

THE INFORMER

THE HULCOTE AND SALFORD PARISH NEWSLETTER

October 2016

Chairman's Report

First and foremost, on behalf of residents and fellow councillors, I would like to reiterate the strong vote of thanks that I gave to Richard Mann for taking on the PC Chair role in 2015, a time of change for our PC. As Richard has said before, he had big boots to fill after Alf had led our PC for many years. However, Richard's experience of PC matters came to the fore and he guided the PC through what was a very difficult time. Richard had made clear he would only fulfil the role for one year so as to tidy outstanding issues that needed to be addressed and give the four newly elected councillors time to settle in. Richard did exactly that and did it extremely well, so on behalf of all residents, many thanks Richard and long may you continue to serve as a councillor.

In May, we lost the services of Chris Hall who decided that he would be compromised as potential large scale development on land owned by his family comes forward. From day one of our family arriving in Hulcote, Chris was the person who made sure that we got to know who was who and what went on in our villages. So whilst fully understanding and agreeing with his reasons, I along with other Councillors were disappointed to see him step down as his knowledge of village matters has few equals.

If you have visited the PC website recently you will have noticed the friendly and open basis upon which your Councillors wish to serve our small (but growing) community. The same approach will be found at all meetings under my Chair and I very much encourage residents to attend (future meetings).

The PC supported by our excellent Clerk, Lyn Lyman, has successfully addressed many issues that have been brought to our attention, do please make us aware of matters that are affecting you or others within our Parish, so that we can help to resolve or improve.

As well as the small, but very important, matters that we have addressed, your PC is extremely concerned by the big issues that are affecting us

now, particularly Highways, that will get worse in the years ahead if development without an infrastructure plan continues. We are currently aware of c. 5,000 homes that are to be built within a 3 mile radius of Salford without any significant investment in new roads. Your PC views this type of development as unsustainable, however, the PC has been powerless to effect, stop or influence. With a further 20,000 plus homes potentially being built on our side of Milton Keynes, we are in danger of being overwhelmed. It is against this background that I have been keen for our PC to investigate fully the Pro's and Con's of our developing a Neighbourhood Plan, which may give residents more say in future development. We have already conducted research; our next action is to attend an exploratory meeting with Ridgmont Parish Council on 20th October so as to fully assess and report to fellow Councillors and residents.

Away from PC matters, 2016 has been a fantastic year for our villages thanks to the many people that contribute to daily life. In particular those that serve and support our Village Hall, Charities and Churches in order to ensure facilities, support of others and events are high on our communities agenda.

One way to both celebrate our villages and support our Village Hall is to buy your friends Village Calendars featuring pictures taken by residents, the ideal 2016 Christmas present. Paul Harris will be pleased to hear from you. If enough are ordered he will arrange another print run. With all profits going towards our Village Hall, your Christmas purchases will have multiple benefits.

Do please approach your Parish Councillors if you have matters that are affecting your enjoyment of life in Hulcote and Salford or with ideas for how we might improve our villages for future generations. We are here to support you, however, we will need your support if we are to address and affect the big issues.

Keith Butten

News from Husborne Crawley Lower School - Autumn Term 2016

We are really pleased to be able to share some wonderful recent achievements with you. Firstly, we have just found out that we have been awarded the prestigious 'Primary Science Quality Mark', Silver level. This award recognises the high quality of teaching and learning of Science at our school. The main idea of this country-wide award is that it enables primary schools to evaluate, strengthen and celebrate their science provision. In order to gain the award children were interviewed about their learning in Science, lessons were observed and teachers questioned about what great Science teaching should look like. Unsurprisingly both teachers and children felt that working outside the classroom, and independent learning through exploring and experimenting, are really important.

For the second year running we have been awarded the Gold level of the School Games Mark. This sporting award rewards schools for commitment to the development of sporting competition across their school and into the community. We continue to enter many local competitions and team events; as well as this our Year 4 sports leaders work within school to engage the younger children in competitions. PE professionals visit us every week to provide top quality tuition, and a sports club is on offer every day at lunchtimes and after school; the new Archery Club is proving extremely popular.



