

South Kilworth News

September 2025

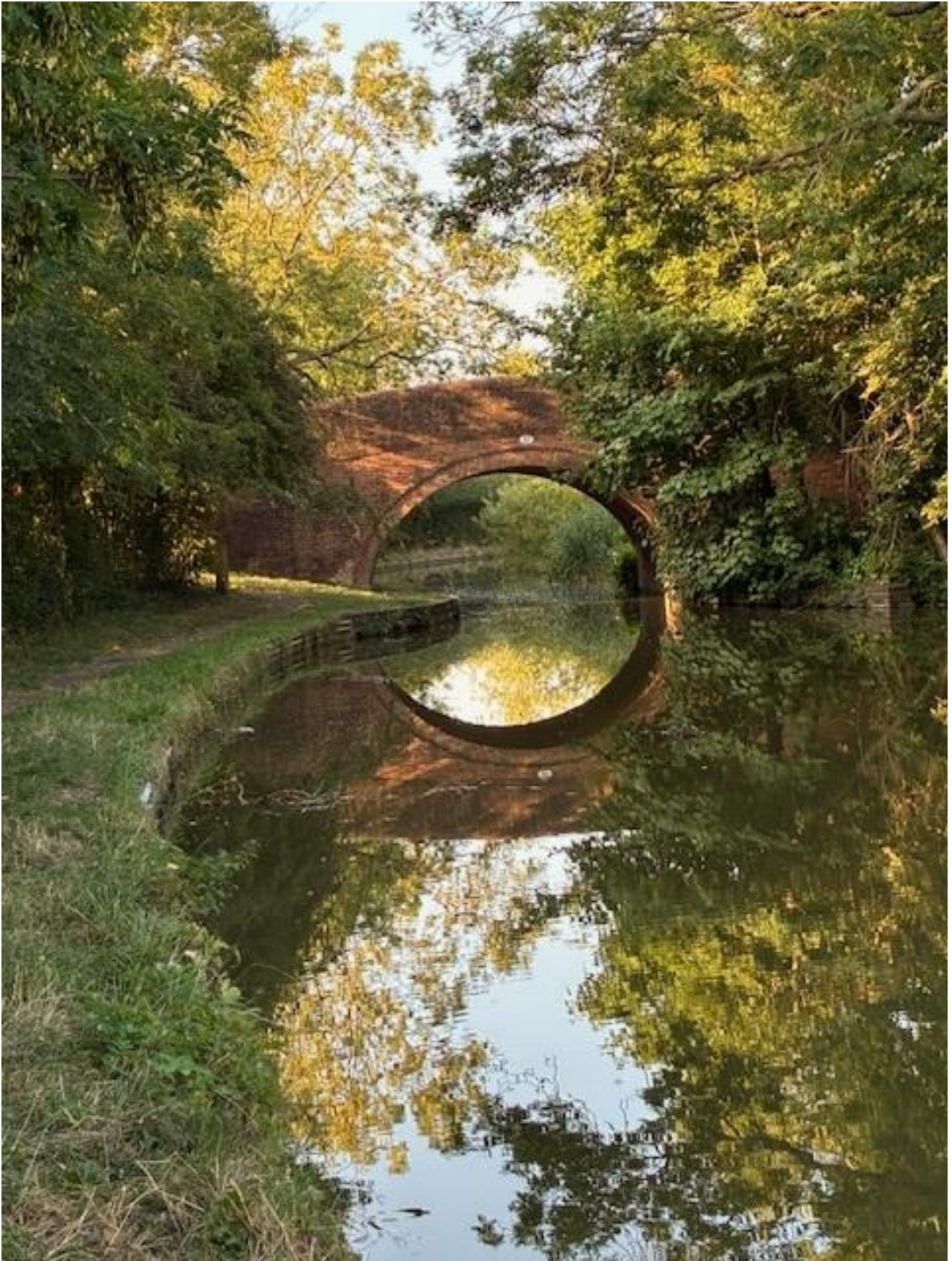


Photo: Elaine Derrick

<https://www.southkilworth.co.uk>

 South Kilworth
Village Website

South Kilworth Directory

Name	Contact details	Description
Allotment Committee	Les Lucas 07712296376	For the green-fingered aspirants
Bowls Club	Gerry Byrne 01858 575080 gerrypatrickbyrne@gmail.com keithrickhuss@gmail.com	New or potential members are welcome to come along on Wednesdays, at 3 pm, for a roll-up, information or advice.
Community Café	Tina Morley 07786496041	Community café usually held 2 nd Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall, 11am-1pm. See posters around village for details.
First Saturday Weavers at SK Village Hall	Helen Brotherton 01455554647 helen.brotherton@icloud.com	An informal group of hand weavers who meet on the first Saturday of the month
FOSKS PTA	FOSKS@ski.learnat.uk	Friends of South Kilworth School, Parent Teacher Association.
Kid's football	Brian Robbins 07795105591	On the village hall playing fields
Kilworth Help group WhatsApp	To be added, WhatsApp administrators Kate 07990504734 or Suzanne 07889449180	Set up to help people during Covid, but is now used for general enquiries (not advertising). Covers North and South Kilworth.
Kilworth Village's Facebook pages	1. The Kilworth villages and 2. North and South Kilworth village.	To join the groups, you need to have a Facebook account and search for the groups to request to join.
KOIL	Mark and Sarah: admin@koil-group.com	Group ordering of Oil
Korks (ladies only)	Contact Claire Hubbard on 07590254043 to be added to the Korks WhatsApp group.	A ladies' social group from the Village meets monthly. Add your name to the mailing list.
Luncheon Club	Rita Hallam 575449	
N. Kilworth Sparrows Women's Netball team	Contact: nksparrows@gmail.com, or Emily Conlon 07449968444	Combining North and South Kilworth residents. facebook.com/NKSparrows
Parish Council	Parish Clerk: Karen Brown parishclerk@southkilworth.co.uk	Meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:15 pm. Chair: Phil Alcock 575978 philalcock@aol.com
SK Security WhatsApp group	Pete Moore 07775795761	Alerts regarding security issues in the village are posted with a link to the Community Police. Contact Pete to be added.
Skittles Teams	Ray Dorman 07780846002 Tracey 07733235306 (Ladies team)	Games take place at the pub
South Kilworth Art Group	Maggy Roberts 07912031816 and 01858682173 magsroberts@yahoo.co.uk	Thursdays, 9.30 am to 12.00 Midday, Village Hall
South Kilworth Neighbourhood Plan	Contact the Parish Council	www.harborough.gov.uk/directory_record/2256/south_kilworth_neighbourhood_plan
South Kilworth News	sknews@southkilworth.co.uk	Community news for the village – contact us with ideas, photos & news.
South Kilworth Village Website	Kevin Coyne: admin@southkilworth.co.uk	southkilworth.co.uk.
