

# Impington Council - Autumn 2007



## Saving our Railway Heritage

Heritage is important, it's part of what makes Impington and Histon what they are.

There's good news about **Histon Station**:

A press release issued this month said the "SOS Campaign" has succeeded in getting relevant parties around the table and all have expressed a desire to retain the station building. This is a major achievement.

As a result the Guided Busway Team has looked at the processes involved in constructing the track. It would be possible for the overhead gantry, used to lay the concrete track sections, to pass the station building; however it would be necessary to remove most of the width of the canopy and platform to do so. A solution has been found and the team is now saying that it does not need to demolish the station!

There is still much to do as it is still possible to demolish the station if the owner wishes to do so and gets appropriate planning permission.

Pene Nudds, leader of the SOS campaign says: *"Confirmation about the gantry is fantastic news and gives us good reason to be optimistic about saving the station."*

*"I am hopeful saving this locally important and historic building could now be a real possibility."*

David Jenkins, County Councillor and consistent supporter says: *"There are still hurdles to be jumped but this is a super start. Now the owner of the site, who has said that he'd prefer to keep the building, can develop ideas which will enable him to profit from his investment. There's every chance he will be able to do this to meet his own financial needs and do something which delivers what the local community wants."*

The GateKeeper's Hut has been safely dismantled and stored by a band of volunteers under the guidance of local bricklayer Mick Marshall along with the support of other local businesses.

Please see [www.hisimp.net/gkh.htm](http://www.hisimp.net/gkh.htm). All we need now is a safe place to rebuild it next year! One possibility is on the new platform alongside The Copse, so discussions with the Guided Busway Team have begun. Can you suggest another site?



*Impington Mill - with sails fully restored, and turning in the wind. This stage of the restoration completed 22nd September.*



## Summer Reading Challenge

For the last few years, Impington Council has helped fund additional staff for the Reading Challenge at Histon Library. Josephine Teague writes:

I was delighted to attend Histon library to give out the medals to the children who

October 2007

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This month there are too many to list, but are obvious from the articles - thanks to you all!



took part in "The Big Wild Read" this summer. The challenge this year called for children to grow as readers and make a positive difference to the environment. The children needed to read six books, borrowed from the library, during the summer holidays. On completing the challenge they received a certificate and medal at the presentation ceremony to mark their achievement.

The challenge asked youngsters to conserve energy; use composters, switch off computers and televisions, not leave them on standby and plant wild flower seeds in their gardens.

Libraries have an enormous amount to contribute towards children's reading; helping them use library resources and go back to school ready to learn, so important for a child's life chances.

As a result of the challenge, a partnership between the Reading Agency (who produce all the reading challenge material for sale to Public library authorities in the UK) The Woodland Trust, BBC Breathing Places and public libraries, the Woodland Trust will be able to plant 20,000 new trees throughout the UK. It is going to be a remarkable achievement.

Ninety registered to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge - The Big Wild Read (BWR)- at Histon Library, and over sixty completed.

Throughout the summer holidays a member of library staff - Rosemary Pryke, worked tirelessly at special sessions talking to the children about the books they had read, gave out BWR log books, stickers, goodies, wordsearches, and did small craft activities -lots of incentives to keep them going and to make it fun.

Histon Football Club also offered a draw for the privilege of being a mascot for a football game, one girl, Niamh Keady, and one boy, Edward Shellard, were drawn out

One little boy allowed me to see his book, which had wonderful scratch "smellies" such as compost and dirty socks. It was a lovely experience to be with the children and watching even after the presentation was over, getting books and settling down to read. One pair were settled together on a bean bag and reading a book between them. As an avid reader myself I could relate to their oblivion of the outside world.

## Cycling

With all the talk in the local press of congestion charging for Cambridge it has been easy to overlook potential benefits which would go hand in hand with the charge. As well as investment in buses, County Council is talking of an investment of £50 million pounds in cycling and walking infrastructure, which should translate into a significant amount of good quality cycling facilities in the future. More immediately, one good thing to come out of the Guided Bus scheme will be the opening of the maintenance track as a cycle and footway, providing a direct (motor) traffic-free route to Cambridge Regional College and Cambridge Science Park in one direction and to Oakington, Northstowe (when built) and St Ives in the other.