Louise with her bags of donated items for Cancer research UK

As always part of our learning is about helping other people. We raised money for the charity 'Jeans for Genes', and an interesting assembly helped us understand what a gene is, and how inheriting different genes can affect a child's health. Selling our 'Tasty Tuck'



at playtimes has helped us raise money to send a child to school in India, and we continue to forge a link with The Noble School in Nepal which was badly affected by the terrible earthquakes in 2015.

One of our enterprising Year 4 children has single



Learning outside the classroom - fun with Maths

handedly helped to raise a large amount of money for Cancer Research UK. TK Maxx with Cancer Research UK run a campaign every year called "Give Up Clothes For Good". The campaign asks for good quality items, from clothes to home ware. The current campaign is for research into children's cancer and also to help make a



Come and read to a Guinea Pig

More from HCLS

difference to a family going through the ordeal of a loved one being diagnosed. Louise sent out letters to families at school who were asked to bring in their filled bags. She also spoke to children in assembly about how their efforts could help. Louise had a great response to her request and we are waiting to see how much money she was able to raise, however we think this may be over £450.

Do have a look at our school website



Story planning with friends

www.hclowerschool.co.uk which has more information about your very own local village school; transport by minibus is provided by Central Bedfordshire to and from Hulcote and Salford, which are our official 'catchment' villages. If you are thinking about a place for your child for September 2017 then why not come and visit us? If families move into our catchment area we will always try our best to accommodate children.

Do telephone the school on 01525 280232 and speak to Mrs Bland, our receptionist, or to myself, and we can arrange an appointment for a chat and a look around the school. Alternatively, coming up soon is our next Open Afternoon, on Thursday October 13th from 1:30 to 3pm. This is for pre-school children and their parents to come and see what we can offer here. Tours of the school, activities for children, and a chance to meet teachers and current students will be provided. You are warmly invited, and we hope to see you then!

Sue Isaacs
Head Teacher

Village Activities

This year has been a good one for the village, for despite the vagaries of weather, politics and other things going on around us such as schooling, work, family interests etc., we have had some more good times in our very own Mary Agate Hall for the two villages.

The Race Night back in June – a first for us here and held on Her Majesty the Queen's unofficial birthday, the 11th – went very well and great fun was had by all who went to it.

The next event to be held was the Hulcote & Salford Summer Fete held, for the first time too, romantically under the lime trees leading up to the church. This event was a combined 'do', to celebrate the lately-finished refurbishment of the 12th century church, to include Husborne Crawley and its school (they leapt up to the mark with energy and enthusiasm!) and of course, to hold a fete for the villages for the first time in many years. The whole day went extremely well.



Some of the entries in the scarecrow competition

There were stalls for children, books, handmade soaps, a big plant stall, hot dogs, a refreshment marquee and two competitions – one for the best scarecrow (many of which had been displayed around the villages during the previous month). They were fantastic and showed great imagination by all who made one – the winner was a flying superman! The second competition was of photographs of the local area, entered for a place in a calendar for 2017. Twelve photos were chosen and are now featured in the glossy calendar, currently on sale for £7.50 – see Paul Harris – there was dancing by children of Husbourne Crawley School, round the maypole too! And the whole fete – despite the wind which had joined in – carried on happily, people chatting, eating food and ice cream, enjoying a

Village Activities - continued

drink, mingling around the stalls, all a to the accompaniment of music from the ukelele band and later, the wonderful singing voice of Danni Nichols



And the band played on...brilliant!!

(when many sat on the grass quietly to just listen) A good time had by all. Funds were raised for the church and the hall.



