# HEMINGFORD ABBOTS PARISH MAGAZINE JUNE 2025



Parish Church Notices Women's Institute News Parish Council Update Hello!

This month is a busy one with the return of the Bi-Annual Flower Festival! May I start by saying a massive thank you in advance to all involved for your hard work both in the running up to and during the event. I think we can all agree that while the Flower Festival raises vital funds to maintain the Church building, it also brings the village together and builds community spirit.

This last week I was in Naples and had the privilege of visiting the gardens of the composer William Walton. These stunning gardens set against the Ischia hill side are a delightful place and show case some exotic plants found across the globe. It got me thinking about all the beautiful gardens in Hemingford Abbots and the hard work that goes into maintaining them. I am very much looking forward to the Flower Festival and seeing the fruits of your gardening skills!

Tim

# Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th June 2025

Gardens open from 11am to 5pm



# **CHURCH SERVICES**

St Margaret's Church Hemingford Abbots		St James' Church Hemingford Grey
9.30am Sung Eucharist	1st June	10am All Together Worship
8:30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) 9:30am Family Service	8th June	10am Morning Worship
	11th June	10:30 am Mid week Communion
9.30am Sung Eucharist	15th June	10am Morning Worship
8:30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) 9:30am Matins	22nd June	10am Holy Communion 6pm Evening Service
	25th June	10:30 am Mid week Communion
Flower Festival 6:00 pm Choral Evensong	29th June	10am Morning Worship

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 Zoom A short service of quiet reflection & prayer



# **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

## JULY MAGAZINE

The magazine will be published as a PDF and distributed by email. Please submit any articles by the morning of **Friday 25th JULY** 

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, <u>admin@churchbytheriver.org.uk</u> or deliver to the Rachel in the Parish Office at 33, High Street, Hemingford Grey.

## **CHURCH CLEANING**

**9th June** Carolyn Allen and Judith Bolton **23rd June** Judith Clark and John Hyde

# Hemingford Abbots Parish Council Report May 2025

Hi everyone,

It has been a particularly busy 4 weeks for the Parish Council, with two monthly meetings, and the hosting of the Annual Parish Meeting.

The APM was held at the village hall on April 30<sup>th</sup>, where several groups and organisations gave updates on various activities that support the village, and their reports are available to view on the parish website. We also received an informative presentation from Moats Way Ltd regarding their plans to develop the site south of the A1307 into residential housing.

We have also held two HAPC monthly meetings: on April 28<sup>th</sup>, the PC considered two new planning applications:

**25/00546/FUL Land Adjacent Ridgeway Farm Rideaway Hemingford Abbots.** Proposal: Erection of 3 barns for storage of thatching materials with hardstanding for vehicles.

We resolved to recommend refusal because application did not provide information on the mitigation of the risk of fire, he proximity to the junction onto/ from Rideaway, particularly entry and egress to the site, and the increased risk of accidents occurring due to large vehicles needing to access the site 6 days a week, and also the height of the barns will obscure the view when turning into the road from Rideaway (towards New Road).

23/00627/OUT Land Between Houghton Grange and The How Houghton <u>Road Houghton.</u> Proposal: Outline planning permission with all matters reserved for the construction of up to 120 homes (Use Class C3) with associated public open space, landscaping, play areas, surface water attenuation, roads, car parking, pedestrian and cycle routes, utility infrastructure and associated works. HAPC to respond by 29/4/25.

We resolved to recommend refusal of this outline planning proposal for the same reasons given in our original response - that this outline planning application is not in accordance with HDCs Local Plan particularly in respect of the resultant loss of openness between Houghton and Wyton and St Ives, exacerbated by building close to, rather than away from, the A1123. Ww are also concerned about the potential overflow of polluted surface water from the site into the river.

Then on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we met once again as follows:

### Planning Application: 25/00767/HHFUL & 25/00775/LBC Hemingford Park Hall Hemingford Park Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE289AS. Proposed replacement greenhouse (retrospective). HAPC to respond by the 30th of May 2025

We resolved neither for nor against this application, though we have mentioned to HDC that the air-conditioning units are still clearly showing on some photographs; therefore, we have asked for confirmation that these have been removed (as stated elsewhere in writing in the application).

