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Haversham & Little Linford Magazine



Jubilee Queen, Annabelle Sains, with her entourage of attendants and flower girls and the town crier, awaits her crowning by Trinity Irving the 2019 May Queen



August/September 2022

Issue 166

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The Last Resort

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Haversham Sailing Club	commodore@havershamsc.org	
Local Services		
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Police	Emergency For non-urgent messages	999 101
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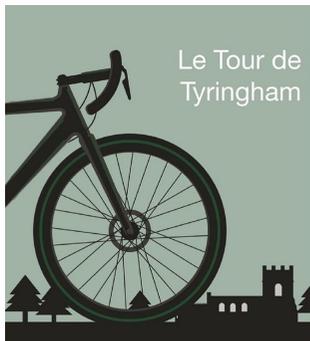
Please contact Harvey Gilbert on 01908 310113 / email: harvey@harveygilbert.co.uk

The concert at The Old Farmhouse was a new venture for us and a great success. The evening began with canapes and wine in Mr and Mrs Harper's garden which gave us an opportunity to socialise before retiring to the Drawing Room for a feast of baroque music by Bach, Vivaldi, Purcell and other baroque masters played by the Duo Dorado on the harpsicord and violin. Our grateful thanks to Mr and Mrs Harper for opening their house and to all the church members who supported the event in such numbers that Mrs Harper gave the church a much larger proportion of the money raised (£400) for the toilet fund than the half originally planned.

The Platinum Jubilee service which took place on Sunday 5th June was a reminder of the great service Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has given to this country. With hymns from the Coronation and previous jubilee services, together with music from all corners of the British Isles played by our Guest

Organist Mr Nicholas (Nick) Read, it was a memorable occasion. The Royal Memorabilia display attracted much interest and discussion among the congregation. Unfortunately, the weather decided to replicate that of the Coronation so the teas had to be in the church; however, this did not appear to deter those who stayed on for a chat and took the opportunity to meet up again with Nick.

Calling all enthusiastic cyclists to Le Tour de Tyringham Cycle Ride on 25th September - distances of 25, 50 or 65 miles around the local countryside are on offer. To obtain full details on how to enter click on the link <https://letourdetyringham.eventbrite.co.uk>.



Volunteers to act with marshalling, or making cakes to sustain the riders, would be much appreciated; please email tyringhamcharity@gmail.com.

We have had requests for Teas in the Churchyard which we are happy to arrange but we need some strong men to set up and take down the tables and chairs. Should anyone come forward, we will advertise in the church information sheet.

Please note our Harvest Festival is on 18th September at 6.00pm.

Marion Hansford

* **Quiz answer:** Sergio Leone 1966 Ennio Morricone

Editorial

It was hot, hot, hot!!!

29.5°C, then 39.5°C - who would believe it? But, of course, this coming week it sounds as though it is likely to be only 19.5°C, so the crazy weather continues!

But despite the heat our stalwart band of contributors to the magazine pulled out all the stops to get their copy to me earlier than usual. Thank you everyone.

And there is much to report in this issue—the highly successful Platinum Jubilee Family Picnic and crowning of the Jubilee Queen, Annabelle Sains, as evidenced by the photographs of the day; the near-completion of the installation of three life-saving defibrillators in the

parish, thanks to the efforts of a small group of volunteers who made it happen; the finalising of the first major stage of the Neighbourhood Plan, again the result of the efforts of our parish councillors (all volunteers) and a small group of other volunteers—a mammoth task, inevitably leading to some levels of discord, but vital to protect the future of our community; the end of the first year of Haversham Village School's full 'primary' status, with the first cohort of leavers off to secondary school in the autumn. All are major milestones in such a small community and should be applauded.

The summer holidays are now with us and I hope that all of you will have the chance to relax with

your families for at least a short while over the summer. We are going to be celebrating a major milestone in Harvey's life with friends and family in the next few weeks and, sadly, bidding farewell to our good friends, Bill and Ann, leaving the village after over 40 years—all of their friends will miss them very much but we will keep in touch. Ann's contribution to St Mary's over the years will also be missed, not least her wonderful flower arranging! We wish them well for the future.

So I wish you all a happy summer with warm (not hot!) balmy days and a little rain—but preferably overnight!

Lesley Gilbert

Opinions expressed by authors, and services offered by advertisers, are not specifically endorsed by the Editor or by Haversham and Little Linford Parish Council.

NEXT ISSUE OF MAGAZINE

Our next issue is for **October /November**.

Copy date will be **Friday, 23rd September**

and the magazine should be ready for distribution on or around 1st October.

All contributions welcome.

Please pass them to:

Lesley Gilbert, Woodpecker Cottage, Haversham.
Tel: 01908 310113 e-mail: lesley@harveygilbert.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, 3rd September—**ANNUAL VILLAGE SHOW** and **OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF THE DEFIBRILLATORS**, at Haversham Social & Community Centre. The Rules, Schedule and Entry Forms for the Village Show are enclosed and details can be found on p.13.

7th, 14th, and 21st September—**BLOOMING AWKWARD QUESTIONS** series of discussions continues at St Mary's Haver-

sham at 7.30pm each Wednesday.

Saturday 24th September—**MESSY CHURCH** at Haversham Social & Community Centre from 11:00-12:30. See p. 6 for more information .

Sunday, 25th September—**LE TOUR DE TYRINGHAM** cycle race—distances of 25, 50 or 65 miles around the local countryside are on offer See p. 38 for information.

9th—18th September—**HERITAGE OPEN DAYS**

There is something for everyone this year as MK celebrates its fascinating heritage with a packed programme of over 190 guided walks, historic talks, cycle rides, workshops, craft events, open days, exhibitions, film screenings and performances around the theme Astounding Inventions – all completely free to attend. You can collect your MK HODs brochure from the Milton Keynes libraries, from Get Smart carousels in local supermarkets from the beginning of August.

News from the Pews

MEMOS FROM ST MARY'S

'Phew what a scorcher' – if I can quote an old headline from the Sun newspaper. Even the weather predictors could not have imagined temperatures as we have just experienced. The hot weather, flooding in Australia, the collapse of our Government, the war in Ukraine and the cost of living crises all lead to an unsettling feeling. It is good, therefore, to look back to the Queen's Platinum Celebrations and to remind ourselves that she has been our 'strength and stay' for 70 years. The celebrations were just right – the National, the local official street parties and the garden parties. Everywhere decorated in red, white and blue and bunting could not be had for love nor money not even from Amazon!

The Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church was a lovely mix of hymns from the Coronation and many interesting

stories from ordinary people who had met or photographed the Queen. Paddington Bear will also have a story to tell!

Something which is free is Adrian's popular and stimulating Blooming Awkward Questions where questions are encouraged and debated and there is no such thing as a stupid remark! So far we have had:

- The existence of God – will we ever know?
- Love, Freedom, War, Pain and Death – why?
- The Bible

This last one was once again challenging with what was left out being just as interesting as what was included! Want to know more? Come along! On September 7th we have Jesus the evidence; 14 September Love, Sex and Passion – good, bad or ugly.* 21 September Heaven, Hell and whatever's next?

As we all put our cooling fans back in the cupboard and dust off our suitcases

let us remind ourselves, first of all, that the earth and everything in it is the Lord's and that we are Stewards of it – all of it – and, secondly, that no matter what is happening we can rely on a changeless and loving God. I pray that we all have a relaxing summer.

** Quiz question: Who directed the film The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, what year and who wrote the theme tune?*

Jan Bell

NEWS FROM ST PETER'S, TYRINGHAM

The recent events at St Peter's have given us all an opportunity to meet up with not only our own church members but those from within the Group. The Coffee Morning went well; there were some new faces from our own village which was good to see and those people enjoyed meeting our stalwart supporters. We raised £190 for the toilet fund and thank you for your support.

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A Message from Adrian Low

I think every child should know the stories of Jesus. His Sermon on the Mount teaching, his focus on loving one's neighbour, on peace, humility and truth are essential to a good ethic of living. The trouble is Sunday Schools are few and far between and are not popular – I mean what self-respecting child actually wants to go to school on a Sunday?

50 years ago when I went to Sunday School it was lively and full. Of course, I was sent. This was not optional at all. But we live in a changed world where there are many options for kids and even if Sunday School is a really excellent option ethically, morally and provides value for life, many parents are on a losing wicket trying to persuade the kids to go.

When I see the real focus of many families in Islam and Judaism for the children to learn about both their heritage and religion, then I am sad that

we Christians may have lost the plot.

Worse is the thought that having 'no faith' is somehow a better option than having faith. We all know people walking through their own valleys of the shadow of death. COVID and the economy are leaving many desperate, with mental health issues at an all-time high. If society loses the ability to stop and pray, either when in real need, or simply praying regularly, then we miss out on a spirituality that has underpinned and sustained billions of people in the past and shown a better way to live.

Six months' investment in children's Christian thinking and morality surely must be something every parent should at least consider. Baptism and then Confirmation of that faith is the story of many Christians through their younger years. Teaching children that life's essentials are not just qualifications, wealth and do

what you like, but that which is deeper – profound in the soul – the reason for life and love, the discipline of not doing a pile of things that ruin one's future; and the joy of giving and being honest and true – the stories of Jesus - so...

Come to the first Messy Church at **Haversham Social Centre**, 11-12.30 Saturday 24th September, parents welcome to stay, and it includes a free bring and share lunch - and if you have nothing to bring, there will always be enough - even if we have to feed a multitude! (maybe not 5000) – lots of craft activities, stories from the Bible. All ages – come with your children and let them explore the Jesus stories.

Adrian Low
Church of England priest for Emberton, Tyringham and Filgrave, Little Linford and Haversham

Phone: 07883 717642
www.thelampchurches.com

Local News

PETER WILSON HOSTS RAVENSTONE WI GARDEN PARTY IN AID OF MK SNAP

On a gloriously warm and sunny midsummer afternoon, Ravenstone WI jointly hosted a garden party at the home of Peter Wilson in Church Lane, Little Linford. Peter had very generously offered his garden, and to meet all the expenses for the afternoon party in memory of his wife Jane, a long-term member of Ravenstone WI, who died in October 2020.

Rhiannon, Peter and Jane's daughter-in-law, organised everything at the venue and, together with the caterer Juanita, provided a delicious afternoon tea. We welcomed almost a hundred members from local Wis: Sherington, Olney, Newport Pagnell, Great Linford, Castlethorpe and Hanslope, with each member paying a £5 contribution to MK SNAP, a charity very close to the hearts of Peter and Jane.

The afternoon began with an introduction by Betty Horwood, our president, who thanked Peter and Rhiannon and gave a cheque for £500 to Ange-



la Novell, CEO of MK SNAP. Peter made a short speech welcoming us all, followed by Angela and then Amanda Marlow, the Mayor of Milton Keynes, said a few words. Members were invited to explore the beautiful gardens and return for the scrumptious afternoon tea on the terrace.



Tea was followed by a gardening quiz. There was a raffle which was very generously supported, the proceeds of which were also given to MK SNAP. It was a wonderful

afternoon and Ravenstone WI thank Peter Wilson most sincerely.

Gill Paton
Member of Ravenstone WI

HAROLD LOWNDES RETIRES—AGAIN!

On 5th June, as well as celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, St Mary's Church were pleased to present a farewell gift to Harold Lowndes who, at the grand age of 91, has decided to retire as curate to the church. It was later in life, some time after he retired from his work at the Open University, that Harold decided on a new career to become a curate. With his wife Joan, Harold has been a stalwart of St Mary's for many many years and his



services will be missed. But he and Joan will still be regular congregants.

JUBILEE CLUB

In June we were delighted to welcome our local PCSO, David Huckle, to join us for the afternoon, but not so delighted with all the news he gave us of the never-ending 'scams' out there, with people trying to steal our data and our money. They are so ingenious, you'd think they could put their talents to better use making money lawfully! **Be careful out there** was the message to all!

Sadly, because of the very hot weather and the uptick in Covid cases, we decided it wasn't safe to hold our July meeting where there was not enough ventilation. Our speaker has kindly agreed to come to our meeting next April instead.

Next meetings:

Wednesday, 10th August - Afternoon Tea at Woodpecker Cottage at 2:30pm.

Wednesday, 14th September—Chinese Auction

to raise funds for Bus Shelter MK, which offers a place of shelter and support for Milton Keynes' street homeless who are prepared to turn their situation around and re-integrate themselves into mainstream society.

The Jubilee Club provides an afternoon meeting place for older residents where they can enjoy one another's company but where we also have presentations from a wide range of speakers, the occasional outing or lunch out and sometimes a bit of entertainment. We always welcome new

members, so if you fancy coming along and giving us a go, you will be made to feel very welcome.

We usually meet on the second Wednesday of the month in the Social Centre. Subs are £2 per person to include tea and homemade cakes, and we also have a raffle to which members contribute the prizes.

