



**We will remember them**

**St John the Baptist Church honours the fallen**

**Hartbeat Extra – November 2020**

# Welcome to Hartbeat Extra

*Hartbeat* is usually published twice each year by Hartwell Parish Council. *Hartbeat Extra* is a special online edition published by Hartwell Parish Council in November 2020. Many thanks to all of our contributors who have found something interesting to write about in spite of all the cancellations, difficulties and uncertainties of the last eight months. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that the information in *Hartbeat Extra* is accurate, the Publishers accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions. All content must be attributable to an author: non-attributable material will not be published. If your organisation has been overlooked, we apologise for the omission – we'll try to make sure it doesn't happen again. Please let us know by emailing [deputyclerk@hartwellparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@hartwellparishcouncil.gov.uk).

You have found your way to *Hartbeat Extra* on the Parish Council website. We hope you enjoy this special issue. Please pass the word that it's well worth a read – all people need to do is find

[www.hartwellparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hartwellparishcouncil.gov.uk)

or

Google - Hartwell Parish Council

The compiler of this special edition is Derek Hawley with valued technical assistance from Amy Holt (Deputy Parish Clerk).



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## **Hartwell Parish Council**

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[www.hartwellparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hartwellparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The Council is:

Cllr George Jones (Chair)	01604 864100
Cllr David Heron (Vice Chair)	01604 863622
Cllr Andy Bodman	07810 343211
Cllr Brian Burrows	07840 759495
Cllr Val Foster	<a href="mailto:clerk@hartwellparishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@hartwellparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Derek Hawley	01604 862533

The Council meets on the second Thursday of each month except for August when no meeting is held. Further details can be found on the Parish Council website- [www.hartwellparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hartwellparishcouncil.gov.uk)

At the time of publication (November 2020) all meetings are virtual on Zoom and start at 7pm – joining details can be found on the agenda posted a few days before on village noticeboards or on the Parish Council website.

All meetings are open to the public and include a public participation session. Contact the Parish Clerk for further information – [clerk@hartwellparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hartwellparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The agenda and minutes for meetings are posted on the village noticeboards and on the Parish Council website.

## George Jones, Parish Council Chairman, writes

Welcome to the Autumn 2020 edition of *Hartbeat*, in a different format as, owing to Covid-19, we are unable to produce and distribute our usual magazine.

Apologies to all our contributors and advertisers who produced content for our expected Spring edition of *Hartbeat*, that was cancelled at short notice owing to the Covid-19 lockdown.

So, this Autumn edition goes out electronically and we're glad you have found your way to it and hope you will find it useful and informative. Thanks to all of our contributors whose articles we hope will inform, interest and encourage you.

Since March many, many things have changed in our lives, in the way we do things, and in the ways we have had to adapt to the challenges that Covid-19 has inflicted on us all. For many this has been inconvenience, restricted opportunity and loss of contact but for some profound loneliness, mental stress, unemployment, financial distress, illness and even greater tragedy.

So as 2020 comes to a close, let's hope that that 2021 sees our lives getting back to normality. My fingers are crossed.

As for the Parish Council, one of the effects of the issues of Covid 19, is that all our council meetings take place on Zoom. This may well persist well into next year until it is possible for the Community Centre to return to something like normal.

Earlier in the year two Parish Councillors stood down, Cllrs John Budden and Anne Halliwell. I would like to thank both Councillors for all their help and input to the Parish Council.

I am pleased to welcome Andy Bodman, who joined the Council in November.

Regarding Parish Council matters, all the street lighting in the village has been renumbered. If anyone sees an issue with any lamp, can they please report the issue to me, you can contact me on 01604 864100 giving me the details i.e. lamp number or the area the issue is in so that I can report this fault directly to our street lighting contractors. Please do not report street lighting faults on Fix My Street, as it takes longer for the fault to be repaired.

The above is one of my roles, the others are Highways Warden, issues to do with any of the village area, also Footpath/Bridleway warden dealing with any issues regarding the latter. My contact number is on 01604 864100.

We have vacancies on the Council. Look out for the article about this later in *Hartbeat Extra*. If you are interested in joining the Parish Council, please contact any member of the Parish Council, or the Parish Clerk.

## What is the Parish Council doing in 2020?

- Meeting monthly, currently on Zoom - open meetings: anyone may attend to observe or speak in the public participation session
- Setting the annual budget and precept (to be finalised in January) + monthly monitoring
- Organising routine maintenance in village, in the cemetery and the community centre field – mowing (March to November), following up on street lighting issues, litter collection, dog bins
- Protracted legal work, now completed (by Parish Clerk), for release of SNC funding for Community Centre playground from New Homes Bonus funds
- Community grants - providing financial support to local organisations and to supporting new village projects – applications recently invited – closing December 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Maintaining the parish council website including links for Covid-19 guidance
- Ensuring finances are audited and that the council is legally compliant
- Overseeing the cemetery and arrangements for burials
- Checking tree safety where trees are in council ownership e.g. tree survey for cemetery and pocket park
- Noting planning applications – organising village meetings in the case of controversial new housing development proposals including employing a planning consultant
- Following up on road safety concerns – monitoring speeding (SID), safety notices, concerns about parking at Salcey Forest
- Checking on footpath maintenance by County Council
- Liaising with County Council over street maintenance issues

## Hartwell War Memorial

The village war memorial was the scene on November 8<sup>th</sup> of a brief but heartfelt and solemn wreath laying ceremony by the representatives of uniformed movements and village groups. The surrounding beds were cleared and tidied before Remembrance Sunday and planted with tete-a-tete daffodil bulbs which will show in the spring. It would be much appreciated if all passing villagers could help keep the area tidy and the emerging plants safe by discouraging children and dogs from walking on the bare soil.

# Could you be the one?

I'm a fairly recent member of Hartwell Parish Council and I want to put the word out that we are in need of more councillors – people with the best interests of the village at heart and who want to make good use of the financial resources and powers that we have.

I became a member of the Parish Council towards the end of 2018 partly because there was a shortage of councillors at that time. Now in the Covid era, with virtual meetings currently on Zoom, we are pretty short-handed again. Thanks to a recent new joiner we now have six councillors. We can't hold a meeting unless there are 4 present so an illness, quarantine, someone being away can make it impossible to do business. A full complement of councillors would be 11 and it feels to me that we need at least 8 to make the Council work really well. We urgently need more opinions, more women and some younger voices.

I'm well aware that some people reading this will have been parish councillors in the past or are making or have made an important contribution to village organisations over the years. The parish council is not alone in wishing more people felt they could find the time and the inclination to get involved. There are about 800 households in Hartwell – we surely ought to be able to manage at least one councillor per 100 households!

Important business is coming up in the next few months. Village groups are currently being invited to apply for community grants. Soon we shall be setting the budget for 2021/2 which keeps village services such as street lighting, the cemetery, village maintenance, litter collection, dog bins, youth work, Hartbeat, the council website and much more going. Maybe another controversial planning proposal will arise soon as in 2019. The local bus service may well come under threat again. Discussing the budget allows us to consider new initiatives in what are unexpectedly uncertain times especially with a total reorganisation of local government just around the corner with the formation of West Northants Council. Parish council finance comes from your council tax and such decisions deserve discussion by a larger range and number of people. We cover a lot of ground. It may seem a little bureaucratic but it's certainly not boring and it is important.

