

Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter



Spring issue March-May 2019



Back on the buses

Hemingford Grey keeps its buses for another year

Plus: How YOU can shape our village

Notes from the Chair

Hello. So we are now well into 2019 and so far (well at least at the time of writing), we've had a relatively mild winter. More importantly, the first signs of spring have definitely started to become evident around the village.

In this edition of the newsletter, I would like to draw your attention to three things in particular.

The first is the fantastic news that the village's bus service has had a reprieve for the next year at least. And with the formation of a new combined authority bus task force scheduled to look into rural bus services across Cambridgeshire, the signs are looking good for the longer term too. The work of the parish council's transport group should not be underestimated, but as most services (including ours) remain commercial operations, the only way to be completely assured of its future is to keep using it.

The second, as I'm hoping many of you will have already noticed, is that the zebra crossing outside the primary school has recently been re-painted and the footpath at the bottom of Gore Tree Road has been resurfaced. In both cases, the parish council has pushed and worked with the county council to deliver these improvements. We will continue to identify and work on similar projects, but please let us know if you want to draw our attention to something you think needs fixing.

Finally, we are always on the look out for people who would like to get more involved, and to that end we currently have a vacancy for a volunteer tree warden. Please contact the Clerk if you're interested. Alternatively, if you only have an hour or two to spare, why not join us on Saturday 16 March for the parish litter pick and tree planting? I hope to see you there.

Richard

Cllr. Richard Allen – Chair, Hemingford Grey Parish Council

A reprieve for our buses

Hemingford Grey will definitely keep its buses for this year. The decision to keep the Dews number 9 bus, which runs on Mondays and Fridays, came as a result of a county council committee meeting that agreed to continue funding services for the 2019/20 financial year. There were fears that we would no longer have buses from 1 April this year. Meanwhile, our hopes of having a bus service after 2020 have been boosted by news of a mayoral task force to look at rural services throughout the county (see below).

The parish council transport task group has been lobbying for an improved service and it looks like our pressure has paid off. Residents will be able to catch the Dew's number 9 bus into St Ives to run their errands and then travel on to Morrison's supermarket by the town service. They will then be able to catch the Dew's number 9 home, direct from Morrison's.

We will put timetables on the bus stops as soon as we have details of the new routes and distribute copies to regular users. Please use the bus. The more people using it, the greater the chance we have of retaining the service in the future.

Mayor sets up bus task force to improve bus services

News of the task force came out of a February meeting. Combined authority Mayor James Palmer, who covers Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, is behind the task force briefed with improving rural bus services. He said: "We all know how dismal rural bus services currently are, and commuters cannot get to work as there are no buses to and from where they want to go.

"The future of bus provision in Cambridgeshire relies on improving bus partnerships over the next few years, and so that is why I want this bus task force to be formed to look into the matter."

The task force recognised that commercial operators need to make a profit, but suggested that new methods of funding need to be found. Councillor Ian Bates, Hemingford's county council representative, said: "I welcome the commitment to support bus services for a further year and look forward to the combined authority's review of bus services in the forthcoming years".

It was agreed that funding needs to be found for the scheme. But given the geography of the region, new incentives will need to be developed such as community bus services, crowd-sourcing to test out new potential routes and the inclusion of 'feeder hubs', to connect low-access areas to core transport links. There was also mention of subsidised routes, but again funding would be the issue and where it would come from. The board unanimously approved the formation of the bus task force with immediate effect, but it will not report its findings until March 2021.

What we gain from having a Neighbourhood Plan

We have no Neighbourhood Plan (NP) at the moment, but creating one will give us an equal voice to the district council. It will also mean we can decide how we want Hemingford Grey to look, and give us much greater powers to control development – especially as our village is in the flood plain.

But we need input from you to help us shape this. Sarah Conboy, mayor of Godmanchester — which already has a NP — has played an invaluable role in helping us get this underway. She explained to the parish council task force why it would be in the village's best interests to set up a NP as soon as possible, advising how long it will take and illustrating the huge benefits of bringing the community together.

The most important outcome is that it allows us to have some control over any parish developments — housing or otherwise — that Huntingdon District Council (HDC) may want to impose from its soon-to-be-adopted Local Plan.

At the moment, we are not permitted any new residential development because of HDC's ruling that we are in flood zones 2 and 3 — despite having flood defences built in 2006. But this could change with any new government initiatives on housing needs and flood risks. Sarah cautioned us to be prepared in such a situation with evidence from our parishioners as to what would be acceptable.

This NP would help HDC present arguments when powerful developers challenge local plan guidelines. Godmanchester has benefited from an increase in the amount of money received from developers to spend on new or improved infrastructure within the town. It also received a gift of land from HDC.

