

Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

April 2022



Notes from the Chair

Welcome to the Parish Council's April newsletter.

I hope that you are all enjoying the first glimpses of spring as much as I am, with its promise of warmer, brighter days, buzzing insects and birdsong.

Just when we thought that with the lifting of most, if not all the Covid restrictions, meant a return to normality, another crisis to test the world has arrived. The unwarranted attack on the Ukraine by Russia has appalled many of us and has resulted in an outpouring of support and generosity for the Ukrainians. This is not the only ongoing conflict in the world, and we should all do what is within our power to support all of those affected. On the home front, Covid has not gone away and there will be many in the Parish who still have concerns and fears. I therefore urge everyone to continue to respect each other and be kind.

This is the final newsletter that will be published prior the Parish Council elections on the 5th May. As we enter the final stages of the Council's four-year term, I would like to thank all those who have served during that period. I truly hope that some of you will consider standing to become a Parish Councillor in May. I believe it is important that fresh ideas and views are brought to the council on a regular basis. I also feel that contested elections are good for democracy because they allow all of us to express our satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the current administration.

We continue to seek ways to improve the parish and in the last month we have planted a new Jubilee Orchard and native hedge near the allotments on Daintree Green. We've also installed new village gates and continued to fight for improvements to London Road and our drainage network. More information on all these initiatives can be found inside this jam-packed edition of our newsletter.



Cllr Richard Allen
Chair, Hemingford Grey Parish Council

Parish Council Updates

Community Litter Pick - Saturday April 9th, 10am-12pm



Wish to volunteer? Then meet at Daintree Green or Yes Estate (play area), litter-pick equipment including hi-vis vests, gloves and rubbish bags will be provided. Complementary refreshments will be available at The Grey House café for all volunteers. For details contact janice.flint@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Parish Council Elections – Your village needs you!

On May 5th we all have the opportunity to vote for the Parish Councillors we wish to represent us for the next four years (subject to enough candidates standing for election).

If you want to influence local decisions, about development, planning, or the environment, are concerned about flooding or road safety, wish to improve our open spaces and play areas, or just want to support our village, nomination packs are available for downloading from the District Council's website. Nomination papers need to be delivered by hand by no later than 4pm on Tuesday 5 April 2022.

Jubilee Orchard and Allotment Hedge Planted



On Saturday February 12th, around twenty volunteers and parish councillors planted a new community orchard opposite the allotments on Daintree Green. Special thanks are extended to Ray Woodward and Martin

Collings, the Council's volunteer tree wardens, who have staked and mulched the new trees as well as pruned the field trees to shape.

The planting of the Jubilee Orchard and the allotment hedge form part of the Council's commitment to the Queens Green Canopy Project. We will be planting further trees later in the year.



New village gates welcome you to Hemingford Grey



The parish council and residents have long been concerned about the speed of traffic that travels throughout the village.

In replacing the dilapidated gates on Marsh Lane and Gore Tree Road, the Parish Council chose to replace them with new white gates. We believe that these gates are not only visually appealing, but evidence suggests that they will also help to give road-users the message that they are entering into a residential area and should drive with due care and attention and within the 30mph speed limit.

Holding back the flood

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, this one is accompanied with a Personal Flood Plan (PFP). This does not mean that a flood is imminent or even particularly likely. However, in this new era of sudden unexpected and extreme weather events, the Environment Agency recommend that individuals and communities have effective plans and precautions in place. A PFP is a self-help document, so please read through it, fill it in, then store it somewhere safe but accessible if a flood event threatens.

The PFP contains provision to write in the Flood Group Area and Local Flood Warden for your household. We will publish a list of these areas on the Parish Council website shortly. But we still need volunteer wardens as part of our community resilience plans.

Volunteer wardens will be asked to disseminate information from the Parish Council to the warden's immediate neighbourhood in the event of a potential event. Another function of a warden would be to feed back to the Council information about the conditions in the warden's area so that the Council can liaise effectively with the emergency services.

