

# Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

April 2025



# *Notes from the Chair*

Welcome to the April edition of the Hemingford Grey Parish Council newsletter. As always, this edition is full of updates from both the Council and community organisations.

The daffodils are in full flower; the sun has been shining and the sky's blue. It's fair to say that Spring has sprung, and it's finally stopped raining! I hope that you are all enjoying the change of the season as much as I am, with its promise of warmer, brighter days, buzzing insects, and birdsong.

In May 2026, the Parish Council will be up for election. It's quite likely that some of our current councillors will take this as an opportunity to stand down and not seek re-election. In the meantime, we have three vacancies, and the Council is permitted to co-opt new members. If you feel strongly about the way the village is managed or should be managed, and you want to influence the decision-making process, there's no better time to join us than now.

We continue to seek ways to improve the parish and are always keen to understand what the issues are that you feel we should be concentrating on. So, if you have any thoughts or ideas about initiatives that you would like to see the Parish Council undertake, we are always keen to hear from you. However, please do provide your contact details so we can ask additional questions if required.

Finally, we're continuing to liaise with the County and District Councils, the Environment Agency, and Anglian Water regarding the ever more regular flooding of the Great Ouse valley, surface water, and the villages sewage infrastructure. To this end, the Council are currently looking to assist with the improvement of the records of surface water drainage throughout the village and inside you will find an appeal for information.



***Cllr Richard Allen***  
*Chair, Hemingford Grey Parish Council*

# *Parish Council Updates*

## **Drainage information appeal**

We all know that drainage in Hemingford Grey is a perennial problem not helped by our very flat landscape on the flood plain. The County and District councils are currently improving their records of surface water drainage from our roads and built-up areas. Some of our open 'public' drains go back to the Inclosure Act 1801 and many others to the last century in the days of the St Ives Rural District Council. The Parish Council is helping with our own records where we have them, and we hope that residents may be able to help with old plans - particularly if they show details of drainage from planning applications or from when they bought their properties. We have immediate concerns about drainage in the High St., Church St., St Ives Rd., Mill and Meadow Lanes, and the drain from the Apple Orchard to Marsh Lane under Daintree Green, Margetts and Sadlers Way. If you can help in this way, please contact Cllr Robin Waters via the email address or phone number on the last page of this newsletter.

## **Community grants awarded**

At our March meeting the Parish Council awarded four community grants. Two of the grants are being made to the groups delivering the forthcoming Easter Fair being held on Vicarage Fields, and a Creative Arts and Craft workshop for children which will be delivered during the summer holidays. The other two organisations to successfully apply for grants were the Hemingfords' Regatta and Magpas.

As a reminder, the Parish Council has a small grants scheme which offers funding to 'not for profit' community groups. Applications will next be considered at the Parish Council's September meeting.

## **Allotments**

Whether you are a gardening enthusiast or a beginner, our plots are perfect for growing your own fruits, vegetables, herbs and / or flowers. We currently have several plots available, so if you are interested in taking one on, please contact the [Clerk](#). There is also an Allotment Association you can join.

## **Have you considered becoming a Parish Councillor?**

Parish Councils represent the grassroots of local government with elections held every four years. Our next elections will be in May 2026, although if there is a vacancy Councillors can be co-opted i.e., when the Council will vote to fill the vacancy without an election. We currently have three and would love to hear from anyone who's interested.

Being a Councillor is a voluntary role, but you will need to understand local concerns, debate issues within council meetings and use your best judgement to make decisions that will impact our community. No formal qualifications are required to be a Councillor, just the passion and commitment to make a difference to your community and attend our monthly meetings, where issues are debated, and decisions made.

## **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)**

In December 2024, the Government published the English Devolution White Paper, which outlined plans for local government reorganisation and devolution. Subsequently, all councils in two-tier areas and small neighbouring unitary authorities (which includes Cambridgeshire) were formally invited submit initial plans in the spring, followed by full proposals later in the year for LGR. As a result, Council leaders from across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough submitted an initial response on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March confirming that they intend to work together to develop a proposal for local government reorganisation.

The Government has stated that proposals should seek to achieve the creation of unitary authorities which are the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks. It has been suggested that new councils should aim for a population of 500,000 or more.

Town and parish councils are not currently part of the LGR, and no direct impact is anticipated at this stage. Yet, it is possible that Parish Council's might be asked in the longer term to deliver or manage more services. It is also possible that the authority delivering services such as planning might not be based in Huntingdon, so more remote than it is now.

