

Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

March 2020



The Hemingford centenarian who discovered a life-saving treatment



Plus:

- Action group's legal move on waste plan
- Flooding threatens pennywort removal
- How will the village look in 10 years?
- Launch of parish climate change group

Notes from the Chair

Despite the recent storms and regular flooding of the Hemingford meadow, we've had a relatively mild winter, and the first signs a spring are definitely evident around the village.

While we have been lucky so far in the parish, with only limited impact from the recent weather conditions, other parts of the country have fared less favourably. Like parliament and many other local authorities, Hemingford Grey Parish Council declared a climate emergency at our February meeting.

We have also established a climate change group, as a sub-set of our environment group, to identify changes we can deliver locally to mitigate climate change. The group already has some ideas, but would be delighted to receive suggestions or offers of help from anyone. One of the first things they will be organising is the next phase of our village tree-planting programme as part of the parish's spring litter pick.

In a similar vein, I would like to thank all those involved with our recent bird-box project, especially the Hemingford scouts and cubs, and all those who kindly sponsored the bird boxes. I'm looking forward to seeing just how many new nesting residents we have setting up home around the village during the next few months.

Finally, we are always on the lookout for people who would like to get more involved. We currently have three vacancies on the parish council, so if you'd like to know more about what's involved, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. If you'd like to apply, please contact the clerk. Alternatively, if you only have an hour or two to spare, why not join us on Saturday 21 March for the parish litter pick. I hope to see as many of you on the day as possible.

Cllr Richard Allen – Chair, Hemingford Grey Parish Council



Hemingford resident who discovered life-saving treatment

By Esther Harrod

Dr John Walshe, who celebrates his 100th birthday on 24 April, is renowned for a life-saving discovery. He found a treatment for patients suffering from Wilson's Disease – a genetic, terminal illness affecting people with high levels of copper in their body. Dr Walshe describes the symptoms as “similar to Parkinson's Disease, but much worse”. He tested the medication on himself before it was given to patients!

He has lived in his 17th century Hemingford home for 62 years, and a birthday greeting from the Queen will recognise him as one of the village's oldest residents.

He moved from London with his wife, Ann, and brought up their children here. Dr Walshe studied at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, from 1939. He went on to work at London's University College Hospital. He was following in the footsteps of his father, Sir Francis Walshe, who was a world-famous neurologist.

Dr Walshe was a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps and later worked in the US. His career spanned many years as a consultant physician at Addenbrookes, retiring aged 80. Dr Walshe wrote medical papers into his 90s, and to this day continues to be revered by former patients from all over the world.

His wife Ann, who passed away in 2011 after 55 years of marriage, was also well-known in the village. She typed up Lucy Boston's manuscripts for her children's books, many of which were based on stories about the Manor House where she lived.

Dr Walshe's hobbies include taking brass rubbings, photographing churches and medieval stained glass windows. He also enjoys watching cricket and rugby. He appreciates the care given by his daughter Susan and son-in-law Phil, as well as his other daughter Clare and his three grandchildren.

He will be celebrating quietly at home with his family. Happy 100th birthday wishes, Dr Walshe.

Flooding brings back pennywort threat



Floods have submerged the pile of pennywort weed excavated from the Ouse by the Environment Agency (EA). It was dumped on the riverbank, where it should have withered and died. But recent weather events mean we could have another flare-up of this invasive water weed. It only takes a minuscule fragment to restart its rapid growth, resulting in choking the natural flow of the river, drainage systems with a threat to flora and fauna.

An Environment Agency spokesperson said: “Floating pennywort can easily be spread by flood events as it can re-grow from very small fragments. Recently removed material could still be capable of re-growth if washed back into the water before it had dried out.

“The Environment Agency has a five-year strategy to control floating pennywort on the Great Ouse, which we are continuing to implement this year.”

She said that anyone with water-based activity experience interested in leading a local Rivercare volunteer group in the Hemingford Grey area to monitor and control the floating pennywort should send their details to anglian-invasive@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Be part of our climate change group

The parish council’s environment group has set up a climate change and recycling group, headed up by Cllr Sarah Jakes, our youngest parish councillor, to address how we can help prevent the ravages forecast for our future. She is putting together a plan, and welcomes help and advice from those who would like to be part of this important drive to improve the eco-health of the village. We hope more young people will join this group, which has huge implications for their futures. The first initiative is a village tree-planting programme.

Contact Sarah Jakes 01480 466813 or sarah.jakes@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Plan offers pizza for a piece of your mind

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) steering group would like to meet younger parish residents to find out their vision for the future of our community. Look out for dates to be posted on social media.

The NP steering group is awaiting final confirmation of a grant from the Neighbourhood Planning Programme, funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to carry out this research and other consultations with all our residents.

