

Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

May 2020



Our 75th VE Day anniversary celebrations

Notes from the Chair

A lot has changed since I wrote my last notes from the Chair section in March and I hope that this latest edition of the newsletter finds you and your families safe and well.

As I write this sat in my garden, I can hear the swifts calling in the sky above – personally I always find their arrival at the beginning of May uplifting. This, and the many social media posts about muntjac deer, foxes and badgers in and around the village, are all signs that even in these turbulent times our natural world is resilient and adaptable. We are very lucky to have such an abundance of nature on our doorsteps – in walking distance or a short bike ride from home – and this is particularly important for our mental and physical health at this time.

Many of us will have been and may continue to be worried about the health and welfare of our families, friends and communities during this difficult time. It has been fantastic to see so many in the parish reaching out to assist others and celebrating the achievements of our key workers. I would like to give a special thank you to all those involved with the Hemingford Hub. The Parish Council were delighted to provide an additional grant to support their activities at our first virtual meeting held earlier this month. Similarly, it was great to see people throughout the village do their bit to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Although large street parties were out of the question, many still managed to hang out the bunting and enjoy teas and driveway picnics for a socially distanced celebration.

The passing of Derek Clifton will be felt by many and our village owes him a huge debt of gratitude for everything that he did and achieved during his lifetime. His 53 years as a Parish Councillor (including 12 as its Chair) and his tireless support of the Regatta, the Pavilion, and many of the other activities and events that now form the bedrock of the village calendar will continue as a lasting legacy of his efforts.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has disrupted the lives of most of us, and it is in all our interests that activities return to some kind of normal as soon as it is safe to do so. By the time our next newsletter is published in July, I hope we will have seen a further loosening of the lockdown, although it is likely that we will still all be adjusting to the new normal. Stay safe!

Cllr Richard Allen – Chair, Hemingford Grey Parish Council

Obituary - Derek Clifton's Hemingford life *by Robin Waters, with help from Cynthia Clifton, Bridget Flanagan, Viv Desborough, John Jenkin and Don Costello.*



Derek Clifton served as a councillor for 53 years until 2019. He respected everyone as equals, no matter what their background, and was unfailingly straight and honest.

Derek was born on Docksey's Farm in St Ives Road in 1935. He went to the local school until his teachers and father decided he would learn

more on the farm than in the classroom. He started work when ploughs were horse-drawn and the railway to Huntingdon crossed their land. He spoke about the train travelling very slowly over the rickety wooden Ouse bridges, sometimes stopping to allow local vegetables to be exchanged for lumps of coal.

When his father bought his first tractor, Derek became its keeper. Derek used his tractor and trailer as a rescue service during floods. And he used his mower to keep the village open spaces ready for football, cricket and general recreation.

Derek became a parish councillor in 1966 serving as chair several times. His passion was caring for the village environment. He was always helpful to new councillors with a knowledge of our farmland, how the drainage systems work in our flood-prone parish, and the continuing evolution of our built-up area.

After the war, the famous Hemingford Regatta was in danger of fading away until Derek and friends reinvigorated it in the 1960s. He won the Vicar's Sculls eight times between 1957 and 1974, on the last occasion with his son David rowing and his daughter Cheryl as cox. He was chair of the regatta committee five times from 1968-1978 and has persuaded many of us to help out since.

His son's death at a very early age broke his heart, but he found happiness with Cynthia, his second wife, and was a great-grandfather when he died. His grave is close to his son's in our Pound Road cemetery, which he had himself maintained immaculately for the parish.

Derek never had a bad word for anyone, but lots of amusing anecdotes if you caught him with a pint in his hand. There is a riverside bench dedicated to his first 40 years on the council and a plaque in the Pavilion celebrating 50 years and his lifetime of service to the village. Every resident of the village will have benefited in some way from Derek's involvement and we hope you will celebrate Derek Clifton's legacy. We hope to celebrate his life when we can gather together again. Thank you Derek, it was a privilege to know you.

