



HISIMP NEWS

The Newsletter of Histon & Impington Parish Council
First Edition - July 2012



Welcome from the Chairman

Dear Resident of Histon & Impington

This is the first newsletter of our new "Histon & Impington Parish Council" formed in April this year. In previous years we have circulated our annual report to residents using the HI Courier. **Sadly, the Courier is not being published at the moment so the community is without its monthly paper.**

As a Quality Council we have to make sure that residents know what the Parish Council have been up to on your behalf and so we are sending this annual update together with a few items of interest and some thoughts for the future.

This is being issued as **three village celebrations** come to a close; The Jubilee, the Feast and the Mini-Olympics. All have been tremendously successful thanks to the hard work of the Festival Co-ordinator Neil Davies and the many local volunteers.



If you have taken part or joined in any of these events please spare a thought for all the time and effort the organisers have given to make the two villages a special place to live in. For the official photos please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/HisImpFeastFestival>

*I read recently a quote from a study stating that sitting for more than two hours at a time can shorten your life. So, if you are not currently involved in any local activities, clubs, societies, church groups or other organisations and are looking for an incentive, now is a good time to **think about whether you could give up a few hours a week to spread the load a little.** In particular, we need some volunteers to help get the newspaper back on its feet and there are many organisations around the villages that would love to see new faces.*



On the Parish Council front, we are looking for help to put together Parish and Neighbourhood Plans that are part of the current "localism" government initiative and if put in place give us more say in the kind of community we want in the future. We are also looking at the need for further community facilities and we currently need two new councillors. You will also see inside that we are looking for volunteers to help with winter gritting and the enviro.volunteers would also welcome help around the villages.

How about it?

Chairman: Max Parish Vice Chairman: Brian Ing



Parish Councillors

Max Parish—Church Street, Histon	234486
max.parish@zen.co.uk	
Brian Ing—Woodcock Close, Impington	234291
consult.ing@btinternet.com	
Hooda Abdullah—South Road, Impington	235989
Marian Cleaver—High Street, Histon	232897
Ian Cooper, Brackenbury, Impington	236359
Neil Davies—Dwyer Joyce Close, Histon	232514
Janet Diplock—Oates Way, Histon	503048
John Dunn—Croft Close, Histon	232698
John Emmine—Kay Hitch Way, Histon	236932
Cedric Foster - Clay Street, Histon	234156
David Legge—Villa Road, Impington	233565
Derek Marston—Dwyer Joyce Close, Histon	236131
Pene Nudds—Clay Close Lane, Impington	237155
Denis Payne—Impington Lane, Impington	233577
Edd Stonham — Normanton Way, Histon	232345
Josephine Teague - Milton Rd, Impington	235127
Alison Turnbull — Mill Lane, Impington	473478

County Councillors:

David Jenkins — Pease Way, Histon	236232
Sue Gymer — Courtyard Way, Cottenham	01954 252902

District Councillors:

Jonathon Chatfield, - Parr Close, Impington	520132
Edd Stonham — Normanton Way, Histon	232345
Neil Davies—Dwyer Joyce Close, Histon	232514

Councillor email addresses can be found at www.hisimp.net

CLEAR IT UP AND TAKE IT TO THE BIN

Most dog walkers in our Villages are responsible people, but sadly a minority are either letting their dogs mess on paths and not clearing it up, or throw away bagged dog mess in hedgerows etc. This practice is giving responsible dog owners a bad name, and some have come forward to Parish Councillors to express their concern, as have non dog owners to complain of the practice! For the sake of hygiene and to avoid risk of children picking up infections, please clear it up and dispose of it properly.



Dog bins provided by South Cambridgeshire District Council in our Villages:

Histon: Adjacent to Windmill Grange; Normanton Way footpath; Home Close/

footpath; Pages Close junction with Glebe Way (lamp post CCC7); Village Green Play Area; Park Lane

Impington: Homefield Park - Main entrance (opposite War Memorial); Homefield Park - Hereward Close/Bishop Way entrance; Mill Lane - Youngman Avenue end; The Coppice - Entrance to woods (near B1049 lights); Cambridge Road - Entrance to woods (corner of Burrough Field); Villa Road - Junction with South Road; Clay Close Lane - Main entrance to Pocket Park; The Copse - entrance to woods (near B1049 turning head in New Road); Merrington Place



TRUE GRIT!

The Parish Council was very keen to work with the County Council when they announced proposals to trial the use of volunteers in the community to treat parts of the footway network. Trials were planned in the use of liquid sprayers and also salt gritters.



We advertised for interested residents to contact us and were lucky to have two come forward who were willing to take up the challenge! And what a great job they have done.