Recent cycle lane introductions locally have made cycling as a means of local transport more appealing. Cycling has a significant contribution to make in reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and is often quicker and more direct for short journeys, especially at busy times of the day: cyclists rarely get held up by congestion. Many say they don't cycle because they don't feel safe, yet when measured in terms of time at risk, cycling is statistically as safe as car travel. The more

you cycle the lower the risk of injury; and the more people there are cycling the safer it becomes for everyone.

With the right bike, almost anyone can cycle, and with training learn how to maximise their safety even when cycling with traffic. For many years, Histon Junior School has been running the Safer Cycling course to provide basic training for Year 6 children. And now Road Safety Services at the County Council offers one-to-one Adult Cycle Training to all levels of cyclists, from complete beginners who can't even get started on a bike through to those who can ride but need confidence building up before venturing onto the road. Even more experienced riders seek help with mastering complex manoeuvres such as multi-lane roundabouts and other large junctions. Training is given to the National Cycle Training Standards by experienced and accredited trainers, tailored to the needs of the individual.



*Cyclist undergoing training - photo Lindsey Rushmore*

You can request a trainer of the same gender as yourself, and lessons during the day on weekdays, in the evenings or at weekends. Lessons can be one, 1½ or two hours, and range from £20 for a single hour to £28 for two hours. Learners have ranged in age from 16 to 60+. Feedback shows that they have found it very useful and enjoyable.

For details call Road Safety on 01480 375105, or go to [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/safety/education/adult+cycle+training.htm](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/safety/education/adult+cycle+training.htm), where you can also book.

## Impington's New Councillors

**Vanessa Kelly:** My family and I moved to Impington about four years ago and immediately felt at home here. I found that whilst Impington shares many of Cambridge's qualities (lively, welcoming, international, clogged at rush hour), it has its own identity, strong sense of community and good quality of life. I became a parish councillor to try to help preserve these at a time of change and upheaval. Having lived in faceless suburbs in the American Mid-West as a child, London in my teens and twenties and a snobby, inward-looking Cotswold village in my thirties, I understand very well the importance of a sense of belonging.



Over the years, I have worked in-house and freelance as a picture researcher for publishers, but with my husband, Andrew, running his own business, 2 teenage daughters and aging parents, work has taken a back seat for now. Evenings and weekends seem (too) dominated by football - all the family are Stutes fans, and my youngest, Matilda is a Histon Hornet. Wednesday evenings often see me making up the numbers in the Station Vue's Quiz evenings.

Transport and planning are my particular areas of interest - even before my time as a councillor, I'd written letters of objection and attended numerous meetings on Northstowe, the Guided Bus and the NIAB development. I was very involved in efforts to undo road 'improvements' (pinchpoints, narrow islands) round Arbury Park. I've always been keen

on cycling as a way of getting around (no Lycra!) and after 2 years in Holland came back to the UK fired up about the need for proper money to be spent on cycling and pedestrian facilities. I'm on the Committee of the Cambridge Cycling Campaign. And I'd be happy to hear about any Transport issues affecting you!

**Nick Warren:** I moved to Cambridge in August 2006, along with my wife (Helen) and two children (Chris & Abby), and moved in to Arbury Park in March 2007. We're living on the Persimmon site right near the new school and were amongst the first to move into Arbury Park, and are pleased to now have immediate neighbours since the start of September.



Despite a demanding job, in my spare time I'm a parent governor at Mayfield Primary School, and the webmaster behind the [www.insidearburypark.org.uk](http://www.insidearburypark.org.uk) web site. Other hobbies include motorcycling (BMW R1150GS!), squash and 5-a-side football, and I'd like to get back in to rowing now I'm back in a city with a river! I'm also a committed member of City Church Cambridge, and for my sins, a perennially frustrated Crystal Palace fan, but do plan to spend time watching my new local team - Histon FC!

I'm also really looking forward to playing my part in the development of Arbury Park and making a difference as part of Impington Parish Council. I believe there's a particularly exciting opportunity to help with the establishment of an entire new community at Arbury Park, and balancing the needs of that 'infant' group with the need to integrate with the surrounding communities. Before moving to Cambridge, we lived in several established areas across Swindon - the opportunity to be involved from the birth of a new community was too good to pass by.

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## Arbury Park...from the inside

Nick Warren, resident and recently co-opted Impington Councillor writes:

*"I didn't know anyone was living at Arbury Park yet"* - a refrain I still regularly hear around Cambridge.

