



Issue 11

February 2021 - March 2021



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

From your editorial team

Changes that affect Hardingstone are included in this edition, so please look thoroughly through the pages.

Thank you to all the deliverers who distribute around 1000 copies of HP Source to residents.

We have received several articles from villagers, some of which will have to wait for publication in issue 12. Do have your say and send more in.

We welcome items and information from Hardingstone individuals and clubs. We work to agreed editorial and advertising guidelines. Articles should be sent to the editor, and should be restricted to around 250 words.

The editor has complete discretion to omit or to edit submissions. Deadlines for sending items are given below.

Articles, notices and advertisements published in the newsletter do not necessarily 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.

KAPH, the editorial team.

Send your items to: hpsourcemag@gmail.com

or deliver to: The Parish Room High Street NN4 6DA

Issue	Send your items to us by	Delivered by
No. 12. Apr—May 2021	1 st March 2021	Last week in March
No. 13. June —July 2021	1 st May 2021	Last week in May
No. 14. August —Sept 2021	1 st July 2021	Last week in July

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Northampton Borough Council

northampton.gov.uk

0300 126 1000

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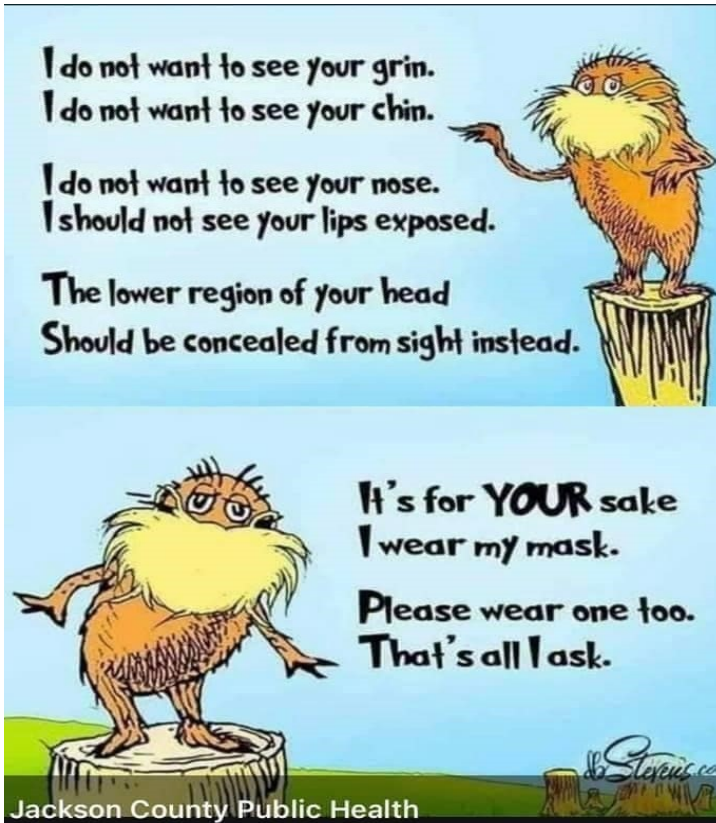
0300 330 7000

Hardingstone Neighbourhood Watch

Pam 761374

Jim 709715

News miscellany



Road reconstruction causes disruption



For four weeks across November and December traffic was disrupted while complete surface reconstruction took place on four roads in the village. Back Lane was the first to be treated, then Bouverie Road, Martins Lane, Ansell Way, and Massey Close. Although it was very inconvenient at times, the workers were very friendly and helpful, trying to keep disruption to a minimum. The improvement in the surface is remarkable, and we can only hope that at some stage the new unitary Authority, West Northamptonshire Council, will look favourably on our pleas to get the same treatment for many of the on-street footways.



Quiz Corner

Why not keep your grey cells active by having a go at the following quiz provided by the WI.

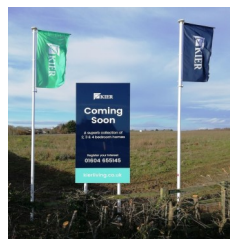
The answers to the following questions contain an embedded 'JOHN' or 'BOB':

- 1 A British rock singer and pianist born in 1947.
- 2 An excellent thing or person, especially an attractive woman.
- 3 A large bottle that has a short narrow neck and is often used for making wine.
- 4 Woollen headwear with a woollen ball on its crown as a decoration.
- 5 An edible deep sea fish found in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.
- 6 A cylinder on which thread, yarn or wore is wound.
- 7 Underwear with full length legs.
- 8 A medium sized North American animal related to the lynx which has reddish brown fur with black markings, tufted ears and a short tail.
- 9 36th President of the United States 1963 – 1969
- 10 A long racing sledge with steering, brakes, a seat for 2 or more, and two pairs of runners, one in front and one at the back.

Answers on page 4

Landimore Park - 1000 new builds

Construction work has now started on the development of 1000 dwellings at the rear of The Warren, (the 'SUE'), and has been named by the developer, Kier Living, as Landimore Park.



Hardingstone Indian takeaway

The planning application for a takeaway at the corner of High Street and Bouverie Road (previously occupied by a hairdresser), was approved by NBC in December. Of 35 public comments received, 27 were against and 8 were in favour of the change of use. Voting on the approval was 5 for and 3 against, but the planning consent was subject to restrictions on opening times:

Opening hours: 5pm-11pm Mon-Sat, 5pm-10pm Sun.
Incoming deliveries only between 10am-6pm any day.

Has HP Source had its chips?

Our thanks to all those readers who responded to our pleas for articles and feedback about the newsletter.

Many said that they value having a regular village magazine, and how much they enjoy reading it. Others have written with comments such as 'I find it very informative and entertaining' and 'I am a bit concerned about the thoughts of doing away with the magazine as it does serve a very useful purpose'.

The good news is that we will continue producing HP Source for another year. Hooray !!!!

But, and there is always a 'but', we still need our readers to provide articles, news and comments. Without input from **YOU** we will have difficulty in ensuring that each issue continues to cover a wide variety of topics.

