

Haslingfield Village Hall Market

The Village Hall is a popular venue to spend the last Sunday morning of each month, whether you are browsing, buying, or socializing. The October market attracted a full house of stall holders and a welcome increase in people attending. The stalls ranged from food to fine flowers, and we are delighted that some of our stall holders are also villagers. If you are interested in having a stall then, please contact our Market Manager Catherine at haslingfieldmarket@outlook.com.

An important date for your diary is **SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER**. This will be our **CHRISTMAS MARKET** and the last market for 2025.

Markets in 2026 will take place on January 25, February 22 and March 29. We welcome your support in this new venture, and please spread the word!



Resignations and Vacancies

The Parish Council is sad to say goodbye to Clive Blower and Ruth Hatfield as a Parish Councillors. Clive was a councillor for nearly 9 years, 3.5 as Vice-Chairman, and was involved in many aspects of the Council, including finance, grounds maintenance and setting up the website, amongst other things. Ruth was a councillor for 3 years, one of which as Chairman. Ruth was involved in youthwork and chaired meetings with our MP and SCDC about East West Rail. They will both be greatly missed, and we extend many thanks for all their work on the Council.

Clive and Ruth's departures means there are two vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Should you be interested in joining the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk clerk@haslingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk. Applications are welcome from anyone who is:

- British or a citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union,
- At least 18 years old, and
- Registered to vote in the area or have lived, worked or owned property there for at least 12 months before an election.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Liz Hales (Chairman), Diana Offord (Vice-Chairman), Andrew Gillies, William Harrold, Steve Jones, Ann O'Brien, 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 or calling 07365 223426



November 2025

Special points of interest

- Christmas Market
- Vacancies for councillors

Dates to note

- Upcoming Parish Council meetings – 10 November (in the Methodist Church), 8 December, 12 January
- Christmas Market – 25 November

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Traffic concerns in the village

20mph scheme

Thank you to all of you who completed the questionnaire regarding applying for a 20mph speed limit throughout the village. A total of 225 replies were received, of which 136 were in favour, 83 were against and 6 were invalid. The PC decided in advance that, should at least 100 replies be received and 51% or more in favour, it would apply for the reduced speed limit.

The next step is for the PC to apply to Cambridgeshire County Council Highways scheme. The application window opens in early 2026, and a response is expected in October 2026. We will keep you informed as soon as we have any further news.



Parking restrictions by the school

You may recall that the Parish Council asked residents about adding double-yellow lines around the school back in December 2024. After an overwhelmingly positive response to the consultation, the Parish Council applied for these restrictions in January 2025, and we have just been informed that the application has been successful! The Parish Council is waiting to hear from Highways regarding timescales for the parking restrictions to be implemented.

Potholes

Potholes continue to be a problem throughout the area. Potholes are outside of the Parish Council's remit, but you can report issues to Cambridgeshire County Council Highways on their new Report It! Tool, found on their website at <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/en>. NB: if possible please send a picture with your report. According to Highways, all faults are assessed within 10 days. The time taken to fix a fault depends on the type and severity of the issue. Potholes marked with yellow paint will be fixed within 21 days. Potholes marked with white paint will take up to 13 weeks to fix.

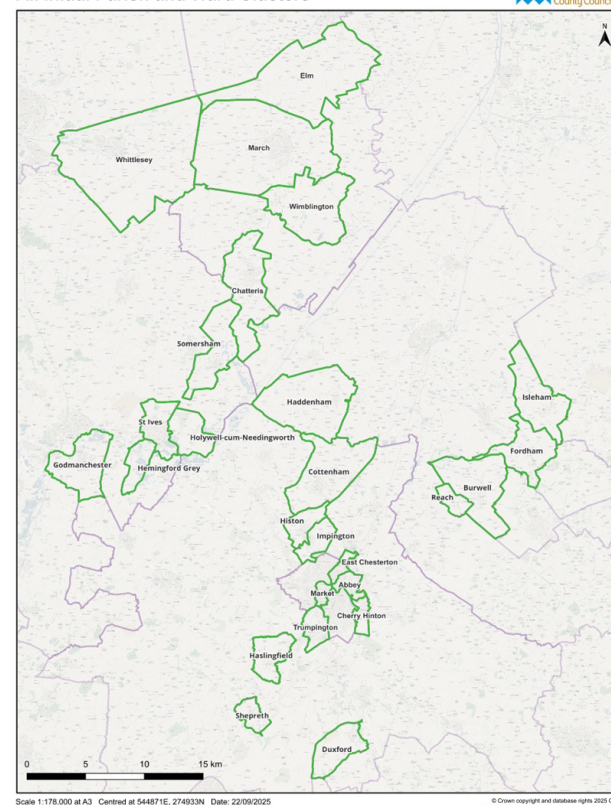


Recycling blister packs

Have you ever wondered if you can recycle your blister packs (that medicines often come in)? Well, you can! You can recycle them at Boots (Petty Cury, Grafton Centre and Newmarket Road are the closest) and Superdrug stores with pharmacies (Sidney Street and Fitzroy Street). More information about blister pack recycling can be found on their websites.

If you have questions about where to dispose of other items, check the 'What Goes in Which Bin' page on the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste website <https://www.greatercambridgewaste.org/residents/what-goes-in-which-bin>.

