



June Newsletter 2021

Parish Council Chairman

I have taken over from Liz Thomas as Chairman of the Parish Council and this is a good opportunity to thank her for the excellent job she has done and the hard work she has put in on behalf of us all over the last three years. In addition to the usual workload she has had to deal with the problems connected with Covid and has stepped in to steer the Neighbourhood Plan so that it is ready to be considered by the village. I hope that everyone will look at the executive summary carefully and will send in their considered responses so that the final document accurately represents your views. Liz took up the suggestion of a WhatsApp group which has been a great success and it is much appreciated by all of us.

Thank you Liz!

Katharine Cadbury

Harrington Parish Council

The May meeting is always the annual meeting of Parish Councils, the start of the fiscal year, presentation of the annual audit and, most importantly, the election of the Chairman for the forthcoming year. The minutes are published within two weeks and are sent to Parish Councillors, NNC Councillors, and displayed on the noticeboard and the website. It was suggested that Harrington parish should have a **Get-Together in the Autumn**, (September being suggested) after our period of isolation. The WhatsApp has been very useful in keeping people informed and it is by this method that the Celebration Party was first announced. If this is the first time that some readers have heard about our big “do” and think it’s a good thing to come together after such a long period of isolation, please contact Liz Thomas 07734 154 016.

I would like to remind you of the definition of a Parish Council.

A Parish Council is a democratically elected body established by legislation. It is the first tier of local government and has a range of statutory powers which may be exercised if voted upon. The Localism Act in 2011 gave Parish Councils more flexibility to make a difference to their communities.

Parish Councils have a statutory power to precept (tax) the local electors in the parish to finance activities following decisions made within the Council. In 2021-22 Harrington Parish Council will spend approximately £4600. A budget has been produced showing how taxpayers’ money will be spent in the forthcoming fiscal year.

A Parish Council does not have statutory responsibility for services such as waste collection, street parking, traffic regulation, environmental health, planning, licensing, housing and education. These are the responsibility of North Northamptonshire Council.

What is the role of a Parish Councillor?

A Parish Councillor is the holder of a public office. A Parish Councillor has no authority to make decisions about Council business on their own. Their main job is to participate in the collective decision-making processes of the Council.

A Councillor's normal term of office is four years; anyone over the age of 18 who is a citizen of the UK, lives in the Parish, works in the Parish, or works/lives within three miles of the Parish may put themselves forward to be a candidate in the election.

What commitment is required of a Parish Councillor?

A Parish Councillor is required to attend each Parish Council meeting and participate in debate and decision-making. Meetings are held every two months and normally last no more than two hours. Each Councillor has a specific responsibility, such as observing rights of way and pathways, delivering welcome packs or reporting flytipping.

A Parish Councillor does not receive a salary but can claim expenses.

Training is provided to enhance Councillors' understanding of their role.

Betty West

North Northamptonshire Council

Harrington is part of the Rothwell and Mawsley Ward where we are represented by three Councillors:

- Jim Hakewill – who knows Harrington very well
- Joseph Smyth
- Mrs Cedwien Brown.

We hope we shall get to know them, but we realise that this will be a big learning curve for everyone. Kettering is now divided into wards each with parish councillors.

The new Leader of NNC is Jason Smithers who represents the Oundle area.

Neighbourhood Plan

We are at a very important stage of the Neighbourhood Plan. Everyone has a part to play by reading the document carefully and giving their view, preferably in writing. The special Executive Summary Report hopefully will be delivered with this newsletter.

Jonny's Nature Jottings

June in the past has been referred to as 'blazing June' and with the cold weather we have had through April and May, we now look to June with further optimism that the warmth of the sun can be felt once again! This warmth as well as the increasing day length (which peaks at the equinox on 21st June) triggers the emergence of familiar hedgerow flora including dog rose and honeysuckle. Leaf cutter bees become active, taking cookie cutter bites out of the leaves. Rather partial to rose leaves, the leaf cutter bee is a cavity nesting solitary bee that can be seen at this time of year carrying leaf material with which it lines its brood chamber.

Butterflies such as small tortoiseshell, red admiral and meadow brown visit our grassland and field edges. If you are lucky, you may spot a flowering orchid this month. Common purple spotted orchids and bee orchids have been seen in the parish. Grasslands

become a larder for many farmland birds: you will see swallows and house martins swoop low to catch their insect prey to feed their developing young.