In the next issue we want to include your comments on home schooling, getting a vaccine jab, loneliness, and keyworkers.

So please send in your items, photos, moans, groans, compliments and suggestions so that we can maintain a focus on resident's experiences.

KAPH, Your editorial team.



KAPH
The editorial team.
Parish Room
High Street
NN4 6DA

Hardingstone
25 November 2020

Dear Sirs,

Re 'The Beast of Hardingstone'

Some years ago - maybe 2007 - I was taking a walk through the woods on the other side of the A45. I entered a small clearing & found myself staring at an animal exactly described by Kate S. (Issue 9) When it saw me it departed in a flash. At the time I assumed it could only be a wild deer although it looked more like a big dog.

I hope H.P. Source survives - I find it very informative & entertaining

Yours sincerely,

Colin H. Lidgate



Answers to Quiz Corner on page 3:

- 1 Elton John
- 2 Bobby Dazzler
- 3 Demijohn
- 4 Bobble hat

- 5 John Dory
- 6 Bobbin
- 7 Long - Johns
- 8 Bobcat
- 9 Lyndon B. Johnson
- 10 Bobsleigh



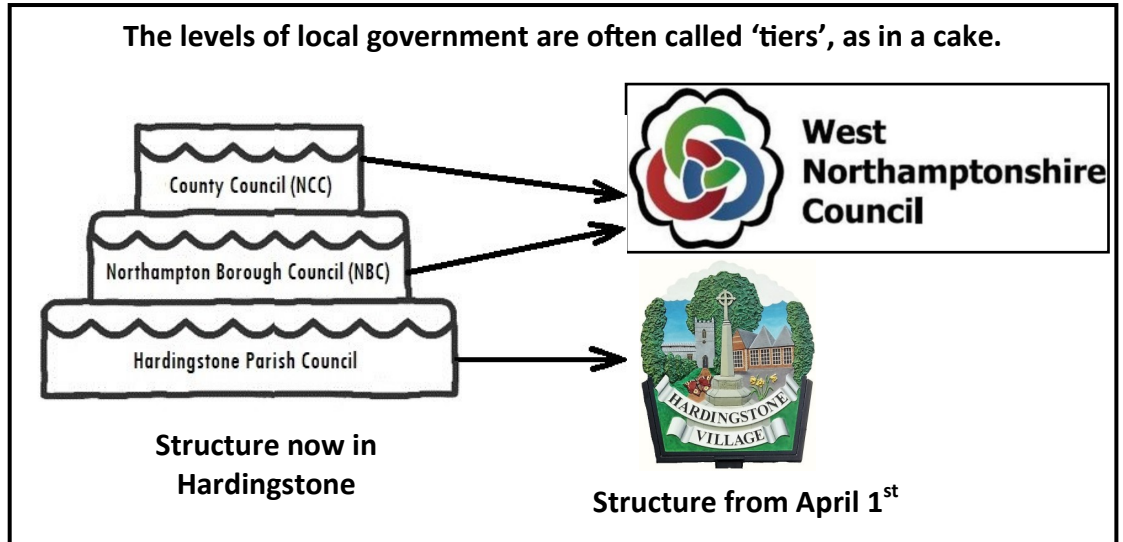
Local government changes in April - West Northamptonshire

On April 1st this year there will be major changes to the structure of local government in Northamptonshire. The current system, which has been in place since 1970, distributes the responsibility for local services for Hardingstone (education, planning, housing, roads, open spaces, etc) among three Authorities. In our area the top level is the County Council (NCC), followed by Northampton Borough Council (NBC) in the middle, with our Parish Council at the bottom.

Under this system it is often difficult to know which organisation is responsible for a specific service, and in some areas responsibilities overlap. For example, NBC is the general planning authority for our village, but planning for education is controlled by the NCC. Refuse collection is carried out by NBC, but refuse disposal and 'tidy tips' are run by NCC.

From April the county area is to be split into two parts, each part being administered by a 'Unitary' council which will take on the responsibilities of the top and middle level councils. These two new councils are named 'North Northamptonshire Council' and 'West Northamptonshire Council'.

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) will be one of the larger unitary councils in England, as it combines the areas covered by South Northamptonshire Council, Daventry District Council, and Northampton Borough Council into a single authority. The area includes the towns of



Northampton, Daventry, Towcester, Brackley and nearly two hundred villages and hamlets, including **Hardingstone**.

Why is this happening? Well, similar changes have been occurring in other parts of the country for many years, and the recent financial problems of NCC have resulted in the decision to create unitary authorities in our county. The unitary authorities are expected to be more efficient and, once bedded in, should produce better value for money for the taxpayer.

What does this mean for Hardingstone?

As far as services are concerned, great efforts are being made to ensure that any changes will be gradual. Many services are run by outside contractors, and these will continue as before until contracts come to an end. NBC will cease to exist, being replaced by a Northampton Town Council which will have responsibilities similar to our Parish council but for the town area only.

However, one immediate change will be the payment of Council Tax this year. From April you will see three lines on your council tax bill. You will pay an amount for the parish council, an amount for Northamptonshire Police, and an amount for West Northamptonshire Council for the services it provides. The amount you pay to each body is set by that body. Dealing with Covid-19 has led to

considerable unexpected expenditure by councils, so it is not surprising that WNC is proposing that its portion of Council Tax is increased by 4.99% (3% of it for adult social care). This would mean an average Band D level of Council Tax of £1,566.39 from 1 April 2021, or an increase of £74.45 for the year or the equivalent of £1.43 per week.

In the local elections on May 6th this year we will be able to vote for councillors to represent us on WNC. The new council will have 93 councillors, and those elected in 2021 will serve until new elections take place in May 2025.

If you are interested in finding out more about the changes happening to local government in Northamptonshire, please visit <https://futurenorthantswest.org/>.

It's election time again!

