



# HARLESTONE HOUND

*Annual Parish Meeting Newsletter*

Welcome to this Annual Parish Newsletter - it replaces our Annual Parish Meeting. The Parish meeting is usually hosted by the parish council in May and is our opportunity as parishioners to get together to hear about all the work, events, organisations that are part of our parish. COVID prevents us from meeting face-to-face and we felt that Zoom just wouldn't do it justice. We hope you enjoy this newsletter

## Harlestone Parish Councillors... "unmute, unmute!"



Throughout this year, we've all got to grips with Zoom... and now we've got the hang of it, we'll be back to face-to-face meetings! Hooray! Although Cllr Sue Flynn wasn't able to attend this meeting, we were joined by new councillor Rupert Knowles and Cllrs Russ Francis, Susie Holland, Ken Waller, Tim Cross, Toni Perryman, Sarah Stock and our clerk, Paul Thomas are looking forward to things returning to normal soon.

## From Russ Francis, HPC Chairman

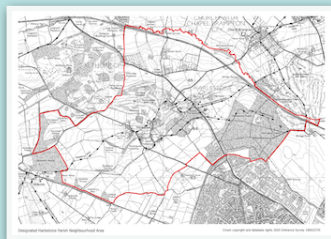


It was March 2020; and we were returning from visiting family in Sydney. Those of you who have made this journey will be fully aware of just how long and very dull and boring it can be, so there was surprise when my mind focussed on a ridiculous news headline which read "Coronavirus leads to shortage of toilet rolls". Our next brush with the impending pandemic was being temperature tested at Singapore airport, but we passed through arrivals at Heathrow without any indication of what was to come. It was only a matter of days before Boris announced full LOCKDOWN! What was in store? What lay ahead? Life without toilet rolls! The local response was excellent, a community shop was established, initially providing doorstep deliveries to those isolated and shielding at home. The service was soon made available to the whole community. What followed was an amazing community effort with many volunteers providing a whole range of skills from purchasing, order processing, delivery, bookkeeping, and marketing on our web site and by email notices. The project was incredibly successful. Over £5000 worth of groceries were delivered, demonstrating what an amazing community spirit we have.

In April last year the Council embarked on the major task of formulating a Neighbourhood Plan. We were successful in obtaining a grant of £9,600 and we employed the services of a local Planning Consultant. To enter into a full consultation process with the Parish and stakeholders we produced an extensive questionnaire which was delivered to every house and business. We were stunned by the excellent response received (150 respondents) and your views will shape the future of the Parish. The draft plan is almost complete and will shortly be submitted to the West Northants Council for initial feedback. What follows is further consultation with the Parish and finally a referendum.

The formation Harlestone Manor Parish Council occurred in April 2020, and involved the division of finances and the election of a new councillors for Harlestone Manor Parish. We have a good relationship with the new council, and I thoroughly believe that this is the best way forward for such a young and rapidly expanding area and I wish the new Parish the very best for the future.

Despite the pandemic, the Council has functioned almost as normal with all meetings being held on Zoom. In addition to the major projects above, on the more day-to-day business we have financed the installation of a new boiler for the HVI, a heritage bollard on the lane to the Church as well as financing replacement machinery for maintenance to the cricket and football pitches. We have just agreed to replace the old scruffy village nameplates with new cast iron heritage nameplates. We have supported the local Wildflower group in their quest for sites and in the acquisition of seeds. This project is in its early stages and I hope it is one that will flourish over the coming years.



## **Harlestone Neighbourhood Plan is:**

- A document that sets out policies for the neighbourhood area which will influence planning application decisions.
- Written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, rather than the Local Planning Authority.
- Covering the period 2021-2029 in accordance with the Settlements and Countryside Local Plan (Part 2).
- Policy changes contained in the Local Plan directly affect Harlestone and have contributed to the decision to go ahead with this Neighbourhood Plan.

Covid-19 has meant some community engagement has been delayed and will not now go ahead until the Autumn. However, an important piece of work was the Survey sent out to residents in August 2020. The responses have been professionally analysed and will inform the many decisions ahead of us. So, a huge thank you to all participants.

