

THE INFORMER

THE HULCOTE AND SALFORD PARISH NEWSLETTER

May 2016

Chairman's Report

Commenting on her 'Annus Horribilis' in 1992, Her Majesty the Queen said it was "not a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure". While I have not had anything like the problems the Queen suffered I do have similar feelings as I look back on my year as Chairman. Following in the very experienced footsteps of the late Alf Murphy was not the easiest of tasks and threats to our parish have arisen in the past 12 months which we had not envisioned a year ago.

We had thought that the parish was fairly safe from unwelcome development until at least 2025 but the expansionist plans of Milton Keynes have put that in doubt by the publication of "Plan:MK" which contains one option suggesting that they might cross the M1 into Central Bedfordshire. As you probably know, Hulcote & Salford PC has joined with the neighbouring parishes of Cranfield, Aspley Guise, Ridgmont, Husborne Crawley and Brogborough to send a robust objection to any such plan which would change the nature of these parishes for the worse and forever. As the Borough of Milton Keynes has so much rural land within its own borders it seems totally unreasonable that it should seek to expand into the rural space of another authority. We are told that it cannot do so without the agreement of Central Beds Council, which is, however, obliged to co-operate with neighbouring authorities. I am confident that no such agreement will ever be willingly given by CBC. But, and it's a big but, there are always government inspectors lurking in the background who can approve planning applications without reference to local feelings. So much for Local Government! I may be overly optimistic but my gut feeling is that we shall be OK. However, I'll feel more confident when CBC finally gets its own Local Plan approved by the inspectors.

Some of you may have seen the short piece I wrote entitled 'Cannon to the East of Us, Cannon to the West' which was tucked away in a recent edition of the Cranfield Express. This concerned the dual threat of Plan:MK on the one side and that of the proposed Winterwood logistics site on the other. Personally I am horrified about this latter threat and what it could do to Hulcote and Salford. Even more so because it might well get approval from CBC on this occasion in spite of their throwing it out in the past. The thought of a million square feet of warehouses towering up to 60 feet above this greenfield site is not a pleasant one to contemplate. Quite apart from the aesthetic damage it will cause, the effect on peak hour traffic through our villages will be truly horrendous. We are assured that it will all come from the M1 or A421 but you can bet your bottom dollar it won't. Even if it does it will have to make a right turn across Salford Road and require a

new roundabout to do it. If such a development were allowed it should, at the very least, have a dedicated road leading off the A421. Should this most unwelcome scheme ever get approval we can envisage a vast and ever-growing warehouse site which stretches from Fen Farm and the John Lewis warehouses and encompassing Amazon - and possibly a new rail terminal - to turn Junction 13 and its environs into a transport and logistics hub with few equals in the UK.

All this is a little way (or, hopefully a very long way) off in the future. Right now I am concerned, as we all are, about the HGV traffic coming illegally through Salford. This is no new problem but I believe it is being made worse by the fact that there are no warning signs at the start of the diverted Broughton Road where it joins the Newport Pagnell road opposite Countess Way. This means that unwary HGV drivers following the signs to Salford will drive over a mile before they see the first prohibition sign just on our side of the motorway bridge - by which time they may be very reluctant to turn back. They may even find it almost impossible, as did the driver of a huge vehicle I met recently which was towing an equally huge trailer. I gestured to him that he was about to break the law but he just threw up his hands to say 'how am I supposed to turn this beast round in such a narrow road'. I did have some sympathy with him. I've contacted Cllr. Tombe of CBC who has been in touch with the relevant MKB officers. They have now said they will provide the necessary signage within their patch.

Another problem on the horizon is the closure of Cranfield Road at the M1 to allow a new bridge to be built that will span both the M1 and the soon-to-be dualled A421. Obviously this will be a necessary if unwelcome requirement. The alarming aspect is the proposal to close the road during an 18 month period. The Parish Council will do all it can to stress the huge inconvenience this will cause to our residents and to limit the actual closure to an absolute minimum.

