



Issue 7

June — July 2020



HP Source is a bi-monthly newsletter, funded by Hardingstone Parish Council, compiled and edited by a team of volunteers for Hardingstone Village.

From the editors



We hope you find all the differing items in this newsletter thought provoking. Residents have offered varied and imaginative items to show that Hardington is a caring and creative place to live. Now we need new

contributors to have a go. We've had no short letters or comments, and would also welcome photos.

In the next issue we intend to commemorate the end of World War II. Some of you have lived here for many decades and we want your experiences, or handed down stories, of life in and around Hardington during WW II. Please get in touch as soon as possible. Photos especially welcome.

Send to hpsourcemag@gmail.com or deliver to the Parish Room.

KAPH - the editorial team



Photo miscellany: Annie with some of her books (p9), Wisteria on the High Street, Sunday lunch in a Warren back garden, The 'Bug Hut', Freddie and Archie's den.

Useful contacts

Hardington Covid-19 Support Group

Helpline open 9-12noon & 2-4pm

07561 611250

County Cllr for Hardington: Lizzy Bowen

libowen@northamptonshire.gov.uk

07740 176037

Borough Cllr for Hardington: Jonathan Nunn

cldr.jnunn@northampton.gov.uk

01604 837210

Borough Cllr for Hardington: Luke Graystone

cldr.lgraystone@northampton.gov.uk

07857 746711

Vicar: Rev'd Canon Beverley Hollins

beverley.hollins@gmail.com

01604 945818

Church Warden St Edmunds: John Wilson

hardingtonchurch@gmail.com

01604 760411

Clerk to Hardington Parish Council

clerk@hardingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.hardingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

facebook.com/Hardington-Parish-Council

07709 523746 (office hours Tue & Thu 10-2)

Coronavirus heroes

With thanks

We have the pleasure and privilege of thanking some of the people who have helped to make life better during the lockdown. In no particular order:

The health workers – frontline staff putting their health at risk for ours, and those keeping the show on the road behind the scenes in labs, catering, cleaning, maintenance etc.

The care workers - helping our most vulnerable residents at home and in nursing and care homes.

The public transport workers, getting essential workers to work.

Viren and colleagues at the Londis supermarket – supplying our essentials and comforts, and preparing boxes for those unable to get out.

Covid-19 support group members – help at hand for anyone in need (phone 07561 611250 for help or to volunteer).

Saj and Farida at the post office – keeping vital services accessible to us all.

Staff at Collins' Pet Foods - for keeping our 2 and 4 legged friends fed.



Waitrose care packages ready for collection in the village hall

The Village Hall - for acting as a distribution hub.

Shell - for the Sunday night danceathon, putting Hardingstone on the map.

Joan for leaving her gate open so we can all look through to her lovely hidden garden.

Those making PPE at home.

The couriers; delivery drivers; van and lorry drivers; bin collectors; warehouse, take-away and factory workers –



Viren in the Londis shop

for supplying our essentials and morale-boosting luxuries.

Tim and Vitalija, delivering post to our doors, and the sorters, drivers etc. behind them.



Tim on his round in Hardingstone Lane

... and everyone who has offered help to a neighbour, smiled to a passer-by, or chatted to someone who just needs to hear a friendly voice.

Not everyone is free to do more, but if we each do what we can, together it will be enough.

Hardingstone Helpline

Mid-March – the imminency of isolation and lockdown became clear. How could we support our community, especially the elderly and vulnerable?

The same idea occurred to several of us who have been meeting as Hardingstone Organisations Together since the autumn, Viren at the Londis store, and the Doorstep Angels. So, the Hardingstone Covid-19 Support Group was formed on St Patrick's day.

Conversations between neighbours and a flurry of emails later we had agreed a plan. The delivery of HP Source newsletter to every household in the village 3 days later added impetus to our actions!

Viren would limit the opening hours of the shop and prioritise service to local residents. The



Hardingstone
- Covid-19
Support Group

Working with:
Hardingstone Parish
Council
who are providing the
dedicated telephone
Email: Clerk@
hardingstoneparishcouncil.
gov.uk

Hardingstone
Covid-19
Support Group

Telephone: 07561611250 (9am-12pm, 2pm-4pm)
Email: hardingstone.support@mymyles.co.uk

Hardingstone Covid-19 Support Group are a local village volunteer group who can help you if you are vulnerable or need assistance. We can help with shopping and picking up medication. We also want to offer a friendly phone call for anyone that wants a chat. We are here to make sure no one feels alone.

