



# Haslingfield Parish Council News

Keeping the village up to date about local Parish Council matters



**August 2025**

## Special points of interest

- 20mph survey
- Haslingfield Market
- EWR Update

## Dates to note

- Upcoming Parish Council meetings
  - 11 August,
  - 8 September
  - 13 October



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## Traffic concerns in the village

With continued complaints from residents about speeding in the village, the Parish Council has been considering what action it can take to improve community safety.

The Parish Council has limited powers to reduce speeding, but it can apply to Cambridgeshire County Council for a 20mph speed limit throughout the village. Included with this newsletter is a survey, which the Parish Council hopes you will complete and return. Should enough surveys be returned and a majority of residents be in favour, the PC will apply for the speed limit scheme. Be aware that only eight schemes are approved each year, and applying does not mean it will be approved.

A 20mph limit is only as good as any enforcement, so should residents support a scheme, they will also need to consider volunteering for Community Speedwatch.

**Community Speedwatch** is a national scheme supported by local police forces, designed to empower members of the community to work together in tackling the issue of speeding vehicles. Using approved detection devices, trained volunteers monitor vehicle speeds and record details of those exceeding the limit. The information collected is then shared with the police, who can take further action where appropriate.

Volunteers are needed from all parts of the parish. No previous experience is necessary – full training and all equipment will be provided. It's a simple but powerful way to help make our roads safer for drivers, cyclists, pedestrians, and families.

If you are interested in volunteering for Community Speedwatch, please contact the Clerk on **07365 223426** or



## Haslingfield Village Hall Market

A huge thank you to everyone who came to the first monthly Market on 27 July! it was a great atmosphere, with everyone enjoying themselves. It proved to be very successful, with all the stall holders happy to return for the August Market. I am already looking forward to the next one.

At the moment we do have some spaces, so if any of you would like a stall, we would love to hear from you at [adminvillagehall@haslingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:adminvillagehall@haslingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk). We would also like to thank Greg Wilson and Steven Keeley from South Cambs District Council for their help and support.

The next Market will be held on Sunday 31 August, and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

**Jenny Jullien, Chairman – Badcock Recreation Ground Trust**







## Orchid walk - Sunday, June 15, 2025

For the third year, a walk to Haslingfield Quarry (or clunch pit) to see our rare orchids has featured in the Cambridge Nature Festival organised by Cambridge Past, Present and Future.

On June 15th, 28 people from all over the region – including a chap from Liverpool! – joined Parish Councillor and orchid whisperer Clive Blower to find examples of five types of orchids: rare Man Orchids, Twayblades, gorgeous Common Spotted Orchids, iconic Bee Orchids, and Pyramidal Orchids, one of the most beautiful species and the type that also bloomed in the All Saints churchyard this year.

Two unusual parasitic plants were also discovered: knapweed broomrape, which doesn't contain any chlorophyll and survives by parasitising knapweed, a purple flowering plant which is common in the quarry and loved by butterflies; and red bartsia, a semi-parasitic plant popular with carder bees and wasps. One particular solitary bee feeds solely on red bartsia.

The quarry, which is a county wildlife site, is a very special chalk grassland – its low nutrient soil allows these wildflowers and the insects which feed on them to thrive.



## In defence of brown lawns and weedy verges

Hot, dry conditions like we've had this summer leave our lawns looking brown and lifeless, and soil may even crack. There's a temptation to get the sprinkler out, but our already stressed water system can't afford for us to spend precious water on lawns, leaving our chalk streams and all the life they support dried up and dying. Anyway, an otherwise healthy lawn of perennial grasses should have deep roots which will survive the dry weather and be ready to green up once conditions improve, so there's no worry that the lawn will disappear. A pretty alternative can be just to reduce mowing, as recommended by the RHS: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife/lawn-and-mini-meadow-habitats>

On a walk around the village the other day I noticed the contrast between closely trimmed lawns and those verges and patches which have been mown less or even left completely unmown. The longer patches were a bit greener, and amongst the grasses were bright flowers – the fluffy purple of knapweed, lacy white of yarrow, sunny yellow of hawkbit, purply-pink of mallow, and pink-and-white stripes of field bindweed. (You usually would not want bindweed in a lawn as it can quickly take over, but I saw one verge where it had done exactly that to very pretty effect).

