

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

www.glaphornchurch.org.uk



Sadly, the Government and the Church of England hierarchy will not allow any services or private visits, except by clergy and lay readers, in the church at the moment. As a result, and in order to continue Christian worship in Glaphorn, Charles Wide (a registered lay reader) has been uploading every weekday afternoon a short virtual Evening Prayer service to the Glaphorn Church Facebook page and to YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFdSXhZecPBoGHBQLKf0qJA>. There is also the St Peter's, Oundle, daily midday prayer meeting and Sunday morning service, which can be accessed through the church website. Thank you to all who are listening in to these services.

The church community has also taken on an active pastoral role at this difficult time and anyone who would like to talk to the team, please ring Brigitte Hilton on 273848. Thank you to all those who have been mowing to keep the churchyard looking trim. As soon as we are allowed, we will be back in church, and will announce the date on the church website www.glaphornchurch.org.uk, where all the information about services etc can be found. These will also be posted on the church gate noticeboard.

The 100 Club is in its 10th year and has always proved very popular with villagers. In normal circumstances, the draw takes place on the last Friday of the month during the usual Royal Oak supper. It's great fun.

The subscriptions make a net total of £1750.00 (after the monthly prize of £50.00 and the Christmas Draw of £100.00). This is donated to church funds. At present, we have a full membership, and even a small waiting list. As fast as villagers move away, more take their place! Although, of course, there is nothing to stop anyone continuing if they reside somewhere else.

This year's winners, so far:-

December Christmas draw:	Linda and James Cox No 98
January :	Rosie & Greg Bliss No 83
February:	Charlotte Butlin No 6
March:	Janet Luttrell No 41
April:	Alan & Sheila Ayres No 59
May:	Tricia Newton No 40

A list of winners is put up on the church notice board and also inside the church porch.

A very big thank you to Sonya Moss, who has organised the 100 Club since its foundation. If anyone wants any more information, or to be put on the waiting list, please contact Sonya on 272724.

A warm welcome to:

Ian and Clare Wilkinson's daughter, Sophie Ellen, who was born on the 13th March.

Malcom and Judy Glenn who will be moving into Hope Cottage in the near future.

Please send items for the September newsletter to Ursula Wide by 1 September. Email: ursula.wide@btinternet.com
This newsletter is produced by the Church Council for the benefit of the Glaphorn Community.

GLAPTHORN C of E SCHOOL

www.glapthornschoo.lk.uk

Children in Reception, Class 1 and Class 6, are now back at school from Mondays to Wednesdays. During the period of school closure, the staff worked hard to keep in touch with pupils, and to continue to teach them, sending out learning packs every week, and communicating by 'ClassDojo'. Vulnerable children and those of keyworkers were taught all through the lockdown at Polebrook School.



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Friends of Glapthorn School

Warm congratulations to Tanya, Matthew and Oliver Knowles for their wonderful gardening initiative, in aid of the school.



Tanya writes: 'We started the veggie-growing saga at the beginning of lockdown to give us all a project to do together and keep us busy, not really knowing if the seeds would take. To our surprise, they were very successful, so Matthew suggested we raise money for the Glapthorn sensory gardening club, with the hope of raising £50. We managed that in the first few days.

I got the children from Glapthorn to design the fundraising poster, which is on The Chestnut Tree window.

We then decided to see what we could raise for a much-needed school stage.

This was a FOGS goal for this year but, because of these strange times, our biggest money-maker of the year, the May fete, couldn't go ahead.

With so much support from the village and Oundle, we have raised over £1000.

We are still receiving donations of plants, so each morning there's a surprise on the stall to help us continue to raise much needed funds!

The support and donations have been amazing and I can't thank people enough. The boys have learnt so much, from this process. We have now given the school the go-head to purchase the stage! '

Tanya is also involved, with Carrie Smith, in the **Glapthorn and Southwick Care and Share** initiative, to help anyone who needs shopping picked up, mail posted, urgent supplies obtained or just a friendly phone call, during the present emergency. There is a Facebook page: Glapthorn and Southwick Care and Share, or text Tanya on 07720257494.

GLAPTHORN VILLAGE HALL www.glaphorn.org.uk



Nick Knowles, Chairman writes: 'The village hall is closed at the moment due to you know what. However, we have kept the usual hirer's details on the village website, so people can see what there is available to do in the near future (fingers crossed).

