

Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

April 2024



Notes from the Chair

Welcome to the April edition of the Hemingford Grey Parish Council newsletter.

While there are definitely signs that spring has finally arrived, including the many lambs in our local fields and the swathes of daffodils along the road into the village, I'm sure I'm not the only person who has kept asking themselves - will it ever stop raining? While the flood meadows have clearly fulfilled their purpose on numerous occasions this year, our drains, flood defences and roads have struggled at times with the amount of water. As a Council we have been liaising with and pressing those whose responsibility it is to maintain them. You can read more about this in our various updates.

At the same time, we continue to work hard to deliver improvements to our village environment. The annual community litter pick, and the re-laying of the hedge and improvement to the access point mid-way along Glebe Road at Vicarage Fields, were all planned and delivered by our Environment Working Group. More information on these initiatives can also be found inside this jam-packed edition of our newsletter.

If you have any thoughts or ideas about other initiatives that you would like to see, we are always keen to hear from you. However, please provide your contact details so we can provide feedback or talk things through with you.

Meanwhile, our community matters section highlights forthcoming dates for your diaries and requests for volunteers and helpers. None of those village events or activities would exist without the dedication of people just like you. So, if you have some time to spare and want to give something back, spring to it!



Cllr Richard Allen
Chair, Hemingford Grey Parish Council

Parish Council Updates

Environment Working Group (EWG) update

New 'Green Spaces' community engagement sessions

The Parish Council have engaged Groundwork East, a community and environment charity working across the East of England, to provide a series of Green Spaces events this spring, summer and autumn. The first is in late April with the Cubs enjoying a session at Vicarage Fields, part of which will see them making two dead hedges for insects, small mammals, and birds to find shelter in. Later events will include wild-play, moth monitoring and wildflower bomb creation. We hope there are activities that will interest everyone. Sessions will be run at the Yes Development, Daintree Green and Vicarage Fields. Further details will be posted on our [website](#) when available.

Vicarage Fields/Braggs Lane hedge re-laid



Following a recommendation from the EWG, the Council selected a contractor to relay the Vicarage Fields/Braggs Lane hedge. The work was undertaken in the middle of February, and we hope you agree that it looks fantastic. This work will rejuvenate the hedge and let more light into Vicarage Fields which will benefit the wildflower bed.

Thanks to a group of around 12 residents who have worked hard to create the dead hedges in Vicarage Fields and Daintree Green. All the wood and brash from the hedge laying will stay in our green spaces, adding to biodiversity and carbon capture.



Other EWG news

Residents have also recently planted trees on the High Street verge and in Gunnings Way and tended to our wildflower beds. The crab apples on the High Street will provide spring blossom, autumn colour and fruit for the birds. The snowdrops we planted last spring have settled in and we all enjoyed the displays throughout the parish.

If you care about where you live and want to become more involved in improving your parish environment, please join us at the forthcoming EWG meetings on Wednesday 1st May and Wednesday 29th May, 7.30 to 8.30 in the Parish Centre Cafe area.

County Council reverses weed control policy



Residents may be aware that Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) stopped using herbicides to control weeds on the County's roads and paths last year. They recently agreed to resume their use after admitting that they had "not got it right". The CCC asked the Parish Council if we wished to opt out of this reinstatement, but having discussed drainage issues, the impact on road surface condition, and the desirability or otherwise of using chemicals, Councillors have agreed to resume their use in the village.

Although, we have requested the option to review our decision again next year.

Summer Sports Programme approved

At its March meeting, the Parish Council agreed to provide a free Summer Sports Programme for children aged 5 to 11 living in Hemingford Grey for a third year. The programme will be run at the Hemingford Pavilion over five Monday afternoons (2pm – 4pm) during the summer holidays. Once details are finalised, we will advertise them in future newsletters, on our [website](#) and noticeboards and we will also provide details to parents through the primary school.



Highways update

Councillor Waters recently met with our new Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) Local Highways Officer, Rebecca Phillips, to look at our most pressing issues - potholes, drainage, road markings, and the implications of the Vindis development on pedestrian crossings near the London Road roundabout. She does appear to be quite proactive (within budgetary limitations) on potholes and has promised clearance of our



worst gullies and repainting of the worst markings as soon as the weather is suitable. Rebecca is also liaising with a separate CCC team dealing with surface water drainage as a whole (see below) and has provided us with the latest information about plans for pedestrian crossings on all four

roads at the roundabout. We are taking this very seriously as we believe the roundabout is already dangerous enough for car drivers and pedestrians and will become much worse when the new 94 dwellings are occupied.