St Nicholas Church	Sharon March (Minister): 07889 88038 https://www.avonswift.co.uk/ https://www.facebook.com/avonswif tbenefice	Administrator: Karen Morgan: 01858 882032 PCC Secretary: Joanna.wilson17@btinternet.com & 01455 558 372 Church Warden: James Perowne 07810 886030
Table Tennis	Bob Morley 575832 bobjmorley1953@gmail.com	Thursday at 7 pm in the Village Hall
Travelling lunch club	Alison Anderton: 0870 240 6993	Lutterworth Age Concern currently has two travelling lunch clubs, travelling to a different pub each month.
Village Email circulation list	southkilworthlist@gmail.com	Send an email to become a member of this list. It is a postbox that doesn't reply! If you send something for circulation, please put your contact details in the email. Email addresses are never shared and cannot be used for commercial purposes.
Village Hall Committee	Secretary: Tina.morley@me.com 07786496041	Bookings: colinjerrick@btinternet.com 07711054622
Women's Institute	Elaine: ederrick@btinternet.com	3 rd Thursday of the month at Belgrave village hall, N. Kilworth LE17 6EZ at 7.30 p.m. Visitors and new members welcome.
Yoga	Jessie McQuillan: 07860937892	Tuesdays, ladies 6 pm-7:30 pm in the Village Hall. All abilities and those new to yoga are welcome.
Youth Club (SKY) (8-16yrs)	Ruth Cross - Youth Projects Coordinator, ruth@hyc.org.uk 07921 847347; Avril Da Silva - Play & Youth Leader 07933899700.	SK Youth Club meets in the village hall every Wednesday @ 6:45 pm. (12yrs+ @ 7:45) Admission is free.

From the Editorial Team

The next edition will be in November 2025, and the deadline for the submission of news and articles is 18 October 2025. The SK News is published every other month. The electronic version can be found on the South Kilworth website. Please send news, photos, and articles to sknews@southkilworth.co.uk. News that does not coincide with the printed SK News will be uploaded to the South Kilworth website. Links to our advertisers can also be found on the South Kilworth website.

South Kilworth Snippets

South Kilworth's NEXT Community CAFÉS

Sept 9TH,
Oct 14TH & Nov 11th
from 11h00 -13h00,
Village Hall



Everyone very welcome!



**Church services at St. Nicholas'
South Kilworth**
All very welcome!

Sunday 28th September 8.30am
Short service of Holy Communion.

Sunday 12th October 9.45 am
**Church Harvest Festival. Come
along and join us to celebrate the
harvest. If you would like to bring
vegetables, fruit, pasta, rice and
tinned food we will take them to the
food bank and other local causes
after the service.**

Sunday 26th October 8.30am
Short service of Holy Communion

It's time
for a
Macmillan
Coffee morning



...and you're invited!

Friday 26th September – 10:30–12:30
South Kilworth Village Hall

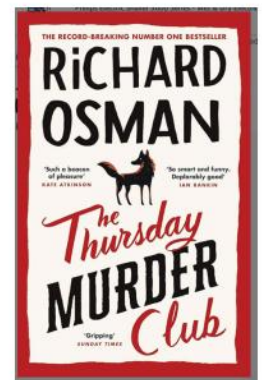
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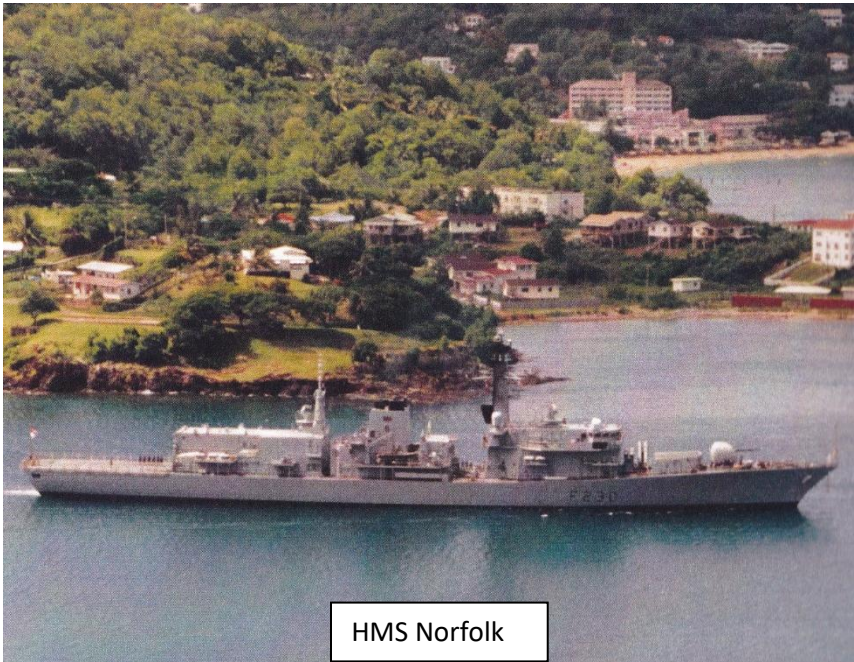
A Life Anchored in the Sea:

The Extraordinary Naval Journey of Admiral Sir James Perowne, Part 3 (Final)

Our final instalment of James's extraordinary journey focuses on the period from 1992.

