

# Haversham & Little Linford Magazine

**Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 18th April  
7:00pm at the Social Centre  
Come along and have your say!**



Also see p.18/19  
Risk of 16,000 houses  
in our area ...



Wilson House

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# Editorial

With Easter falling particularly early this year, and the clocks going forward to give us longer evenings, many will be hoping that Spring will arrive – and very soon! Having a mild February and March has not made up for days of rain and grey, with the odd fleeting glance of the sun. As the school holidays loom, I hope the weatherman is going to forecast some long sunny spells! The grass cutting has started in earnest and the birds are flashing about courting, so surely that's a sign of good days to come.

There are other things on the horizon too. In April there is the Annual Parish Meeting when all residents are invited to come and hear about what the

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

Parish Council has been doing in the last year and have their say on things afoot. It is a legal requirement that this meeting is held each year and it is democracy at work. If you want to see things change, or just say thank you for the good things being done, do come along and have your say about the very important local matters that affect us all.

The numbers who attended the Social Centre's AGM in March were disappointing. But this very important facility in our parish needs your

help. You don't have to be a trustee or attend boring meetings so why not volunteer to help out. You may even have a great idea for an event to help raise funds for the Social Centre. Let's hear about it!

You will have seen on the front cover that our beautiful area is under threat of development yet again. If we value the rural countryside where we live, we need to be an active part of the community that sustains and fights for it.

Happy Easter!

**Lesley Gilbert**



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LAST FEW PLOTS REMAINING TO WORK FROM 1 APRIL

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# Local News

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## OPEN HOUSE LUNCH

Julia and Ian Cheetham, on behalf of St Mary's Church, are providing an Open House Lunch at the Old Forge, on the third Monday of each month. The lunches are for any member of St. Mary's and Little Linford Churches and residents of Haverham and Little Linford. The Old Forge is located on the High Street next to the Greyhound Pub.

Coffee will be available from 10.30am, lunch will be available at approximately 12.30pm and tea and cake on offer in the afternoon until 3.30pm. Maureen White on **07889 654906** has kindly agreed to provide transport for those who need help getting to The Old Forge.

The Open House Lunch in April will be on Monday 15th April from 10.30am. The date for May is Monday 20th May. There is no charge for lunch and you will be warmly welcomed. For further information please call **01908 914318**.

## JUBILEE CLUB

We were delighted to welcome back Dr John Sorrell to our February meeting. On this occasion he told the amazing story of the Edinburgh Women's Hospitals in Serbia during WWI, including the great retreat across the mountains. Quite astonishing!

In March, Jan Bance came and entertained us with tales of her life living on a canal barge for the last 15 years. Few people could get used to such a small space but she and her husband have loved their journeys, both through the rural countryside and into the slightly dodgier waters of the river Thames in London. Our next meetings:

**Wednesday, 10th April**— To celebrate our anniversary, we are having a relaxing Afternoon Tea at lunchtime.

**Wednesday, 8th May**— Co-op Estate Planning will be giving a light-hearted presentation on Estate Planning, entitled 'Tax, Care and Toy Boys'!

The Jubilee Club provides an afternoon meeting place for older residents where they can enjoy one another's company over a cup of tea and homemade cakes, 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 at 2:30pm on the second Wednesday of the month in the Social Centre. Subs are £2 per person, and we also have a raffle to which members contribute the prizes.

**Lesley Gilbert**

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The next Police and Crime Local Area Forum covering the north west rural area, is being held on Wednesday 27th March, 7pm at the Community Hall on Hanslope Recreation Ground.

As well as getting an update on crime stats, it is an opportunity to raise policing concerns with the local Thames Valley Police team. Everybody is welcome.

### **Remember to call 101**

- If you want to give police information about a crime that is not currently in progress.
- To contact a local police officer, such as someone from your Safer Neighbourhood team.
- If your property has been stolen or damaged

but it is not a crime in progress.

- If you suspect drug dealing or use in your area.

### **Only call 999 if:**

- A crime is in progress or you suspect a crime is in progress.
- There is a serious incident, which needs immediate police attendance.
- Someone suspected of a crime is nearby.
- Someone is injured, being threatened or is in danger.

- There is a risk of injury to someone or a risk of serious damage to property.  
–information about your location.

If you have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

# **Haversham-cum-Little Linford Annual Parish Public Meeting**

**to be held on**

**Thursday 18 April at 7.00pm**

**at the Social Centre**

**Agenda to be published in advance**

**We warmly welcome you to come along and hear updates on activities across the Parish in the last year and take the opportunity to raise questions and participate in discussions with the Parish Council and fellow residents.**

# Community Litter Pick

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Hi there. I was keen to introduce myself to those who don't know me as I have recently taken on the administration role for the village litter picking group from Philip Turnbull who set the group up and has been running it for the last four years.

The litter picking group runs every other month on a Saturday morning at 10am. Our last session was on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March where eight volunteers managed to pick up 23 sacks of rubbish between them (along with an interesting selection of old car parts, piping and scrap metal – see the photo below).

The activity itself takes less than an hour and all equipment is provided. We could really do with a good few more volunteers to add to the group so if you have any time you could spare on a Saturday morning (even if only a couple of times a year) then we would be really grateful.

We appreciate there are a few busy roads in the village so pickers are free to choose which part of the village they would like to pick and whether on open spaces and public footpaths, pavements at the side of the road or grass verges.

The next session is taking place at 10am on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, so if you are interested in volunteering or have any questions or suggestions then please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at [johnanthonyclifford@gmail.com](mailto:johnanthonyclifford@gmail.com) or 07970 482601.

It is amazing how satisfying it is to make such a visible difference to our lovely village, so please, please do volunteer.