Floods and drainage update

The recent rescue of a seal from the access track to Liquid Skillz shows that Lake Brook, which is the main surface water drain for the village and for Hemingford Abbots, is clear enough back down to the Great Ouse below the St Ives lock. We understand that the CCC Drainage and Resilience Team is currently surveying our area to check the state of ditches and drains that recent rains have tested. We are providing what information we have and have specifically requested urgent feedback on The Thorpe ditch and the piped drain that runs from our High Street to Marsh Lane under Daintree Green and the nearby estates. We are also writing to the Environment Agency (EA) with our concern at the poor (their words, not ours) state of various 'flood risk assets' along the river. Councillor Jackson and our resident expert, John Hesp, attended the February meeting of the relevant EA committee and were not impressed. We are now urging all other nearby Parish Councils to engage with the EA to stress shared concerns and to attend the next committee meeting in April.

Planning committee update

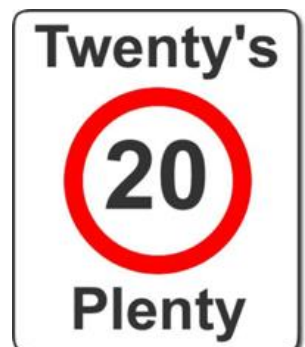
The Parish Council agreed at the March meeting to change some aspects of how we deal with planning applications - at meetings and on other media. All applications come via HDC and are available on their 'Public Access' portal. We should be notified of all that are within the parish and may also wish to comment on others nearby that affect us. For many years, but unlike most nearby parishes, we ask two Councillors to visit each applicant and the neighbours we consider most likely to be affected. This is primarily to ensure that they are aware of the application and of our meeting at which we will make a recommendation to HDC and to which they can make their opinions known. We intend to continue with the visits but will rely entirely on applicants, neighbours and councillors accessing the HDC web site to view details and drawings themselves. We will no longer routinely attempt to display slides at our meetings. We will try to ensure that any relevant applications are accessible via links from our own web site to bypass some of the rather unfriendly aspects of the HDC portal. The table of applications and results will also be moved onto our [website](#) and will just be referenced in the newsletter.

Small grants awarded

As previously reported, the Parish Council has a limited amount of money available to award grants to local groups, charities or organisations for “purposes, which may bring a direct benefit to the area or any part of it for some or all the inhabitants”. At its March meeting, the Council reviewed the applications it had received and agreed to award grants to the Pavilion Play Park Project and Hemingford Tennis Club. We will next review applications at our September meeting.

Take time to slow down!

The 20mph speed limit has now been in place for approximately 12 months. While many villagers are obeying it, there are still many drivers who are driving well over the speed limit. The imposition of the speed limit was designed to help to improve quality of life and make our roads safer for all. We would urge everyone to abide by the speed limit - breaking it may save you a matter of seconds, abiding by it may save a life!



Community Litter Pick – Thank you



The annual Community Litter Pick took place on the morning of Saturday 23rd March and was well supported as in previous years. Around 15 bags of rubbish were collected in just 2 hours.

We'd like to thank all those who volunteered, but of course we'd love for more of you to be involved too. If you would have liked to have been involved but couldn't make it, because it was at the wrong time, wrong day, or you weren't aware it was happening, please let us know to help us plan for next time.

Annual Parish Meeting

All Parish Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting, which must take place between 1st March and the 1st June. The purpose of the meeting is to give the Parish Council, and other local organisations an opportunity to let residents know what they have been doing over the past year. The meeting is also an opportunity for electors to have a say on anything they consider valuable to the people of the Parish. We'd love to see as many people as possible at our Annual Parish Meeting. This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Monday 8th April at 7.30pm** in the Reading Room and will be followed by the full Parish Council meeting.