(Please see May and July issues for parts 1 & 2 here: <https://www.southkilworth.co.uk/news/south-kilworth-news>)

In September 1992, James headed to HMS Dryad near Fareham for a three-month stint at the Maritime Tactical School, retaking the Commanding Officer's Designate Course. Now a Senior Captain, he served as a syndicate leader, with none other than Prince Andrew in his group. Around that time, the Prince became engaged to Sarah Ferguson. James recalls Fergie turning up to a pub skittles night: stylish, warm, and chatty. Prince Andrew, by contrast, was harder to read — veering between affable and aloof, with flashes of arrogance.



HMS Norfolk

Immediately after the course, James took command of HMS Norfolk, a lean-manned Type-23 frigate with a crew of around 180. The ship had just returned from a six-month deployment across the Far East and Indian Ocean as part of Task Group Orient 92.

Initially dismissed as "Skoda Frigates" — cheap and cheerful — the Type-23s proved their mettle. HMS Norfolk boasted a formidable weapons suite: Seawolf anti-aircraft missiles, Harpoon anti-ship missiles, advanced sonar systems, anti-submarine torpedoes, and two Lynx helicopters armed with missiles. A compact crew, but serious firepower.

So, James had taken charge of a formidable ship, but when he joined her in the Devonport dock, he was horrified at her state. She was dirty and rusty with a less-than-happy crew. A Naval Captain looks after the people under his command and creates and develops the team. Besides having an effective and happy team, James wanted his sailors to be proud of their ship, so he told them that they had to be responsible for the cleaning and painting (not only the contractors, who only dealt with it when the ship went into harbour for maintenance). They were happy to do it, and already by the time they returned from deployment some months later, the teamwork was superb, the ship looked immaculate, and the ship's company had pride in her.

In addition to being the Captain of the Norfolk, James was also the Captain of the Type-23 squadron, which was reorganised into the 6th Frigate Squadron. He was referred to as Captain F6.

The next few years saw James and HMS Norfolk on several assignments, some of the more noteworthy being representing the Royal Navy at Kiel Week, the German equivalent of Cowes Week, live firings off the Carnarvon Coast, and a deployment to the Falkland Islands for 4 months.

A very proud moment for James was when he was able to host his father (who had a bad stroke in 1989 and was in a wheelchair), his mother, wife Nicola, and other members of his family, aboard the HMS Norfolk when docked at Pembroke Dock. A group of sailors carried James' dad on board, and he was able to show him around the upper deck and then host the group to lunch in the wardroom. The ship did very well, and it was a day never to be forgotten.

Given the birthplace (South Africa) of us, the writers, we found it profoundly serendipitous that just before James and the Norfolk's deployment to the Falklands, at very short notice, he



James pushing his father, November 1995



HMS Norfolk, Cape Town

was ordered to sail to be the first ship into Cape Town following the lifting of the United Nations embargo and sanctions on South Africa. It was known that the French wanted to be in Cape Town first.

On a glorious summer's day—27 January 1994—the flagship of the Duke-class (Type 23) frigates, HMS Norfolk, sailed proudly into Cape Town harbour with James at the helm and bands playing at the quayside. The ship, freshly painted mid-Atlantic, gleamed in the sun as the iconic “tablecloth” cloud lifted from Table Mountain.

The visit was planned for six days, and Nicola flew ahead to Cape Town to join James and attend the many scheduled events. The British Ambassador travelled from Pretoria to join a dinner party on board the flight deck, adding diplomatic gravitas to the occasion. As the dinner was finishing, a South African Highland Pipe Band was invited to play a short 10-minute set on board. Somehow, they had come on board and ended up staying for the entire visit, living in the senior rate's bar and performing at every event, including a short ceremonial sail to Simon's Town. It was a joyous, moving and sumptuous visit for all.

James then sailed on to the Falklands, his second visit since 1966. Nicola took passage in the support vessel, the Grey Rover. On the way, they had clearance to stop at Tristan da Cunha, a remote, volcanic, rocky island in the South Atlantic Ocean. It is one of three constituent parts of the British Overseas Territory of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. Tristan da Cunha has approximately 300 inhabitants from about 7 families living on the island. It was an interesting experience; the ship's company managed to drink the only bar dry, and getting back on board, especially for Nicola on the Grey Rover, was no easy feat in high swells.

James' Falklands' assignment began with the faultless docking of the Norfolk in Mare Harbour in testing conditions. Unfortunately, Nicola grazed her foot coming down a ladder on the second night. The graze became badly infected, and after 5 weeks enduring the wound, she was medivacked back to the UK, where it took quite a few weeks for it to heal.

The HMS Norfolk was part of the show of strength to deter the Argentinians, and James' duties included anti-submarine exercises and Naval gunfire support exercises for ground troops - both very complex and skilled functions. There was also time for battlefield tours and support visits to the locals, especially in the small settlements.

James then set sail for his return north in May 1994, arriving in Barbados, where he was joined by Nicola for some rest and recreation. Sailing on to Plymouth in June 1994, the ship went to the dockyard, and James went on summer leave.

James and his crew were to sail to the Bahamas in October to perform weapons systems trials, but had to leave a month earlier following the American invasion of Haiti. But by the time they had reached Bermuda, the incident had blown over after the UN Security Council and American intervention.

James then had a month to kill, in command of a ship and was in the Caribbean. Not too shabby a deal. He called the Military HQ in Northwood to obtain orders and was directed to stay put and devise a plan. He put together a program to help the local communities, which included his crew painting schools and assisting in many other ways as needed. The weapons trials also went ahead as planned.

As James' time was coming to an end on HMS Norfolk as her Captain, he requested to have a final run ashore at Norfolk, Virginia. The US Navy base in Norfolk, Virginia, is the U.S. Fleet Forces Command. It is the world's largest naval station, with the largest concentration of U.S. Navy forces. It hosts 75 ships, 134 aircraft, and 14 piers.

The US had built a new jetty and wanted a foreign ship to try it out. James, who was on his way to Fort Lauderdale, obliged. It was there that he invited Tom Clancy, who was doing research for another book. Arranged by James, Clancy did a book signing in the Mess Hall. James also invited Clancy, who by this time was famous and wealthy, to join him at Fort Lauderdale, which he did. On this trip, Clancy joined James in a party of 10 at a beach bar one evening. It ended on a bit of a sour note for James when Clancy was disappointingly tight-fisted over the bar tab.