School report: ‘Together everyone achieves more’

by Kirsten Marriott, Headteacher

Hemingford Grey Primary School’s motto has helped us adapt to learning in new and unusual ways during COVID-19, and to become a closer community.

We closed the school doors to everyone except for vulnerable and key workers’ children on Friday 20 March, and teaching took on practical as well as classroom-based learning. Teaching for all our pupils at home during lockdown has continued by using See-Saw — our online learning platform. Teachers have set learning tasks, given feedback, read stories and sent messages to pupils and their families. Our improvements in using technology over the last year have paid off, meaning we were ready to embrace remote learning as an opportunity.

The children and families have been fantastic with sharing not only the great learning they have been doing at home, but also the really important bits! They have shared the mud pies, cake-baking, gardening, walks, board games, bike rides, den-building, Lego models and much more. The importance for our school at this unusual time has been for all our families to stay safe and happy.

Our staff have kept the children who continued to attend school busy with outdoor activities like pond-dipping, gardening in the school allotments and feeding the school chickens. Thankfully, there has been plenty of sunshine, and on rainy days we have filled the windows with artwork for passers-by to see.

The school team is busy planning how to re-open when the time comes, while ensuring meals or vouchers get to the families who most need them. We look forward to welcoming pupils, families, staff and governors back to school as soon as it is safe to do so.

Hemingford sewing scrubs for the NHS *by Maria Chambers*

Hemingford residents Erika Brown, Sue Henderson and Claire Sanderson have organised teams to sew items for local NHS hospitals, GP surgeries and care home workers. There are 30+ Hemingford sewers, part of a nationwide effort of 50,000 people who belong to a Facebook group called For the Love of Scrubs.

All sorts of materials have been transformed into scrubs, from superhero duvet sets to 70s flower power sheets. Long-term these scrubs will be sent to hospitals in third world countries.

Scouts run virtual events *by Tony Rogers, 1st Hemingfords Scout Group*

All face-to-face meetings of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts were suspended from 17 March by Scout headquarters, at least until schools return. Instead it rolled out a

virtual programme called The Great Indoors, which includes lots of ideas for members to work on at home. Using the web and social media Scouts participated in Camp at Home events and the Big Night In. There was A Hike to the Moon where families and volunteers fund-raised by walking a mile at home or in the garden. Cubs and Beavers are holding regular virtual meetings.

Scouts' promise renewals on St George's Day were done individually at home. All camping trips have been postponed for a year.

Dr Walshe reaches 100 under lockdown *by Esther Harrod*



Dr John Walshe celebrated his 100th birthday on 24 April, but he had to wait until nearly lunchtime for his birthday message from the Queen to arrive! Royal Mail's service was running slowly that day. Luckily he did receive many hand-delivered cards, including 20 homemade greetings from children in the village.

John wasn't able to attend the planned party with close family, friends and ex-patients, but his daughter Susan and son-in-law Phil made sure he enjoyed his quieter big day. Even the peal of church bells couldn't be rung to

mark the day. Residents Camille Altman, Jade and Elsie Edwards created a birthday banner, and socially-distanced friends and neighbours sang *Happy Birthday* and *Nellie the Elephant* to Dr Walshe outside his front door, followed by applause for the new centenarian. We hope you enjoyed your day John despite COVID-19's best attempt to spoil it.

HAG report on the New Draft Waste and Minerals Local Plan

The plan has now been submitted to Government and an inspector, Stephen Normington, has been appointed. The examination process has started. Programme Officer Dr Rebecca Casa-Hatton has been appointed and can be contacted if you wish to participate in the three upcoming hearings on: mwprogrammeofficer@peterborough.gov.uk

19 June: Deadline to tell us if you wish to take part in the hearings

10 July: Deadline for the submission of pre-hearing statements

15 September: Date of first hearing.

For subsequent hearing dates, please refer to the provisional programme on the examination website: www.peterborough.gov.uk/mwlp-examination

The final draft plan has some of our changes. We have informed them we would like to participate in the hearings. Iain.Muspratt@hemingfordsactiongroup.co.uk



How Hemingford Hub has been responding to COVID-19

The Hub provides free help and practical advice, especially for the elderly and housebound. This includes:

Delicious nutritious meals

We are delivering lunches at least a couple of times a month for some of our elderly or vulnerable residents registered with Hemingford Hub. These have been designed to help support the immune system. Feedback has been positive.

