

THE INFORMER

THE HULCOTE AND SALFORD PARISH NEWSLETTER

December 2020



Your Parish Council

2020 the year during which you had plans, changed them, then cancelled them, tried to get a refund, had a complete rethink, found new ways of doing things and best of all new things to do. Hopefully as you read this you can reflect positively on new things that you have done and seen in 2020 as a challenging but interesting year, during which the developed world has progressed a decade.

Hulcote and Salford are wonderful villages with many people looking out for each other, having said goodbye to so many 'rocks' of our community in 2020, it becomes more important that those who have chosen our Parish as their home, progress all that is great and in time become the new characters, albeit their are some very big shoes to fill.

I know that many residents are looking forward to the day when we can come together properly to celebrate the lives of those we have lost, that is going to be a special day.

An example of our village coming together in difficult circumstances was our VE Day service outside St Mary's, I do hope this is added to our ever growing list of annual events.

During lockdowns Julian O'Dell has run a music quiz that many residents have enjoyed and I have organised a fun social Saturday night quiz that has involved dressing up and drinking. These are just two examples and I know that many others have arranged neighbourly support for each other, so thank you to everyone that has supported others in whichever way you have. It is that spirit and friendship that binds us.

With regard to Parish Council matters, it has been a busy year with far too much to detail here but residents must be thanked for submitting 76 objections, unbelievable when we only have circa 84 homes, against the Toureen application. The planning officer now has all his statutory consultee responses, unbelievably, none, including Highways are objecting despite the evidence that your.

Parish Council put before them. If you have the time to read the internal memo's posted on the planning portal and can spot any points that have not been addressed you are asked to flag them to Paul Harris or I immediately. We are expecting the application to go before the Development Committee in January (could be as early as the 6th), if you have indicated a wish to speak you should be prepared.

The re-opening of the Cranfield Road Bridge has also provided improved cycle network on the West of the M1, not yet very scenic but at least cyclists can connect further afield and one day we should see the Bedford to MK waterway flowing alongside.

With the newly dualled A421 now open, we will be able to assess its benefit fully once Covid restrictions diminish. No doubt J13 improvements will soon return to the agenda as development of MK and CBC continues all around.

I'm pleased to confirm that we have been accepted for the Speed Watch Scheme by Beds police. So now we need volunteers to man it. We have received a Speed Watch Handbook, and an example of a Data Collection Sheet and a PowerPoint presentation which will give volunteers the necessary training. Anyone willing to sign up should contact Parish Councillor, John Abbey, on 0771 0383103 or at john-abbey@sky.com

Remember all residents are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and that early on in every meeting we have an open session when you are welcome to raise any matters that you wish. We may not be able to resolve but we will certainly listen and at the very least point you in what we believe to be the right direction.

Every day our thoughts are with Parish Councillor Kevin Nisbet and his rock Helen, stay strong my friends, as you know, you have us all in your team be it Northampton Saints, Scotland or Team Nisbet!

*Keith Batten
Chair, Hulcote & Salford Parish Council*

Village News

MacMillan Breakfast 2020

Usually our biggest event of the year, our Annual MacMillan Breakfast Morning in September, could not be held safely, so we took the difficult decision to cancel. Instead we held a 'Virtual Breakfast' via a Just Giving page with the hope of raising much needed funds for MacMillan. A huge personal thank you to the generosity and kindness of so many as we have currently raised £1658 including Gift Aid and the matching donation from boost. We will hopefully also receive some further matching from Santander too.

If you would like to add a little more please do as the page remains open at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/linda-buten7> We look forward to next years event being bigger than ever and to welcoming old faces and new with excitement. Stay safe everyone . *Linda Butten*

Christmas Eve

To get Christmas off to a festive start we have our annual Carol Service which will be held this year in the Churchyard at St Marys, Salford starting at 4:30pm. It will be shorter than previous years but full of Christmas cheer.

The service will be conducted by Reverend Isaac Pain, our new Priest in Charge, giving everyone the opportunity to meet Isaac and extend a very special welcome to our Parish. We will follow the special Christmas Covid Guidance allowing us to be able to sing along, Please wrap up warm and bring a torch. We ask that everyone observe social distancing rules at all times.