Training will be available to wardens to ensure they understand what is required of them and to enable them to provide the most value if a crisis were to occur. So, if you think you'd volunteer in a crisis, please volunteer now by contacting a parish councillor with your name, address and phone number.

A1096 - London Road Petition *by Cllr Doug Dew*



The A1096, London Road, sits on the border between the parishes of Hemingford Grey and Fenstanton. It's all too apparent that the road needs to be improved. Initially to reduce the speed limit and for more signage prior to the Marsh Lane turn as you approach from the A1307, and secondly, it also requires the Marsh Lane junction to be re-engineered.

To that end, there are two projects currently being undertaken. The first is a Local Highway Initiative (LHI) bid, where the two Parish Councils have jointly bid for minor improvements to the road, the second is a petition for more major work.

We'd like to thank all those who signed the petition. Raj and his staff at the village shop for promoting it. To Norma (who was unfortunate enough to have an accident on the A1096 last year) and Marie, who came out on a very wintry morning to obtain signatures for the petition. Around 700 signatures have been obtained.

This petition, which includes the online version, was handed over to a meeting of the County Council's Highways & Transport Committee on the 8th March. Hopefully they will consider that these works now need to be done as a matter of urgency.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee village plans

Plans to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee over the extended bank holiday weekend are beginning to take shape with both villages and the Pavilion's Sports and Social Committee working together on lots of fun events for all the family including:

- 1st June – HemingfordHub 1950s tea party. Please let them know if you'd like to help or participate.
- 2nd June – Afternoon picnics at Daintree Green and HA playing field
- 3rd June – Live music evening at the Pavilion – 6pm onwards
- 4th June – River pageant and picnic on Regatta Field – 6pm onwards
- 5th June – Picnic at the Pavilion – 12 noon onwards

Hopefully many of you may have already started planning a street party, preparing your bunting, or planting up containers or borders with red, white and blue flowers. Let's make it a weekend to remember!

For more information contact enquiries@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk

Recent Anglian Water sewer repairs

Recent Anglian Water (AW) work was due to a collapsed concrete sewer likely related to the sink hole that was 'successfully' filled last summer. AW repaired the pipe but also decided to reinforce the sewer from the Mill Lane pump to the field in St Ives Road. The 60-year-old concrete pipe has been lined with epoxy resin while sewage was temporarily pumped through surface pipes. The job took 4 weeks despite the best efforts of storm Eunice.

The PC has written to AW's CEO thanking the teams involved but making it clear that we are not satisfied with the 20 years of sewage overflows since this work was promised. We've asked for assurances that the Murketts' site development is not given permission to pump their (clean) surface water to Godmanchester (via our sewer) when the river is only 100 yds away.

Drain Appeal!

Recent work on our sewers by AW has been long overdue and welcome. But we still have little official information about how our surface water drains work. CCC Highways occasionally clear roadside drains but seem to have little information about whether drains are connected to a wider network. If you have any information (e.g. old plans or deeds that show the drains near your property) could you please contact Cllr Robin Waters. We are particularly concerned about the 'old village' including High Street, Church Street and Mill Lane, but also the newer estates where surface water flooding is still occurring.

Planning committee matters

The Parish Council (PC) has no direct planning powers but is consulted by and can make representations to Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC). It is the district council's responsibility to inform neighbours of planning applications. Residents are urged to make their own comments on the HDC website. Councillors will usually call on the applicant and relevant neighbours to explain how the council considers applications and how residents can make their views known to the parish council and to HDC.

At its October 2020 meeting the PC considered an application from Liquid Skillz at Lake Ashmore for which recommended refusal and voted to speak at the relevant HDC Development Management Committee (DMC) meeting (as the application had already been called in). The PC considered another application for Liquid Skillz and this has also been referred to the DMC. There is **still** no information yet as to when these two applications will be considered by the DMC.