Everyone will be sent a newsletter explaining what a neighbourhood plan is, and how we can all benefit from having one in place. Then you will receive a survey asking your views, likes and dislikes about Hemingford Grey at present, and how you’d like to see change over the next 10 years. Please fill in this questionnaire to make sure you can inject your input.

This will be followed up with consultations for younger groups (over pizza), and for local businesses and farmers. The latter will be invited for a meeting this month in the Garden Room Café.

The steering group is keen to encourage more people to attend our monthly meetings. Please come along if you're interested in, or have some expertise in, environmental issues, youth culture, social media marketing or public relations. The meetings are informal, and you are welcome to just sit and listen. However, our experience is that you will want to join in.

Future meetings: 17 March and 21 April in the Chris Page room at the pavilion.

Contact Mark Sheridan 07885 277698 or mark.sheridan@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Bird boxes sell out in two hours, raising £150

John Cripps of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Cllr Mark Sheridan were joined by cubs James and Joe to erect bird boxes on 11 January. All 26 boxes, made by the scouts and painted by the cubs, received sponsorship within two hours at the Reading Room. They are spread around the village to encourage nesting blue tits, great tits and robins.

The council funded this project and voted to donate the sponsorship money to the cubs and scouts, RSPB Huntingdonshire and Hemingford Grey Gardeners' Society (for the primary school).

For more wildlife information contact:

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/huntingdonshire



March litter pick, tree-planting and pruning

The parish council spring litter pick and tree-planting will take place on Saturday 21 March, 10am–12 noon. The parish council has bought a cherry tree and a white-stemmed birch for the cemetery, two rowans for Glebe Road, a cherry for Mitchell Close and a common oak for the YES estate. The parish would like to thank Emma Clichy of Cambridgeshire County Council for replacing Green Close's dead tree with two birches.



If you are interested in taking part in the litter pick, please meet at either Daintree Green or the Yes Estate (play area). Equipment and rubbish bags will be provided. Afterwards, refreshments will be available in the Garden Room Café.

If you are free on the morning of Wednesday 25 March, we need volunteers to help with pruning the community orchard (by the allotments). Amateurs and professionals (plus their secateurs and pruning shears) are welcome.

Contact Janice Flint on 07816 438765 or janice.flint@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Fallen trees swiftly dealt with during storms

The parish council took speedy action in organising the clearance of fallen trees during the February storms.

This picture shows the tree blocking Filbert's Walk.



Memory Lane's singalongs are a big hit with seniors

Esther Harrod and Steve Herring put together a different musical theme that taps into senior residents' memories from younger days each month through their Memory Lane singalong.

There is a singalong on 5 March with Jane Hemingway playing keyboard. Then there's an indoor street party on 2 April to celebrate the Queen's birthday. There will be some classic London songs with a red, white and blue theme and probably some dancing to the conga and hokey cokey.

A few little ones from the village pre-school share their painting and drawing skills with members on 7 May, and then they'll sing a few songs together. This will be the club's third inter-generational singing event!

On 4 June there's a free boat trip on board The Ladybird, a comfortable cruiser that gives elderly and vulnerable local groups trips along the river Ouse. (A request form must be completed by each Memory Lane member.)

A Caribbean summer party is scheduled for 9 July.

Villagers have been very generous with their support of this self-funding group, not only with their time and commitment, but with financial donations, help with music, transport, refreshments and gifts for the monthly raffle.

The club is dementia-friendly and family, friends and carers are welcome to come along too. If it's proving hard to get to the venue, let the organisers know and they will try to arrange free transport. Each session costs just £1 and includes refreshments.

Each session is held on the first Thursday of each month, 10am-12pm in the Reading Room on the High Street (apart from 4th June).

For more information, please contact Esther or Steve on 01480 392991

Get cycling for health and environmental benefits

It's time to dust off your bikes. By cycling once a week to the shops or between villages, you'll have the double benefit of improving your health and helping to cut carbon emissions.

Peter Quest, a keen resident cyclist and dedicated environmentalist, offers these tips:

- Invest in a simple shopper or hybrid bike with panniers

- Check the bike, making sure tyres are hard. This makes it easier to cycle!
- Cycle in the road, about an arm's length away from the kerb. It is not safer to cycle on the pavement, nor is it legal.
- Most cyclists are car drivers and understand drivers' problems, but not all car drivers understand cyclists' issues. So drivers, please be generous with space when overtaking, especially for the young and elderly.
- Are you too old for cycling? Well, 105-year-old Robert Marchand created a world record for his age group by cycling 14 miles in an hour. He started cycling again when he was 68.

For those who want to take up road cycling or mountain biking contact St. Ives Cycling Club on <http://www.stivescycling.org.uk/>

Walking and fishing permits for Marsh Lane

Walking permits for residents to stroll around Marsh Lane lakes are issued by the London Anglers Association (LAA) on behalf of the owners Lafarge Aggregates. You cannot get these from the village shop.