The task group meets monthly and residents are welcome to attend. Please see the website for dates or contact a councillor

Councillors Anne Meredith and Robin Waters.

Survey reveals the need for some affordable housing

The report covers Hemingford Grey's housing needs survey data, gathered last November, and data sourced from local house prices, the census and the housing register. The purpose of a housing needs survey is to identify the need for affordable housing. It also collects broader housing needs within the community and usefully illustrates the differences between affordable and market housing demand. The report has identified a small affordable housing need in our parish.

Pre-existing evidence from the housing register

Households on the housing register claiming a local connection to Hemingford Grey were contacted directly by Huntingdonshire DC. Only those responding to this survey request have been included in this estimate of housing need.

There were 12 households identified as being in need of affordable housing. Ten would qualify for renting from a housing association. The remaining two were considered suitable candidates for shared ownership.

Findings from the survey for open market housing

The survey identified 15 households interested in open market housing. This included those seeking to change tenure from private rent to owner occupation, families seeking larger homes as their needs grew and older people looking to downsize. Five of the older households looking to downsize specifically expressed an interest in retirement housing. This was a popular option for single person households. Retired couples were more likely to opt for an open market bungalow. A couple of households said they were unlikely to be able to afford to move based on the information presented.

(The full report is available on the parish website.)

Revamped parish website hosts a *What's On* diary

Kim Loader has revamped and updated our parish website since joining the council in July 2018. His webmaster skills continue to have a refreshing impact on the site www.hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk Please take a moment to explore the *Directory* and *What's On* events calendar.

There are now nearly 30 different community and activity groups, individuals and local businesses listed in the directory. If you are a community group, business or individual operating within and from Hemingford Grey and would like to be



included in the directory, you can either fill in the online form (simply go to the *Directory* page and click *Add Item*) or provide the same details to kim.loader@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

You will need to provide the following:

- name of the organisation or business
- description of the service, contact name, address, telephone, email
- preferred website or social media link (if you have one)
- logo or pictogram (Kim can provide a generic symbol if needed)

School zebra gets new coat

The zebra crossing at Hemingford Grey Primary School has a fresh coat of paint. The parish council helped persuade the county council to do this urgent job. It improves pedestrian safety, particularly at school drop-off and collection times. Please observe the 20mph speed limit when navigating this bottleneck as you drive to work or appointments, especially when poor visibility and



cause an extra hazard. Also remember that drivers are not obliged to stop at a zebra crossing unless pedestrians have started to cross. Please make sure your children know and use their Green Cross Code.

Environment Report



"A 13cm square gap in the bottom of your fence or wall will help hedgehogs, who travel around a mile a night."

How you can help to save our hedgehogs

Villagers will have noticed that they are seeing far fewer hedgehogs these days. You can play a role by helping these delightful little creatures if you leave a small hole large enough for a hedgehog to travel through in the bottom of your fence or wall (remove a brick, cut a hole or dig a tunnel). This will help these little creatures to survive and thrive.

The average hedgehog travels about a mile each night in search of food, a mate and nesting materials. Gardens, hedgerows, grasslands, parks and the cemetery are all natural hedgehog habitats. Naturalists have found that one of the main reasons for the decline in hedgehog numbers is the spread of secure fencing and walls surrounding gardens, which bar the way for hedgehogs.

And if you want to feed them, leave out sultanas, small pieces of fruit, plain biscuits, light fruit cake, cooked potato or meat-based cat food — but not milk and bread. This causes diarrhoea!

Parish litter pick and tree planting on Saturday 16 March

Please join volunteers in our springtime litter pick, tree-planting and sign-cleaning to keep our village environment pristine. Huntingdon District Council has donated 25 trees, and the PC is interested to hear of any preferred planting locations. All tools and rubbish bags are provided. Remember to wear suitable clothing and shoes. Children and adults are welcome. Contact Robin Waters for information about this and where to meet up in the village.

Tel: 01480 467077 or email robin.waters@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Dangerous parking on bends and pavements

The parish council continues to receive complaints about inconsiderate parking. It is arranging a meeting with police with a view to producing stickers to put on bad parkers' windscreens. This particularly applies to Manor Road. If you want to report dangerous parking, call and report this to the police on 101.

WI donates a memorial tree

The Langley branch of the Women's Institute has been granted permission to plant a rowan tree on the plot of land by the village sign. This is its contribution to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1.

Volunteer tree warden wanted by the parish

If you are interested in trees and their maintenance, we'd be delighted to hear from you. The parish normally has two wardens but one recently retired. It is a vital part of maintaining and conserving a beautiful village. Please contact Gail Stoehr, the parish council clerk, for more information. Tel: 01954 210241

Parish council establishes a cemetery working group

Hemingford Grey needs to find a new cemetery, preferably within its boundary. A working group is looking at suitable sites. It will also be responsible for the upkeep and day-to-day administration of the current plot in Pound Road.

