. Love that sound! Another sound I love in Autumn is Rooks singing. I use the term loosely, with their "Caw Cawing" and the occasional squeak like a teenage lad when his voice is breaking.

It was in October when the great Crow family gathering happened within sight of the cottage. Just on the edge of the parkland stands a massive Pine tree. I was weeding at the time with my back to it as a Crow rumpus erupted. Any excuse to stop weeding, I just had to have a look. Around the old pine tree were fifty or sixty Crows, all calling loudly, circling the tree and regularly diving down on something on the other side. There were Carrion Crows, Jackdaws, some Rooks and even a Raven. Apart from Magpies and Jays there was a full set of the Crow family. What was making them so annoyed? I had to wait a while to find out what was in that tree. Then a pair of Red Kite were flushed out. They flew around the cottage being pursued by the Crow mob. If a Crow got too close they would flip over showing their talons. The Crows saw them off and quickly calmed down. Often the Crow species will fight amongst themselves but faced with what they considered a threat they all joined forces.



We had a tiny visitor crawl under the not so tiny gap at the bottom of the front door. A Newt made its way slowly across the carpet. It would have been looking for a place to hibernate. Entering the cottage with relatively dryer conditions would have been fatal. I gently helped it into a mug with a little water inside and took it to the pond area where there's a big old log with a hollow space under it. It disappeared into its safe damp cave - an exquisite little thing.

Redwings are here after crossing the North Sea from Scandinavia, flying over fast in groups with their "Seep, seep" call both day and night. Not seen or heard the Fieldfare yet. Nice to see when they arrive

## *November Nature Watch*

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but always sad to see the Swallows, Swifts and House-martins leave.

About a month ago I did a Bumble Bee rescue. It was well and truly tangled in a web. The Spider approached. Should I let the Spider have its meal? ...Naaah! We're short of Bumble Bees. A gentle touch with my finger and the Spider scuttled off. I got the Bee out of the web and placed it on a handy sundial. It was bound tightly. I took two thin stalks of Lavender (no scalpels were available) no idea if it would work. I carefully teased web off its legs until one

by one its undercarriage became free. This allowed the Bee to help me a bit. Now the head, also covered with grey web, trying not to poke its eyes. Then the delicate wings. I knew I'd succeeded when the Bee flew off - Yeah! It flew about fifteen feet then, dramatically crashed into the road, wings probably a bit hampered. In a moment it was airborne again and flew up over the roof of the cottage. Imagine, if Bumble Bees could talk, when it got back to the colony, "You'll never guess what just happened to me!"

## *December Nature Watch*

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A Carrion Crow lands at the top of a slender Birch Tree and sends a cascade of yellow leaves to the ground. 'Tis that time of year as Autumn prepares to exit and Winter prepares to arrive. There's a chill in the air that clings its dampness to everything forbidding the sun to break the spell. Eventually the sun takes control.

The Cotoneaster tree is stunning - brought here in a bucket and now up to the bedroom window height and loaded with berries. The Blackbirds have started to eat them and small clouds of Redwings passing over with chuckling Fieldfares will make short work of them if spotted. Sad to lose the gorgeous berries but they are there for the birds after all.

The Long-tailed Tits have joined together into groups chattering to each other as they search for any insects or spiders. They

are often joined by Bluetits and Great Tits as Winter draws on. Nice to have the Nuthatch and Coal Tit back on the bird table - don't see much of them in the Summer. Now they are here for the Sunflower hearts along with uncountable other birds.

The Muntjac is still calling for his mate, wondering where she is . . . . I know just where she is. More on that later.

As usual we have more than our share of Robins - four down the bottom of the garden and a similar amount at the top. My favourite Robin (I know I shouldn't have favourites should I) is the one way down in the bottom corner. It's been around for over a year, holding territory and having the same character getting very close to me every time I do anything down there. It and several others get fed

# December Nature Watch

with sunflower hearts each morning. This one in is waiting for me each morning on the fence with another Robin about ten feet away. They chat to each other but don't fight. I reckon it could be a male and a female. It's not quite confident to feed from my hand but it's getting very close. So now I've started the feeding malarkey I can't let it down. I'll have to continue every morning. I don't mind a bit.

