



## **Newsletter –March 2021**

### **Message from Parish Council Chairman, Liz Thomas**

Welcome to the March edition of the Harrington and Thorpe Underwood newsletter. At last, we really do seem to have a light appearing at the end of the tunnel!!! Of course, we have a way to go yet but it's all heading in the right direction. Spring is around the corner which we are already seeing signs of with the beautiful crocuses and daffodils appearing, let alone the incredible sight of the Harrington Snowdrops!! I've even been out on my bike (electric)!!! Definitely my spirit is being raised!!

Wishing you all the best for the month ahead.

### **The soon to depart Parish Clerk's thoughts. Betty West**

The new North Northamptonshire Unitary Council comes into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Local democracy can easily change with a new broom sweeping clean. After the new Unitary has taken time to find its feet in the first year with planning and deciding its priorities, the Council will start various projects and grow into a more confident body. Who knows?

Smaller parish councils could disappear and be joined to others. Is this what you want? Residents need to lose their complacency and become more involved in Harrington's future, become more involved and become a Parish Councillor. Unless you speak up for what you want, your views cannot be considered. The Neighbourhood Plan needs more people to speak out for what they do or do not want.

Have you thought of being a parish councillor? Elections are being held on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Expressions of interest are welcomed from anyone who is over 18 years old. As a councillor representing your community you will help keep it a great place to live and work. You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake training. You should be comfortable working electronically. You should have a positive outlook and a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team. If you are interested in joining the council, please contact Betty West by 31 March 2021 for more information on 01536 711556 or by e-mail at **[harringtonpclerk @ aol.com](mailto:harringtonpclerk@aol.com)**.

Harrington Parish Council currently meets in the evening on the first Monday of every second month at 7.00pm. If you care about your community and would like to help make a real difference then why not..... become a Parish Councillor!

I shall continue as Parish Clerk until the end of May in order to complete the annual audit and to carry out the administration of the new Parish Council.

**Census Recording 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

You will have received a postcard already informing you of the census. If you find the form difficult to complete, please contact for assistance:

Liz Thomas	Parish Council Chairman,	07734 154 016
Katharine Cadbury	Parish Council Vice-chairman,	01536 713 944
Betty West	Parish Clerk	01536 711 556.

The census has to be completed by law.

**Police Information**

10<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Letter from Stephen Mold – Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, and  
Nick Adderley – Chief Constable

**BACK ON THE BEAT IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

Over the coming weeks, we will be setting the foundations for a major new focus on local policing in Northamptonshire.

The number of neighbourhood police constables across rural and urban communities will be doubled, growing from 50 to 100 over the next 18 months, with still further increases planned. Neighbourhood policing will be at the heart of our fight against crime: we will be providing visible, locally accountable policing to tackle the problems that matter to people.

This new focus has been made possible by the increased number of police officers in the Force. Northamptonshire Police now has 1367 police officers compared with 1170 four years ago. This means that we can now strengthen our neighbourhood teams without taking resources from emergency response or other specialist areas of crime fighting.

As our plans develop, we will make sure that every neighbourhood has a dedicated, named local team so that Northamptonshire Police is truly a Force that listens, anticipates and solves problems at the earliest opportunity. We know that this level of connection is what the public wants and deserves. We are also investing in two mobile police stations to give more visible and accessible local policing in our more remote and rural communities.

Our neighbourhood areas will align to the new local authority boundaries to ensure ever closer collaboration with partners to keep local communities safe.

Yours sincerely

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

Sadly, there doesn't appear to be any update after the theft of Cressy from Thorpe Underwood, but having been a little involved with spreading the word for her, I am now regularly getting information about dog and puppy thefts. This really is a crime that is on a serious increase, something like 250%.

It is a national problem. Dogs are being stolen from gardens, farmyards, houses, taken from vehicles, and now people are being attacked and their dogs snatched whilst walking them. I was aware it was a problem, but I had no idea that it is now on such a large scale.

If you are a dog owner, please be aware of these serious implications and review your home security, garden security and where you walk your dogs etc.. An update was placed on the Whatsapp group on 25<sup>th</sup> February from Kent Police warning of a white van impersonating the RSPCA and removing dogs from the owners. BE VIGILANT. There is a major new focus on policing in Northamptonshire which will see more than double the number of neighbourhood police officers. If you are interested in learning more about this please look at the Northants Police web site.

There have been some concerns from our community regarding the increase in HGV's driving through the village. Harrington has a 7.5-tonne weight restriction within the parish, so unless these vehicles are being used for delivering to or collecting from specific premises, they are committing an offence. There have been times when the A14 is closed that Harrington is used as a diversion route, but these are considered acceptable circumstances. If you see any HGV that you feel is driving through without reason, please feel free to get their company contact details, usually on the vehicle, and contact the company and report it. This has been done successfully in the past.

Liz Thomas

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Discussions continue, we are nearing completion of a document for you to read and comment upon. When this has been returned to the Advisory Committee and your thoughts are incorporated, the final document will be prepared for submission and the referendum. However I am not referring to weeks but months away. Betty West

### **Parish Church**

The leaking roof has been examined and the report is awaited. Like other churches finances are tight and all churches are struggling as church services have not been held for such a long time.

Each Sunday there is a Zoom service held at 9.30am.

There will be a full communion service in church at 11.00am on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Comments have been made by many people concerning the beauty of the snowdrops in Church walk, together with the aconites in the churchyard.

### **Benefice Newsletter**

Revd James Watson is hoping to publish an Easter newsletter; it will be good to have news of our neighbouring parishes.

### **Tollemache Arms**

Joe and his team are looking forward to re-opening shortly. Meantime Friday lunch take-aways continue, booking is via the website, and Sunday drive-in brunches continue from 10.00-11.30.

### **Village Hall**

The roof has been insulated, thanks to Dave and Kate, his assistant at the bottom of the ladder. Ian has carried out the annual maintenance to the heating system. The Committee are looking forward to re-opening the Hall as soon as possible.

### **History Group**

We are looking forward to meeting again in the Village Hall; we continue to gather little snippets about Harrington and the locality. If you are interested in joining us, please do so. The time and date will hopefully be in the next newsletter.

### **Aviation Museum**

Members are looking forward to welcoming visitors as soon as possible. If you are walking or cycling by the Carpetbagger Memorial on Lamport road, please stop to read the newly erected Information Board describing where the wartime activities were on the airfield.

### **Road accidents**

The County Highways Dept is attempting to slow cars approaching the bend at Harrington/ Rothwell/Lamport roads junction by replacing the coloured sign with 20mph signs. Three vehicles have missed the corner and gone into the ditch since Christmas.

This month a Highways maintenance van skidded across the road in front of the farmyard, destroying the front of the van and about 10 metres of hedge and last week a car went across the road and smashed into the hedge between Harrington Lodge and Sandy Hill Farm.

This road is dangerous: many people do not respect the speed limit.

### **Finally a reminder**

We shall soon be seeing lambs skipping about in the fields, please ensure your dogs are on leads when walking through fields with livestock.

Betty West