**John Clifford**



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# YOUTH GROUP

**St Mary's Church Youth Group  
Every other Thursday Night at  
Haversham Social Centre**

**6:30-8:30pm**

**All welcome Year 5—Year 10!**

**Lots of fun, games, bible study and so much  
more!**

**For more information, call or text Amy on  
07415 982901**

April 25th—Wide Game at Tree Cathedral

May 9th—Game Night

May 23rd—Trinity Competition

June 6th—Quiz Night

June 26th—BBQ





# Parish Council News – The View from the Chair

At last, some sunshine as I write this. After the wet and blustery early spring, it is great to see the daffodils out, the blossom on the trees and a bit of sun! As usual, I have a fair number of things to update you all on, but I also remind you that you can keep fully up to date on Parish news via Facebook, where we share regular updates - details are at the end.

I wanted to start by expressing the Parish Council's thanks to Jemma English who, for personal reasons, has recently stood down as a Parish Councillor after four years. In that time, she has been the Councillor responsible for the allotments, established the much-loved Community Book Exchange, as well as supported many other areas and projects – too many to list. Her hours of work have been much appreciated by all and she will be

missed. We will be seeking to co-opt another councillor and if you are interested, please contact the Clerk.

## HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

MKCC has recently implemented parking and stopping restrictions outside the school entrance in response to road safety concerns during school pick up/drop off times. We are aware that some of you feel the scheme design by MKCC is not totally suitable and have contacted us or the school. We have passed the comments onto the MKCC Road Safety team and, after a settling-in period, they have committed to visit the site, at the appropriate time of day, to assess the situation.

Work is still progressing on the 20mph schemes in both villages. It was hoped that the consulta-

tion for the Wolverton Road scheme would have happened in late February but, to allow for the best possible design, MKCC have undertaken additional surveys related to the existing 60mph zone – and due to restrictions on activity prior to the elections in May (known as the 'election purdah'), the consultation has been delayed. We remain in contact with MKCC as both schemes move forward.

We also expect the consultation regarding the restriction of vehicular access to the gated road at Stanton Low to happen post-election. The scheme aims to mitigate the anti-social behaviour that regularly impacts many residents in the old village. We will aim to let you know when these consultations start via our Facebook page, but details of all MKCC consultations are at [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations).

Sadly, Haversham School was unsuccessful in its application for the School Crossing Patroller grant

scheme. At time of writing, we have not yet had any detailed feedback, but it is disappointing.

On the positive side we have been successful in our Community Infrastructure Funding (CIF) request for 50% funding of two Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) for Wolverton Road. We will now work with MKCC to finalise the scheme and hope to be able to install these later in the year.

We believe that the combination of the 20mph schemes and the new SIDS will improve road safety in the Parish, but will continue to work with MKCC to explore new ways to further improve this, in particular for the children and parents on their way to and from the school.

We recently published the latest traffic analysis from the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) in the old village on our website and Cllr Langham continues to run to run regular Community Speedwatch (CSW) sessions – you can learn

more about the outcomes from our monthly CSW update on Facebook and of course, more ‘speedwatchers’ always welcome!

### **MKCC – NEW CITY PLAN**

As mentioned previously, MKCC is updating its local development plan – the New City Plan (NCP). Further consultations have been completed in the last couple of months and the draft plan is now being prepared. This could have a very significant impact on the Parish so please read the separate article that can be found on page 18. More details can be found at <https://www.havershamtlintford.org/mknewcityplan> where there are also links to the MKCC website.

### **UPDATING PARISH COUNCIL TECHNOLOGY**

Driven by a requirement from the Government’s Cabinet Office, we are updating our technology so we have a “.GOV.UK” domain. Based on external advice, we chose [havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk](https://havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk) and our

email and website addresses are now changing. We have also purchased a specialist Parish Council accounting system to improve our financial management as well as reduce the amount of time our Clerk has to spend on financial matters, to allow her more time to work on other activities. This modernisation brings us in line with many other parishes in MK.

### **PARISH MAGAZINE – AT RISK!**

Sadly, we still need someone to take on the editor and advertising manager roles from Lesley and Harvey Gilbert when they step down in October. Please do reach out if you would consider taking on one of the positions as without them, this magazine will have to stop publication.

### **PLAYGROUND RENOVATION UPDATE**

We have not been successful in two of our grant applications – with the MK Community Foundation (MKCF) and the FCC Communities Foundation. However, both have pro-

vided Cllr Parkes-Brincat with helpful feedback and suggested we reapply. A revised MKCF application is already submitted and we are working on a revised FCC one. We continue to work hard towards our overall target of around £100,000 and, to help our fundraising, we would welcome any letters of support that you would be happy to for us to include with an application – please send to the Clerk.

### OTHER LOCAL NEWS

Have you thought about getting an allotment? We have a few plots available. Our current plot holders report how much they enjoy the fruit and veg they grow, so if you would like to join them, please get in touch – there is an advert in the magazine with the details.

After the tender process, we appointed Tove Landscapes to mow the Rec, Crescent Green and Allotments – they should by now have completed the first cut, although the

weather has made that a little challenging.

Our latest Parish litter pick, was on 16<sup>th</sup> March. One of the regular volunteers, John Clifford, has taken over the admin to support Cllr Turnbull and he has provided an update on p.6 of the magazine.

As a part of my role as PC Chair I continue to support the Haversham Social and Community Centre charity as a Trustee. The charity adopted its refreshed constitution at the recent AGM and are actively looking for ways to better serve the residents of the Parish. I know Jackie and the rest of the Trustees will value any ideas plus any help you can offer with their events.