### Planning Application: <u>25/00781/REM Land West of Wychwood Church</u> <u>End, Hilton. Proposal: Reserved Matters Application relating to the</u> <u>approval of appearance, layout, landscape and scale following outline</u> <u>approval 20/00164/OUT in respect of the construction of 16 Dwellings.</u>

# HAPC resolved to refer to our previous response that we submitted on the 25/2/2021 (below).

'HAPC resolved to make comment only on the part of this application which referred to the provision of affordable housing...HAPC considered that any affordable housing for this parish would be best sited here or preferably in Hemingford Grey, where there is better access to school, shop and other facilities etc. Hilton may be geographically adjacent to the parish boundary, but the settlements do not relate to each other and in particular are separated by 2 dual carriageways.'

On other matters - as part of our annual external audit, we will soon be publishing our annual accounts for everyone to view (called the 'exercise of public rights'). These will be made available on the various noticeboards, and on the parish website.

Also, the Parish Council recently conducted repairs on various elements of the play equipment situated on the playing field and agreed to replace one of the benches which has sadly perished.

We are pleased to hear that the resurfacing of Rideaway (near the bridge over the A1307) is planned for early June: we will post further information as we receive it.

Finally, we have also been informed by parishioners of some suspicious activity late at night around the former Little Chef / Shell garage: we will be reporting this to the police, but would be grateful if everyone would stay vigilant and let us know if they see anything else unusual on or close to the site.

Marcus Whewell

## It's June 2025 already! How did that happen?

The final countdown has begun. Thank you to everyone for their ongoing efforts as the big weekend draws ever closer.

Whether it be tending your garden to look its absolute best, baking your cakes for the freezer, beavering away at your volunteer role or creating floral masterpieces in the church I know your combined efforts are shaping up to make this a unforgettable occasion. One last push. Keep on going!



Best wishes to everyone, your families and friends and all our visitors for a fabulous weekend and a special time for our village and its community.

Now we need the weather to play its part.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Hemingfords Scout Group

1<sup>st</sup> Hemingfords Scout Group is a very successful and popular group engaging many young people between the ages of 6 and 14 from the Hemingfords in fun and exciting activities throughout the year. Due to a number of factors we currently find ourselves short of adult volunteers available to organise and run the weekly meetings. We therefore need to recruit more adults urgently.



If you, or someone you know, would like to help please get in touch. No previous experience is required and full training and support will be provided. There is a wealth of information and resources available to help run the programme.

Please contact Tony Rogers, our Group Lead Volunteer at <u>lead.volunteer@1st-Hemingfords-scouts.org.uk</u> for an initial discussion.







## HUBCLUB EVENTS 3pm at the Pavilion (subject to change)

June 4th	Bee keeping a talk by Steve Fenner
June 11th	Seated exercise with visit from Social Prescriber Gail Higham
June 18th	Canasta, jigsaws and games
June 25th	Seated exercise
July 2nd	Riva and Regina on cruising
July 9th	Seated exercise

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

Tel: 07308 035416Email: hemingfordhub@icloud.comWeb: www.hemingfordhub.co.ukRegistered Charity No: 1194706

## **HEMINGFORD ABBOTS VILLAGE LUNCH**

We have decided that there will <u>not</u> be a June Village Lunch this year. This was a practical and realistic decision - the date is so close to the Flower Festival when very many people are extremely busy with Festival preparations. So, it was felt that it would be best to forego the June Lunch, and re-group and meet again after the summer in the Village Hall on **Tuesday 16th September.** 

Thank you to all the cooks and helpers over the year. Beryl with the finances, Paul and Alan with the drinks, Anne-Marie with the Environmental Health record, and Jenny with the Village Hall. The Lunch continues to be well-attended and achieves its aim of being a friendly hub of the community.

Over the summer I will compile a rota for the coming year. Many hands do indeed make light work, so if you or any of your friends and neighbours feel that you would be able to help, please be in touch and I am absolutely certain I will be able to find a space for you on the rota.