Rupert and his granddaughters with the old tractor

This amazing event was followed at later dates by a disco in the hall, the annual Harvest Supper, raising funds for **Leonard Cheshire Disability** in Ampthill, which has links, along with our hall to the late Mary Agate. Both of these were great fun. The hall is used on a regular basis during the week for Pilates classes and baby massage classes. Also for band rehearsals, am-dram groups, an art group, martial-arts practice and at times for parties at weekends. Of course, by far the biggest hiring comes from the lovely people who organise the MacMillan Big Coffee Morning and in this case BREAKFAST!!! Always very successful and



More smiles and cheekiness at the burger bar

enjoyable, it is very likely that this year it has exceeded all previous monies raised for donation to MacMillan. All-in-all we have a pleasant, very special and unique village hall loved by all!

Later this autumn we have The Big Quiz night to look forward to on 15th October, then the Christmas Lunch on Sunday 11th December so get planning to book in for both as places go quickly! See you all soon,

From all on the Village Hall Committee – Paul Harris; Wilson Sharp; Yvonne Arnott; Helen Nisbet; Julian O'Dell; Kay Draycott; Stevie Beckham

MacMillan Breakfast

As is tradition on the last Friday in September each year, the villagers of Hulcote & Salford came together in a sterling effort to put on our biggest Macmillan breakfast to date. With the early bird Ed Wisson in pole position at 6:45am the queue never really subsided. Lyn 'TV' Demmon worked like an absolute trojan controlling the flow to the hot food, serving drinks and taking



donations right through to midday. It's fair to say that this event would not happen without the comradery and sheer hard work of so many.



We will not have the total raised amount for a short while whilst monies are still coming in, but we are quietly confident of beating last years total; and we have everything crossed that we may cross the £9,000

line..... So a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped out, ate our breakfasts, bought our cakes, entered



our raffle and came along to support us. We also had 2 other helpers not included in the team picture each doing a busy shift, those being Liz

Mount and Gay Marks, thank you ladies. We look forward to confirming the total very soon and to seeing everyone again next year, thank you once more.

Linda Batten of behalf of the Team.

Catfest 2016



Julian and Cat O'Dell held their second annual music festival Catfest 16 in their garden at Rook Tree Farm, Hulcote. Months of planning and hard work came together to produce a fantastic event that raised over £31,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Julian takes up the story... "It was a dream come true that Catfest was such a success. We had over 300 revellers in our garden, including many villagers - probably the largest number ever in its 400 year history. With Cat fighting the illness over the past few years, we know how important Macmillan are to families in our situation. It was fantastic to give something back through Catfest.

As to the day itself...it was a bit of a blur! The weather was very mixed - lesson learnt: Ignore weather forecasts and go with whatever actually happens on the day. The BBC got it so wrong that I am tempted to withhold payment of my TV license!

That aside, the music was of such a high quality from first note to last that it was without doubt the best gig I've ever been to. And obviously nice and close to home too! Straw Bear kicked things off in style with a well crafted set including their own material and some cracking covers - "Handle with care" my particular favourite. Christopher dedicating a solo to Mum Cat was a nice moment... "Psycho Killer" never sounded so good.

Danni Nicholls up next with a faultless set as the downpour outside meant that plenty of people were there to enjoy it. We wanted Danni at last year's Catfest but she couldn't do it - so glad she made this year - let's hope she can make next. Brilliant from start to finish "Long way to Memphis" and "A little redemption" arguably the brightest points within a dazzling selection. A huge ovation, a fine crowd rendition of "Happy Birthday" and a birthday cake were a nice way to reward her for a brilliant performance.

Catfest 2016



Balsamo Deighton were wonderful - engaging with hauntingly beautiful vocal harmonies. A great set with standouts "These four walls", "Light in the dark", "If I had a gun" (which led to the first singalong session of the day) and title track of their album "Unfolding". Steve Balsamo was a huge West End star a few years back, playing lead role in Jesus Christ Superstar.