Behind the scenes, the document is gathering pace with the help of Sally, our planning consultant, whose invaluable expertise is paid for with grant funding.

Much work has gone into considering green infrastructure which contributes to the quality and distinctiveness of the local environment and adds to our quality of life. The Plan allows designation of these important green spaces deemed to meet strict criteria.

Important views, Non-Land use actions which include traffic and visitor management, speed, parking, signage, environment and heritage, rights of way, horse riding, recreation .....the list goes on. But all these things will be considered, once again informed by your answers in the survey.

There will be a section on Bio-diversity, Geo-diversity and Natural Habitats and any statutory designation will be evidence based.

And so, the work progresses towards a draft plan which will then be commented upon by the Principal Planning Officer of the new Unitary Authority of West Northants. Community engagement will then begin in earnest.

For more information go to the Parish Council website [www.harlestonepc.org](http://www.harlestonepc.org) or Locality [www.neighbourhoodplanning.org](http://www.neighbourhoodplanning.org) or speak to a member of the Steering Group.



## **County Councillor Judy Shephard retires after 24 years service to the county.**

I was first elected your County Councillor for the Moulton Division in May 1997 and I have finally decided to retire some 24 years later, so this is my final report.

During my time on NCC I have served on many different committees and have chaired the Community Committee, the Adult Social Care and Health Committee twice, and the Development Control Committee twice! I was also elected Chairman of all the Select Committees of the Council. I was a member of the NH&T and the East Anglia Flood Committee. I was the NCC representative of the Northamptonshire Cadet Forces and was an Executive Member of SSAFA. I am also a member of Boughton Parish Council for almost 40 years and served a short term as its Chairman. I have also been a Member of the Richard Humfrey Charity since the early 1980s and have been its Chairman for the last 19 years.

In 2008 – 2010 I served two consecutive terms as Chairman of the Council which was a great and unforgettable honour. I sponsored two charities: SSAFA (The Armed Forces Charity) and FaceFax (a local head, neck and throat cancer charity founded by my sister) and raised over £17,000 during my terms as Chairman. I was privileged to meet, countywide and further afield, many inspirational people in all walks of life who have made exceptional contributions to our lives. My highlights of that time, apart from being presented to several members of the Royal Family and attending several Garden Parties, were my two civic dinners. My first guest speaker was General Sir Richard Dannatt, then Head of the Army, and, secondly, Admiral Sir Trevor Soar, First Sea Lord. He invited me on a two day trip aboard the Frigate HMS Westminster from South Shields to Portsmouth (a truly unrepeatable experience!).

When I first became a County Councillor in 1997 I had 16 villages in my division, including Althorp which was reeling at that time over Princess Diana's untimely death. It was a very sharp learning curve as I was certainly plunged in at the deep end! Today, I have 13 villages and during my 24 years I have attended many many parish council meetings and Annual Meetings and met a vast array of talented and dedicated parishioners, councillors and Chairmen, I have attended site visits, facilitated meetings and spoken publicly to help protect our cherished local heritage. I was a champion of Moulton Library which was under threat of closure. I have keenly locked horns with and challenged burdensome bureaucratic decisions on many diverse issues on my constituents' behalf in my quest for fairness, openness and progress.

It has been my privilege to be your County Councillor for 24 years! I wish to Thank you all for your kindness, wonderful humour and encouragement over the years. I have very happy memories!

Judy reminded us that The County Council will cease to exist next month and gave us a little bit of history. The first NCC Chairman was The Red Earl, the 5th Earl Spencer in 1889 and during the Council's 133 years it has seen some remarkable history. Four years ago due to unacceptably poor and creative accounting methods the council was placed in special measures and it was decided by Parliament that Northamptonshire would become two Unitary Authorities. During the last two years NCC has made huge strides financially, and have now balanced the books and will be handing over some £90m to the new unitary councils as they become the fledgeling Authorities.