To apply for a walking permit, you must be resident within the Hemingford Grey Parish boundary. You can get one by applying to admin@londonanglers.net or telephone 0208 520 7477 for an application form. The annual walking permit fee is £6 per household, renewable on 16 June (no pro-rata rate). Paths are open from sunrise to sunset. Horse riding is not permitted, nor is camping, lighting fires, cycling, driving motorcycles or motor vehicles.

However, a walking permit does not entitle holders or visitors to fish. If you want to fish there (it holds big bream, carp and tench) you can get a permit from the village shop — though remember you still need a national fishing licence.

Make use of the community car scheme

The Hunts Volunteer Centre, run by Natalie Leigh-Brown from St Ives, has proved essential to over 30 residents who needed to attend hospital or doctors' appointments. If you, or someone you know needs help to attend medical services, please contact: Natalie at: stives@huntsvc.org.uk or call 01480 301462
Office opening hours: Monday to Thursday 12.30-3pm.

Get yourself first-aid trained for free

The Parish Council is considering hosting a first-aid training course for Hemingford Grey residents. If you're interested in attending, please contact the Clerk, Mrs Gail Stoehr at parish.clerk@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk or write to 30 West Drive, Highfields Caldecote, Cambridge, CB23 7NY. We hope to hear from enough of you to justify running this essential life skill course.

The Sports Academy on your doorstep

The Pavilion's Sports Academy offers a wide range of activities for all ages and levels of fitness. There's a gym, squash and tennis courts, as well as a superb bowling green. There are plenty of fitness classes for all ages. There's also personal training, massage therapy, circuit training and coaching in a range of sports.

Contact thesportsacademycic1962@outlook.com or call 01480 498114

The bowling club is particularly keen to welcome and coach younger people. And the tennis club has a seniors' session every week.

Contact tonyaston139@btinternet.com for bowls and go to www.hltclub.net for tennis

Support local traders — arts, crafts and foods

The village market takes place on the second Saturday of each month, where you will find many different stalls as well as members of the parish council to answer villagers' questions. Find us at the Parish Centre from 10am-2pm on 14 March, 11 April and 9 May. Make a note in your diary.

Astroturf site – Why HAGs wants to stop alteration to an old plan

There has been a groundswell of opinion following an application to alter the old planning permission for the small parcel of land, adjacent to the former and larger Hemingford golf club. This old planning permission was for an Astroturf recycling site, which historically has not met planning conditions nor acted as a waste management business. Both Hemingfords' parish councils (and Godmanchester Town Council) have recommended refusal for restarting this plan without going through updated planning application procedures. Also an on-site business has registered a complaint about the threat to the employment of its 55 staff.

Hemingfords Action Group (HAG) expects this item to be on the CCC's planning committee agenda in March or April, and would be grateful for Hemingford residents' attendance. The Environment Agency (EA) has refused to grant an environmental permit for the Astroturf site, which still needs to be cleaned up. HAG has made HDC aware that the golf club's car park is still being used without planning to store skips.

Meanwhile, the new draft waste and minerals local plan for Cambridgeshire is holding a public inquiry, taking place between March and June. HAG's solicitors have registered their wish to give oral evidence at this public inquiry, concerning the possible inclusion of the 24-football-pitch-size piece of land, formerly Hemingford golf club, as a waste management site.

If the public inquiry into the Waterbeach incinerator, reporting on March 15, decides in favour of allowing this waste site, this will benefit the HAG's case as there will be plenty of capacity in the region. There has also been a meeting with HDC to apply for the Hemingford conference centre, golf range and golf course to be granted community asset status as a major games and spectator facility.

Hemingford Hub to send out leaflets inviting you to participate

The Hub has finally trained its first group of befrienders, and matched them up with new friends and neighbourly tasks. Our leaflets are about to be distributed, inviting you to find out more about the Good Neighbour scheme. Our main aim is to make sure we contact and befriend people who, for one reason or another, find it hard to get out to join in village activities or have contact with others during lonelier days.

We have a new chair, Dr Jo Wills, who has been informally hosting tea parties for her elderly near-neighbours in Hemingford Abbots for many years. She has been supportive of our aims since we first started. We look forward to working alongside her and building the Hub's activities in both villages. We would like to extend our huge gratitude to Edward Byam-Cook, our former chair, who kept us focused and drove this initiative through the start-up phase of Hemingford Hub — definitely the hardest part of any new social enterprise!

We would be delighted to hear from potential helpers and clients. There is no lower limit on what time or skills you have to offer. Any help, especially in areas like IT or odd jobs, is always welcome. Once clients approach us (through a neighbour, family or friend) we arrange a visit and find out how we can help. It's probably the most gratifying thing you can do with very little effort on your part. It means a lot to our neighbours if we just keep in touch.

