

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS PARISH MAGAZINE MARCH 2025



**Parish Church Notices
Women's Institute News
Parish Council Update**

Dear Friends,

Currently, many of our news reports concentrate on the world's trouble spots. With major conflicts in the Middle East & Ukraine we are furnished with details of suffering and widespread destruction. Of course, it is important that we are made aware of what is happening for amongst other things it allows us to keep those effected in our prayers and enables us to provide what tangible support we can.

This week, however, the news media has been making us aware of the wonders of our creation as we discover that an event that will not recur for another forty years is currently happening. In our night skies for several days, we have been able to see almost all the major planets in our Universe gathered and visible from the earth and in our case the flat lands of East Anglia.

It is when we can see these events and marvel at the different constructions of each of the planets that we are made aware of how amazing creation is and how blessed we are to live in such a wonderful world.

Thinking about these things and reflecting on last week's reading from Genesis outlining the scripture writer's interpretation of how the world was created made me recall both a poem and a question I was asked by one of my Sunday school class many years ago and which neither I nor anyone else has been able to answer. A young boy asked me where space ends. I couldn't answer, and it's a mystery I'd love to solve. I suspect I never will know the answer.

The Poem that these reflections recalled is one written I believe by Elizabeth Rooney and seems very appropriate as we are drawn to observe the wonders of the stars and our universe.

Swallow a sky full of stars!
Then close your eyes
and taste their mystery
Feel in yourself
The cold immensity
Of all the space that lies
among, between, around
that far faint light.
Taste all the frostiness
Of night.

I think you will agree with me that the Poet wonderfully expresses the wonder & beauty of creation.

I find that this and her other poems breathe forth a light that is both heavenly and earthly and remind us that the simplest gifts of our ordinary lives are filled with the grandeur and presence of God.

May you enjoy much time star gazing

God bless you all

Brian

CHURCH NOTICEBOARD

If you would like to talk, or need prayer, our Rector Rev Tim May would be happy to speak with you on 07871 523249. If you would like a regular email with church news for both St Margaret's and St James' and including links to join online services please sign up on the St James' website:

<https://churchbytheriver.org.uk/wp3/>

and scroll down to the Signup on the left

MARCH MAGAZINE

The magazine will be published as a PDF and distributed by email. Please submit any articles by the morning of **Friday 22nd March**. Please help by providing copy as A4 with 16pt font. When using Word please set the language to 'English (UK)' and be consistent with the format of dates. Images do not need placing in separate boxes. Right-click images and select Format/Square. Thank you for taking the time and effort to contribute to the magazine. Please send articles, advertisements and notices directly to: Rachel Winton, admin@churchbytheriver.org.uk or deliver to the Rachel in the Parish Office at 33, High Street, Hemingford Grey.

CHURCH CLEANING

3rd March - Carolyn Allen and Judith Bolton

17th March - John Hyde and Judith Clark

31st March - Pearl Muspratt and Pam Bartlett

CHURCH SERVICES

St Margaret's Church Hemingford Abbots	Date	St James' Church Hemingford Grey
Sung Eucharist 9:30am	2nd March	All Together Worship 10am
	Ash Wed	Holy Communion with Ashing 10:30am Service of the Word with Ashing 6pm
Book of Common Prayer 8:30am Family Service 9:30am	9th March	Service of the Word 10am
	12th March	Mid Week Communion 10:30am
Sung Eucharist 9:30am	16th March	Service of the Word 10am
Book of Common Prayer 8:30am Matins 9:30am	23rd March	Holy Communion 10am
	26th March	Mid Week Communion 10:30am
Mothering Sunday 9:30 am	30th March	Mothering Sunday 10am Evening Service 6pm
St James Morning Prayer 9.15am Monday & Wednesday in church		
St Margaret's Morning Prayer 8.00am Tuesday & Thursday on Zoom		
Monday to Friday - Night Prayer at 9pm on <u>Zoom</u> <i>A short service of quiet reflection & prayer</i>		

Mothersing Sunday



Family Service

Sunday 30th March at 9:30am
St Margaret's Parish Church, Hemingford Abbots

A short family-friendly service for the village
with flowers for all
followed by coffee, squash and biscuits

ALL WELCOME!

Save the date!

A fabulous
free exhibition
of 30 knitted
Bible stories
produced by
one lady!



Hemingford Abbots Parish Council Report

February 2025

Hi everybody,

Our latest parish council meeting was held on Monday, 24th February as follows:

A new planning application was considered for the land between Houghton Grange and The How (construction of up to 120 new homes). The parish council previously objected to this development in October 2024 based on the increased risk of flooding, that it was in breach of the neighbourhood and local plans (removing the gap between the existing conurbations), and also the high density of the housing at 28 properties per hectare. The latest proposal increases this even further to 30 properties per hectare, whilst failing to address our other concerns, so we voted once again to oppose the application.