If you think you could possibly help out, if only for a few months, new faces would be very welcome. It does not have to be very time consuming as long as you can prepare for and attend the meetings and bring your common sense and knowledge of the village to bear. We are well supported by a very experienced parish clerk. We can co-opt new members at the next council meeting (December 10<sup>th</sup>) and you could be making a contribution at the January meeting. Please think it over. To offer or find out more please contact the parish clerk, Lynn Lavender, by email [clerk@hartwellparishcouncil.gov](mailto:clerk@hartwellparishcouncil.gov) or email me at [ashwoodacre@btinternet.com](mailto:ashwoodacre@btinternet.com) I'm more than happy to discuss this with anyone by email or phone (01604 862533).

Derek Hawley



## **Our district councillor, John Budden, writes**

So, what is happening at South Northants District Council? The offices are manned by very few staff due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all the remaining staff are working from home. SNC are a paper-light Authority, this makes working on a computer at home relatively straight forward, just as all Council Meetings are held on line via "Zoom". This is effective and efficient.

The new Authority of West Northants will commence in May 2021 following elections in April 2021. I will not be standing for this Election as I am happy to work with the current budget of £13million but the new West Northants budget will be £1.2billion (including education). Several of the Senior positions in the new Authority have already been appointed from existing staff, but these are worrying times for most of the Staff not knowing if they will have jobs next year. Be assured all existing Departments are still working for residents of this village and the whole of SNC.

There are no major Planning Applications for Hartwell at the time of writing, but there are a few in this region. The largest is the Rail/Road Freight Terminal at Junction15 of the M1. They have started work on the layout of the site but no construction work will be started until the road modifications are complete. This includes modifying Junction15 to include two traffic roundabouts either side of Junction15 and dual carriage on the A508 up to the Courteenhall turn. There are also various weight restrictions on many roads this includes Roade to Hartwell. This is to ensure that large lorries use major roads and not our lanes.

Planning Application for 300 Homes between Grange Park and Quinton which was rejected by South Northants Council has been appealed to the Government Planning Inspector and they are about to hold a Public Enquiry (on-line) into this Application.

Salcey Forest Tree Top Walk - I doubt Forestry Enterprise will ever repair this structure (I hope I am incorrect). They originally stated that they were exploring various financial ways of securing a repair package. Now they state that there are further structural problems with the project, they did not mention their neglect in failing to maintain the timber and it is this neglect that resulted in its closure.

# **Michael Clark, County Councillor, writes**

## **A REPORT FROM NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Looking back on it, probably the best thing about 2020 may well be the arrival of midnight on December 31<sup>st</sup>. In future years it will regrettably be remembered as the year COVID19 brought disruption and suffering into people's lives, the like of which we have never seen. And we will, hopefully, not see again.

Northamptonshire County Council has been working with Public Health England and the NHS to ensure the most vulnerable and those most at risk in our communities were cared for as we are best able. I would like to pay tribute to the many volunteers from within the Parish of Hartwell, who have "gone the extra mile" to help the mainly elderly people in getting food parcels and doctors' prescriptions delivered during the pandemic. Out of a national emergency there have been countless acts of generosity and kindness to support those in greatest need. A big "thank you" to everyone who has helped and, indeed, continues to do so.

So, we find ourselves in the strange world of being in the last year of the County Council's existence. After well over a century, the Northamptonshire County Council will cease to exist. It will merge with South Northants Council, Daventry District Council and the Borough of Northampton to form the new West Northamptonshire Unitary Council. The new Council assumes its powers on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021.

I am often asked what differences our residents may notice. It would be true to say that the aim is to ensure a smooth transition from the old to the new. A lot of work is currently being done to merge the services of the County Council with those of the three District Councils to ensure a smooth changeover on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The next Council Tax bills for 2021/22 will arrive under the letterhead of West Northamptonshire Unitary Council. Instead of having a County Councillor and a District Councillor looking after local needs, there will be three new, Unitary Councillors. They will be elected in May. They will be tasked with looking after the needs of residents of Hartwell, as well as the other nine Parishes which make up the electoral division. A brave new world! However, the new arrangement will ensure that the confusion in many residents' minds over which Council and Councillor is the right one to approach to sort out a local problem will hopefully be put to rest!

Looking out of the window, it's 4 p.m. and already getting dark. Let us hope that we come through the current lock down in a way that allows us to enjoy something of the wonderful spirit of Christmas. We have all been through a torrid year, least expected a year ago. Being very much a "glass half full" person, I am convinced 2021 will be a far better year than the current one. So allow me to take this opportunity of wishing you and your family a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



## St. John the Baptist, Hartwell

St John the Baptist Church is part of the Salcey Benefice, the other churches being at Ashton, Courteenhall and Roade.

### Normal pattern for services

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Morning Praise	10:30am
	Pizza, Praise and Puppets	4:30pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Morning Praise	10.30am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Morning Praise	10:30am
	Pop Up Praise	4:30pm
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Communion Praise	10.30am

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday this will be a Benefice Service at one of the four parish churches in the Benefice.

**Due to Covid restrictions the normal pattern has been suspended. Please look on the notice board or web site to establish when the services will resume.**

<https://www.hartwellstjohnthebaptist.com/>

Full details of our services can be found on our notice board, in SHARE or on the web site <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/hartwell-st-john/>

If you are not a subscriber, new subscriptions to SHARE can be obtained from Alvin Barby, 2 Hartwell Road, Roade, (863470).

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) would like to thank the Parish Council for their continuing support in grants for the upkeep of the churchyard. These are used for mowing the grass and hopefully in the future for keeping the hedge under control too.

We have a new notice board in the church yard thanks to the generosity of Dave Edwards who not only made and erected it but donated it as well. Thank you very much Dave.

Following on from the notice given in Heartbeat and the churchyard, all Christmas wreaths and artificial flowers were removed from graves in March. This will continue to be done regularly so please do not use artificial flowers or other objects that are not allowed so that we are in line with official regulations. Christmas and Remembrance wreaths can be artificial and are allowed to remain for a period of two months. You are allowed to plant bulbs or other flowers directly into the soil on a grave but **not shrubs**. These will be removed if planted. If you would like to see the full Churchyard Regulations from the Diocese of Peterborough please contact the Secretary Susan Cross.

The Christmas Fayre and Barber Shop concert were a great success. Thank you to all who supported us and if you didn't make it in 2019, perhaps we will see you when we are able to once again hold fund raisers and concerts.

A special Toy Service was held just before Christmas 2019 which was very well supported and a great many new and second-hand toys were donated. These were taken by Peter Angus, who is a regular Lay Reader at our church, to another church he is involved with in a deprived area of Northampton. We are going to hold a Toy Service this year ready for Christmas on the 6th December and would welcome you and any donations of toys with grateful thanks. The format of this service will probably have to be different to last year but toys will be collected. Please look on the church web site, social media and notice board for further information.

The Strawberry Teas took on a new look this year due to the Covid restrictions but it was still a great success thanks to all who supported us! Our thanks go to Carol Buck, Denise Brack, Melanie Pearson, Jody Hammond, Ann North and Susan Cross for organising, donating, cooking and packing of teas. Also, to John Buck, Ruth Burton and Ian Cross for deliveries.

This year the format for our Harvest Celebration was also a little different because of restricted numbers allowed for in our service. In the afternoon a quartet of Scarecrows were on hand outside the church to accept gifts of food of which there were many. Thank you to all who donated. The food was taken to the Hope Centre and a local food bank.

The Archway Trust continues to work with families in our Benefice with Sue Clutterham at the helm ably supported by a dedicated committee. Toys, Tea and Toast on Monday mornings in the village school has had to be suspended but will resume as soon as is allowed. From Hartwell, Ian and Fi Messenger continue to work hard to make the services of Pizza, Praise and Puppets and Pop Up Praise full of fun and surprises with children firmly at the centre of all that happens. These services are aimed at families and if you haven't been to one do give it go when they resume. As they say, if you don't try it you'll never know! As with all our services a warm welcome awaits you.