Lesley Gilbert

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



The Call Handlers at Thames Valley Police are under more pressure at

Lamp Group Church Services

31st July	11:00 am United LAMP Group service	Haversham
7th August	9:30 am Holy Communion	Tyringham
	11:00 am Parish Praise	Haversham
	6:00 pm Something Else on Sunday	Emberton
14th August	9:30 am Morning Prayer	Little Linford
	11:00 am Morning Worship	Haversham
	11:00 am Holy Communion / Children's Church	Emberton
21st August	9:30 am Morning Prayer	Tyringham
	11:00 am Holy Communion	Haversham
	6:00 pm Evensong	Emberton
28th August	9:30 am Holy Communion	Little Linford
	11:00 am Morning Worship	Haversham
	11:00 am Parish Praise / Café Church	Emberton
4th September	9:30 am Holy Communion	Tyringham
	11:00 am Parish Praise	Haversham
	6:00 pm Something Else on Sunday	Emberton
11th September	9:30 am Morning Prayer	Little Linford
	11:00 am Morning Worship	Haversham
	11:00 am Holy Communion / Children's Church	Emberton
18th September	9:30 am Morning Prayer	Tyringham
	11:00 am Holy Communion	Haversham
	6:00 pm Evensong	Emberton
25th September	9:30 am Holy Communion	Little Linford
	11:00 am Morning Worship	Haversham
	11:00 am Parish Praise / Café Church	Emberton



Saturday 24th September

11:00-12:30

Haversham Social & Community Centre

ALL INVITED

Including free bring and share lunch, craft activities and stories, and COLIN the puppet.

The Parishes of Haversham with Little Linford and Tyringham with Filgrave

Priest for the LAMP group of churches

Revd. Adrian Low 07883 717642 rev.adrian.low@gmail.com

Churchwardens for St Mary's Haversham & St Leonard's Little Linford

Joe Geary 01908 510289 joegeary100@gmail.com
 Fi Jones 07946 615218 fipwmum@gmail.com

Churchwarden for Tyringham with Filgrave

Marion Hansford 01234 711566 mariford@btinternet.com

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS and PASTORAL NEEDS

For information about Christenings, weddings, funerals or if you would like a visit for any reason, please contact: Rev. Adrian Low, The Rectory, High Street, Haversham, Milton Keynes, MK19 7DT. Telephone 07883 717642 or email: rev.adrian.low@gmail.com.

ST MARY'S CHURCH BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Please contact Fi Jones, 07790 724156.



FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS

Check out the LAMP group website at <http://thelampchurches.com> or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/stmaryhaversham where you can lots of other details about our worship.

HAVERSHAM MORNING WORSHIP

After each 11 o'clock service, members of the congregation are invited to stay for refreshments.

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the moment due to the unprecedented number of calls coming in. Firstly, we want to say thank you to them for their amazing work. However, we also need to highlight that you should only call 999 if there is a genuine emergency.

We need to keep the lines clear for those who need to contact us. Don't forget, for any non-emergencies you can visit our website <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/> or call 101.

Always remember - To report a crime in action, call **999**. To contact the police on the non-emergency line, call **101**.

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Blooming Awkward Questions



Can rational Christianity really answer some of the tough questions of life?

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Change of venue—now at
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7th Sept: Jesus – the evidence – what really happened?

14th Sept: Love (again!), sex and passion – good, bad or ugly?

21st Sept: Heaven, hell and whatever's next?



Our year 1 pupils attended their summer school trip to Warwick Castle. The children have been learning about Knights and Castles as part of their topic this year. The trip was a fantastic end to their year and allowed them to really make sense of their learning.

This time of year always harbours mixed emotions for the staff, pupils and parents but this year has been particularly emotional. As many of you will know, this year is the first year that the school has had year 6 pupils. We have sadly said our final goodbyes to our wonderful year 6 pupils. They have had an amazing send off and lots of fun in their last two weeks with us. The children worked extremely hard to perfect their end of year performance of Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies. They

performed fantastically to parents and, as you can imagine, by the end of the evening, there was not a dry eye in sight. Our fabulous year 6 teacher, Mrs Adams, also organised an Oscars evening for the children. The children were treated to a live band, awards ceremony, ice cream van and pizza. They will be missed next year but we are confident they will become wonderful pupils at their next schools.

Finally, the staff are all looking forward to welcoming our new foundation pupils in September and I will update you on their progress in my next magazine entry.

It's only when we revisit the last 12 months and review some of the high-

lights that we truly realise just how far we have come and how important it is to celebrate our young people. They do incredible things and we are blessed to be able to work with them and guide them on their journey.

I wish everyone a restful summer. I would like to remind you that you can keep up to date with the fantastic things, which happen within the school day on our twitter page.

Best Wishes

Mr David Ley and the staff of Haversham Village School





It has been a very busy end to a successful academic year. The last two years have been particularly difficult for everyone but I think that this academic year has definitely been one of the most rewarding. Despite the challenges, the school has continued to grow and develop and it is wonderful to see things that we have previously taken for granted happen again.

The school has moved forward, as a community, and worked our way through the challenges faced with compassion, determination and resilience. Our staff have remained focussed in our aim to ensure that we are offering pupils memorable learning experiences, bringing out the best in everyone, and ensuring that successes and achievements are celebrated. I would like to thank the wonderful staff of the school for all of the

hard work they put in this year.

Earlier this term, we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as a school. The children attended a tea party in the hall and were treated to special Jubilee cakes and juice. It was a fun afternoon that the children will hopefully remember. It was fantastic for the children to gather to mark the event.

Our year 6 pupils attended a trip to the National Space Centre. A great day was had by all and the children really enjoyed looking at the exhibits and learning about the different modules of the space station. If you have not been, I would definitely recommend a visit.



A variety of children from KS2 attended the Milton Keynes schools athletics at Stantonbury. It was a beautifully sunny day and

the children were all great advocates for the school. Five of our pupils were successful in reaching the finals and were invited to attend, for a second time, to represent the school. The staff were very proud of the children. One of our pupils went on to secure a bronze medal in the finals. We look forward to returning next year!



Our year 4 pupils have been learning to play the guitar this year and were invited to attend a musical jamboree in June. The children played the guitars confidently in front of 8 other schools. It was fantastic to see them perform so confidently in front of such a large audience. The children really enjoyed themselves and we look forward to returning next year.