Although I shall, with considerable relief, be handing over to a new chairman at the Annual Parish Council meeting on the 9th May I can look back with some satisfaction on the past twelve months.

Although not a very interesting achievement we are now endeavouring to ensure that some of the legally required elements of local government are back in place. Things like **Standing Orders** and **Policies** are not going to get anyone wildly excited but they are needed for the proper conduct of business. I dare say that these existed in the past but we could

Continued overleaf

Observations

Hello Everyone!

Well, what a strange winter we have had this time...a real mix of weather systems from pouring rain, strong winds, some frosty, cold days interspersed with calm sunny days – most confusing! It confused nature too – I saw daffodils in full bloom down near the Red Lion in December and I had primulas flowering in my own garden ALL winter! They are still flowering now so are probably ready for a good feed. Many spring flowers appeared earlier than usual, though most snowdrops appeared at their usual time and the crocuses went on for longer than normal.



Now spring is really here the weather feels colder, though April came in with its historical April showers and everywhere is looking and smelling bright and fresh. Some highland cattle have appeared in the field in Brittens Lane – well, two actually and I have heard them occasionally bellowing at the ones which they know are in the opposite fields behind the houses! Also, staying on the theme of farm animals, two more

highland calves have been born early April, as well as a new cluster of piglets – proof that spring is really here!

Walking in Mill Lane, Salford recently I watched a grey heron fly along the brook by the old mill, then swoop round to fly back and head away from the water to land in a nearby field, where it stalked around slowly and gracefully.

Recently there was a fantastic evening in the village hall, featuring the band 'Fred's House', who were very, very good. A melodious young woman, Danni Nichols started the evening off, singing her songs for an hour of most enjoyable music. It was also a fund-raiser for MacMillan Nurses and I hear that a sum of around £800 was raised! I am sure that the villages Spring Lunch on 17th April will be just as successful! [It was - Ed]

Another event in the hall for local people also began in April – an art morning for those so inclined. It was and is, a most easy-going group who bring along their own materials and ideas and can draw or paint whilst chatting over coffee and cake, which proved a very pleasant morning. It will continue at fortnightly intervals for five more sessions, the 21st April, 5th May, 19th May, 2nd June and 16th June. If it proves popular, then more will come in the autumn term. Now we look forward to warmer weather and a good summer and hopefully I will 'observe' more things of interest around the villages.

Best wishes to all, speak soon,
Observer



Chairman's Report - continued

not find much evidence of them when the largely new Parish Council took office last year. It will be of help to future newly-elected councils if they can start off with such matters already dealt with. And we shall shortly have a new, experienced and competent Parish Clerk confirmed in position so I am sure she will keep us up to the mark in such matters.

One thing that gives me great pleasure is that I now feel the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee are really able to work together in a way that has not always happened in the past. I sincerely congratulate the Committee on the way that it has organised so many opportunities for our residents to come together and build a community spirit and identity for this parish and I am confident the Parish Council will support it in every way possible in the future.

I'm also looking forward to seeing a new notice board on the Mary Agate Hall for the use of both the PC and the Hall Committee. It's quite a small thing in itself but the current

one is so shabby and difficult to maintain that it really doesn't reflect well on the village. We've approved money (quite a lot of money) for a new one so hopefully it will not be too long before the old one is replaced.

Incidentally, rate payers will possibly have noticed that the Parish precept has been reduced slightly this year. We put it up last year to ensure that we had sufficient funds to pay for the council elections last May, which we had expected to cost several thousand pounds. In the event they didn't so there seemed no reason not to return to the previous level. Every little helps, especially as the CBC rate has had to go up this year after being frozen for the last few.

Finally, on behalf of everyone may I say a fond *au revoir* (certainly not *adieu*) to Len and Sally Wisson who along with their three sons have been the backbone of our community for many years and supported the two villages in so many ways. Fortunately they will not be moving far so I'm sure they will be returning time and time again. They can always feel assured of a warm welcome.