Don't fly-tip your garden waste

Some residents have complained about garden waste being left by public footpaths. It is an offence and the costs of removing this waste will have to be met by the parish council. This is a polite reminder for offenders to remove it voluntarily, or they will have to meet the costs of removal.

Hemingford Art Club Spring Exhibition

A large selection of paintings and artwork, framed and unframed will be on display at Hemingford Abbots Village Hall on the weekend of 11-12 May from 10-4.30pm. There are also plenty of original handmade cards at very reasonable prices. Refreshments are available. Wheelchair access.

Date set for Summer Festival and Village Sports Day

The Hemingford pavilion summer festival will take place on Saturday 6 July, with the village sports day held on Sunday 7 July (no Friday this year). More details will follow in the next newsletter or via the village communication airwaves!

How Pavilion Pictures started

Film stars like Maggie Smith, Timothy Spall and Hugh Bonneville have played a part in the village having its own picture house.

It all started when the Pavilion was asked if it would screen *From Time To Time* to help the local playgroup raise some much-needed funds.

The film was based on the children's book *The Chimneys of Green Knowe*, written by Lucy Boston. She lived in Hemingford Manor from 1929 until her death in 1990, and called the Grade One-listed house Green Knowe.

Her daughter-in-law Diana gave permission for the book to be turned into a film, with a screenplay written by Julian Fellowes and starring Maggie Smith, Timothy Spall and Hugh Bonneville. Though the film, which came out in 2010, was shot at Athelhampton Hall in Dorset and not at the Manor, publicity about it made it an exciting link to the village.

Diana Boston arranged for the film to be shown at the Pavilion, and more than 300 residents came to see it in three screenings over a weekend.

As well as bringing in money for the playgroup, it also showed that there was a strong demand for a community cinema. A National Lottery grant allowed the Pavilion to buy state-of-the-art projection and surround-sound equipment, and ever since, Pavilion Pictures has been showing films on the second Friday of every month. Ticket prices, amazingly, have not changed, even though you can watch many of the most popular films. They cost just £5, and many people make an evening of it, arriving early to reserve their seats and heading for the Pavilion bar to socialise and enjoy a pre-screening drink. You can buy tickets from Hemingford Stores.

And if you're interested in film, the Pavilion would welcome others to join its pictures committee and choose what should be shown. Get in touch with contact Julie on juliejenkin2@btinternet.com or 01480 465092 For more information see <http://www.pavilionpictures.org>

Forthcoming films include several box office hits, such as

8 March — *A Star is Born* .

12 April — *Bohemian Rhapsody*

10 May — *The Favourite*

14 June — *Stan & Ollie*

Learn a new craft

We're lucky to have a variety of craft courses held in the village at Hemingford Grey House. If you've ever fancied trying out a new skill like pottery, silver-smithing, wicker work or floristry, take a look at this website.

www.thelodgeflowerandcraft.co.uk or contact Maria Needham on 01480 381457

Hemingford acupuncturist has treated Olympic medallist

A new addition to the village is an expert acupuncturist. Maxine Blewett has launched Origins Acupuncture at 18 Church Street. Her list of clients include the Cambridge boat race team, as well as James Cracknell.

Milosz Wrobel, S&C coach and manual therapist for the Blues and Goldie boat crew wrote: “Maxine has been an extreme asset to this year’s boat race preparation. Our athletes train more than 20 hours a week and their bodies require soft tissue techniques in order to aid recovery and prevent musculoskeletal injuries.

“Her expertise in Gua Sha and Cupping Therapy has also enhanced athletes recovery when coming back from an injury. Maxine works with the Goldie and the blue Boat on regular basis and we are very grateful to have her as our support therapy staff.”

She is available by appointment on 0800 170 1509 and

originsacupunctureclinic@gmail.com www.originsacupuncture.co.uk

Earliest evidence of beer–making discovered nearby

The A14 continues to uncover mysteries from our past. Archaeologists have found signs of an Iron Age brew, maybe from as far back as 400 BC. This would be the earliest evidence of brewing beer in the UK.

Dr Steve Sherlock, Highways England archaeology lead for the A14, said: “It’s a well-known fact that ancient populations used the beer-making process to purify water and create a safe source of hydration, but this is potentially the earliest physical evidence of that process taking place in the UK.”

Will we be seeing a revival of this brew in The Cock shortly?

A new footpath in Gore Tree Road

Villagers who use the Gore Tree Road footpath can now walk along it without getting covered in mud. The grass footpath has been replaced by a tarmac one, and it’s happened at no cost to the village. The parish council’s environment committee made a case for the work to be done by the county council, which approved and undertook the work.