May 2020 should have seen elections for Hardingstone Parish Councillors. Elections up and down the country were postponed for a year because of lockdown to prevent the spread of Covid 19. We understand that the Electoral Commission are putting plans in place to ensure that voting can take place in 2021, even if in a slightly different way to previous elections.

Are you interested in standing to be a parish councillor in Hardingstone? The role offers the chance to get involved in the community and make a difference to the quality of life for the residents of the village. With the start of building on the new development behind The Warren, the village will be growing over the next term of the Parish Council, all of which will have an impact on the village.

To be a Parish Councillor you must be over 18 years old, live or work within the Parish, and be a British, eligible Commonwealth, or EU Citizen and have a passion to make Hardingstone the best it can be.

If you would like to find out more please contact the Clerk on clerk@hardingstoneparishcouncil.gov.uk or keep an eye on the Parish Council website for details on how to apply for nomination.

WANTED



Do you care about Hardingstone?

Do you want to do something positive for your community?

Can you think, listen and act locally?

Elections to Hardingstone Parish Council are expected to be held on 6th May 2021*

Consider becoming a Parish Councillor

To find out more please visit
www.hardingstoneparishcouncil.gov.uk

* If this date is confirmed, applications will need to be submitted in early April.
Look on the parish council website and village notice boards for the latest information

December and January Parish Council meetings

In December there was a presentation about the proposed bike trail on the site of the former Hardingstone 9 golf course. Concerns of the village were given. There is an article about this on p12.

It is that time of year when the parish council has to look to budget for the 2021/22 financial year and request the precept from NBC. The precept will be kept the same as in 2020, with potential projects to enhance the village. We will be looking to see if there is the possibility of putting lighting on the Rec so that it can be used more in darker months. This will of course be fully consulted on when we have more information. We are also in discussions with the Woodland Trust and Rotary about the possible planting of more trees on the Rec.

NBC have generously given the Parishes in their area a share of the grant they received from central government to help with Covid relief. If you are a village organisation that has suffered financially this year, or you have ideas to help the village in these uncertain times, please contact the clerk.

Cllr Thomas attended the NBC Planning Committee meeting to object to the change of use from hairdresser to takeaway on Bouverie Road. Whilst there were some objections, this was approved on a majority vote. Proposed opening times have been reduced to lessen potential traffic issues when the Post office is open.

We have asked Northampton Borough Council for a contribution towards legal costs of the purchase of Cherry Orchard as the delay has been at their end, but are still waiting to hear from them on this. We are however in the process of pulling together a specification to install a kissing gate at the Queen Eleanor roundabout end to allow better access.

At the time of writing, we are beginning a third lockdown, with nothing but grey skies for company. We are considering a Hardingstone in Bloom event later in the year to cheer everyone up. Updates will follow when we have more information

Police Crime statistics show there was no crime in November, but 2 criminal damage in December.

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

The next meetings (zoom) are on Tuesdays February 2nd and March 2nd 2021 at 7:30pm.



Hardingstone Neighbourhood Watch



Coronavirus vaccination scams

Pauline Smith, Head of Action Fraud, says:

“The vaccine is only available on the NHS and is free of charge. The NHS will never ask you for details about your bank account or to pay for the vaccine. If you receive an email, text message or phone call purporting to be from the NHS and you are asked to provide financial details, this is a scam.”

Police news

In November PCSOs identified a substantial cannabis factory in Water Lane Wootton. Police dismantled it.

Police warn there is an increase in residential burglary in the area. Check that your outbuildings are secure. Remove keys from all doors and windows. Do not leave keys on show or near letterboxes or cat flaps.

In Hardingstone an unlocked car was entered by 2 people overnight around new year. LOCK your vehicles and leave nothing on show.

E-scooter legislation

Police have asked us to clarify legislation on e-Scooters.

Privately owned e-scooters are not currently allowed to be ridden on public roads, cycle lanes, pavements or public open spaces. If you are caught riding a privately-owned e-scooter on a public road, you could get a £300 fixed-penalty notice and, if you have one, six points on your driving licence. The scooter you are riding could also be seized.

Rented Voi scooters meet the legal requirements if they are ridden in accordance with Voi rules in the County trial areas, on roads and cycle lanes, NOT pavements.

Pam 761374

County Council notes from Cllr Lizzy Bowen

Extracts from a message from our County Cllr Lizzy Bowen.*

I was elected in May 2017 and from the start of my tenure at the county authority, we have been on a road to transformation. I love my constituency area of the Nene Valley (which includes Hardingstone).

You will all know that Northamptonshire County Council has had historical financial challenges. With government intervention, a new team was put in place. We've balanced the books, turned things around and been at the forefront of the local response to COVID19. I've been proud to be part of this transformation team as Deputy Leader.

On the 2nd November our children's department moved into a Trust. We support over 1000 of the most vulnerable children. The regulatory bodies have reported on the need for significant improvement. We have done just that. This is a notoriously difficult, if not THE most difficult demand led service to manage.

From April 2021, Hardingstone will become part of a newly formed West Unitary Authority. This means the Borough of Northampton, the Districts of South Northamptonshire and



Daventry and just over half of our County Council will merge. Many residents have complained that they do not know who to go to for what. This merging of tiers will ensure a more streamlined service, with clear lines of communication and greater accountability

Do engage with your local authority when consultations take place. You can have a direct impact on how your local government is managed.

POSTAL VOTING is to be encouraged for our May election. I would strongly urge you to register for this— it is the most safe and socially distanced way in which you can participate in democracy.

It would be remiss of me to not mention Highways and potholes specifically! You will soon see the effect of a massive investment in 2 state of the art machines. Still, we need

much more funding to bring our roads back up to pre recession days and we as a cabinet are lobbying hard on this.

Elizabeth Bowen

Deputy Leader: Northants County Council

Cabinet Member: Shadow West Unitary Authority.

* The original message from Lizzy can be found on the next page 7A (online copy only).