Garden Waste Service

On the 31st March, the existing free garden waste bin service provide by Huntingdonshire District Council came to an end and was replaced with a fortnightly garden waste subscription service. Food waste will no longer be accepted as part of the garden waste collections and should now be placed in the grey bin. For those who have decided not to subscribe to this service, garden waste can either be taken to the Household recycling centre at Bluntisham seven days a week or you can utilise the free freighter service which will be situated at Hill Rise, Burgess Hall, and the One Leisure Outdoor Centre every second Saturday between 6:30am and 1pm.

Community Matters



Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have a full programme and are looking forward to getting out and about as the weather improves (hopefully!).

The Scout Executive Committee members are our trustees, and their emphasis is shifting to focus more on governance and finance rather than the traditional fund-raising, etc. We are currently looking for volunteers with these skills to join our Trustee Board. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining us, please contact us as below. We still need people to help support the uniformed leaders with behind-the-scenes tasks, so please get in touch if you can help.

Tony Rogers, Group Lead Volunteer - gsl@1st-Hemingfords-scouts.org.uk

The Hemingford B&W Social Group

The Hemingford B&W Social Group has evolved from the Hemingford Beer and Wine (Makers) Club, where we once made our own beer and wine to now, where we are a friendly social group that enjoys informative talks and events on diverse and interesting topics, accompanied by a glass of wine, beer or other beverages.

We meet on the last Thursday of the month at 7:30pm in the Reading Room in Hemingford Grey.

Look out for posters around the village and on Facebook for our upcoming future talks and events. In the near future we have the following events/talks planned:

- Beer Tasting from Papworth Brewery
- Lucy Lewis – the British Army’s first female bomb disposal expert
- Anecdotes from a Wimbledon Umpire “You cannot be serious”
- Jordans Mill – the history and milling process

For further information please email hemingfordbw@gmail.com or ring Steven on 07984 934579.

The Hemingford Sports Academy

In partnership with Hunts County Squash Club at The Pavilion, The Sports Academy have squash, training and sports therapy options for the whole community. Coaching programmes cover all ages and standards on the squash court, with free taster and introductory sessions available for all. Hunts County Squash Club also have availability for new membership in 2024, with options for children, adults and families. Our community gym offers nearly 24/7 opening, 365 days a year and is supported by a professional team of personal trainers and sports injury therapists to cover all training needs. For any enquiries or support please contact:

- The Sports Academy: admin@sportsacademycic.co.uk
- Hunts County Squash Club: gjbremner0516@gmail.com



Hemingford Hoppa Bus survey — topline results

Thank you to all households for completing the recent survey. Our initial analysis suggests a positive attitude towards establishing a reasonably priced frequent and reliable service. The full analysis will be published in due course. Meanwhile we've started planning how to take this initiative forward and hope to launch a trial service by the end of this year.

Volunteering with us

The Hemingfords have a proud reputation for helping our neighbours. If you would like to join in and be part of this, no matter your age, we are always happy to hear from you. We welcome all comers.

HubClub events - 3pm at the Pavilion (subject to change)

- Apr 3 Seated exercises
- Apr 10 To be confirmed
- Apr 17 Seated exercises
- Apr 24 Cider-making talk and tasting!
- May 1 Seated exercises

Contact details: T: 07308 035416 E: hemingfordhub@icloud.com,
www.hemingfordhub.co.uk



This year's Hemingfords Regatta will be held on Saturday 13th July, with practice nights starting on Monday 17th June. This event can only run with your support, so if you'd like to volunteer to help get the boats out of storage, with boat repairs, moving boats each practise evening, bank supervision or the set-up and/or set-down of the Regatta itself, then please contact us at hello@hemingfordsregatta.com



www.hemingfordpavilion.com
Email: enquiries@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk
Tel: 01480 464490

Summer is coming and while the Football Club will soon be playing their final matches of this season, the Bowls, Cricket, and Tennis Club members will be starting a new season, practicing and playing matches.

Plans are being made for the lounge balconies to be open again and blankets will be available to make the cooler evenings more comfortable. The Lounge Bar screens all major sports matches and is open weekdays from 5pm to 9.30pm. Saturdays 2pm to 7.30pm. Sunday 2pm to 7pm. Come and give it a try then become a member to continue visiting. A family or single membership is only £5 per year.