Say hello to  
your new Council

 West  
Northamptonshire  
Council

Here for you  
from 1 April 2021



0300 126 7000  
[www.westnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk)

Please note: These new contact details will only be active from 1 April. Until then, please continue to contact your existing council.



*District Councillors John Shephard and Sarah Peck provided us with their report for our Annual Parish Meeting.*

With both a heavy heart and optimistic anticipation for the future we write the final district councillors' report to parish councils.



This year will be remembered for introducing Zoom council, committee and officer meetings, councils being used to channel unprecedented support to local businesses, officers' home working and officers' and members' support for the most vulnerable and of course the demise of Daventry District Council at midnight on the evening of Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March. At that time your district councillors lose that role and become members of the West Northamptonshire Council. We hold that title until the elections on 6 May.

# Sarah & John explain what's been happening across the district and look to the future

What is the legacy of DDC? We would like to think that the local plans introduced over the years have been welcomed by parishes. Of those that we represent, Boughton has seen the most growth and we welcome the newcomers to the village via Buckton Fields. Harlestone is to face the next phase of building locally; hopefully the experiences of the Buckton Fields development will be useful in managing the greater scope of new housing there.



For many years we have heard constituents' understandable moans that, *"We pay tax to DDC and get nothing back"*. It is true that the centre of Daventry has been transformed to the great benefit of residents; the most recent investment is that of the new cinema, complete and ready for its Opening Night. But with the massive investment in the new Moulton Leisure Centre, featuring one of the best swimming pools in the country, any imbalance has certainly been redressed. The recent DDC press release gives details:



*"Facilities set to be opened to the public include the centre's six-lane, 25m swimming pool, and a 60-station gym featuring a wide range of modern fitness equipment.*

*A diverse range of other facilities, including two therapy pools, multi-activity studio, spin studio and the first health spa in the area – comprising a steam room, sauna and spa pool – will reopen when coronavirus restrictions are expected to be further lifted on 17 May."*



On a parochial level, the council year began with the creation of the new Harlestone Manor Parish Council. John led the DDC process in its gestation. He chaired its first meeting for the purposes of the appointment of a chairman. The meeting was by Zoom. There was a tie, 8 members voting 4 – 4 for two candidates. What was to be done? He had a pack of cards to hand. An ace was chosen and one of the candidates invited to say whether it was red or black. The chairmanship was resolved on the turn of a card!

The year also saw planning permission being granted for the NWRR. We will concentrate on monitoring delivery of the mitigation measures. As Buckton Fields moves into Phase 3 we are active in pursuing two significant outstanding issues: community facilities and early years education. We have yet to see any firm proposals for either of these. They are very much work in progress.

During the year John was appointed to the task and finish group of the shadow authority setting the 2021/2022 budget and council tax. That involved some 15 Zoom meetings over an 8 month period.

As you all know, on the 6th May we will be going to the polls to elect a total of 93 councillors for the new unitary authority, West Northamptonshire Council, which will be formed on the 1st April this year. This will replace the existing district, borough and county councils. Residents in Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire are being encouraged to apply early to vote by post. On the same day in May, residents will also be able to cast votes for the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and to elect representatives for many of their local parish councils. A lot of work has been done to make voting safely during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, with a range of Covid-safe measures being planned for polling stations, alongside the other usual options such as voting by post or by proxy. Polling arrangements are currently being organised by elections staff in Daventry District, South Northants and Northampton. We would encourage everyone to vote in these important elections.

A huge amount of progress has been made getting the new unitary Council ready and setting up the wider leadership team. West Northants Council, WNC, was formally vested on 1st April.

We were made aware of the rise in crime over recent months and raised these matters with the Northamptonshire Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire. House-to-house enquiries have been taking place in the areas where the break-ins have been reported and they have also been collecting CCTV to ascertain whether there is any footage of note that may help us identify suspects.

We know the Sgt has also held meetings with the some of the parish councils as well as the community safety partnership and held talks regarding the setting up of a local Streetwatch scheme.