Outcomes of recent planning applications

| HDC/CCC ref. | Description | PC Rec | HDC Dec |
|----------------|---|--------------|-------------|
| 20/00285/FUL | Vindis site, Low Rd – demolition of structures, erection of 94 dwellings | Refusal | In progress |
| 20/01621/FUL | Liquid Skillz, Lake Ashmore, Gore Tree Rd - construction of various buildings, change of use for an area to cafe, and diversification of existing activities to water-based activity centre | Refusal | In progress |
| 21/00044/FUL | Liquid Skillz, Lake Ashmore - construction of a 2 nd wakeboard line and associated buildings | Refusal | In progress |
| 20/00164/OUT | Land west of Wychwood Hilton - Outline application for rural exception housing | Not suitable | In progress |
| 18/02726/FUL | Former car showroom, London Rd, St Ives – development 62 dwellings. Amended plans for 49 dwellings (by letter 15.04.2021) | Refusal | In progress |
| CCC/21/088/FUL | ENVAR, St Ives Rd, Somersham - demolition of buildings and erection of waste transfer station, healthcare waste energy recovery and other facilities | Refusal | In progress |
| 21/01768/FUL | Hemingford Park, Hemingford Abbots - change of use to mixed use | Refusal | In progress |
| 21/02647/PCAPA | The Grey House Marsh Lane - change of use for one room to D2 Assembly and leisure | Approval | In progress |
| 21/02833/HHFUL | 1 St James Court, High Street - various extensions | Refusal | In progress |
| 21/02866/HHFUL | 9 Weir Road - demolition of extension and replacement, various alterations | Approval | In progress |
| 22/00003/FUL | 38 Marsh Lane - demolition of house and replacement with new dwelling | Refusal | In progress |
| 22/00006/HHFUL | 24 Church Street - two storey rear extension | Refusal | In progress |
| 22/00083/FUL | 16 The Thorpe - demolition of existing building and new single storey dwelling | Approval | In progress |
| 21/02814/HHFUL | 14 Burlington Way - single storey extension, garage conversion etc | Approval | In progress |
| 21/02740/HHFUL | 7 St Ives Road - a single storey rear extension | Approval | In progress |
| 21/02682/HHFUL | 26 Manor Road - various extensions | Approval | In progress |
| 22/00355/HHFUL | 3 St Ives Road - entrance lobby and rear single storey extension | Approval | In progress |
| 22/00192/HHFUL | Horseshoes, 8A Hemingford Rd - extension and various alterations | Approval | In progress |
| 22/00290/HHFUL | 4 Old Pound Close - two storey extension and single storey extension | Approval | In progress |
| 22/00163/HHFUL | 10 High Street - single storey extension etc | Approval | In progress |

Community Matters

Hemingford Art Club - 2022 Spring Exhibition

The Hemingford Art Club will be hosting their spring exhibition at the Hemingford Abbots Village Hall between 10am and 4.30pm on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd May. On sale will be a diverse range of original framed artwork, from a group of very talented artists, as well as art cards. Entry is free. Refreshments and parking will be available.

Hemingford Bowls Club - Open Day

Hemingford Bowls Club is to open its green on Sunday 17th April 2022 at 2pm for anyone wishing to give Bowling a try. The current membership comprises people aged between 14 and 90 – so don't think you are too old or too young! Club members will be on hand to offer friendly advice and guidance. Equipment will be provided – we just ask that you bring along a pair of flat shoes (no heels) - but slippers would be fine too!

Club/friendly games are arranged throughout the summer, contact Ken Martin on 01480 301596, 07952 843744 or kenjenmart@msn.com

Hemingfords' Regatta – 9th July 2022

The Regatta Committee are delighted to announce that the Hemingfords' Regatta will be held on Saturday 9th July. Practise sessions are likely to start on Monday 6th June, but we'll confirm this on our Facebook page and the community Facebook page. We'll also work with the school to keep parents informed and to manage the huge number of novice rowers and coxes.

The Regatta Fundraising Summer Ball will be held on Friday June 10th at The Pavilion. Ticket information will be sent shortly to the ticket holders from the last cancelled Ball.