Fate of golf course site remains unclear

It is still unclear whether the Hemingford Abbots golf course will be designated as a waste and minerals recycling site. Cambridgeshire County Council's (CCC) draft waste and minerals plan is inconclusive. The new draft plan states that currently designated sites are adequate, but it also suggests there is no point in being more specific, as waste sites previously listed have not been used, but others have been accepted and brought into use. It does not rule out undeveloped land (like the golf club) being brought into use for recycling.

Hemingfords Action Group (HAG) is seeking legal advice on this and the situation should MGL acquire the adjoining Astroturf recycling site to support any application.

The new draft plan will be published in March or April and villagers will have 21 days to submit responses. HAG will circulate a newsletter to let you know how to respond. The county council will have to consider objections, should you have any.

In the meantime Hemingford Abbots parish council is working with Hemingford Grey and Godmanchester in trying to establish Hemingford Abbots golf club as a community asset. This will offer not just the golf range, restaurant and meeting rooms, but also recreation and well-being facilities. HAG welcomes volunteers to join the campaign.

Contact: Iain.Muspratt@hemingfordsactiongroup.co.uk for more information.

Learn about our village's history

21 March — Imray of St Ives — nautical chart makers through two world wars

18 April — Northstowe's archaeology — what lies beneath this new town

16 May 2019 — The history of Hemingford Grey House by Simon Clemmow

Hemlocs talks are held at 7.30pm in the Hayward room, Hemingford Pavilion
Refreshments served at the end allow time to discuss the talks

Non members are welcome — £3

See our website to find out how to join, or join on the night. www.hemlocs.co.uk

St James' Church news

St James' Church extends an invitation to all to attend the following Easter services.

Maundy Thursday — 18 April 7pm — Holy Communion

Good Friday — 19 April 10am — Altogether Worship

Hour at the Cross — 2pm St Margarets Church — Service of meditation

Easter Sunday — 21 April — 9.30am Holy Communion — 11am Morning Worship

Planning committee matters

The Parish Council has no direct planning powers but is consulted by, and can make recommendations to, Huntingdonshire District Council. It is HDC's responsibility to inform neighbours of planning applications, but the Parish Council normally sends councillors to look at the property concerned and call on neighbours to ensure they are aware. Residents are urged to make their own comments on the HDC web site.

Outcomes of recent planning applications

HDC reference	Description	Parish Council Recommendations	HDC Decisions
17/01524/CLED	Weir House, St Ives Rd - Storage of cider and perry in garden polytunnels	Queried new area	Approved
17/01252/CLED	Weir House, St Ives Rd - Production and wholesale sale of cider and perry.	Confirmed for 10yrs	Approved
17/02325/FUL	Land at golf course, St Ives – Partial re-plan of approved development	Refusal	In progress
18/00824/PMBPA	Long Lane Farm – Change of use from agricultural building to C3 dwelling house etc	Requested full planning application	In progress
18/00919/S73	Lake Ashmore — Variation in relation to 13/00002/FUL	Object	In progress
18/80055/COND	Lake Ashmore — environmental conditions in relation to 13/000002/FUL		Not fully discharged

The council has received no further information about when Tarmac will begin gravel extraction on its land next to Marsh Lane.

Please contact Anne Meredith if you have any queries about village planning issues.

Hemingford Grey Parish Council



About the Parish Council

We now have a full council of 13 councillors. All our meetings are held in the Reading Room on the High Street, Hemingford Grey. The second quarter of 2019's dates are listed below.

Planning Committee	7pm	11 March / 8 April / 14 May
Main Parish Council	7.30pm	11 March / 8 April / 14 May

Our agendas and minutes are posted on village notice boards, at the village store as well as on the website. Information is also available on our social media pages.

Website www.hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Facebook www.facebook.com/hemingfordgreypc

Twitter www.twitter.com/hemgreypc

Parish Councillors

Richard Allen (Chair)	Maristowe, London Road	494783
Janet Brasnell	1a Pound Road	492033
Mark Burke	5 Limes Court	497008
Derek Clifton	Dockseys Farm	463365
Doug Dew	4 Weir Road	469814
Riva Elliott	38 Church Street	494142
Leanne Elmstrom	Cullum Farm, London Road	07702 642441
Janice Flint	30 Marsh Lane	07816 438765
Sarah Jakes	Meadow View, 99 London Road	466813
Kim Loader	1 Langley Way	466688
Anne Meredith	18 De Vere Close	465774
Tim Puttick	3 Skylark Place	509481
Robin Waters (Vice-chair)	18 Hemingford Road	07833 901680

All our councillors can now be emailed using the following format

firstname.lastname@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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E: parishclerk@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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The next edition of the Newsletter will be out in June 2019