The wheels of bureaucracy are turning very slowly and we are not much further forward with the pew removal but we stay optimistic.

The Parish Giving Scheme is a way of giving donations which can be made monthly, quarterly or annually, any tax can be reclaimed and returned to the church. This is now functional and if you would like to donate in this way please contact the Churchwarden, Denise Brack.

Rev Mike Burton has now retired and Reverend Mark Donnelly is now our minister.

These are his details should you need to contact him.

Address:

The Vicarage  
18 Hartwell Road  
Roade  
Northamptonshire

Telephone number:

01604 378557

Email: vicar.salceybenefice@gmail.com

The Art Trail brought 200 plus people to the church and generated much needed funds. The refreshments, thanks to our generous cake makers, were delicious and the church was much admired. We hope to host the next Art Trail during the first week of October 2021.

**Future Dates:**

Toy Service December 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30

# An open letter from Rev Mark Donnelly



Hello everyone! What a time to arrive, in the middle of a pandemic and “lockdown 2.0.” At the start of our life here in the villages of Roade, Ashton, Courteenhall, and Hartwell I am reminded of a verse in the Bible which says:

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”

Our God is the Father of compassion. So, as we approach Advent, the coming into the world of our Saviour Jesus, we are reminded again that he came because of love, a love that speaks the Father’s compassion for each one of us. It is especially at Christmas that we hear those words in Matthew’s gospel which confirmed Isaiah’s prophecy:

‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel**’ (which means ‘God with us’). Far from being a distant God, he came close. He lived his life among us. He shared our pain, sorrow and suffering as well as the joys and celebrations of our lives. And after his resurrection and ascension he sent his Holy Spirit that we may access this love and compassion. We can receive God’s comfort and be strengthened to share his comfort with others.

During these last few months, I have been amazed at the love shown by so many in simple practical ways. Times may be uncertain and hard, but we must go forward with hope, hope in the God of all comfort, who gives us his presence freely by His Spirit. God is not distant.

As we continue to settle into our new life here, my wife Sue and I look forward to getting to know you through the Primary School and the various services and activities in Hartwell Church. Please be on the look-out also for St Mary’s Church Services through Advent and into the New Year, including the Wednesday Midday reflections which appear on Roade St Mary’s Church Facebook page.

May you know God’s blessing for the rest of 2020 and beyond!

Rev Mark Donnelly

Interim Priest in Charge

Salcey Benefice



# The Parks Medical Practice

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November 2020

The Partners and staff of The Parks Medical Practice would like to thank our patients for their patience and understanding during the current pandemic.

To keep patients and staff safe most GP consultations will continue to be held by telephone and the doctor will only ask you to attend in person if an examination is necessary.

If you are asked to attend the surgery please remember to wear a face covering and maintain social distancing.

We are also using some new technologies to help improve access to care;

If you have online access, eConsult can be found on our website:

[www.theparksmedicalpractice.co.uk](http://www.theparksmedicalpractice.co.uk)

You can use it at any time day or night to request an appointment, to ask for advice, request medical certificates and also be signposted to other services, saving you a phone call or visit to the surgery.

If you have a smartphone you may be contacted by us via AccuRx. We can use this to send you information, or to request information from you. Sometimes a doctor will ask you to send a photograph to help with a diagnosis, a blood pressure reading, or just an update on your condition.

All the technology we use has been approved by the NHS and is secure.

## **Flu Clinics**

All patients who are over 65, or under 65 with a risk factor, have now been invited by letter to book a flu vaccination. We have received additional vaccines for these patients and

appointments are available. Please telephone your usual surgery to book. Please let us know if you have been vaccinated elsewhere so that we can update your records.

We have not yet been given a date to start vaccinating patients in the 50-64 age group who are otherwise healthy. The vaccines for this group are not yet available to order.

## **Covid Vaccination**

At the time of writing we have no details of a Covid-19 vaccination programme. We will update our website and Facebook page with details as soon as we have definite information.

Thank you

The Parks Medical Practice



# Hartwell Village Watch



Village Watch is an opportunity for residents to work together to make the community a safer and friendlier place to live and work. The aim of Village Watch is to help people protect themselves and their properties, reduce the fear of crime and improve the local environment.

## Sharing Village Watch Information

**Our Village Watch Co-ordinator is Judy Webster**

**who can be contacted as follows:**

**Telephone: 01604 862809**

**Mobile: 07801 345232**

**email : [heyjudew@live.co.uk](mailto:heyjudew@live.co.uk)**

We post some relevant updates on Facebook via Hartwell Village Community Group.

Village Watch also forwards local crime reports to the Hartwell Parish Council website:  
[www.hartwellparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hartwellparishcouncil.gov.uk)

If you would like to receive neighbourhood alert emails directly, you can register your details at

<https://member-registration.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/80/join>

## Information from Action Fraud about current scams

Criminals are exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic to try and get their hands on your money and personal information. To date, Action Fraud has received reports from 2,378 victims of Coronavirus-related scams, with the total losses reaching over £7 million

## How you can protect yourself from Coronavirus-related scams:

There are some simple steps you can take that will protect you from the most common Coronavirus-related scams. Here's what you need to do:

### 1 - Watch out for scam messages

Your bank, or other official organisations, won't ask you to share personal information over email or text. If you receive an email you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS): [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

### 2 - Shopping online

If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, for example, by checking to see if others have used the site and what their experience was. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, other payment providers may not provide the same protection.

### 3 - Unsolicited calls and browser pop-ups offering tech support

Never install any software, or grant remote access to your computer, as a result of a cold call. Remember, legitimate organisations would never contact you out of the blue to ask for financial details such as your PIN or full banking password.

## NHS Test and Trace scams:

The NHS Test and Trace service plays an important role in the fight against coronavirus and it's vital the public have confidence and trust in the service. However, we understand the concerns people have about the opportunity for criminals to commit scams.

### What you need to know:

Contact tracers will **only call you from the number 0300 013 5000**. Anyone who does not wish to talk over the phone can request the NHS Test and Trace service to send an email or text instead, inviting them to log into the web-based service.

All text or emails sent by NHS Test and Trace will ask people to sign into the contact tracing website and will provide you with a unique reference number. We would advise people to **type the web address** <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk> **directly into their browser**, followed by the unique reference number given to you, rather than clicking on any link provided in the message.

### **The NHS Test and Trace service will never:**

- ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to them (for example, those starting 09 or 087)
- ask you to make any form of payment or purchase a product or any kind
- ask for any details about your bank account
- ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
- ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone
- ask you to download any software to your PC or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet to anyone else
- ask you to access any website that does not belong to the government or NHS

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, please report it to Action Fraud at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk> or by calling 0300 123 2040.

### **Van Tool Theft Prevention Techniques**

A reminder of some tips:

Ideally bring tools in overnight. When parking, put van doors close to a wall or strong fence to make access more difficult. Choose a well lit area to park and ideally with CCTV.

Keep receipts and a note of tool serial numbers and take photos to help chances of recovery

Finally keep a look out for anyone selling tools at very low prices... chances are they may be stolen.

**Village Watch - together we can make a difference**

# An Update from the Community Centre

Firstly, I hope you and your families are all safe.