County Council notes from Cllr Lizzy Bowen

There has been so much going on over the last few years it is difficult to know where to start; but at the top of all our minds is the 2 Covid lockdowns, which have markedly changed all our lives. I wish to convey my deepest sympathy for those who have lost loved ones during this pandemic.

As some of you will be aware, I was elected in May 2017 and from the start of my tenure at the county authority, we have been on a road to transformation ...the like of which has never been seen in local government. I love my constituency area of the Nene Valley and the best bit for me is meeting you as residents. You have really helped me to keep motivated and enthused about my extremely challenging work.

You will all know that Northamptonshire County Council has had historical financial challenges. I'm pleased to say that with government intervention, a new team was put in place, and we have worked hard to learn from the mistakes of the past to ensure a brighter future. We've balanced the books, turned things around and been at the forefront of the local response to COVID19. I've been proud to be part of this transformation team as Deputy Leader.

On the 2nd November our children's department moved into a Trust. We support over 1000 of the most vulnerable children in the county and for many years, the regulatory bodies have reported on the need for significant improvement. And we have done just that, though we must not rest there, as we move forward into a Unitary Council. The road to recovery has already moved at pace, but this is a notoriously difficult if not THE most difficult demand led service to manage. By moving into the trust (which is still within authority remit) it allows the 2 Unitary authorities to settle, whilst ensuring that some of the most vulnerable children under our care, have the best possible start in life.

From April 2021, Hardingstone will become part of a newly formed West Unitary Authority. This means the Borough of Northampton, the Districts of South Northamptonshire and Daventry and just over half of our County Council will merge. I have often been frustrated by the existing structures of local government and many residents have complained to me that they do not know who to go to for what. This merging of tiers will ensure a more streamlined service, with clear lines of communication and greater accountability. More details will



follow on this, early New Year.

Your Parish Council has been a huge support to you all and to me. I am in awe of what they do for you in the community. I would urge you all to support your Parish Council in their mammoth task. And equally to engage with your local authority when consultations take place. You can have a direct impact on how your local government is managed.

POSTAL VOTING is to be encouraged for our May election next yearlook at the results in America! I would strongly urge you to register for this by contacting the Borough Council. It is the most safe and socially distanced way in which you can participate in democracy.

I am excited to introduce you to a very positive project that I am leading on; "Chester House Estate" and will provide you with more details of this archeological heritage site over the coming months. You will find some snippets on my Facebook page and LinkedIn.

It would be remiss of me to not mention Highways and potholes specifically!

You will soon see the effect of a massive investment in 2 state of the art machines. This is alongside extra staff for winter support and a significant road improvement strategy. Still, we need much more funding to bring our roads back up to pre recession days and we as a cabinet are lobbying hard on this.

Finally, I sincerely hope we can all enjoy 2021 with family, friends and our community. And do say hello if you see me!

If you wish to keep updated, please connect with me on:

Facebook at Cllr Lizzy Bowen or on "LinkedIn" Elizabeth Bowen JP.

My email address is Libowen@northamptonshire.gov.uk.

Elizabeth Bowen

Deputy Leader: Northants County Council

Cabinet Member: Shadow West Unitary

A plant lover's reflection

It is said that a garden is "a thing of beauty and a JOB for ever". One of the pleasures of the garden in winter is being able to admire it through the window. We suddenly see how many shades of green there are and how many plants are still in flower, in spite of frosty or foggy mornings. There are penstemon, skimmias, abutilon and of course sedum

and hydrangea heads. The hellebores are shooting and snowdrops are ready to burst forth. The tulips are planted and the



rhododendrons and camellias are full of buds. The pigeons and magpies are quietly sitting on separate parts of the same tree admiring the view.

It is easy to see the gaps and you can start to plan improvements for next year without feeling guilty that you are not working out there. But the tools need cleaning and there are many weeds still surviving and there is pruning to be done.

After Christmas we begin to plan with enthusiasm as the bulbs flower and shrubs shoot. The roses need pruning of course and the begonias need to see fresh air. The edging needs redefining and the grass begins to grow.

As the days lengthen, we can take a walk round the garden carrying secateurs and some plant labels. I am always glad I have relabelled the shrubs and trees when I am asked to identify plants on garden open days.

Every season brings its list of jobs and its particular pleasures. For me it also means I get to see people who wish to have a quiet look at some plant or other. This gives me a chance for a quick rest!

It is also a great pleasure, in spite of the huge amount of work, to open the garden each summer to help the church funds.

Dorothy Gurney sums up the pleasures of gardening well in her poem "God's Garden". This ends with the following verse:

*"The kiss of the sun for pardon
The song of the birds for mirth
One is nearer God's heart in the garden
Then anywhere else on earth."*

Joan Martin

A Twitcher's reflection

One of my favourite pastimes is bird watching, so therefore I am what is called a "TWITCHER".

As a member of the RSPB, towards the end of January each year, members are encouraged to report the number and species of birds that visit their gardens within a given hour.

My best ever report was fourteen different species in 2010. Unfortunately, now with the fields behind my garden in The Warren turned into a building site, the varieties have diminished. I no longer record YELLOWHAMMERS, SISKINS, REDWINGS or FIELDFARES as before.

Two years ago, I posted my report to the RSPB, returned to my garden, when a large green bird landed in my apple tree. TOO LATE. It was a GREEN MACAW obviously

escaped from a local aviary?



An elusive Brambling

Also, walking all over the UK with the Ramblers, I was encouraged to identify 100 different species in one year. I reached number 99, and was at a loss to reach my goal - when within the last week of that year a bird landed in my garden. Number 100: - a BRAMBLING! Quite a rare sighting. HOORAY! MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

(RSPB instructions are:- Count the birds that land in your

garden or park etc. Ignore any birds that are still in flight. To avoid double-counting, just record the highest number of each bird species you see at any one time - not a running total.)

