



Newsletter – January 2021

Parish Council Chairman Liz Thomas writes:

Well, the New Year has begun but sadly there doesn't look as if there is to be any let up to our lives until hopefully we have all been vaccinated.

I know we have mentioned about supporting each other as a community in previous newsletters, but it is even more crucial as COVID-19 spreads that we keep an eye on our neighbours and community.

We have a wonderful network of people in the parish who have offered their help to the more vulnerable so please, if you feel you need any help with shopping, transport etc. - contact me on 07734 154016 and I will hopefully find someone to help.

Please don't worry about asking for help - these are unprecedented times and, I'm sure you will agree, we must try and support each other.

Concerning Covid19 I have been informed of a **SCAM** whereby people are receiving a text message purportedly from the NHS which informs the recipient "We have identified that you are eligible to apply for a vaccine." The message ends with a link which looks like a legitimate NHS platform. The website requests personal details **including bank details**, which the NHS would not ask for. People are innocently submitting their details onto the website and then money is being stolen from their account. This message is just another way of some people out there seeking to defraud innocent individuals and causing further misery.

There have been concerns from our local farmers of dog walkers not keeping to the bridleways when walking across their fields.

Please can you make sure you keep to the bridleways and not go across other fields. There are all sorts of implications for doing so, including trespassing offences.

There are now some signs up to remind us, but can we also be aware that we need to keep dogs on leads especially when there is livestock in the fields. At this time of year sheep are heavily in lamb and, if running away from a dog, this could easily cause the ewe to abort.

I am sure you will be aware, but the theft of dogs is now becoming a serious issue in the country, even to the point that dogs are being snatched when walking etc. Clearly these evil people are getting very brazen in committing this traumatic crime.

It does all feel a bit doom and gloom, but on the upside we are of course privileged to live in this beautiful parish with a lot of support within, so please take care and keep safe.

Liz Thomas

Parish Council News

The Minutes for the meeting on January 11th are on the website.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and announced she had the sad news for members that Dr Ahmed Mukhtar from Thorpe Underwood had died on January 7th and Bertie Pridmore also from Thorpe Underwood had died on 11th January. Condolences were offered to both families.

The budget was examined noting an important new responsibility: Parish Councils now have to contribute to the partial or entire cost of parish elections. We have not yet been informed whether we shall have to contribute to any provided services once the Unitary Council is functioning.

The precept for the coming financial year was set at £4600.

We are preparing for elections in May: if you are interested in becoming a councillor, why not Zoom in to see the proceedings at the next Parish Council meeting which will be held on **Monday 8th March 2021 at 7.20pm**, following the **Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm**. Contact Betty West for a Zoom invitation, email: **harringtonpclerk@aol.com**

Liz Thomas, Parish Council Chairman, at **lizt13@tiscali.co.uk** is waiting for you to contact her so that she can explain the work of a parish councillor. Nominations to become a Parish Councillor have to be submitted by 4.00pm on Thursday 8th April 2021.

Liz is also waiting for someone to fill the Parish Clerk vacancy: Betty is waiting to hand over this role to somebody by 1st April.

The website address is: **www.harringtonparishcouncil.org.uk**

Think NHS 111

NHS England and NHS Improvement has launched the next phase of the latest 'Help Us, Help You' campaign which focuses on the NHS 111 service as a new way to access A&E.

If you have an urgent but not life-threatening medical need, make sure you contact NHS 111 first rather than going straight to A&E. If you do need urgent care, then NHS 111 can now book you in to be seen quickly and safely in A&E.

As well as this, NHS 111 is also able to direct to or book an appointment at Urgent Treatment Centres, access to Out of Hours GP Services, pharmacies, emergency dental services and walk-in clinics.

Contacting 111 first will also help the NHS to keep you safe by maintaining social distancing and ensure that you receive the right care in the right place, in a more timely and safe way.

If you or your loved one have a life-threatening illness or injury then you should always use 999 and if you do arrive at A&E without contacting NHS 111 you will still receive medical care, with emergency treatments prioritised.

Just think 111 first. When you think you need A&E, contact NHS 111 by phone or online at <https://111.nhs.uk/> Further information about NHS 111 First is available at www.northamptonshireccg.nhs.uk

Neighbourhood Plan

Harrington Parish Council, at the meeting on 11th January, had a full discussion arising from recent correspondence concerning the way forward with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Three options had been suggested for the future:-

- should we continue as we are?
- should we continue without a chapter on housing?
- should we abandon all discussion and not have a Neighbourhood Plan?

The majority decision proposed and agreed was that we should continue with the Neighbourhood Plan and not include a housing chapter.

The Neighbourhood Plan is nearing completion in relation to information required. Gary Kirk will prepare a section in the Plan giving the reason for not including a chapter on housing. A possible date for a meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group is February 8th, this will be confirmed and advertised on the website. Residents are very welcome to Zoom in, please contact Betty West for further information and to receive a Zoom invitation if you wish to join the meeting.

