



April 2021

Welcome to the April edition of the Parish Newsletter

Spring is officially here which will hopefully help in lifting our spirits after the unfortunate past months that we have had. Most of us will have had our first vaccine, a number will have had both and hopefully the 'younger' ones will receive theirs soon. I hope you will agree, things seem a little brighter helped by the wonderful news that Cressy is home!!! I am sure I speak for us all: how pleased, happy and relieved we are for Sally, Oliver and the girls but most of all for Cressy, that she is back where she belongs. We can only imagine how you must all be feeling.

As always wishing you all the best for the month ahead.

Liz Thomas

Annual Parish Meeting

A virtual meeting took place on the 1st March, the report is to be found on the Village Hall noticeboard and on the website.

Parish Council Meeting

A virtual meeting took place on the 1st March, the minutes are to be found on the Village Hall noticeboard and on the website. Thanks were given to Liz Thomas who has completed three years as Chairman and is retiring from that role and to Fred West who retires as a Parish Councillor. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday May 17th at 7.00pm, perhaps in the Village Hall.

Council Elections

I hope that someone from the Parish is preparing to put themselves forward for the Parish Council election on 6th May. The cut off date for papers to be delivered to Kettering Borough Council is 4.00pm on Thursday 8th April.

Contacting the Local Policing Team

The Inspector for the Rural Team is **Scott Little**.

Sgt Ken Brown is the local team sergeant who works from the police base in Desborough.

You can contact the police by email:

NeighbourhoodTeamCorbyRural&KetteringRural@northants.pnn.police.uk

<https://www.northants.police.uk> or by calling **101**.

Alternatively, Crimestoppers is a non-police organisation you can contact anonymously about crime **0800 555111** <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

You can follow us on Twitter [@CorbyKettRural](https://twitter.com/CorbyKettRural)

You can sign up to Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert to receive news on issues in your area. Please following the link attached to sign up:

<https://www.northants.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wsi/watch-schemes-initiatives/as/northants/neighbourhood-alert/>

The Locally Identified Priorities (LIPs) for this area until the 30 April are drug misuse and dealing, knife crime and anti-social use of motor cycles.

Harrington's Police Liaison Officer is Liz Thomas.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Advisory Group met on 30th March to further their discussions; we shall soon be sending a copy of our deliberations for you to read and comment upon. We hope that everyone will respond either by email, telephone, or personally to one of the advisory group members.

Arising from the work involved and reminding ourselves how much our parish has to offer in the form of nature's flora and fauna, along with the national interest being shown in biodiversity, it was thought we should take some action and promote what Harrington has to offer. Jonny Easter, Conservation and Sustainability Manager at Warners, has offered to set up a group, perhaps beginning in May .

Harrington Wildlife Matters

Jonny Easter writes that Harrington parish is home to some extraordinary biodiversity, and it often goes unseen. Dominated by an agricultural landscape, the fields and hedgerows are alive with some fantastic bird species (many of which are rare and declining nationally) and the river Ise is host to some surprises of its own.

What to watch out for this month?

April is the start of bird nesting season, and farmland birds are filling the air with calls as they look for a suitable mate. Skylarks often hover high in the sky (50-100m) calling with trills and whistles, nesting in grass vegetation which is 20–50 cm high. The call of breeding lapwing can also be heard, a wheezy, drawn-out 'peewit', again nesting on the ground, lapwings favour spring-tilled arable land to nest on where birds often walk their chicks onto grazed pasture to feed.

Banks of wild garlic put on a display on the High Street and, at the same time, dandelions are coming into flower. Dandelions are a superb 'weed' or 'wildflower' depending on your point of view, and is an important early food source for pollinators. Did you know each flower has 100 florets containing nectar, just 8 flowers can sustain 15,000 visits by bees? Honeybees and bumblebees are rapidly building up in numbers within their colonies now, and solitary bees begin to emerge looking for mates and new nesting sites. Keep an eye out for the Ashley mining bee, a small black and white striped bee that likes to burrow in bare ground in lawns and flower beds in your gardens. April sees the emergence of the orange tip butterfly and the vibrant brimstone butterfly.

If you are interested in wildlife and would like to get involved with community action for biodiversity please contact jonny@warnersdistillery.com to express an interest.

Annual Litter Pick This was postponed until the autumn due to the lockdown but some people collected individually from their designated patches; thank you to those public-spirited residents.

Tollemache Arms

Joe and his team are looking forward to re-opening on 17th April on Fridays , Saturdays and Sundays with an outside kitchen and bar. Outside service will continue until 21st May when normality should return.

Parish Church

The churchyard is now looking spick and span after the mammoth clean-up on March 27th. Many volunteers took advantage of being out together as a group and undertaking such a worthwhile task. Thank you to all who were involved.

An Easter day Service will take place in the church on Sunday 4th April at 10.00am.

Village Hall The committee will be meeting this month when we hope to report that we shall be able to re-open soon. Dave Thorley has insulated the roof space, ably assisted by Kate manipulating all the materials with a rope, thus ensuring any risks were averted.