We will keep you updated as more information becomes available and the Councils from across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough firm up their proposals.

## Community Events



A heartfelt thanks to all those residents who supported our community events last month. With your help we planted 1000 snowdrops and winter aconites, swept leaves, and removed weeds. Ditches, hedges, verges and undergrowth were also cleared of bottles, cans, fast food packaging and other assorted rubbish. Thank you as always for your time, energy, and commitment.



## Liberate your lawn



The Parish Council will be supporting Plantlife's annual **"No Mow May"**, an initiative to promote biodiversity, allowing a wider range of plants and insects to thrive, again this year. The cutting of grass will be paused in some of our managed green spaces to allow plants like daisies, dandelions, and clovers to flower, providing important food for caterpillars from some of our best loved butterflies and moths. Letting wildflowers and plants grow freely will provide much needed nectar for pollinators and allow other plants and wildlife to grow and flourish.

We would also like to encourage residents to do the same with a section of their own lawn if possible.

## Marsh Lane

The Council have recently written to Tarmac, cc'ing the Cambridge County Council Highways Officer, raising our concerns over the number of trees that have fallen and obstructed or partially obstructed Marsh Lane on the boundary of Marsh Lane Pits. We have also asked Tarmac to undertake preventative maintenance to limit further obstructions. We are awaiting Tarmac's response and will provide updates in due course.

## Armed Forces Covenant

We are delighted to confirm that the Parish Council agreed to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant at our March meeting, demonstrating our support for the armed forces community.

## Hemingford Grey Meadow

We are very lucky to have the Hemingford Meadow within our Parish boundaries and I'm sure many of you make use of it to for dog walks or as a route St Ives. It won't be long now until it is once again a riot of colour, starting with the delightful buttercups, then swiftly followed by many other wildflowers. As a reminder the meadow is privately owned and therefore those using it are requested to stick to the footpath that runs along the



southern side of the meadow or the permissive path that runs along the river. The riverbank often becomes a focal point for youngsters to congregate at post exams. If you have children in this category, please remind them of this too and ask them to take their litter home. If you're planning to walk on our stretch of the Great Ouse valley, please consider taking something to collect rubbish in with you.

## Our bi-monthly newsletters

What else would you like to see included in our newsletter? Do you still want a hard copy delivered or would you be happy to subscribe, and have it emailed directly to you? Do you read the newsletter from cover to cover or would you prefer us to post smaller regular updates on social media. Please contact the editor (Richard Allen - see back page for details) with your thoughts or comments.

If you're a community group and want to promote your organisation or events in the Community Matters section of our future newsletters, 100-word contributions should be sent to the editor prior to the newsletter content submission date; they will be considered for inclusion in the next edition. Below are our submission and publication dates for your information.

Newsletter	Final content submission date	Newsletter publication date
April	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
June	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2025
August	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
October	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	27 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
December	15 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2025

# Community Matters



**Easter Fair**  
**Saturday 19th April**  
**10am - 3pm**  
**Vicarage Fields**

Egg Hunt  
Refreshments  
Bouncy Castles  
Easter Craft

For more details contact: [ben@churchbytheriver.org.uk](mailto:ben@churchbytheriver.org.uk) [www.churchbytheriver.org.uk](http://www.churchbytheriver.org.uk)



**EASTER SERVICES at St James**

**Palm Sunday 13th April**  
10 am Service of the Word

**Maundy Thursday 17th April**  
6 pm Service  
Followed by Agape Supper at the Parish Centre at 7pm. Call the Parish Office to book a place

**Good Friday 18th April**  
10 am Family Service  
Services at St Margarets  
2 pm Good Friday Liturgy  
9 pm Compline with Passion narrative

**Easter Saturday 19th April**  
7 pm Easter Vigil Service  
Procession of the light through the village and blessing of Paschal Candles. Start at St Margarets and ends at St James

**Easter Sunday 20th April**  
10 am Easter Service with Holy Communion

Parish Office - 01480 457250  
[www.churchbytheriver.org.uk](http://www.churchbytheriver.org.uk)



## A New Era for Hemingfords Lawn Tennis Club

We are thrilled to announce the completion of our brand-new resurfaced and floodlit courts, now open for play for members and non-members. With the exciting addition of cardio tennis for all abilities alongside junior and adult coaching, we're inviting new and returning members to join us for the 2025/26 season. Look out for our official opening event scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> – a day of festivities and fun! Further information on all that the club has to offer as well as details on membership can be found at <https://www.hltclub.net>