Phone a new friend

Many of our volunteers are themselves self-isolating, and would love the chance to chat with someone in a similar situation. We'd be delighted to put you in touch with each other as the weeks of isolation challenge our spirits.

Borrow some fresh jigsaws

Do you like doing jigsaw puzzles, but have exhausted the ones you own? Would you like to try some new ones? We have organised a jigsaw library. You can select one from a photograph, and we will deliver it. Returned jigsaws are quarantined for at least three days before going out again.

Bird seed proves popular

Our supply of free bird seed has flown out of the window to our isolated residents who enjoy seeing birds in their gardens. It is delivered in handy recycled milk containers!



Face masks for our volunteers

Thank you to the Hub sewers for providing face masks for our volunteers and 'at risk' residents. The need to wear them will be with us for a while yet.

Chat to your family and friends with our iPad service

Being isolated means that many elderly people miss out on joining in family video chats. Hemingford Hub can now set up these chats. All we need is the email address or phone number of those you'd like to chat to face-to-face on a screen. You don't need to have Wi-Fi at home, our kit brings your family and friends direct to a screen set up at a safe distance by your front door. It's private and you don't need to touch the iPad screen and all hygiene practices are observed. If you would like to be able to see and chat with lots of your family at the same time, just get in touch with us.



As one person who participated in such a call said: 'I thought I'd let you know the massive impact Hemingford Hub has had on my family. My grandma is a resident of Hemingford Grey and yesterday thanks to an initialisation from Hemingford Hub, our family came together for the first time in over 15 years on Zoom, with five generations of children and covering four times zones! Quite an achievement, so from all my family – Thank you.'

We're grateful to all our funders

Hemingford Hub Good Neighbour Scheme has received financial support from Cambridgeshire County Council's Innovate and Cultivate Scheme, Hemingford Grey Parish Council, Hemingford Abbots Parish Council, A14 Community Fund, Huntingdon District Council Community Chest, Tesco, Waitrose, Chorus Homes, and many generous and ex-pat residents. We thank you all.

Helping more of our neighbours

Thank you to our 140+ volunteers who are currently in touch with 260 'at risk' households. We know there are more who should be taking extra care, and ideally staying at home. If you are over 70, in the clinically vulnerable category, or have been advised to stay home for medical (not virus) reasons, and haven't contacted Hemingford Hub already, then please ring the number below. We can help with shopping, getting prescriptions, delivering a newspaper, dog walking, posting mail and more. If you are concerned about something and don't know where to turn, contact us and we will get you the help you need.

Getting in touch

Mobile: 07308 035416

Email: hemingfordhub@icloud.com

For information: www.hemingfordhub.co.uk

Join us on Facebook



The Hub committee is run by residents:
Chair: Dr Jo Wills; Deputy chair: Riva Elliott; Secretary: Tish Peek; Treasurer: Christine Batter; Volunteers manager (Grey): Linda Dampney; Web, data and IT: Adrian Smith



County Councillor's report *by Cllr Ian Bates*

My working life was mainly at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge. I am keeping a keen eye on the new pandemic and how scientists across the world are researching for a vaccine. Astra Zeneca, Cambridge, is playing a vital role.

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) has combined a Shielded list it holds of people, with that on the government's Vulnerable list. The total comes to almost 30,000. We are contacting all these people to find out their needs. But we know there are many others we haven't made contact with yet. If you are one of those we've missed, contact: www.wearehuntingdonshire.org; call: 01480 388388 or E: crm_communitydevelopment@huntingdonshire.gov.uk; or Hemingford Hub.

I've noticed the great feeling of goodwill throughout our villages, with neighbours and friends pulling together to keep our spirits up and offering practical help. I am grateful to those involved in Hemingford Hub — keep up your sterling efforts and well done to all!

