

HUNCOTE VILLAGE NEWS

ISSUE 84 – SPRING 2024

BROUGHT TO YOU BY HUNCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Also available on our website Newsletters page - <https://www.huncote-pc.gov.uk/latest-newsletter.html>



Chairman's Annual Report - May 2024

I would like to start by thanking all the Parish Councillors for their support and hard work throughout the year. Furthermore I would like to welcome parishioner Mr Jon Wells who has just joined our Council and I am sure his prior experience and knowledge in local government will be a valuable asset to our team. I am saddened to report that Mrs Jan Melville passed away late last year. Jan was a stalwart of the community having served on the Parish Council, School Governors, the Community Association and the Library Committee. Huncote will certainly miss her valued contribution to our community.

Over the last 12 months we have experienced record weather conditions, from the hottest June to the wettest winter for years. This has caused problems throughout the whole of Blaby District.

There are still the ongoing problems with the fields around the Leisure Centre and I suspect these will continue for many years to come. Formerly, Councils provided one dustbin for any item, e.g. used batteries, paint, metal, etc along with all household rubbish. We have now learned that there will be repercussions if we do not take care of the impact on the environment, so we now recycle and re-use as many items as possible.

The Fosse Village Neighbourhood Development Plan has been updated and accepted by Blaby District Council. This will now be a consideration in any planning applications that are brought forward. The Parish Councils are working with the Fosse Villages: Shaping Our Futures group to ensure that all new development applications take heed of the report recommendations and ensure that appropriate infrastructure and amenities are included for the surrounding communities.

The new Local Plan by Blaby District Council is due to be put forward in the autumn. A developer has come forward with plans to develop land on Forest Road. There was a meeting in St James' Parish Hall for anyone to view and comment on, however, their planning application is yet to be submitted.

New safety matting has been provided in the park recreation grounds, the zipline has at last been repaired and is being enjoyed by the local children. The uneven footpath slabs around the park area are to be re-set in the near future. Unfortunately, adverse weather conditions over the last few months have led to severe flooding on the park causing a delay to these works.

Roadworks around the village have taken place by Severn Trent Water, involving flushing out the water pipes and carrying out valve replacement works. Lately, telecoms work has taken place to install a cable network throughout the village.

You may have noticed the new speed signs installed around the village. I hope this will improve road safety and alert drivers to their speed as they travel through our village.

The war in Ukraine is still a cause for concern. President Putin was re-elected with a claimed overwhelming majority in Russia and is escalating hostilities. The terrible conflict in Gaza is having a devastating effect throughout the world, splitting communities and causing anxieties to many religious groups and politicians alike, protesting groups are on the rise. Hopefully, ceasefires and resolutions can be achieved so there is a chance that peace can be restored.

Police & Crime Commissioner elections have been held and Mr Rupert Matthews has been re-elected as the Police & Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. I would like to wish him good will and good judgement for his future work.

The groups around the village work tremendously hard to provide opportunities and inclusivity for our parishioners. My thanks go to the Huncote Wombles, the Huncote Knitters, HATS, WI, Huncote Library group, Huncote and Croft Scouts, Brownies and Guides, to name just a few. You can find links to these groups on our web page.

Our Huncote Litter Wombles continue to endlessly clear the litter throughout the village and this makes our village a much nicer place to live. Disappointingly, dog fouling is still causing problems to Huncote residents. We all know it is the dog owners' responsibility to clean up their dog litter and dispose of in the available bins.

Sadly, we have lost many well-known characters over the last year and my thoughts are with their families and friends and I would like to offer my condolences.

It has been a privilege to have been a councillor for many years and my thanks go to all those who give up their time to try and make a difference.

Alec Knight

Chair to Huncote Parish Council



Dog fouling causing an issue around the village

We want to remind everyone it's a finable offence not to clear up after dogs when taking them out, and while we would not like to look to impose fines of up to £1,000 for not clearing up dog fouling and creating byelaws to restrict dogs to only being allowed on leads in public areas of the village, recent behaviour by some dog owners is causing significant concern.

Dogs are not permitted in the Fred Spence/Under 11's Playground at the rear of the school. Anyone caught with their dog in the fenced off play area is liable for a fine of up to £1,000. Owners are also requested to clear up after their dogs wherever they walk them in the village, and especially when taking them where children play. No-one likes treading in dog muck. Dog fouling can be disposed of at home or in any of the red dog waste bins or any of the public waste bins around the village.