We shall need to discuss at that meeting how we inform the residents of the details of the Neighbourhood Plan that we have prepared thus far.

Litter Pick

The annual litter pick was agreed at the Council meeting for the weekend of March 5th. We have to thank two guests from Church Farm Lodge Kevin and Amanda Simons for setting us a good example. Every time they go for a walk in the parish they pick up litter and estimate they have

picked up half a tonne since staying in Harrington. We thank you both for your efforts!

The list of litter pickers is in the Minutes and all have been sent a copy. I forgot to include Fred and the Museum team: they will cover the byway from the A14 bridge to the Museum.

Village Hall Secretary Barbara Wallis writes:

Taking my local daily exercise this morning 12th January I noticed that the aconites and snowdrops on the walk to the Church are now starting to appear. No lockdown for them, I am glad to report. Sadly due to recent Government guidelines, the Village Hall Committee feels unable to run the annual Village Snowdrop Walk with that welcome prospect of a hot cup of tea and delicious cake.

Let's hope we can resume this tradition in 2022.

The Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee organise the planting of snowdrop bulbs annually for everyone to enjoy. I hope that many of you will take the opportunity to enjoy the simple pleasure of admiring these flowers as they emerge over the next month or so.

The Village Hall Committee are looking for new members to help with fundraising activities, day to day running, and keeping our valuable community resource available for all. If you fancy getting involved please contact Barbara for more details.

The Village Hall is available for rent for events big and small. If you would like more information please contact Barbara tel : 0772 517 6371
Barbara Wallis

Aviation Museum

An Information board has been placed at the Carpetbaggers Memorial site, Lamport Road, facing west and looking over a major part of the airfield, which was in use 1943-1945 for flying activities and 1958-1963 as a Thor missile base.

Defibrillator

Several residents volunteered their time to keep an eye on the batteries in the defibrillator. Paul Willis was the first to contact me, Paul mows the grass at the Village Hall, thus making it convenient for him to monitor the defibrillator batteries. Thank you Paul.

The CPR session will be arranged in the New Year as soon as we can safely open the Village Hall.

Neighbourhood Watch

Please continue to keep safe and secure in your homes. Last week an electric battery and wiring were stolen from a field in Thorpe Underwood.

Take care when approaching the Harrington/Rothwell/ Lamport roads corner: another traffic accident occurred last week, knocking down the Give Way sign. Northamptonshire Highways Dept is aware and hopefully the sign will be re-erected as soon as possible. Why do cars go so fast on the country roads?

Tollemache Arms

Sadly the Tolly is closed, but happily Joe is able to prepare takeaways on a Friday. These have to be booked on their website www.thetolly.co.uk We hope it is not too long before he can re-open full time.

Harrington Concerts

The Christmas concert on 6th December was a great success. Ian Clarke directed a programme of advent and Christmas music featuring soprano solos from Handel's *Messiah*, carols sung by the chamber choir of 5, and chorales for organ. Rosie Lomas sang beautifully, especially the much-loved carol *O Holy Night*. A capacity audience of 50 enjoyed the concert and traditional interval refreshments – served at their seats to comply with regulations.

We are most grateful to those who kindly cleaned the church, decorated it, arranged flowers, baked mince pies and helped us to organise the concert, not forgetting Jamie the organ tuner who effected emergency repairs on three organ pipes damaged by rodents in just two days!

The level of support for this concert was much appreciated. There will be concerts this year: details will be published on the concerts website [www.harringtonconcerts.co.uk] and in the Parish Newsletter as soon as we are certain they can take place.

Benedict & Katharine Cadbury

Harrington Parish Church

There will be a communion service on Sunday 17th January at 11am. All are welcome, but please wear a mask in church.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) will soon be meeting to further their plans on the renovation project to rehang the bells and provide a kitchen and toilet in the tower.

Final thought for you all regarding thermal energy

A recent article in *The Times* featured the renewable heating initiative being undertaken in the village of Swaffham Prior in Cambridgeshire.

Swaffham Prior, like Harrington and Thorpe Underwood, does not have a mains gas supply and relies on oil and calor type gas for heating dwellings. Back in 2017 the village set up a project to bring renewable heating to Swaffham Prior.

Following a series of technical studies, it was decided that a Ground Source Heat Pump could provide thermal energy to be pumped through a pipe network into homes within the village.

In March 2019 a grant was received enabling the appointment of a project team. This will speed up the delivery of the project, which is planned for connection to homes by March 2021. Grants and loans from the Government and Cambridgeshire County Council will fund the project.

Whether a community GSHP is suitable for our village is, perhaps, a topic for the Parish Council to consider. We would need to know if anyone is interested in working on this initiative. Please contact Betty on 01536 711556 if you are interested in investigating this subject.

For more information see www.heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk/about/

Betty West