Richard Mann

"Clean for the Queen"



As you can see, May 16th wasn't the most pleasant of days on which to go litter-picking but as the last Saturday before the 90th birthday of HM The Queen it was otherwise a good choice. Had Her Majesty driven around Hulcote and Salford on her birthday - not very likely, I grant - then, rather than the smell of fresh paint, she would have been able to appreciate the sight of verges cleared of lager cans and takeaway meal bags, not to mention the flattened bollards and chunks of expanded polystyrene that graced them before.

Part of the Hulcote team which filled three full bags of rubbish on Salford Road just between Mill Lane and Manor Close.



And this is the amount collected within a couple of hours - nearly all rubbish that had clearly been chucked out by litter louts passing through our villages.



Stevie Beckham, with the grateful blessing of the Parish Council, had volunteered to organise the event and from various sources had procured the necessary hi-visibility gilets, rubber gloves, litter-pickers and rubbish bags needed to carry out the task. All that was needed then were the volunteers. Fortunately they came in spite of the rotten weather. Not that many but quite sufficient in number to do the job very effectively.



So what are those people in funny yellow jackets up to? They might at least have offered me a carrot.



Stevie in the kitchen dishes out tea, coffee and very good cakes to Chris, a member of her litter team.

Sadly, you can be sure that in a few weeks time it will all need to be done again - so let's do it.

News from Husborne Crawley Lower School - Spring 2016

Spring Term finished in adventurous style for our Year 4s as they travelled to Wiltshire for the annual three day adventure holiday. Head teachers, teachers and more than a hundred other children all from year 4 in the local lower schools set off together in glorious sunshine. Parents anxiously waved us off; some children had never spent a night away from home before and this really was a huge adventure for everyone. Over the three days at PGL the unexpected sunshine continued and we enjoyed a wide variety of outdoor activities. Raft building was added this year and it proved to be wonderful for team building, a bit scary when our hand built rafts were tentatively paddled across the lake, but hilarious when head teachers got soaked to the skin. We discovered by the end of our stay that we had made countless new friends, many of whom will be in Year 5 at Fulbrook next year. All of a sudden the move up to middle school in September doesn't seem such a daunting prospect.

The children were thrilled to raise £550 for Sport Relief by completing a range of fun sports activities including running a sponsored mile. Watching the Sports Relief film in assembly helped us understand that there are many children in the world who don't have the opportunities that we do; the money we send will mean several disadvantaged children can go to school.

At school, work in the vegetable garden continues with new soil and compost being added to the raised beds ready for planting by the children early in the Summer term. We have found a shady space for our new friends, Humphrey and Winston the 'rehomed' guinea pigs. They have settled well into their new home, and join gerbils Eddie and Patsy as well as George, Mildred and their daughters, the bantams. The pond is thriving with new life and just like last year we should be overrun with tiny frogs; wonderful news for our after school Wildlife Club who will be out and about with their nets, buckets and magnifying glasses. The garden is now full of bird feeders, created by the Wildlife Club children using recycled materials. Hopefully we will begin to attract a wider variety of birds.



The Parent Teacher and Friends Association continues to plan exciting events both to provide opportunities for parents to get to know each other and also raise some money to support the school. A fun Easter bonnet and decorated egg competition was held and concluded with a parade. Some fabulous creations were spotted. The next PTFA event is a Family Bingo Night – a first for us. The PTFA will be financially supporting our Fabulous Finish for summer term - a trip to Whipsnade Zoo for all the children. The trip will conclude our Summer Term learning journey which is taking us all to the rainforests of Brazil.

Continued overleaf

More from Husborne Crawley Lower School



Singing For Fun continues! Julie Hood, our School Bursar, is keen (just like Gareth) to get EVERYONE singing! The next adult group singing workshop is on Saturday 7th May from 10 until 12. Do come along and join us; it is great fun and you will never be asked to sing alone. The cost is £5 and cake, coffee and tea are



provided. Please ring school to book a place, on 01525 280232, or send us an email to 'office@hclowerschool.co.uk'

Do have a look at our school website hclowerschool.co.uk which has more information about your very own local village school; photographs, details of the next open day and dates of other upcoming events. If you need to choose a place for your pre-school child please do come and have a look around; our school family has such a lot to offer!