So where is the female Muntjac? In our garden quite a lot of the time. Couple of days ago our cat came running towards me down the garden as if it were being chased. It shot passed me and under the garden chairs before disappearing through the hedge. With the gate closed and nothing much to chase round her I was surprised. Then towards me trotted a Muntjac deer. Just like in a cartoon it came to a sudden stop then suddenly turned round and trotted back up the garden, "nothing to see here". So the deer, chasing the cat as if it were a predator had stood

it's ground and chased it away, probably much to the surprise of the cat. I've seen a Muntjac do that to a Fox many years ago. The Deer was close to the cottage the next morning. The Cat was wary but I reckon they'll get the measure of each other and both share a bit of respect. Fingers crossed.

Just a little footnote to the Muntjac chasing down the garden story . The neighbour told me he'd seen a Muntjac in his garden with a youngster. That being the case then no wonder she chased the cat off as a potential predator. Luckily for her our cat feels a Pheasant is too big to handle so a young Muntjac should be fine.



Tasty Tuesdays will be back on Tuesday, November 5th 12.00pm - 2.00pm at The Room in Moreton Morrell (The room behind the church.) We will be serving piping hot soup, crusty bread and some delicious desserts to follow with tea and coffee. Do join us for this FREE community lunch, pop in for a coffee with friends or just come and work from our relaxing space. Donations and offers of help are always welcome to enable us to continue to offer this wonderful lunch to the community. WIFI is available, a friendly relaxed atmosphere awaits you.

Upcoming dates:

Tuesday 19th November

Tuesday 3rd December

Tuesday 17th December.

Email [Tracybenbow66@gmail.com](mailto:Tracybenbow66@gmail.com) for more information.



# *Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI*

We had a busy October coffee morning: everybody back from holidays and keen to meet up with neighbours over homemade cake and a cuppa. At our monthly meeting, Steve Bruce, Auctioneer, regaled members with tales of the auction room and then offered valuations on a random selection of antique items. We took our Toiletries & Treats Tombola up to the Moreton Morrell Produce & Craft Fayre, happy to chat about what our WI has to offer to local women.

Late October saw four of us exercising our grey cells the Warwickshire Federation Quiz in Claverdon and our committee were on the lookout for some inspiring, educational and interesting speakers at the annual WI Speaker Selection Evening in Leamington.

In preparation for our December Coffee Morning and Craft Fayre on 7 December, we spent our November members' meeting making Christmas cards to sell. Guided by our newest member, Linda Mitchell of Wellesbourne we were amazed and delighted with our efforts! Sadly, our numbers were very depleted as many stayed home recovering from Covid – a very nasty strain at the moment it seems.



We are all looking forward to our December meeting where this year, instead of going out for a meal to a local pub, we are being fed and watered by Tracy and Wendy from Fabulous Suppers of Moreton Paddox. We also have Eddie Smallwood as an after-dinner speaker, his subject: Christmas myths, legends and traditions from the Romans to the present day. We can't wait!

Our Craft Groups continue to meet on Tuesdays and our Walking Group continues to seek out new routes over which to stretch our legs.

We continue to run our 'first Saturday of the month' Community Coffee Mornings so if you are passing Ashorne Village Hall around 10am at the beginning of the



## *Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI*

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month do pop in.

In December, we will be offering free hot drinks and mince pies in exchange for a donation to Leamington Winter Support night shelter. There will be all sorts of lovely handmade items to purchase –

Christmas gifts or something for yourself as a treat. Do pop in.

Why not come over for a chat? We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, 7:30pm – 10pm in Ashorne Village Hall. Membership subscription is £48 for a year of speakers/workshops and enjoying the company of like-minded women. Or come as a guest to try us out, £5 per

meeting including raffle, homemade cake and a cuppa.

Contact Trish by phone for a chat or email: [npandawi@gmail.com](mailto:npandawi@gmail.com) if you want to find out more.

Trish Handsley: 01926 651978 / 07919 392588

Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI

[Npandawi@gmail.com](mailto:Npandawi@gmail.com)

Facebook: Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI – Warwickshire

Instagram: @Newboldpaceyandashornewi

## *Moreton Morrell Gardening Group*

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Well after dreary September we had an excellent meeting in October on Autumn colour and containers from Lottie Newitt, who also bought along some lovely plants for members to buy so we could all go home and try out our newly acquired knowledge.