### FUTURE UPDATES & CONTACTING US

Alongside this regular article, we continue to use our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/HcLLParishCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/HcLLParishCouncil) and our website [www.havershamlittlelinford.org](http://www.havershamlittlelinford.org) (soon to become [\[ordpc.gov.uk\]\(http://ordpc.gov.uk\)\) to share news and useful information - so please follow us on Facebook and visit the website regularly.](http://www.havershamlittlelinf</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

If you have any issues, suggestions or questions for us, or are interested in helping out in our community, then please either message us via Facebook or email the Parish Clerk at [clerk@havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk). We do our best to respond promptly.

And please do consider helping your community by volunteering your support to the Magazine, Litter Picking, Community Speedwatch or the Social Centre. Without more active support these important Parish activities are at risk.

I want to end by wishing you all a happy Easter and enjoy the spring now it has finally arrived!

**Richard Pryor  
Chair**



**YOUR PARISH**  
**COUNCILLORS**

**Chair—Richard Pryor**

3 Mill Road

Tel. 07824 483337

**Barry Clift**

21 Wolverton Rd

Tel. 01908 312365

**Carol Langham**

108 Wolverton Rd

Tel. 01908 316450

**Ceri Parkes-Brincat**

Tel. 07834 489258

**Philip Turnbull**

3 Granary Close

Tel. 07710 423032

**PARISH CLERK**

**Maria Manthorpe**

Email:

clerk@[havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk](mailto:havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk)

[nfordpc.gov.uk](mailto:havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk)

**NEXT PARISH**

**COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Parish Council meetings usually take place at 7.30pm on the third Monday of each month at the Social Centre. The meetings are open to the public.

The next meetings are:

**Monday, 22nd April (a**

*week later than usual)*

**Monday, 20th May**

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

*Additional news & information can also be found on the Parish website at [havershamlittlelinford.org/](http://havershamlittlelinford.org/)*

**NOTE: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING takes place at 7:00pm on Thursday 18th April at Haversham Social & Community Centre. ALL RESIDENTS**



**LEO ANTIQUES**

After 20 years on the Market Place in Olney, Leo Antiques has now moved into premises just inside Rose Court, literally next door to where we were!

Do come along for a look at our cosy new shop, still on first floor I'm afraid, but well worth the 10 step stairs.

Rose Court is well known for its great Brasserie Restaurant, Valeria C Ladies Boutique and also the delightful flower shop. Now with Antiques it's the perfect location for a spot of coffee/lunch and a bit of shopping.

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# Social & Community Centre News

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The Winter months are usually very quiet at the Social Centre and this year was no exception.

We commenced our events in early March with a Curry and Quiz evening, which was well supported and ably run by Shula Holt and Lesley Gilbert, and Louise Reid who organised the Curry section, courtesy of Safina's kitchen. I was sorry that my husband and I had to miss the evening and my team assured me that we were sadly missed (they came third!). The worthy winners were team Cliff, Agatha Quizley!; well done. We will have our revenge next time!

Our most recent event was the annual Easter Family Bingo. As always it was a fun evening and there were cries of joy and sighs when the numbers just didn't add up. The reactions of the children are always entertaining. Thank you to our caller, Shula Holt, and to Trinity Irving & Chris Marsh

who helped at the door, also Louise Reid and Kim Irving who helped in the kitchen and general organisation. We had a reasonably good turnout and thank you to all who came, it was lovely to see old friends from the village who had come to support us. I think they may have outnumbered the villagers of today.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the second Monday in March and was important because we needed to revise our Constitution so that it conformed to the latest guidelines from the Charity Commission. The original constitution dates from 1965 when the old meeting place was replaced by new premises. The new constitution is published in full on our page of the [havershamtlinford.org](http://havershamtlinford.org) website.

It was a small meeting, but we did have 6 members of the public attend, and it was good to have input from them about

the way forward, for the Social Centre, in the year ahead. It is difficult to know what will appeal to people. We tried to vary our offerings this year but had to cancel three events due to lack of numbers. Our major events, e.g. Village Show, Firework Display, Bingo and Curry & Quiz Night were well supported. We had some very good suggestions for progression, and we will work on them. Another problem is not having enough people to run events. One suggestion was to have sub-committees consisting of members of the village who were keen to run a particular event which is another possibility that we will investigate.

The updated Constitution was explained to the Meeting by Richard Pryor, Chair of the Parish Council, whom we have also asked to be a trustee. He has very kindly helped us through this complicated process. The Constitution was formally adopted by the meeting.

The meeting appointed the following trustees of

*(Continued on page 15)*

the Social Centre Charity; Jackie Brown, Holly Sains, Natalie Irving, Fiona Viney, Louise Reid, Lesley Gilbert, Barry Clift. Shula Holt was co-opted as a trustee and as mentioned previously Richard Pryor, as Chair of the Parish Council, is also a Trustee.

The working committee will be Jackie Brown – Chair, Holly Sains - Deputy Chair, Natalie Jarman – Treasurer; Fiona Viney – Secretary, Kim Irving –

Bookings Secretary, and Louise Reid, as well as Lesley Gilbert – representing Jubilee Club, Barry Clift, representing the Parish Council, and Shula Holt - representing St Mary's Church.

The next event planned will be the Village Show. We are cancelling the planned June Fun Day due to prior commitments of committee members and lack of people to organise and

run this. It is possibly where interested members of the public might like to step in and help organise a village event. *We would be happy to help and support any group who felt that they could do this.*

**Jackie Brown  
Chair**





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# Up to 16,000 homes being

Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) are currently drafting an updated strategic local development plan – the New City Plan (NCP) - that will replace the current Plan:MK. The NCP has an overall objective of delivering **an additional 63,000 homes across the city by 2050** to support the vision of “*MK Strategy 2050*”, for a city of half-a-million people.

30,000 of these dwellings are already planned for - including the development at MK East and other areas across the city – but space for an additional 33,000 homes needs to be found within the NCP.