On general planning, we discussed the new National Planning Policy Framework – this government initiative has increased the annual new homes target for Huntingdonshire from 844 homes to 1213. The new framework also introduces something called ‘tilted balance’, which means that applications are more likely to be passed unless there is a compelling reason for refusal (such as flooding). For more detail on the up and coming changes to planning policy please contact the clerk for a copy of the HDC NPPF presentation.

A presentation was made by Hemingford’s Community Bus Project regarding the plans to introduce a 16 seater hoppla bus to the Hemingford villages, to run every hour to St Ives and back (various routes). A 4 month pilot would cost in the region of £62,000, and the team are starting to explore potential funding options.

We are concerned about the return of flooding to Royal Oak Lane, surface water around the village and also the general state of the roads, especially on Rideaway near to the flyover / A1307. We agreed to write to the authorities concerned to raise these issues and try to secure some early action.

Residents have asked about the status of the greenhouse at Hemingford Park, for which a planning application was refused in December 2023. Our clerk will make enquiries at HDC Planning, so we can all understand the process and timescales involved when a building is constructed but then fails to secure approval.

We are preparing for our Annual Parish Meeting, on 30th April, which is an opportunity for parishioners to inform the Parish Council of what is important to them. There has been much talk of the Latttenburys of late and so we agreed to invite the developer to come and make a presentation at the APM. so that we can all be better informed about the plans and timings.

Finally, it is time for our annual litter pick! We have fixed the date for Sunday 23rd March (to avoid Mother's Day and also the school half-term), so please watch for the notices and contact our clerk if you are able to join us. We would really appreciate your help!

Best wishes

Marcus Whewell
Chair HAPC

Eco Tip - March

Celebrate Spring. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the season – breathe in the fragrance of blossoms, observe budding catkins, note different bird songs, spot footprints, or use the Pl@ntNet app to identify spring flowers. Nature can boost our happiness, so spend time in your garden, on your balcony, and in local green spaces. Dedicate quality time to appreciate creation's beauty, and thank God for the hope that spring can bring with our Lent resources at arochoa.org.uk/connect-with-gods-creation-overlent/

WI February 2025

House of Spies or Pink Gin Percy, Bonzo and Crommie

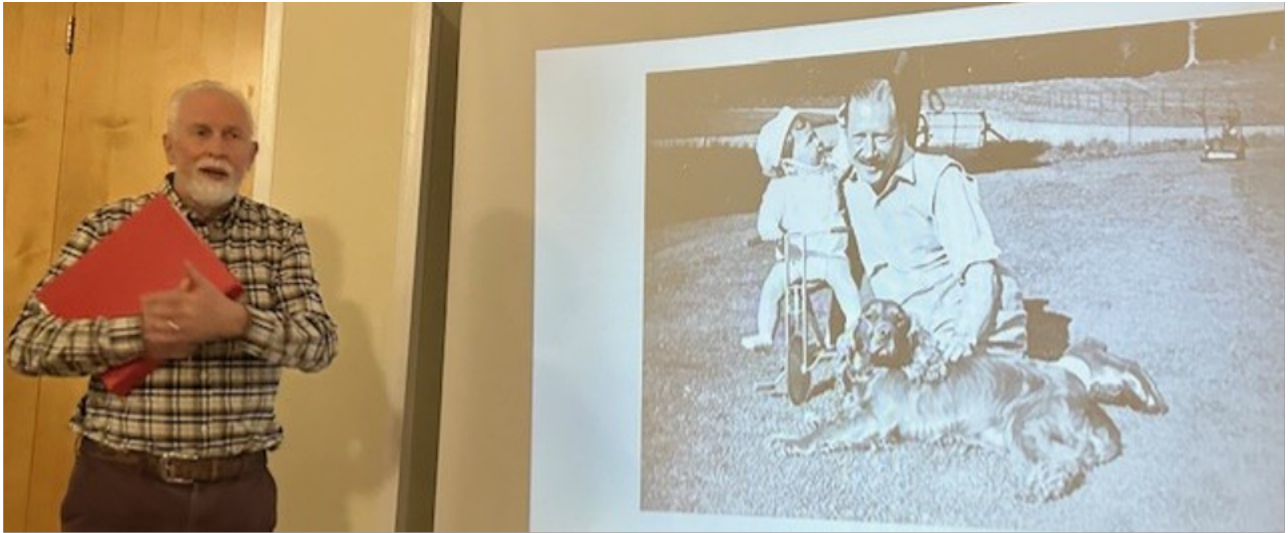


Roger Leivers, local historian, gave a very interesting talk on local property Farm

Hall in Godmanchester and its role as an SOE (Special Operations Executive) training centre during World War 2.