The office of the Superintendent, Local Policing Commander (West) Northamptonshire Police informed us of intelligence gathering in respect of online marketplace disposal of items that have been stolen, ANPR research of vehicular movements during the period of note and ongoing patrol and proactive deployment of response and neighbourhood staff as well as Rural Crime Team and officers from Specialist Operations including Road Crime Team and Dog Support.

*Thank you to Sarah and John for providing this report.*

# St Andrew's Church, Harlestone

Report from Liz Ashton Davies

The normal service rota continued as usual until mid March after which the Covid pandemic took hold. After that we obviously had to work within the restrictions in place at any time and people's need to shield. We did hold an outdoor harvest festival service (on a beautiful day, with the Golf Club captain taking the readings, as is our custom); an indoor service early in November; a small representative group paid respects at the War Memorial on Remembrance Day (Lockdown 2 had come into place just days earlier); an outdoor nativity in Harlestone Manor; an indoor contemplative service in the week before Christmas; one wedding; three funerals and twice weekly phone / online services (Wednesday and Sunday).

The PCC oversaw that the following activities did take place:

- Major repair work to the windows and surrounding stonework on the north side and south west walls, to the left of the porch;
- Three Snowdrop Sundays, each of which coincided with Storm Kiera and other awful weather;
- A digital survey of the churchyard / burial plots was carried out by Atlantic Geomatics;
- The building was made as Covid safe as possible;
- The building was open and staffed to register participants in the NHCT Ride and Stride in September;



We all look forward to a much more positive 2021 and to welcoming parishioners back to our lovely church building and events.



## PCSO Paul Miller

Harlestone Parish continue to sponsor a dedicated PCSO. We do enjoy very low crime rates. Paul's (our PCSO) job this year has focused on visitor management and enforcing COVID restrictions. The monthly report that comes to the council does include car crimes and burglaries - so, please do remember to take sensible security precautions.

The most helpful thing we can do is to make sure any crime, antisocial behaviour or suspicious activities are reported to the police. Use 999 if it's a crime in progress or 101 otherwise. The police can only use information that is reported to them - Facebook just doesn't count!

**CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE**



**101**

**IN AN EMERGENCY  
ALWAYS CALL 999**



## News from Harlestone Village Institute

2020 was a unique year for the HVI. For the first time in 96 years we closed the doors in March, and with the exception of a few weeks in late summer, they remained closed. Sadly, this meant we were forced to cancel the many weddings, celebrations, meetings, christenings and parties that provide our usual source of income. Despite the severe financial blow we refunded, without question, all the deposits placed

with us, and we have been rewarded with most of the cancellations re-booking with us. We were also fortunate to receive a Covid business continuity grant which went a little way to limiting the lost income.

However our community activities and improvement plan continued. In the worst months of the first lockdown the HVI provided the space for the village grocery and supplies initiative, delivering essential provisions to those who were unable to go shopping. As usual in Harlestone there was no shortage of volunteers to pack and deliver the goods.

The committee also took advantage of the eerily empty Institute to implement a major improvement plan. Thanks to the HPC we were able to buy a new, energy efficient boiler which was installed externally, thereby freeing space in the kitchen for extra freezing and cooling capacity, at the same time as reducing our carbon footprint. We also took remedial action against damp in the bar room and re plastered and painted the walls. The main hall has benefitted from a completely new modern colour scheme, and the stage curtains were replaced to match. In addition, the internal beams and timber work were professionally refurbished and cleaned.

We are optimistically hoping to reopen in July and are taking bookings now, with discounts for residents. Even if you are still uncertain about future rule relaxation you are welcome to view the hall and our facilities most days of the week. One of the saddest consequences of lock down was the cancellation of our annual Christmas Eve panto. We have, of course, booked it again for this year and we will continue to give free access for children. Early reservations are required as we sell out by October! The committee is also considering hosting a major village celebration of the "return to normality" when regulations and safety allow. Keep eyes open and ears to the ground!