It's been somewhat of a varied year for the Hartwell Community Centre (HCC), full of highs and lows and, despite being fully closed for almost half a year, we've been very busy

We started 2020 with a vision of having regular entertainment events for both adults and children. In February, we hosted our first Hartwell Comedy Club night which was a roaring success, as well as rolling out our "Northants Bar", selling only products made within Northamptonshire. The idea behind this was to raise awareness of the local producers in our county, and celebrating products that you wouldn't normally find in stores.

We also hosted our first Trackplay day where children could play with endless amounts of railway tracks, trains and cars in the main hall. My three year old son said this was "amazing", so I can only assume all the other children who joined in had similar thoughts.

The plan was to host the Comedy Nights and Track Play events every 2-3months (along with a number of other exciting events that were "in planning") but then, as we all know well, Covid-19 arrived and instantly changed the way we could operate the HCC.

Sadly, the Coronavirus restrictions impacted us heavily. Following government guidance back in March, we quickly had to close the HCC and cancel all activities. This meant that all the groups (and private users) that use the HCC as their base, also had to postpone their activities. This full closure lasted until early September – a closure of almost 6 months, which to my knowledge, is the longest period of time in the HCC's 30 year history that the building was closed.

The HCC did reopen in September, albeit only for the Pre-School, and still to this day, we remain closed for all other groups and private functions. This is not a decision we have taken lightly, but is driven by the numerous Covid-19 guidelines that community centres must adhere to. We are continuously re-evaluating our ability to open as we would love to see the HCC back in full flow, but safety of the committee and the users is our Number 1 priority and unfortunately at this moment in time, it's simply not possible.

The closure did have a significant financial impact on the HCC. We had zero income for almost half a year, but still had almost all our expenditure commitments to meet – utilities, insurance, various licenses etc. A building of the HCCs size does cost a lot to run, even in "tick over" mode, but fortunately the HCC finances have been carefully and excellently managed by our Treasurer, which allowed us to ride out the storm. Covid-9 has left us a little short going forward, so expect to see some exciting fundraisers when we can.

However, despite being closed, we got creative and found ways to bring some in some revenue, whilst also continuing to provide a service to Hartwell. During lockdown, we continued our Northants Bar as a doorstep delivery service, called "Door Step Drinks". We



also introduced various Street Food Nights, which have become a permanent addition to the HCC. Keep an eye out for future developments with our Street Food events!

Being closed however gave us an opportunity to do some much-needed improvements. We completely emptied the building, deep cleaned and fully decorated the site. Big thanks to those that donated their time and equipment. We also replaced all white goods, installing 3 new fridges, a new oven, a new dishwasher and replacing all crockery and utensils. We also made the building Covid safe for those that can use it, by installing clear signage, one way systems, and multiple hand sanitisation stations throughout the building. Sadly, not many people have seen the improvements. It's like a new building inside!

The biggest change however was the installation of the new playground. We won't dwell too much on this in this article as we plan to write a dedicated piece thanking those that made the playground happen. Keep an eye out for this next year, along with a formal opening ceremony!



**Part of the new playground at Hartwell Community Centre**

There have also been changes with the committee and, after our AGM in October, we've welcomed in a number of fresh faces. After over 5 years of service, Roy (our treasurer) has decided to stand down. In turn, we welcome Mark as our new treasurer, along with Kim, Bev and Arron joining as co-opted members. Big thanks to Roy for his service to the HCC, and welcome to those who have joined us.

As I write this, we are still in the middle of Lockdown 2 so I'm unsure when the HCC will be able to reopen to the groups that use our facilities. What is clear is that sadly we won't be able to run our usual Christmas activities. We do have some great plans for 2021, so hopefully we'll be able to get back on track soon, and carry on our vision of bringing more entertainment activities to the village.

As always, if you have any ideas or comments, suggestions for new users, events etc, please do drop me a line. We are keen to improve the HCC to make it more accessible to wider a demographic, so I'd certainly welcome any feedback.

Stay safe

Kieran Gray (HCC Chair)

Email [Chair@hartwellcommunitycentre.co.uk](mailto:Chair@hartwellcommunitycentre.co.uk)

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#### HCC Committee for 2021

##### Trustees:

Kieran Gray (Chairman)

Jodie Earl (Secretary)

Mark Delicate (Treasurer)

Lynne Hamilton-Gow

Andy Faulkner

##### Non Voting Co-Opted Members

Anna Cameron

Arron Lopez

Kim Javes

Bev Wise



**The newly deep cleaned and decorated community centre hall – temporary home to the Hartwell Food Bank**

## Cometh the hour.....

The challenges of 2020 with self-isolation, shielding, cancellation of events and normal activities, schools closed, furlough and working from home have found many people in Hartwell rising to the challenge and helping out. There are many unsung heroes out there who have quietly stepped in as so many things closed down. Some are the volunteers who have made new schemes work out or come up with new ventures for children and families such as the recent Halloween trail. Book boxes, fruit and vegetable surplus sharing, donating to food banks – there's been a lot going on. Facebook has featured some of this. The village store has been a lifeline for many and Sid's work in keeping everything going and the shop well stocked in difficult times has rightly received many honourable mentions.

It has been impossible to miss the personal efforts of Kieran Gray who, quite independently of his role as HCC chairman, gathered a team of volunteers to run the Hartwell food bank and other services for vulnerable and shielding people in Hartwell. Many villagers donated food. Volunteers dropped off food parcels, ran errands, collected prescriptions and newspapers or were just at the end of a phone. Kieran says 'This was very much a community effort and shows what a great community we live in.... well done all'. The scheme also attracted the attention of local MP, Andrea Leadsom, as well as the Prime Minister.

Kieran does have aspirations of establishing a permanent community larder in Hartwell, focusing on reducing food wastage and providing support to those that need it. Please contact him if you can offer support with this idea.

Kieran was also behind children's activities such as Hartwell Hexagons, Grow Your own lunch and the Hartwell Sunflower Race (100 participants and the winner 4.85m high!).

Derek Hawley



## Hartwell Pre School

Hartwell Pre School re opened this September to our returning children and many new starters. Given the big changes implemented for this academic year, and the long break away from early years settings that most of the children have faced, we have been so proud and impressed by the way the children have settled so comfortably into Pre School life. We have all found our new routines within Pre School and the children's happiness, enthusiasm and boundless energy never ceases to amaze us all daily. We couldn't be prouder of our Pre Schoolers and all the staff. We would also like to extend a huge 'Thank you' to our parents who have been thoroughly supportive throughout a very testing year.

We continue to open daily, including our Early Birds morning club which continues to be very popular. We do have some spaces for this year and encourage parents to register their children as early as possible to get them onto the waiting list for subsequent years.

### Sessions:

<b>Mon, Wed, Thurs &amp; Fri:</b>	<b>Early Birds club:</b>	<b>8:45am – 9:15am</b>
	<b>Morning session:</b>	<b>9:15am – 12pm</b>
	<b>Lunch club:</b>	<b>12pm – 12:45pm</b>
	<b>Afternoon session:</b>	<b>12:45pm – 3:15pm</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>Early Birds club:</b>	<b>8:45am – 9:15am</b>
	<b>Morning session:</b>	<b>9:15am – 12pm</b>
	<b>Lunch club:</b>	<b>12pm – 12:45pm</b>

For a registration pack, please contact Keira Cox: [hartwellplaygroup@live.co.uk](mailto:hartwellplaygroup@live.co.uk)

For more information about the setting please contact our Pre School Leader Elaine Andrews on: 07522 924 733.

Hartwell Pre School Playgroup, Hartwell Community Centre, School Lane, Hartwell, NN7 2HL.