On deck. HMS Norfolk
Photo courtesy of Danie van den Berg



Nicola at the controls of HMS Spartan 1997

This marked the end of James's eight-year tenure as a Royal Navy Captain. By tradition, commanding a frigate squadron was often the final chapter of a seagoing career. The next step was typically retirement, with promotion beyond that point a rarer exception than the rule.

Waiting to see the First Sea Lord, James was fully expecting to be ushered from the Navy. Rather, the opposite occurred, and James was congratulated on his promotion to Rear Admiral! There were many reasons for this, but seemingly, one innocuous but pivotal element had a significant influence.

Twenty-two women had been serving on board the HMS Norfolk under James' command. The WRNS (Women's Royal Naval Service) had been integrated into the Royal Navy in 1993, when women were allowed to serve on

board Navy vessels as full members of the crew. Female sailors are still known as the "Wrens". The leading Wren and medical assistant onboard the HMS Norfolk was Vicky Milburn, with whom James had a constructive relationship.

It just so happened, and unbeknownst to James, that Vicky's mother was the cleaner for the First Sea Lord's apartment. Vicky's letters to home were all shown by her mother to the First Sea Lord, and they were glowing about James' leadership!! So, James attributes in no small way this informal 'performance assessment' to his promotion to Admiral!

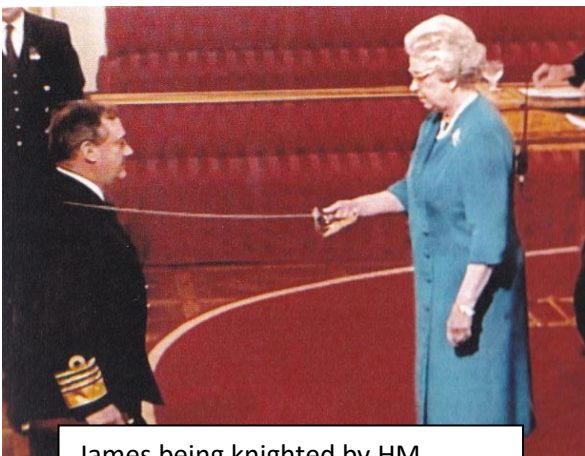
In January 1995, James joined the Royal College of Defence Studies as the Senior Naval Directing Staff. For the next two years, he attended what he said were fascinating studies for NATO navies.

James was then appointed as the UK's Flag Officer Submarines in 1996, a role in the Royal Navy responsible for commanding the Royal Navy Submarine Service, based in Northwood. Given his own history, James' father was immensely proud of this appointment. He left this role after 30 months of a very busy but rewarding period in his life.

In 1998, James became NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (DSACLANT). He and Nicola lived in Norfolk, Virginia, USA, for three years from November 1998. In his NATO role, James reported to Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr. of the United States Navy. His role was to help Admiral Gehman, as his deputy, which included all topics related to policy. By contrast, there was a Canadian Chief of Staff whose job it was to manage staff and get them to work together. There were 150 staff members from 19 countries in NATO. This included 8 Admirals. This takes the role of 'HR' to new levels!!



Prime Minister John Major in HMS Repulse 1996



James being knighted by HM Queen Elizabeth II, December 2000

After a year, not only was James promoted to a full Admiral, but he was on the Queen's Birthday Honours list to be awarded a KBE. He went to Buckingham Palace to be invested as a Knight of the Realm on 12th December 2000.

James retired from his NATO role in 2002. He and Nicola moved to South Kilworth and started a whole lot of new chapters in their lives.

A big thank you to James and Nicola for being generous with their time and being willing to share their story with us and the South Kilworth community!



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South Kilworth Sports Facilities



For those of you waiting to use our new sports court (multi-use games arena/MUGA) at the Village Hall, here's an update on the builder's progress:

At the end of August, the MUGA was basically finished, but it could not be painted until the tarmac dried. This is planned for +/- 8th Sept, and the gates will remain locked until then to avoid kids getting tar or paint stains on their clothes. Once painted and safe to walk on, the gate locks will be removed. Sports pitches/courts due to be painted on the MUGA are Netball, Basketball, Football, Tennis and Pickleball.

The MUGA will be available for all to use during the hours of 9 am until 10 pm. Pre-booked team play for

any of the sports marked out on the court will take preference over casual play, and teams can request a booking by contacting parishclerk@southkilworth.co.uk.

A lockable storage unit is provided for tennis nets and similar sports equipment. The Parish Council hopes to be able to keep the court permanently unlocked and to provide free floodlighting for all users after dusk. The lights can be switched on for one hour by pressing the button on the lighting kiosk. After one hour, the lights will dim for five minutes (to allow players to safely exit the court) and then will go off completely. The lights will cease operating at 10 pm.

Funding for the MUGA has come from Harborough District Council grants, 106 development funds and Vattenfall windfarm. But it will be maintained from local residents' council taxes, so we ask all users to keep the area safe, tidy and in good condition.

Please observe the 'health & safety' rules on signs by the gates and, in particular, we ask users to keep bikes, scooters and footwear with studs or blades out of the MUGA because all these can damage the pitches. We also advise parents to supervise young children playing on the court, particularly after dusk. Please contact the Parish Council if you have any questions or feedback: parishclerk@southkilworth.co.uk or txt/message 07885 766846, or talk to a Parish Councillor.





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I need your help, please. My name is Claudia O'Neill. I'm seventeen years old and have lived in South Kilworth since 2021. I have an opportunity to volunteer at a conservation project Project Trust in the Philippines in September 2026 for a year. Whilst there I would help with community projects in conservation and raise awareness with the local communities on geographical issues. I will also share my news with you.



I need to raise the funds myself to do this, and as part of my campaign, I have taken out this advert.

I would be so grateful if you would assist me by using the QR code to get to my fundraising page.
 xxx Claudia

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Birds at Night

Whilst we are all tucked up in bed asleep, birds are still on the move in the darkness of night, especially in the key migration seasons of spring and autumn.

The study of nocturnal migration (aka nocmigging) is a relatively new phenomenon in the UK, but those birders who persevere with it get some interesting insights into what happens after dark. I first dipped my toe in the water during lockdown, but have only recently picked this up again with the purchase of a new piece of sound recording equipment.