We are still looking for a Treasurer and 1 or 2 more committee members. If you fancy joining the team, please contact me on 01832 274963. It is not very onerous: there are 4 meetings a year, plus 1 or 2 fund-raising events, which are all great fun.

We would like to also offer an amnesty for any items 'borrowed' from the village hall, such as plates, cups, saucepans, tea-towels, water jugs, sugar bowls, candle holders and table cloths etc. The village hall will be open on the 13th and 14th June, 10am to 4pm each day, for the return of items. No questions asked.



GLAPTHORN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

www.glaphorn.org.uk

Our March meeting was approached with a little trepidation as well as curiosity by our members. We worried unnecessarily; after a short history of Laughter Yoga, our speaker had us on our feet and a thoroughly enjoyable session progressed.

We came out enthusiastic and invigorated. Brilliant!

After that, of course, life has changed for us all quite dramatically. Many of us are in self-isolation and all are following the Stay at Home, Stay Safe policy as best we can.

Some members have been phoning around and others got together using Zoom. This was very successful and members will be kept informed of plans to repeat these sessions. We also have a weekly newsletter distributed by email to keep in touch.

From conversations we have found that gardening seemed to be the most popular way of keeping occupied. Partaking in games that haven't been played for a long time was another pastime, some of them online. People are walking, and most are connecting with friends by the old-fashioned telephone, which shows that direct human contact is what we are missing more than anything!

If anyone would like a chat, please don't hesitate to ring, email or text any of our committee members: Sian, Christine, Jenny Smith and Lois. Jeanette is busy keeping the country on its feet.

Two of us are self-isolating but that doesn't mean we can't talk!

Glaphorn WI - Social distancing but not apart!

Southwick and Glaphorn Flower Show

The Flower Show committee reluctantly decided that it was not possible to have a show in Glaphorn Village Hall this July, because of the difficulties of social distancing. However, plans are being laid for a possible exhibition of produce and crafts later in the summer, depending on future government guidelines.

A **Driveway Plant Sale** was held in the village on Bank Holiday Monday afternoon, organised by the Flower Show committee. Several villagers took part, and a thoroughly enjoyable sunny afternoon of (socially distanced) socialising was had by all. And a very creditable £581.55 was raised for village organisations, a number of which, like the church and village hall, for example, continue to have fixed costs, even when their doors are shut. Cheques will be sent out in due course. Thank you to all those who raised and/or sold plants.

Glaphorn Allotment Gardeners' Association

Our allotments are flourishing and looking great – they have benefitted from the extra time we have been able to spend on our plots.

There is a wonderful selection of produce being prepared, planted and harvested. Plotholders were still picking purple sprouting broccoli, Cavalo Nero, leeks and parsnips etc until a few weeks ago. Spinach and rhubarb are providing fresh food and we even pulled some carrots that were sown late last Autumn, which were utterly delicious.



All the fruit trees on the allotment were covered with blossom again this year and looked beautiful and we all hope they will bear fruit as late frosts meant a low yield last year. The strawberry plants all are covered with flower and the gooseberries and currants on the allotment are all filling out.

We contacted the National Allotment Association for advice concerning Covid-19 which we duly circulated to all our members, and put up the suggested signage on the entrance gates. We have restricted the use of our two mowers to two separate individuals – one mower each. Thank you to both Ronnie and Graham who have taken on the role of grass cutting on behalf of us all.

Our allotments have offered our members a lovely productive place to take their allowed exercise and all our members are totally appreciative of the space as ever but particularly in these strange times.

The fence and planting of the hedge on the Eastern boundary of the allotments is still to be done but no doubt this will happen shortly. It will provide some good shelter for the plots just inside the gate.

For more information about our allotments please contact Heather Ball, on 01832 273601 or 07962 085 720 or by email at ball771@btinternet.com.

NATURE NOTES

by Keith Alvey, volunteer warden for Short Wood

It has been a very strange spring this year with lots of nature reserves closed. Spring this year has been very dry, following a wet winter, with a lot of very warm sunshine of late. However, every cloud has a silver lining and nature is flourishing on our local reserves. We had a spectacular show of bluebells in Southwick Wood and Short Wood and a bumper show of early purple orchids in Southwick Wood.

After a barren year in 2019, this year we have nightingales returning to Glaphorn Cow Pasture, Short Wood and Southwick Wood. Nightingales in Southwick Forest were clearly audible during the day as well as at dusk, which is the normal time that nightingales sing, as all other birds are settling down for the night.

