



Harlaxton Village Voice

The Newsletter of Harlaxton Parish



Feb-March 2021

Parish Update

A belated Happy New Year to all.

Firstly, the Council would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped and continue to help with the Covid support group in the Village.

The Parish Council are only a small group of interested villagers. We are always looking for more members to bring enthusiasm and ideas. If you can spare some time and would like to join our friendly team, please email us at harlaxtonpc@gmail.com

During this recent challenging year for us all, the Council and volunteers have been busy working on various projects around the Village.

- The Council has funded the refurbishment of the Village Hall central heating system, improved ventilation to the roof and installed an injected damp proof course to damp walls. These works will revitalise our Village Hall in its Centenary year and in readiness for reopening once restrictions are lifted.
- Plans for new raised bed planters for the grassed area around the Obelisk and the Millennium sign have been approved, and construction and installation will progress shortly. These will bring a welcome splash of colour to these areas.
- We continue to work with landowners, agencies and our insurers, and we hope that remedial works to mitigate the flooding along Manor Drive, outside HSSC car park, will take place during February
- Traffic into and through the Village has continued to raise concerns. Lincolnshire County Council Highways have advised us that verge gates can help focus drivers' minds and promote speed reductions. This year, we are planning to start the installation of verge gates on some roads entering the Village.

We are also researching many other projects around the Village and would value your thoughts.

- Electronic Speed Warning Signs: These units can be placed in various [Lincolnshire Highways] approved locations on our 30mph village roads and flash warnings to oncoming drivers to encourage them to reduce their speed. Each unit is around £3k, depending on the model and specification.
- The Phone Box: Whilst we have replaced several vandalised glass panels in this Grade II listed landmark, it is leaning and with the flaking paint it is looking increasingly tired. We are obtaining quotes to straighten and rotate it [so that the bland, blank side isn't road facing]. This requires expensive electrical disconnection (and reconnection if relevant) by Western Power Distribution. We are also considering having it properly paint-stripped and painted. Works are currently estimated to be around £7k. At such a cost, we would need to consider fundraising to make this affordable. If works can be carried out, what should it be turned into? Some suggestions include: A Defibrillator site, Book depository, and an Information point.
- Pearson Gregory Field: We have previously considered enhancements and would like to revisit how this recreational area can be improved for all residents. What would villagers like to see here?
- Manor Drive Children's Play Area: Some remedial works are planned, and we are also considering extending the area and introducing some new equipment to this well-used village asset. Are there any particular pieces of equipment you would like to see installed?

Whilst the Parish budget is tiny and already stretched with current responsibilities, we always welcome ideas to enhance and improve Harlaxton. Please email your thoughts before the next Parish Council meeting on 2nd March 2021. Or, better still, we would gladly welcome you to attend the Virtual meeting on Zoom. Just email the Clerk for joining details.

Thank you

To Keith Gabriel for repainting the Millennium Sign, Andrew Cartlidge and Keith Gabriel for installing a new damp proof course at the Village Hall, and Dawn Gabriel for running the Harlaxton COVID Helpline (07593 874 252).

Simon, Andrew and Jane



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Winter 2020

Easter Activities

Easter Windows and Gardens Trail

Following the success of last years Easter and Advent Windows trails, we hope you will again participate and brighten up our village.

Rock Painting Easter Egg Trail

Decorate a rock or stone in an Easter theme and hide them around the village. Message a "clue" and a Treasure Hunt will then be devised for Easter weekend.

Please keep an eye on the Harlaxton Village Facebook Group for updates, or alternatively look on the Notice Board outside the Village Hall.

Thank you to Becki Gore and Jackie West for organising the above.

Village Hall



We thank the Parish Council for organising the heating, roofing and damp proof course work to the Hall during December. Whilst the Hall remains temporarily closed due to the pandemic, we will be redecorating ready to welcome old and new hirers when the current restrictions are lifted.

Our new email address is harlaxton.village.hall@gmail.com

Gardening Club

If you would like to join the gardening club, get in touch.

Karen Young 01476 571027
sencokaren@hotmail.co.uk
Jane Mann 07780 455632
jane.mann@live.co.uk

Church News



Sadly, Harlaxton Church building remains closed except for funerals and private prayer. Services continue on Zoom (and Facebook Live) on Sundays at 10.30am and Wednesdays at 9.30am. There is also daily Celtic prayer for ten minutes or so on all other mornings at 9.30am which makes a great start to the day.

The process has begun to find a new Rector, who will be the Rector of Barrowby, Great Gonerby and Harlaxton Group (Denton, Harlaxton, Stroxton, Woolsthorpe and Wyville). It is a long process and the new person will not be in post until September at the earliest.

Meanwhile for all enquiries, including the Zoom link for services, please phone or email one of the Churchwardens. (see the Church website - www.harlaxtongroup.org.uk - for details).

Harlaxton WI

As we have not been able to hold our normal meetings we continue to keep in touch by phone, email and Zoom meetings.

Our 17th February meeting will be on the theme of "Love the Planet", and on 17th March we will have our AGM followed by a speaker telling us about working as a midwife during the pandemic.

For details please contact Sue Carr on 01476594347 or suecarr@talktalk.net



Grantham Canal Society work parties have been locked down, but the Canal Rangers are still able to walk or cycle the towpath as part of their daily exercise.

Rangers, all volunteers, like the rest of those who enjoy the canal, do appreciate it the area is left clear of litter and dog mess. Enjoy your visits safely and considerately.

It remains to be seen whether we will be able to run boat trips from Woolsthorpe for Mothers' Day on March 14th. Keep up to date on Facebook, Twitter and at

www.granthamcanal.org.

Sports & Social Club



It's been a long time since we were able to welcome you and it will be a little longer before we can throw open the doors again, but the Harlaxton Sports & Social Club will be there for all. During our closure period we have received financial support from the government, via SKDC, for which we are incredibly grateful. It allows us to do some necessary work like replacing the ceiling in the beer cellar, as well as to continue to upgrade the look & feel of the club. It also pays for our fixed costs.

Rest assured that when opening is again permitted, the Club will be there for all. We really appreciate the support we have had in past and look forward to seeing you soon in the (improved) Club.