

Vicar's Easter Message

March is a strange month - in like a lion, as the saying goes, and out like a lamb. This year we are more in the depths of winter at the end of February than we were when the days were at their shortest. Let's hope that the warmth of Spring is getting close.

Easter is a strange festival too, in that we are now used to building up steadily towards most celebrations with an increasing sense of coming enjoyment. These days this is what we do in the long run-up to Christmas. We cannot do it for Easter. Easter does not make sense without Good Friday. The mood of Good Friday is dark and we face up to all that is bad; the evil and wickedness which is part of our present experience and which brought Jesus to the cross.

Only then do we experience to the full, the joy and the light of Easter. In this light may Madeleine and I, together with the whole church, wish you a very happy Easter.

John Tavant

LENT LUNCHES

A further two Lent Lunches will be given in March. They are:-

Wednesday 9th March

Tricia Freeman, The Orchards

WEDNESDAY 15th March

Thalia Pike, The Old Rectory

EASTER LILIES

Don't forget. Anyone wishing to donate a lily in memory of a loved one to decorate the Church at Easter please contact:

Doreen Buck tel: 770220

COTON MANOR GARDENS Hellebore Weekend 5th & 6th March

Enjoy the hellebores and other early Spring flowers whilst Coton's basic structure is clearly visible.

Light Lunches and Teas.

CORRECTION

THE COMPUTER MAN (Rob Vance) 'phone no's are 01604 771105 and mobile 07810 540000. Apologies for error.

A NEW ERA FOR HUNTING

by Bill Saunders

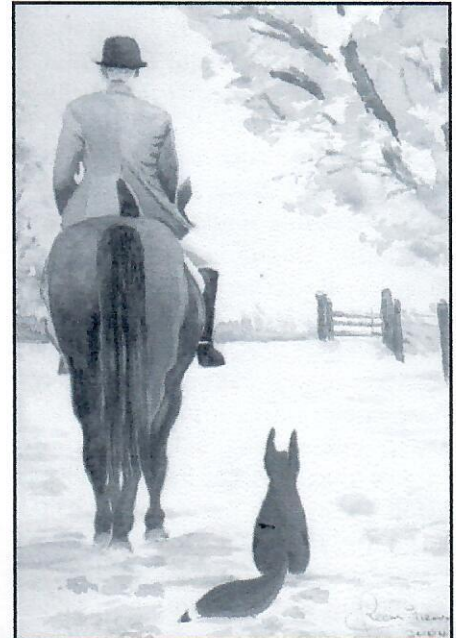
A LARGE TURNOUT of riders and foot followers from all walks of life met at Guilsborough on Saturday 19th February to commemorate the retirement of Huntsman Peter Jones. It was a moving tribute to his 34 seasons of loyalty in charge of his beloved hounds.

Hunting now enters a new era while awaiting the result of the challenge to the Hunting Bill regarding Human Rights in the European Court of Justice. A procedure which will take about three years.

The Pytchley Hunt has no intention of breaking the law. For the rest of the season they will be experimenting with "Line Hunting." This entails laying an artificial trail using the scent of a fox.

During the six months closed season the hunt staff headed by the new Huntsman, Matthew Puffer, will continue their excellent service to farmers, collecting and disposing of their fallen stock.

The sad scenario is that the flawed Hunting Bill will not benefit animal welfare one little bit. The fox, which is a predator, will be destroyed in and out of season by unsavoury methods such as snaring, gassing, shooting by day and "blue-lamping" at night.



*"Hey Mr Bill, I'm right behind you!"
(From an original watercolour
by Jean Clewes)*

There is also the probability of increased disease and starvation in the fox population.

It will be a few years before the effects of the ban become apparent, not only on the welfare, but even the existence of the fox. We could also see effects on the maintenance of the countryside and on rural employment.

ANNUAL VILLAGE LITTER PICKING

Saturday 19th March

Meet at

Village Hall 2.00pm

Tabbards, gloves and sacks
supplied.

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Last year no one turned-up for "Operation Spring Clean!" Please come and do your bit to keep our village clean and tidy. An hour or so is all that's required - all ages welcome.