You may have seen the team during the winter out and about on your travels. They did a fantastic job of treating paths on routes through the villages although to cover them all would require a larger manpower than just these two. The volunteers attended a training course at Huntingdon and have been supplied

with all the equipment by the County Council. The volunteers have to be formally trained, and have to follow the guidance provided by the County in order to be insured. This includes a rule that the treatment **MUST** be carried out within 24 hours of the instruction from the County Council, and a log sheet kept covering the work carried out

Many of you have contacted the Parish Council to thank the team for their efforts, and to suggest other footpaths that could benefit from treatment. With the success of this trial we will be asked whether we wish to add any footpaths to the current map. To do this we will clearly need a larger team to undertake the work. **Would you be prepared to join the volunteers?**

We would love to hear from anyone who can offer their time. Call the Parish Office on 235906 or email clerk@hisimp.net

Jubilee Skate Jam

Histon & Impington Youth Committee were pleased to support the first ever Scooter, BMX and Skates Jam on Monday 4th June as part of the village Jubilee events. Clever Curves Ltd. provided their Showman Ramps which included a quarter pipe, a flat bank and a jump box. It was put to good use over the weekend until it was dismantled and removed on Wednesday morning. The huge level of use was a key indicator of the need for a locally based facility.

There were 6 competitions planned - 2 age groups for each and despite the rain 4 of them completed successfully.



For information on youth provision plans in Histon and Impington please email

admin@hisimp.net

	U12 Scooter	U16 Scooter	U12 BMX	U16 BMX
First Prize	Liam Cafferkey	Sam Chalkin	Liam Cafferkey	Harry Cotton
2 nd Place	Tom Da Silva	Matt Turpin/ Brendon Conlon	Charlie Peat	Owen Carter

SAVE THE FREEDOM BUS

Every Thursday morning the 106 Freedom Bus takes 30+ people from Histon, Impington and Cottenham to Ely for the market. After they've done their shopping and eaten lunch it brings them back. Simple as that. A useful and much appreciated service for people to get out and meet friends.

Problem is it's a County Council subsidised service. They pay the operator to run the service and then gets to keep the takings. And because just about everyone who uses it is on a bus pass it has to calculate what it would have earned if they had paid. But for some reason it doesn't credit the full fare, only a fraction of it and then when it does its sums it thinks its making a loss!

Admittedly it's only a small loss but even so it seems to undervalue a socially useful service and come next April the Council is going to decide whether or not to axe the service because in its budget last year it decided rather arbitrarily to stop subsidising all bus services, useful or not.

County Councillors David Jenkins and Sue Gymer have been working hard to get the Council to look at the service for what it really does. They have already got the Council to look at it singly, not lumped in with several other, less well used, services. And a commitment it will not be withdrawn before alternatives have been fully researched. But that really shouldn't be necessary. It's well used with a good load factor and not empty buses travelling round during the day. A full and fair assessment of its value would show it is in fact not a subsidised route at all.

David says: 'we will continue to fight to retain the route and to make sure that the Council looks at it in terms of its total social contribution. In the meantime the best that local people can do is to **continue to use it and to encourage their friends to do likewise.** A day out in Ely is always a pleasure!'

Enviro.volunteers of Histon & Impington

With a common knowledge in conserving the environment, wildlife and history of our villages, enviro.volunteers meet on a regular basis and make a real difference in this Community.

Volunteering is rewarding, fun, and a great way to meet new friends!

We have a handful of enthusiastic volunteers, but more are always needed.

If you are interested in helping in any way then please email Angela Young at clerk@hisimp.net or Pene Nudds at enviro@hisimp.net

Impington Parish Council

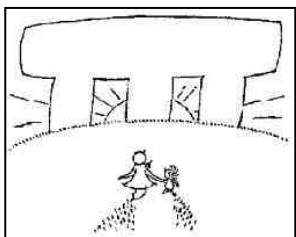
Chairman's Annual Report 2011-12

This is a historic report - it is the last report on behalf of Impington Parish Council. The Council had been in place for 118 years but has now been replaced by the joint Histon & Impington Parish Council.

This report is therefore a **celebration of what has happened - and the look to the future will be in the hands of the new Council.**

One of the reasons for moving to a single Council was to allow us to take some decisions once, rather than at twice by each Council separately. That should help in all sorts of ways - including making better decisions faster.

Last year I looked back, and picked a number of things that ought to have happened - or at least have been making real progress.



That list included: the City / South

Cambridgeshire Boundary Review, the Guided Bus, NIAB Extra, Northstowe and the A14.

Well, the **City/South Cambridgeshire Boundary Review** is off the agenda for now. We have responded to this by getting more involved in matters associated with Kings Meadows, attending "patch" meetings and looking to their concerns.

The **Guided Bus** happened - and looks to be a real success, with further buses and timetable improvements happening ahead of forecasts. It is not only providing a valuable service for commuters, but is also allowing those with more time on their hands (and, in many cases, bus passes), to travel to St Ives and Huntingdon, as well as places in between.

We took advantage of the rebuilt crossing keeper's hut, as a real focal point, to have a gathering of local residents celebrating the first buses running on the guideway. We were the only community so to do. A local Histon resident has even produced a commemorative paperweight!



NIAB Extra - there are piecemeal decisions, some not so good, around the NIAB development, but NIAB extra - nothing is happening as yet.