There is now a volunteer allocated to support each street in Hardingstone, who will be sharing their contact details with their neighbours shortly. If anyone doesn't get this information, please call the helpline 07561 611250, or email: hardingstone.support@mymyles.co.uk

A message from the Parish Council Clerk: We are asking that people do not use the play equipment in the Recreation Ground to help prevent the spread of infection. However, do use the Rec for your daily walk but please make sure that you keep 2m from anyone that you do not live with as per the official guidance. Keep safe everyone.

parish council provided a dedicated mobile phone for vulnerable residents who had no other source of help. We would offer collecting and delivering for those who couldn't get out, and a network of street volunteers would be developed.

A leaflet giving the details of the helpline, store opening hours, sources of local information and a request for volunteers was designed and 1,030 copies printed (free of charge) within 5 hours on Friday 20th, ready for delivery from Saturday. The phone arrived on Sunday and the helpline went live on Monday 23rd.

Within a week we had 32 local volunteers with another 20 since. The helpline operates 7 days a week, morning and afternoon, and has answered over 100 calls.

Hardingstone Covid-19 Support Group

We are one of over 30 groups that ACRE Northamptonshire helped to set up for over 5,000 volunteers who responded to the crisis in the first 48 hours. There is a network of coordinators spanning the county who work together to share information and resources. NCC created an umbrella for all charities, organisations and volunteer groups to be recognised as one entity #Northantstogether.

In addition to the helpline, we have worked with Waitrose to provide gifts of food to over 80 members of our community, and 100 hot cross buns on Easter Sunday that one of the volunteers who works at NGH took to staff at the hospital.

Aldi donated 40 Easter eggs for isolating residents, and we now have weekly donations of baked products from



Morrisons. The first batch went to Hardingstone Academy's very successful appeal to Age UK with pictures created by our children. Subsequent batches, together with items bought with monetary donations, are being used to supplement local authority packs for needy families.

To date (30th April) we have been able to offer a total of over 120 care packages thanks to local supermarkets, donations through our go fund me appeal and the time and dedication of our volunteers in the village.

A huge thankyou to everyone for being such a great team of individuals coming together for our community. We now know each other better, with neighbours helping neighbours, and we

feel privileged to have met so very many lovely people in these last few weeks.

Publishing rules and deadlines

Contributions are welcome from Hardingstone individuals and clubs. Please get in touch for information, advice or if you have a comment or complaint. We work to agreed editorial and advertising guidelines, which can be provided on request. Articles should normally be max. 250 words.

Submissions should be sent to the editor at **hpsourcemag@gmail.com**. Anonymous articles will not be included but name and address may be withheld from publishing if agreed with the editor.

The editor has complete discretion to omit or to edit submissions where necessary, and the editor's decision will be final. Deadlines for submission are given below.

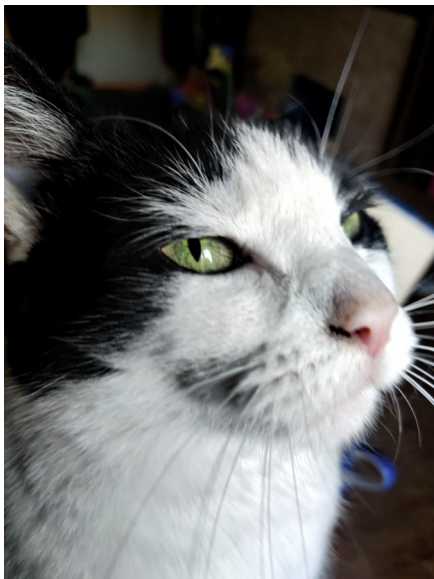
Please note: articles, notices and advertisements published in the newsletter do not represent the views of the editorial team or the Parish Council, and we take no responsibility for the content. We do not endorse products, services, events, businesses, organisations or individuals featured and / or advertised in the newsletter.

Issue	Final submissions	Delivered by
8. Aug—Sep 2020	1 July 2020	Last week in July
9. Oct—Nov 2020	1 September 2020	Last week in September
10. Dec—Jan 2021	1 November 2020	Last week in November
11. Feb—Mar 2021	1 January 2021	Last week in January
12. Apr—May 2021	1 March 2021	Last week in March

Community Reports

Life under lockdown

It is now the second month of lockdown. We are lucky to be able to work from home, but we know it is different for everyone and we're



mindful of those whose lives or livelihoods are at risk.

We have gained much needed sleeping hours as our commute is now 15 minutes from bed to computer via the shower. Online meetings are brightened by fleeting glimpses of colleagues' pets, children and

partners delivering chaos and coffee. Our own cats are also keen 'helpers'. Whilst witnessing colleague's home life through the screen brings us closer than before. People are kinder too: we know that times are tough, and it hits people at different times. We all need to check in and remember to offer help when we can.