Our November meeting was all about creating a low maintenance border using low maintenance plants. Our speaker, local Lucy Hartley, gave us tons of advice and tips on how this could be achieved to make gardening easier and less of a chore.

In December, on Monday 16th December in The Room at the Church at 7.30pm, we will be having our Christmas social event. There will be a fun

gardening themed quiz, courtesy of Jo, our treasurer who did such an excellent job last year. Festive nibbles provided by our local catering experts Fabulous Suppers, as well as a raffle. Bring your own drinks, it should be a good way to kick off the festive season.

January, sees the launch of our new gardening club programme and new members are always welcome so please come along it's £25 for a whole year which will include a range of excellent speakers in the Room on the second Monday of the month between October and April and trips to gardens over the summer months.

Hopefully see you there.

Eileen (Chair)

## Finding support through supporting each other

**Are you a carer?** *“When I started to care, I didn’t know what I needed to know until I needed to know it”* - Carer comment

Providing care and support for a loved one can be rewarding but it can also take its toll. It can affect your own physical and emotional health, and it can be a very lonely time. Often, accessing the right information can feel impossible.

### Who are we?

**Carers4Carers** is a support group for unpaid family carers. Through our monthly meetings and newsletter, we support all adults who have caring responsibilities for an adult loved one or friend. We also support carers whose loved one has entered residential care, and any members who become bereaved are still welcome to benefit from our support. Our meetings give carers the opportunity to meet with other carers for support. Although every caring experience is different, talking to others can be reassuring and helpful. We also keep in touch with a monthly newsletter.

### Our meetings

A member recently described us a *“warm hug”*! We are a warm-hearted and friendly group. Run by volunteers who all have experience of caring, we make sure there is plenty of time to talk and swap ideas over a cuppa (and a biscuit or two!) Visiting speakers talk about relevant topics to help carers to develop their caring skills. We also offer wellbeing workshops and

activities to give carers an opportunity to relax and maybe switch off from the caring role for a short while.

What sets us apart from many carer support groups is our separate Companionship Group. Running alongside the carers’ meeting, it offers activities for loved ones while the carers relax in the main hall.

### When and where?

We have a track record of over 12 years supporting local, rural carers. We get together from 10:30 until 12 noon on the fourth Friday of the month except in December when it’s the second Friday (to avoid clashing with Christmas!) We meet at Kineton Village Hall, Mill Street, Kineton, CV35 0LB where there is a car park and fully accessible facilities. We always say, *“come when you can and stay as long as you are able”*, so there’s no need to worry if you can’t make it for 10:30 or have to leave early. If you’d like to know more or would like to introduce yourself before joining us for a meeting, you are welcome to get in touch first. Although there is no need to book, if you are bringing along your loved one, we do ask you to contact us at least a week in advance before attending for the first time so we can provide safe support.

### Help to get to and from our meetings

We may be able to arrange transport with the fully accessible Back&4<sup>th</sup> community minibus and we can also provide details of other community transport. Please contact us for more information.

# Carers4Carers

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## Get in touch

Take a look at our website [www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk](http://www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk) where you can find more information and sign up to our monthly newsletter. Email [kcarers4carers@gmail.com](mailto:kcarers4carers@gmail.com) or call Gillian on our dedicated number 07947 893504; please be prepared to leave a message and we will get back to you.

## Carers4Carers monthly meeting at Kineton Village Hall from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon.

Meet fellow local carers over refreshments for conversation and support.

**Friday 13th December** - there will be a mince pie (or two!) and festive music. Anita will be offering a relaxing hand massage.

**Friday 24th January** - hear from local Occupational Therapist, Suzi Kerrall-Vaughan, about how occupational therapy may help you and your loved one.

Feel free to bring your loved ones along - they can join our Companionship Group while we meet. We look forward to welcoming you there! For further details about our carer support group or help with transport arrangements to our meetings, please contact Gillian on 07947 893504, send an email to [kcarers4carers@gmail.com](mailto:kcarers4carers@gmail.com), or explore our website [www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk](http://www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk).

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# Find Your Inner Peace

## A new bi-weekly meditation circle

in **The Room at Moreton Morrell**

Behind the church of the Holy Cross

6.45pm - 7.45pm

Starting Thursday 16 January 2025

£5 to cover costs.