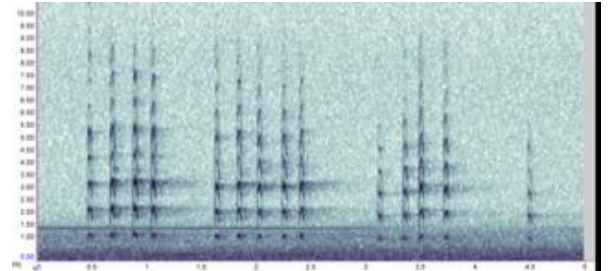
So, what's involved?

Kit

I have a sound recorder made by Wildlife Acoustics mounted on a tabletop tripod. The recorder is fully waterproof and has an SD card and rechargeable batteries.

Method

The recorder is deployed in the garden at or around dusk and then collected the following morning. The contents of the SD card are put through some software called Audacity - this allows you to zoom in and listen to any recorded sounds along with an associated sonogram (see example of a Moorhen). Not everything recorded is birds, though. It will pick up music, bats, dogs, sheep, cows, Muntjac, Kilworth church bells, mammals shuffling by, etc.



Birds I have recorded in the last few weeks have included:

Whimbrel

Little Ringed Plover

Moorhen

Curlew

Oystercatcher

Common Sandpiper

Tawny Owl

Five of these seven are wader species and three (Common Sandpiper, Whimbrel and Little Ringed Plover) were species I hadn't previously recorded.

During my earlier spell, I also recorded:

Common Scoter

Water Rail

Little Grebe

Dunlin

Coot

Common Tern

Quail

Teal

Redshank

Barn Owl

The process has some challenges. Some birds have specific nocturnal calls and can sound similar to other species. However, the shape and frequency of the sonogram can often provide useful clues to the identity of the bird. Also, when you are listening through headphones, everything is out of context, as you can't see the bird, so sometimes the obvious things don't always register immediately.

In the next article, I will give an update on birds at Stanford Reservoir which have occurred recently, including a first-ever record for Northamptonshire.

Chris Hubbard

St Nicholas Concert

A lovely evening of music was held in the Church in July with some extremely talented young people singing, playing the flute and piano.



KORKS PLAN 2025

Date	Event
8 Sept	All Wrapped Up! - Zoe
29 Oct	Halloween- Fright Night! - Claire D
17 Nov	Christmas Wreath Making – Vicky, Caroline
10 Dec	Christmas get-together - Eli

Korks is a ladies' social group from the Village, and all ladies are welcome to join. You need to join the KORKS WhatsApp group to find out about events. You will be notified at least a month before the event of all the details. You can then sign up for the event if you are interested. If you are not on the KORKS list, please WhatsApp Claire on 07590254043 to be added.

Korks Alfresco Cooking Evening – August



25 dishes were cooked and prepared across 4 courses covering dips and snacks, salads, BBQ meats and summer puddings! It was magnificent!

Tina, who hosted the evening in her home, made it easy, doing much of the prep work and setting our recipe, equipment and ingredients out at each 'work station'. Bob, the BBQ specialist, cooked our meat over a fire, which provided that amazing BBQ flavour, complementing the rest of the dishes. Each 'cook' gave a brief

overview of the meal they had prepared. Then we had the ambitious task of tasting each and every delicious dish while sitting out in the beautiful garden surrounded by fairy lights, good company and much laughter. This has certainly provided new cooking ideas as well as the confidence to rustle up an impressive dish in super quick time. Thanks, Tina, Bob and all the ladies who helped in any way.





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Village Vandalism Hurts Us All

Life in a small village like South Kilworth is shaped by the spaces we share. From the village hall to the playing fields, these are the places where we gather, celebrate, play, and build community. With only around 500-600 people here, every improvement and facility we have is hard-won — funded through grants, fundraising, donations, or the tireless work of volunteers. That's why acts of vandalism feel so much heavier in a village setting than they might in a larger town or city.

What happened recently

In July this year, there were a number of incidents around the village that caused disappointment and frustration. Damage was caused at the under-construction multi-use games area next to the village hall. Equipment was taken from the school sports store and misused, most of it broken in the process. The CCTV installed to protect the hall was also torn down.

Nobody was hurt, and thankfully, the damage can be repaired. But the effect on the community is greater than the cost of replacing a piece of equipment or fixing a broken camera.

The hidden costs

When something is vandalised, it is not only the property that suffers. There are knock-on effects that ripple through the village:

- **Financial impact** – Repairs and replacements cost money. For projects built on tight budgets, this can mean delays, extra fundraising, or diverting funds away from other plans. Every pound spent on fixing damage is a pound that cannot be used to improve facilities further.
- **Volunteer spirit** – Many projects in South Kilworth exist only because residents freely give their time and energy. Seeing their work undone in a few moments can be disheartening, even demoralising. It risks discouraging people from volunteering in the future.
- **Sense of safety** – Damage to public spaces or facilities can make people feel uneasy. Parents may think twice about letting children play in certain areas, and residents may feel less secure knowing that places meant for enjoyment are being misused.
- **Community pride** – Villages thrive on a sense of shared ownership and belonging. Vandalism chips away at that pride, creating frustration and division instead of unity.

Why it matters more here

In a large town or city, vandalism might blend into the background of daily life. Councils and big budgets can absorb the cost, and damage to one park or building might go unnoticed in the wider picture. In a small village, the story is very different. When facilities are damaged, it affects neighbours, friends, and family directly. Everyone knows someone involved — whether it's the builders, the school staff, the pupils, or the volunteers raising funds. And because money for village projects often comes from grants or fundraising events, the stakes are higher. If a project is delayed or goes over budget because of repairs, it could mean the loss of future opportunities. Funders are more likely to support communities that look after what they have.

Looking ahead

It is important to stress that most people in South Kilworth take great pride in their village and want to see it thrive. Acts of vandalism are the exception, not the rule. But even so, they provide a reminder that shared spaces require shared responsibility. The new multi-use games area, the village hall, the playing fields — these are for everyone. They give children and young people a place to play, families a place to meet, and the whole village a place to gather. Protecting these spaces should be something we all care about.