Email [Hartwellplaygroup@live.co.uk](mailto:Hartwellplaygroup@live.co.uk)



## Hartwell Primary School

Our school is always a busy place. Autumn Term seems busier than most, but of course in an entirely different way to usual! Despite being in the middle of a global pandemic, our children, staff and parents are just as wonderful as always.

During the first lockdown, we were able to provide childcare for the children of key workers and although school was very different, every day the children and staff came to school with a smile on their faces. Once we were able to open up to certain year groups at the start of June, the team were over the moon to be able to teach in more of a normal format – however, we all felt deeply for the children still at home.

Once September finally rolled around, we were all excited to get back to school. We felt trepidation in what we should expect, as school had not been as we were used to for 6 months. It was an absolute joy to have all the children back together as 'Team Hartwell'. Any anxieties children or staff had quickly ebbed away, with everyone happy to be learning focused. The new rules in terms of bubbles and social distancing have not posed problems for our children – what superstars!

Whilst continued COVID-19 measures no doubt make things more challenging and certain things need more thinking about, for the most part, it feels 'business as usual' in school. The new Class R have made a fantastic start to their school life and the progress they have already made is truly wonderful. I must say, without exception, the team and I have been so impressed with all our children's learning attitudes and good progress they have already made this term. Well done to all our children and staff and 'thank you' to our parents for continued support.

Mrs Jamie Pardon

Headteacher

Hartwell Primary School

# The Friends of Hartwell Primary School

The Friends of Hartwell Primary School (FoHPS) held their AGM in October and we are pleased to be continuing as the Co-Chairs along with our fantastic committee - many from the previous year as well as a new, friendly face.

Due to the current situation, it's very sad that the FoHPS will not be able to hold many of the enjoyable yearly events like the Christmas Fayre, Movie Nights and Discos. However, we have been busy with our thinking caps on to come up with some new, alternatives for the children and wider community to enjoy. Children have already designed Christmas cards and gifts for parents to purchase and some will have been busy designing a new logo for FoHPS which is very exciting.

During December, we have planned an Elf Door Trail for children of the school and village to enjoy - this will include solving a mystery message and trying to win a prize. We will also be having our annual Christmas Raffle with a fantastic star prize! Tickets will be sold online - more details to follow on the School and Village Facebook Page. (If anyone is able to donate to the raffle prizes, please get in touch via Facebook or email - many thanks).

After Christmas, the FoHPS team have thought of some new, different fundraisers, like a sponsored Mud Run, but it will be a case of waiting to see what the current climate is as to what we can host and what we can't. We are hoping to hold some of our cake sales again as these are always popular, and it would be extremely good if we can work towards a Summer Fayre – especially to make up for the one we didn't have this year. Fingers crossed!

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support to FoHPS and hope that everyone is staying safe and well.

Many thanks,  
Sophie Spence and Louise Ball

(Co-Chairs)



# Useful contacts List

## General services and utilities

Anglian Water	0800 771881
Emergency health advice	111
Power cut - any supplier	105
Mailing list preference service	0300 3033517
National Gas emergency number	0800 111999
Police	101
Royal Mail	03457 740740
Trading standards	01604 707900

### Hartwell Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Jamie Pardon 01604 862880

School Business Manager: Lara Bruce 01604 862880

Elizabeth Woodville School: North Campus 01604 862125

Willison Centre 01604 864581

Hartwell Pre-school group: Kiera Cox [hartwellplaygroup@live.co.uk](mailto:hartwellplaygroup@live.co.uk)

## Government

MP: Andrea Leadsom	01327 353124
County Councillor: Michael Clarke	01604 890832
District Councillor: John Budden	01604 862015
Northants County Council offices	0300 126 1000
South Northants Council offices	01327 322322

## Village Amenities

area code is  
01604 except  
where  
otherwise  
given

Ashwood Acre (Pocket Park): Derek Hawley	862533
Community Centre Hall: Bookings@hartwellcommunitycentre.co.uk	
Community Centre - general: Chair@hartwellcommunity centre	
Footpaths and Highways Warden: George Jones	864100
Hartwell Club	862497
Hartwell PO and Store	862205
Hartwell Village Watch: Judy Webster	862809
Poor's Trust (Allotments): Janet Fallows	863413
Rose & Crown public house	862393
St John the Baptist Church	
Vicar – Rev Mark Donnelly	378557
Churchwarden: Denise Brack	862531
Secretary: Susan Cross	863653

## Village groups

Hart & Soul Community Choir: Jane Austin   07811 939566

Hartwell Health Walks: George Jones	864100
Hartwell Produce Show: Terry Boss	862104
Hartwell Youth Club:	Sarah@cypn.org
Tuesday Circle: Claire Griffiths	862708
1 <sup>st</sup> Hartwell Scout Group: contact 'Skip'	07506 374583

1st Hartwell Guides: contact Megan at [hartwellguides1@yahoo.com](mailto:hartwellguides1@yahoo.com)  
Brownies: Sarah Bennett   07989 600076

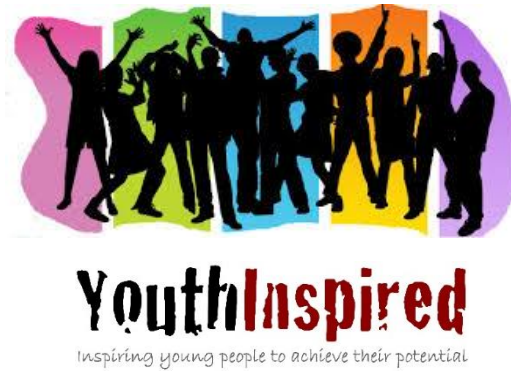
Rainbows: Contact Koala -

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter>

Beavers: Contact Jo - [beavers@hartwellscouts.org](mailto:beavers@hartwellscouts.org)  
Cubs: Contact Michelle - [cubs@hartwellscouts.org](mailto:cubs@hartwellscouts.org)

## Hartwell Youth Club

The youth club is still running in spite of lockdowns and a closed Community Centre – sometimes actual and sometimes virtual, depending on circumstances – see below for more information .....



**Hartwell Virtual Youth Club is on:**

**Mondays at 4pm**

Please join us for our free virtual youth club.

We are going to be doing quizzes, games and a football session!

New members are always welcome, just email for a registration form!

If you are interested email us and we will send you a link to the zoom session.

Please follow us on Facebook @HartwellYouthClub

Suitable for age 10+ we will be running virtual sessions weekly during lockdown. All enquires to [Sarah@cypn.org](mailto:Sarah@cypn.org)

[Go to next page for more information](#)



# **Hartwell Youth Club is on:**

## **Mondays at 4.30 – 6pm**

**Hartwell Community Centre**  
**For young people in years 6&7**  
**Subs £1**

**Depending on current rules, we may be doing the Hartwell Youth Sessions outside or virtually – see previous page**

**New members always welcome!**

**Come along & join the FUN!**

**All enquires to [Sarah@cypn.org](mailto:Sarah@cypn.org)**

# 1st Quinton Brownies and Rainbows

Sadly, as has happened with most clubs, our Brownie pack has not been meeting since March. I think we all know why!! Girlguiding UK have allowed us to return in a staggered way first with outdoor meetings and more recently with indoor meetings too but for a number of reasons we have not done so yet in the village. We are constantly reassessing this! Hopefully we will be back with face-to-face meetings very soon. When we do return, we have a very serious lack of adult help. Our current waiting list is full and we can't take on additional girls as we don't have the adult help to support it. If you are over 18 and have a couple of hours every week (term time only) to spare, we would love to hear from you! I promise volunteering is very rewarding. Additionally, if there are girls in the village who are interested in becoming Brownies, to join our waiting list please visit: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/> Everything you need to know is there! Brownies are aged 7-10 years old

Rainbows meet on Tuesdays between 5 and 6 but are unable get together at the moment due to the pandemic. The Rainbows leader is known as Koala. Please can parents visit <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/> to find out more and register their interest.