The Crescent, Haversham, Milton Keynes MK19 7AN
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Permanent

This post offers a wonderful opportunity to join our highly successful, happy and thriving school at this exciting time as it establishes itself as a one-form entry, rural Primary School. Our school philosophy is simple we aim to bring out the best in everyone. This will be an exciting role, for an inspirational candidate to help develop our wrap around care provision and care for our wonderful pupils at this exciting time in our development. The successful candidate will ideally be of a warm and caring disposition, have experience working with children in the primary age range and be happy to work both under direction and using their own initiative.

We Offer:

- 7.5 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year (term time only).
- An opportunity to develop your role and have an impact on the direction of the wrap around care at Haversham Village School.
- Potential career progression
- A pleasant working environment.
- Fantastically behaved children.
- Supportive colleagues

Job Requirements:

- To supervise pupils at all times.
- Serve healthy snacks.
- To assist with the delivery of activities ensuring the educational, recreational and pastoral needs of the pupils are met.
- Set up and clean equipment ensuring that all equipment used is safe.
- To be flexible in your approach to working arrangements.

The successful candidate will:

- Supervise groups and individuals in their learning and development.
- Work to set procedures, responding to individual pupils needs.
- Work mainly within a classroom environment but duties could involve some outside work.
- Be able to complete activities that require normal physical effort including periods of standing, participating in physical activities or carrying play equipment.
- Have high expectations and a commitment to achieving the very highest of standards.
- Be forward thinking, creative, receptive to change and able to work within a team.
- Be enthusiastic, inspirational and sensitive towards the needs of the children.
- Be able to work as part of a team and support other areas if necessary.
- Be committed to inclusion and be able to work within our philosophy of 'bringing out the best in everyone'

Visits to the school are strongly recommended. If you would like to find out more or would like an application pack please contact Miss Carley Chambers, School Business Manager (01908 312 673).

Haversham Village School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check is required for this post prior to commencement, as well as two satisfactory references.

Parish Council News

The View from the Chair

It was lovely to hear about all the Jubilee festivities in the Parish – I hope you all had a wonderful time. I also hope that you managed to cope with the recent heatwave and kept an eye on more vulnerable neighbours. The Parish Council certainly felt the heat at our meeting on 18th July and for once it wasn't due to comments from the public forum!

SWINGS AND ROUNDABOUTS

If you spot a problem with the Play Equipment in the Recreation Ground, please let us know by emailing Maria Manthorpe, our Parish Clerk (address below).

The Parish Council ensure that basic visual checks are undertaken regularly and the equipment is fully inspected annually by Milton Keynes Council (MKC). However, if you spot anything that looks as if it is damaged or faulty, could you please let the clerk

know so that she can ensure the issue is dealt with.

PLEASE HELP KEEP A TREE ALIVE

Thank you to Peter Dunn who has been watering the Jubilee Trees in the Rec as often as he can and the residents of The Crescent who have been providing very welcome hydration to the three trees there. The green-fingered plot holders have also been looking after the fruit tree planted in the allotments.

However, the trees in the Rec would almost certainly appreciate more watering, especially given this warm weather, so please consider taking some water with you if you are using the Rec and giving one of the trees a refreshing drink!

YOUR VILLAGE PLANTERS NEED YOU!

Gill Burgess has sadly decided to hang up her trowel! She has been doing a wonderful job

looking after the four Planters at the entrances to the villages. A huge thank you to Gill – the planters are certainly looking great and we really appreciate how much you have improved them from their previous sorry state.

Would anyone be willing to volunteer to take on the task going forward? We are looking for someone to refresh the plants three times per year and of course the Parish Council will reimburse you for the cost of plants, compost etc. Maybe two or three residents would like to take this on as a team? Please email Maria if you would like to volunteer.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Parish Council approved the latest version of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for submission to Milton Keynes Council at the Parish Council meeting on Monday 18th July. The NP and the supporting documents are currently being prepared so that they can be uploaded to the Parish web-

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heaters are in good working order. Look out for forecasts of early frosts and be ready to bring tender potted plants under cover.

There are always new things to do when growing your own. Why not plant cold-stored potato tubers in large tubs in a greenhouse or cool porch ready for harvesting at Christmas. Sow green manure to fill any bare ground. Plant well-rooted strawberry runners into new beds and blueberry bushes into acid soil. Harvest tomatoes, cucumbers and chillies regularly to encourage more fruits to form. Cut off trusses of unripe outdoor tomatoes before the weather turns cold, then ripen them indoors. Be vigilant for signs of tomato and potato blight, removing affected plants immediately to prevent spread. Lift onions and shallots once their tops die down, then leave them to dry in the sun. Lift maincrop potatoes, dry off and store in hessian or paper sacks in a cool, dark, well-ventilated place. Pick apples and

pears before the wind blows them down, and store undamaged fruits if you can't eat them fresh. Summer prune both free-standing and trained apple trees, to encourage good fruiting in future years. Prune out all the fruited canes of summer raspberries, cut down to the base, and tie in new canes to supports. Order bare-root fruit trees to plant later in autumn or winter. Harvest fresh herbs to freeze in ice cubes for winter use, or to hang up and dry, then store in jars. If you have a compost heap, turn it regularly to speed up decomposition.

Pests in our gardens are never far away. Tackle vine weevil infestations by watering pots with a solution of biological control nematodes. Keep going on regular snail hunts, especially on damp evenings, to reduce populations. Check roses for signs of fungal diseases, such as black-spot, and pick off and bin all affected leaves.

Now, more so than ever, our gardens are needing

a good drink. Keep watering from any remaining harvested water from your water butts. If you need to use a hose, do so, but make sure to run the hose for a minute or two before spraying your garden plants. Water in hoses can heat up quickly when in the sun and you don't want to risk scorching your plants. Once water butts are empty, give them a clean and check downpipe fittings in preparation for autumn rains.

Remove duckweed, pondweed and algae from water features and ponds. Before the autumn leaf fall begins, put netting across ponds to stop leaves falling in and rotting. Collect fallen leaves to store in a chicken-wire cage or bin bags to make leaf mould.

So, it is time for me once again to sign off my top tips & jobs for the coming months with a gardening quote. *"I know that if odour were visible, as colour is, I'd see the summer garden in rainbow clouds."* - Robert Bridges.

Jemma English

site and submitted digitally to MKC.

All the comments made following the recent Regulation 14 consultation have been considered by the steering group and will be included in the evidence base, along with details of where consultation comments have resulted in changes to the final document.

Once they receive our Neighbourhood Plan, MKC will undertake a further six week consultation. Following that consultation any resulting changes will be made and the NP will be submitted by MKC to an independent examiner for assessment.

Thank you to everyone who has engaged with this process so far, your comments and feedback have shaped the policies included in the NP.