Well, actually, the first people moved in on 31 Dec 2006, and I've been there with my family since early March. At that time we were amongst the first Arbury Park pioneers, but there's several hundred residents now, and over 100 houses and flats occupied. Of course, there's still a lot of development going on - in fact, I'm not sure there aren't still more builders than residents - but it really is beginning to feel more like home. They may seem like small things, but recently we got streetlights, and something that looks and behaves largely like a pavement!!

And before anyone jumps on me, I haven't forgotten our wonderful street signs! "What can be so wonderful about street signs" did I hear someone ask? Well, they're ours, I mean really ours, we made them, we painted them, we installed them and we love 'em!!! Why? Well, the council's street sign plans were well over a year away, and we were getting fed up with people getting lost...not just friends and relatives, but delivery vans, couriers, Tesco's, taxis etc... "Errr, you take the first entrance on to Arbury Park, and at the first pile of mud on your left, take a right, then a right by the digger, and our house is at the back...the only one with

a light on!!!!" We may not have made it on to Google maps, or any Sat Nav systems, but we're on most post code systems, and now we have street signs.

One of the best elements of making the street signs (which was all organised by one of our neighbourhood artists - thank you, Kirsten!!) was the wide involvement across the whole of Arbury Park - the 'making' was spread over several days during the summer holidays and gave the kids plenty of opportunity to get paint everywhere. The end results were brilliant!

And of course the primary school has now opened - it's a real landmark for the whole Park, with its bright orange and green facades and from February next year, it will have a very exciting 'helical' wind turbine - together with solar heating, it's gonna be a cool demonstration to both students and local residents of a 'green' lifestyle. As planned, the school is operating out of what will become the two community rooms from early next year, whilst the contractors complete the classrooms. Opening with 12 children at the start of September, the school's already grown as more people move in, and plans to have a full complement of around 120 children in 4 classes. From what I've seen, the school design is excellent, with lots of space inside and out, a large school hall and some lovely gardens. As well as the community rooms, there'll also be some additional rooms that are intended to have a more 'medical' orientation!

For now we have to satisfy ourselves with pictures and plans of the play areas, and open spaces, playing fields, community centre and the little shopping centre. I'm not sure I'm allowed to make a 'comment' like this, but the developers aren't exactly falling over themselves to fulfil their community facility commitments. Still, when we do eventually get there, they should be good - if you're in the area of Topper St, have a walk by Public Open Space 5 to see the exciting range of play equipment (still!) being installed. And the community centre will have an organic roof - whatever that means, I suppose we'll be needing a cordless mower!! Sadly, it looks like the final design of the community centre won't be the innovative round building that was originally mooted - I guess some cutbacks are inevitable, but hope there aren't too many more that affect community facilities!

It's exciting living on Arbury Park, there's so much going on...new buildings, new neighbours, new issues and challenges. We did have a bus route through the park, but now we don't - apparently, buses stopping to pick up residents was making life difficult for the builders. There's a lot of dust (surprising huh!!), and the roads are often muddy, so keeping cars and windows clean is an endless task. The worst thing? The anti-social behaviour across the site - bikes and mopeds being ridden at speed, at all hours and without helmets - the verbal abuse at residents and even some stone throwing - the stolen bikes and moped. I realise we're not alone in experiencing this kind of behaviour, just disappointed that it's started so early in our new community.

The best thing? Being in at the birth of something new and exciting, being part of a developing community, able to make a difference to how that community grows and matures. Arbury Park is going to be great - designs and planning have been well done and the development process well managed to date - from a UK architectural and planning perspective it's cutting edge. Roll on the change!!!

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## July 15th - A day in the Life of the Rec

One Sunday this summer, a beautifully sunny day, the Rec shone in all its glory. Over 1000 people attended for sports activities, demonstrating the Parish Councils' belief that the

Rec could be a community based centre for healthy activity and fun. Sunday July 15th saw the following events:

**Histon Hornets 5-a-side tournament:** The annual five a side football tournament is one of the most highly regarded competitions in the area. Behind the scenes an army of volunteers have been busy contacting various people and organisations, arranging the details and the timing in preparation for the tournament. Many local businesses and companies support the Hornets by allowing the club to use their car parks (EEDA and Barclays), take out adverts in the tournament programme and some even sponsor trophies.

