

Hunston Parish Council



Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday

On 21st April 2016 Her Majesty the Queen will be celebrating her 90th birthday. No decision has been taken, as yet, as to how this occasion will be marked in the village. However, if you or someone you know has a birthday on that day could you please let the Parish Council know. We are particularly looking for anyone who is celebrating their 90th birthday!

Paper counterpart to the photocard driving licence

Since June 2015, the paper counterpart to the photocard driving licence has ceased to be valid and all those issued since the photocard was introduced in 1998 should now be destroyed. This is important because since that date if you incur any penalty points these will only be recorded electronically. However, if your licence was issued before 1998, it is important that you retain the paper licence until such time as it needs renewing.

You will also need to know what to do if you want to hire a vehicle. Full details of this and all other matters relating to your driving licence will be found on the DVLA website, or by contacting them by telephone or in writing. You are reminded of the importance of updating your name, address or renewing your licence when it expires.

Village Hall

The Parish Council became the sole Trustee of the Village Hall earlier this year and is working hard to continue the updating of the facilities.

New tables & chairs have been supplied from funding from the recent development at Farm Close. Funding has also been agreed to replace the windows and doors which it is hoped will keep energy costs down as well as giving the front of the hall a bit of a facelift.

To see the wide range of activities at the hall check out the Village Hall page on the Parish Council website.

To book the hall email:
bookings@hunstonparishcouncil.org

Car parking and other traffic issues

Anecdotally the B2145 is one of the busiest B roads in the country, and don't we know it. Your council is committed to slowing the traffic transiting through the whole parish and is looking at a number of ways of trying to do this working in consultation with the highways authority (HA).

Speed bumps have been ruled out by the HA because of the detrimental effect it may have on the provision of bus services and Emergency Services, despite bumps being used in other locations in the Chichester district. Equally trying to install some form of road narrowing to restrict traffic to a single lane at each end of the village would merely create congestion and increase the risk of excessive speed elsewhere to compensate for the delay.

The proposed free school has further raised the issue of speed control, lack of pavements and adequate cycle paths in the surrounding locations. A priority would be to achieve a safe crossing between the Village Hall and the sports field/children's playground.

The increase in houses around the Foxbridge area, in addition to St Leodegars Way has highlighted significant problems associated with off-road parking. Residents in these areas are encouraged to park responsibly, on their driveways as much as possible whilst giving consideration to neighbours. This is an ongoing problem and we are working with local residents to try and find a workable solution to the parking issues.

Articles for the Newsletter

The Parish Council is always keen to receive short articles from users of the Village Hall or other community organisations in the village. These may be to explain what the group does, to seek new members or to ensure Villagers are aware of your existence. Articles may be forwarded to the Parish Clerk for inclusion in the next issue.

Your Councillors

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Hunston Parish Council

Newsletter

Winter 2015

Environment issues

Work to restore the drainage ditches in Church Lane to a working state has now been completed. In addition, with the help of Jane Reeve of the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group (MWHG), we applied for and received funding from the County Council's 'Operation Watershed' to cut back overhanging branches, dig out the silt, replace one culvert and jet out all the other pipes along the whole length of Church Lane from the Parish Church to the Bremere Rife.

The system should now be in much better shape to cope with winter rain than it has been for many years. Hopefully this work should also help to encourage our population of water voles, which are now quite uncommon nationally. With a little luck, they will now extend the range of their habitat, and other wildlife should also be encouraged to thrive.

In October 2014 MWHG provided a keen group of volunteers who, with the help of local volunteers, uncovered the pond opposite Spire Cottage. Further volunteers will probably be needed in the future as we extend our pond maintenance – updates will be posted on notice boards, the Parish Council website and our Facebook page when this work is due to commence.



Delivering the Newsletter

If anyone is interested in helping to deliver some of the Newsletters around the village then please contact the Parish Clerk. The Newsletter is issued approximately four times per year so being able to help each time a new Newsletter is produced would be of great help.



Chairman's Report Christmas 2015

As I look out of my window at the blue sky and sunshine, I find it hard to believe that it is nearly Christmas – I feel as if I should be wishing you a Happy Easter instead! It has been an interesting year for the Parish Council. We have merged the Village Hall management with the Parish Council, which has brought headaches and benefits in almost equal parts. However, as things settle down in the end I am sure the benefits will outweigh the headaches.

We have had the General Election this year, which has brought about changes in the Parish Council. We have said goodbye to Roger and Leon, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their sterling work on the Council. However, we have also been able to welcome Bev, Keith and Andy to our ranks and, for a short time, Richie, who was not able to carry on for personal reasons. This effectively means that we are still one Parish Councillor short, but we hope that this will be rectified in the New Year. Welcoming new people as part of the Council has been very beneficial as we now have fresh pairs of eyes on the many projects and ongoing work that we face. There are several articles in this newsletter that reflect the work we will be continuing to do next year. All of these bring their own challenges, but it is rewarding when we are able to achieve things.

It only remains for me to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Liz Kenney
Chairman, Hunston Parish Council