Finally I would like to thank the members of the committee who have made it possible to provide and improve this unique community facility for the benefit of our residents and other users. Please phone Lynn if you need any more information on [07531 714095](tel:07531714095). Or google Harlestone Village Institute for information on the web.

Tudor Ashton Davies - Chair of Trustees



## **Harlestone WI. Report by Jenny Woods, President.**

Who would have known when we started 2020 that the next twelve months would see such a momentous event as an international pandemic which has affected everything that we do and take for granted? As a result, we have had to adapt what usually happens in a normal WI year and make the most of what we were allowed to do. I think that we've managed to do that thanks to all the committee and members of Harlestone WI.

With no idea of what lay in store, we had our usual January meal out and managed to have a speaker for February who gave us a talk with wonderful slides on Iceland. Then, rather like one of Iceland's unpredictable volcanos, the virus erupted and by the time of March's meeting we were all in lockdown and probably in shock.

Initially the committee kept in touch with members who had to take particular care because of age or other vulnerabilities and even to do a little shopping and so on for them. Once things eased, we were able to meet up but only in groups of 6 or less so we had two months towards the end of the summer when we had garden meetings. This proved to be most enjoyable and provided opportunities for getting to know each other quite a lot better than at meetings and to enjoy some lovely gardens. If we'd been able to continue to have summer weather, I'm sure that we'd have held more meetings in this way. A film night was planned for September but a few days before, restrictions were reintroduced, so we cancelled it. We still have the DVD though so maybe next year....



We also managed to hold a wonderful tea party for four members who were celebrating significant birthdays, Janet Morley, Beryl Johnson, Jane Melling and Dorothy Cumbleton. This took place in September in Janet's garden on a sunny, slightly cool day where we enjoyed a proper cream tea and toasted their health in champagne. I think that it's true to say that this was enjoyed by all who were there especially me who wasn't celebrating anything!



### WI birthday celebrations in September

Pat Jones, our secretary, became ill about 18 months ago and stepped down from the committee last August. Unfortunately, she died in January 2021 and we miss her cheerfulness and positivity a great deal.

In October 2019 we were delighted when Chris Glenison and Wendy Smith joined the committee and Chris has now taken over as secretary which is a big and complex role, especially when we are having to make things up as we go along.

During the latter part of 2020 we started to hold meetings using Zoom and have managed an AGM, a Christmas party and two speakers since then. About 2/3 of our members join us in this way but we are looking forward to the day that we can all meet up in person. We've also distributed gift bags to everyone for Christmas and Easter.

We all hope that life will gradually return to something like its normal routine over the coming months. However, this unusual year has given us the chance to reflect on what is important in our lives and for me that includes the many friendships that I have made with members of Harlestone WI.



**Allotments available:**  
**email: [harlestoneclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:harlestoneclerk@btinternet.com)**  
**for information**

Upper Harlestone Allotments have proved really popular and we only have one plot remaining. Growers have been successful with an array of veg and flowers.



## **Parish Councillor Tim Cross is responsible for all things technical, environmental and safety related in the parish...**

Strange year with lockdown but the problems keep cropping up. Mainly drains, broken gate posts and visitor management.

The huge puddle problem that appeared on the A428 in Lower Harlestone every time it rained has finally been cured. As well as mud filled drains the interconnecting pipes have been cleaned out with stunning results.

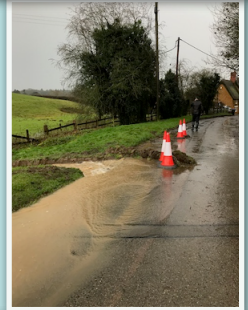
Upper Harlestone has a similar problem with blocked drains including one on Port Road that was completely buried. Some connecting pipes do need further investigation.

If you were wondering what the cones, barriers and a large hole opposite Cross Hill was all about, I will explain. There is a large spring in a field part way up the hill towards Cotherstone Lodge. In the past this would have flowed through Upper Harlestone in an open ditch. Many years ago this was put underground in a slab and stone culvert which had partially collapsed causing the water to carve out an underground chasm during rain storms, finally collapsing into a large and quite dangerous hole. Now repaired by Highways.