Northstowe - there's an application in, and they are hoping for a decision later this year. There's no telling what that decision will be -

but the timescales do seem very optimistic given what we know of the time it took to get Orchard Park to happen. However, that first application is just for a small portion of the full 10,000 homes that ought to be built there - and isn't expected to be fully built until 2021.

And the **A14** - we're promised the results of yet another study in a few months time - and we know that there is not the Government money to build anything approaching the previous design.

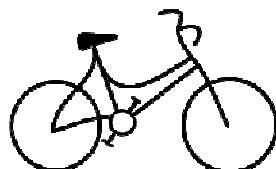
The Council continues to be involved in the **Merrington Place development**. Last year we had the pleasure of being invited to the formal event launching the public art on the site. We saw the developers get awards from South Cambridgeshire District Council - and also heard some very positive comments from those developers about the contribution working with an active Parish Council could make to the development. Phase II is now well under way, and a few late changes to the design of the flats (the original single bedroom versions being replaced with two bedroom ones) have been made based on experience of demand.

All new developments are being required to make a contribution to **public art**. This can either be on site and commissioned by the developer (as Merrington Place) or as a financial contribution to art in the community. Brian Ing & Pene Nudds have done excellent work putting together a strategy, adopted by the Council.



One of those developments is the **SAICA site in Villa Road - the cardboard factory**. The Council was not happy about the loss of employment in the village - as we were not with the loss of Unwins. However, as a result we are less "sustainable", we have more people and fewer jobs - which means more commuters. We will, of course, welcome the new residents, and look forward to them taking full part in the very active village life - but at the same time we have been talking to South Cambridgeshire's planners about what we can do to retain, or even grow, work opportunities for all in the village.

Sustainable is not just about jobs and people, but also about how we live, work and travel. We've made a small amount of progress to helping cyclists cross the A14 safely. Monies that the Council originally won as part of the Orchard Park planning process are to



be invested in improved traffic light controls at the B1049/A14 roundabout.

One of the challenges we will face is how to inform people of these meetings. Notice boards, website, e-mail lists (though only a small proportion of the village is on these) all exist. We've recently added a Twitter account, but until recently, we'd have used the Courier.

Unfortunately, the Courier is now in abeyance. Its worth noting that the first issue of the Courier was July 2009, and it's been run by volunteers ever since. Most recently, all the editorial and production has been done by Ken Doyle - a phenomenal amount of work, and a great example of what volunteers can make happen.

Volunteers make a major contribution to our community. I'd like to highlight a couple of new volunteers who did a very valuable job earlier this year in trying out some equipment & supplies to clear paths.

The machines met with varied success - but none could cope with the volume of snow we had in the winter. So, in the village centre, these two volunteers set to with shovels (also County Council supplied) and cleared the paths. They'd really like a few more who'd be happy to help - when one of them is away it leaves rather a lot for the other to do!

It would be impossible to list all of the people who do work in our community without pay, and often with little thanks, but I must again offer thanks to Pene Nudds and the enviro.volunteers for everything they do. This year much work has been done around the cemetery and adjacent allotments, where organisation and hard work has also generated extra allotment plots. They are also responsible for organising the community events at the Crossing Keepers hut which continue to be a great success.



And finally, last year's APM saw the launch of the consultation on joining the two Councils. The results of which persuaded South Cambridgeshire District Council to make it happen.

That rather underplays the tensions, the tremendous amount of hard work by Councillors and office team alike, and the rapid learning curves for all involved. It's important not to dwell on that, but rather the opportunities, excitement and challenges that the new Council brings.



I'll close by thanking all Councillors who have done such a splendid job, particularly when our numbers have been well down. Many have committed to the new Council - and we should be grateful their experience and willingness to work hard for the community hasn't been lost.

I'd also like to thank those who work for our residents alongside us - Councillors Chatfield and Stonham at District and Gymer and Jenkins at County, and particularly Councillor Mason.

Not least I'd like to thank our staff Angela, Chelsea, Lynda, Steve, Terry and Trevor - without whom we'd not be able to do anything!

Denis W Payne

Parish Office Contacts

We are open at the Recreation Ground Centre

Monday to Thursday
9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.
Tuesday 2.00 p.m.-4.00 p.m.
Other times by appointment

Parish Clerk: Angela Young
clerk@hisimp.net

Admin/Planning: Chelsea Presland
admin@hisimp.net

Telephone: 235906

Recreation Manager: Lynda Marsh
rec.clerk@hisimp.net

Telephone: 232423

Histon Parish Council

Annual Report 2011-12

This is the 118th and last annual report of Histon Parish Council to the residents of Histon as a separate body. In future there will be a combined report from the grouped Parish Council. Nevertheless, as the parishes are *only* currently grouped, legislation dictates that both should continue to have separate elections and individual annual parish meetings. Something that, as residents see the positive effects of a combined council over the coming months, I hope will encourage them to join me in petitioning the District Council to go the whole way and make the two villages a single election area and in the process potentially save you some future election costs.