Boxing Day

As many families will not be able to attend the usual Boxing Day sporting pursuits, we felt an extra opportunity to celebrate Christmas would be welcomed by all. Please come along for socially distanced carols around the Christmas Tree on Salford Village Green starting at Midday. Remember to bring along your mulled wine, sausage rolls, mince pies and any other Christmas treats.

Many thanks to Rupert Weston for providing the fantastic tree, the Village Charities for use of the green, John Abbey, Bob Harrison & Richard Mann for the Christmas lights and sound system and anyone else who does something to make these events memorable for all. Maybe after Carols around the tree your 'Christmas Bubble' would like to enjoy Boxing Day lunch at The Swan, tables can be booked online.

We hope you will feel comfortable and will join fellow residents at these festive events.

We look forward to seeing you, please share with neighbours as I do not have email details for everyone

Welcome

The School House, Salford has new owners. Nick, Sadie and daughter Chelsea have moved from Luton and are looking forward to meeting fellow villagers and getting involved in village life. We hope that Nick, Sadie and Chelsea enjoy Salford as much as the rest of us.

Hulcote business boost wins national award

Family owned business boost which is lead by Josh Butten put Hulcote on the map when it recently won the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment award for UK Financial Planning Firm of the Year. Congratulations must go to Josh, Keith, Gabby, Linda and the entire boost team who work tirelessly to improve financial planning outcomes for clients and their families. An amazing award for one of our many local businesses.

The team managed to gather for pizzas by the lakeside as they waited to hear the result, only knowing that they had made the final two before the event which fell perfectly on Keith's birthday.

You can learn more and see a short video of the event at:

<https://www.boost.financial/insights/boost-win-financial-planning-firm-of-the-year-2020/>

Meet Our New Priest in Charge



It's wonderful to be able to introduce myself a little. I'm Isaac, and was licensed on 7th December as the new Priest in Charge of Cran-

field, with Hulcote and Salford. I'm currently writing this from the depths of Sussex on a pretty miserable November morning as we've recently entered into a second national lockdown, but despite all this my heart is filled with hope and excitement.

My family and I are very excited at the prospect of meeting you, the church family, and the wider parish. It is likely to be the case with the restrictions that we won't be able to meet as many of you as quickly as we would like, but it is certainly our desire to get to know you all as soon as possible. For now, however, let me briefly introduce ourselves. Rebekah, my wife, and I have three children: Josiah (9), Lois (7), and Jonathan

(3). They are all looking forward to moving to Cranfield, meeting everyone, making new friends, and exploring the area.

Beginning ministry amongst you just in time for Christmas is a particular joy. Though this is going to be a Christmas like no other, the unchanging good news of Christmas remains. Christmas is a time for celebration and joy, just as the angel declared: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people."

That good news is that though the world around us can be dark, God has come to bring us light. Though we experience isolation, God has come to be with us.

Though death seems like an ever-present threat, God has come to bring us life. Jesus, God's gift to us, is indeed good news of great joy!

And so, remembering all that God has done for us in Jesus, may you have a truly joy-filled Christmas. Do come and introduce yourself and say 'hello' at one of our church services over Christmas and the New Year. I can't wait to meet you!

St Mary the Virgin, Salford & St Nicholas, Hulcote

Sunday 6 th December	9am Salford , Holy Communion	with Revd Ray Porter;
Sunday 13 th December	9am Hulcote , Holy Communion	with our new Priest, Revd Isaac Pain
Sunday 20 th December	9am Salford , Holy Communion;	
Thursday 24 th December	Christmas Eve , 4.30pm Salford Churchyard , Carol Service and Welcome to Isaac	
Friday 25 th , December	Christmas Morning , 9am Salford , Holy Communion;	
Sunday 27 th , December	No Service;	
Sunday 3rd January,	6pm Salford , Evensong.	

From January 2021, the regular pattern of services will be as follows:

1st Sunday - 6pm Evensong - April to October at Hulcote; November to March at Salford
(in conjunction with clocks changing)

2nd Sunday 9am Holy Communion, Hulcote;

3rd Sunday - 9am Morning Prayer, followed by coffee and biscuits (when permitted again).

4th Sunday - 9am Holy Communion, Salford; 5th Sunday - 9am Holy Communion, Hulcote.