BBC Children In Need this year have partnered with Girlguiding with a fundraiser called "Act your age". The aim is to raise money using your age to complete tasks (an 8 year old doing 8 minutes of skipping etc). Girls could take part here if they are interested: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise-for-us/act-your-age/>

## Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

Hartwell Scouts have not been able to do any face-to-face scouting since March. We are hoping to relaunch before Christmas and are offering Zoom meetings from December. But, with the ever-changing situation, we can never be sure.

### ***Look out for Santa on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December***

1<sup>st</sup> Hartwell Scouts Dancing Santa will be back this Christmas. As a group we felt the little people of Hartwell shouldn't suffer due to Covid-19, so Dancing Santa will be dancing around the village on the 19<sup>th</sup> December, though he may not have very many elves with him, if any for that matter. But Santa will do his yearly visit, with less of an entourage.

#### **To get in touch**

**Scouts – ages 10-14 – spaces available. To find out more about Hartwell Scouts contact Skip - [scouts@hartwellscouts.org](mailto:scouts@hartwellscouts.org) For any other enquiries please call Skip on 07506 374583.**

**Beavers – age 6 - 8 - spaces available. For information about Beavers contact Jo - [beavers@hartwellscouts.org](mailto:beavers@hartwellscouts.org)**

**Cubs – age 8-10 – spaces available. For information about Cubs contact Michelle – [cubs@hartwellscouts.org](mailto:cubs@hartwellscouts.org)**

## **1<sup>st</sup> Hartwell Guides**

Sadly, Guides have been unable to meet since March. Although we have not been able to meet face-to-face, we have stayed in contact with our guides to ensure their wellbeing and mental health, through mindfulness activities. We are also going to begin online meetings, once a month, to do challenges and quizzes with the girls until we can meet in person again.

If you are interested in joining Hartwell Guides, please contact Megan at [hartwellguides1@yahoo.com](mailto:hartwellguides1@yahoo.com) or register your interest on the GirlGuiding website.



# Health and Well Being Allotment World

## **Brian Burrows writes:**

What is an allotment? It is not just a place to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers. It is a welcoming place for all abilities and experiences. A haven and a quiet retreat where like-minded people go to their plots and connect with the earth.

If you want to be on your own, you are left alone. If you want company or to socialize, you can talk from a safe distance to each other. An allotment is a place where people impart knowledge and ideas, without financial gain and are a community who support each other.

I think of my plot as a Health and Wellbeing allotment plot for me and my wife which has been a safe haven this last year. Where there is no Covid or masks and fear can be forgotten for a few hours.

If you wish to be part of this world contact the following to be placed on the waiting list.

Chair- Janet Fallows

Secretary- Brian Burrows

Treasurer- Kevin Turner

01604 863413

07840 759495





## Hartwell's very own choir!

It is frequently said that singing in a choir brings people together, and that has been proved during this pandemic year. All through the first lockdown, Anna, our choir leader conducted Zoom sessions and we were able to learn some new songs. Although by no means ideal, it was important for some members to have that regular activity in their diary, especially those who live alone.

Once lockdown eased, we met each week in the playing field at Hanslope, weather permitting, for a socially distanced sing song. Since September we were able to sing in the Covid safe village hall at Hanslope, where around 2/3rds of the choir were happy to meet, until the second lockdown brought that to an end.

Anna's energy and enthusiasm has carried us through these unusual sessions and our members have benefitted greatly from seeing each other, and enjoying the mental stimulus of learning new songs.

Sadly, our usual fund-raising concerts couldn't go ahead, but we have selected **South Northants Community Responders**, as our charity for the coming year, and there is a good reason for that.

Recently, Sheila, one of our sopranos, slipped on leaves whilst walking to Salcey Forest, breaking her knee cap. Although we called for an ambulance, a kindly village member who was walking her dog put a message on the Village Facebook page, which alerted some local off-duty Community First Responders. They rushed to our aid, and were able to reassure Sheila, ease her pain and make her more comfortable, during the 3 hours waiting time for an ambulance.



Having seen at first hand, the brilliant work that these highly professional Volunteers do, it is clear that they are providing an essential back up to our hard-pressed ambulance service.

**South Northants Community Responders is run in conjunction with East Midlands Ambulance Service, but is a completely self-funded scheme. They rely totally on the generosity of local individuals and businesses in order to stay operational, and any one of us could be glad of their services in an emergency.**

I'm pleased to say that Sheila is making progress and she wishes me to pass on her thanks to the First Responders, and all the kind people who stopped to offer help, in particular those who were able to give special help. You will know who you are.

If you would like to support **South Northants Community Responders** please go to <https://southnorthantsresponders.co.uk> *where it is easy to donate.*

For more information about the choir go to [www.hartandsoulchoir.co.uk](http://www.hartandsoulchoir.co.uk)

**Jane Austin, Chair**

## **Women's Institute**

## **Tuesday Circle**

### **Claire Griffiths writes**

As with most other organisations, both the W.I. and Tuesday Circle have been put on hold this year. The last meetings we had were in March and since then we have not been able to socialise with one another which is such a shame as I know that, for many people, this is their little bit of 'me' time. We had had quite a few activities planned for both groups but events took over and as yet, we don't know what the future holds.



## **Women's Institute**

I am hoping that 2021 will be a more active year for us all and that we can recruit more people to both groups. The W.I. meets once a month and we are a friendly bunch and would welcome more members as our numbers have diminished somewhat in the last few years due to various reasons. I have met a lovely crowd of ladies over the years. The idea of Jerusalem singing, pleated skirt wearing women is just so outmoded now. We are a modern, welcoming group.

## **Tuesday Circle**

The Tuesday Circle meets once a fortnight and we have many activities which appeal to the slightly older generation. I know that for some it is the only socialising they do so this year must have been a particularly challenging time for them (and me!). Even if we have nothing planned for that particular afternoon, just to sit and have a cup of tea, a biscuit and a chat makes it worth being a member.

Let's hope that next year will be, if not totally, a more virus free world and we can all meet again and make Hartwell the friendly, sociable place I know it can be.



## Health Walks in Hartwell

Health Walks in Hartwell continue to provide opportunities for people to take free, easy and beneficial exercise. You don't need any specialist equipment; just dress sensibly for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. There's no need to book; just turn up on the day!

**Here is the list of the dates for December to April 2021:**

***All of these dates are subject to whatever Covid rules may exist at the time.***

December 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

December 19<sup>th</sup> 2020 (this walk would have been on the 26<sup>th</sup> (Boxing Day), so I have changed it to the 19<sup>th</sup>)

January 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 (has been moved from the 2nd, because of New Year's day).

January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021.

February 6<sup>th</sup>                      February 27<sup>th</sup>

March 6<sup>th</sup>                         March 27<sup>th</sup>

April 3<sup>rd</sup>                         April 24<sup>th</sup>

Walks usually take place on the 1st and fourth Saturday's of each month, starting at 11:00 a.m. in the car park at The Club in Forest Road, Hartwell.