The purpose of this annual report is to comment on the Council's past year's work and on future strategy and schemes, although I can only offer my opinion on the issues the new Council is likely to face.

The work of the Council over this final year of our 4 year term in office has been dominated by suggesting to residents of the two villages that a combined council would work more efficiently, persuading them of this and then working out how to implement the changes required. As well as our colleagues in Impington I would like to thank the Histon members of the working party; David Legge and Neil Davies for their perseverance and equanimity in helping bring about the conclusion of a report I initially made to the Council apparently in 2004.

Work done by the Recreation Ground Committee:

Improvements made to Homefield Park a jewel which many residents still remain ignorant of; thanks to Alison Turnbull's management, Pene Nudds and the enviro.volunteers

The success of the Bonfire Burn Run, that attracted entrants from as far afield as Germany and the opening of the outdoor gym.

Running these facilities takes a lot of hard work and I would like to thank Neil, Marion Cleaver, Derek Marston and Ed Stonham as



well as the staff; Lynda Marsh the Rec Ground manager, Steve Campin, our long serving groundsman and his part

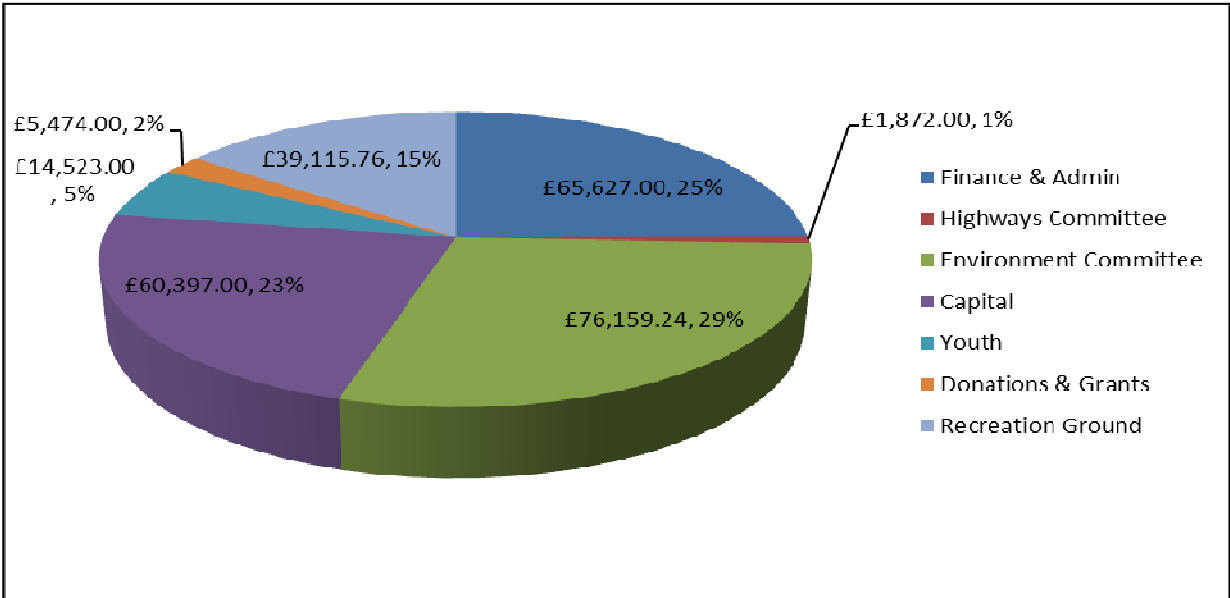
time staff; Trevor Smith and Ian Rush, who has now moved on to higher things!

Notable events during this year include,

FINANCE REPORT

The Parish Councils grouped on 1 April 2012. Between them the following general expenditure and income figures applied for the year to 31 March 2012:

Balance brought forward April 2011	£281,924
Precepted from SCDC	£272,500
Section 106 income received (developers' contribution to be spent on public open space and community facilities)	£81,839
Grants	£10,044
Interest	£5,455
Other	£3,858
Total Income	£655,620
Expenditure	£263,168
Specified Reserves (for specific projects and purchases)	£154,214
Section 106 moneys (for public open space and community facilities)	£51,400
Balance carried forward:	£186,838



For 2012 - 13 the Council has Precepted for £276,400 which has been collected through the parish part of your Council Tax payment

The Council has budgeted to spend some £330,288 but would hope to see some savings in projected budgets as a result of the grouping

This includes a further £60,985 going into Specified Reserves for identified projects

Angela Young, Responsible Financial Officer

Editor's Note: There's a great deal more detail available if you are interested - contact the Parish Office on 235906, email clerk@hisimp.net

the opening of the **Guided Busway** and the cancellation, hopefully temporarily, of the **upgrade to the A14** trunk road between the A1 and the Milton turnoff. The **Cycleway to Cottenham** has also been completed and officially opened. In conjunction with this, the lowering of the **speed limit along the B1049 through the villages to 30mph** is only part complete, though the cost of extending this from the Green to the Cottenham Road junction has been budgeted for by the Parish Council for the coming year.