A constructive response

Rather than pointing fingers, the challenge for us as a community is to turn frustration into action. That might mean stronger vigilance, more conversations with young people about respecting shared spaces, or simply encouraging one another to take pride in what we have. South Kilworth has always been a village with a strong community spirit. If we can channel that spirit into protecting and valuing the places we share, we'll ensure they remain here for the next generation to enjoy.

Pete Moore



Photo: Elaine Derrick

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MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING FOR SOUTH KILWORTH

Held on Tuesday, 12th Aug 2025, 7.15p.m.

Minutes Ref: 855/0825

1.0 Confirm Members Present

Cllr P Alcock -Chair

Cllr T Wood (TW)

Cllr K Coyne (KC) – Vice Chair

Parish Clerk – Mrs K Brown (KB)

Cllr G Byrne (GB)

2.0 To Receive Any Apologies Cllr TJ Wood (TJW)– Approved and Accepted

3.0 Disclosure of any Member's Interests None

4.0 To Confirm Other Attendees None

5.0 To Confirm Minutes of Previous Meeting of Council, held on 8th July'25

These minutes were confirmed to be a true record of matters discussed, and decisions reached by the Parish Council, and duly signed.

6.0 Public Participation

- 6.1 The PC discussed the recent anti-social behaviour and property damage caused by vandalism, in and around the village playing fields, as highlighted in an email dated 4th August, received from a village hall committee member. The PC expressed their condemnation of this unacceptable behaviour and would like to encourage anyone to share any information they may have with the police.

Action: PA will liaise with the local Community Police. Resolved.

7.0 Planning Matters

7.1 New Application/s:

25/00782/FUL, 20 Leys Cresc, erection of a single storey rear extension: PC agreed no comment.

25/00964/PCD, Monte Bello, North Road, Discharge of conditions 3 (CEMP), 4 (Materials) and 5 (Boundary Treatments) of 24/00952/FUL: PC agreed no comment.

25/00965/VAC, Monte Bello, North Road, Refurbishment and extension of existing dwellings, erection of 2 link-attached bungalows (Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans of 24/00952/FUL): PC agreed no comment.

25/01007/FUL, Little Bones, Welford Road, erection of 3 dwellings: The PC resolved to 'Object' to this application as it is outside the 'Limit to Development' as defined in the adopted Neighbourhood Plan.

7.2 Planning Decisions / Updates Reported:

25/00709/FUL: Approved 16th July'25

8.0 Welford Solar Farm (planning application 2024/0649/MAF approved)

- 8.1 Due to the unfortunate lack of communication from WN County Council, the PC agreed to defer this item until any further response is received. Resolved.

9.0 LRALC Correspondence / Updates received, of particular note.

- 9.1 KB highlighted the Round Robin (received 11th Aug'25) item referring to advice re Councillor email addresses. Action: KC to look into the availability of individual email addresses for each councillor, being added to the southkilworth.co.uk domain. Pending.

10.0 Accounts / Finance Matters

- 10.1 The PC approved the following payment/s:

Nett	Vat	Total	Details / Comments
650.00	130.00	780.00	Inspection & Service of Memorial Clock
236.25	47.25	283.50	External Audit 2024/25
303.50	0.00	303.50	Printing SKN July'25 edition
70,000.00	14,000.00	84,000.00	Second Instalment of MUGA Build
450.00	0.00	450.00	Trim overhang, filling skip with soil etc (MUGA)
420.00	84.00	504.00	Skip Hire re soil removal during MUGA build
400.00	0.00	400.00	Estimated - Further soil removal required
72,459.75	14,261.25	86,721.00	Totals

- 10.2 PC approved the cash balances held by the Parish Council at 31/07/25 along with corresponding bank reconciliation and bank statements. Documents duly signed.

11.0 Memorial Clock

- 11.1 **Service and regular maintenance contract:** The PC discussed Smiths of Derby's quote and recommendations regarding repairs to the memorial clock. Action: PA to contact Smith's for clarification. KB to look into any possible Memorial Funding available. Pending.

- 11.2 **£500 Legacy assigned to the PC, to be used specifically to help maintain the clock:** The PC expressed their gratitude for this kind and generous bequest and confirmed that the funds, once received, would be held in the PC reserves, for the sole purpose of the clock's upkeep. Resolved.

12.0 Highways and Footpaths

- 12.1 **LCC village lamppost numbering record:** PA circulated a listing of all lampposts located in the village that he had compiled over recent weeks, including current numbering and additional 'what3words' references. Action: PA to reconcile the new listing with the previously held, before forwarding to LCC, for their records. Pending.
- 12.2 **Missing Reflector Posts on North Road, outside Oak Lodge:** The PC reported that the reflector posts had still not been replaced despite LCC's notification of work completion on 23rd July. Action: KB to contact LCC for a further update.
- 12.3 **North Road Bus Stop, hard standing request:** Following LCC's decision not to provide hard standing at this location, the PC agreed to request that the bus stop be removed asap, in order to prevent the current dangers posed to individuals waiting for a bus at this unsafe position. Action: PA to contact LCC. Pending.

13.0 Grass Cutting and General Outdoor Matters and Maintenance

- 13.1 **Refuse bins to be replaced with lidded bins as agreed by HDC Aug'24:** KB reported that HDC had confirmed the plan to replace all unlidded bins in the district, with lidded, however, due to the logistical extent of this project, they are unable to give a date for completion. Pending.