With the lockdown people have been less able to venture out and visit nature reserves, however with the gradual lifting of the lockdown more and more people are visiting the reserves. The downside to this is that as wildlife has blossomed, birds and mammals have colonised additional areas in the reserves. Now humans are returning our presence is disturbing many nest sites that have spread out, especially on the woodland floor. So please take care when out walking in the countryside and remain on the designated paths.

As a special plea, when walking through the woods please do not stray off the paths to get a better view of the bluebells. Once trodden on bluebells can take around five years to flower again.

Cuckoos have been around for a while now and as I am writing this there are about 30 house martins swooping around the driveway fighting over the available nest sites from last year, while enjoying a feast of midges in the evening air. Swallows have also returned. Perhaps we will hear the screeching of swifts as they race up and down the street. In the evening bats can be seen flying around the houses in Glaphorn feeding on flying insects and moths.

To ensure nature is still there for us in the future as well as right now please keep dogs on leads while walking around any nature reserve, follow the Countryside Code and remember to practise social distancing (without going off the paths).

GLAPTHORN PARISH COUNCIL: Glapthorn Playing Field

Work started on the Playing Field with a tremendous local effort, as a team from the Playing Field Association plus other villagers cleared the trees and ground coverage for the access road adjacent to the school, and in doing so used the felled tree to create a hibernaculum for school nature studies. In addition, Bernard and Jonathan Reading provided the heavy lifting equipment to remove the cleared debris along with spraying off and harrowing the two-acre field. This was an outstanding contribution which helps to reduce the project costs.

The Playing Field Association heard very recently from the Charities Commission that its application to become a registered charity had been successful. The community thanks those residents who have put themselves forward as Trustees.

As a result, at the end of April, the principle contractor, Carrick Sports (formerly Phil Day Sports), was able to move on to the site. Since then, work has progressed well, making full use of the dry sunny weather which has meant that the focus has been on the playing pitch. The ground has been levelled and the primary drainage has been installed. Some ground works for the access road and car park have been completed, with the main drainage for the car park installed. In addition, the excavation of the attenuation drainage feature has been completed, despite hitting a seam of very hard limestone about 3 feet down, and the stacking of the attenuation crates is almost finished. All that remains is to wrap the crates in protective material and then fill in the ground with spoil. A new team will be arriving on site soon to install the kerbing for the edge of the car park, the access road and the surrounding footpaths.

Future work will entail the culverting of the ditch for the access road and also for the footpath link to the back of the school. The playing pitch requires secondary drainage at some point and then fertilising and seeding. Pray for some rain!!!

The work on site has been more intense than envisaged and the nearby residents have had to endure noise levels from machinery which, at times, have been unacceptable. Your council unreservedly apologises to those residents who have been inconvenienced by this and thanks you for your forbearance and understanding.

GLAPTHORN PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council meetings resumed remotely via Zoom in May, with both the Annual Parish Meeting and Ordinary Parish Council Meeting; the minutes for which can be found on the Glapthorn Website.

Whilst the Government restrictions remain in place, all Parish Council meetings will be held remotely. Villagers are able to join the meetings for the "Open Forum"; details on how to join the meetings are published with each agenda.

The full schedule of 2020/21 meetings is available on the Glapthorn website; the next meeting is on Wednesday, 17th June.

Parish Clerk

Welcome to Liz Holland, who was appointed Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer in March. Liz is a highly experienced Parish Clerk and is also the Clerk for Titchmarsh Parish Council. Liz can be contacted directly via email:

parish.clerk@glapthorn.org.uk

Roads

Part of Benefield Road in Glapthorn will be closed from **8th to 10th June** to allow Anglian Water to complete a new connection. The suggested diversion route is via Benefield and Oundle. Full details are available on the Northamptonshire Highways

Website:

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/roads-and-streets/Pages/roadworks.aspx>

Works to strengthen North Bridge in Oundle are due to recommence on 1st June. The work will continue with specialist contractors, who have put in measures to accord with Government guidelines. It is currently anticipated that the works will take around 11 weeks to complete. For further information please visit:

Highways@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Communication & Contacts

Information relating to the Parish Council along with other Glapthorn and East Northamptonshire organisations can be found on the village website www.glapthorn.org.uk

You may also follow us on Facebook  and

Twitter  @GlapthornCou

If you have any Glapthorn Website or Social Media content or news stories you want to share then please contact David Cashmore:

david@theoldochard.co.uk or 01832 274768.