D-Day - 6th June 1944

At about 11pm on the 5th June 1944, six Halifax bombers took off from England en route to the French city of Caen, Normandy, where their bombs would be dropped. However, the bombing raid hid their real purpose; each aircraft towed a British glider containing thirty British soldiers (all volunteers) and their equipment. Five of the gliders (the sixth missed the landing zone, but its passengers eventually found their way to the correct location) silently approached the targets, two bridges about five miles inland from the Normandy coast, undetected by German defenders. The mission was to protect invasion forces from advancing Panzers. Half an hour after the gliders landed they were followed by British paratroopers as reinforcements. D-Day had begun! Those vital initial landings paved the way for an invasion by land, sea and air (it is the largest seaborne invasion in history), carried out by more than 150,000 men.

After the battle of El Alamein, then a rare victory for the Allies, Winston Churchill stated that 'it was not the end, or even the beginning of the end, but perhaps the end of the beginning' of the Allies war against the Axis powers.

D-Day may be regarded as the beginning of the end of the Nazi regime, thanks to that small group which landed in Normandy just after midnight on the sixth of June, 1944.

Beacon lighting event to commemorate D-Day



As part of the commemorations of the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the Parish Council will be holding a Beacon lighting ceremony on the Den, on Thursday 6 June. Events will begin at 9:00pm with a performance of readings, songs and diary entries by HATS before 9:15pm when we join with national commemorations to light a beacon, in celebration of the 'light of peace' that emerged out of the darkness of war, to remember all those who fought for our freedom as part of the D-Day invasions.

We would request everyone walks to the event (where possible).

From 7:00pm we are paying for the first 150 portions of sample cones as part of National Fish and Chip Day at Huncote Fish Bar.

How to contact your local Councillors

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;

Cllr JON WELLS - j.wells.hpc@gmail.com.

8x PARISH COUNCILLOR SEATS TOTAL - Anyone interested in becoming a parish councillor can put themselves forward for consideration to be co-opted. 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.

Huncote residents encouraged to take up Council led Home Upgrade Grant offer

With the average energy price cap increasing by 5% in January, many residents may be concerned about the cost of heating homes and keeping warm this winter.

Under the Green Living Leicestershire partnership, local authorities in the county are working together to deliver £6.8m of grant funding to help the most inefficient and expensive to heat households reduce their energy bills and keep warm.



Home Upgrade Grant

The Home Upgrade Grant is administered by the County Council's Warm Homes service together with YES Energy Solutions and E.ON Energy Solutions and can provide homeowners and private tenants with fully funded energy efficiency measures improving the warmth and comfort of homes, whilst also reducing energy bills, carbon emissions and levels of fuel poverty across the county.

The scheme supports households that do not have mains gas as a primary heating system such as those with electric, heating oil, LPG or solid fuel heating. Households that only use gas for cooking or secondary room heating can still apply.

Eligibility criteria includes households within priority neighbourhood areas and more widely, households with an income of £31,000 or less per year or in receipt of means tested benefits, with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D,E,F or G (D or E in private rental). It will prioritise the most energy inefficient households and runs to end of March 2025.

Green Living Leicestershire is a partnership between Leicestershire authorities, to deliver projects supporting sustainability and Net Zero - the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible.

For more information on the grants, including the full eligibility criteria, eligible postcode areas or to apply, visit the County Council's Green Living Leicestershire [Home Upgrade Grant webpage](#) or call project delivery partner YES Energy Solutions on 0330 912 6199, who can support residents with their applications.

Information about wider grants, advice and support via the Warm Homes service and useful resources including a new advice booklet are available via the County Council's [Energy Grants](#) pages.

Parking causing problems around the village

Issues continue around the village with inconsiderate parking where roads can be blocked for emergency services and pavements can be blocked for pedestrians, especially for older and disabled people, where access to dropped kerbs is necessary to allow them to safely cross the road.

We would like to remind motorists to think about how and where they park, to keep roads and pavements safe for everyone.

We do appreciate that some areas are difficult to park, as the roads weren't designed for today's level of vehicle use, but if you were to need the emergency services you wouldn't want them held up because they couldn't get to you, or to think you were responsible for stopping someone from accessing vital services because of how you had parked.



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