Staying on a highways theme, the Citi7 morphed into the Citi8, we are also still waiting for the promised **Real Time Bus Information system** to materialise.

With **parking around our schools** a perennial problem, work is progressing with the police to try and tidy up the parking at the Early Years Centre in New School Road, though County Council funding for painting or repainting yellow lines and parking bays outside schools seems hard to come by. On cycling, the County Council have come up with a plan to make **crossing the A14 roundabout** safer for cyclists. The proposals, already seen and discussed by this council are out for public consultation and as realistically the cost of funding a separate cycling and pedestrian crossing, estimated by the County currently as somewhere between £2m and £6 million, is not going to materialise at the moment, any improvement is to be welcomed.

Our attempts to get a **Co-op crossing across the High Street** approved, are treading water, though an alternative or additional scheme to get a traffic island across the Station Road/High Street Junction has also recently been submitted by the Parish Council. Finally, as Library cuts have been in the news over the year, I should note that after some lobbying, the proposed changes to our **Library opening hours** have been made more reader friendly but the message is still there, with finances being squeezed on community support budgets. To this end the Parish Councils continue to financially support the very successful Summer reading scheme.

The Parish Council has now completed the long term lease of the **land at the rear of Manor Park for open space use** and agreed to support the planting of a community orchard on part of it. A much more controversial scheme to use part of the land for skateboarding has met vocal opposition from local residents. The additional plans to create a **cycleway** along the northwest boundary linking the Guided Busway and

Saffron Road by means of a land swap with Premier Foods is still however on the drawing board.

On the planning front, the proposals for the renewal of the church halls - the **StAC project** have been approved and the District Council have made a grant



of £40,000 available. The Parish Council agreed a further sum of £2,500 with a recommendation for the new joint Parish Council to grant the same in 2012-13. I would like to thank Janet Diplock for stepping in at short notice, on David Thurman's departure from the village, as Chairman of the **Planning Committee**, ably supported by our planning clerk Chelsea Presland, who also brings a flair for creativity and all things "IT" to our staff team.

The **Community Facilities group** of the two Parish Councils continues to meet to review future requirements. Alongside this another group have been reviewing the possible future use of the land around the Station area. The government's recent promotion of neighbourhood plans as a way for local communities to decide on how they wish their communities to develop, either alongside or instead of parish plans, will be something that the new Parish Council will have to consult with residents over. This has been brought sharply into focus by the government's **Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)** policy that the District Council is currently implementing. A number of proposed housing schemes have been put forward by developers in our villages for assessment, at least one of which could significantly impact on the future size of the community. **Putting together a Neighbourhood Plan, or a number of Neighbourhood Plans, for our community, which would be voted on by residents, would be a way of partly controlling this process.**

To complete this overview I am pleased to report the successful introduction of Jean Newman to the position of new **older persons' community liaison officer**, to which we have financially committed. Jean brings a wealth of expertise to the job and has already had an impact on how we can enrich the lives of those living in our community. On the environment, the introduction of a duck feeding platform onto the Village Green has created much comment. I would like to thank Cedric Foster for chairing the **Environment Committee**, holding County Highways to account for problems with our pavements, footpaths and

holes in the road and also for co-ordinating the design, construction and provision of information boards for the Ducks!



I must thank the Vice Chairman John Emmines for his support, diligence in carrying out the weekly play equipment safety checks in all weathers and for acting as the Council's Health & Safety and Risk Assessment Officer.

I would like to thank all Councillors who are retiring at the end of this term of office. From Alan Eade, who has faithfully monitored for many years the village's flora and fauna, environment, and planning applications from an architectural and historical point of view and also expertly functioned as our trees officer, Rob Plumbly who has kept an eye on our costs as chair of our **Finance Committee**, Chris Jones for his contributions on the **Employment Committee** and as a new facilities champion, to Keith Heywood who volunteered so readily when the council needed him.

Keeping the whole Council in order and ensuring that things get done I must record a big "thank you" to Angela Young, our clerk, responsible person and financial officer for her invaluable knowledge, abiding enthusiasm and unwavering support to what can seem to be at times "fifteen bosses". None of this would function as well if we did not have her civic spirit and passion for our local community.

Looking at all that has been achieved over the last year, it is difficult to provide more than a summary in a report like this, so I do urge residents to read the individual sub-committee reports, as well as the monthly minutes to get a complete picture of the activities that your Parish Council get involved in on your behalf. Looking forward, the Parish Council has precepted an amount of £159,800 for this coming year 2012-13 as our part of the now jointly funded Council, the same per household as last year. It will take time to bed in the new "joint" Parish Council, very much akin in the commercial world to putting two different companies with the same aims together. I wish them every success on your behalf and look forward to a future where much more can be achieved, with the same resources, the same commitment and with the same understanding that **the villages of Histon and Impington, as a community, are a special place to live in, to work in and to grow older in.**

Max Parish



Histon Village Green

Over the past year, you may have noticed some changes to the Village Green. The addition of the Duck Viewing Platform, new Community Notice board and most recently the newly refurbished Play Area.