A number of options and areas are under consideration and the details are not being shared by MKCC despite the request of several Parish Councils and our Ward Councillors. One of these is for a **substantial development, called MK North, of up to 16,000 homes with both old and new Haversham, plus Little Linford**, being absorbed into an urban

development stretching as far as Tathall End and over the motorway towards Gayhurst (see map). In addition, up to 2,700 houses could be added into Hanslope and around a further 200 in Castlethorpe. Further afield there are other proposals for significant housing around Olney, Chicheley and Moulsoe.

Whilst we are currently being told that the MK North expansion is not the MKCC preferred option and more sites have been put forward than are needed, we cannot afford to be complacent. In the upcoming public consultations (the first expected in July 2024 and the second in early 2025) or during the examination by a Planning Inspector (expected to start in May 2025), things can change and proposals previously “rejected” can be added back in. As many of you know, most of the rural land in and around the Parish is owned by, or optioned

to, a variety of developers, who will of course be promoting their land for housing development.

The Parish Council continue to keep a close eye on the process, and to press for much better information from MKCC. We resolved at our February PC meeting that we will make strong representations to MKCC regarding the potential development of MK North, as part of the NCP, to **ensure that any site allocation was appropriate in terms of scale and location and aligns with the ambition of our Neighbourhood Plan to maintain HcLL as a predominately rural Parish**. Furthermore, we resolved to work collaboratively with neighbouring Parish Councils, Ward Councillors and elected MPs to help achieve this outcome.

We will be keeping residents informed as we hear more, via both this magazine and Facebook, but if you want to find out more or just to have a

# g considered in our area

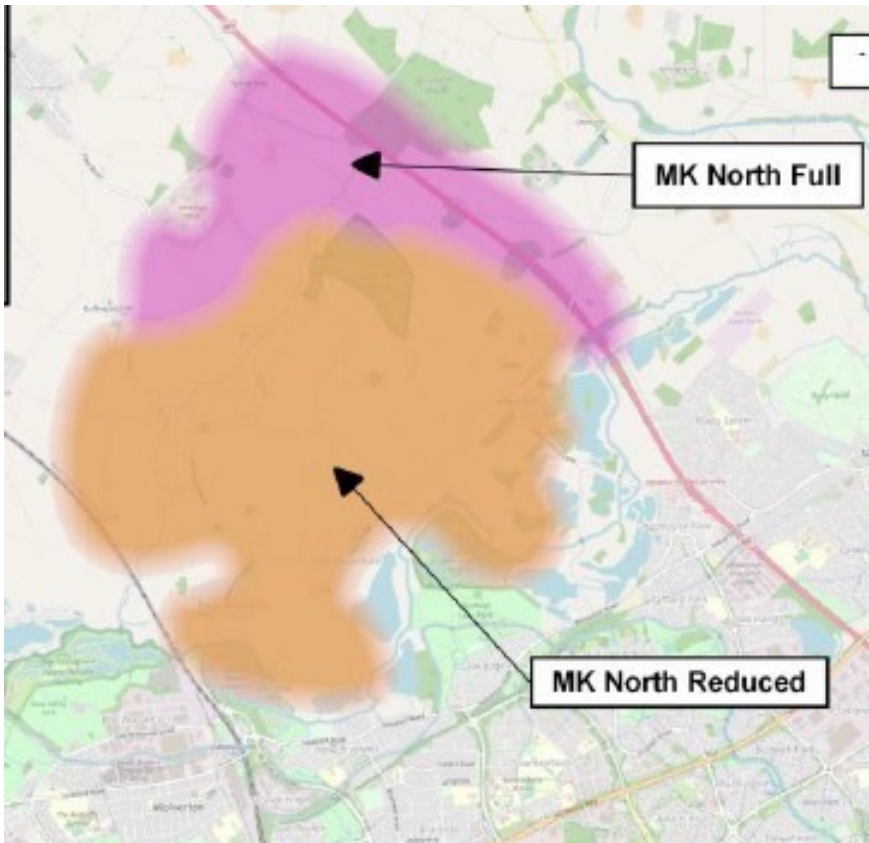
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more detailed conversation, then please reach out by the usual routes.

**Everyone can respond to the upcoming public consultations, not just the Parish Council.** We will all need to make our voices heard if we want to pro-

tect our rural landscape for future generations.

**Richard Pryor**  
**Chair HcLL Parish Council**  
**and Planning Lead**



## Nature Notes

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'March brings breezes loud and shrill, to stir the dancing daffodil.' So the rhyme goes. The daffs have certainly been dancing but they, and many other things, have been flattened by frost, all but drowned in the deluges of rain, battered by the wind and conversely stood like shining trumpets in glorious warm sunshine! March: a month of a puzzling variety of weather. The pull of winter is still strong but spring is the stronger and the wintry grip is lessened with each passing day. February was reported to have been the warmest on record and many things were lulled into thinking that spring had come early. We saw newts in our pond swimming about and watched the flash of orange bellies of the breeding males. Garden birds bustled about checking for nest sites and being very industrious! All that stopped when the cold weather returned. February was horribly wet with day after day of rain. It

just went on and on... it was horrendous. There was so much flooding across the country and here at home the river rose and rose flooding the land to astonishing levels. The land ran with water, everywhere was sodden. Farmers were in despair as crops began to rot in the ground. Lambing time, vital and so busy, is disastrous when the weather is so cold and wet with new lambs being especially vulnerable. The arrival of March saw a bit of improvement in the weather especially as the rain eased. The wind helped to dry the ground a bit and a few days of sunshine was a blessing too. There comes a day in March when the pull of winter is gone and spring wins the day! The vernal equinox may be a formal reminder that spring has sprung but the real evidence of spring just can't be ignored; the sights and sounds and smells of the loveliest of seasons are a joy.