Hemingfords July Regatta cancelled

In light of government advice on large group gatherings and social distancing — the committee has taken the difficult decision to cancel this July's Regatta.

Garden Society offers members virtual advice

by Mike Henderson: henderson_michael@sky.com

The Hemingford Grey Garden Society is doing well and all members realise how lucky we are having a garden to care for. I took over as the main contact six months ago, and held our AGM by Zoom in April after cancelling it in March. We are currently a virtual society, offering plants (from the cancelled plant sale) and advice on design and planting, as well as identifying trees and shrubs.

History Society's weekly insights

HEMLOCs is emailing a weekly article by Bridget Flanagan, including some interesting old village photographs. This will continue until society meetings can recommence. Further details can be found on their website: www.hemlocs.co.uk

Car recorded driving at 75 mph through the village

The speed sign on Hemingford Road has monitored a car travelling at 75mph. This is unacceptable driving behaviour. Most drivers are law-abiding, but exceptions like this threatens the lives of cyclists and pedestrians, as well as other car drivers.

Great walking and cycling routes for you *by Peter Quest*

It's been great to see many more people cycling and walking in the Hemingfords. It's good for mental as well as physical health! Here are the first of some recommendations for cycle routes on quiet roads or paths (distances are measured from the shop):

Godmanchester Nature Reserve via Common Lane in Hemingford Abbots. About 5 miles (8km) return plus up to 2 miles (3km) to walk around the reserve.

Fenstanton, Dry Drayton & the Guided Busway. Follow the Low Road to Fenstanton and then the road to Dry Drayton. Turn left on to the High Street which becomes the Holywell Ferry Road to the Guided Busway. There is no longer a ferry but follow the busway back to St Ives and across the old Bridge to Hemingford Grey. About 9 miles (14km). For an extra treat take in Swavesey and join the busway just past the church to return to St Ives. (+ 4 miles, 6km) Optional walk round the RSPB reserve — if open!

We'll provide some further suggestions in our next issue, but if you can't wait until then, the best route map for this area is the Ordnance Survey Explorer 225 Huntingdon and St. Ives.

St James' Church virtual services see attendances grow

Since offering 'virtual church' on the Zoom platform in the village, our Sunday attendance in Hemingford Grey has increased by at least 26%. St James' is also offering Night Prayer every evening at 9pm. This service hasn't been held in church before, and it is receiving a gratifyingly good attendance.

Junior Church (what some may remember as Sunday School) also continues online every Sunday morning. The vicar is producing short five-minute video stories for Tots' Praise, and this is available to all via the website.

Parish lunch on wheels

We have been unable to offer our monthly Parish Lunch with its Thought for the Day, so this month the church provided a Parish Lunch on Wheels, delivered to our regular attendees.

We are producing a printed copy of our weekly communication for those who have visual impairments in large print black and white, and a colour broadsheet is being delivered to those who struggle with email or do not have access to the internet. These are also available on the church website: churchbytheriver.org

For more information contact the Parish Centre on 01480 467250

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	PC Rec	HDC Dec
18/00824/PMBPA	Long Lane Fm – Change of use from agric. Building to C3 dwellinghouse etc	Request full PA	Unknown
18/02726/FUL	Former car showroom, London Rd, St Ives – residential development (62)	Commented	In progress
19/80044/COND	15 Langley Way – conditional information – materials	Noted	Unknown
19/01234/S106	Yes, London Rd – variation to S106 agreement – mortgage	Commented	In progress
19/01917/FUL	Agricultural buildings, Long lane – change of use etc (re 18/02402/FUL)	Approval	Approved
19/02280/FUL	Land north of the How –redevelopment including new houses	Refusal	In progress
19/02559/FUL	Sycamore House, 8 Madeley Court – replacement of dwelling with new one	Refusal	In progress
19/02441/HHFUL	38 High Street – erection of detached open framed timber car port	Approval	Approved
FMW/072/19	Land at New Farm, Rideaway, Hemingford Abbots – changes to conditions for waste management site	Refusal	In progress
20/00087/NMA	42 Marsh Lane – amendment to 19/01490/HHFUL rear window to French window	Approval	Approved
19/02531/LBC	67 High Street – re-roof artist's studio	Noted	Approved
20/200051/HHFUL	41 St Ives Rd – construction of detached garage in front garden	Refusal	Refused
20/00234/HHFUL	16 Langley Way – retrospective application of demolition of garage and replacement	Approval	Approved
20/00290/HHFUL	10 Pound Rd – single-storey side extension	Approval	Approved
20/00285/FUL	F Vindis and Sons, Low Rd – demolition of structures and erection of 106 dwellings	Refusal	In progress