Farm Hall was built around 1700 for the recorder of Huntingdonshire. Much later the hall was requisitioned by the RAF and a spy school was established in 1942. Many locals thought it was a parachute training centre but it was a place of calm and refuge for those agents about to be sent abroad from RAF Tempsford and for those returning from dangerous missions.

We were introduced to the many interesting and brave characters involved in the setting up and running of the house including Wing Commander Cautley Naysmyth Shaw (Pink Gin Percy) and Squadron Leader Bruce Bonsey (Bonzo). Agents who ran the Comet Line, an escape route from France, and many intelligence officers passed through the centre, by now known as HMS Pembroke 3.



Operation Sussex, one of the biggest operations, numbering 100 agents, was instigated from Godmanchester before D Day to assess German positions, fuel supplies, shipping and any other details useful for the allied landings.

Some of the most famous or infamous residents of Farm Hall were several German nuclear scientists who, unknown to them, were bugged and revealed the extent of their research into Germany's ability to produce nuclear weapons. This is now known as Operation Epsilon. Roger has so much information about the history of Farm Hall and gives various talks on other aspects of the war activities.

All agreed it was a very entertaining and informative talk.

Sue Crafer



Pink Gin Percy, (left) and a statue to commemorate his pet dog Crommie (right) who comforted so many of the agents passing through Farm Hall during the war.

Sue Cook



Next Meeting...

We will be meeting next on **Wednesday 5th March** for our **AGM!** There will be a chance to socialise after the business over a glass of wine and we have a mindfulness activity planned! However, please note, unless we have a volunteer for President...we will have to consider the possibility of Hemingford Abbots WI closing down.

Maria Needham

WI President

Sue Crafer

WI Secretary 07738 549598

sue@crafer.co.uk

www.hemingfordabbotswi.co.uk



Recipe

Fluffy American Pancakes

Ingredients

- 135g/4¾oz **plain flour**
- 1 tsp **baking powder**
- ½ tsp **salt**
- 2 tbsp **caster sugar**
- 130ml/4½fl oz **milk**
- 1 large **egg**, lightly beaten
- 2 tbsp melted **butter** (allowed to cool slightly), plus extra for cooking

To serve

- **maple syrup**
- **butter**



Method

1. Sift the flour, baking powder, salt and caster sugar into a large bowl. In a separate bowl or jug, lightly whisk together the milk and egg, then whisk in the melted butter.
2. Pour the milk mixture into the flour mixture and, using a fork, beat until you have a smooth batter. Any lumps will soon disappear with a little mixing. Let the batter stand for a few minutes.
3. Heat a non-stick frying pan over a medium heat and add a knob of butter. When it's melted, add a ladle of batter (or two if your frying pan is big enough to cook two pancakes at the same time). It will seem very thick but this is how it should be.
4. Wait for about 3 minutes until the top of the pancake begins to bubble, and the edges begin to set. Flip it over and cook for another two minutes until both sides are golden brown and the pancake has risen to about 1cm/½in thick. If the pancake is too dark, reduce the heat slightly for the next round.
5. Repeat until all the batter is used up. You can keep the pancakes warm in a low oven, but they taste best fresh out the pan.
6. Serve with lashings of real maple syrup and extra butter, if you like.

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS VILLAGE LUNCH

Hemingford Abbots Village Lunch – Tuesday March 18th

The next Village Lunch is on Tuesday March 18th. Fiona Winter is leading the team of cooks and helpers – and there will be undoubtedly a delicious lunch for everyone. At the time of going to press, the menu is outlined as chicken cassoulet for the main course and key lime pie for dessert. Please look out for recipe details in the Community News email from Sue nearer the time.

Last month there were 59 diners for the February lunch, so let's hope for another good turn-out in March.

At the February lunch, Beryl, our Treasurer for the Village Lunch, announced a price rise. From March the cost of the Lunch will be £7. (Please note this is cash only as we do not have card payment facilities).

The price has had to rise due to a combination of inflationary pressures – the Chancellor has recently put an extra £1 of duty on a bottle of wine, the Village Hall hire costs have risen in 2025, food costs generally have risen and the insurance premium (which is due in the autumn) is expected to rise. Despite the price rise, we hope everyone will continue to see the Village Lunch as good value and an enjoyable community event.

And lastly, for anyone new to the Lunch, please do let one of the organisers or team leaders know if you have a dietary requirement – e.g. gluten free or vegetarian. The cooks are very happy to prepare dishes accordingly if they know in advance, but generally the Village Lunch does not have the capacity to run as a restaurant and have these options available otherwise. (For existing diners, the cooks are already prepared each month).