For me, the best part of early spring are the Prim-

roses. Pale petals of the softest yellow with a centre the colour of egg yolk. Seemingly frail stems, almost pink, support the many flowers with a rosette of fresh green leaves at the base. Primroses are sociable little plants and are always at their best in groups. They spread easily and form drifts of pale colour where the conditions are right for them. In Little Linford wood, which sadly is not the place it used to be due to the building site fencing which has proliferated and closed off many areas (I'll say no more...), there are many Primroses which shine out, the damp sheltered woodland floor suiting them well. As they fade the ground will be covered in a great carpet of Dog's Mercury. This perennial plant is found in many locations and is an indicator of ancient woodland where it can, and does, take over. It will spread and out-compete many other less robust plants such as the Early Purple Orchid and the Wood Anemone. Dog's Mercury has a strange smell rather like some-

thing rotting, and all parts of the plant are poisonous. The woodland floor also has a good covering of Bluebell leaves these being quite sturdy and upright. In a few weeks the flowers will appear in carpets of a colour which is not quite blue and not quite purple. On a warm day the scent is amazing; the whole picture just lovely. Today, on a walk out and about, I was pleased to see a number of tiny ground-hugging plants in flower, one of the prettiest were the patches of Common Violets. Nothing common about them except their lack of scent! Sweet violets are the scented type

but their cousins are no less lovely. Small purple flowers, sometimes very pale, sometimes white, peer out from a rosette of almost heart-shaped leaves. On disturbed ground and along the edges of a stony track were tiny blue flowers of the Common field-speedwell. This can be a bit of a pest in gardens as it spreads easily but along the edges of paths and fields it's not so bad and is a short-lived cheery little flower. Its old country name is 'bird's eye speedwell' as the flowers peeking out from the foliage reminded people of eyes! Not that birds have very blue

eyes, but there you are! Further along I came across several clumps of Lesser Celandine. This is one of the earliest of wild-flowers to appear and often carpets large areas where the bright yellow flowers shine like a brush stroke of gold in the sunshine. The clumps I came across were growing strongly, with the flower stalks holding aloft the cheery flowers with heart-shaped mottled green leaves encircling the plant. Here and there the Blackthorn is breaking into flower. In some places the solitary white flowers are fully out yet in another place the buds sit



*Primrose*



*Early Purple Orchid*



*Bluebells*



*Dog's Mercury*



*Wood Anemone*



*Common Speedwell*

tight to the twiggy branches like tiny pearls. The thorny twigs and branches, if they could be called such, are very dark in colour, not quite black, hence the name Blackthorn. The thorns are vicious and if one becomes embedded in flesh or the pad of a dog the puncture wound can become very bad indeed. But for all that when the shrubby plant is in full flower it's a glorious sight with hedges stretching away frothy with white blossom.

Ambling along across the footpaths I just had to stop and listen to the Skylarks. These small brown birds, of a size between a Sparrow and a Starling, are not easily seen though they are easily heard! The male rises from the ground almost vertically and can rise as high as three hundred metres singing as it climbs. Astonishingly the bird can be

aloft for up to an hour before dropping back to earth. The Skylark is a bird of grasslands, open downs and big arable fields and, being ground-nesting birds, are very much at risk due to changes in farming practices, so much so that they are now on the Red List of conservation concern. We seem to have a reasonable population around here and long may that continue. The song is almost ethereal and very beautiful and indeed has inspired many a poem and piece of music, surely the most well-known being Vaughn Williams' 'The Lark ascending'. If you are out for a walk and hear the song of the Skylark, stop and listen, you might not see the bird but you'll be entranced by its song. Another bird with a wonderful song is the Song Thrush. Many a walk

down the sailing club lane has been cheered by the exquisite song from the bird sitting in the very top of a tree. It's an attractive bird too being brown on its upper parts but with a cream chest and underparts covered in black spots and splotches. The Song Thrush is omnivorous but is well known for its love of snails especially if other food is in short supply. It will winkle out snails from their hiding places and then bash them against a large stone to break the shell of the hapless mollusc allowing it access to a tasty meal! The stone is known as an 'anvil' and is used regularly, to the point where the ground around the rock becomes littered with broken snail shell. I wish the Thrush would come and eat some of the snails in my garden, pesky things!

As the fields began to dry out a little, we felt able to expand our dog walking opportunities and ventured out across the 'triangle' and up across the big ninety acre field. About half way across we



heard a plaintive call on the wind and knew straight away the call of the Golden Plover as we have heard them many times on the moors of North Yorkshire and Northumberland. Where were they? We scanned the grey skies; nothing. Walking on we heard them again on the buffeting wind sounding close by but no sighting. Onward we went hearing them again somewhere to our left. Then we spotted them; a group of about thirty, running across the plough no more than forty



metres away. Rarely do you get that close to them on the ground hence our looking for them in the air! Despite the drab day we could make out the golden yellow mottled plumage. We have seen them in previous years as they like the big open field to

roost at night where nothing can sneak up on them. Later the birds took to the air and we watched as they wheeled around, dipping and rising as one. One moment white, the next black as the birds twisted and turned in the air. The Golden Plover were no doubt working their way back to the high moors having spent the winter in the south on fields and mud flats by the coast. What a treat; one of Ian's favourite birds.