Duck Viewing Platform—officially opened Friday 18th May by winners of a competition from Histon & Impington Infants and Junior Schools, who were judged to have produced the best story, poem or picture. These winning entries are depicted on one of the Lectern Displays featured on the Platform, along with names of the runners up. The other displays feature ducks usually seen on the Brook, with feeding recommendations.

Community Notice Board —installed May 2012. Community Notice boards are a place for people involved with community events to advertise around the village. Other Community Notice Boards are located at the War Memorial and next to School Hill bus stop. The demand for a notice board in the centre of the village was seen by all who passed the Cambridge Building Society and used the tree as an information point.

Play Area—officially opened by MP Jim Paice on Sunday 1 July 2012.

Project team:

Cllrs John Emmines, Neil Davies & Edd Stonham

Erika Hunt and the enviro.volunteers

The total cost of the refurbishment was £59,000



Histon & Impington Jubilee 2012 Festival

Histon & Impington Recreation Ground hosted a variety of events over the Jubilee weekend, including Jubilee Tea Dance, Church Service, Jubilee Trek, Brighthouse & Rastrick Band, Celebration of Talent and a Fun Day Extravaganza. Attended by over 6500 people, the weekend was a great success for the Jubilee group.



Histon & Impington Olympic Event

Organised by Friends of Histon & Impington Recreation Ground in partnership with village schools, local primary schools including Orchard Park and South Cambs District Council, who contributed towards the cost. The event was opened by Cllr James Hockney, who was very enthusiastic about the celebration attended by over 2500 people. A special thanks to Neil Davies and Edd Stonham who were involved in the event organisation and local firms sponsorships of events throughout the whole weekend.



The BIG Tidy Up!

Local residents joined forces with existing enviro.volunteers and WI Group to make a difference to our streets and public areas. The BIG Tidy Up was held 12th May, and was a great success. Everyone who took part thought it was worth repeating again, so that is just we are doing!

On Saturday 8 September commencing 9.30, the BIG Tidy Up shall once again begin. Meeting point is the Car Park behind the florist in the High Street. If you can spare a couple of hours to help out in our community you can register your interest by email to Cedric Foster on fosterfamily4@btinternet.com, or telephone 01223 234156. All equipment is loaned by South Cambridgeshire District Council and The Parish Council.

Letter received from a resident of Glebe Way, Histon

"Dear Mrs Young,

My Grandson an I took advantage of the facilities and landscaping at the Histon Green play ground on Monday (2nd July).

He and the other children present were having such a lovely time that I felt compelled to write and say thank you.

The site is well laid out, colourful and safe, and plenty of seating for nana's like me!

We will definitely be regular visitors. So to all who paid, planned and dug, thank you—job well done!"

Letter received from Diane Johnston

"Dear Angela,

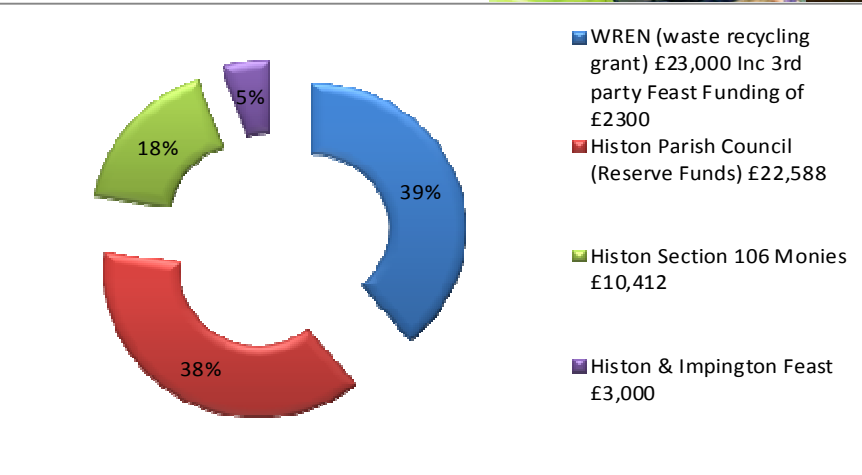
Please convey my thanks to the Parish Council for nominating me to attend the Jubilee Picnic.



Steve and I had a lovely day out and it was so nice to see The Queen who looked amazing. It was a privilege to be there and a day to remember

Kind regards"

Diane and Steve along with Elizabeth and Dennis Sadler (Network Magazine editor) were nominated to attend the picnic at Burghley House in June for their work in the community.



A breakdown of costs for Village Green Play Area

BEING A PARISH COUNCILLOR

I have been asked on several occasions about my reasons for becoming a Parish Councillor, so I sat back and tried to analyse my motivation.

Some residents may be aware that prior to my election this May, I had served for four years as a District Councillor (1998-2002) and on losing my seat joined Impington



Parish Council to continue with some of the projects I had been involved with.

This was a busy time and with running a small business allied to a considerable amount of travelling, I stood down from the Council but feel my time there was well spent. I needed a respite and to reduce some of commitments.