- 13.2 Overgrown hedge on North Road, corner of Leys Crescent:** It was reported that the overgrown hedge had not yet been cleared however, as LCC have already confirmed that this is the responsibility of the landowner (who has been informed by LCC) the PC agreed that, unfortunately, they are not able to contribute anything further on this issue. Resolved.
- 13.3 Second Village Pump, near Langton House, Walcote Road, in need of repair:** As there did not appear to be any safety concerns regarding the pump, the PC agreed that, due to historical issues regarding access to the pump, they would not be able to carry out any maintenance. Resolved.
- 13.4 Request for a refuse bin to be placed in the area of the Playing Field:** The PC agreed to source this extra bin and have it added to HDC's emptying schedule. Action: KB to get some quotes for a lidded bin. Pending.
- 13.5 Overgrowth at the end of The Belt:** KB informed the PC that she had reported this to HDC, along with photos of the area. Pending.
- 13.6 Rotted Gate Post, at the entrance to the outside gym area:** As this issue is not currently posing any hazard, the PC agreed to wait for the 2025 ROSPA report (annual inspection due in August) so that all required repairs can be considered at the same point. Pending.
- 14.0 Children's Play Area**
- 14.1 Regular Play Area Safety Inspections:** No new issues reported.
- 14.2 Damaged surface in the basketball area:** This item to be carried forward to the next meeting. Pending.
- 14.3 Risk Assessment for the play area:** This item to be carried forward to next meeting. Pending.
- 15.0 Playing Field**
- 15.1 Playing Field Risk Assessment:** This item to be deferred to the next meeting. Pending.
- 15.2 Dog Control and Safety Signage on playing field:** KC reported that AXO (MUGA build contractor) had agreed to erect the signage once wording and layout had been agreed. See item 16.4. Resolved.
- 15.3 NKFC Licence and Annual Charges:** This item to be carried forward to the next meeting. Pending.
- 16.0 Proposed MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)**
- 16.1 MUGA build Update:** KC reported that further potential costs had been highlighted regarding electrical cabling around the site, to include metering and additional cabling, allowing timing and dimming options. The PC approved these at an estimated cost of £650 in total.
- 16.2 PC to receive an update re MUGA cash flow status:** KB outlined the schedule for transfers of MUGA reserved funds being transferred from the reserve accounts into the PC's current account to be available for payment of the contractor's invoices, once received and approved by the PC.
Also, the proposed plan for the total cost of the build to be paid in instalments, allowing control of vat values being paid out and subsequently refunded by HMRC - PC approved.
- 16.3** The PC approved the funding shortfall of £1700 to be addressed through a grant from the CIC as previously agreed however, decided it would be sensible to wait until all ancillary costs had been agreed, so that a total value for the CIC grant could be agreed at that point. Pending.
- 16.4** KC provided some examples of proposed signage for Councillors' consideration, to include dog control, along with lawful and permitted activity on the playing Field, including the use of the MUGA, once complete. KC requested that the councillors advise him of their comments by the following day. Pending.
- 17.0 Future Spending Options from the S106 and CIC Funding**
- 17.1** No update.
- 17.2** See items 16.3 and 21.2.
- 18.0 Village Communication**
- 18.1** SKN - No update.
- 18.2** Village Email List: The PC agreed that they did not feel that emails being circulated needed to be restricted to SK residents only, therefore the circulation listing may include non-SK residents, who have an interest in being involved with the village. However, any content that is circulated will continue to include only those matters that concern residents of SK, and all email addresses will be kept strictly confidential. Resolved.
- 19.0 Neighbourhood Plan, Monitoring and Review**
- 19.1** This item to be carried forward to the next meeting. Pending.
- 20.0 Community Emergency / Resilience Plan**
- 20.1 The review of SK's Community Emergency Plan dated June'14:** This item to be carried forward to the next meeting. Pending.
- 21.0 Proposed Summer Sports Club 2025**
- 21.1** KB reported that the club's provider had confirmed, all was in place for the start date of Monday, 11th Aug.
- 21.2** The PC agreed to apply to the CIC for a grant of £2200, as a contribution towards the provision of the 2-week Summer Sports Club 2025. This figure includes £1600 to the Club's provider, plus £600 covering the Village Hall facilities hire charge. Action: PA to prepare the application. Pending.
- 22.0 HDC Community Safety Vehicle proposed visit to SK**
- 22.1** The PC agreed that they would like to go ahead with the visit. Action: KC to liaise with the VH with regard to the suitability of HDC's proposed date of 14th Oct'25. Pending.
- 23.0 Village Youth Club**
- 23.1 HCYC'S proposed terms of service, to provide a weekly youth club during the academic year, August'25 to July'26:** The PC discussed and agreed that unfortunately, due to the rising costs and diminishing attendance numbers, they would be able to commit to the Autumn '25 term only, at this stage. It was agreed that further discussion would take place in October, with regard to the remainder of the academic year. Action: KB to inform HCYC of this decision. Pending.
- 24.0 Items to be Considered for the next Agenda.** None
- 25.0 To Confirm Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 9th Sept'25, 7.15 p.m. Meeting ended at 9.30 pm

A copy of these minutes will be published on the South Kilworth Website, no later than thirty days from the date of the meeting.



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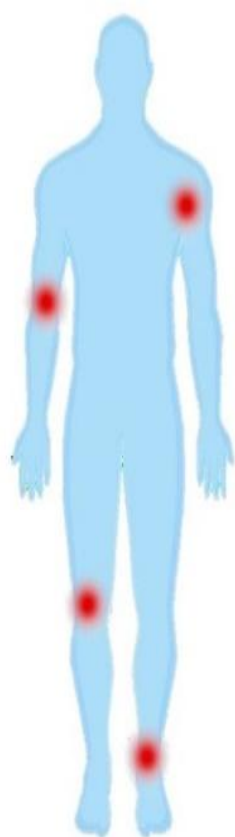


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South Kilworth School News

Message from South Kilworth School: "From little moments to big milestones, we've made sure their final chapter at South Kilworth Primary was filled with laughter, adventure, and friendship that will last long after the final bell rings. You made us proud, Year 6, you are ready...but you will be missed." The photo is of our Year 6 children just after their final school production. They have now moved on to Secondary School.



School Tours: The school are also offering School Tours all of this term for any family looking for a primary school place for their child for September 2026. Please just contact the School Office to make an appointment – 01858 575 307 or email office@ski.learnat.uk

Congratulations Kerry! Following a Trust restructure, Kerry Willars is now the Headteacher at both South Kilworth and St Andrew's in North Kilworth.
Georgie Willock



Women's Institute - Buckwell Lodge Farm Tour

A really interesting and informative evening was spent learning about organic dairy farming and how the farm operates a Robotic Milking system.

The system allows the cows to be milked when they want, up to three times per day, each time being fed, following which they then return to the fields at their own pace. The cows and the calves all seemed very content with their life.

Our hosts, Marcus and Katrina, made us very welcome indeed and answered our many questions.

To round off the evening, tea and delicious homemade cakes were served, and £81.20 was raised for the Farming Community Network charity.