Salford Art Group

The Art Group mornings in Salford Village Hall are very much enjoyed by those who go to it - running fortnightly on Thursday mornings with artists bringing own materials, to enjoy like-minded company and to 'do their own thing', using watercolours or crayons for their own work, or to do 'Mindfulness' colouring whilst chatting over coffee. April 21st went well - see photo below - with the next one on 5th May, all welcome to join us! Just £3 per session, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Stevie Beckham



A New Parish Councillor

We are delighted to welcome Chris Kukiela who will fill the vacancy recently created on the Parish Council. Chris was co-opted at the council meeting in March but was out of the country at the time and not available to sign the necessary declarations and acceptance of office so his first meeting as a councillor will be on Monday, 11th May

Our sincere thanks to Carol Carter, Dianne Hughes and their colleagues at Flitwick Council for printing The Informer for a modest charge.

Thanks also to Stevie Beckham and others for distributing it around our two villages. 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 village website at www.hulcoteandsalford.co.uk

Village Events

Pop Quiz

The second annual Pop Quiz on 6th February sold out quickly and 11 teams competed for the 2016 trophy. Quizmaster Julian O'Dell put the teams through their paces with a whole range of questions covering seven decades. It was a close run competition but a team including Hulcote



residents Matt and Caroline Hall emerged triumphant. Great food cooked by superchef Kevin Nisbet added to a fabulous night. Julian is already preparing some killer questions for 2017

Music Night

The Mary Agate Hall was packed with 90 folk for a brilliant night of live music on April 2nd to raise funds for the hall and Macmillan Cancer Support. Two superb acts played for over three hours and kept the crowd entertained throughout. Opening the evening was **Danni Nicholls**, singer/songwriter from Bedford who enchanted the audience with a 45 minute set of songs from her two albums. Her rich, velvety voice impressed and the stories behind the songs that she told in between were engaging.



Fresh from supporting Toyah Willcox recently and also appearing on Vintage TV, Danni was a fantastic treat. Then it was time for the fabulous **Fred's House**, who appeared at the first village music night last year and were back by very popular demand.

Two sets, across a total of two hours culminated in two encores and the crowd of fans old and new going away very happy. So many highlights, including selected tracks from the band's latest album, such as "Earthquake" and "Ghost Town", plus some brilliant covers with "Starman" a real standout and a fitting tribute to David Bowie who passed away in January.

Fred's House are an exceptional band, featuring the charismatic **Vicky Gavin** and her partner **Griff Jameson** on lead vocals, Griff's brother **Gafyn** on bass, newest member **Alistair Bunclarke** on keyboards and ever-popular "happiest drummer in the world" **Paul Richards**. Every Fred's House gig is a joy and guaranteed to put a smile on the faces of all who attend.

The evening was put together by village resident Julian O'Dell and everyone agreed it was a special night – and a successful one, given that it generated funds for good causes of over £800. And the great news is that Catfest 16, a Macmillan fundraising festival in Hulcote in August, will feature both Fred's House and Danni Nicholls, as well as a number of other excellent singers and bands. If you are interested in coming to Catfest 16, please contact Julian on 07718 634235.

Spring Lunch

If April the 17th was a rotten day for litter-picking, the following day could not have been better for the Spring Lunch organised once again by the Village Hall Committee. The cloudless sky and brilliant sunshine were just what was needed to put everyone in a good mood for a traditional Sunday roast with huge joints of lamb and beef on offer, cooked by Sally Wisson with her usual expertise.