**These gatherings offer a serene space to:**

- Reduce stress and anxiety
- Improve focus and concentration
- Enhance emotional well-being
- Connect with like-minded individuals

No experience necessary.

All are welcome.

Visit **[sholistic.co.uk/meditation](https://sholistic.co.uk/meditation)**

for future dates and more information.

# The College Update

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## **Celebration held for Moreton Morrell College graduates**

Graduates from Moreton Morrell College have been celebrating their achievements on graduation day in Warwick.

More than 185 graduates headed to St Mary's Church in Warwick to celebrate completing their degrees with Warwickshire College and University Centre (WCUC).

WCUC is the Higher Education arm of college group WCG, which includes Moreton Morrell College.

The ceremony also saw a vote of thanks from a graduate on behalf of the class of 2024, including BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing graduate Claudia Agrusa from Moreton Morrell College.

Claudia, aged 23 from Evesham, said: "I feel really proud of myself and my friends for graduating. I did a speech at the ceremony which was really good – I was very nervous but all my friends helped get me through it, and I even got a couple of laughs!

WCG CEO and Principal Sara-Jane Watkins said: "Graduation is a significant milestone, it's a time for graduates to reflect on what they have achieved and to consider the opportunities that are ahead.

"All of our graduates should feel a real pride, not only for their achievements, but for the journey that has brought them here."

Moreton Morrell College is hosting an open event on Saturday, 11 January 2025 from 10am until 1pm.



Graduates celebrate in Warwick

## **Staff and students build new assessment centre**

Students, apprentices and staff at Moreton Morrell College have completed the construction of a new end point assessment (EPA) centre – with the college also recognised for its excellence in apprenticeship delivery.

The college has delivered more than 100 EPAs for students on carpentry and brickwork courses over the last two years.

Tutors at the college launched a project earlier this year to create a new specialist area for completing these assessments. Carpentry lecturer Ollie Adams has led the project.

More than 50 learners have been engaged with the project and carried out the major transformation project on an existing building on the college site.

Moreton Morrell College has also been

# The College Update

presented with a City & Guilds Excellence in EPA plaque, due to the high pass rate and number of distinctions at the centre.

The plaque was presented by Krishna Parekh, Business Manager at City & Guilds, and will be erected in pride of place in the newly completed EPA centre.

John Billings, Head of Work Based Learning for Construction at WCG, said: “This has been a fantastic project which has given learners the opportunity to put their skills into practice and leave a lasting legacy here at the college.”



John Billings, Krishna Parekh and Ollie Adams (centre) with students involved in the project.

## College supports growth of family business

A talented young entrepreneur is in a position to do business with family thanks to targeted support from his former college.

Sam Crow, the brains and brawn behind Crow Carpentry, was keen to offer his younger brother Alfie an apprenticeship to help meet demand for his services, but

had no employment procedures in place.

That was until the 23-year-old approached WCG (Warwickshire College Group), which includes Moreton Morrell College where he once studied, for advice on tax and insurance matters.

Now, thanks to their specialist support, Sam has a bird’s eye view of employment law and his brother has a familiar boss he can count on!

Sam singled out John Colclough, Head of Business Development at WCG, for particular praise.

“Because I had never started a business before, I did not have PAYE in place and I wasn’t insured correctly.

“WCG walked me through the whole process and were very patient as they explained it all. I really don’t think I could have done it on my own.”

“If it wasn’t for people like John, young entrepreneurs like me, who might not be the best academically, would not be able to take on apprentices because they wouldn’t have the skills and policies in place.”



John Colclough, Alfie Crow and Sam Crow

# The College Update

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## **Floristry students sweep top awards at prestigious industry ceremony**

Four fabulous floristry students from Moreton Morrell College have been recognised with awards at a leading industry ceremony.

Hannah Beckley, Alexandra Bolton, Catey Burn and Jane Sked-Connop have won education and training awards at the British Floristry Association Awards.

The awards celebrate excellence from all areas of the floristry community in the UK, including students, tutors, growers, suppliers, training providers, wholesalers and professional florists.

It includes celebrating the highest achievers in the Level 4 Higher Diploma in Floristry and Level 5 Master Diploma in Professional Floristry courses.

There are four awards for students, recognising highest theory and practical marks at both levels, with students from

Moreton Morrell College being crowned in all four categories.