Philippa Hanna then blew the crowd away with a fabulous 45 minutes. I came across Philippa when she supported Leona Lewis at the Palladium earlier this year. She is a real talent and we were lucky to have her there - "Lighthouse" and "Speed of light" plus a cover of "Always on my mind" (dedicated to the Elvis fan whom she had sussed lived in our house having seen the evidence in it - that'll be me then) and a great "Easy". The the crowd demanded more and she delivered with "Valerie" during which O'Dell family friend Kate Kelley responded to a request for backing singers by jumping on stage and joining in. A break in the music saw master auctioneer Keith Butten sell 8 lots for a total of over £3000. We are so grateful to the amazing generous folk who donated a fabulous range of goodies and also to the equally generous bidders.

Party time then kicked off by the brilliant Simply Wed - a terrific set of covers ("Brown Sugar", "Alright Now" and "Mr.Brightside") the dance floor straining under the weight of revellers lapping it all up. A well deserved encore and ovation proved the band to have gone down a treat.

A break to announce the winner of the sapphire competition with Phil Lucas the lucky recipient, a few words from me and then an inspirational speech from Cat which left nobody in doubt about what a fantastic woman this event was all about. There were a good few tears.

With the partygoers showing no sign of flagging, the most energetic band of the night took to the stage and blew the roof off. The Alice Band were a joy. So much passion and a set of covers which had the crowd dancing, singing and punching the air. Too many top tunes to list, but "I bet you look good on the dance floor" was one of my faves.

A final few words of thanks from me to the many helpers, sponsors, volunteers, friends and family (couldn't name them all as I'd still be speaking now) that made Catfest happen and then time for the final act, the fantastic Fred's House, who played what frontman Griff later described as "the best gig ever" - I wouldn't disagree - the band were on fire. Speaking of fire, the song of that name (for which I take a tiny tiny bit of credit having encouraged the band to listen to Tom Petty a couple of years ago and whose music helped create the song) was an early cracker in the set. Mind you, every song was a belter - "Shut up and dance", "Standing next to me" and my personal standout FH song "This Little Boy" as well as a stunning "Starman" dedicated by Victoria Jones to all the stars who helped at the event. Two encores including a thunderous "Tutti Frutti" were the perfect end to a perfect day.

Alongside the amazing musical line-up, the suppliers all got rave reviews - great coffee, fab food, delicious icecream, excellent photo booth - even the loos were complimented by a few guests.

Our initial target was to raise an overall total of £10000 and have a good day. We actually achieved over £31000 and that we had the best day ever. So good in fact, that we are going to try and do it all again next year. Watch this space!"



Observations

Hello Folks!

Well, what can I say? We have had some amazingly hot, hot, hot weather this summer. Some people locally have been able to take advantage of this by having barbeques and parties through the afternoons and into the balmy evenings – for a time our weather actually rivalled that of the Mediterranean and other places to which we try escape to for hot holidays – I know people who have been most disgruntled at being rained on in Spain and France whilst we have been baking at home! Mind you, we did have a very wet spring which delayed the growth of garden plants and some farm crops, so consequently it has been a strange year for anyone trying to grow things...I for one, had roses blooming profusely but a month later than usual!



There have been some activities locally too – the fete held by the church in Hulcote was a success exceeding all expectations, with a display in the church showing the story of its recent renovations; a photo competition for 12 pictures to go in the calendar proposed for 2017; a scarecrow competition – won by a flying superman! Plus several stalls selling their wares, pens containing Highland cattle and a Shetland pony (not the same one!) and of course the burgers and hotdogs etc!! AND we mustn't forget the excellent music played by the ukulele band and the unexpected, fantastic solo singing from the amazing Danni Nichols!