## **Bridget Flanagan**

07760 131725

# Eco Tip - June 2025

Join in with a nature and climate initiative. One of A Rocha UK's firm beliefs is that we are more likely to nurture and defend God's creation if we spend time enjoying it. Joining in with wider initiatives also reminds us of the power and encouragement of being part of communities and taking action together. Churches Count on Nature, 30 Days Wild, and The Great Big Green Week all take place across June. Join an awareness-raising event or nature count as an individual, with your household or church. Find out more at caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churches-counton-nature-faqs, wildlifetrusts.org/30-dayswild and greatbiggreenweek.com.

# **Recipe - Mini lemon & rose cakes**

### Ingredients

50g butter, plus extra for greasing 100g caster sugar 3 British Blacktail Free Range Large Eggs 1 tsp rose water 100g plain flour ½ tsp baking powder 1 unwaxed lemon, finely grated zest Rose petals, *to serve* 

### For the icing

100g icing sugar 1 tsp rose water Pink food colouring



- 1. Preheat the oven to 180°C, gas mark 4. Cut out 12 discs of baking parchment, the same size as the bottom of the holes in a 12-hole muffin tin. Melt a knob of butter and, using a pastry brush, coat the inside of each hole, then line with the prepared parchment.
- 2. Melt 50g butter in a small saucepan, then set aside to cool slightly. Place the sugar, eggs and rose water into a large bowl or the bowl of a stand mixer, then whisk with an electric whisk for 10-15 minutes, or until tripled in volume and pale in colour.
- 3. Sieve the flour and baking powder over the top of the mixture and gently fold together, using a balloon whisk or metal spoon, Pour the melted butter around the edge of the bowl, then sprinkle over the lemon zest and repeat the folding process until all the ingredients are just combined.
- 4. Divide the mixture between the 12 prepared holes and smooth the top with a spatula. Bake for 15-17 minutes, until risen and golden on top. They should be spongy to the touch.
- 5. Using oven gloves, immediately invert the tray onto a cooling rack so the cakes don't get stuck in the pan. Remove the baking parchment and allow to cool completely before icing.
- 6. Meanwhile, if using, make the candied lemon peel. For the icing, sieve the icing sugar into a bowl and stir in the rose water to taste, with enough water to make a thick spreadable paste. Add a tiny amount of food colouring to create a pastel pink colour, if liked.
- 7. Spread the icing on top of each cake, pushing it right to the edges so it begins to drip down the sides. Top each cake with candied lemon peel (if using) and a few rose petals, then serve.

### Cook's tip

Floral flavours are on trend, but also strike fear into home bakers as, if added with a heavy hand, they can taste soapy and overpowering. The trick is to use a proper measuring spoon, rather than just a teaspoon, so you can be sure you're adding the correct amount. Start with just a little, as you can always add more.

# WI May 2025 - Community First Responders







Alison introduced our speakers, Neil Mackie and John Finch, who proceeded to inform us on Community First Responders and their deployment.

Neil and John had brought their extensive kit to show us including a Raizer Chair which can move patients who have fallen into a vertical position, talked us through delivery of compression and gave us an opportunity to try out the compression technique on two models known as Resus Annies.

There are 1100 Community First Responders (CFR) in East Anglia and they are dispatched following 999 calls where the person is not breathing known as a Category 1 call.

CFRs are trained by the ambulance service and deal with breathing, lung and heart related issues. They are in direct contact with control centres the same as the ambulance crew using a specialized satnav system.

One request from Neil and John was to look at your front door to see how clear the number is - sometimes an issue when locating the address!

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The main categories attended by CFRs are **Category 1** - Cardiac arrest or seizure **Category 2** - Strokes, falls, chest pain and stomach pain They will not be called to road traffic accidents, major trauma, suicide or children under 2.

John and Neil explained that the main skill sets include managing the situation and a dynamic risk assessment, assessing the consciousness of the patient and communication between the patient and any family present before the arrival of the ambulance crew. We were shown the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which comes with very clear spoken instructions as to its use which makes its operation much easier than many of us expected. It will only work if a pulse cannot be detected. Their message was don't be afraid to use an AED and just follow the prompts. CPR increases the chance of survival so again better to administer that than doing nothing.