Less good is the loss of casual conversations to break up the day, reminding us that we need to take a break. Now we rush from one task to the next with no let up in the work, and the afternoon stretches into the evening with no train departure to run for. Tension aches and pains are the only reminder. It seems we are all at opposite ends of a scale now: either too much work to cope with, or forced into furlough.

Meanwhile we are insulated from the horror of the hospitals, and I wonder if this is what it was like for those left back at home during the first and second world wars, willing but unable to know what others are facing every day.

KS

Ziggy awaits the next 'Zoom' meeting!

Parish Council News

Covid 19

The Parish Council would like to send sincerest thanks to all those who are helping the community through these difficult and unprecedented times.

Our gratitude goes to the organisers and volunteers of the Covid-19 Hardingstone group who are providing essential services to those who are vulnerable and self-isolating.

Many thanks to Waitrose, Tesco, Aldi, Hillyers butchers Wootton and all other businesses who have in any way helped the cause. Also a special thank you to Viren and family of the local Londis store who have worked tirelessly to get provisions out to those in need.

There has also been tremendous community spirit shown by the applause for our hard-working brave NHS staff and by the wonderful disco dancing in the High Street!

It has been very encouraging to see that the vast majority of residents have been complying with government guidelines, but we are grateful to those who put up tape around the play equipment in the recreation ground which was unfortunately necessary because a few were foolishly ignoring the signs.

The virus can live up to 72 hours on hard surfaces so not using the equipment is literally a matter of life and death. It doesn't only kill the elderly.

The recreation ground, Cherry Orchard and Brackmills park are still open for us to take our daily exercise so long as we observe the two metre distancing rule.

The phone number to call if you need any assistance with collection of provisions or medicines is:

07561 611250(Covid 19 Hardingstone)

or..0300 126 1000-**option 5** Mon to Fri 8 am to 6 pm
(Northamptonshire County Council)

Do not take up offers from strangers who turn up on your doorstep. Official volunteers will only come when you request them.

Cherry Orchard

A further draft contract has been received from the Borough Council for the transfer of ownership to the Parish Council, but there are still some issues to be ironed out.

Bollards

The parish Council had received numerous complaints from members of the public that, in spite of double yellow lines, the pavement outside the Village Hall was frequently

blocked by parked cars, preventing those with mobility scooters or buggies from getting past. Bollards have now been put in place to prevent the illegal parking.

Children's competition.

A children's gardening competition had been planned for this year, with the Parish Council providing seeds and seedlings, but due to present circumstances we are struggling to obtain seeds. If and when we get some we will put a notice on the Parish Council website and Facebook. It may be that some children are growing their plants anyway so could enter their efforts into the competition.

Pedlands footpath

An application has been received by the County Council to close the footpath KN6 (Pedlands). This public footpath runs from Heritage Farm Close to Landimore Road, across the area where 1000 dwellings (the SUE) are to be built. The Parish Council, supported by Cllr. Phil Larratt of NBC, has strongly opposed this because no work is likely to be carried out on the development in the near future, and dozens of people use the path every day to access Brackmills Park.

Grants

Eight grant applications were approved and paid to support community groups in the village.

Dog Walkers

Do not allow your dog to frighten or annoy other users of the recreation ground. If your dog is difficult to control keep it on a lead and always clean up after it.

Future meetings

For the foreseeable future the monthly full Parish Council meetings and Planning meetings, which are open to the public, will be conducted via the Zoom video conferencing application under central government guidelines.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 2nd, and members of the public will be welcome to join the meeting by clicking on the link which will be shown on the agenda displayed on noticeboards and the PC website.

If you have a topic you wish to be discussed, and you don't have a computer, please send details in writing to the Parish Clerk at least 7 days in advance. Alternatively contact the Parish Clerk up to 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

Public time will be subject to the usual standing orders i.e. 20 minutes of the meeting will be public time and each member of the public will be invited to speak for 3 minutes.

Notes from Parish Council Meetings

Tuesday 7th April 2020

The Parish Council (HPC) met with a difference in April. With all the government restrictions in place, parish councils have been given special dispensation to meet electronically during the crisis. As such the meeting on April 7th was via the video conferencing facility 'Zoom'.

Eight groups in the village had applied for grants and each was awarded £200 for the items requested. These included, 1st Hardingstone Brownies, 1st Hardingstone Scouts, Bouverie WI, Allotment Association, Supporters of St Edmunds, Hardingstone PCC, Hardingstone Academy PTA and Hardingstone Social Club. We hope that you are all able to start enjoying meetings again soon.

