

HUNCOTE VILLAGE NEWS

ISSUE 82 – SUMMER 2023

BROUGHT TO YOU BY HUNCOTE PARISH COUNCIL



Huncote Parish Council Chairman's Report - May 2023

Since my last report of May 2022, no-one could have foreseen the many changes that have occurred within such a short period of time.

Firstly, there were the magnificent celebrations in honour of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. So many villagers ventured out for the lighting of the beacon on the Croft hill embankment, a scene mirrored across the country. However, this was sadly followed by the death of her Majesty on 8th September. Our parishioners wrote in the book of remembrance which was placed in Huncote St James parish church where the village held a minutes silence in respect for the death of our late Queen. I then had the honour of reading the proclamation of King Charles III's accession to the throne.

Last year, we had the resignation of 2 prime ministers - Boris Johnson, closely followed by Liz Truss. This resulted in Rishi Sunak being elected as leader of the Conservative party and subsequently, Prime Minister.

The war in Ukraine, due to Russia's invasion, and the recent civil conflicts in Sudan are having an impact right across the world. Refugees are forced to flee war zones and financial poverty. These upheavals, alongside the extreme weather conditions affecting food production, have had a financial and moral impact on us all.

We are very fortunate in Huncote that we have a strong caring community. The Huncote Knitters, have put up some fantastic displays throughout the year. We live in an area where people can get out into the countryside for walks, and we have many active groups you can join in with, which can help bring some normality to our lives. Unfortunately, the footpaths around the Leisure Centre and Leisure Centre field are still not open to public use. I am hopeful that at some point we will receive information of their re-opening.

Our litter Wombles continue to regularly clear the litter throughout the village. The footpath to Narborough appears to be an area where motorists throw their rubbish from their car windows as they drive along. Disappointingly, dog fouling seems to be on the increase in our village. We all know it is the dog owners responsibility to clean up their dog litter and dispose of in the available bins. Wouldn't it be great if we could all be a bit more considerate?

We have replaced the goal posts on the recreation ground and are still pursuing the repair of the zip-line which is proving to be a very onerous task. Mysteriously, it appears that there are no parts available for the repairs!

I would like to thank all our parish councillors who have put themselves forward for election and have subsequently been re-elected. There were only the 6 existing councillors putting themselves forward for election so there remains 2 parish council vacancies should anyone wish to join our great team on your council.

Congratulations to Maggie Wright, who has been re-elected as the District Councillor for Huncote.

Finally, King Charles III was crowned on 6 May, 2023 at Westminster Abbey with all the pomp and ceremony that the British seem to excel at.

I hope you have all enjoyed the bank holiday celebrations. There will be many challenges ahead for the council and I look forward to working together with you, over the forthcoming year.

Alec Knight

Chair to Huncote Parish Council

Flood Warden Engagement Event

On Sat 16 September, 11:00-15:00, Leicestershire County Council will host a variety of talks and information stalls at County Hall (Glenfield)

The event will look at connecting Flood Wardens with partner organisations but also provide an opportunity for new and existing Flood Wardens to learn more about being prepared for flooding.

To book a place visit the link below and include details about any dietary requirements within your registration:

www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/getinvolved/events/2023/09/flood-warden-engagement-event

If you have any questions, please contact: emergency.management@leics.gov.uk

Zip-line reinstated

Following a period of vandalism in the park last year, the zipline has now been reinstated for all to use.

We would ask that all equipment is used properly and that anyone witnessing the play equipment been used incorrectly or vandalised to report the details to the Council at the first opportunity.

New memorial garden statue officially opened

The Parish Council recently worked with EMH Homes Garden Services team to mark the 80th anniversary of the Dambusters raids, which took place during World War II; 16-17 May 1943. The team had worked with the Parish Council back in 2014 to create a memorial to mark 100 years since the start of World War I, and as this needed redeveloping, the council asked them if they could support us to mark the anniversary of the Dambusters raids.

The team worked with the Parish Council to create a model of a Lancaster bomber. These were the planes used during the raids. An artist was



commissioned to create the model from treated spruce pine, providing a sustainable solution which will last around 5 years, giving the residents of Huncote an opportunity to use the memorial garden to commemorate another historic event in the future. The model has now been installed in the garden, and it makes a fantastic impact. Well done to everyone involved in this project!

Thanks to The Huncote Knitters for their wonderful Coronation displays

We would like to thank the Members of The Huncote Knitters for providing a variety of great knitted decorations during the year for the pinfold, memorial garden and The Green.



Do you know where your old stamps are? They're not valid after 31 July 2023

Royal Mail are adding barcodes to all regular stamps.

This means that after 31 July 2023 all regular stamps without a barcode will be invalid. This



is an extension to the previous deadline of 31 January 2023, giving people more time to use up their old stamps, or post them to Royal Mail to swap them out for shiny new barcoded ones.

If you have a stash of stamps at home or work, you can't use them for postage but you can swap them for new barcoded ones.

To swap your old stamps, please visit www.royalmail.com/barcodedstamps, call Royal Mail on 03457 740740, or pick up a form from a local delivery office or Post Office.