## Hemingfords' regatta

Preparations for this year's Regatta on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July are well under way. Four weeks of weekday practice evenings will start at 6.30pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June with priority being given to children, U18's and adult beginners in the first week. Children can start rowing, coxing and kayaking from school year 4. Please note, a completed parents' consent form must have been received for all those under the age of 18 to enable them to take part in practice evenings. Details of all the races and their entry requirements, the parents' consent form, and patrons form will be available on our website and in our Patrons newsletter which will be delivered in early May. If you'd be interested in helping out or to join our "Friends of the Regatta" WhatsApp group, please email [hello@hemingfordsregatta.com](mailto:hello@hemingfordsregatta.com)

## Remembering Terry John Petriello - 18<sup>th</sup> May 1977 - 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025



It is with profound sadness that Hemingfords United Football Club mourns the passing of Terry Petriello on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025, during the Veterans' County Cup semi-final against Stilton United.

Terry was in his fifth season with the Hemingford Vets, where he marshalled the defence every Sunday. He was not only a dedicated player but also a cherished teammate, known for his kindness and vibrant spirit. Terry was described by his teammates as one of the nicest individuals you could meet, and the life and soul of the team.



Our heartfelt thoughts and condolences go out to Terry's family and friends during this incredibly difficult time. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Donations in memory of Terry Petriello can be made to Magpas Air Ambulance. To donate, please visit: <https://donate.magpas.org.uk>

## Hemingford Bowls Club *by Sue Peel, Chair*



The Hemingfords Bowls Club is looking forward to the start of the new season. If you are thinking of playing lawn bowls this coming season, contact Gareth Evans: [secretary@hemingfordbowls.co.uk](mailto:secretary@hemingfordbowls.co.uk). Our open afternoon is taking place on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2-5pm and this is an opportunity to come and meet members, try bowling and find out more about us.

We're hosting a prestigious Bowls England event on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May. The Amy Rose Bowl is an inter-county competition for female players aged 31 or under; finalists will compete at the National Finals held at Leamington Spa.

## Hemingford Grey Gardening Society *by Mike Henderson*

Garden work levels are typically low at this time of year, so we rely on our monthly talks to maintain interest. We've kept our high standards with an interesting talk in January on bees and flowers by David Coop, who is himself a beekeeper. In February Margaret Nimmo-Smith gave us her thoughts on fully utilising a small garden. While March's talk was by local, Dr Tim Reed who told us everything there is to know about Holt Island, in St Ives. Contact me on 01480466101.





Hemingford Grey WI meets in the Reading Room on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. We have a varied programme of talks and social events - see posters around the village. Visitors are always welcome. For more information telephone Phyl on 380240.



Following a robust recruitment process, the Governing Body are very pleased to appoint Mrs Danielle Gaynor as the permanent Headteacher of Hemingford Grey Primary School. Mrs Gaynor has been interim Headteacher since September 2024 and with the school since 2019. Mrs Gaynor is committed to building strong links between the school and local community for the benefit of all pupils. If local groups would like to connect with the school, share knowledge or skills with the children, volunteer time or resources, please get in touch with us – [office@hemingfordgrey.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@hemingfordgrey.cambs.sch.uk)

## Hemlocs *by Simon Clemmow, Chair*

Our founder Pam Dearlove has written a book called 'Charlotte's Story'. It is based on the recollections of Charlotte Fellows, who was born in Germany in 1926 and lives in Hemingford Abbots. Pam has listened to Charlotte's memories of her life and experiences and set them into the context of the rise of Hitler and Nazi Germany, the Second World War, and its aftermath. Charlotte's family are delighted with Pam's work, but a wider readership will be interested in this story of personal struggle and ingenuity in such challenging times. It is available on Amazon.

## **The Hemingford B&W Social Group**

We meet on the last Thursday of the month at 7:30pm in the Reading Room. We're a friendly social group that enjoys informative talks and events – you can bring your own refreshments. Next events:

- 24th April – A century of deadly doctors
- 29th May – Houghton Mill & Milling
- 26th June – W heatsheaf Brewery Talk & Tasting

Look out for posters around the village and on Facebook for our upcoming future talks and events. For further information please email [hemingfordbw@gmail.com](mailto:hemingfordbw@gmail.com) or ring Steven on 07984 934579.

## HubClub exercises bring benefits

Our fortnightly seated exercises have progressed to partly standing classes! Participants are showing huge improvements in core strength and balance. If you want to improve your mobility, strength and feelgood factor, please come along. It's free, fun and you can sing along to some classic disco tunes. There's tea and biscuits after too.