We have mentioned in previous notes about the



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Starlings which have nested in a hole in the end of our brick outhouse. The birds have been there for several weeks now laying claim to the hole. Their twittering calls and questionable 'song' have kept us amused, not to mention their very accurate mimicry. But today something changed. The birds were missing and there was no twittering. Mid-morning a single Starling flew down and popped into the hole and came out again to hang around for a short while calling and fluttering its wings. Throughout day the same behaviour prevailed and we fear that one of the pair of Starlings has met its end; perhaps a Sparrowhawk has nabbed it: one zips through our garden regularly creating fear and panic among the small garden birds. Whatever has happened to it, the remaining Starling seems bereft and puzzled. Perhaps it will find another mate and use the hole once more. It's very quiet without them.

The lake, a source of many nature sightings has

been very much out of bounds recently because of the deluges of rain. When the lake hasn't flooded out, the grassy banks and edges are like quagmires; it is unbelievably wet and horrible under foot. The water in the lake is brown; mud coloured and still very high. There are very few birds on the water, just a few pairs of quarrelsome Coots and three bachelor Mallards. A few geese have turned up occasionally but mainly to graze the grass near the club hut. Mr Grumpy, the aggressive swan is nowhere to be seen. In fact there are no swans at all and our theory is that the water is too deep and too discoloured to easily get at any water weed which they feed on. Even the ugly and voracious Cormorants have gone elsewhere which will please the fishermen. Whether Mr Grumpy and his mate return remains to be seen. Unless the water drops back soon and significantly, the usual Swan nest site in the big reed bed will remain waterlogged. Perhaps the only

things that are not swamped and brown are the new pussy willow along the banks of the river. Fluffy like overgrown golden bees, the catkins, for that is what they are, are cheery and when the sun shines the catkins are almost luminous. Another tree with a liking for damp places is the Common Alder. They are numerous along the lake and riverside and in spring are festooned with both male and female catkins, rusty-red and lime green in colour. The catkins which ripen into fruits turn from green to dark brown and resemble a small cone, remaining throughout the winter. The common alder is an ancient tree. Pollen grains have been discovered in peat layers thousands of years old. There are many strange tales and superstitions relating to the Alder not least that, when the wood is cut, it turns a blood-orange red almost as if it were bleeding. This led to the strange theory that the tree was somehow malign and linked to the underworld. Perhaps



best to leave the Alders where they are... Near to the old moat in the fields of Manor Farm, overlooking the lake is a stand of very tall Western Balsam Poplars. The tree can grow up to six feet a year making it one of the fastest growing trees in this country and can reach a lofty thirty three metres in height. In the spring the tree's buds and young leaves are sticky with balsam which has a sweet smell. On warm still days the scent fills the air and can be detected some distance away. The scent has an almost therapeutic balminess to it as if inhaling is actually good for you; fanciful I know, but then the sense of smell is a powerful thing. Later the leaves open out and are quite leathery with a silvery underside. The leaves being tough, rattle a bit in strong wind and



the pale backs are easily seen. I'm very fond of these trees, they've been there for many, many years and each spring I look forward to the drift of that unmistakable scent in the air.

The very last days of March will see Easter with us. Indeed the thirty first is Easter Sunday and the change to British summertime. The joy of Easter and new beginnings and the joy of light evenings and warmer days! The countryside, our gardens and allotments will really be coming alive then with new growth and work to be done! Planting and nurturing and just enjoying being outside is so good for us and, having had such a wet and thoroughly dismal winter, surely we must be deserving of light and sunshine? As we conclude our 'notes' we have to report that our Starlings have not returned save for a brief visit on the chimney pot from a forlorn and silent bird looking for its mate which seems unlikely to return. Earlier there was

a Wren in the large pot of violas outside the back door picking at the unseen, by us anyway, insects among the leaves and flowers. Perhaps it was hoping for a fat spider, of which they are very fond! For such a tiny bird it has an enormous song which we hear often in our garden and we're sure it will nest somewhere close by in a very secret location. Just fledged Wrens are so endearing but very much at risk, as are all baby birds, from rain and cold so we hope for good weather when all the young birds emerge from the nest later in the spring. We hope that you have something cheery to see from your window, or in your garden if you are unable to go far. There is much to look forward to in the natural world over the coming weeks and months and we must make the most of better days to come. Tea or your favourite tipple in the garden? Time to just sit awhile and enjoy!

**Gill & Ian Burgess**

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# Haversham Village School



As we bid farewell to the blossoms of spring and welcome the promise of warmer days, it's time to reflect on the numerous activities that have coloured our school days over the last half term. From enchanting balls to immersive cultural celebrations, we've had a whirlwind of experiences that have enriched the hearts and minds of our students.

As part of their topic this half term, our little princes and princesses in Foundation Stage dazzled us all with their grace and charm at the Cinderella Ball. It was fantastic to see the children donning their finest attire and performing the dances they had learned. As you can imagine the atmosphere was fantastic and the children were really excited to see our special guest, Cinderella. Amidst the laughter and joy, Cinderella left behind her shoe, creating

a buzz of excitement and wonder among the students. I am happy to say that with a few posters, made by the children, Cinderella has now been reunited with her shoe.

In February, we studied the rituals and beliefs associated with Chinese New Year. The children were immersed in the rich tapestry of Chinese culture. From vibrant dragon dances to food tasting sessions, our students delved into the traditions and customs of this auspicious festival, fostering cross-cultural understanding and appreciation.

The mysteries of ancient Egypt came alive during Year 4's immersive Egyptian Day. Decked in pharaoh attire, our students embarked on a journey through time, exploring

the wonders of pyramids, hieroglyphics, and mummification rituals. It was a holistic educational experience that ignited curiosity and sparked historical intrigue among our young historians whilst covering multiple aspects of the curriculum.

Bletchley Leisure was abuzz with excitement during the Year 5 and 6 Swimming Gala. With strokes of determination and waves of enthusiasm, our talented swimmers showcased their aquatic prowess, competing in a series of thrilling races. The children competed, with poise and determination, against children from numerous local schools. Unfortunately, we did not place within the top three schools, but our children did perform very well securing a number of first place finishes. As always



we were extremely proud of the children's achievements and the dedication and sportsmanship they displayed in representing the school.