The Raizer chair was demonstrated by Chris Nicol and we then had the opportunity to try our CPR techniques on the Resus Annies. It was surprisingly tiring and required strong arms! The rest of the general kit carried by CFRs was explained.

The main message from the evening tied in perfectly with the WI resolution 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' and hopefully we all feel more confident if a situation arises where we can be of use.

### Sue Crafer









## Next Meeting...

We will be meeting on **Wednesday 4th June f**or our very own Pudding Club – A chance to taste a Parade of Seven Puddings made by our members! Will you manage to try them all? Don't eat too much before you come!

Sue Cook

Carolyn Purdie

WI President

Sue Crafer

WI Secretary 07738 549598



www.hemingfordabbotswi.co.uk







# The Flower Festival 28 and 29 June 2025

By the time you are reading this we shall be racing headlong towards that weekend which comes once every two years when our village dresses itself up and opens its gates and its arms to showcase our beautiful surroundings and witness our community spirit.

Those who are old hands, long-term residents or in the thick of the organisation tend to assume everyone knows the history and the background, the whys, the wheres the hows and the whens. So for those of you who are wondering what it's all about let us share some of the background.

There is no one more qualified to give us the background than our resident historian Bridget Flanagan. Bridget has previously chaired the Flower Festival Steering Group and is currently Chair of The Friends of St Margarets. This particular piece of history is close to her heart,

The Flower Festivals has become something of a tradition. And now it's part of the identity of our village.

Its title sounds gentle and a bit oldfashioned – and in a way it is. But it is also a huge enterprise for a small village that needs all the man power (i.e. everybody) that we can muster, plus resources, goodwill and generosity in abundance. And this is not just from our village, but also our neighbouring villages and any friends and family who have cleared their diary for the last weekend in June. The Festival happens every two years – because everybody needs a rest in the year in between.



The Festival began in 1964 – a bright idea from Mrs Phyllis Winter who saw a flower festival in Flore in Northamptonshire and thought it would be a good way to raise funds for the upkeep of our church building in Hemingford Abbots.

The formula has remained largely the same for the last 60 years. Open gardens – and there are lots of lovely gardens in our village, of all sizes and of all kinds. A church decorated with stunning flower arrangements complemented by instrumental recitals and concerts. Homemade afternoon teas in some of the gardens while listening to the band, then a walk around the village to watch morris dancers, see traditional craft displays or just chat with friends. And over those 60 years, the sun has (almost) always shone.

All the funds go to support the fabric repair and maintenance of the church. The Festival is run in a non-commercial way – although behind the scenes there is a highly-skilled management team who ensure its safety and success. And behind that is the warm invitation from Hemingford Abbots for people to come, enjoy and share this beautiful village. The Flower Festival is very special. Hemingford Abbots has made it its own; simply unique.



## St Margaret's Church

Through these pages we have covered many different aspects of the Flower Festival but it is fitting in this final article before the Festival to focus on what happens in St Margaret's over the Flower Festival weekend and why it is regarded by many as the stand-out act. Again we turn to Bridget Flanagan this time wearing her (sun) hat as Chair of the Flower Guild. I'm sure her description of this year's plans will entice you to visit the church and be blown away!

## Flowers in the Church

A flower festival celebrates the beauty of flowers. And in Hemingford Abbots it is always done in two ways - with summer flowers of the village gardens and with flower arrangements in the church. From the first Flower Festival in 1964 until 1979, the church displays were organised by Ann Alington (who lived at Hemingford Park) along with members of St Ives Flower Club. In 1981 Jenny Hemingford took on the organisation and the displays were arranged by the church Flower Guild. In



2008 Jenny passed the chairmanship of the Flower Guild and the Flower Festival displays to me.

The Flower Guild chooses a 'theme' for an overall design of flowers in the church. This is a religious text - and it is interpreted in flowers and also in the Festival music and Evensong service. This year the theme is 'Let all the world in every corner sing - my God and King'. It is a line from the famous hymn written in 1633 by George Herbert.