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

- Apr 9 Easter tea at the Parish Centre
- Apr 23 A talk about bees and honey
- May 7 Film show with ice cream
- May 21 Gary Baker gives a fascinating nature talk

Seated and standing exercise classes on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April, and 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May.

Contact details: T: 07308 035416 E: [hemingfordhub@icloud.com](mailto:hemingfordhub@icloud.com),  
[www.hemingfordhub.co.uk](http://www.hemingfordhub.co.uk), Registered Charity No: 1194706

## The Sports Academy [www.sportsacademycic.co.uk](http://www.sportsacademycic.co.uk)



Sports Academy Juniors are busy fundraising for their upcoming Squash tour to Portugal, where they have a fantastic opportunity to compete in the Portuguese Open. Competing in the event will provide them with international exposure and the opportunity to test their skills against some of the best juniors in Europe! So far, they have managed to raise over £300! The coaches are incredibly proud of the efforts the juniors have put into their fundraising. From bake sales to raffles, they've been working hard! Thank you to the local community who have been incredibly supportive. Parents, friends, and local businesses have all played a part, offering donations and participating in events.



## What's on at Your Local ...

Come join us for our quiz on the first Sunday of the month - next one is Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm. £2.50 entry for a chance to win a £50 Cambscuisine voucher! Dilyan, our new Head Chef, has come up with a great new menu with treats such as Creedy Carver Duck Breast and Braised Beef Cheek. We still have our usual Ales and a rotating guest ale. Our beer garden is always open with our pods available to hire out for just £20! And from the 21<sup>st</sup> of April we'll be open on Mondays!

# hemingford PAVILION

[www.hemingfordpavilion.com](http://www.hemingfordpavilion.com)

Email: [enquiries@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk)

Tel: 01480 464490

Manor Road, Hemingford Grey, PE28 9BX

Summer is coming and the Football Club teams will be playing their final matches of this season at the end of April. The Bowls Club, Hemingford Park Cricket Club and the Tennis Club members will be starting a new season. Why not consider taking up something new. See our website.

BBQ Fridays will be returning weekly on the Sports Field. Most Fridays, there is also a friendly cricket match to watch, a lovely way to start your weekend.

The Lounge Bar televises most major sports matches and is open 5pm - 9.30pm, weekdays. 2pm - 7.30pm, Saturdays, and 2pm - 7pm, Sundays.

As a licenced member's club, membership is a condition of our licence. Membership is only £5 per year, for a single person, couple, or family. You can complete a membership form on-line or when you visit at the bar!



All proceeds to the conservation of St Margaret's Church  
THE FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH  
REGISTERED CHARITY 1104625



*Hemingford  
Abbots*  
**Flower Festival**  
28 - 29 JUNE 2025  
GARDENS OPEN 11AM - 5PM

Over 20 open gardens

Day ticket £10	Afternoon teas & refreshments	Historic cars & motorbikes
Weekend ticket £16	Church flower display	Boat trips
Under 16s FREE	Church concerts & Evensong	Plant sales
FREE parking	Concert bands	Arts & crafts stalls
	Morris dancers	Vintage tractors

Tickets available at  
Chapmans Field car park,  
Village Hall and some gardens

For more information, please visit [hemingfordabbots.org.uk](http://hemingfordabbots.org.uk)  [haflowerfestival](https://www.facebook.com/haflowerfestival)



MUSICAL DIRECTOR AND CHOIR FOUNDER  
ELAINE GUNN  
AND PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY ANNA ALDOUS

**SPRING CONCERT**  
WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
DEBORAH ROBSON—SAXOPHONE  
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

**SUNDAY 13TH APRIL**  
@ 3.00PM

**ST MARGARET'S CHURCH  
HEMINGFORD ABBOTS**  
No entry charge  
Donations in support of  
The Choir and St Margaret's Church

# Hemingford Grey Parish Council

*Proud to serve the people of Hemingford Grey*



The Parish Council meets in the **Reading Rooms at 7.00pm** on the **second Monday of each month** (except August and December).

Parish Council meetings are open to everyone. Residents can ask questions or make comments and observations on matters or items on the agenda at the start of the meeting. Please note that after this 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](http://www.hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/hemingfordgreypc](http://www.facebook.com/hemingfordgreypc)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/hemgreypc](http://www.twitter.com/hemgreypc)

## Your 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](mailto:parish.clerk@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

***The next edition of the newsletter will be out in June 2025***

Published by Hemingford Grey Parish Council. Editor: Cllr Richard Allen