On World Book Day, the halls of our school were transformed into a literary wonderland as characters from beloved books leaped from the pages and into reality. From Harry Potter to Alice in Wonderland, our students brought their favourite characters to life through vibrant costumes and spirited storytelling sessions. It was a day dedicated to the magic of reading and imagination.

During Science Week, our budding scientists delved into the realms of experimentation and discovery. From explosive chemical reactions to awe-inspiring physics demonstrations, our students immersed themselves in hands-on learning experiences that ignited their passion for STEM subjects. It was a week filled with wonder, curiosity, and the thrill of scientific

exploration. It was fantastic to see the children excited about science and linking their previous knowledge and learning to the experiments conducted.

I'm excited to announce that construction will soon begin on the dedicated library space funded by the Friends of Haversham Village School. As many of you know, inspired by our local links to Wolverton works, this innovative space will resemble a charming train carriage! We are thrilled to commence construction over the Easter break and I would like to thank the incredible generosity and support of our school community in the fundraising efforts which made this project possible. This project promises to provide our students with a unique and inspiring environment to nurture their love for reading and learning. Anticipated for completion and ready for use in the 2024-2025 academic year, we're eagerly looking forward to



seeing this vision come to life.

As always, this update offers just a glimpse of the exciting learning experiences our children enjoy at school. With summer on the horizon, both staff and students eagerly anticipate the upcoming term, brimming with thrilling residential trips, hands-on learning experiences and sports days!

I wish everyone a restful Easter break.

Best Wishes

**Mr David Ley & all the staff of Haversham Village School**



# The Parishes of Haversham with Little Linford and Tyringham with Filgrave

## Area Dean 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 on 07946 615218 or by email at [fipwmum@gmail.com](mailto:fipwmum@gmail.com).



## 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](http://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.

# Lamp Group Church Services

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<b>31st March</b>	9:30 am	Holy Communion	Tyringham
<b>EASTER DAY</b>	11:00 am	Holy Communion	Haversham
	11:00 am	Holy Communion	Emberton
<b>7th April</b>	9:30 am	Holy Communion	Tyringham
	11:00 am	Parish Praise	Haversham
	6:00 pm	Something Else on Sunday	Emberton
<b>14th April</b>	9:30 am	Morning Prayer	Little Linford
	11:00 am	Morning Worship	Haversham
	11:00 am	Holy Communion/Children's Church	Emberton
<b>21st April</b>	9:30 am	Morning Prayer	Tyringham
	11:00 am	Holy Communion	Haversham
	6:00 pm	Evensong	Emberton
<b>28th April</b>	9:30 am	Holy Communion	Little Linford
	11:00 am	Morning Worship	Haversham
	11:00 am	Parish Praise	Emberton
<b>5th May</b>	9:30 am	Holy Communion	Tyringham
	11:00 am	Parish Praise	Haversham
	6:00 pm	Something Else on Sunday	Emberton
<b>9th May</b>	7:00 pm	Holy Communion	Emberton
<b>Ascension Day</b>			
<b>12th May</b>	9:30 am	Morning Prayer	Little Linford
	11:00 am	Morning Worship	Haversham
	11:00 am	Holy Communion/Children's Church	Emberton
<b>19th May</b>	9:30 am	Morning Prayer	Tyringham
	11:00 am	Holy Communion	Haversham
	6:00 pm	Evensong	Emberton
<b>26th May</b>	9:30 am	Holy Communion	Little Linford
	11:00 am	Morning Worship	Haversham
	11:00 am	Café Church	Emberton

# A Message from Adrian Low

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Thankfully I haven't got a 1970 Triumph Herald that I'm doing up. But I do have a few projects started and not finished. Magnus Magnusson on Mastermind started that, insisting because he had started, he would finish – good for him, but there are projects everywhere, like my projects, that are only half done.

However, last Sunday, I finished one. I wrote the last story in a rendering of the four gospels as imaginary monologues told by characters who were there at the time. I started that project in 2008 and have picked it up and then left it, sometimes for years on end. The result is that some phrases I used then I would now avoid. My father commented wisely on my version of Matthew. He recommended that I change the phrase 'and the guy was gobsmacked' when referring to a surprised Jesus. He was right. So the project still continues as I return to the text, calming

it down a little, here and there.

Shall I ever find a publisher – unlikely. But, as a priest, it has been good discipline working through the gospels and trying to understand what is going on.

At least three things I have found:

1. All four authors (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) write simple stories but some have multiple layers of meaning. For example, the wedding at Cana when Jesus turned water into wine. Is this just a bit of Harry Potter-like magic – written for amazement or is there a layer of meaning underneath, and maybe even another underneath that. It is very clever writing indeed. For example, why wine and not whisky or orange juice? Why so much wine for a wedding – maybe 180 gallons of it? And why in old stone jars normally used for washing? There is reason behind all of it.

2. There is so much passion and pathos. If you get this before Good Friday, come to Little Linford church at 11am and listen to the whole passion story from John's gospel. If you don't get emotionally connected with it, I will eat my hat (metaphorically).

3. The values of Jesus are so often the opposite of world values. Blessed are the poor in spirit, the meek and the grieving... Literally there is an alternative existence if you risk living life NOT seeking power, wealth and a quick fix. This really is a better way to live and, despite the chaos and pain, it provides a deeper satisfaction and profound joy in things done good and right, honest and true.

The crucifixion was an appalling way to die yet God chooses that, not least because 2000 years later we are still talking about and celebrating Easter - saying it was the most amazing event to happen for humankind. I believe that, and if you

would like to believe that too, talk to me.

