



## **May Newsletter**

### **Parish Council Chairman**

Welcome to the May edition of the Harrington and Thorpe Underwood newsletter and the last message from me as Parish Council Chairman.

I was a little cautious when, dare I say, I reluctantly took the position of Chair three years ago but I have to say it has been a significant learning curve. Despite being a Parish Councillor for a few years, I did not appreciate just what a responsibility this role held.

It has certainly been a challenging three years which has included the Covid Pandemic, the Neighbourhood Plan and learning how to conduct Zoom meetings!!

I must give a huge thank you to Katharine Cadbury ( Deputy Chair) and Betty West ( Parish Clerk) for their support and guidance over the past three years and also the Parish Councillors and Jim Hakewill, our County Councillor.

I don't think we always realize or appreciate the work that volunteers carry out in whatever capacity, be it Parish Council, Village Hall, Parochial Church Council, Neighbourhood Watch Team, Harrington Airfield Museum , Harrington Website, litter picking, those that keep the churchyard tidy etc, all in their own time. So I would just like to say a big 'Thank you ' to those that give of their time to help the community.

Wishing you all the best for the month and summer ahead.

Liz

### **Harrington Parish Council**

#### **May 6<sup>th</sup> Elections**

One resident submitted a nomination form as well as the six retiring councillors, therefore our Council is uncontested.

Diane Bounds

Katharine Cadbury

Anthony Denis-Jones

Sue Jackson-Stops

Liz Thomas

Dave Thorley

Tom Warner

However voting will take place in the Village Hall (for those who do not use a postal vote) for the North Northamptonshire Council, Rothwell and Mawsley Ward, 3 councillors will represent us. We shall also vote for the Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner.

**The Parish Council will meet on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm** in the Village Hall (providing there are no further restrictions).

The agenda will be published one week previously and will be posted on the notice board and the website.

### **Thermal energy**

In the January newsletter I included a reference to an article in *The Times* describing a renewable heating initiative being undertaken in Swaffham Priory. We have had interest from one person, but it is pointless for the Parish Council to discuss it further if no-one else is interested. Please inform Betty West if you are interested in the Parish Council discussing it further.

### **A14 roadworks    Note week-end closures**

Highways England have notified HPC that the A14 will be **closed** as follows:

1-7 June	Junction 8 westbound entry	A14 no full closure
8-16 June	Junction 7 westbound exit & entry	A14 full closure on 10,11 and 15 June
17 June -	Junction 3 westbound exit	A14 full closure on 28-30 June
1 July		including A6 over Junction 3
2 -16 July	Junction 4 eastbound entry	A14 no full closure
19 July -	Junction 7 eastbound exit	A14 full closure on 29 July
9 August		

### **Village Hall**

You are invited  
to  
Harrington Village Hall Coffee morning  
on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021  
from 10.30 to 12.00

With the easing of the Covid restrictions we are delighted to be reintroducing the Friday weekly coffee mornings as from 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021. All recommended precautions will be in place but there will still be the same warm welcome and lovely homemade cakes. We look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it.

So that we can have a rough idea of numbers could you please email me at [barbara.wallis43@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.wallis43@gmail.com), if you are planning to attend. However, if you just want to drop in on the day then we would love to see you. Everyone is very welcome.

The Village Hall is now available for hire. It has excellent facilities inside and a large garden with picnic benches. For more information or to check availability please contact Barbara by email as above or phone/message 07725 176371.

The Village Hall Committee is pleased to announce that two grants from Kettering Borough Council have been received totalling £9669.00 to cover income losses during the period of closure.

### **Harrington's contribution to the Star Count**

In February the CPRE ( Campaign to Protect Rural England) asked Harrington Parish Council for volunteers to help map the nation's view of the night sky. Elaine and Chris Warren offered their services to undertake this task for Harrington.

An incredible 7,845 counts were submitted - CPRE's biggest year ever! (It was very cold when Elaine and Chris were counting). CPRE have done the number crunching, and the results show a drop in severe light pollution compared to 2020 – with lockdown likely to be the explanation. Thank you Elaine and Chris for your efforts to count the stars above Harrington. We are fortunate that we have darker skies than many areas in Northamptonshire.