HPC would like to thank everyone who volunteered to support those in the village needing help at this strange time. The Council have purchased a mobile phone for the Covid-19 group to use for communication with volunteers and those wanting support. The numbers are shown in the 'Parish Council News' article on page 6.

Central government instructions mean that we have had to close the play equipment in the Recreation Ground. Because some people were ignoring this instruction, we have had to tape off the equipment. Please observe the closure, which is done to protect everyone's health. However, the rest of the Rec is open, so please use it as a

route to the shop or for your daily exercise — just make sure you keep your 2m distance from others.

The Parish Council also agreed a small fund to allow for a children's competition over the summer. More details will appear on the HPC website.

Tuesday 19th May 2020

This was the annual meeting of the parish council, so many administrative items were completed. Cllr Perry Thomas was elected as Chairman of HPC for another year. Audit paperwork was approved and policies readopted.

County Councillor Lizzy Bowen reported that the County Council have balanced their books for another year, which has put them in a good position to meet the unexpected costs associated with responding to the Covid19 crisis. The principal councils within the county have worked well together, which bodes well as Northamptonshire moves towards the change to two unitary authorities next year.

It is anticipated that the council will have to meet using 'Zoom' video conferencing for some time to come, so approval was given for the purchase of the 'Pro' version of Zoom. Login details to enable members of the public to join and view each meeting will be provided on the agenda for the meeting. You can sign in on a PC, your phone or tablet. For more information on how to join please look at www.zoom.us or contact the clerk.

Full minutes available on the Parish Council website at <https://www.hardingstoneparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Hardingstone Neighbourhood Watch

Northamptonshire Police Force sees 10 % increase in reports of domestic abuse.



The police have provided the following contact information for victims of Domestic Abuse:

- NDAS Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Services 0300 012 0154 <https://ndas.co/>
- EVE Tel: 01604 230311 <https://eveda.org.uk/>
- VOICE Tel: 0300 303 1965 voicenorthants.org
- Sunflower Centre: 01604 888211 SunflowerCentre@northants.police.uk
- The Bright Sky mobile app, free to download from the App Store or Google Play, provides support and information to anyone who may be experiencing domestic abuse or is concerned about someone they know hestia.org/brightsky
- You can also call the national 24-hour domestic abuse helpline on [0808 2000 247](tel:08082000247).
- The Silent Solution system enables a 999 mobile caller who is too scared to make a noise, or speak, to press 55 when prompted – this lets the operator know it's a genuine emergency and you'll be put through to the police.
- To access a perpetrator programme, contact [Respect](http://Respect.org.uk) – the national association for domestic violence perpetrator programmes and associated support services.

Hardingstone NHW Coordinators: Pam 761374

Jim 709715

Hardingstone community

A personal view

This year has been one where everything has changed. What started as a story in a far off, barely heard of Chinese province has seeped into every aspect of our lives. Coronavirus has proved deadly, leaving us locked down at home worrying about our loved ones and futures. For me, it's meant an end to my regular Step Forward With Lewis running group sessions. They say embrace change though, and I've tried to do that. Initially, it was dancing with friends and quizzes over Zoom. However, with the increase in community spirit fostered by the Hardingstone Covid-19 group I wanted to get involved beyond my computer screen.



You may have seen, heard or even taken part in my regular Sunday night dance sessions.

They started out small, but incredibly have become something of a hit. One Facebook video reached almost 7,000 people as far afield as America. We've been on the BBC and featured in the Chron: You're all stars! I've also enjoyed swapping my usual Saturday morning parkrun for parading round our streets dressed as She-Ra and a crayon, among other outfits. Hopefully, you've enjoyed those bits of fun, but the hard work has been put in by the Covid-19 group. I've enjoyed helping out, delivering food to those who desperately need it and spending a week dog walking. What's certain is nothing is normal any more... but then I've never really done normal! Keep smiling and let's hope we Step Forward into a brighter second half of 2020.



Michelle Lewis

Learning at home — Oscar and Harri

Lots of family walks, baking, school work, art, playing and reading. We've also been working towards Oscar's Beaver badges and he participated in a 'Camp At Home' to break the

world record for the largest Scout Camp. We've also had the isolation 'Mohican' haircuts courtesy of mum!



Isla, Owen and Imogen

We've been filling lockdown time with baking, gardening, arts and crafts, lots of time in the sun, and plenty of school work!



Annie's Hardingstone book swap



Annie's book swap expanded to book stalls in Hardingstone Lane and Bouverie Road on Saturdays in May. Can you help to raise funds for Northampton Hope Centre? Any donation, big or small will be very welcome.

For locations and the latest information, enter 'Annie's Hardingstone book swap' into any internet search engine.