To volunteer to help with boat repairs, coaching, moving boats each practise evening or bank supervision, please contact anniesunderland@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Hemingford Ladies Choir

Hemingford Ladies Choir is now singing together every Wednesday morning from 10-11.30am in the Free Church, St Ives. We particularly need Alto voices, but all are welcome. If you would like to join us, contact Viv Oxley on 01480 417925 or vivienneoxley64@gmail.com



We are enjoying getting back into school events and really enjoyed recognising/celebrating Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. We explored the theme of Growing Together and ended the week with Dress to Express yourself. The children and staff wore some great outfits. Our first Eco-Committee meeting has taken place with parents/carer representatives and pupils. It was a great opportunity to further develop the views and actions in school for developing environmental awareness and making a difference.

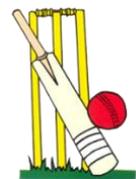
Between the 7th-18th March we are taking part in National Careers Week with activities running across the UK in schools to help children broaden their horizons and raise aspirations for their futures.

Bee Swarms by Philip Turon (01480 496516 or 07493 664214)

During spring bees often decide to swarm, which is them looking for a new home. They'll often settle temporarily while 'scout' bees seek a permanent site which may be in an inconvenient place like a chimney or attic. Although a swarm might seem concerning if found in your garden, you are unlikely to get stung as this is when bees are at their most docile. This is a good time to capture and house them in a hive to start a new colony and maintain the numbers of this valuable insect. As less than a quarter of swarms survive to start a new colony unless hived, calling a beekeeper is their best chance of survival. If you see a swarm that can be collected, contact me.

Hemingford Park Cricket Club (HPCC)

Under a new committee and with a focus on much greater engagement with the village, HPCC is relishing the prospect of a new season. The club offers opportunities for anyone and everyone to be involved: our vibrant junior section will now extend through to Under 15s and there are senior sides which play friendly 20/20 matches on a Friday evening and league matches on Saturdays.



Further details available from Mike at heminfordparkcricketclub@gmail.com We warmly welcome players of every age and standard. Indoor nets take place soon for anyone in year 7 and above, up to senior level. Get in touch.

The Hemingford Action Group update by Iain Muspratt, Chair

'Astro Turf Site': MGL are carrying out work at the site to widen access – a potential first step to increasing activity. We regard this as a worrying development and have raised the matter with both CCC and HDC. The initial response from CCC is helpful but remains concerning.

Hemingford Grey Gardening Club (HGGS) *by Mike Henderson*

The year has started well for the garden club, even if we did have to cancel the social in January. We managed to organise a zoom talk in lieu, which went down well, but in February and March, we took the plunge and returned to live talks whilst recording them for those that were concerned about attending. We had good physical turnouts for both meetings. Ten members also travelled to Ramsey Garden Club in late February for a very good talk by Nick Bailey of Gardener's World.

Hemlocs *by Simon Clemmow, Chair*

We're back in the Hayward Hall at the Pavilion! By the time you read this we will have enjoyed a talk on Godmanchester at war by Roger Leivers, who brought along copies of his new book on the subject for sale and signing. Our April talk is by Alison Giles about the museum and windmill at Burwell. It's also our AGM that evening (7.30pm on Thursday 21 April), so it's a good time to come along and see what Hemlocs is all about if you haven't been before. Our final talk of 2021-22 will be given by me on religion in 18th-century Huntingdonshire on Thursday 19 May. Then we've a display at the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, a garden party, and two summer visits to look forward to. Join now to avoid disappointment!



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hemingfordhub@icloud.com

www.hemingfordhub.co.uk

HemingfordHub is listening to villagers who want us to provide a smooth entry into village life, no matter what age or circumstances. We're working on more diverse events involving new as well as younger residents. Watch this space.

HubClub meetings are open to all on alternate Wednesday afternoons 3-5pm at the Pavilion. Upcoming events for the HubClub are:

- 6 April - Easter tea with raffle
- 20 April - Workshop and How to play Wordle
- 4 May - Ladybird river trip with fish and chip lunch
- 18 May - Ukulele Band

Hub's women power

The Hunts Post featured the Hub team on International Women's Day detailing how we had made a real difference to the lives of people in the community during the pandemic. Coordinating the effort through regular Zoom calls.