Mick Freeland your local TWITCHER

Starship Delivery Robots

During the current lockdown, many of us are regularly taking walks in the locality to get our daily exercise. We are used to competition from bicycles and, more recently, Voi scooters, but in the last few months there have been some very polite new visitors to greet us on our excursions: Starship robots. These fascinating creatures are used to automatically deliver food and parcels within a 4 mile (6km) range from their base, and last November a trial began in conjunction with the Co-op store in Wootton Fields.

Although relatively new to the UK, the robots (bots) have been trialed quite extensively in North America, largely on college campuses. In March 2020 they were used for the first time in the UK, with Milton Keynes being selected for a major trial, and their success there has led to a second trial in our area. The robots have a maximum speed of 6 kph (3.6 mph), and can be controlled remotely if their own navigation fails.

They also have speakers, so they can communicate with humans that they meet, which can lead to some interesting conversations.

To arrange a delivery, you need to download the Starship app, create an account with a delivery address and order your goods. Then sit back and wait.....



A Starship delivery

With two young children in the house the prospect of having something delivered to by a robot was too exciting to pass on. After navigating the Starship app, setting it up and paying for some essentials (and some non-essentials!), the waiting game began.



Being so new and popular, it took a while until it was our turn, but when the image of a delivery bot appeared on the app's map we were fascinated to mark its progress. It was slow, but our excitement only grew as it got closer and closer. When it was near enough to see the bright orange warning light from the window, the whole family feverishly threw on warm clothes and dashed out to meet it.



It was clear why it took so long - the bot constantly checks and changes course as it makes its way through Wootton and Hardingstone. After finally reaching its destination and saying "Hello" in a calm, American voice, our shopping was unlocked via the app for us to lift out.

As we closed the luggage compartment and dismissed it, the bot courteously thanked us, spun round on the spot and headed off back to base. Great, novelty fun!

Note: The Starship robots operate from the Co-op store in Wootton Fields, where Hardingstone Academy PTA is registered as a local charity for fundraising.

Andy W.

Close encounters of the third kind?

One afternoon in December I was walking along Newport Pagnell Road when I came upon a stranded Starship robot. He, (I'm pretty sure it was a boy), had fallen off the pavement and was grounded with two wheels on the road. He won't be going anywhere so I must send him on his way, I thought.

I hauled the heavy little fellow onto the footpath and, as he headed back towards the Co-op, he said, "Thank you for helping me off the road." I was so surprised, I called to a lady walking her dog opposite: "He spoke to me!" She laughed nervously and hurried away.

Perhaps she thought I was a mad woman. But who cares? It's such clever technology and such fun.

Jenny B.

census 2021

Households across Northampton will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and population, which will record information for census day, Sunday 21st March 2021. A census has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. Households across the country will soon be receiving a letter with instructions on how to complete the census questionnaire. Everyone will be urged to fill in their data online by logging in to the census website using a unique access code provided in the letter. However, paper questionnaires will be available on request.

Census day: Sunday, 21st March

The census is vital to all of us, as it helps us understand what our society needs now and what our needs are likely to be in the future. The information collected provides population estimates that assist in the forward planning and funding for services in our area, such as transport, education and healthcare.

You must complete the census by law. If you do not, or if you supply false information, you could be fined up to £1,000.

More information about the census, and the security of data that you provide, can be found on [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk).

Focus on John Whiting

John is Hardingstone born and bred. Born in 1930 in Taylor's row, the red brick cottages opposite The Sun. The family subsequently moved to The Green when his father was employed by the Bouverie estate as the job included a tied house. When John's father was made redundant the family were faced with eviction.

John's mother threatened Miss Bouverie with having the family furniture stored in the Church, a sign of eviction. Miss Bouverie instructed the Estates Staff to allow the Whiting family time to find a new home.

As a choir boy John remembers the funeral of Miss Bouverie in 1943 and the opening of the outside family crypt which is half way up the Church path on the right.

John joined the army as a Regular (thereby getting a better



rate of pay than a National Serviceman), and after initial training found himself attached to the Black Watch who were posted to Kenya at the start of the Mau-Mau conflict. As a standard bearer of the Hardingstone Royal British Legion Branch for many years, he had the honour to carry the banner at the annual remembrance parade at the Albert Hall.

After 8 years with the Milk Marketing Board, John then spent 35 years as an agriculture machinery salesman before starting his own business. He represented England in Bowls on a number of occasions, joining the ranks of other sports people who have played for their country and who have also lived in Hardingstone.

He also enjoys the hobby of stickdressing, his walking sticks have been sent around the world. Married for over 60 years to Jane, he is a father, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather.



Goodbye Link, Hello **WOOTONMAG**

We understand that 'The Link' magazine, published quarterly, which provided news and information for the southern area of Northampton, has ceased publication after more than 20 years. Hardingstone will be sorry to lose it, as it was an important source of information about the wider community.

In December Wootton Parish Council started to publish a quarterly magazine, and we wish them every success in their new venture.

www.woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk/uploads/woottonmag-december-2020.pdf



1st Hardingstone Scouts

New Scout Band

Last November members of our newly set up Scout band took part in the British Youth Band Associations Individual and Ensembles competition. This year, due to Covid19, the competition had to take place virtually which added an extra level of challenge for our young people.

Cam, Oliver, Daniel, Amelia & Tristan did 1st Hardingstone and Northamptonshire Scouting proud, they are all very talented young musicians and we are so very proud of them. Amelia won GOLD and Tristan won BRONZE an, exceptional achievement, especially when considering that there were over 90 entries!



Hardingstone Weather

Who doesn't have interest in the weather?