In order to prevent unsolicited and unsuitable housing development in our parish we believe it is wise to put forward a small site for housing to give us protection under the National Planning Policy Framework against un-

solicited development proposals which would almost certainly be of a much larger scale. But the NP is not all about housing development – there are many policy proposals which are being put forward to help protect the things you told us you love about our parish.

This has been a long, complicated process and it is not over yet. Once the independent examiner is satisfied the NP is a deliverable and in line with both national and local planning policies, the final step will be a parish wide referendum on whether or not to accept the Haversham-cum-Little Linford Neighbourhood Plan. If accepted by referendum it must be taken into account when local planning issues are considered.

DOGS IN THE RECREATION GROUND

Another reminder that **DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE RECREATION GROUND** except to cross using the public footpath if on a lead. The Parish

Council have started discussions with MKC about a Public Spaces Protection Order. This could lead to a £100 fine for anyone ignoring the order.

Obviously, we would like to thank the vast majority of parish dog owners who do respect the rules.

**Pam Williams
Chair**



Email address for the Parish Clerk, Maria Manthorpe:
haversham.ltinfordclerk@gmail.com

**YOUR PARISH
COUNCILLORS**

Chair—Pam Williams

3 Mill Road
Tel. 01908 314883

Ian Burgess

Frost Cottage, 16 High St
Tel. 01908 321537

Barry Clift

21 Wolverton Rd
Tel.01908 312365

Jemma English

10 Wolverton Road
Tel. 07952 431390

Carol Langham

108 Wolverton Rd
Tel. 01908 316450

Andy Swannell

58 Wolverton Road
Tel. 01908 318513

Philip Turnbull

3 Granary Close
Tel. 01908 314811

PARISH CLERK

Email: Maria Manthorpe
haversham.ltlinfordclerk@gmail.com

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL
MEETINGS**

Parish Council meetings usually take place at 7.30pm on the third Monday of each month

except in August. The meetings are open to the public. The next meetings are:

Monday, 20th June

Monday, 18th July

Parish Council meeting agendas are published on the parish notice boards the week before each meeting.

Additional news & information can also be found on the Parish website at havershamltlinford.org/

frost-free shed or garage over winter. Lift, divide and replant congested clumps of perennials, such as achilleas, once they finish flowering. Plant autumn and spring bulbs in pots and borders ready to add more colour later in the year and come spring. Fill any gaps with late-flowering perennials such as sedums, to provide nectar for pollinating insects into autumn. Finally, check that tree ties and plant supports are firmly in place, ahead of any autumn gales.

Keep summer bedding flowering in hanging baskets and pots until the first frosts by deadheading, watering and feeding regularly. Adding a tomato feed fortnightly is great for this. Plant wallflowers, pansies, forget-me-nots and other spring bedding in pots and borders ahead of the new season fast approaching. Refresh containers with autumn interest, using cyclamen, heathers, heucheras and other colourful bedding plants as the weather starts to cool.

With the high temperatures we have been seeing, our lawns have all but stalled in growth and are certainly not looking as green as they once were. If a cut is needed, make sure to cut them high to help the grass to maintain moisture within its blade. Trim or mow areas of wildflower meadow, now that the plants have scattered their seeds. Do this once they aren't looking so dry and stressed. Tackle problem lawn weeds by digging them out. Try for now to avoid applying a lawn weedkiller as our lawns are too dry currently. If this is your preferred method, wait until we have had a period of rainfall. Rake thatch from lawns, aerate well-trodden areas by spiking with a garden fork, and re-seed bare patches. Prepare soil for sowing a lawn or laying turf during September and October.

If you enjoy, or want to try propagating and growing your own plants and flowers, now is the time to take cuttings. Woody herbs are always

a good start, especially lavender and hyssop. Or take softwood cuttings from penstemons, fuchsias, salvias and pelargoniums. Making sure to choose healthy, vigorous, non-flowering shoots. Sow hardy annuals in sunny spots, such as scabiosa and cornflowers, to provide early summer colour next year.

Greenhouses need close monitoring during the warmer months and as the temperature begins to cool. Set up an automatic watering or capillary matting system to ensure plants have enough water if you're going away on holiday. Pour water over the greenhouse floor every morning during hot weather to increase humidity. Look out for pests and diseases on greenhouse plants, and treat any you find immediately. Once the autumnal days begin to arrive, take down greenhouse shade netting or wash off shading paint as light levels start to fall. Pay close attention to greenhouse ventilation, shutting vents on cool nights. Check greenhouse



Ousedale School

Be Kind | Work Hard | Succeed Together

Up to 36 Year 7 places are available at Ousedale School for students who live outside the school's defined area and can demonstrate an aptitude for music. These places recognise a tradition of musical expertise and success at Ousedale over many years and the continuing development of music provision at the school with enhanced and improved specialist facilities. Should you wish to apply for a musical aptitude place at one of Milton Keynes' most successful and consistently over-subscribed schools you must register for your son/daughter to take the aptitude assessment.

Details, including how to register to take the musical aptitude assessment, are on the school website www.ousedale.org.uk.

Applications to take the assessment must be received by mid-day Monday 19th September 2022.

**Musical aptitude places at Ousedale School
Year 7 September 2023**

Get gardening! Seasonal tips from Jemma

Summer is most certainly here basking us in its warmth. Too warm to be fair. After the extreme temperatures we have just come through, and with a high chance of more to come now, and in future years, we need to be proactive in protecting our gardens. There are 5 simple ways to help your plants survive the heat. Give your plants extra water, during high temperatures, plants will require more watering because there is an increase in the rate of water lost from their leaves. Make sure this is done during the coolest point in the day, unless plants have become dry during the heat. Make sure to only water the soil surface though. Skip fertilizing, you don't want to make them try and grow more when they are already suffering. Avoid pruning, as adding stress to the plant to grow new buds will never end well. Provide temporary shade where possible and final-

ly, mulch, mulch, mulch. It's such a simple way to help the soil to maintain moisture. Now on to my top gardening jobs for the next couple of months in our gardens.

With the warmer weather, plants have been growing by leaps and bounds. As always, there is plenty of trimming and pruning to be done. Now is the time to prune your rambling roses, removing up to a third of the stems that have flowered, and tie the rest to supports. Remove suckers from roses or around the base of trees. Trim those conifer hedges to neaten them up and control their height. When cutting laurel hedges, do so with secateurs rather than a hedge trimmer, to avoid

half-cut leaves that turn brown. Summer prune wisteria by shortening all long sideshoots to about 20cm. Trim lavender, once flowering is over, to maintain a compact, bushy shape, but avoid cutting into old wood.