I also noticed the many insects: stripy hoverflies, ladybirds, butterflies and moths, and of course bees galore, which were visiting these flowery spaces. Closely cropped grass lawns provide little food for minibeasts.

Mowing less also helps a lawn's resilience to drought and protects the soil from drying and cracking. And it doesn't have to be an all or nothing approach – leaving a lawn just slightly longer makes room for clover and dandelions, while allowing patches of any size to grow long can provide a mini-jungle with shelter for grasshoppers and seedheads for birds.

Haslingfield and Harlton Eco Group



## Memorial Policy

The Parish Council understands that many residents wish to honour the memory of loved ones in meaningful ways and will consider requests for memorials in our public open spaces, offering options that both commemorate individuals and enhance the beauty of the village.

Memorials can take the form of benches, trees or spring bulbs. These living and lasting tributes help create peaceful spaces for reflection and enjoyment by the wider community.

Due to limited space, we may not be able to accommodate all memorial requests exactly as proposed.

However, we work closely with donors to explore suitable alternatives. In particular, space for both benches and trees is extremely limited. If a suitable location becomes available, the Council will discuss options directly with the donor.

All memorials are managed by the Council and must follow set guidelines to ensure consistency, respect and ease of maintenance. For example, while benches can include a plaque, trees and bulbs do not – but donors may choose to have their tribute recorded on the Council's online Memorial Map, which can also list the names of loved ones being remembered.

## Trees

The Parish Council has direct responsibility for trees on land owned by the Parish Council and for advising the Highways Authority when work is

needed for trees for which they bear responsibility. An example of this was the fallen tree on School Lane,

which had now been partially cleared. We will also

identify trees that are special to the village and if appropriate apply for a Tree Preservation Order, as was the case of the horse chestnut tree on the corner of New Road and the High Street. In addition we are advised by the planning authority and asked for comment when any resident wishes to fell or cut back a tree within the Conservation Area.

The bulk of this work however is in relation to trees on land which belongs to the PC. The three trees planted in the late winter (one on the Recreation Ground, two in the Wellhouse Meadow) appear to be thriving, thanks partly to regular watering and there is evidence of good growth on the pollarded trees by the allotments.

The larger of the two trees in the Wellhouse Meadow that were pollarded, and expected to regrow, has sadly died. However it has produced numerous saplings from its roots and, by preventing some of these from being scythed, we aim in the long term to facilitate the growth of a couple of new trees to replace the parent plant. In relation to other work the PC has been advised by a tree surgeon that the lime tree on the land next to the Trinity Close footpath should be pollarded in late winter, and work has been carried out on a damson plum tree on The Elms where a large branch had broken off.



## Repair of fence at Millenium Pond

Last year, when there were spillages at the sewage works on Porkers Lane, Anglian Water vehicles had to access the works via Porkers Lane and River Lane. During that time, the fence at the Millenium Pond (at the corner of River Lane and Porkers Lane) was damaged. The damage has now been repaired by Anglian Water.

## Time to Tidy Up Hedges – Nesting Season Has Ended

Now that August has arrived and bird nesting season (March to July) has passed, homeowners are once again permitted to cut back hedges and trees.

If your greenery overhangs public pavements or roads, it's important to ensure it is properly trimmed. Here are a few helpful guidelines:

- Street furniture (such as lampposts, signs, or lighting) installed by Cambridgeshire County Council always sits on highways land; cut back vegetation to behind these structures.
- Pavements are also Council property, so hedges must be trimmed back to the edge of the path. You may need to remove overgrowth to see where that boundary lies.
- Ensure hedges and trees do not obstruct pedestrians, allowing clearance for a tall person with an umbrella, a double buggy, wheelchair, or someone walking with a guide dog.

All trimming should be done between August and February, outside the bird nesting season. Thank you for helping keep our village safe and accessible for all!



**EW** Recently, various pieces of equipment have been observed in the fields around Haslingfield. If approached, they will instruct you to move away and that the landowner and police would be informed. These are security systems for the ground condition survey of Money Hill with its tunnel and deep cuttings that is currently underway. The survey is scheduled for completion over the next couple of months. EWR Co had originally planned to carry out the survey several weeks ago but reconsidered after a series of written exchanges with the Parish Council. While Bronze Age burial mounds are known to exist on top of Money Hill, there may also be other archaeological remains in the area, possibly along the route of EWR. EWR Co's initial plan was to search for these remains after they had drilled the boreholes and dug the trial pits. EWR Co said that they couldn't do a geophysical survey to determine archaeological remains until after the harvest. Fortunately, favourable weather conditions permitted an early harvest so the ground based geophysical survey could proceed with little delay. Hopefully EWR Co will interpret the results carefully and the boreholes and trial-pits can be located without damaging the remains.