To bring things up to date, I have terminated many of the duties which claimed a huge amount of my time. I also wished to be more engaged with the village and residents. I feel it is important people are kept informed of what is happening, and that they can express themselves and be represented. Parish Councillors look after our environment and strive constantly to make sure our residents are protected from plans that may have a negative impact on them and on lifestyle.

This newsletter illustrates some of the many and varied activities a parish councillor gets involved in. As well as the main council meeting there are smaller committees and working groups to make the running of the villages more manageable and each member brings experience and knowledge.

Training for some aspects of the work is offered and it is amazing the breadth of knowledge demonstrated at meetings. I have learned all sorts of things about chimneys, water tables, directions of drains and countless other bits of minutiae. The mix of members leads to healthy discussion on many occasions and agreement is reached by consensus. As in most aspects of life, we all have to compromise for the greater good sometimes. It can be difficult if you feel passionate about something and you lose the argument but other times it is fantastic when you feel that your efforts have achieved something and all has been worthwhile.

A final point: if you want things done, it is no good just sitting back and complaining nobody does anything. You have to get involved and help to make things happen.

So, if you would like to join me and the other members, there is a vacancy for another councillor and you would be very welcome.

Josephine Teague

WHY BE A COUNCILLOR?

I have lived in Histon for more than 30 years but worked in the under-developed world for half that time. I specialised in irrigation, drainage and water resources. Now I have retired I would like to contribute to the local community through the Parish Council.

My main interests are in public transport, particularly facilities for older people, and, of course, drainage and flooding. We are very



appropriate precautions are not taken.

I am a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society which is a charity specialising in assisting poor and aged people. I am also interested in the University of the Third Age, especially the walking group.

I have already attended a few meetings of the Council and I have been impressed by the diligence and ability of both Councillors and office staff. However I look forward to helping in any way possible.

John Dunn

Parish Council "Eyes and Ears"

The Parish Council is able to co-opt residents onto its various Committees. We know people are busy and may not be able to attend regular meetings but welcome and positively encourage feedback on all areas. Whether it be on environmental matters such as grass cutting, trees, litter or highways matters like damage to footpaths and roads, or damage to street furniture, **please help by becoming extra pairs of "eyes and ears"**.

Why not join the Chat mail list?

Visit www.hisimp.net go to Contact Us and sign up to discuss anything that is relevant to happenings or events in

Histon and Impington

You can also join the news mail list!

E- Cops

Have you joined E-Cops to receive regular updates on crime and anti-social behaviour in your area. It's a great way to stay in touch with community issues.

<https://www.cambs-police.co.uk/myneighbourhood/ecops/>

New for old lamps?

Last year the County Council signed a £100 million 25 year Private Finance Initiative (PFI) deal with Balfour Beatty to maintain all the street lights in the county owned by the Council. As part of this they will replace two thirds of the 55,000 lampposts within five years.

Part of the replacement is to equip all the street lights with new, modern, white lights which are claimed to give improved colour recognition and night visibility. Also to make the columns taller (5 metres) to light a wider area and to dim them, or turn them off, late at night. Thus saving 8.5 million kilowatts of electricity a year and 4,500 tonnes of carbon emissions.

However the sting in the tail is that 20% of the lights that are not on main roads will be removed as a cost savings exercise. The villages will be informed 6 months before the work is due to be carried out and there will be a "public consultation" before the work commences. Individual letters will be sent to all householders nearer the time. However, Balfour Beatty and the County Council will have a final say in which lights go and which ones stay and they have a list such as near school entrances and road crossing points that they will work from based on safety risk.

The posts will be taller than the current ones, as is evidenced by those already installed along the new cycleway to Cottenham. All columns that are not being removed will be replaced at approximately the same location as before, so there will be no room for residents who do not approve of the current sitings to get them moved, only removed.

It is understood that it will be about 2 years before our villages reach the top of the list, but we will keep you informed of progress.



Are you looking for a local venue to hire?

Have you considered the excellent facilities at the Recreation Ground?



Available for meetings, seminars, exhibitions etc.

(Wireless connection available)

Children's parties, family functions,

Also available for leisure class hire

Kitchen facilities included, ample parking

Enquiries to:

Lynda Marsh, Recreation Ground Manager

Tel: 01223 232423

email: rec.clerk@hisimp.net



FAREWELL TO ALAN EADE AND MIKE MASON

In 1897, the two villages of Histon & Impington got together to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. A committee was formed for events that took place on June 23rd and money was raised by public subscription. Seven sub-committees worked on the provision of food and drink, a parade and a photograph to be taken on the Village Green. On the day itself, a street procession headed by a band walked through the villages to the church where a service of thanksgiving was held. Afterwards it was back to the Green for the villagers' picture and then the picnic for 400 children with bread and butter and hard boiled eggs closing with a meal for all 850 adults in Rowley's Barn. The day's events were organised by the 67 members of the various committees involved at a cost of £71, which is £7,800 in today's money!