All Initial Parish and Ward Clusters



Haslingfield Parish to receive new support for Nature – From the Ground Up!

Just 25 parishes in Cambridgeshire have been chosen to take part in the first stage of a new four-year nature recovery project funded by Cambridge County Council - and Haslingfield is one of them!

It may not look like it from our lovely village, but Cambridgeshire is one of the least wildlife rich counties in the UK. What's more, many of our nature sites are marooned in the middle of farmland or cut off from each other by roads and other infrastructure. Local parishes and groups also aren't taking up the biodiversity funding available, in our case because they have been targeted at capital purchases rather than advice and practical support.

To turn this around, Cambridge County Council, in partnership with Natural Cambridgeshire, will support the 25 chosen parishes with advice, expertise and targeted fundraising. Called Nature Recovery from the Ground Up, the project advice will reflect the priorities and science-based action plans set out in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Parishes were chosen because they had active groups in place – in our case the Haslingfield and Harlton Eco group – and a history of caring for nature, which our parish council and many community groups through the years have demonstrated. Already we have:

- Thriving community orchard;
- Wellhouse meadow biodiversity project;
- *E.Coli* monitoring of the River Rhee;
- Ecological survey of the watercourse from Wisbey's Yard Pond to the Millenium Pond at the end of Porker's Lane;
- Active community of people letting corners of their gardens and shared spaces grow a little bit wild and sharing photos on our Let it Grow WhatsApp;
- Swift boxes on the village hall;
- A County Wildlife Site in Haslingfield Quarry and regular guided walks to visit it;
- Haslingfield Tree Trail pointing out some of the wonderful trees in a circular walk round the village;
- Our first attempts to measure and record wildlife in the village via our Churchyard bioblitz, small mammal trapping, and monitoring the Wellhouse Meadow plants.

There's much more we can do, however. We'll be looking at ways to improve and join up our nature spots to create networks for nature – and your garden could be a part of that. We'll be getting advice on improving biodiversity in the meadow and holding more Bioblitzes, insect ID sessions and more. And we'll be looking at how we can care for our waterways and ponds more effectively. We will need all sorts of skills and volunteers for these projects, from bakers to Instagram experts, from scythers to people clever with maps, from rakers to people who like to wade in ponds – get in touch if you would like to take part: hnheco@gmail.com



Engaging with the Parish Council

Our Parish Council is made up of Haslingfield residents who give up their time and energy on a voluntary basis, with the aim of ensuring our village and environment is a great place to live. It meets on a monthly basis, at 7.30 pm on the second Monday of each month, usually in the Village Hall. These meetings are open to the public, and the Council welcomes anyone from the parish to attend, to observe or raise issues that they may have in the fifteen minute Public Forum at the beginning of the meeting.

To know what will be discussed you can see the agenda, posted three days in advance on the Haslingfield Parish Council website and the noticeboards, as are the minutes. A shorter summary of the minutes is also included in the Church and Village magazine. On the website you will also find information on projects we are involved in and, under Documents, policies that guide our work.

To raise issues with the Parish Council outside of meetings all communication should be through the Clerk (clerk@haslingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk) rather than individual councillors, and they will be forwarded as appropriate. For more urgent matters, the Clerk can be contacted by phone on **07365 2223426**.

Where the Council's decision making is reliant on collecting data or assessing your views on specific issues, as was the case with the option of applying for a 20 mph speed limit, we will distribute questionnaires.

As part of our Council Governance, we have signed up the Civility and Respect Pledge (<https://haslingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/HPC-Civility-and-Respect-Pledge-2023.pdf>) which is a pledge to ensure the Clerk, other employees, Councillors and members of the public are treated with the respect that everyone deserves. In submitting your responses to such questionnaires or raising issues with the Parish Council in person, by telephone or by email, we would like to remind you to follow the same principles. Your responses and communications with staff and members of the Council should not be threatening or abusive. We appreciate that this happens in a real minority of cases, but recent incidences of this are unacceptable and have been very unpleasant for all recipients.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter.



Timeless meanderings: Our River's Story

How the River Rhee Connects Haslingfield to a Global Movement

Many people in Haslingfield feel deep connection to the River Rhee which flows past our village, connecting the Parish of Haslingfield to Parishes and communities upstream and downstream. It is not only a source of natural beauty but also a vital habitat for wildlife, a place for children and teens to paddle, swim and make camps, and a peaceful spot for recreation. Old willows populate the riverbanks, while the water itself reflects the changing skies of our seasons, reminding us of nature's rhythms and our place within them.

In recent years, villagers have become more aware of the importance of protecting the river. Local groups have organised litter-picks, monitored water quality, and encouraged everyone to respect the delicate ecosystems around the river. These efforts echo a wider movement, as communities across Britain and beyond rally together to restore and celebrate their rivers. The rivers movement has inspired towns and villages to see their waterways as living corridors deserving of care and restoration.

Haslingfield Parish Council are championing the River Rhee through support to the community group Friends of the Rhee. If you would like to find out more, please follow this link <https://haslingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/water-testing> or contact Friends of the Rhee directly. Together, we can take action so that our river continues to bring life, beauty, and connection - not just to Haslingfield, but to the world beyond.

Lara Hawkins, Friends of the Rhee
larahawkinshome@yahoo.co.uk