King of the swingers

It started with a suggestion from a few friends that during this enforced period of Lockdown from the Covid-19 pandemic we might raise a smile and cheer each other up by organising a video-linked amateur talent competition amongst ourselves, purely as a bit of fun during this difficult time of social distancing. Although I have no musical talent whatsoever I decided join them and have a go.

When I was very young my Father taught me to play the Bones. They consisted of two pieces of bone or hardwood such as ebony, gripped between the middle finger of the hand and clicking them to the rhythm and beat of a suitable tune. I eventually found them in a drawer and although I had not played them for some time they still seemed to work, rather like riding a bicycle after a long time.



I then tried to find a suitable tune, "Ave Maria" somehow seemed to lack quite the sort of zip I was looking for and I eventually settled for Kenny Ball's "I Wanna Be Like You".

Although I live alone, I am very fortunate to have my two sons and a granddaughter living nearby, so in spite of the present distancing restrictions in force, they were able to video the result from the open patio window. I understand this has since been shared by a number of friends and I am absolutely astonished to find that it has now snowballed to the extent it has. Thousands of views from the US to New Zealand and even Outer Mongolia!

If this continues it looks as if I shall have to get myself a suitable Agent!!!

Arnold Francklow.

Follow this link to hear Arnold with his Bones:

<https://twitter.com/willhaycardiff/status/1252651207094657024?s=12>

Keeping busy

This awful virus has had an effect on everyone. Only 4 immediate family members were able to attend my dad's funeral in March, very surreal. He died (not of Covid 19) just before the lockdown, but thanks to a wonderful Celebrant, we had a lovely service. The closing music was 'Somewhere over the rainbow/what a wonderful world', quite poignant now as rainbows have symbolic meaning. When this is over we will celebrate his 102 years properly.

We have kept ourselves busy with dog walks, painting sheds, pruning and wrestling with ivy, baking and devouring cakes and soup. Veg seeds have been planted for the first time.

A new colony of bees is arriving at the end of May, as unfortunately we lost our previous hive.

I've been busy making ear protectors for the NHS, and taking turns with the support group phone. I've 'zoomed' in on my weekly Pilates class, and joined the Radio Northampton Crafternoon class.



Ear protector bands for face masks

I've borrowed a ukulele from my grandson and accessed my brother's website www.marlowuke.co.uk for absolute beginners – watch this space! Our children have kindly been doing our shopping, but we really miss giving them and our gorgeous grandchildren a hug.

It's important to keep a sense of humour, so we've enjoyed the jokes going round Facebook e.g. 'Anyone getting to the point where it would be OK if Jolene came and took your man?' (Dolly Parton) - only joking!

Above all we thank the NHS staff, carers and key workers for all they do.

Lesley and Chris Francklow

Hope for the future

Living in lockdown and self-isolation
Has wrought an incredible change on our nation.
By joining together though far apart
We've now uncovered its true, beating heart:
We're caring for neighbours, for family, for friends,
All pulling together till the nightmare ends.
And the skies overhead breathe a sigh of relief,
No longer choking from the harsh fumes beneath.
Will we learn lessons from these strange days
And carry on living in new, caring ways?
Let the many lives lost not be in vain
When the world takes a deep breath and starts up again.

Eleanor.

Hardingstone Village Hall

The Hall had to close to all its regulars when the lock down came , so, like so many other organisations, we will have no further income until everything returns to normal. This is a worrying time as we have no contingency fund, so let's hope we can weather this out.

Many of our users will be seriously affected, and we hope they also manage to survive.

But more importantly let's hope we all stay safe. On a positive note, lots of our groups are doing on-line classes and the hall building is being used as the storage space and organisation hub for the Hardingstone covid-19 support group.

Sending our very best wishes at this time,
HVHA

News from Hardingstone Academy

We send our best wishes to all the families and friends in Hardingstone. We hope you are all remaining safe during the current crisis.

Life for staff and children has changed significantly. We know this is temporary and we are all looking forward to the time when we can be reunited. It has been refreshing to hear that pupils are using this time to continue to learn and support their families with household tasks.

In March we closed our doors to most children, but



remained open to key worker families. Due to low pupil attendance, we collaborated with another of our trust schools, and our pupils worked out of Stimpson Avenue Academy, in Northampton. Children in school have completed

beautiful batik artwork, taken part in Easter egg hunts and continued to learn using online resources. Pupils have amazed us with their resilience, kindness and perseverance, and we thank Stimpson Avenue staff and children for making us so welcome.

Online home learning, for all pupils, has been set daily. Children are developing independence, creativity and confidence. Activities included drawing village maps, bubble science investigations, writing letters and plant and spring hunts.