Ponds are vital during what can be a long hot month. Creating a pond is one of the best things you can do for wildlife. Water availability is critical for hydration for birds and bugs alike, as well as for amphibians who have returned to breed over the last few months. Harrington does seem to be a black spot for amphibian records. Whether it's because they are under-recorded or we have a lack of ponds in the parish, protected species such as Great Crested Newts have been recorded on all sides of the parish (including Arthingworth, Desborough, Rothwell, Maidwell) but not in Harrington. If you have a pond, and possibly newts, it would be great to hear from you to add your record to a map of parish ponds which we are creating to further our understanding of the value of our parish for biodiversity. If you have a record or would like to get involved in community action for wildlife, please contact jonny@warnersdistillery.com.

The first Harrington Community Biodiversity Action Group meeting will be taking place at 7pm on 9th June at Harrington Village Hall. If you have an interest in wildlife please come along to find out how you can get involved.

From our Roving Reporter

Did anyone watch Antiques Roadshow on Sunday 2nd May, Special WW2 edition? It featured the artwork of the famous graphic artist and pictorial satirist (cartoonist) Ronald Searle. It was being described by the grand-daughter of John Wiggins, who was captured and imprisoned alongside Ronald Searle in 1942 by the Japanese army. They were held for three and a half years, were tortured and starved, but became good friends until their release. John was given some of the drawings as he was often featured in Ronald's sketchwork whilst in prison. John lived in Harrington as a young man with his brother Henry Wiggins of Slade Farm (where Anne & Ian Hanson now live); he was the uncle of Suzan South who visits Harrington often and attends the Friday Coffee Mornings. John was a WW2 hero member of the Harrington Museum until his death a few years ago, and always attended the Memorial Service at the Carpetbaggers' memorial on Armistice Sunday with Suzan.

Harrington Village Hall

Friday 21st May 2021

It was lovely to welcome so many people to the first Coffee Morning that we have been able to hold since March 2020. The atmosphere was warm and friendly even if the weather was cold and wet outside. Everyone enjoyed the chance to catch up with old friends and to meet some new ones.

The weekly Coffee Morning has now officially returned to the village events diary.

Drop in and join us if you can on Friday mornings between 10.30 and midday.

Other events in the diary:

- History group fortnightly from 16th June
- Nature group 9th June

If you would like to find out about private hire of the Village Hall please contact Barbara on 07725 176371.

Barbara Wallis

Harrington History Group

We plan to meet again fortnightly on Wednesday 16th June from 2.00 to 3.30 when we shall carry on with our explorations. We look forward to welcoming more folk to our group.

Police Request

Northamptonshire police are appealing for information regarding the issues being caused by off-road bikes in the area. We would like members of the public to call in on 101 or online on the Northants Police web page with any of the following details:

description of rider and bike, where they are, and if possible any footage of the bike and rider either through photographs, videos or dash-cam footage.

Church of St Peter & St Paul

Church services:

Zoom service every Sunday at 9.30 [ID 872 820 8633. Pass code Faxton]

Sunday 20th June 11.00 Holy Communion service in Harrington Church.

Tollemache Arms

The Tollemache Arms is now open and back to normal but meals still have to be booked beforehand.

Publication of this newsletter

It is now six months since the newsletter was first published and it is delivered to every home and to those people who own property or land in the parish. All residents are delivered a hard copy, others receive the newsletter electronically. Benedict Cadbury prints the newsletter, Katharine collates them, and she and others deliver them. The Parish Council pays for the cost of the printing, and we thank everyone for their involvement. We are aware that some residents would prefer to have an electronic version, so if that is your desire, please let Betty know at harringtonpclerk@aol.com, and from next month we shall send it electronically to you, if that is what you would like.

Retirement of Parish Clerk

I now say my farewells to all in the Parish. I shall be hovering for the July meeting and hopefully will hand over to Alison Taylor Burt who was born at Harrington Lodge and is hoping to return once her barn conversion is completed. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Clerk but the time has now come to hand over.

You will still see me flitting about at the coffee mornings, the Aviation museum or Kelmarsh Hall.

Betty West