Elaine Derrick

Women's Institute

Upcoming Guest Speakers:

18 Sept: John Aldridge OBE, DL, former Chairman and Managing Director of the Leicester Mercury Media Group - *A funny thing happened to me on my way to retirement.* North Kilworth Village Hall 7:30pm.

16 Oct: Vivi Mills will demonstrate an authentic Thai meal at the Hollies, South Kilworth. Taster afterwards.

Visitors welcome.

SOUTH KILWORTH VILLAGE HALL

QUIZ night

Friday 21st November 2025

7:30pm

Teams of up to 6 - £12 per person

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A photo from the popular 2025 South and North Kilworth Summer Holiday Sports Club for 5–12-year-olds.



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Scammers are Still Coming – What’s New (and How to Stay Safe)

Some time ago, I wrote an article for this publication about scams and how to protect yourself against them – ‘*The Scammers are Coming*’ (SK News September 2023). You can still find that article on the South Kilworth website (www.southkilworth.co.uk).



But recently, it seems that hardly a week goes by without another story of someone being tricked out of their money. Fraudsters are clever, persistent, and always looking for new ways to catch people off guard. As more people get wise to their methods, their approach has to change. So, in this issue, I thought I would update you on some of the scams I’ve come across since my last article.

“Hello, this is the Police!”

This is a particularly nasty one, and I’m sorry to say that a relative of mine was caught by it and handed over several thousand pounds. The scammers phone their targets, impersonating a reasonably high-ranking police officer, at least a sergeant. They usually claim to be investigating a local bank branch issuing counterfeit notes.

Of course, we all know we shouldn’t trust

anyone who rings up claiming to be from a bank or HMRC, but the police tend to get more of a hearing. Even so, most of us would want to check that the call was legitimate. In my relative’s case, the ‘officer’ gave a police ID number and suggested he stay on the line while his identity was verified by calling 999.

Here’s the trick: you don’t ring 999 to verify a police officer’s identity. And if you try to call 999 without properly hanging up first, the scammer can play you a recorded ringtone. Then an accomplice pretends to answer as an emergency operator, who “confirms” the original caller is genuine. It’s an elaborate ruse – and they know no shame.

The scammer then asks for “help” with the investigation: withdraw cash from your account, both over the counter and from the cashpoint, and hand it over to the police to inspect. Of course, they won’t ask you to bring it to a station – they’ll send a courier to collect it. If you hand it over, it will be the last you ever see of it.

Sounds far-fetched? Sadly, it happens. Scammers often catch people at a vulnerable moment when they’re distracted and less cautious than usual. Remember: **the police and banks will never ask you to do this. Ever.**



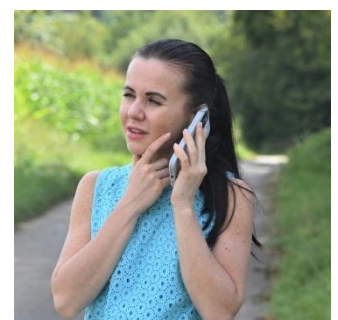
“Express Delivery!”

Another scam still going strong, and now targeting almost all the major delivery companies, is the fake parcel notification. Originally, these messages claimed you owed a small fee for a missed delivery, with a link to a payment site. That link takes you to a fake website that looks like Royal Mail, Evri, or DPD, where entering your card details hands them straight to the criminals. Today, it’s even more sophisticated, with links like “Track Your Delivery” that try to install malicious software on your phone or computer. This can give scammers access to your personal details and passwords.

How to stay safe: never click these links. Instead, go to the courier’s official website or use the tracking number from your receipt.

“Help Mum, I need some cash”

Fraudsters are now using artificial intelligence to create convincing new scams. One of the most worrying is AI voice cloning. You might get a call that sounds like your son, daughter, or grandchild saying they’re in trouble and need money urgently. The crucial point is *sounds like* the voice won’t be your real relative, but an AI model trained on clips from social media. The giveaway is that the call usually comes from an unknown number, with a story about a lost or stolen phone.



What to do: if you ever get such a call, hang up and call your relative back on their normal number. Nine times out of ten, they'll answer, unaware that someone has tried to impersonate them.

Fighting Back

Whilst all of these examples sound worrying, remember that most scams rely on three things:

- **Urgency** – “You must act now, or something terrible will happen.” Stop and think: how likely is it true? How can you check before acting?
- **Authority** – “We’re the police / your bank / HMRC.” Don’t take anything at face value.
 - If the caller says they are police, take their name and ID number. Hang up, clear the line, and call the non-emergency number 101 to check – or use a different phone.
 - If the caller says they are from your bank, check the number against your bank’s website. If in doubt, hang up and call back using the official number.
 - If the caller says they are HMRC, be cautious. HMRC usually contacts people by letter. Out-of-the-blue phone calls are almost always scams.
- **Secrecy** – “Don’t tell anyone.” Scammers don’t want you discussing it with others because once you explain it out loud, the holes in their story become obvious.



It’s devastating to see someone you know fall for a scam. Victims often feel ashamed, angry, and financially damaged. But remember – scammers are professionals at manipulation. Anyone can be fooled.

Staying Safe

So, when the phone rings, a text pops up, or a WhatsApp message arrives from an unknown number, please:

- **Stop and think** – don’t let anyone rush you.
- **Check the source** – hang up, look up the official number, and call back.
- **Never click** on links in unexpected texts or emails.
- **Talk it over** – if someone tells you to keep it secret, that’s a huge red flag.

And perhaps the most important advice: **share this with friends and family**. Fraudsters often target older people or those living alone, but they can fool anyone.

Maybe none of these things will happen to you, but being aware means you are protected. So, stay alert, trust your instincts, and remember the wise words of Nick Ross from *Crimewatch*: “Don’t have nightmares, do sleep well.”

Pete Moore

Thatching Trivia

Many in South Kilworth were as intrigued as we were by the thatching process and transformation that took place on the cottage on the corner of North and Welford Road.

We contacted the contractors to find out more. Reeds are used (not straw), and they are carefully selected. Those used in the home below were imported from Lithuania (there are Norfolk reeds, but they are used up in Norfolk). The contractor has a three-year waiting list for his team’s services. The finished roof looks fantastic.






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