It's taken many months of planning, but with permissions and the infrastructure all in place, the event can proceed.

The tournament takes place on the lower part of the Rec. The superb pitches and new facilities available are the envy of many teams in the area. As the Rec is a public area, all participants are encouraged to remain on the lower part (the Hornets ensured additional portaloos were available on the day). Tennis, Bowls and Cricket are all played, so minimum disturbance to other users is a priority.

Over 600 children played in the tournament. From under 9 to under 13's (boys and girls). Over 200 games and over 1000 people came down to see their kids play football. The Barbecue ran for ten hours and served hundreds of burgers and hot dogs. At the end of the day over one hundred trophies were proudly won and presented to the participants. Histon F.C full back and local hero Erkan Okay came down to present trophies much to the delight of winning teams. Photographic mementos could be bought from DE Photo photographic service, which proved popular. Winning teams and details remain on the Hornets website.



There are so many people to thank when staging the tournament and the Hornets are grateful to everyone who contributed to the event and made it so successful.

**The Dilly Cup with the Tennis Club:** By co-incidence 15th July was also the main day in Histon Tennis Club's summer programme. The club staged the Dilly Cup competition, for a cup which has a list of winners engraved on it dating back to the 1930's. The fact that the Recreation Ground was so busy that day only added to the sense of occasion for the tennis players, who look forward to this event each year.

A bumper entry of half the club's adult membership competed in a Handicap Mixed Doubles tournament. The courts were in superb condition thanks to the efforts of Steve Campin. The handicaps and general running of the tournament were conducted with their usual ruthless efficiency by Anna Chaudhri and Dave Rush. After an afternoons competitive tennis the Cup was won by Jane Rush and Ashley Grimmer, the partnership combining their complementary powers of guile and experience with youth & fitness!

The event is also the club's main social gathering of the summer. A superb buffet meal and drinks (including Pimms) was laid on in the Community Room and all enjoyed a late evenings socialising at the end of a tough afternoons tennis.

**Rutland Sunday League Cricket Match:** As well as fielding four adult sides every Saturday, Histon Cricket Club has entered a side in the Rutland Sunday League. Though this

league is not a formal Academy league, the club treat this as a league in the same spirit, that is a means of colts players (typically from 15 to 17 years old) to play with experienced players (and often a 50 year old would play so very experienced players) to grow and develop the colts players. No amount of net practice can match playing in the "middle" and both squares are of such admirable quality that good playing habits are encouraged. Also, cricket like many other sports, is a way of enabling adolescents to develop socially in a controlled environment.



This Sunday we were playing Whittlesey. The visitors were making their first visit and were truly impressed with the facility and went away considering how they could enhance their own. They noted that we were able to use the kitchen in the Recreation centre to produce a good tea, as well as the Bowls club being able to host their guests and the Tennis Club, their social at the end of their highlight of the season. They appreciated the large crowd: there were at least forty watching cricket and many from the Hornets competition also stopped to watch. However, they were not so generous as visitors on the field. They won the toss, asked Histon to bat, dismissed us for 124 and then scored the runs to win losing only four wickets in doing so.

**Bowls Club host national "semi-final":** The Bowls club were delighted to be able to respond to a request to host a semi-final of the National Mother and Daughter competition. The match between a Middlesex pair (who had knocked our own pairing from Histon in an earlier round) played a pair from Lincolnshire to determine who would go forward to be one of the eight finalists at the EWBA (English women's Bowls Association) annual meeting at Leamington Spa. It was a welcome recognition of the quality of the rink and the supporting facilities, and many established and newer members (and some guests) were able to appreciate the bowling and celebrate with the winners.

### General

Apart from organised sports, families came and used space between events for impromptu games, many toddlers used the apparatus in the play area, others just walked round.

In all over 1000 people enjoyed the Rec that day and as dusk approached the remnants were clearing up and leaving it looking as pristine and well kept as ever, shielded from traffic noise by the trees on the road slope - a jewel in our village and at times a haven of peace and quiet.

### What do you think?

The feedback we've had from previous issues has been greatly appreciated and very valuable - we've done our best to act on it - and take up issues with the relevant authorities.

We'd be delighted to hear from you on any topics raised, or other matters of concern. Do remember also that **all** Parish Council meetings are open to the public.