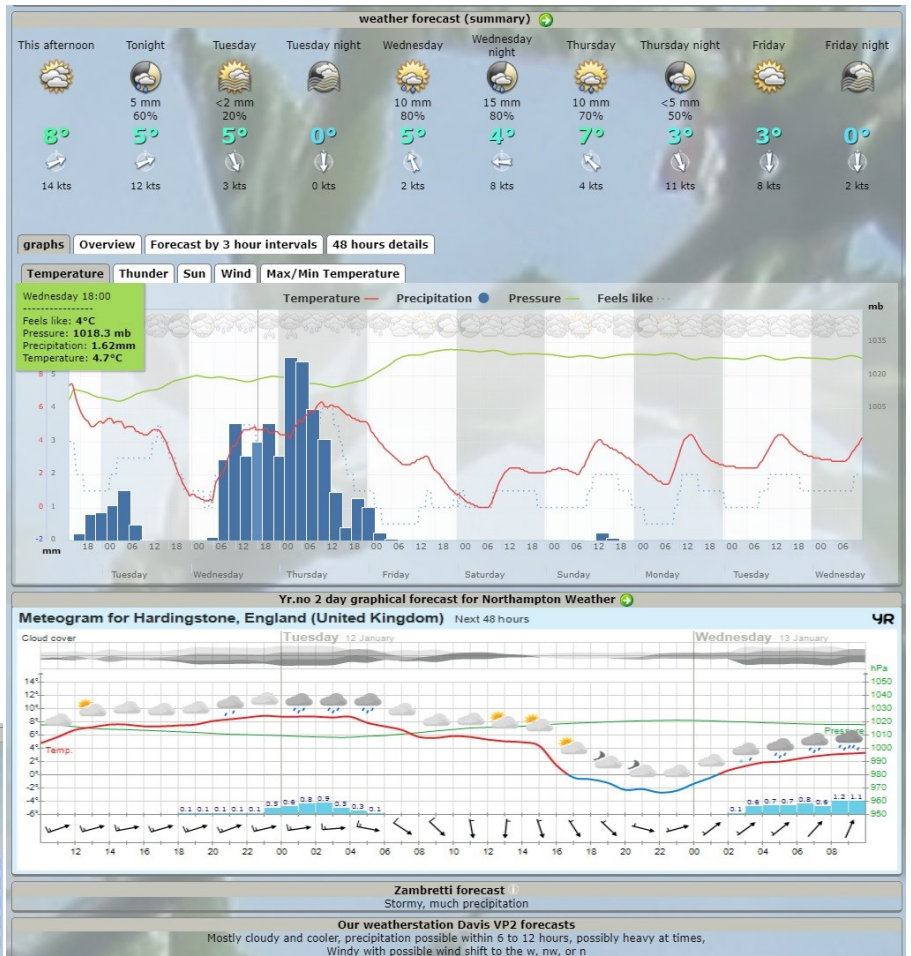
Did you know that we have a weather station in Hardingstone? It is run by the 1st Hardingstone Viking Scout troop, and provides a very comprehensive weather report for our village.

You can view up to date weather statistics and forecasts online at <https://www.northamptonweather.org.uk>

The weather station even has an Air Quality Sensor and all the measurements are taken right here in Hardingstone. We even predict the weather for the next 7 days with our own forecast!

The station has operated in Hardingstone since 2011 when it was moved from its original site in East Hunsbury.

<https://www.northamptonweather.org.uk>

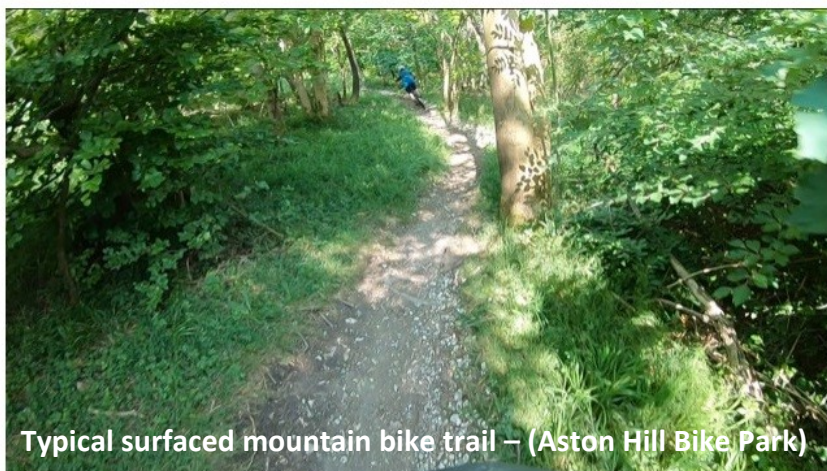


Northampton Bike Park

There is a long history of mountain bike riders using the sloping terrain around the A45 cutting between Delapre and Hardingstone to build trails and ride together. After the most recent trails were removed from Cherry Orchard Woods 2 years ago, around 1500 local riders signed a petition asking for an official site to ride their bikes and hone their skills. With the Hardingstone 9 golf course no longer in use, it seemed an ideal opportunity to swap golf buggies for bikes and create permanent trails for the many riders in Northampton.

With the support of NBC and Northamptonshire Sport, a group of riders has put together a bid to British Cycling for funding to enable professionally built bike trails to be created

on the site. The recent survey has been used to inform the design of the trails as part of the bid process. At the time of writing British Cycling has yet to confirm the funding.



Typical surfaced mountain bike trail – (Aston Hill Bike Park)

Since the closure of the Hardingstone 9 golf course there has been much speculation around the site's next use: Housing? Brackmills extension? This proposal would see the site secured for its community value for the foreseeable future, and give a much needed facility for cycling and a wider amenity space for all.

There has been some concern over the form that the trails will take and how the landscape will be managed. It is hoped that the following list of FAQs will help answer some of your readers' questions.

Frequently asked questions

What form will the trails take?

The current plan is that nine surfaced downhill trails will be created roughly in line with the previous golf course fairways along with four uphill trails. The bike trails and features will be around 2m wide, allowing all ground in between to be managed for wildlife. A model similar to that used in Northamptonshire's Country Parks is being strongly considered. The Woodland Trust's MORE trees scheme will provide funding towards developing the area into an urban green space.

How will rights of way (RoWs) be affected?

Footpaths KN4 (Portway) and KN5 (Barrow Stile) will remain unchanged. Safe crossing points with pedestrian priority will be provided for. No other RoWs exist on the site. However, the plan allows for some permissive walking paths to be created around the bike trails over and above those required by the cyclists.