Another ongoing project is to get the A428 footpath, Harlestone to the Parish boundary with Althorp, resurfaced. It is in a dreadful state and Highways have ordered an inspection.

Antisocial behaviour is a problem in the Church car park and a change to automatic lighting is being investigated.

The village has become a major visitor attraction but until life returns to some sort of normal it's difficult to make a judgement on any future measures that might be needed.



## **Litter**

We have two litter pickers working in the village - Isabel and Bella. Since they started in November, they've collected about 20 bags of rubbish. Bella is amazed by the jars of pickled stuff they find and Isabel thinks they might be able to assemble a small car from all the car-parts they find!



*Thanks girls, you're doing a brilliant job!*

**'The Harlestone Relief in Need' and 'Educational Foundation' Charities** have continued to support the Parish of Harlestone throughout 2020 and are now under the chairmanship of Mr David Slack, the new Althorp Estate Manager.

At Christmas, the Charities delivered 21 Christmas parcels to households within the Parish of Harlestone which were very much appreciated. The school made wonderful cards to accompany them.

These Charities have existed in the Parish since at least 1872 and will continue to consider and support applications throughout the year ahead, where financial support may be needed and small grants may help. Applications or donations may be made in writing via the Clerk: Ms Sue Roberts or via email at [suecockerill1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:suecockerill1@hotmail.co.uk) Applications are handled in confidence.

Applications for the Educational Foundation will be considered for individuals under 25 years, who need financial support for study books, apprenticeship equipment, interviews and travel to further education establishments.

### **Parish Councillor Sue Flynn represents the council at the charities committee meetings**



Sue also represents the council at the Quarry Liaison Group meetings. The group usually meet half yearly to discuss operational matters which might impact the village, planning applications and reinstatement works. There hasn't been much quarrying going on over the last twelve month as Bennies ceased their operation and the new operator has yet to start.

However, some planned reinstatement works are being re-examined and the parish council have been invited to comment on a change to planning permission which looks to plant a grassland area instead of trees on the worked (and now exhausted area) land along the A428. The parish council have pushed to keep to the original planting plan as these trees not only provide a valuable habitat they are an effective sound barrier between the works and the village. The application is yet to be decided by NCC.



There is one interesting environmental boon resulting from the quarry works - Sand Martins have nested in the quarry face and before any new works begin, the operators will have to ensure these birds are well protected.

# Planning & Conservation



One of the council's responsibilities is to review and comment on planning applications for home alterations and work to trees in the conservation area. We try to do this as comprehensively as possible and think about the impact changes will have on the look of the village, the necessity of the work and the impact on the neighbours. Our

deliberations as a council are always heartfelt and well intended, and we don't always agree! Ultimately, West Northamptonshire Council planning have the final say.

In March 2017 Daventry District Council completed a review of Harlestone's conservation area. The conservation area was extended and DDC produced the Conservation Area Management Plan (CAMP). It's a thorough examination of Harlestone's unique historic features and rural setting. The accompanying Article 4 directive is a legally binding planning regulation and restricts permitted development rights, which means that a lot of the things people could have done to their land or houses without planning permission and often take for granted will require planning consent. Its aim is to protect Harlestone and preserve its character. This legislation came into force in February 2020 (although we've been living by its principle for a few years). There is a copy of the directive on the West Northamptonshire Council planning website.

We have found that West Northamptonshire Council planning department are helpful and available to advise residents on planning issues.

**The Wild Bunch**

Look for the blue hearts around the village to see where the Wild Bunch have been planting.

The Wild Bunch is an informal, open group of enthusiasts for the wonders of the natural world. The group's purpose is to encourage and implement the introduction and restoration of areas of wild flora within in Harlestone parish, thereby enhancing wildlife habitat, the visual attractiveness of the village, and raising awareness of the importance of ecological sustainability. Native trees and plants, when allowed to grow to maturity, are the foundations for encouraging wildlife, especially birds, insects and amphibians.