A short while ago I was talking to the Vicar at a Histon Pools Land Charity Trustees meeting about volunteering and he told me that even the church was now having difficulty getting people to volunteer. I was pleased recently therefore to be able to host a "Thank You" evening for all those local councillors who were retiring at the 2012 May local elections. Without their voluntary work the community would be a poorer place and whether individually they had completed one year or twenty-five they deserve our thanks.

I must however single out two of these in particular. Firstly, **we congratulate Alan Eade for having been a Parish Councillor for 25 years.** Alan is the almost perfect councillor. He knows so much about architecture and trees that when he starts lecturing, sorry, *talking*, about a particular plan or style you just pin back your ears and soak it all up. He has a generous nature and, as well, is one of those people who just quietly gets on with things, such as recently repairing the notice boards and repainting some of the old cast iron street signs in the village and he is also a talented artist whose street scenes adorn many a local card.

The only downside to this perfect councillor unfortunately, is no-one can read his writing, which leads to some interesting tree warden reports. Though one cannot let the occasion pass without mentioning the skill he has yet to master and to thank his wife Inger for operating the home computer so that the Parish Council could keep in touch in the 21st Century. In the past, such a length of service has been commemorated by commissioning a



painting but, given the commissioned artist is usually Alan, we have instead asked him to mark the occasion by choosing a tree bearing a plaque and we will plant it in a location chosen by him.

Our final presentation was to a man whose life has been "community service". Mike Mason retired as a Parish Councillor four years ago and has served as an independent District Councillor, recently completing his second term of eight years.

Born in Histon he attended the Village College and then took an HND in Mechanical Engineering at Cambridge College of Arts and Technology. His mother was involved with the scouts and so inevitably was Mike. He obtained an apprenticeship with British Rail at Derby and helped run the 4th Derby Scouts as a Rover Crew member. After qualifying he came back here to live and became District Motive Power Inspector for British Rail Eastern Region. He immediately took up a position as 1st Histon Scout Leader and became interested in helping young people at the local cricket club. It is rumoured that he also captained the village 2nd eleven. He stood as a Parish Councillor in 1971 and, with the occasional break, served as a Parish Councillor until 2008, being vice-chairman from 1995-1999.

He played an important role in shaping the Histon & Impington Draft Local plan in 1972-73 which was published in 1975. He served on the Housing Trust that brought the Hereward Close Housing scheme to fruition and his tenacious attitude and attention to detail ensured that we currently have a housing estate to be proud of and that won an award in 1979. As part of that he was instrumental in bringing the former grounds of Homefield House to the attention of the Parish Council and by buying this ensured we have an open park for the benefit of the whole community.

He became self employed in the late seventies as a boiler maker, repairer and Traction Engine restorer and was involved in establishing the Cheddars Lane Museum of Technology. He also seems to like digging trenches as he was involved in building the new Scout Hut and the old Pavilion on the Recreation Ground.

Allotments, tree planting schemes, preservation of the Village Green; rights of way, Histon Feast have all had their share of Mike Mason's attention. He has or still serves on at least one drainage board and his local knowledge and expertise in these matters is legendary.

As a raconteur down at the Red Lion he can leave you spellbound with stories of taking scouts on the train to Scotland, trekking with handcarts and his conquering of the Cuillins,

dangling on the end of a rope.

In short his story is one of service to others not self. In my first years as a Parish Councillor, still recovering from being knocked off his bicycle at the A14 junction, he applied for the job of Parish Clerk. Luckily on this occasion for the community he was *not* chosen and was able to continue to campaign for local residents and villages causes. My personal Parish Council memory of Mike will be of sitting at Parish Council meetings listening to Mike and Maurice

Beeton debating local issues. First, one of them would speak most eloquently on a particular topic and I would think "that makes a lot of sense", but just

then as you sat back waiting for the vote you would hear the words "Mr. Chairman, I hear what Councillor Beeton/Councillor Mason said, but" and you would get an entirely measured, cogent opposite point of view. It did not matter what the topic was either, but it certainly helped you make your mind up.

We wish Mike a long and happy retirement, finally and a chance to finish rebuilding the Water Tower at Cottenham, where he now lives. As a token of our appreciation for all he has done for Histon & Impington he was presented with a weather vane to place on top of his refurbished home with a LMS steam locomotive on top of it to remind him of us.



Forthcoming Council Dates

See website for details: www.hisimp.net

7th August Planning Committee—7.30 Parish Office
14th August Environment Committee—7.30 Parish Office
20th August Full Council— from 7.00 Recreation Centre
21st August Planning Committee—7.30 Parish Office
4th September Community Facilities—8.00 Parish Office
6th September Strategic Transport Planning—7.30 Parish Office
10th September Youth Committee—7.30 Parish Office
11th September Planning Committee—7.30 Parish Office
17th September Full Council—from 7.00 Recreation Centre
24th September Recreation Ground Committee—7.30 Recreation Centre
25th September Planning Committee - 7.30 Parish Office

Residents are welcome to attend all Council meetings