Please check out our new website: www.hulcotewithsalfordchurches.co.uk

Cilla Pumfrey

JOHN FREDERICK LITTLETON HILL

FARMER

23 August 1932 – 13 November 2020

John's roots originate in Cornwall where his grandparents William and Emmeline Hill farmed at St Teath and St Tudy. Between 1901 and 1911 the family packed their livestock and household goods on a train and left Cornwall to farm in Buckinghamshire. By 1914 they were living at Whitsundoles Farm, Salford.

Their children married local people and John's father John Littleton Hill married Beatrice Smith from Marston Moretaine. They moved to Myrtlands Farm, Broughton Road, Salford to start their married life.

John was born in the farmhouse along with his older sisters Joy and June. John was always interested in farming and from the age of 11 helped on the family farm. He would walk the cows up Wavendon road through Brittens Lane to the old dairy next to the farmhouse for milking. He also helped his father plough, plant and harvest all the crops including potatoes, brussels and wheat.



Salford Village School 1940 (Village Hall).

John attended the Salford village school as shown in the above photo (he is front row far left). He then boarded at Eaglehurst School and completed his studies at Shuttleworth Agricultural College before starting farming full time.

John married Pearl Tilley from Hardingstone, Northampton and they lived briefly at Myrtlands farm before moving to Mill Farm, Salford which was to be their family home.

They had three children Jonathan, Elizabeth and Rachel. John and Pearl worked very hard growing potatoes, brussels and arable crops. John also had livestock but concentrated mainly on beef cattle where he would often achieve top of the market and was asked to judge at cattle shows.

John also bred and showed Maremma Sheepdogs. He became the president of the Maremma Sheepdog Club of Great Britain and judged at many dog shows.

John and Pearl went on to expand their farming enterprise with Church Farm, Stoke Goldington and College Farm, Salford.

Paul Harris



JANET MARGARET MANN

27th October – 11th August 2020

Following a short and unsuspected illness, Janet passed away peacefully at home on August 11th just five days after she and Richard celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

The couple moved from Stanmore, Middlesex, to Mill Lane, Hulcote, in 1967 partly because of Richard's new job with Texas Instruments in Bedford but mainly because Janet wanted somewhere she might be able to keep a horse. From a very early age horses were the love of her life. Indeed, sometimes her family may have wondered whether they or the horses came first. It was a



close-run thing!

Having started with just a small paddock attached to their house they managed to acquire some more land in Mill Lane. To help fund the purchase Janet started a small but soon successful riding school, now a livery yard run by her daughter, Victoria. Many local riders will have spent their first nervous hours on horseback

under Janet's watchful eye. As well as teaching people to ride Janet was equally concerned about teaching them the elements of good stable management: how to care for horses, look after their health, their tack and their general wellbeing

She was equally passionate about riding and road safety. For many years Janet was British Horse Society (BHS) Coordinator for Riding and Road Safety throughout the whole BHS Eastern Region, teaching at Pony Clubs and conducting exams a bit like driving tests. For many years she was also Chairman of Bedfordshire BHS. For this and other contributions she was awarded the prestigious BHS Certificate of Merit at a ceremony in London.

While family & horses (in that order!) were the main things in her life she also found time for other activities. The same week she and Richard moved to Hulcote they joined the Chameleons amateur dramatic society in Aspley Guise where Janet both acted in and directed a number of productions. Along with Richard she was a volunteer in the earliest days of the Stables Theatre in Wavendon. She used to enjoy singing with the H&S Village Allsorts. She was a long-time governor of Husbourne Crawley school, also an H&S parish council for nearly 20 years. Latterly a hip and double knee replacements combined with increasing lack of mobility forced her gradually to



withdraw from all these rôles. Janet's many contributions to the life of our villages will be remembered with much affection and gratitude for years to come.

Julian Harold Barrett

29th April 1936-22nd May 2020

Jackie and Julian moved to South Cottage, their dream home, in 1994 and Julian very quickly joined in village life, however his brain child and greatest legacy is perhaps this Informer, which he started for the millennium and produced for almost 12 years.

Julian, known to family and friends as Jules or JB, was born in London and then lived in Watford from the 1960s until he moved to Salford. He met Jackie in 1984, when they got into an argument about football - Jackie said it was rubbish and he disagreed. After discovering she'd never been to a match, he challenged her to see a game live. She accepted, gave him her phone number, which he didn't write down (he had a very good memory), so she assumed he'd forgotten and was surprised when he called. They went to see a Watford game and she was hooked. They married in 1986. Football was always a passion in Julian's life and having introduced Jackie to football, they had a Watford season ticket together for many years.