Our borders have been showering us with their colourful shows. Now is the time to keep them under control and think ahead. Deadhead dahlias and other perennials to encourage a constant display of blooms, unless you intend to collect their seeds. Collect seeds from your perennial plants such as aquilegias, sweet peas, poppies and love-in-a-mist as they ripen, making sure to choose a dry day. We certainly have had plenty of those. Leave sunflower seedheads in place for birds to feed on. Lift gladioli corms, dry them off, then store in a



Saturday 3rd September

Haversham Social & Community Centre

Haversham & Little Linford Village Show



- ✿ Photography
- ✿ Horticulture
- ✿ Flowers
- ✿ Domestic Produce
- ✿ Arts & Crafts



For adults and children of all ages

ENTRY FORMS MUST BE IN BY THURSDAY 1st SEPTEMBER

- ◆ **Entries** 9.30 - 10.45am
- ◆ **Judging** 11.00am - 1.30pm
- ◆ **Public viewing** 2.00 - 3.30pm
- ◆ **Prize-giving** 3.30pm

PUBLIC ENTRY 50p

Free to Exhibitors & children under 12

Do join in —there are lots of different categories you can chose from and a special novice's prize. Or just pop along in the afternoon to see what everyone has done.

Refreshments will be available during the public viewing period.

*For extra schedules and entry forms,
contact Jackie Brown on 01908 313388 or Lesley Gilbert on 01908 310113*

Haversham Social & Community Centre—Registered Charity no. 300276

Defibrillators project close to completion

We have some great news as part of this month's update.

After a bit of a false start, the defibrillator cabinet installed in the former payphone kiosk on the High Street in Lower Haversham is now operational. At the same time our second unit - on Little Linford Lane, close to the Royal Mail post box - also came on-line. And finally, the third and final unit - located on the railings at the entrance to Haversham Village School car park - is scheduled for installation on July 28th.

What a great result! It's taken over a year, and all of a sudden three defibrillators come along in the space of a few weeks! Hopefully you'll agree it's been worth the wait, to know that we have these potentially life-saving devices now available within our community.

All three units have now been registered on the national defibrillator database – The Circuit - which connects defibrillators to

NHS ambulance services across the UK. It also feeds into the Save a Life app, so if you haven't downloaded this already — do it today. It's really easy to use. You never know when you might need it.



Haversham Village School



Haversham High Street



Little Linford Lane

To ensure that everyone is familiar with all three defibrillator locations – where they are and what they look like, we've included a 'pull out and keep' map of the parish in this issue, showing the locations in more detail including the associated **what3words***. You'll also find a downloadable version of this map on the parish website www.havershamtlinford.org - so take a minute to share the link with friends and family – anyone who visits the Parish on a regular basis.

COMMUNITY TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF CPR

But having defibrillators in place is only part of the solution – as we heard from local First Responder, Richard Bradley from South-Central Ambulance Service, at our community defibrillator training session on 6th July.

As Richard took everyone through the DRSABCD process (see back of insert), he stressed the im-

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Haversham to New Bradwell. I know the same thing happened in other locations too but this was very easily seen being right next to the path. We felt it was even creepier than the festooned hedges. The willow trees - white willow, *Salix alba* and grey willow, *Salix cinerea* - were totally festooned in a web. From top to bottom the tree was covered in a film of web that was amazingly strong. When poked or gently pulled no damage was done, it just sprang back again very much like a stretched piece of ladies' tights! Oh but the caterpillars.... The Orchard Ermine's mentioned previously had nothing on these. These were Willow Ermine caterpillars and there were millions of them. The caterpillars are grey, tinged with greenish yellow and have a line of black spots along the body. As with most of the Ermine species they are gregarious feeders hence the vast numbers. Now we're not squeamish but this was truly stomach churning! The wrigglers hung in webbing pouches

from the ends of twiggy branches or suspended from the body of the tree in squirming lumps. Truly awful! There were many, many caterpillars travelling, positively marching, down the trunks of the trees in determined fashion, still protected by the shroud till they reached ground level where they would presumably disappear into the soil or leaf mould, to pupate. A bit of research reveals that this event is sporadic and can be very local. Perhaps conditions were just right for this peculiar wonder of nature to take place.

There are many wonders of nature which we see, hear and feel. Perhaps at the moment the one we feel is the heat. What is it? Mother nature or a terrible harbinger of climate change. As we cobble together the latest 'notes' we are melting in the intense heat. Today, Tuesday, has been almost unbearable with soaring temperatures, with Yorkshire coming off worst with temperatures of forty one in York. The north must wonder

what's hit it. Everything is drooping, wilting and flagging in the heat; everything is quiet. The birds are still, the animals in the fields slow and listless, even the insects seem to be still. I looked at my garden in the early afternoon and there wasn't so much as a bee to be seen when usually there are many. It cannot last. We hope it doesn't for I'm not sure how we would manage. This evening storms are forecast; no surprise at all. Will the aftermath bring cooler air? No doubt the accompanying rain will be a deluge to batter and swamp all things. It's just the forces of nature, and to see and hear a good storm is a pinnacle of nature at its finest. The sheer power of thunder and lightning, of which we have no control, is awe inspiring. Perhaps this evening won't be the evening for a cooling drink in the garden but one to sit and watch one of mother nature's finest shows.

Gill & Ian Burgess



Jane Dawes introduces the training session on 6th July

importance of performing CPR. "If someone is unconscious and not breathing or not breathing properly, they will die within minutes without CPR," said Richard. "If someone is available to run and bring a defibrillator to the patient – it can then be used to shock the heart to restore a normal heartbeat – but maintaining chest compressions is absolutely critical".

Following demonstrations on his dummy 'Derek' and a wide-ranging Q&A session with the 30+ attendees, Richard reiterated the importance for everyone to take action and get involved in the event of a medical emergency. "Doing anything is

better than nothing", he said. "A defibrillator will guide you through the steps to take. No action you can take is going to make things worse - apart from No Action."



Richard Bradley with 'Derek' and the clever defib machine

If you weren't able to make the session, we may run another later on in the year. To establish the level of interest please email the Parish Clerk (address on p.12). You'll also find useful resources and links on how to perform CPR and use a defibrillator on www.bhf.org.uk and the parish website.

LET'S CELEBRATE AND SAY THANKS!

While there's still work to do in terms of the ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the equipment, having them available is an important milestone in the project, and we thought we should take a minute to recognise what's been achieved.