How will the trails be managed?

Northamptonshire Sport CIO (NSport Charitable Incorporated Organisation) will be the lease holder and take responsibility for financial management and community use of the facility. A Volunteer led Club, affiliated to NSport will manage the day to day operation and maintenance of the park and trails.

Where will visitors arriving by car park?

The facility will have its own car parking area, accessed from

Brackmills.

Will planning permission be required?

Yes, if successful with the bid, the final design will require planning permission. At that time the usual consultation process will be used.

Tony Skirrow.

What do wildlife organisations say?

The Wildlife Trust has responded to the consultation for the proposed bike park. They say that "It may be possible to incorporate wildlife rich areas and bike facilities but it would need to be well planned and managed". They have added the area to their list of places where they would like to do a formal survey in the spring if possible.

The Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre (NBRC) collates wildlife sightings that people make across the country. This information is then used to look at species distributions and provide guidance for projects, encouraging people to consider local wildlife.

Please make a note of what you see, where and when and send it in to www.northantsbrc.org.uk to build up a picture of what wildlife we have there.

The Wildlife Trust say that it would be useful to receive records of anything seen in the area over the next year, and together with others' observations this will build up information available about the area which is fast becoming the last small strip of countryside left for local wildlife.

St. Edmund, King and Martyr, Hardingstone



Revd. Canon Beverley Hollins
Rector, Living Brook Benefice
and Rural Dean of Greater Northampton

22nd November 2020



Dear Friends

It is being announced today that I have been appointed to be the next Rector of Weston Favell. The announcement is being made almost exactly 8 years from the day I was licensed as priest in charge of the parishes that have become Living Brook. I was appointed to bring a lot of change about very quickly, to bring together two parishes into one, to help another parish into a new set of relationships, to turn around a church that was struggling deeply. Eight years on the landscape in Living Brook and in Northampton is very different, and the needs of the churches are very different. You need different kinds of leadership in order to take you forward into the next stage of your growth as churches. And for St Edmund's a very old relationship is returning, as you prepare to be reunited with your daughter church, St Mary's, in a geographic relationship that goes back to Saxon times and a church relationship that goes back to the Victorian period. There are many exciting possibilities ahead of you, and it is right that I step aside to make way for the best of leaders for the new developments that are coming.

I'm sure you have many questions, not all of which I can answer yet. Most importantly, you'll want to know when I am leaving Living Brook. That isn't absolutely decided yet, but my last Sunday is likely to be February 14th. It has been a huge privilege and a joy to be your Rector. It has been an honour to be with you in all the times of joy and sadness, the new and the familiar, the adventures and the fellowship. This is not the time to gather memories or to say good-bye. But I do want to thank you all for your support and love, your challenges and willingness to try out new things for the sake of the gospel. It has been a special delight to see a team grow, new leaders developing in confidence and training to take their place at the front of your churches. Alongside your wardens, the members of the Living Brook Ministry Team will be able to lead you well during the coming vacancy. You will also be well supported by the Archdeacon, the Assistant Rural Dean, Revd Judy Evans, and the Assistant to the Rural Dean, Revd Chrys Tremththamor.

May God bless you all in your new adventures.
Yours, in Christ who loves us all,

Beverley

Farewell and thank you, Revd Canon Beverley Hollins

Beverley was licensed as priest in charge then vicar to the benefice of Hardingstone, Horton and Piddington in November 2012. Church Commissioners subsequently closed Horton church, then Quinton with Preston Deanery joined to form the 'Living Brook Benefice'.

Beverley created several teams, encouraging others to train for and share ministry, pastoral care, and schools' and children's work. A bible study group, youth fellowship group, knit and natter group and toddler group also started under her leadership. Beverley has worked particularly hard with the schools, taking assemblies, teaching lessons and hosting events at the church.

Beverley has always stressed the importance of mission, and opportunities for the wider community. She led Christmas services for Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies and the Remembrance Sunday services at the War Memorial. She has encouraged schools to perform Nativity plays and hold mock weddings and baptisms at the church, which along with 'Toddler Praise' has brought couples to marriage, babies to baptism, and children to first

communion and confirmation. A memorable community/church venture was in December 2018, when a 'Living Nativity' was performed around Hardingstone by members of Living Brook, Hardingstone Academy, Hackleton Primary School and Northampton High School.

During Beverley's incumbency, she has tutored clergy in training, was appointed rural dean of Greater Northampton, an honorary Canon of Peterborough Cathedral, chaplain to the Casuals Rugby Club (a close second to her beloved aptly named "Saints") and elected onto General Synod of the Church of England.

Through the pandemic Beverley has introduced live-streamed services, made YouTube "Thoughts for the Day" and assemblies for schools, organised WhatsApp prayers and services, plus the inevitable Zoom meetings.

Sadly, we have to say farewell on February 16th. We will all miss her wonderful singing voice and we wish her well as she takes up her appointment as Rector of St Peter's, Weston Favell.



St. Edmund, King and Martyr, Hardingstone Church news

Clergy & Services

As you will see from the previous page, St Edmunds is looking for a new vicar, to share with St Mary's Towcester Road. This person will work closely with a new part-time priest who will care specifically for Piddington and Quinton churches.

With the tasks of reordering St Edmunds and supporting our expanding parish, plus the challenges that Far Cotton presents too, it should be a challenging yet rewarding role. Adverts will go out shortly after Beverley leaves us, with the hope of finding the right person by the summer.

Meanwhile, Praise@10 will continue to meet in Hardingstone, as soon as it is safe to do so. We do hope that you will be tempted to try one of our 'Creation in the Churchyard' services, or socialise at a 'Coffee & Chat' week, or try the 'Craft & Creativity' services for families.



All are welcome ☑. Holy Communion will continue to be celebrated on the 4th Sunday each month, led by a visiting preacher. Please watch out for further details on noticeboards, Facebook & banners on the churchyard wall.