For more information contact hemingfordhub@icloud.com or call 07308 035416

Meanwhile, the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has joined forces with the Local Government Association (LGA) to raise awareness of loneliness and give guidance on how to alleviate it.

Loneliness is one of society's most significant challenges. It reduces the quality of life and has an impact on health and wellbeing. It can affect anyone of any age. Loneliness is not just about older people.

Cllr Sue Baxter, chairman of NALC, said: 'To take forward the national strategy, we must recognise that local activity is already underway. But we must redouble our efforts to work more effectively, and in partnership across local government if we are to see a real change in tackling loneliness.'

This is one of Hemingford Hub's key objectives.

The Cock — National Pub of the Year 2019

Our one and only village pub certainly punches above its weight. Why not sample some of their award-winning real ale, chosen from local breweries, at happy hour every Friday from 5-7pm?

Lunches at the Parish Centre

A hot meal is provided at a modest contribution for up to 60 older parishioners in the main hall. Anyone wanting to come along should book their place by calling Rachel or Joanne on 01480 467250. These meals are usually served on the third Wednesday each month, midday for 12.30pm and finishing by 2pm. There is usually a vegetarian option and many choices of desserts! Let Rachel or Joanne know if you need a lift when you book.

Events at the Manor House

Robert Lloyd Parry presents *Ghost Stories* by MR James — told by candlelight
Saturday 21 March

A view from a Hill and *The Treasure of Abbot Thomas*

Sunday 22 March

A Warning to the Curious and *Lost Hearts*

All events take place in the atmospheric music room of this 900 year-old house.

For bookings call The Manor: 01480 463134 or email diana_boston@hotmail.com

Crafty bargains for sale

The Lodge Flower and Craft School is hosting a Craft De-Stash sale on Saturday 25 April from 10am-2pm at Hemingford Abbots Village Hall.

Snap up a bargain as fellow crafters and makers sell their spares and wares.

There are plenty of stalls with vintage, new and pre-loved goods.

Enjoy the Crafty Café, join the Knitter and Natter corner and have a flutter on the raffle, all in aid of Mind.

If you'd like to book a table or find out more about the Craft School, please contact Maria on 01480 381457 or go to www.thelodgeflowerandcraftschool.co.uk

St James' Church Easter services

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday Holy Communion — on 26 February at 10.30am and every Wednesday until 8 April.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday 9 April "Last Supper" at 7pm

Good Friday 10 April — 10am All-Age service at St James', then

'An hour at the Cross' 2pm — meditative service at St Margaret's

Easter Day

9am Holy Communion and 11am Easter Worship at St James'

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 ref	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	In progress
19/00278/FUL	The How, Houghton Rd, St Ives- various developments within the site	Commented	Withdrawn
19/01156/FUL	16 The Thorpe — demolition of existing house and erection of new house	Approval	Approved
19/01234/S106	Yes, London Rd — variation to S106 agreement — mortgage	Commented	In progress
19/01859/HHFUL	41 High Street — erection of single storey garage	Refusal	Refused
19/01907/FUL	56 High Street — alterations and change of use for outbuildings	Approval	Approved
19/01908/LBC	As above listed building consent	No comment	Approved
19/01917/FUL	Agricultural buildings, Long Lane — change of use etc (re 18/02402/FUL)	Approval	In progress
19/02087/FUL	Water's Edge, Meadow Lane — replacement of dwelling with new one	Approval	Approved
19/01967/FUL	11B Gore Tree Road — single storey extensions to front, side and rear	Approval	Approved
19/01625/HHFUL	4 Pembroke Close — various extensions	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	In progress
FMW/072/19	Land at New Farm, Rideaway, Hemingford Abbots- changes to conditions for waste management site	Refusal	In progress

In December 2019 the committee considered the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan and submitted comments including questioning the continued inclusion of the AstroTurf site due to its small size and its location in a rural area. A representative from the Abbey Group gave a presentation on its proposals for the Vindis site at the January meeting. Its intention is to build over 90 flats and nine houses on the site. The company responded to a wide range of comments and questions from councillors and residents who raised the planning committee's attention to the clearance of some land behind old London Road and their concerns of the impact on wildlife and the possibility of a planning application. This has been followed up with Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC). Applications relating to trees with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) are visited by the tree wardens and a report is submitted to HDC. For further information contact anne.meredith@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Hemingford Grey Parish Council



We welcome applications from residents to fill three vacancies on the parish council. If you would like to know more about how to apply, contact the parish clerk. All our meetings are held on the second Monday of each month in the Reading Room on the High Street. Dates for 2020's spring meetings are listed below.

Planning committee	7pm	9 March/13 April/11 May
Main parish council	7.30pm	9 March/13 April/11 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
Edward Byam-Cook	The Old Bakehouse, 40 High Street	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 Road	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

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