Should you have an issue to raise or a question about something going on in your community that you would like answers to, please don't hesitate to contact the Clerk or one of your local Councillors for help, support and advice.

Cllr ALEC KNIGHT (Chairman) - (0116) 284 1285 or a.knight.hpc@gmail.com;

Cllr JILL CHEESMAN - (0116) 319 3991 or jcheesman.hpc@gmail.com;

Cllr ROY BAILEY - (0116) 286 6773 or rbailey.hpc@gmail.com;

Cllr LIAM McENTEE - lmcentee.hpc@gmail.com;

Cllr MARK INGHAM - mingham.hpc@gmail.com;

Cllr KEITH CLARKE - kclarke.hpc@gmail.com.

Instagram - [HuncoteParishCouncil](https://www.instagram.com/HuncoteParishCouncil)

X was Twitter - [@HuncotePC](https://twitter.com/HuncotePC)

8x PARISH COUNCILLOR SEATS TOTAL - Anyone interested in becoming a parish councillor can put themselves forward for consideration to be co-opted (if vacancies exist). See existing Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk or the 'Become a Councillor' page on our website for details of what's involved and how to apply.

Cllr MAGGIE WRIGHT (County Councillor) - 07815 450 031 or maggie.wright@leics.gov.uk;

Cllr MAGGIE WRIGHT (District Councillor) - (01455) 888 306 or cilr.m.wright@blaby.gov.uk;

Contact the PARISH CLERK (STUART BACON) on (01455) 844 539, 07875 291 366

or clerk@huncote-pc.gov.uk. Find us on the web at www.huncote-pc.gov.uk.

Would you like to know more about what is happening locally? Have you been keeping up to date with the Parish Council and what's happening in the village on social media? Why not look us up and 'Like'/'Follow' us to be kept up to date with the latest news and info from the Parish Council and links to other helpful, informative and important news from our partners.

Leicester Animal Aid and Mars Petcare UK team up to launch a Pet Food Bank



Are you struggling with pet food bills amidst the cost-of-living crisis? L.A.A. are offering a helping hand to both cat and dog owners with a pet food bank at their Centre in Huncote, with products kindly provided by Mars Petcare UK.

Once owners have completed registration with L.A.A., Whiskas cat food and Pedigree dog food will be free and available for collection from Huncote on Thursdays between 10am and 2pm. They will also welcome those using this service to stay for a drink and a chat when visiting their Centre, though kindly request that four-legged friends stay at home.

"We know how much your pet is part of the family and we wanted to reach out and help anyone who may be struggling with their pet food bills during these challenging times. We are hoping you stay for a cuppa and chat when you visit and maybe make a few new friends." - Keely Furborough, L.A.A. General Manager

"Mars Petcare is proud to support Leicester Animal Aid and the pet parents of Leicestershire as part of our mission to end pet homelessness." - Paolo Rigamonti, General Manager Mars Pet Nutrition UK

To register, pet owners can email reception@leicesteranimalaid.org.uk or call the Centre on 01455 888257 – their staff will need to ask a few quick questions to sign users up for the service. If participants are unable to visit the centre easily, they can nominate a relative or friend to collect the food on their behalf.

Nominations Sought for 2023 Community Awards

We are currently seeking nominations for the three annual award categories: Best Kept Front Garden; Community Award and Environment Award.

We would really like to hear from you if you have any suggestions of anyone who lives or works in the village, to be this year's recipient.

We believe that all the effort which people put in around the village should be recognised that these awards can go a long way in doing that.

Please contact the Clerk with your nominations by **Tuesday 5th September @ 5pm**.

Inconsiderate parking causing issues for pedestrians and emergency services

As a helpful reminder and warning to those that aren't aware, in England parking on pavements is legal, unless specifically restricted, however wilfully obstructing the free passage along a highway, and causing or permitting a motor vehicle or trailer to stand on a road so as to cause any unnecessary obstruction of the road, are both criminal offences which the police can enforce against.

While parking onto pavements may be necessary on some narrow roads to allow emergency services to pass when necessary, please also think of how pedestrians can pass when you do park on the pavement. Is there enough room for a pushchair/wheelchair to pass safely? In [a recent government study](#) 95% of visually impaired people/98% of wheelchair users had had a problem with vehicles parked on pavements, resulting in 32% of respondents with vision impairments/48% wheelchair users were less willing to go out on their own because of pavement parking. Please think about how you park, and if you're causing an obstruction. Anyone wishing to report obstructive parking should contact the police via 101.

Dogs being let loose on field off Peers Way

Residents have been raising concerns about dogs being let loose on the farmers field off Peers Way, where they are roaming freely and owners are not collecting after them.

Footpath V121 does go through the field, which leads over the Thurlaston Brook into the nature walk, near the pond, but the right of way is only 3 feet wide around the edge of the field, and not the whole of the field.

We would like to remind all dog walkers that you should be in control of your dog at all times and stick to official footpaths, not straying into farmers fields.

How to contact your local Councillors



Facebook - facebook.com/HuncoteParishCouncil

Facebook - facebook.com/Huncote

X was Twitter - [@HuncotePC](https://twitter.com/HuncotePC)