Children have learnt new skills, including: decorating, baking, gardening and cleaning. We are sure that parents really appreciate their efforts.

Outstanding work is shared daily with teachers who are keeping in contact with families using email. We are proud of the children and the parents' efforts.



Despite being away from school, we have supported our community and groups in need. Thank you to Miss Price, our Upper Key Stage Two Leader, who

organised two community campaigns. One was for people to donate hand creams for NGH workers, and the other was in collaboration with Age UK, who requested tinned food, cupboard essentials, cakes and cards. We have been amazed with everyone's generosity, and thank them for their support.



The children's excellent work, family resilience, and the thoughtfulness of the community really shows how lucky we are to be part of an amazing village!

VE Day Celebrations

How the village Commemorated VE Day



Unless you were there it's difficult to imagine the jubilation which erupted on 8th May 1945. After years of suffering and sacrifice, we were no longer under the threat of invasion by a tyrannical enemy. No more bombs, no more blackout. Unfortunately we are now fighting another, but this time invisible, enemy, so we couldn't celebrate with street parties and the activities we had planned. However we did our best within government guidelines. Parish councillors decorated the War Memorial with bunting and a new plaque commissioned by the parish council was fixed to the plinth in the War Memorial garden by a resident on The Green -many thanks. And wasn't it gracious of Her Majesty to turn up and support us!



Supporters of St. Edmunds

April 2020

We were very sad to learn of the passing of our patron, Gospatric Home, on the 11th April.

Gos was the great nephew of Mary Bouverie, and a passionate and generous supporter of the Supporters of



St Edmunds. As a patron of Delapré Abbey too, he was keen to re-establish our historic connections.

Our first contact with Gos was in February 2018 when he brought his whole extended family to Delapré Abbey to celebrate his 85th birthday, and asked to visit the church to show the children where their Bouverie ancestors lay. He was keen to support our fledgling charity by becoming our patron and he attended the Launch weekend on June

2nd that year, where he was delighted to meet many Hardingstone folk.

Because of Gos, St Edmunds features in the Delapré Abbey guidebook and we have welcomed many heritage visitors to the church because of this. He kindly loaned his great uncle's WW1 medals and splendid dress uniform to the *Delapré Gentry and Hardingstone Villagers* exhibition at the Abbey last autumn.

An historian, publisher and a founder of both the first (and now largest) housing association in London and the Christian Resources Exhibition, Gos has affected so many lives for good. He gave commitment, courtesy and a great sense of fun to everything he did.

He will be sorely missed by family and friends.

Finances

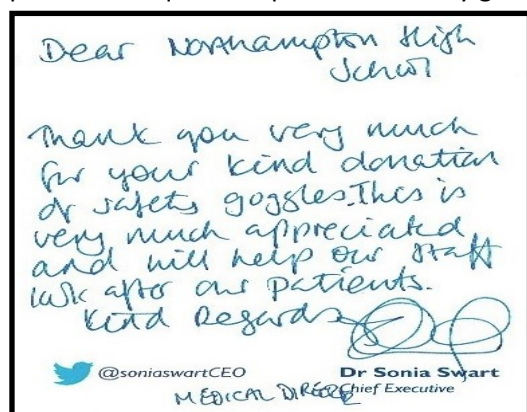
The accounts for the year ended 31st March show a surplus of £1,655 after making grants to the church of £1,365. These were £900 to provide access to the tower (celebrated with the *First Flying of the new Flag* on April 22nd 2019) and £465 for a replacement carpet on the dais. There was £7,324 in the bank at the year end, which has been increased in April by £617 gift aid and £300 from the Friends of Hardingstone live band evening. Thank you to everyone who contributes to the Supporters.

Midsummer Merriment

We are looking forward to having even more Decorated Wheelie Bins around Hardingstone for the 2020 #GreatGetTogether weekend on 20th & 21st June.

Northampton High School connects with the Community

Northampton General Hospital's A&E department recently put out a request for protective safety glasses, white



boards and pens. We were able to help the NHS fight the Covid-19 pandemic by donating some of these items to them, and we were really

pleased to receive a letter of appreciation from Dr Sonia Swartz.

Support for local charity

When our charity for 2020 was chosen last September, we could not have imagined what a significant role it could play in the fight against Covid-19.

Medical Detection Dogs is a charity based near Buckingham that trains dogs to detect a number of diseases including Parkinson's, Malaria and a number of different cancers. More recently they have started training their dogs to detect COVID-19, with a dog needing less than half a second to sniff out if a person has the disease, even if they are not exhibiting the symptoms.