The Flower Guild will welcome back old friends, and invite/press-gang family and neighbours to help. This year 25 arrangers will depict different types of world music and song. Eighteen golden trumpets of flowers will frame the central aisle. Around the church there will be lullabies, Christmas carols, sea shanties, bird song, jungle music and much more. Over 2000 stems of flowers will be used, plus buckets and buckets of foliage. It is a huge team effort that takes many months of planning. It will be spectacular - so do come. And we hope you enjoy it

## Let there be music

If you're wanting quiet time in the church to contemplate its beauty and tranquillity, then come before the crowds arrive! But don't forget that the flowers will remain in the church for up to a week after the Festival, so there will be more opportunities for quiet reflection.

However, an eclectic programme of music will provide a fitting accompaniment to the splendour of the church, decked in all its glory. On each Festival day there will be live music by local musicians at the following times:

12.00 organ recital 13.00 harp recital 14.00 organ recital 15.00 harp recital

## On Saturday evening at 6.00pm

the church will rock to the sound of Django's Tiger.



Back by popular request, this crowd-pleasing quartet of exceptional musicians will bring you gypsy jazz, Django-style, featuring music from the 1920s to the 2020s. It promises to be a foot-tapping and uplifting end to Day 1 – not to be missed!

The performance will last 75 minutes.Entrance is free but there will a retiring collection. https://djangostiger.wordpress.com/djangos-tiger-the-band/ diangostiger.co.uk

In keeping with the theme of '*Let All the World in Every Corner Sing*', the 'grand finale' will take place at 6.00 pm on Sunday evening. Preceded by a peal of bells, the 2025 Flower Festival will conclude with a Flower Festival Choral Evensong, led by Reverend Tim May, Rector of St Margaret's Church.

All are welcome. Come along and raise the roof on this concluding act of what we are sure will prove to be a wonderful two days.

Enjoy it everyone!

to know more check out our website www.hemingfordabbots.org

## How Can You Get Involved?

#### VOLUNTEER

there are so many ways to help!

Volunteer Coordinators
Carrie Plummer & Katie Slater

You'll be hearing from them very soon but if you cant wait please email on: info@haflowerfestival.org

#### GIVE PLANTS

Too many seedlings? Splitting plants We'll take them!



Plant stall coordinators
Jo Wills and Rie Hargreaves

You'll be hearing from them very soon but if you cant wait please email on: info@haflowerfestival.org

#### SPREAD THE WORD

Tell your friends, family, colleagues



word-of-mouth: digital

www.haflowerfestival.org haflowerfestival



hemingfordflower

need some fliers? email: info@haflowerfestival.org **BAKE CAKES!** 

The great Hemingford Bake-off



Hospitality & Cakes Coordinators Alex Donlon & Alli Bentley

You'll be hearing from them very soon but if you cant wait please email on: <u>info@haflowerfestival.org</u>

#### **DONATE BOOKS** Time to clear your bookshelves



Book collector Dickie Brookes

You'll be hearing from them very soon but if you cant wait please email on: info@haflowerfestival.org

#### COME!

Buy tickets online via website



#### www.haflowerfestival.org

or at Chapman's Field or Village Hall on the day.

We can't wait to welcome you to the

Hemingford Abbots Flower Festival 2025

### Pam Bartlett - Chair of Steering Group HAFF25

07919573001 info@haflowerfestival.org

## **USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Abandoned cars Fly 1 01480 388297 01480

**Fly tipping** 01480 388640

https://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/ forms/Operations/ New Street Cleaning 1.html Highway Faults including Potholes 0345 045 5212

<u>https://</u> highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.g ov.uk/

> Illegal signs/graffiti 0800 7832220

Refuse & recycling helpline 0800 3896613 http://huntingdonshire.gov.uk/

St Ives & District Neighbourhood Policing Team dial 101

## 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.

## **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	John Hyde Daniela Spilca	464127 07722 587759
Deputy Churchwarden	Pearl Muspratt Judith Clark	
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

#### COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Douglas Dew

469814

### 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