Socially, the Wild Bunch maintains a WhatsApp group, shares photographs, meets informally over coffee and cake, and may occasionally stage an event consistent with our purpose and ethos (for example a moth count, bat safari, or a wildflower survey).

The Wild Bunch hopes to keep parishioners updated on this Facebook page. If you wish to join the WhatsApp group, or are able to lend a hand on the occasional project like planting wildflowers and trees or clearing areas, text Andrew on 0781 702 7190



The playing fields are being well used with families bringing in children to use the swings and slides and have a picnics when the weather allows.

After the disruption of sporting activities due to covid, the cricket team will recommence in May and the junior football club has already restarted a mini league until June.

We are due to obtain a new mower, replacing the very old Ransomes Triple mower purchased by the Cricket club over 40 years ago. Malcolm is looking forward to trying the new machine around the field. The Machine is second hand as brand new machines are way out of our budget.

Hopefully the weather will warm up so that the facilities can be enjoyed now we are able to get out and about.



Harlestone Cricket Club have two competitive teams in the Northants Cricket League (First XI in Division 4 and Second XI in Division 10). The club has a great history, and it's a fantastic group to be a part of with a welcoming atmosphere. We are always happy to welcome new players of any age, so please do visit our webpage <https://harlestone.play-cricket.com/>

Last year both teams made playoff/knock-out stages of their respective competitions, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI getting to the semi-final.

The club has future aspirations for further development of the playingfield, specifically the clubhouse and training facilities. We would love it to become a multipurpose venue.

Last summer the Club improved some of the facilities including new toilets, decorating inside and out and improving the changing room facilities. You can see our before and after pictures on our social media pages.

To achieve this, the club purchased all materials, completed all the manual labour, and adhered to government guidelines. None of this would have been possible without our amazing team members voluntarily putting the work in, as well as fundraising by the club and securing sponsorship from LillyBrooke Financial Services.

The Playing Fields will host 13 regular season fixtures at home each Saturday from 12pm (5<sup>th</sup> June-28th Aug) along with some mid-week friendlies. We welcome any and as many spectators as possible, it be great to see people up there enjoying themselves.

## Conservation work by Althorp Estate

Last September Adey Greeno was appointed as Althorp Estate's conservation officer helping the Estate move forward working with flora, fauna and the local communities. He tells us more...

"Part of this role includes recording and photographing plants, trees, insects, birds and buildings. Looking at and recording the new farming schemes that the Estates are entering into. Another aspect is helping protect the estate from outside damage, such as the Commercial Wild Garlic pickers over this Easter and the off road cyclists in the old Quarries. Bringing information of fallen trees, walls etc. that need dealing with quickly to the Estate Directors attention. Having a good relationship with the rural policing unit and most importantly the villages and the community.

It has been somewhat difficult with Covid 19 restrictions to get out and about with the local people for both the new Director David Slack and myself.

I like to think that I know enough people in these villages to be of benefit to the community. I certainly know the 3 Estates well enough. I have passion for what I do and I am a Harlestoneite!"



After 50 years as editor and printer in chief of The Newsletter of Brampton, East Haddon, Harlestone & Holdenby (to give it the official title), Derek Bland is retiring. We're grateful to Derek for his work, keeping us informed and connected to the surrounding villages.

And the good news is that the newsletter is now under the stewardship of Richard and Emily Gent in Chapel Brampton.

Apart from outsourcing the printing, the newsletter will continue very much as it has done. Richard and Emily are hoping to send out an edition for May. If you would like to advertise in the newsletter or are able to help with delivering it, please email: [theclerk@churchwithchapelbrampton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:theclerk@churchwithchapelbrampton-pc.gov.uk)

## Keep in touch:

- Sign up to the parish council mailing list (mail chimp) via the website [www.harlestonepc.org](http://www.harlestonepc.org)
- Join the Upper & Lower Harlestone residents facebook page
- Visit the parish council website for agendas and minutes