Julian had 3 children, Susan, Adrian and Nick, from his marriage to Gwen and Jackie had 2 children, Mark and Sarah. Everyone who was fortunate enough to have been invited to South Cottage, will know that Jackie and Julian were wonderful hosts who loved to cook and entertain. They were never happier than when surrounded by their children, were immensely proud of them and adored their grandchildren, Ellie, Tom, Emma, Alice and Amélie. When Jackie became ill, Julian looked after her wonderfully; he gave her one of his kidneys, so she could have a transplant and they gained 10 years of life without dialysis. We all know that Julian's world fell apart when sadly Jackie lost her battle with kidney disease in 2016.

Apart from football, amateur theatre, singing and choirs formed a huge part of Julian's life and some 20 years ago several of us from the village decided to form a choir, known as The Village Allsorts, Julian was our conductor and musical director.

Seen below in 2003 belting out "If I were a rich man" from one of his favourite musicals Fiddler on the Roof.

Julian was outgoing and sociable; he participated fully in village life in various ways. He was on the Parish Council and Salford Charities for many years, he loved getting involved and his love of walking was put to good use as the PC Footpaths officer.

He was an impressive Village Hall Quiz Master – no-one dared argue with him! He was also a frequent visitor to The Swan and not so long ago was so eager to get there he slipped over in the mud in the car park – fortunately only his pride was hurt.

He enjoyed living close to Milton Keynes and he trained and worked as a Milton Keynes Blue Badge guide. He was a regular visitor to the Theatre and patron of MK Sinfonia. Following his heart bypass he exercised regularly with the MK Community Cardio-pulmonary Group and Walking for Health.

Julian was, as everyone will recall, a stickler for detail, tenacious and even pedantic, but caring. The family says he suffered from butter dish syndrome – leave the lid off the butter dish and he would go mad, come home and tell him you wrecked his car, he'd say – are you ok? On

many an occasion I was party to his "discussions" with Anglian Water, BT, Central Bedfordshire et al – he always won! To the end he told people off if they said Salford rather than 'Safford' and he refused to let Milton Keynes creep into his address, it had to be Salford, Bedfordshire, MK17 8BH



Donations in memory of Julian raised the following amounts:
Bedford Hospital - £258.47
MK Community Cardio-pulmonary Group - £294.87
Pump House Children & Youth Theatre, Watford - £711.44
His family would like to thank everyone who contributed.

Cilla Pumfrey

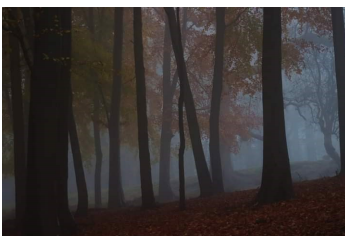
Observations

Well, what a year we have had - are still having! - life has changed dramatically for most, if not all people, what with lockdowns, masks, hand-washing, sanitisers, distancing and trying to get slots for deliveries for on-line shopping - it all feels very strange but could it become the norm I wonder? Some of us are grateful to those who helped with shopping, meds., eggs etc, who put themselves out to help others. Many thanks go out to them. People can still, it seems, come together in a support system, albeit at a distance!

I am fortunate in not knowing anyone who has succumbed to Covid19 but know others who do, my sympathies go out to them.

After lockdown 1, The Swan re-opened to the delight of many and was able to keep going, following all the new rules; let us hope that it can survive lockdown 2...

On a more cheerful note, through spring and summer, many people were walking the countryside for their daily exercise and getting to be more aware of nature around us (nature itself, of course, carried on as usual!) The early blossom this year was very prolific and beautiful and flowering continued through the hot summer.



As autumn started to peep above the horizon, fungi appeared everywhere and were also prolific. As autumn advanced, the trees became transformed with vibrant colours before -

slowly this year - dropping their leaves to cover the ground with pinks, reds, oranges, yellows and bronze. Twigs and tree trunks now stand out against the horizon, nature's barcode, which is beyond monetary value.

