

Party in the Park 2

The Parish Council is arranging the second “Party in the Park” after the success of the first event in 2016. “Party in the Park 2” will be held on Saturday 14th July in the Banbury Lane Playground.

There will be a Bouncy Castle, children’s entertainer, face-painting, Hog Roast, Speciality Muffins, Ice-cream etc and in the marquee there will be music all day with a bar and various craft stalls. The children’s activities will finish by 6pm, allowing adults to relax and enjoy themselves until 9pm when the event will finish.



We are hoping to have the Emergency Services with us for people to talk to and possibly a vehicle or two as well.

There will be local craft stalls so If you have a “craft” or activity of your own that you would like to display and would like to have a stall at the event, then please contact the Parish Council for details

Litter Pick

The Council has arranged for another litter pick to take place in the Spring and has selected **Saturday 14th April.**



Over the last 6 months there has been an increase in litter with a large number of beer and energy drink cans being discarded into the hedgerows.

Please come along and help keep our Parish tidy. Could all volunteers please meet up in the children's playground on Banbury Lane at 10.30am. Gloves and litter pickers will be provided.

Children are more than welcome to come along and help. The more people who come along the better and the greater the area we can cover.



Ways to keep in touch with us:

Website: www.hunsburymeadows.org.uk

Email: clerk@hunsburymeadows.org.uk

Phone: 01604 891033

Clerk: Mr Lalitkumar Patel, 52 Meadow Lane, Little Houghton, Northampton NN7 1AH Tel: 07876 016581



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Follow us on Twitter @HunsburyMeadows

**CALL YOUR
LOCAL
POLICE**

101

**IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999**

Parish Improvements

We have completed the last of the planned works from the last financial year with the cutting back of the overgrown hedges between Samwell Way and the towpath. Although it looks rather harsh at the moment the bushes will soon grow back.

Canal Towpath

The canal towpath where it passes over the culvert that carries Wotton Brock under the canal has become very muddy and churned up to such an extent that when it is wet the towpath becomes almost impassable. This is due to the concrete culvert allowing very poor drainage.



When drafting the 2018/19 budget the Council made provision for attempting to address this problem. The Parish Council has been discussing the situation with the Northampton branch of Inland Waterways Association, who have adopted the Northampton Arm of the canal. The Parish Council have offered funds to buy the materials or the hire of the equipment needed to allow the volunteers to extend the hard surface towpath over the culvert and past the entrance to the large field. It is hoped that work will happen mid May

Dog Waste

There is currently an issue with dog owners not clearing up after their dogs. This is both unsightly and a potential health hazard. It doesn't take much to clear up after your pet.

A HUGE Plea however to people who do pick up after their dogs but then "decorate" the hedge rows, particularly along the canal towpath, with filled black dog bin bags. In the immortal words of Joyce Grenfell's "The Nursery School" monologue:

"George (or whoever you are)... **Don't do that!**"

If a bag is thrown into the hedge it will take years before the bag degrades.

You can dispose of dog waste in normal waste bins as all the waste is now treated the same.

BAG IT AND BIN IT!

Neighbourhood Alert

Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert is a free messaging service that allows Northamptonshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch and other partner organisations to keep you informed about issues in your area that are relevant to you.

Once you've signed up you'll receive information about crime and suspicious



activity where you live or work - helping to prevent and detect crime and anti-social behaviour.

<https://www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk>

Crime

Unfortunately, over Christmas there were some more thefts from cars and a car was stolen on Christmas Day. Hunsbury Meadows remains a very low crime area, however we are seeing more instances of criminals coming into the Northampton area to target residential properties.

Please remember to remove valuables from your car and to keep it locked.

Parkrun



The inaugural Sixfields Upton Parkrun was on 24th February with 169 people taking part, 27 of which were on their first Parkrun. The event was started by County Councillor Pinder Chauhan and despite it being a bitterly cold day, it was bright and sunny and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Although the following week the run had to be cancelled due to the cold and snow the event is normally held every Saturday starting at 9am and consists of two laps round Upton Country



Park, 5km long. Details can be found at

<http://www.parkrun.org.uk/sixfieldsupton/>

If anyone wishes to volunteer to marshal or help out on a Saturday morning or for further details contact Mick Turner on 01604 752288 or email sixfieldsuptonhelpers@parkrun.com.

Canal Mosaics

If you have walked along the canal recently you will have probably noticed that by each of the locks, there are two mosaic panels. These have been installed by the Northampton Branch of Inland Waterways Association (IWA) and have been funded by a legacy left by a member of the IWA, John Faulkner, who died recently.



At each lock one of the mosaic panels depicts an aspect of canal life and the other is part of a Nature Trail. The design and construction of all these projects was a collaborative effort involving committee members, pupils from three primary schools:

Gayton C of E, Briar Hill and Delapre, staff from Bellway Homes, the Canal & River Trust, the Task Party volunteers along with David Bowers, from Mosaic Madness.

There will be an official opening of the trail in April 2018. The children who designed and made the plaques will be guests along with their parents, school staff and CRT representatives.

Afterwards there will be the opportunity to enter the Nature Trail Challenge online. One plaque at each lock bears a letter which, put together in sequence, will spell out a phrase, starting at Lock 1, near to Gayton Marina. By submitting the correct phrase online, you will be rewarded with a certificate and maybe, for the first handful of entries, a small prize. Obviously, you don't have to complete the whole 4 ¾ mile walk in one go, children may need to break it up into smaller sections.