There was, of course, the inevitable raffle in aid of Village Hall funds. With pricing techniques worthy of Tesco - £1 per strip, £5 for 7 strips and £10 for 15 strips - Yvonne Arnott was kept very busy tearing off the strips while at the same time taking people's admission money.



The familiar team were on hand to make sure the food was served swiftly and reached the tables while it was still hot - a lesson some lesser eating places could learn from.

Although the lunch was a sell-out event with 60 people attending, the layout with smaller individual tables, rather than a couple of long ones, seemed to



give more space to move around than on previous occasions and certainly made it easier to make our way into the small hall to collect our food.

Scarecrow Competition



Be part of our Scarecrow Creation Fun!
CREATE - A - CROW & display outside your home
 Judging of Scarecrows will take place at Hulcote & Salford
 Summer fete on the 9th July 2016

I'm not surprised that the raffle was doing such good business because the prizes on offer were certainly worth winning. Not by me, unfortunately!

Chairman of the hall committee, Paul Harris wrapped up the lunch with a very well-deserved vote of thanks to everyone who had worked hard to make it such a success. He also introduced a new resident (I'm not sure if he has a name yet) along with an invitation to create many more as part of the Summer Fête to be held in Hulcote on the 9th July. It sounds like a lot of fun so start stuffing those old jackets and trousers.



From the Rector Rev. Hugh Symes-Thompson

Our celebrations of Easter are over, with thoughts and plans already turning towards Pentecost; and those of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York already have. Their desire, their 'great longing' is to see a wave of prayer in Church of England and 'many other churches' between 8th and 15th May, ending at Pentecost.



In their letter to every parish priest the Archbishops write: "At the heart of our prayers will be words that

Jesus himself taught us – 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.' It is impossible to overstate the life-transforming power of the Lord's Prayer. It is a prayer that is reassuring enough to be on the lips of the dying and yet dangerous enough to be banned in cinemas. It is famous enough to be spoken each day by billions in hundreds of languages

and yet intimate enough to draw us ever closer into friendship with Jesus Christ. It is simple enough to be memorised by small children and yet profound enough to sustain a whole lifetime of prayer. When we pray it with sincerity and with joy, there is no imagining the

new ways in which God can use us to his glory."

Resources for churches of all traditions to take part are being made available on www.thykingdom.co.uk. In the video accompanying the launch of the initiative, Archbishop Justin speaks of his hope that the wave of prayer can change the way that the church reaches out to the communities around us and the way that we serve and love them. The hope is that through concerted prayer, people will discover new confidence in sharing their faith.

Our Hulcote Service on May 8th will take prayer as its theme and whilst we have no scheduled meeting

on May 15th at Hulcote or Salford all are warmly invited to celebrate Pentecost at the open air ecumenical service to be held on the green in Court Road at Cranfield.

I am sad to report that Len Wisson will be standing down as Churchwarden after over 20 years of faithful service. He has contributed much through the regular preparation of the church for services on Sunday mornings, his friendly greeting to worshippers, his practical wisdom on the church council and his good works in upkeep of the grounds and fabric. Of course this is all part of him re-locating for retirement, a process that is still ongoing, and we hope he will keep in close contact in our church life. I wish to register our thanks and appreciation in advance of our AGM on Monday 18th April (7.30pm in the Village Hall) and assure him and Sally of our best wishes for the future.

Best wishes,
Hugh Symes-Thompson



A Prayer for Pentecost

Come, Holy Spirit.

- Come as Holy Fire and burn in us.
- Come as Holy Wind and cleanse us within.
- Come as Holy Light and lead us in our darkness.
- Come as Holy Truth and dispel our ignorance.
- Come as Holy Power and overcome our weakness.
- Come as Holy Life and dwell in us.

Come, Holy Spirit.

The following 9.15am Sunday Services are scheduled:

24 th	April	HC	Salford
8 th	May	HC	Hulcote
22 nd	May	HC	Salford
12 th	June	HC	Hulcote
26 th	June	HC	Salford
10 th	July	HC	Hulcote
24 th	July	HC	Salford