To walk in these places is magical. To sit and listen to

nature's sounds is to feel the spirit lift above the stressful grind of everyday life. Our church St Mary's in Salford is well grounded in nature, with at least three bat roosts and the bats thrive in their chosen home. We are now part of the Bats in Churches Project and bat activity is being monitored. We are hopeful that the ecologist and church architect will develop a solution during 2021 to protect our church heritage and safeguard the bats.

Services have been cancelled through both lockdowns, though in between, small numbers of people were able to enjoy services and prayer meeting there, as well as at St Nicholas, our Elizabethan church in Hulcote.



On remembrance Sunday, a short service to remember those from both villages who gave their lives, took place at St Mary's lych gate. The bells rang out and two minutes silence observed before the short service took place. Quite a few people came to it and fortunately nature smiled and it did not rain!

Remember, our world is a beautiful place if we choose to see it and, if we let it, can help us through these challenging times . . .

So now, spring and summer are gone and winter is upon us, but we can look forward to next year and, hopefully, better times. We can prepare for the joy of a new year to come and meantime, have a good Christmas!

See you next year everyone!
Best Wishes to all, keep safe,

Observer

Food Bank THINK PINK

There is a pink Food Bank box in the porch at St Mary's Church. All donations are given to Steve Lloyd, the pastor at Cranfield Baptist Church, who co-ordinates the Food Bank for Cranfield.

Thank you to everyone who donates to the Food Bank box, please continue to support those in need at this difficult time.. Please do not worry if you think the Box is always empty -it is checked and emptied daily. If anyone knows of an individual or a family who needs support in our villages, please contact Steve Lloyd in confidence on 07771 750049



Cilla Pumfrey

Green Infrastructure Consultation - Part of our Neighbourhood Plan

In March 2020 over 40 residents attended a green infrastructure consultation which forms part of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. Having identified topics that are important to residents at the March consultation, we would now like you to prioritise so that our Neighbourhood Plan is shaped by you.

This short survey asks 4 questions, you are asked to select the 3 comments that are most important to you.

Each question also gives you the option to use 'other' to incorporate any additional comments you might like to make.

You can access either via this link

<https://boosst.typeform.com/to/obRCbiye>

OR even easier, just point your smart phone camera at this QR Code and you should see a link to the survey which should only take a few minutes of your time



Here's a Christmas Cracker to End With

I'm Going To Daphne's for Christmas

I'm going to Daphne's for Christmas.
I'm dreading it, though she's a dear.
The two days I'm spending
Will seem never-ending
The two longest days of the year!

You develop a few 'sensibilities'
For I find that of late,
There is one thing I hate.
(Whispers) I prefer not to share the
'facilities'.

And Daphne, is so fond of animals
She's three cats and a corgi as well
Cat-love I can fake,
But the thing I can't take
Is the dog's most peculiar smell.

It's bad enough having to get there.
The journey's a terrible fuss.
When I still had my car
It didn't seem far.
Now it takes me three trains and a bus.

When I'm staying with Daphne for
Christmas,
We tend to eat more than we should.
She'd be happy with Spam.
But I still take a ham
For her cooking – well, it isn't that
good!

I know I sound awf'ly ungrateful.
I shouldn't complain so, I know.
But what with the trains
And the food and the drains
It's not where I'd most choose to go.

And though Daphne's cottage is
charming,
Even she would admit it is small.
The guest room is tiny.
It's clean, bright and shiny
But there's no space to put things at all.

And she's such a hospitable soul,
She asks neighbours in for a drink.
She'll pour out sweet sherry
And we'll try to look merry
Before tipping the stuff down the sink.

But going to Daphne's for Christmas
Is something I do ev'ry year.
Though, I do wish that she,
Would, for once, visit me
There's no way she can do so, I fear.

At home I can do as I fancy.
I've space to spread out as I like.
There's a room where I sew,
And a room just for show,
And there's room in the hall for my
bike.

There's one person who comes without
fail.
He has every disease known to man.

For Daphne's the unmarried daughter,
The one left at home caring for
Her elderly mother and father,
Who live in the cottage next door.
Though I know she'd much rather
Visit me she says, 'No,
I must to stay where I'm needed.'
So that's it! It's to Daphne's I'll go.

And you know, if you live on your
own,

I try not to recoil,
When shows me his boil
Then escape him as fast as I can.