*If anyone wants to do a walk between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December, to walk off the Christmas excess, please let me know your interest by the 23<sup>rd</sup> December, depending on the weather.*







## Hartwell Pocket Park – Ashwood Acre

Green Flag Community Award 2019/20



As the leaves turn to gold and fall on Ashwood Acre, we look back on eight months in which the park has had more visitors than ever before. In this extraordinary and challenging year, the park has played its part in helping people get through. It's been a tranquil refuge for some, a place to think and perhaps remember as well as a place to meet. All ages enjoy the park and nearly all respect it as a place for wildlife as well as people. So, many thanks to all park users who have enjoyed the park and treated it well.

The written report from the Wildlife Trust survey of the summer of 2019 showed encouraging progress on establishing wild flowers in the three beds in the middle of the park. The beds did better still in 2020 and some extra seed mixes were sown. We plan to sow yellow rattle in that area this autumn. Rattle is a parasite on grass, slowing down growth and giving an opportunity for other plants to flourish. The written report which came too late to be mentioned in the last published edition of *Hartbeat* says the long untidy grass in high summer near the wigwam was found to

‘have a good structure for insects; lots of hoverflies and meadow brown *Maniola jurtina* (butterflies) were seen’. This is what we’ve been aiming for over the years and we hope park visitors saw plenty of evidence of this progress in 2020.

Weeks of rain last winter took their toll on the main path. All the efforts we have made in the last couple of years to keep path weeds under control without using glyphosate weed killer have failed. Readers may well know that glyphosate (though still legal and widely used in agriculture and grounds maintenance) has come under suspicion from the UN, environmentalists and health experts. It has disappeared from the shelves of many garden centres - the product names may be the same but the contents are not. Parks entering for the Green Flag Award get marked down if they use glyphosate. Other weed killers do not work at all well. Our use of a heavy-duty flame gun as well as being expensive and environmentally questionable did not have a longstanding effect. We have not been able to win the battle by hand weeding. We’ll persevere and consider resurfacing the path but it’s worth bearing in mind that the small creatures we share the park with probably like having weedy paths. The grass and weeds provide safe corridors as they move about the park.

The entrance to the park has been enhanced by a fully refurbished notice board. Many thanks to Dave Heron who has done a fine job on this.

We are grateful to all Waitrose customers who posted their green tokens into the Hartwell Pocket Park section at the Wootton branch earlier in the year. Our share of the pot was a splendid £392. Thanks to Sue Scott-Evans for taking the initiative on this.

We had big plans for our May 2020 community event which we hoped would include several attractions including visiting alpacas and a saxophone quartet alongside other stalls celebrating wildlife, butterflies and village organisations as well as a plant stall. Many plants were already growing when lockdown came. It didn’t take long to get the word round in May that there were plants available. Through a socially distanced collection system we were able to raise £560 which we were glad to donate to the Hartwell Food Bank and the Hope Centre. Of course, what this lacked was the great variety of plants that comes from generous gardeners and allotment holders who usually donate to the plant sale. We can only hope that we shall be able to revive all aspects of our spring the event in 2021.

The park has been kept in reasonably good shape this year by regular tidying sessions – socially distanced volunteer work throughout spring, summer and autumn. Thanks to all who came along and helped out.

## How can you support the park?

- Above all visit the park and enjoy it.
- Think about helping out. We could do with more help at our monthly volunteer sessions (see below) – a couple of hours on a Saturday afternoon from time to time is enjoyable, invigorating and a free way of getting fitter.
- Help make sure the park thrives in the future. Think about joining the Pocket Park Committee – we have a vacancy and would welcome new blood and new ideas. In normal times there are three pretty informal meetings a year, but practical support is always welcome.

If you are new to the village you may need to know that the park is just down the lane that runs alongside the Ashton Road allotments next to the cemetery. Look for the brown sign on the Ashton Road.

The park relies on the work of volunteers. Tidying sessions, all being well, will begin again in February and are usually on the third Saturday of the month from 2 – 4 p.m.

The pocket park website [www.hartwellpocketpark.weebly.com](http://www.hartwellpocketpark.weebly.com) has information about the park and a selection of photographs. Dates of events and working parties can be found there. If you would like more information, to volunteer or become a Friend of Ashwood Acre please email [ashwoodacre@btinternet.com](mailto:ashwoodacre@btinternet.com) or ring Derek Hawley on 01604 862533.

**Derek Hawley**



**The new notice board produced by David Heron**





## ***Roade Junction Community Group***

### **Roade Library Hub – Latest News**

Following Government and library service guidance, Roade Library was closed during the first lockdown. We were gradually opening up our services following relaxation and had just reintroduced browsing at the beginning of October. Which proved very popular with our users.

However, with the introduction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown on November 5<sup>th</sup>, the library will now be closed for browsing until lockdown ends; but this time, the different guidance still allows us to offer a Click and Collect, book and jigsaw service during this restriction and for a period beyond, as detailed below.

#### **Recent events**

Although most of our fundraising was not possible, we have worked with a group of villagers, Jemma Nichols, Alison O’Grady and Rachel Sears to put on a Covid safe Halloween event. Jemma had the idea of having a Halloween decorating competition, where villagers could buy maps to guide them to the houses with either Halloween house decorations, carved pumpkins, or scary scarecrows! This has been very successful with the villages getting really involved, and through the map sales we raised a magnificent £670 for our community library. Here are some examples of the winners:



**Carved Pumpkin**



**Halloween House**

### Ongoing Fundraising

For further fundraising we are having a Christmas card competition in November, with three age categories up to 8yrs, 9 to 16yrs and 17yrs and above. Entrants will submit a Christmas or winter themed design, and the best 2 in each category will have their design printed on Christmas cards. Although the competition closing date will have passed by the time of this publication, the packs of six cards will be on sale up to Christmas around the villages to raise funds for the library.

We are also working towards a Christmas Festival of Trees. Similar to the Halloween event where houses are decorated in four categories; festive outdoor trees, Christmas wreaths, house decorations and light displays. The event will run Sat 20<sup>th</sup> and Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Dec. The maps will be on sale around the villages and at the library for £2/each. Each purchase of the map includes a selection box to be collected on Sat/Sun from the library, where there will be mulled wine and hot chocolate.

### Library building

We understand that the purchase of the library building is nearing completion, and we are working towards concluding the lease agreement with our new landlords Roade Parish Council.

### Services on offer during 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown and to the end of December

Click and Collect (with home delivery if required) – This is where you contact us by telephone or email and request books, and we put together your request, quarantine for 72 hours, and put out for collection on the next opening day.

Also, this time we have introduced a new service where you can order a bag of books from any category e.g. Thriller, Crime etc. and our volunteers will choose 4 books from that category for you, and these will be quarantined for 72 hours and left for collection on the next opening day, just call the library during our opening times or us email on roadecml1@icloud.com.

### New jigsaw borrowing

In addition to the above we now have a **jigsaw borrowing club** and currently have 122 jigsaws available to take out. The service is at present a **Click and Collect**, so you order the jigsaw(s) on a library open day and collect on the next. The catalogue of jigsaws is printed on laminated sheets at the entrance of the library for you to choose the ones you want, and we are hoping to post a version on Facebook. There is a subscription of £5 for an annual membership to the jigsaw club.

During lockdown the library is open: Wed 2pm to 4pm and Sat 11am to 1pm

After the lockdown ends, we will extend this to include Fridays 2 to 6pm.

Tel No: 01604 368281

Email: roadecml1@icloud.com

# Keep Up to Date with What's Happening at Salcey Forest

## Salcey Forest Update

Autumn has come around fast at Salcey – the oranges and yellows are taking over the green and the nights are drawing in. It may be time to get the hats and scarves out of storage, but the colours of Autumn are definitely worth it.