HDC reference	Description	PC Rec	HDC Dec
20/00461/EXTDET	5 Stepping Stones – single-storey extension to rear	No comment	Approved
20/00465/EXTDET	5 Pound Rd – single-storey extension to rear	No comment	Approved
20/00262/NMA	5 The Thorpe – amendment to 19/01614/HHFUL, materials and fenestration	No comment	Approved
20/00228/CLPD	14 Skylark Place – single storey extension to rear	Noted	Approved
20/00004/HHFUL	19 Pound Road – new porch to front elevation	Approval	Approved
19/80377/COND	Lake Ashmore, Long Lane – conditional information for 19/01168/FUL		Conditional reply
19/80025/COND	Water’s Edge, Meadow Lane – conditions in relation to archaeology	Noted	Conditional reply
20/00414/HHFUL *	11A Gore Tree Rd – replacement garage	Supported	Approved
20/00375/HHFUL *	9 Gore Tree Rd – addition of first floor accommodation etc	Supported	In progress
19/01671/FUL *	Land north of former golf course, Houghton Rd, St Ives – layout of 3 units	Neutral	Approved
20/00216/HHFUL *	26 Weir Rd – extensions ground floor and first floor	Objected	In progress
20/00569/S73	Ag buildings, Long Lane – variations to conditions 2 and 3.	Approval	In progress
20/00535/HHFUL	24 Weir Rd – proposed side and rear extension etc	Approval	In progress
20/00675/FUL	29 High Street – change of use to form 3 dwellings	Approval	In progress

Due to the lockdown, some applications were not considered at a planning committee meeting (identified by *). Instead, councillors submitted their opinions on the applications to the Clerk, who submitted a response on the council’s behalf — hence the change in wording. Official site visits were not made to the applicant or neighbours.

The parish council submitted a robust recommendation for refusal in relation to the Vindis site. As yet, no application has been submitted by McCarthy and Stone for the site off Old London Road.

The applications with NMA, CPLD, EXTDET references listed in the above table are for information only. These applications relate to permitted development and as the parish council is not a statutory consultee, we sometimes note them only.

Hemingford Grey Parish Council



We would welcome applications from residents to fill the three vacancies on the parish council. To find out more or to apply, please contact the parish clerk. Meetings are normally held on the second Monday of each month in the Reading Room, although currently they are being run online. Dates for our next meetings are listed below.

Main parish council (including planning) 7.30pm 8 June / 13 July

Our agendas are posted on the website, village notice boards, and the village store. 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
Edward Byam-Cook	The Old Bakehouse, 40 High St	464167
Doug Dew	4 Weir Road	469814
Riva Elliott	38 Church Street	494142
Janice Flint	30 Marsh Lane	07816 438765
Sarah Jakes	Meadow View, 99 London Rd	466813
Anne Meredith	18 De Vere Close	465774
Tim Puttick	3 Skylark Place	509481
Mark Sheridan	1 Burlington Way	07885 277698
Robin Waters (vice-chair)	18 Hemingford Road	07833 901680

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

Parish Clerk: Gail Stoehr

A: 30 West Drive, Highfields, Caldecote, Cambridge, CB23 7NY

T: 01954 210241 **E:** parishclerk@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Editor: Riva Elliott Sub-editor: Janice Flint Webmaster: Kim Loader

The next edition of the newsletter will be out in July 2020