Hemingford Pavilion (www.hemingfordpavilion.co.uk)

The Pavilion is operating as normal, although visitors are asked to take sensible precautions to help prevent the spread of Covid. The Pavilion Bar opening hours are Monday to Friday 5.30-9.00pm; Saturday 2.00-7.30 and Sunday 4.00-7.30pm. All winter sports clubs (football, gym, squash, tennis) are open and active with thriving junior sections. For all enquiries email enquiries@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk or phone 01480 464490.

'Pavilion Pictures' is showing West Side Story on Friday 25th March. Tickets can be bought from the village shop. All are welcome.

The Hayward Hall and Chris Page Room are available for hire (bookings@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk). Exercise classes include: Yoga (lucyhocknell@icloud.com), Outdoor exercise (sabrinasily@icloud.com), Pilates (nicolaguitart@gmail.com), Ballroom dancing (lesleycollier@hotmail.com), and Tai Chi (malcolmsavannah233@gmail.com). The Village Lunch is held on the 3rd Friday each month (contact Mike Gledhill on 07881 922287 for details).

St James' Church



Easter Services: Easter Family Fun – Saturday 9th April 2-4pm, Parish Centre. Communion Service – Wednesday 13th April 10.30am. Maundy Thursday – 14th April Communion Service 7pm. Good Friday 15th April – Service for all the family 4pm. Easter Sunday 17th April – Communion Service 10am. **Children & Youth:** Crèche available in church for pre-school children. Junior Church at the Parish Centre on 2nd & 4th Sundays during the service and Youth meet at the Reading Rooms on 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays during the service (both term time only). **Other Activities at the Parish Centre:** First Steps – for babies, toddlers and their parents/carers, 9.30-11.30am, term time only (register in advance at churchbytheriver.org.uk/first-steps). Dads' Breakfast – 3rd Saturday of the month, 8-10am. Coffee & Cake – Wednesday & Thursday 10am-12.30pm.

Be paid to support your local school community!

Looking for a new challenge, with real impact on the local community, working mainly flexible hours, and with people who share your interest in quality primary education for children? If so, you could be the new Clerk to the Governing Body. Hemingford Grey Primary School are looking for someone who is self-motivated, organised, computer literate and can work approx. 5 hours a week term time (some early evening hours necessary). In return we can offer training, decent remuneration and lots of support from our committed governors. For further information, please contact Diane Moore, Co-Chair of Governors dmoore@hemingfordgrey.cambs.sch.uk

Hemingford Grey Parish Council

Proud to serve the people of Hemingford Grey



The Parish Council meets on the **second Monday of each month** (except August and December) at 7.00pm for the planning meeting and 7.30pm for the main parish council meeting.

All parishioners are invited to attend the meeting and the first ten minutes or so are open to residents to ask questions or make comments and observations on matters or on items on the agenda (please note that after this time, further comments or questions are not permitted when the meeting is in progress).

Agendas are posted on our website and on the village notice boards. 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 Rd 494783 |  | Robin Waters (v/c) | 18 Hemingford Rd 07833 901680 |
|  | Doug Dew | 4 Weir Road 469814 |  | Sue Duma | The Grange, 1b Hemingford Rd 469795 |
|  | Riva Elliott | 38 Church Street 494142 |  | Janice Flint | 30 Marsh Lane 07816 438765 |
|  | Nick Irish | 10 Skylark Place 464665 |  | Tony Jackson | 12 Madeley Court 07973 751679 |
|  | Sarah Jakes | Meadow View, 99 London Rd 466813 |  | Anne Meredith | 18 De Vere Close 465774 |
|  | Tim Puttick | 3 Skylark Place 509481 | | | |

All our councillors can be emailed using the following format:
firstname.lastname@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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The next edition of the newsletter will be out in June 2022