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£520 was raised
towards the repair & restoration
of the church building.

Future plans: Sustainability & Going Green

Sustainability is 'the ability to maintain the church building and....deliver periodic major works....so it is able to earn income from wider uses it hosts, contributing to both running and capital costs'.

Work on our vision project towards this aim is proceeding well, focussing on additional wellbeing, community and heritage uses. Being **carbon neutral by 2030** is a key factor, and we look forward to sharing our plans with everyone in the summer.

Hardingstone is also registered as an **Eco Church** with A Rocha, working towards sustainability awards in different categories: Worship & Teaching, Land & Buildings, Community & Global Engagement and Lifestyle. If you, too, are concerned about our local community playing a part in improving the environment, please get in touch.

The churchyard conservation **project to attract more wildlife** to this beautiful, peaceful space (that so many of us have been appreciating) will develop further in 2021, as per the poster.

Hilary Wilson hardingstonechurch@gmail.com - tel 760411

Step Forward With Lewis

Hardingstone based Step Forward With Lewis (SFWL) raised more than £400 for charity in December. It was raised from part of the entry money for two virtual runs which SFWL held in the run up to Christmas.

The fitness club, which offers personal training as well as bootcamp, HIIT and running sessions, donated the money to rough sleeper charity Project 16:15 and The Lewis Foundation, which supports adult cancer patients.

Those taking part in the Rudolf and Santa Runs had to complete two different challenges - a marathon in a month or 10km - to earn suitably festive medals. A percentage of the cost of entering these events went to charity.



In all, £266 was donated to Project 16:15 which, among other things, gives out hot breakfasts to rough sleepers in Northampton. A further £150 was given to The Lewis Foundation. This money was used to buy five festive hampers, which were delivered to people with cancer over Christmas.



You might also have noticed Step Forward With Lewis's large gingerbread man and Christmas cracker running around the village in December, as well as a dragon on New Year's Day!

Step Forward With Lewis is planning to hold more virtual runs in 2021 and a percentage of every entry fee will continue to be donated to different charities.

For more information visit www.stepforwardwithlewis.com

Hardingstone Cricket Club

2020 has been a year of packed lunches instead of teas, hand sanitiser every six overs and sheltering in your car when it rained. As with just about everything else 2020 has been a funny old year for cricket.

Despite all the challenges, Hardingstone Cricket Club eventually managed to get some games in.

With the club having made the decision to only enter one team into the Northamptonshire Cricket League's ad-hoc league and cup combo format, the 1st XI managed to reach the semi-finals of the Division Six competition.

A thrilling game against Stony Stratford came down to the last over, but we were sadly on the wrong side of what was a see-saw contest.

Alex Piper, for his exceptional performances with bat and ball, was named Player of the Year for 2020.

Our aim now is to prepare for what will hopefully be a far more normal 2021.

Last month's AGM saw Jonny Grove continuing as 1st XI skipper, while Craig Lewis will take charge of the 2^{nds} next season after Paul Larkin's incredible unbeaten spell in charge!!

Craig.



Bouverie WI

Bouverie WI had not met together for most of 2020, but the committee were determined to celebrate the traditional year end party by preparing "your Christmas meeting in a bag".

Every member received a beautiful festive gift bag containing a Christmas card from the committee, a small bottle of wine, chocolate, biscuits, coins, a biscuit recipe sheet and a fun quiz.

The committee very much enjoyed preparing the bags and delivering these, on what would have been the date of our Christmas meeting. It gave 4 of us a chance of briefly chatting to members whom we had not seen for quite some time.

Bouverie WI was formed in 1966, and 2020 would be the first year that we were not able to meet and personally wish our friends a Merry Christmas. We are sorry that we have not been able to hold meetings, and will be in touch with members as soon as the situation improves.



Northampton High School

£8,000 raised in support of Mr Bailey and Pancreatic Cancer UK

Northampton High were delighted to hold our first ever Purple Day in school on Thursday 19 November to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer UK.

On Thursday 19 November, the Northampton High School community came together once more in order to celebrate our first ever 'Purple Day', in support of Mr Bailey and Pancreatic Cancer UK.

Throughout the month of November, which is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, our staff and students undertook a host of exciting activities and challenges as part of the charity's 'Challenge 24' initiative.

We saw people run for 24 minutes every day, make and sell 24 jars of homemade preserve, face masks and sweetie bags, and lots more.

November 19th was World Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Day, and we saw this as the perfect time to hold Purple Day,

a day in which the school turned purple and came together to enjoy fun tasks, take on gruelling challenges, and ultimately raise awareness and show support. The day kicked off bright and early, with our Director of Sport, Mrs Blake, setting off at 7:30am for her gruelling 24 mile run around the school playing field. Not content on just running 24 miles, Mrs Blake added the extra 2.2 miles to make a full marathon – completing the exhausting run in an amazing 4 hours and 4 minutes – a personal best!



Students of all ages took part in their own fun activities, which included the Year 6 students taking on 24 physical and fun activities ranging from 'hook a duck' to 'netball shots' to our Year 5 pupils completing challenges from their homes, such as '24 purple pirouettes' and '24 songs played on the flute'. It wasn't just our current students who got involved during the day, with the Class of 2020 gathering for an online Zoom

call to catch up, but to also discuss cancer, and how they can raise awareness and help educate those around them.

At time of writing, our fundraising total stands at a whopping £8,144, and we would like to say a huge thank you to our community for their generous support.



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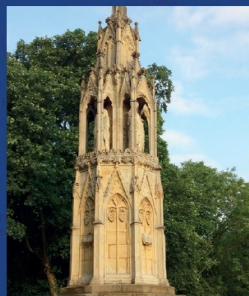
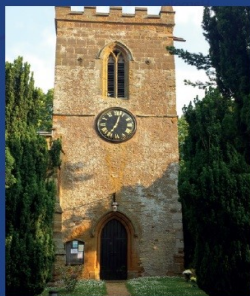
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