The charity has visited us twice in the past term to explain what they do, and in February Susie and her dog, Max (pictured), came to talk



to us. We have organised various fund raising events for this charity, and so far have generated a total of £ 1453. Our target is £4000, and we are intending to run a sponsored dog walk very soon to boost the current total.



St. Edmund's church

St Edmund's may be closed, but the church is still open. Church members who aren't isolating are involved alongside other community members in helping neighbours in many ways. Church services happen through the website and via WhatsApp – look at the 'online services' page on livingbrook.blogspot.com, or see the short films posted on my facebook page and youtube channel. It's great that members of the community are still able to work on the fantastic churchyard wildlife project, something that is easily done while social distancing. New water butts have been installed, so water is now available at the church for watering plants at graves and memorials or in the wildlife areas you are looking after. Sadly, I'm doing a lot more funerals than I usually do at this time of year. If you come out to pay your respects for a funeral procession, please practise social distancing – let's not do anything that might increase those numbers any more.

May God bless and protect you all, until we meet again.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.

Amen.

Canon Beverley



Hardingstone Churchyard Wildlife Project

We are so pleased that the churchyard wildlife project has been able to get started, adapting to these unexpected circumstances. The team at idverde, who look after the churchyard, are very keen to help us, and it was agreed that the eastern end will be left unmown

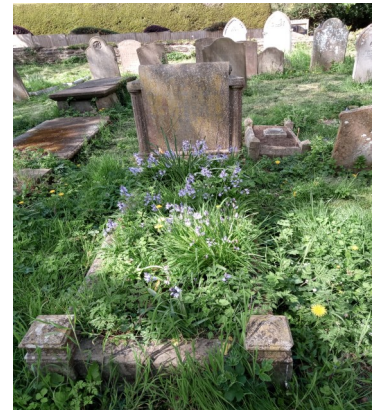


Many of us are finding it very helpful to spend our allowed outdoor exercise time in this peaceful, spacious and calming place. As we

write, 20 graves have been adopted by 12 volunteers who are recording what is planted in their plots, the reasons for choosing the plants used and photos of progress. If anyone else would like to do this, please get in touch.



Two water butts have been installed by the south porch, so there's a source of water for when the weather is hot and dry. Other changes are the dead hedge in the wild area and edging logs for the old cremated remains area where a St Edmunds rose has been planted. A birdbox has been donated and fixed to one of the lime trees in the wild area, and idverde will help us to make more when we're able to meet up again.



During this first year, it is quite important to be surveying the churchyard to record what wildlife we have, so we can identify improvements made in the years ahead. Therefore, if you visit the churchyard, please make a note of the plants and animals that catch your eye so we can build up a reasonable record. Thank you.

John & Hilary

hardingstonechurch@gmail.com

A walk through Hardingstone's history

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a person in the grip of a lockdown must be in want of a walk. I have never been an active soul, but Hardingstone's hinterland is well worth exploring.

The Cherry Orchard is a favourite. In the evening light the medieval ridge and furrow is clearly marked. Here centuries of villagers grazed their cattle and ploughed their arable strips. Close your eyes

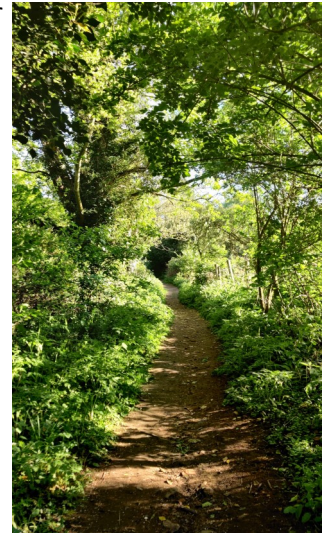


and you can sense them working there still.

Down in the woods to the right, light filters through onto banks of lesser celandines, and a smattering of bluebells. In 1460 the Yorkists beat the Lancastrians in the Battle of Northampton on the Delapre fields. It is easy to believe that the crack of a branch and flicker of light is a soldier fleeing from the sword. For now, though, peace reigns – at least in daylight hours.



Find your way to a crossing place over the (Cold)stream, and emerge onto the Hardingstone Nine golf course. It is not in play and nature is reclaiming her own. Strolling through the long grass and wildflowers you could be in a meadow, with the legendary bottomless basin - don't get too close to those bulrushes – whispering willows and tumbling hedgerow. On the far side you reach Brackmills, and the roar of the A45 on your left. Turn right, though, and you are back on the old ways, taking the gnarled green Roman Portway back into the village.



Kate

Cleaning the dreaded shed

Cleaning the dreaded shed,
When we should have been getting wed!
Rebooked for November
I wonder if we'll remember?