Hopefully the Nature Trail Challenge will encourage more people, and especially children, to enjoy the unique environment of the Northampton Arm. Fuller details about the Challenge and its start date will be posted on the Parish website and Facebook page.

Litter

Litter is a common complaint the Council receives and so a BIG thank you – to all who help keep our community clean and tidy by using our litter bins and/or taking their litter and dog waste home!

The Parish Council has paid for the installation of three litter bins along Banbury Lane. We are now planning to add a further four litter bins which will be located at the entrance to Pineham Lock, at the top of Banbury Lane, on Upton Valley Way East at the top of the path down to the canal and further down Upton Valley Way East near to the small roundabout.

As the BBC's "Blue Planet" has so beautifully shown, unlike dog waste, plastic bags, beer and drink cans, food wrapping, and cigarette packets take months and years and in some cases never, degenerate and rot away in the meantime, leave our community untidy, unpleasant and unsafe for everyone including our children to walk and play in.

A HUGE THANK YOU therefore to our volunteer litter pickers who every week tidy up a considerable amount of rubbish others leave behind or throw out of their car windows. Were it not for their help, our Parish would not be as clean and tidy as it is.

There are no Litter Fairies and no money to pay for them!

Boundary Review

Residents of the Upton Ward, which consists of Hunsbury Meadows Parish, Pineham Village and Upton Parish, received a letter in January from Northampton Borough Council asking for people's views on a possible change in the Hunsbury Meadows Parish boundary. We hope that people have considered the matter and replied to the letter.

Currently we are waiting for the next stage in the process and will keep residents informed



SpeedWatch



The Parish Council will again be running SpeedWatch sessions in May and early June. Speeding in the Parish is the single biggest complaint we as a Parish Council receive and we are looking for people to volunteer to help us run the SpeedWatch sessions. The aim of the programme is to raise awareness of the problem of speeding along Banbury Lane, not to catch people speeding!

If you are interested the next training session is on **Saturday 21st April 2018**. This will cover basic safety and how to use the speed gun and lasts a couple of hours most of which is outside getting familiar with the equipment. The training is compulsory so people are covered under the SpeedWatch scheme insurance.

Contact our SpeedWatch coordinator Cllr. Hemming: stuart.hemming@hunsburymeadows.org.uk

USEFUL NUMBERS

Emergency Numbers

Police, fire or ambulance	999
Electricity	0800 028 0247
Gas (24 hr)	0800 111 999
Water (24 hr)	08457 145145
The Samaritans	08457 90 90 90
Social Services (out of hours)	01604 626938

Advice & Information

Age UK	01604 611200
Alcoholics Anonymous	0845 7697555
Citizens Advice Bureau	0844 4111 4444
Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
National Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
NHS 111	111
General Hospital	01604 634700
Sleeping Rough	01604 629804
Community Law Service	01604 621038

Northampton Borough Council

All Council Services (Standard Rate)	0300 330 7000
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Waste and recycling collections are provided for Northampton Borough Council by Enterprise Managed Services.

recycling@northampton.gov.uk or visit
www.northampton.gov.uk/recycling

Out-of-hours

Stray dog out-of-hours 01604 837999
To report other complaints e.g. noise, please leave a message on 01604 838000. This will be dealt with on the next working day.

Northamptonshire County Council

Switchboard	0300 126 1000
School transport	01604 236132
Street Doctor (Road & Lighting)	0845 6011113
Trading standards	08454 04 05 06

USEFUL WEBSITES

Non-Urgent Crime

<https://www.northants.police.uk/webform/online-crime-reporting>

Report Rubbish & Graffiti online

<http://selfserve.northampton.gov.uk/mycouncil>

Report problems with Potholes, Street signs etc. online

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/contactusstreetdoctor

Parish News

Council Precept

The annual precept is the amount of money that the Council requires each year to run your Parish Council and it is collected through your Council Tax. For the current financial year (2017/18) the Precept was for £14,695. For the coming financial year (2018/19) the Parish Council precept, in cash terms, will be exactly the same as last year: £14,695, equating to a Band D equivalent of just £29.07 per annum; a little lower than last year

The Council is looking at how to spend the precept to improve life in the Parish; considering such things as bus shelters, verge and tree maintenance, improvements to the canal towpath and this summer's social event Party in the Park 2 etc. If you have any ideas of reasonable spending that could make life in Hunsbury Meadows even better, then please let us know.

Council Vacancies

Unfortunately, Lucy Hillery, who we reported as joining the Parish Council in the last Newsletter, was unable to take up her appointment. That means that we still have two vacancies on the Council to fill by co-option.

So if anyone has an interest in local matters please put your name forward for co-option on to the Council. It is not an arduous task and only requires a couple of hours a month spent on Council business. With few exceptions, anyone over the age of 18 can apply; you have to live within the Parish or within 3 miles of its boundary, or work within the Parish. Especially any residents of Pineham Village, which we hope will become part of our expanded Parish in the near future.

Contact the Clerk or Chairman for further details.

Helping **YOUR** Community

YOUR ADVERT HERE

The Parish Council is keen to provide a facility for local tradesmen, businesses or charities to advertise in this newsletter which is distributed to every household in the Parish, whilst at the same time helping the Council to reduce production costs.

An advert this size is just £24 per issue, or £60 per annum (a minimum of 3 issues) inc VAT. Charities are FREE
Please contact the Council to place your advert in the next issue.