### **Harrington Wildlife Matters - May**

The evenings are getting longer, and the temperatures are on the rise. The month of May is a time of growth as plants respond to longer days and warmer conditions. Roadsides and hedgerows are lush and green, and the may blossom, also known as hawthorn, comes into bloom. Bluebells can be found in hedgerows around the village as well as in spinneys.

Swallows that returned to Harrington in early April now are swooping low across pastures picking off insects on the wing to begin to raise their first clutch of eggs. Mayflies emerge from the river Ise adding to diversity of invertebrate prey for farmland birds.

Male yellowhammers shine in the hedgerows and are conspicuous by their bright yellow plumage (in contrast to the duller brown plumage of the females) as the breeding season is well underway. Unfortunately, yellowhammers are now on the Red List as a species of considerable conservation concern. It is a significant decline, more than 50% over the last 30 years means that we need to recognize the value of our parish as breeding sites for these birds. Yellowhammer nests are usually placed low, close to the ground in ditch vegetation, hedgerows or woodland fringes. They are built solely by females and contain a mixture of different building materials, including various plant matter, dry grass, stalks and leaves.

Keeping to footpaths is important to avoid disturbance of ground nesting birds. May also sees significant numbers of moths emerge, this in turn provides food for bats; pipistrelle and noctule bats are regularly seen cruising the Falls at Falls Farm at dusk.

If you are interested in wildlife and would like to get involved with community action for biodiversity please contact [jonny@warnersdistillery.com](mailto:jonny@warnersdistillery.com) to express an interest. We would like to have an inaugural meeting on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

### **St Peter and St Paul's Church Harrington**

Virtual services continue throughout May at 9.30 every Sunday. Log in details via Zoom app: Meeting ID 872 820 8633 Password *Faxton*  
16<sup>th</sup> May Holy Communion will be held in the church at 8.00am.

We have to thank Paul Willis for his regular mowing and strimming in the churchyard; family members visiting their loved ones' graves appreciate the care given to this special area.

### **Tollemache Arms**

Sadly I was unable to attend the community gathering at the Tolly; I understand that it was a super night. Thank you Joe and your team for providing the means of a get-together yet socially-distanced occasion. Let us hope it won't be too long before a degree of normality returns.

### **Aviation Museum**

The Museum will re-open on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May from 10.00am-5.00pm, and providing there are no further restrictions will open Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays. Covid restrictions will apply.

### **Midshires Covert**

Andrew Presland has sent me the following email:-

(Midshires Covert for those unfamiliar with its location is the area of land located along the Harrington to Kelmars road, the entrance to it, is exactly opposite the lane to Arthingworth). Although many individuals and families have enjoyed Midshires Covert (my land, a few miles to the west of Rothwell) during the pandemic - e.g. by walking through it as part of their daily exercise, overnight camping (when permitted) or the occasional small-scale volunteering event - it is now over 18 months since the last larger-scale gathering took place there: a nature walk and picnic in September 2019.

Fortunately, we are now able to have another slightly larger gathering shortly, albeit subject to social distancing and the other Covid rules. This will be a **bluebell walk on the afternoon of Saturday 8th May, starting from Midshires Covert at 3pm**. As with previous bluebell walks, it will include walking to the edge of Johnson's Covert, the ancient woodland between Midshires Covert and the Brampton Valley Way, to admire the carpet of bluebells that will hopefully be there. However, because of the Covid restrictions, the walk will need to take place in small groups, depending on the numbers present, and it won't be possible to follow it with the usual large-scale cooking of food on the campfire at Midshires Covert, where the 'rule of 6' would apply. Instead, we will be having a slightly longer walk than usual in that, after going through the Kelmars Tunnel, we will continue to the site of the Kelmars Station on the Brampton Valley Way, allowing people to eat their own refreshments, before we turn back. To help with the planning, **please can you let me know by 10pm on Friday 7th May whether you will be taking part?**

Looking ahead, we hope to be able to hold some of the more traditional gatherings at my land later in the summer - including cooking on the fire - as rules permit.

Finally for now, please feel free to join and visit the **Midshires Covert Facebook page** at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/250829575354/> if you haven't already done so.

Betty West