Tutor Jane Benefield said: "I'm super proud of all four of these students. They are consistently pushing boundaries and striving to improve, which is reflected in winning these awards.

"These awards reflect the commitment and creativity of their work. We are proud to be able to support these four incredible florists in their journeys."



From left to right – Catey Burn, Alexandra Bolton, Jane Sked-Connop and Hannah Beckley.



# Transport

## Dial a Ride UBUS service in Moreton Morrell

The UBUS dial a ride community transport service operates in Moreton Morrell and surrounding areas on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays between 09:30 - 14:30.

UBUS is available to anyone who struggles to access public transport due to mobility issues, health problems or due to infrequent or no public transport.

Travel locally or into Stratford upon Avon to go shopping, visit friends or attend social groups.

Single journey fare: £2.90 | Return fare: £5.80

To register with UBUS or for more information please call 01789 264491 between 09:30 - 14:30 on weekdays.



## COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICE

Our volunteer drivers can take you to medical appointments, lunch clubs, groups, activities and to visit family and friends.

**01789 262889**

[transport@vasa.org.uk](mailto:transport@vasa.org.uk)



Areas covered: **Stratford, Warwick, Leamington Spa, Kenilworth, Southam, Alcester, Shipston & surrounding villages.**

**vasa**

reducing isolation within our communities

## RELIABLE SERVICE

All our volunteer drivers are enhanced DBS checked, referenced and carry ID.

## WHAT DOES IT COST?

You pay your volunteer driver **45p per mile** and a **£3 admin fee** to help us sustain the service. **Two hours of waiting time** is included in the cost of your booking.

## HOW TO BOOK A JOURNEY

Our booking line is open Monday to Friday between 9.30am & 3pm.

**01789 262889**

[transport@vasa.org.uk](mailto:transport@vasa.org.uk)

## WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEER DRIVERS!

Have you got some spare time during the day? Could you help this invaluable service in your community? You can choose to do as many journeys as you like each month. 45p mileage costs paid.

Call 01789 262889 or email [volunteer@vasa.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@vasa.org.uk).

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## We need your clothes and shoes

Don't forget the school has a hungry clothes monster... or a recycling bin if you prefer!

Have your children outgrown their clothes or shoes or perhaps you need some space for your summer wardrobe! If you have any bedding, clothing or shoes that no longer fit or you simply no longer want or can be bothered to repair! why not feed the blue bin located opposite the main reception entrance to school.

The bin is emptied by an external company and the school is paid an amount depending on the weight of the clothing.



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**The Silver Line** is a helpline for older people that offers information, friendship and advice 24 hours day, 365 days a year.

Originally founded by Dame Esther Rantzen, it is the only national, free and confidential helpline for older people in the UK.

The Silver Line also offers telephone and letter befriending by matching up a Silver Liner to a volunteer for regular conversation.

So if anyone is lying awake at night - or feeling lonely at anytime - or is worried about a problem that they have - and think that a chat with someone friendly who cares might help,

**please call The Silver Line on  
0800 4708090 [www.thesilverline.org.uk](http://www.thesilverline.org.uk)**



## Stuck for transport for your group?

Back & 4<sup>th</sup> have several minibuses available for hire to get community groups to events, meetings or interesting places. The groups can include small school classes, charity groups, and care home residents, but whatever the group, we aim to accommodate you.

Our Minibuses hold up to 16 passengers and are wheelchair accessible and affordable. Our qualified, DBS checked volunteer drivers will get you where you want to go safely and with a smile.

Give us a call on 01789 471595 or visit our website to find out more:  
[www.wrccrural.org.uk](http://www.wrccrural.org.uk)



# The Room

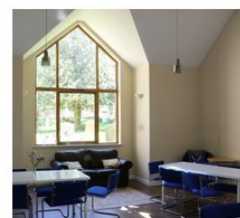
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## Help us make The Villager!

Please continue to send your news, events, letters, photos, stories and comments by email to  
[cleetonjane@gmail.com](mailto:cleetonjane@gmail.com)

*The deadline for the next edition is*

**30th January 2025**

*This is your magazine, please do contribute in any way you can.*

Extra copies of The Villager are left in the church

and a copy is online at: [www.moretonmorrell-pc.gov.uk](http://www.moretonmorrell-pc.gov.uk)