So we're planning a mini ribbon cutting 'ceremony' that will provisionally take place by the defibrillator located at Haversham Village School on the same day as the Village Show (Saturday September 3rd). We'll confirm and provide more details nearer the time including on the Haversham Social and Community Centre Facebook page.

THANK YOU

From the outset this has been a fantastic community project with great levels of engagement from right across the Parish in terms of fund raising and support. Others have become more involved in helping overcome some of the technical challenges we faced

and liaising with third parties and some have physically helped with the installations. Below we've mentioned as many people by name - but thanks go to everyone right across in the Parish for their support.

Jackie Brown, Ian Burgess, Barry Clift, Jane & Steve Dawes, Jemma & Daryl English, Lesley Gilbert, David Ley, Liz & Jim Morris, Andy Swannell, Philip Turnbull, Julia & Patrick Upton, Pam Williams, Peter Wilson. And most importantly everyone who

donated to the fundraising effort.

Richard Bradley, (South-Central Ambulance Service), Mark Whitehouse, (Western Power Distribution), Gavin Jones, (Gavin Jones Electrical), Paul Denchfield, Charlotte Lawrence, (MK Community Foundation), Graham Richards, Cliff Nash & Chris Hales (Milton Keynes Council)

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the campaign, please contact Parish Councillor Ian Burgess on 01908

321537 or Jane Dawes on 07790 495296.

***what3words** has given every 3m square in the world a unique 3 word address. The words are randomly assigned to each square and will always stay the same. So if you're not sure of the precise locations of our defibrillators pop the relevant 3 words into what3words.com to see exactly where they are.

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hang limply downwards. Gill was none too pleased as I gleefully arrived at the back door with my trophy! She's not a fan of snakes of any kind. My eagerness to apprehend this small creature was fuelled by the fact that only a few days before I had seen the squashed remains of a Grass Snake on the road near Hill Farm House. That poor unfortunate thing had been a good one at about 60cm long and I didn't want this young snake to end up the same way. I took it to our pond at the end of the garden and placed it on the grass at the pond edge. It slid into the shallows to disappear among the lily pads. Hopefully, as with the young Blackbird, it will survive and grow to see many more summers.

We wanted to write in the last 'notes' of the strange phenomenon of the Ermine Moth but we felt that the cycle was not complete and warranted a bit more time. You may have seen when out walking or from a car, a stretch of hedge, sometimes short and sometimes

quite long covered in a web. Not just any ordinary web this but a blanket of the stuff! The web is the work of the Ermine Moth. There are four types of Ermines; Orchard, Apple, Spindle and Willow. Typically the moths have white forewings with black dots and all four species are very similar. The caterpillars are also very much the same being a grey-yellow with a black head and a line of spots along the body. We are sure that the one festooning the hedges locally was the Orchard Ermine, as, though not feeding on the top of fruit trees, it was feeding predominantly on hawthorn



which is not uncommon. The caterpillars, vast numbers of them, thousands and thousands, eat the hedge from the inside out with each producing a trail of silk as they move which in turn pro-

duces the astonishing web which covers the entire hedge. This blanket of web creates a tent over the hedge which protects the caterpillars from predation from birds. The web tent remains in place until the caterpillars pupate with the adult moths flying in late summer. The moths are very similar at a glance being white or sometimes greyish but all with numerous small black dots giving the appearance of ermine. The web tents are extraordinary, sometimes covering quite extensive lengths of hedge and have quite a ghostly appearance, almost supernatural or reminiscent of a certain Miss Havisham: the sight of thousands and thousands of squirming caterpillars isn't appealing either! As the caterpillars disperse, the web slowly breaks down and disappears and the ravaged hedge regrows until there is nothing to show that such a strange phenomenon ever occurred.

A similar event occurred in the willow trees that line the footpath from

Social & Community Centre News

Like the rest of the country, we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We held our Jubilee Picnic a week later than the main celebrations in order not to clash with the individual street celebrations. We were lucky that we had done this as we were blessed with much better weather than the previous weekend. Admittedly the wind was a bit blustery but it did not prevent the Bouncy Castle from operating. The fun had started for the committee on the previous Thursday when we blew up 300 balloons (I volunteered to tie them together!!!). It was even more fun on the Saturday morning trying to tie them to the fence with the wind trying to whip them away. However, we had the balloons and bunting up ready for the main event and had our fingers crossed that people would turn up. Thank you so much to all of you who came and

made it such a happy day.

The crowning of the Jubilee Queen started the proceedings. The Queen and the Town Crier were driven around Haversham in an open-topped car at the start of the afternoon. When they returned the Queen and her attendants made their way to the recreation ground where the Queen was crowned by Trinity Irving who was our previous May Queen in 2019. The Queen was given a silver locket as a memento of the occasion. The Queen was Anabelle Sains who had the royal wave mastered to perfection and the Town Crier was Melissa Viney, who wielded the bell with much vigour. The Queen's attendants were Lola Tucker, Jasmine Viney, Evelyn English and Mia Eckley. The Flower girls were Rose Eckley, Sophia Cairns de Sa, Felicity Parsons, Maria Duff, Evie Tucker and Adeline English. They all looked lovely; the older attendants wore tiaras and the flower girls had

floral head dresses which were made by Marguerite and Barbara Cairns. The Queen and her attendants carried bouquets made by Natalie Jarman. They all looked beautiful, and I was told later by their parents that they had enjoyed the experience immensely.

After the crowning the fun began. Amongst the attractions were two Shetland ponies, Mouse & Sox, owned by Rob & Deb Taylor who kindly donated their services to us for the pleasure of the community. The ponies were able to be petted and groomed. The Bouncy Castle was a big attraction; this was provided by the Play Association and hire included two attendants plus several games. The children's entertainers, "Corina's Cool Kids Party Entertainment", were amazing; they kept the children involved all afternoon so that the parents could sit back and relax. We had a beautiful cake, made and donated by Chris Clift of "Sugar Smiths". We cut the cake up later in the afternoon

and the Queen and her attendants took it around to all the picnickers. We didn't have any themed picnics, so we decided to give the prize that we had ready for that to Chris Clift for her cake. Everyone agreed it was a work of art and tasted good too. At the end of the day, we had the Tug-o-War, always a favourite with everyone. This was ably supervised by Siuli Eckely who made sure there was no cheating. It was all a lot of fun. You'll find lots of photographs of the day overleaf.