An occasional piece from a roving reporter

Val & 'Junior' use the dog walking field on the Lamport Road. It's easy to get to from the village, 10 minutes walk from home, 30 minutes in the field and 10 minutes home again, ideal, dog tired (me too). It's all enclosed and secure, there is hard-standing for cars, inside and outside the gate, the number lock is easy to use (if you've got your glasses), there is hand sanitizer available, spare dogpoo bags if needed, waste bin (could be a bit bigger maybe). It's easy to book your slot on-line and you get a reminder and the key code 4 hours before session. 30 minutes is smallest session for 1 - 3 dogs, £4.50 is minimum charge. Is it worth it? yes but wouldn't do it every day (£31.50 per week). It is good to let him off his lead without him pulling me over, and knowing that he can't escape, the field is flat, well grassed, could be a bit muddy in winter. If walking to the field, beware it is quite a busy road, cars travelling too fast. Overall, good experience, have used it several times since. Val Willis

Rights of Way Extract from Jason Smithers (ex NCC cabinet member for Highways) Newsletter to Parish Councils received on 19th March.

I wanted to touch on the footpaths, byways and bridleways and what we can all do to protect this important asset, particularly over the winter months. At this time of year, we often get reports of the Rights of Way network not being in great shape and difficult to access. Especially true this year after the incredibly wet few months we have had. Many of our routes have become a lot more challenging, muddy and a bit of a quagmire. Despite the flock of new walkers being great to see, it has brought its own issues and landowner concerns. The Country Landowners' Association (CLA), which represents 20,000 rural businesses across England and Wales, has said that walkers need to be aware of the impact they could be having on crops when they try to avoid the well-trodden and sodden paths across land. People are circumnavigating the mud and walking over planted crops, damaging food crops and damaging businesses. Some busier routes have widened dramatically. One example quoted by the CLA was a path that should be 5 ft. wide now measuring 11 ft. as walkers had created a new, drier route on land adjacent to the official path.

Some paths have completely disappeared and extend across fields. Landowners are not against people using the paths but just want people to stick to them. For many people, using these routes is new and they have only just started exploring this great network in Northamptonshire since, and because of, lockdown. As any seasoned walker will know, not all paths are accessible 365 days a year and the fact is you are not going to be able to avoid the mud and keep your trainers clean!

Please share this message. It may look like clean, drier grass you are walking on to avoid the muddy route, but it could very likely be early corn, barley or wheat, which is worth thousands to the farmer. Six tonnes of wheat is worth £1000 and crops are being ruined. Some farmers also plant wildflower borders to encourage nature, and these are being trampled too.

The network is there for you to use and we want to work with local communities to encourage people to explore and rediscover, or discover, the joy of walking. We all need to follow the [Countryside Code](#), head for quieter spots and stick to the Public Rights of Way, no matter how narrow.

So, for now, pull on your wellies, waders, or even galoshes and get out there. Measure the level of risk and, although you may have to take mud off your boots, it should not take the shine off a great walk.

Aviation Museum

This month we have sad news: Vera Tebbutt, joint owner of the museum, has died aged 94 years. She was a country lady with a tremendous knowledge of rural affairs. She was the younger of two girls born at East Norton in Leicestershire, as a schoolgirl the family moved to a farm at Cold Ashby where walking several miles to and from school in Cold Ashby became the norm. Later the family moved to a farm in Clipston where Vera met and married Bernard Tebbutt in 1950, where they had two sons, Roy and Eric. Vera was well known in Clipston as in addition to being involved in the Women's Institute and Mothers Union she had a weekly round delivering Esso Blue paraffin heating oil to many of the local villagers.

In 1958 Bernard and Vera bought the old headquarters and hospital site of the wartime airfield at Harrington, which was ideal for Bernard's agricultural contractor's business. In 1963 they started building their bungalow at Sunnyvale Farm. Eventually the new bungalow was finished and in 1968 the family moved by tractor and trailer from Clipston to their new dwelling. They established a nursery at Sunnyvale Farm where Vera spent a lot of time cultivating and looking after plants and making hanging baskets, as well as running a small pick-your-own business and looking after the family home. Sadly their younger son Eric died after a vehicle accident in 1983, which was a great shock to Vera and her family.

Then life changed. Americans who had served at Harrington airfield during World War 2 returned in 1987, holding a reunion and dedicating the airfield memorial. Bernard and Vera had collected a lot of artifacts from the airfield and various donations – enough to found a museum. This was established in the old Airfield Operations Block that was on their land. Following much hard work by a group of interested volunteers the Museum was eventually ready for opening.

This ceremony took place in 1993 during a 50-year anniversary reunion of the Carpetbaggers who had served at Alconbury and Harrington during WW2. The museum was then opened to the public from Easter to the end of October in the following years, manned by an enthusiastic band of volunteers. Vera was very involved in the running of the museum and making many cups of tea until ill-health intervened.

Vera was well known by the inhabitants of Harrington as she regularly attended the Friday coffee mornings in the village hall as well as being a member of the local Women's Institute. Sadly a series of falls and the deterioration of her health resulted in admission to hospital, from where she was transferred to the Cheaney Court nursing home at Desborough, where she died on 19th March.

From the Editor

Finally, if anyone has a comment to make please let me know by the third week of the month for inclusion in that month's newsletter. Betty West – **01536 711556, email: bsawest1@aol.com**