The five 'o'clock announcements
are very hard to hear,
Lack of Face masks and aprons and a country in fear..

Supermarket people dodging is becoming such an art,
Speed dumping essential goods into the shopping cart...

Clapping on Thursdays for the brave NHS,
I thank God that we have them,
for they are the best...

Making the most of
this family time
Blowing bubbles in the garden,
hanging clothes on the washing line...

Walks with the dog over the Orchard
where Cherries still grow,
once in abundance;
so very long ago...

Hazel's missing nursery but having such a blast!
She's only has 2 paint pots left I wonder how long they will last?

Family online bingo games
are going down well,
Legs eleven and lucky number seven, sweet sixteen and a
dancing queen...

What is to come;
we all wonder and hope...
For the day that we're free
and we can all have a joke...

The house is a mess
but I don't care
But All I want
is our family here...

Louise

A message to the village

This year will mark my 35th year serving you all from my shop, and I can honestly say that these have been some of the most testing times I have seen. Despite the hardships



due to the Corona Virus, the past few months have also seen a bringing together of the community that I have never seen before, and one that I am immensely proud to be part of.

I want to thank the group of volunteers who have helped organise deliveries to the most vulnerable people of the village. It is this type of community spirit that keeps us driven. The volunteers have been doing a brilliant job and we would be at a loss without them.

You will have also noticed that the shop has joined Facebook, and on that note I would like to thank you all for the kind messages sent to Roy and myself. We really enjoy what we do to provide a community store that serves you all, and the kind messages really mean a lot.

You will have noticed that we have changed our opening hours slightly, and this is something that will happen from time to time. This is to allow us to source products so that we can serve you better. Some products have been difficult to obtain, but this is now getting easier, and I appreciate the patience that you all have shown. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

Like everything, I feel this is just a passing moment in time. Before we know it things will get back to 'normal'. Please keep your spirits up and don't lose faith.

Viren Shah



Friends of Hardingstone ♥ Putting the heart back into Hardingstone

Closure of the Tote

It is with regret that we announce closure of the Tote. There will be draws in June, July and August and closure after that. All ticket holders remaining after August 2020 will be refunded for their outstanding months. Friends of Hardingstone will continue as an organisation in the village with coffee mornings and pins and needles and may support Hardingstone organisations. We thank all who have supported the Tote which has been running since 2006. More details in the next issue. Pam Tel 761374

Tote results drawn at Londis

Prize	Ticket April	Prize £	Name
1st	09 & 10	£40	R Gosling
2nd	03 & 10	£20	E Oxborough
3rd	03 & 22	£15	G Greaves

Prize	Ticket May	Prize £	Name
1st	06 & 15	£40	Saj & Farida (PO)
2nd	07 & 19	£20	J Higginbottom
3rd	07 & 08	£15	J Hewitt-Foster

David Gommon-artist 1913-1987

Local artist David Gommon was born before the First World War in Battersea, his father a journeyman carpenter and his mother a Scot from Fife. David grew up in the streets and park of Battersea, and he sang in the choir of his local church.



At 16 David enrolled in Battersea Polytechnic School of Art. Subsisting on odd jobs, he visited the art galleries

of Holland to study the great masters, and here he met his patron Lucy Carrington Werheim, a champion of modern art. He became part of the 20's group that included Christopher Wood, Barbara Hepworth, and Victor Pasmore.

During the Second World War David served in the London Auxiliary fire service near St Pauls, and he met and married

Jean Vipond. After the war he was offered his first teaching job at Northampton Grammar School, where he worked and painted prolifically until he retired. They moved first into The Rectory at Little Billing, and then in the 1950s into Hardingstone's Coldstream Lane, next door to Jean's parents.

David focussed on the essence of the English and Welsh landscapes that he loved. He could read the underlying structure of a landscape and reveal its inner life and character with great simplicity. He remained full of ideas and continued to vigorously develop his "personal and eloquent language" until his sudden death in 1987.



David left a legacy of over 450 works in permanent collections at galleries across the UK, and in New Zealand, Australia and Barbados. He painted an altarpiece for St Edmund's and designed a Praise mural for the chancel arch at St Edmund, and you can see his work locally at Northampton Art Gallery.

Peter Gommon

Midsummer Merriment

- the Hardingstone #GreatGetTogether 2020 event



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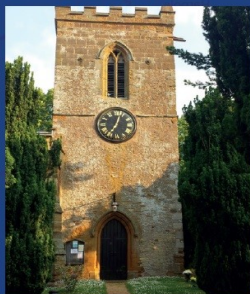
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