RAVENSTHORPE PLAYING FIELD

ALL FOOLS QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 1st April

7 for 7.30pm

in the

VILLAGE HALL

■
Tickets £5 per person
available from the
Village Shop includes
Supper - Bar Extra

Support your
Playing Field

FELICITY JONES 15 October 1916- 31 January 2005

ST DENYS CHURCH was filled on 8th February to say goodbye to Felicity Jones.

Felicity was born and grew-up in the Rossendale Valley, Lancashire.

She went to boarding school near Brighton and then studied Book Illustration and Industrial Design at Manchester School of Art, where Felicity took her degree.

She met her husband Phillip at a Territorial Army dance and they were married just before World War II broke out in 1939. During most of the war Felicity stayed with her parents and gave birth to two children, Christopher and Penelope.

After the war Phillip and Felicity became farmers. After a short period in Warwickshire training and learning to farm they bought Manor Farm in West Haddon. They also for a time owned Home Farm, Ravensthorpe, which was tenanted by the Mold family.

On retiring, their son Christopher with his wife Ita, took over the farm in West Haddon and Phillip and Felicity moved into Ravensthorpe, building their own house in Teeton Road.

Phillip died in 1995 and Felicity continued to live in the house until a month or so before her death.



On coming to Northamptonshire Felicity urgently wanted to paint and studied watercolour and drawing under Henry Bird. With her solid grounding in technique from Manchester Art School, Felicity made rapid progress and became the star pupil.

She became well-known as an artist and held many one-woman exhibitions. Felicity belonged to the United Artists Society and exhibited in various other London Societies.

Felicity designed and painted murals in Bragborough Hall, Dingley Hall and

The Red House, Guilsborough and other venues. In her later years she exhibited in several Public Libraries throughout the county.

Felicity was an active member of the W.I. in West Haddon and then Ravensthorpe and of the county's Drama Group.

For the Festival of Britain in 1951 the Drama group presented "Prunella" by A. Housman. Felicity designed the costumes and had a hand in the sets and occasionally acted. On touring the county the hilarity amongst the players added greatly to audience enjoyment.

For many years she painted posters for the Ravensthorpe W.I. monthly meetings. Every poster was a treasure displaying her artistry and sense of humour.

She was described as "The Last Edwardian Lady." If this means she maintained high standards and liked things to be done correctly, then it is true. Who will keep us up to the mark now?

She loved her garden and she loved people. Her interest and sense of fun was contagious and, with her artist's eye for observation and detail, a refreshing companion.

Felicity will be greatly missed.

Good Samaritans

"Many thanks to all the people (and there were quite a few) who stopped and helped when I had tipped my scoota.

I am pleased to report no ill-effects to scoota or myself - except my pride!

Thank you.

Alison Whitton

Church of England Childrens' Boxes

These should be returned to

Doreen Buck

as soon as possible.

Many thanks

Travel Concessions for 2005

A decision whether to continue or amend these concessions has been delayed.

A letter should be sent out early in March advising what, if any, concessions are available.

WOMENS' INSTITUTE MONTHLY MEETING

AT THE VILLAGE HALL THURSDAY 17TH MARCH

8.00pm

"CHILD PORTAGE - HELPING A PARENT HELP A CHILD"

by Val Cole

Hostesses

E. Reed and K. Hastie

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE DEADLINE FOR APRIL ISSUE IS 23RD MARCH

Contact Editor John Mott, 16 Church Gardens
Ravensthorpe Tel 770618 or
email: clive.jcapr.T21@btinternet.com

CHURCH SERVICES

ALTAR FLOWERS AND BRASS ROTA

Sunday 6 TH March	11.00am	Mothering Sunday	
		Family Service	Lent
Sunday 13 TH March	11.00am	Holy Communion	Lent
Sunday 20 TH March	8.00am	Palm Sunday	
		Holy Communion	Lent
Friday 25 TH March	12.00am	Good Friday	
		Service of Meditation	Lent
Sunday 27 TH March	11.15am	Easter Day	
		Holy Communion	Easter Lilies
Sunday 3 RD April	11.00am	Family Service	Easter Lilies

Vicar: Rev'd John Tarrant, Guilsborough. tel: 743508