Also related to the Money and Chapel Hill area, we will be trying to persuade EWR Co's engineers to lengthen the tunnel in an upcoming meeting with them. EWR Co's preferred option at the last consultation was to dig a tunnel with extremely deep approach cuttings that would

obliterate the Bronze Age burial mounds. This was in preference to another option costing the same amount but taking slightly longer to construct. The depth of the proposed cuttings at the tunnel entrances would exceed the height of the ceiling of King's College Chapel. Not only would this permanently scar the landscape, the volume of spoil that needs to be removed is extreme. This would mean more diggers on the hillside, more noise, more dust, more farmland lost to storage compounds, more trucks and hence more traffic and damage to roads not designed to take such a number of heavy vehicles. Conversely, a longer and lower tunnel would require literally only a fraction of the earth to be moved while allowing a lower track level at the Harlton Road crossing and to the east and north of Harlton. We will keep you informed of the outcome.

A group of local parishes led by Haslingfield held a meeting with Bridget Smith, the leader of South Cambs District Council, and Stephen Kelly, joint director at Greater Cambridge Shared Planning and 3C Building Control in mid-July. While they support EWR and its route in principle, they are rightly concerned about the impact of the project during the construction phase. We suggested various proposals to mitigate the effects on the residents, including the appointment of a construction ombudsman who would try resolve residents' issues with the contractor. We are due to hold a similar meeting with our MP, Pippa Heyling, and the mayor, Paul Bristow, in early September.

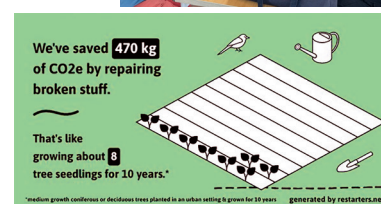
## Haslingfield's Second Repair Café

Haslingfield's second Repair Café took place at the Village Hall on Saturday 14th June. People from Cambridge and our neighbouring villages brought a wonderful range of items in need of repair to challenge the team of friendly volunteers from the Cambridgeshire Repair Café Network, including local volunteers from Haslingfield, Barton and Eversden.

In just four hours, the repairers tackled clocks, toys, clothes, lamps, garden shears, a kettle, vacuum cleaners and a teacup - over 50 items - and most were successfully repaired, saving people money as well as benefitting the environment. One of our repairers even made a whole new clock from parts which were left over! It was also a friendly community event, with many attendees, from preschoolers to 90-somethings, enjoying cakes and teas provided by Little Owls.

As one of our happy customers commented: "Really thrilled to get my toaster repaired rather than have to throw it away! Thanks to John for sharing/explaining what was involved."

The Cambridgeshire Repair Network is coordinated by Cambridge Carbon Footprint and is growing fast. There are repair cafés happening somewhere in Cambs almost every weekend. See <https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/what-we-do/repair-cafes/visit-a-repair-cafe/> to find out where. If you're interested in future Repair Cafes, please contact [nhneco@gmail.com](mailto:nhneco@gmail.com).



**The Parish Council welcomes Liz Hales as the new Chairman of the Council and William Harrold as a new Parish Councillor.** Residents are welcome to speak to any of the councillors, but it is recommended that should you wish to contact the council, you contact Lise Jackson, Parish Clerk in the first instance ([clerk@haslingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@haslingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk), 07365 223426).

**Your Parish Councillors are:** Liz Hales (Chairman), Clive Blower (Vice-Chairman), Andrew Gillies, William Harrold, Ruth Hatfield, Steve Jones, Ann O'Brien, Diana Offord, David Revell, James Roberts, Andrew Tipler **Haslingfield Parish Council welcomes communication from all its residents.**

*If you have any comments/questions on this Newsletter or any other local issue, please contact Haslingfield Parish Clerk (Lise Jackson) in the first instance by emailing [clerk@haslingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@haslingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk) or calling 07365 223426*