The scarecrows, which appeared, dotted around the two villages in June, showed a wonderful range of imaginative ideas and craft skills – some of which were, as well as superman – a Spanish lady, a cowboy, a young girl on a bicycle, a couple of witches, a farmer's wife, a farmer, an Edwardian lady, a lion and a group of scarecrows sitting on a straw bale, to name just some of

them! People walking or cycling around were very curious about them, stopping to ask what they were for! Another local activity, if you can call it that, was the day a squirrel was discovered in the village hall! It had been in there some time it was thought and had left paw marks all over one of the windows in its efforts to find a way out! It can only have gone in the front door like the rest of us, as no other way was found apparently, through which it could have got in. Hmmm, a veritable mystery!



Thinking of wildlife, I have been sorry to see fewer butterflies this year generally – no peacocks in my garden at all, just a few cabbage whites – and that is despite leaving a nettle patch for them to breed in too – I did though, spot some holly blues over on College farm earlier in the year.



We do though, have a plethora of rabbits, rabbits everywhere! More magpies too, making the lives of sparrows a misery!!

Ah, so the seasons continue to turn, creeping on towards autumn – signs of which can already be seen as some heat-stressed trees have begun shedding leaves....though with October here we have other activities to look forward to such as quizzes and the big MacMillan day providing consolations to fading summer – with that I will say goodbye for now, speak soon,

Observer



From the Rector

The Bishop of Bedford will be coming to preach at St Nicholas, Hulcote on October 9th at our 9.15am service of Holy Communion. He has visited most of the churches in Bedfordshire, but the Rt. Reverend Richard Atkinson is particularly looking forward to seeing Hulcote as it is a bit off the beaten trail! While in some ways it will be just a normal simple service it is clearly a chance for local people to meet Bishop Richard and he is keen to find out more about us.



Whilst the Rector will have to depart fairly smartly afterwards to Cranfield, it is planned to have flasks of tea and coffee so everyone can chatter for a short time afterwards with Bishop Richard. Do come if you can!

The Hulcote Fete was a tremendous success and everyone involved in putting on such a wonderful day is to be congratulated. You may not be aware that we managed to get a new electrical fuse-board installed in the church earlier that week. Just in time! We had a 'Songs of Praise' style

Harvest service at Salford last week that went really well with the input of Sounds Familiar. And the money raised from the auction at the excellent Harvest Supper on Monday amounted to £370 which will go as usual towards Agate House, the Cheshire Home at Ampthill which cares for people with physical disabilities. Also at the Harvest supper the Rector was proud to make a presentation to Len Wisson, thanking him for his 23 years as churchwarden. He and Sally got a pair of lovely framed photographs of the Porch at St Nicholas Church Hulcote.

I have to report a sad run of funerals in Salford Church. Doreen Rust (4th Aug), Ronald Tovey (6th Sept), and Alex Falconer (due on 4th Oct) will be fondly remembered. Jackie Townend will also be much missed by Julian and more widely, with a good number attending her burial in Bedford on 21st Sept which was most thoughtfully conducted, ending with the release of white doves.

As the autumn leaves begin to fall and we head on towards Remembrance Sunday may I leave you with this short prayer:

Spirit of the Risen Christ,
As lamps light up the evening,
So shine into our hearts,
Kindle in us your fire divine,
And turn all our darkness into dawn.

The following 9.15am Sunday Services are scheduled:

9 th	Oct	HC	Hulcote
23 rd	Oct	HC	Salford
13 th	Nov	HC	Salford (Remembrance)
27 th	Nov	HC	Hulcote
11 th	Dec	HC	Hulcote



The Christmas Tree Festival at Cranfield Parish Church will run from Friday 9th – Sunday 11th December
Christmas Eve 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight, Salford
Christmas Day 9.15am HC at Salford

With best wishes, *Hugh Symes-Thompson*

Once again, our thanks to Carol Carter, Dianne Hughes and their colleagues at Flitwick Council for agreeing to print The Informer for a modest charge.. Thanks also to Stevie Beckhamm and others for distributing it.

This issue and earlier issues of the Informer can be viewed on the Hulcote & Salford Parish website which you can find at: <http://hulcotesalfordparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk> or on the new website at www.hulcoteandsalford.co.uk