BBQ Friday is returning on the Sports Field from 10th May with live music on the 3rd Friday of the month until September. Most Fridays, there is also a friendly cricket match to watch, a lovely way to start your weekend.

Pavilion Pictures will be screening 'Wonka' on 26th April at the new time of 3.30pm. A musical fantasy film about Willy's start in the world of chocolate. The May film has not been selected at the time of going to press so keep your eyes open for posters at Budgens etc.

A Family Fun Day is being planned for Sunday 26th May with stalls attractions and activities. Something for all the family. No entrance charge, just come along.

The Classic Car Show will be returning to the Pavilion on Saturday 31st August. Always a great day out with stalls and attractions along with 250 classic vehicles to see. So put it in your diary and if you have a car to enter, see our website for details on how to book it in.

**HEMINGFORD ART CLUB
SPRING EXHIBITION
11TH-12TH MAY
10AM-4PM
AT HEMINGFORD ABBOTS VILLAGE
HALL HIGH ST HEMINGFORD
ABBOTS
HUNTINGDON PE28 9AH
FREE ENTRY**

ON SALE ARE ORIGINAL ART WORKS & ART CARDS.
REFRESHMENTS. WHEELCHAIR ACCESS.
PARKING IS AVAILABLE.

HEMINGFORD LADIES CHOIR
military wives
Choirs

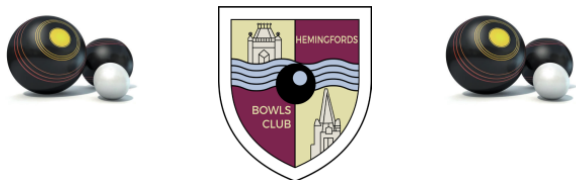
Wyton & Brampton
Military Wives Choir
Hemingford Ladies Choir

CONCERT UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ELAINE GUNN
WITH PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY
ANNA ALDOUS AND TONY HUMES

**AN AFTERNOON
OF SONG
WITH TEA AND SCONES**

3PM SAT 20TH APRIL
THE FREE CHURCH ST IVES
No entry charge
Donations in support of the
Sue Ryder St John's Hospice
Moggerhanger

Sue Ryder is a charity registered in England and Wales (1052076)



HEMINGFORDS BOWLS CLUB

Manor Road, Hemingford Grey

With the new summer season with us at last - Now is the time to join us at Hemingfords Bowls Club to be part of a sport for all ages. Boasting one of the best facilities in the area, take this opportunity to play this exciting and skilful game - Our season starts Sunday April 14th

We also have an **OPEN DAY** planned for **Sunday April 21st 2pm-5pm**. Dedicated members are eager to assist and make you welcome. All equipment will be provided - flat bottom shoes (trainers) are a requirement.

**So, come along – All ages welcome –
Free membership for first season joiners.**

Enjoy all that our club has to offer.
For further details contact: Kevin Thomas 07801 185666
Kevin.thomas1tb@gmail.com



28th | Maundy Thursday
A service with music from Taizé | 7pm
St James Church

29th | Good Friday
All together service | 10am
St James Church
Watch & Pray | 2pm
Words and Wonder, Silence and Song
St Margaret's Church

31st | Easter Sunday
All together communion service | 10am
St James Church

EASTER AT ST JAMES' CHURCH
WWW.CHURCHBYTHERIVER.ORG.UK

EASTER FAIR

FREE ENTRY

Saturday 30th March

Vicarage Fields

10am - 3pm

Crafts
Bouncy inflatables & slides!
Easter experience
Easter Egg Hunt
Refreshments (donations only)

For more details contact: ben@churchbytheriver.org.uk
www.churchbytheriver.org.uk

Hemingford Grey Parish Council

Proud to serve the people of Hemingford Grey



The Parish Council now meets in the **Reading Rooms** 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 Road 494783		Robin Waters (V/C)	18 Hemingford Road 07833 901680
	Maria Di Gaetano	17 Dunnock Way 07444 330921		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 Road 466813
	Anne Meredith	18 De Vere Close 465774		Stephen Wright	20 Weir Road 07429 956982

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

Parish Clerk: Ben Stoehr, 30 West Drive, Highfields, Caldecote, CB23 7NY
Tel: 01954 210241, Email: parish.clerk@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

The next edition of the newsletter will be out in June 2024

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