Bridget Flanagan

07760 131725

tobridget@hotmail.com

Upcoming HUBCLUB EVENTS 3pm at the Pavilion*

March 5th	Seated Exercise
March 12th	Games
March 19th	Seated exercise
March 26th	Jenny Pilsby - Cupcake decorating
April 2nd	Seated Exercise
April 9th	Easter tea at Parish Centre
April 16th	Seated Exercise
April 23rd	TBC
April 30th	Seated Exercise

**(subject to change)*

**Sign up to receive updates by email and WhatsApp.
Contact us to receive direct.**

Tel: 07308 035416 **Email:** hemingfordhub@icloud.com
Web: www.hemingfordhub.co.uk **Registered Charity No:** 1194706

Hoppa Bus keeps the Parish Council in the loop

Following on from meeting the Mayor and presenting to the Transport Infrastructure Committee (TIC) of the Combined Authority, the Hoppa Team has presented the Hub's latest strategy to Hemingford Abbots Parish Council for approval to continue our pilot process and begin the information and fund-raising activities with our local community.

Our next stage is to engage with local potential franchise partners to find ways to work together to provide a robust and reliable service, initially into St Ives and later into the wider transport hubs in Huntingdon.

We are also looking to start applying for funds from several sources, together with our own village fund-raising to engage all villagers in some fun activities.

RECRUITING



Simple acts of kindness — improve our neighbours' lives

Giving just a couple of hours a month makes a difference. Ask about our Hoppa Bus or Hobby Shed projects, or get involved with HubClub and more.

Please **Sign up** to continue the good work:

hemingfordhub@icloud.com

Mob: 07308 035416

www.hemingfordhub.co.uk

Registered Charity No: 1194706



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Abandoned cars

01480 388297

Fly tipping

01480 388640

[https://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/
forms/Operations/
New_Street_Cleaning_1.html](https://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/forms/Operations/New_Street_Cleaning_1.html)

Highway Faults including Potholes

0345 045 5212

[https://
highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.g
ov.uk/](https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/)

Faulty and broken streetlights

K&M Lighting Services

01480 395806

*Where possible please quote street light
number on plaque on the street light and
the location.*

Illegal signs/graffiti

0800 7832220

Refuse & recycling helpline

0800 3896613

<http://huntingdonshire.gov.uk/>

**St Ives & District
Neighbourhood Policing Team**
dial 101

ABBOTS VILLAGE HALL

Stuart Prosser (Chairman)

Margaret Cloke (Treasurer)

Jenny Desborough (Bookings & Hall Mgt 07720 309992)

Beryl Lager (Health and Safety)

Chris Nicol (Parish Council Committee Liaison)

Rie Hargreaves (Trustee)

We All Need Friends – Please Be One of Ours!

If you are interested in becoming a friend of the Village Hall, and are willing to give a couple of hours a month, on an occasional basis to help with leaflet dropping, setting-up the hall etc. – please call: **Stuart Prosser, Chairman 07892 682389**

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS VILLAGE CONTACT LIST

CHURCH

Rector	Rev Tim May	07871 523249
Priest	Revd Canon Brian Atling Revd Judith Bolton	493975 370036
Family Service	Janine Hamilton	390505
Churchwardens	David Wordsworth Daniela Spilca	370634 07722 587759
Deputy Churchwarden	John Hyde Judith Clark	464127
Bellringers	Sharon Williams	830766
Flower Guild	Bridget Flanagan	465370
Magazine	Parish Office Team admin@churchbytheriver.org.uk	467250
Treasurer	John Hyde	464127

For weddings see churchbytheriver.org.uk/weddings

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Marcus Whewell (chairman)	marcus.whewell@hemingford-abbots.org.uk	464293
Cllr Shaun Reinson	shaun.reinson@hemingford-abbots.org.uk	
Cllr Rie Hargreaves	rie.hargreaves@hemingford-abbots.org.uk	
Richard Chamberlain	richardchamberlain@hemingford-abbots.org.uk	
Maria Halls	mariahalls@hemingford-abbots.org.uk	

PARISH CLERK

Maxine Blewett	parishclerk@hemingford-abbots.org.uk	
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COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Douglas Dew		469814
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DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Sarah Conboy	sarah.conboy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	
Debbie Mickelburgh	debbie.mickleburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	
Brett Mickleburgh	brett.mickleburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	

Parish Council Website: www.hemingfordabbots.org.uk

Chairman	Stuart Prosser	07892 682389
Bookings	Jenny Desborough	468956
Bridge Club	Chris Nicol	300185
Village Lunch	To be confirmed	
Women's Institute	Maria Needham	07730 556870