As usual there are a lot of people to thank when putting these events together. Natalie Jarman had the bulk of the organizing to do, as she sourced the entertainment and she also managed to get a grant for the event from the Community Foundation, plus sourcing all the other decorative requirements. The whole committee was involved in the preparation in the days before. Holly Sains & Fiona Viney were also involved with the Jubilee Queen preparations as

their daughters were involved. I would like to thank Barbara Cairns for setting up a WhatsApp group for the Mums who had daughters involved. It was very helpful as they organized themselves and sourced accessories from each other, things that can be very time consuming. Thank you to Shula Jackson for driving the Queen around in her open-top car and to Trinity Irving for



crowning the Queen. Thank you to all the people who helped to clear up at the end of the day. Thank you also to all of you who turned up and helped to provide the fun atmosphere.

I realized the following day that I had forgotten to announce the winner of the best dressed house, my only excuse was it was a very busy afternoon! Natalie Jarman and I drove around

the Parish on Sunday 5th June to check all the houses. We narrowed it down to three, two were in Brookfield Road and one in the Crescent. We finally decided on 12 Brookfield Road, and the Cairns family duly received a box of chocolates and some Prosecco. We have ordered the mementoes for the children of the Parish but we have not received them yet; we have been informed that there is a hiccup in the supply chain but that we will have them soon. Once we do, we will bring them around to all those on our list.

Our next big event will be the Village Show on Saturday September 3rd and you will find the schedule for the Show with this magazine. We hope lots of you will join in and enter as there is something for everyone. We have a new cup this year to be given in memory of Pat Brightman and it will be for the best entry in the Children's section as judged by one of Pat's relatives. We had a very good response from the

cially the villainous magpie! The male Wagtail was vigilant and wary all the time the female was brooding, calling to her with its high-pitched sharp call. About two weeks later the pair were to be seen flitting in and out with beaks full of food from our garden and further afield. Damsel flies were popular and we saw many dangling from the Wagtail's beaks as they flew in to feed the babies. We saw the young, we think there were five, as they fledged, in and around the garden, being fed by the parents for a few days until they left.

We had another kind of visitor to the garden one evening. We were in the garden room just before



nine o'clock, reading with just one lamp lit. Ian said quietly 'look out the front' and there was an adult fox mooching just a few feet from the glass! It

took absolutely no notice of us at all and the dogs, asleep on the floor, didn't look up fortunately, as all hell would have broken loose if Ted had seen it! The fox, in lovely condition, mooched about a bit and then wandered down the garden, having a wee on the way, before slipping under the fence to vanish into the long grass beyond. What a lovely experience that was and so surprising.

Just a quick note: one evening I was reading when I heard a bit of a thud and knew that something had flown into the garden room windows. Lo and behold a young Blackbird lay on the path, dazed and limp. My heart sank; it surely had a broken neck or some awful injury. All the same, I very carefully picked it up and it eyed me with suspicion. I found a small box and put a bit of kitchen roll in the bottom and gently put the bird in thinking that it would probably be dead by the morning. But no! Early the next morning there was a scrab-

bling in the box as I took it to a seat in the garden. Carefully opening the lid the blackbird popped out and sat on the back of the seat. Sitting perfectly still it scrutinized me for thirty seconds or so before flying away to sit in an apple tree. Having survived its bashing and a night in a box, I like to think it would probably live to tell the tale! Something else which had a close shave recently was a Grass Snake. This horribly hot weather is just the thing for cold-blooded animals and they become very active. I was coming back from a short walk with the dogs, it was about four thirty, when I saw a very small grass snake, no thicker than a pencil and no longer than a new one, slithering down Derek and Amanda's drive towards the road. After a bit of deft lead swapping, I managed to grab it by the tail end of its body. Once off the ground it settled to



Nature Notes

'Summertime, and the livin' is easy,' sang the great Louis Armstrong and the wonderful Ella Fitzgerald and here we are in the midst of summer and how much easier life is. Long hours to spend in the garden, perhaps a holiday, and time to sit with a chilled glass of something lovely, or a big mug of tea if you prefer, and just watch the world go by. Time to get rid of the socks, get out the faithful old shorts and soak up the summer. The birds have done their thing, nesting and raising a family or two is done and birds become quieter at this time of year. Time to restore, time to feed; territories are almost forgotten so the livin' is easier for birds of all kinds too. The Cuckoo has at last ceased its almost incessant calling; I once heard it calling at 3:40 in the morning (I couldn't sleep!) and the latest was 9:55 at night. It had cuckoo-ed almost all day working on the assumption that it was the same one. We did see,

more than once, two different cuckoos around the lake environs and saw and heard the strange bubbling call of a female cuckoo. Every year the cuckoos return to this part of the Ouse valley so must find many opportunities for its somewhat dubious nest invasions. Recently, while on holiday in Cornwall, we had an amazing sighting of a male cuckoo. It was a very warm morning and we spied the bird on a branch. At our careful approach it flew onto the tall post of some deer fencing and settled down unperturbed. It stayed there for at least ten minutes as we watched, obviously soaking up the sun and just resting. We watched with binoculars at first, able to study its grey colouring and the lovely barred feathering of its chest and underparts. It sat for so long that our arms ached from holding the 'bins' as we watched from just maybe twenty metres away. We moved on quietly as did the bird; just to the next fence

post! Once the nesting period is over cuckoos rest and feed up before flying south in July and early August, overwintering in Africa, to return once more the following spring.



Our garden is much visited by Pied Wagtails and we enjoy seeing them flit about as they chase flies and beetles, small day-flying moths and other insects. However, we soon noticed that the birds had taken a liking to the log store outside our back door. For ten days or so the little birds, after a scout round, flew into the log store with nesting material. With a bit of acrobatics we could just see where they were building, a small space in between two biggish logs. The space was dry and very safe from predators espe-

people who came to look at the display last year and many of you promised to enter this year so please don't forget! Remember there is a Novice Award. Read the schedule carefully and I am sure you will find something you can attempt. It is always fun to tackle new challenges! The School have a special class for each key stage.

We are busy planning our schedule for the Autumn/Winter months and this will include a Wine Tasting evening in Octo-

ber and the Firework Display on November 5th, for which Street Bandit is providing refreshments. Last year's display was amazing and we hope to replicate that this year.

The Wreath-making workshop will return at the end of November with the Children's Christmas party on the first Saturday in December and Christmas Bingo the following Saturday.

We are in the process of revising our hire prices as all our costs are going up

and our funds are low. But we aim to remain competitive in comparison with other venues. We hope you will continue to support us as we endeavour to run this facility for the benefit of the Parish.

**Jackie Brown
Chair**



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