There's nothing like getting outside to appreciate the change in seasons, so why not head out to Salcey Forest. Grounds Café have you covered for a hot drink and slice of cake pre or post walk/run/ride/cycle – whatever suits your fancy.

## Coronavirus Update

Salcey Forest will remain open for you to enjoy outdoor recreation and exercise during the period of the second National lockdown.

We are managing our car parks and cleaning toilets and touchpoints in line with Government guidelines. We are also continuing to manage our trails to our high safety standards. In many forests you can pay to park without cash, including through our membership scheme.

Grounds Café are currently offering takeaway food and drink only.

## Guess who's back?!

The Gruffalo has returned to Salcey Forest in an all-new Gruffalo Spotters trail. With the amazing new Gruffalo Spotter 2 app, fun activity pack and trail, you'll get to interact with all your favourite characters as you go in search of the Gruffalo in the deep dark wood. Spot the signs and see what creatures you can find! Be sure to download the app before your visit and pick up your activity pack from the Information Point or Café.

## Table Tennis at Salcey Forest

Something for everyone no matter your age or fitness level! Play a competitive game with a family member or friend, or even see how long you can keep a rally going at one of our two outdoor **free to use** table tennis tables situated within our Visitor Centre.

Back in September, as part of our Active Forests programme, we teamed up with Northants Sport and Table Tennis England to bring Table Tennis to Salcey.

All equipment is provided, so no need to plan – although you are also more than welcome to bring your own. Hand washing facilities are available in the toilets.

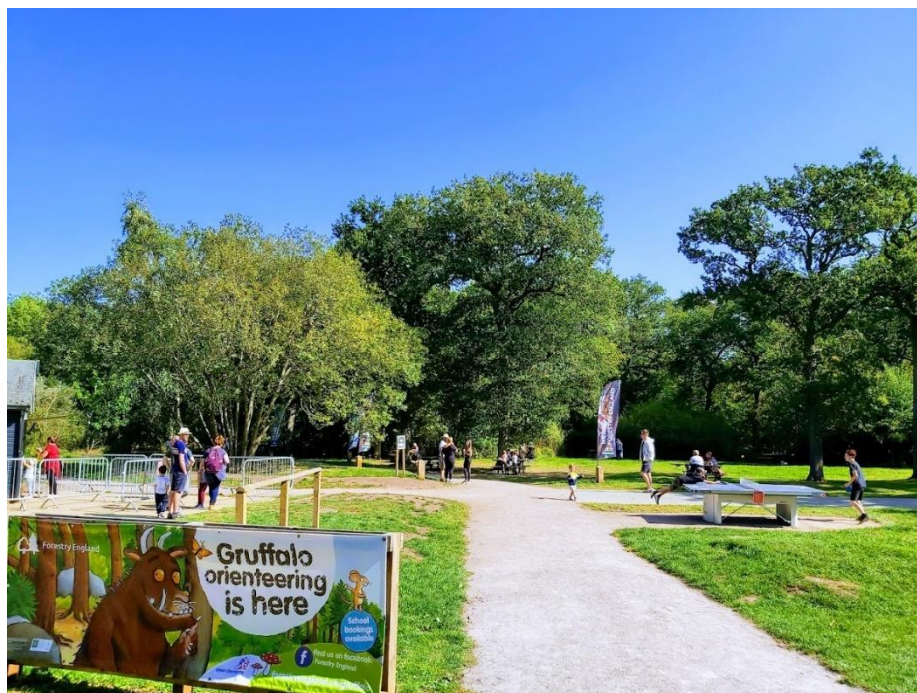
## Learning and education

Are you an education leader or work with groups that would benefit from outdoor learning sessions here at Salcey Forest? Our learning partner Acorn offer a whole host of different learning sessions for your groups catering for nurseries, schools, colleges, groups of adults, and families. Sessions could include forest school, tots stay N play, bushcraft, curriculum-based sessions, team building, creative arts workshops, and many more.

For more information, contact: [forestschool@acornearlyyears.org.uk](mailto:forestschool@acornearlyyears.org.uk)

For further information on any of the items above please head to our website [www.forestryengland.uk/salcey-forest](http://www.forestryengland.uk/salcey-forest)

To stay up to date with the latest news and information at Salcey Forest give our Facebook page a 'Like' **@salceyforest**



# **Can you offer a few hours a week to help people in your community?**

## **Towcester Area Door to Door (TADD) urgently need to recruit more volunteer drivers to help people across South Northants.**

TADD is a friendly, affordable service which helps people attend medical appointments and access services which contribute to their wellbeing.

The service operated entirely by volunteers supports the NHS and other healthcare providers in combating isolation and loneliness and helping people remain independent in their own homes.

Keith Rippon, Chair of Trustees at TADD said: "This year, more than ever, our elderly and vulnerable members need the support of a friendly, affordable, door-to-door service for their medical appointments.

"We continually require new voluntary drivers to meet the increasing needs of an ageing population. Without the continued recruitment of new volunteers, we will really struggle to help the elderly and vulnerable. Please encourage your friends, neighbours and relatives to enquire about volunteering and please be assured we are endeavouring to comply with COVID-19 safety measures on all our journeys."

Drivers must have access to a car, be available on a regular basis for a minimum of half a day a week and complete a DBS check. Mileage is reimbursed at the HMRC rate and insurance premiums are not affected.

To learn more about volunteering for TADD visit [www.towcesterareadoor2door.com](http://www.towcesterareadoor2door.com) or email [volunteer@towcesterareadoor2door.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@towcesterareadoor2door.co.uk)

# Road Local History Society

We are sorry that Ron Johnson's play 'The Every Brothers - Their Story' has had to be postponed. It is now scheduled to be performed on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May at The Deco Theatre, Northampton.

Our AGM and Chris Hillyard's talk 'Roade's Industrial Heritage' have been postponed to Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

We now aim to launch Chris's book ***CUTTING REMARKS The Illustrated History of Roade's Railways and Cutting*** in the Spring.

When circumstances improve, we will resume events as soon as possible. These will include a sale of history books (which should attract people from outside the village) and the following postponed events:

- **'Horton Hall - one of Northamptonshire's lost Country Houses'** - Maureen Williams.
- **'Mobbs' Own - the truth behind the myth, stories of the men who went to fight alongside Edgar Mobbs and the impact on Northampton'** - Northampton Saints Foundation.

Dates will be announced on our website, "Roade Remembered" and notice boards.

In the meantime, we are developing a more up-to-date and informative new website which will include the ability to display most of the photographs in the Society's substantial archive. Many thanks to Patrick Barlow, Alan Mott, Peter Mawby and Nigel Elliott for making this possible.

## **Storage space needed:**

We are seeking secure, accessible storage space for some of our larger items. A plot of land to site a steel shed (10' x 8') would also be most useful.

Contact Ron Johnson on 01604947934 or at [RoadeLHS@hotmail.com](mailto:RoadeLHS@hotmail.com)

For more information about the Society and its projects please visit our website:

[www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk).

Find "Roade Remembered" on Facebook





**Hartwell Pocket Park – November afternoon**





## Thank you

.... to all Hartwell dog owners who use the bins strategically placed around the village.

Dogs and dog walkers are very much a part of the Hartwell scene and the lockdown may well have added to the canine population. It's obvious that the vast majority of dog owners make every effort to clear up after their dogs, otherwise the problem of dog fouling would be much worse. There is a small minority of problem owners who don't make the effort, among other things risking the health of children. If you happen to be one of this minority, you could ask yourself what's stopping you being more community minded and helping to make Hartwell a cleaner and safer place.