Happy Easter, oh and particularly happy Easter resurrection day!

**Adrian Low**

*Area Dean and Priest for Haversham, Little Linford, Tyringham & Filgrave, and Emberton*



## NEXT ISSUE OF MAGAZINE

Our next issue is for **June / July 24.**

Copy date will be **Wednesday 22nd May**

and the magazine should be ready for distribution on or around 31st May.

*All contributions welcome.*

Please pass them to:

Lesley Gilbert, Woodpecker Cottage, Haversham.

Tel: 01908 310113

e-mail: [lesley@harveygilbert.co.uk](mailto:lesley@harveygilbert.co.uk)



# News from the Pews

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## MEMOS FROM ST MARY'S

As we move into Astro-nomical Spring (on or about 20<sup>th</sup> March), we may be forgiven for thinking we have not moved very far from winter. However, a little look over our shoulder (and not turning into a pillar of salt) reminds us that our Carol singing was, in fact a long way off. However, the Carol singing (and associated Gift Aid) raised £162.35 for Willen Hospice. For the Christmas Tree Festival, the donations were split equally between the Church and Willen Hospice and another £81.77 was sent to the hospice. The Little Linford Carol service collection (and associated Gift Aid) raised £193.75 for Children In Need. Many thanks to all who supported us on the various nights.

The Curry & Fun Quiz night, however, is more fresh in the minds of all the teams who participated on 2<sup>nd</sup> March at the

Social Centre. The Top Spot was taken by the fabulously named Agatha Quizley, with our Church Team coming a very respectable second and Jackieless Jesters third. Well done also to Shula and Lesley who were our Question setters and Score Keepers.

On Saturday morning 16<sup>th</sup> March, much dust was busted at St Mary's Church by a dedicated team hunting high and low for dust and creepy crawlies (of which there were many). Any jobs not completed on the morning were carried over for the next week. Special thanks are due to Hilary and Sandy Riley for the extra work undertaken by them to complete these jobs. Thank you to all who attended for fun, fellowship and donuts!

Now that the deep clean has been undertaken, Mrs Sandy Afleck has brought out our hand worked Easter themed banners. There is a long history of banners, some

of the first recorded being Romans who hung their coats of arms outside their houses to identify them. In the Bible the earliest mention of banners occurs in Numbers 1 & 2 when the Israelites are told by God to erect banners to identify their clans. Today, from Westminster Abbey down, they are used as an aid to worship, depicting scenes and words from the Bible. Many of our own banners have been hand worked by Mrs Mickey Geary, Mrs Joan Harrison and the Rev Ted Bale – all sadly now no longer with us but living on in our memory through their creative talents.

Last autumn St Mary's registered as an Eco Church through A Rocha UK, a Christian charity working to care for the environment. We're pleased to report that St Mary's has achieved a bronze award for their part in this programme which includes encouraging us all to think about our actions and lifestyle, helping protect and care for the natural world.

Well done to all who have made this possible. We now look forward to working towards a silver award in the coming months. Please speak to Rev. Nicholls for more information.

This Easter we have a change to our Church flowers. Instead of purchasing Easter Lilies (to which a growing number of Church members are allergic) we are asking everyone to bring a bunch of Spring flowers which can be arranged in vases and placed around the Church in celebration. The memory book is, of course, still available and any donations this year will be made to Willen Hospice. If you would like a name recorded, please email Jan Bell or Fi Jones or see our Facebook page. **The Easter flowers will be arranged on Holy Saturday morning 30 March from 9.30 am onwards.**

**Everyone is welcome at our Easter Services, shown on p. 30.**

As we move through all the emotions of Easter –

Good Friday through to Easter Sunday, may we remember that the Lord is our banner, and his banner over us all is love. Happy Easter.

**Jan Bell**

## **NEWS FROM ST PETER'S, TYRINGHAM**

The last months have been quiet at St Peter's but suddenly everything is springing into life. Lambs are in the fields near the church, daffodils are in bloom in the churchyard and even the sun shines occasionally.

At St Peter's we are looking forward to our Easter service of Holy Communion at 9.30am. We only have a service alternate years as we share the Easter Day service with Little Linford. We are hoping members of St Leonard's will join us for this special service in the Christian calendar. We change the clocks that day and lose an hour's sleep so we hope a 9.30am start will not be too much of a challenge for our congregation.

It is good to have Jean on the organ again, we have missed her whilst she has been caring for Joyce. Jean's return is a positive sign that Joyce's health is improving and it's great that Joyce is also managing to join us once more.

The DAC have approved in full the Schedule of Works for our toilet, servery etc. Once it is all costed we will know if raising the money is feasible.

On 30<sup>th</sup> April Reverend Kimonie Nichols will be at Park House Care Home to take a short Songs of Praise service for the residents. These services are a new initiative by Kimonie and the residents have really enjoyed the two services she has taken with support from members of St Peter's and All Saints congregations.

We wish all our friends in the LAMP Group a very Happy and Blessed Easter.

**Marion Hansford**

# The Last Resort

Local Organisation	Contacts	Telephone
Magazine	Editor: Lesley Gilbert Advertising: Harvey Gilbert	01908 310113 01908 310113
Parish Council	Chair: Richard Pryor Clerk: Maria Manthorpe clerk@havershamlittlelinfordpc.gov.uk	07824 483337
Social Centre	Chair: Jackie Brown Bookings Secretary: Kim Irving Alt: Fiona Viney	01908 313388 01908 989668 07971 654241
Lamp Group of Churches	Rev Adrian Low	07883 717642
Haversham Village School	Headteacher: David Ley	01908 312673
Haversham Jubilee Club	Lesley Gilbert	01908 310113
Haversham Sailing Club	commodore@havershamsc.org	

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