

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

UPDATE

For Hurstbourne Tarrant, Ibthorpe, Upton & Pill Heath

www.hbt.org.uk

Issue 1

Winter 2017/18

December 2017

Chairman's Corner

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our new Parish Update newsletter! We plan to produce at least two of these each year to help keep you informed about Parish Council matters. We are so fortunate to live in such a wonderful community and the Parish Council's role is to stand up for everyone and be a catalyst for local activities which keep our villages safe, clean and enjoyable for all. It's not always easy to reach everyone, so our hope for this communication is that it will both inform and highlight opportunities for all Parishioners to get involved and have a say on matters which affect us. With Central Government cut-backs affecting our local authorities, we may not be able to rely on others to provide services in the future which we have become accustomed to. We are likely to have to become more self-reliant if we want to get things done. Your Parish Council can help with this, but we need your help too – with ideas, practical skills and other support. As we approach the end of the year, I would like to extend Season's Greetings to everyone in our little Parish and wish you and your families a peaceful Christmas and very best wishes for 2018.

Ian Kitson – Chairman HBT Parish Council. Tel: 736733.



Dates For Your Diary

Parish Council Meetings

All are welcome – meetings are held in The Community Centre at HBT, at 7.30pm (unless otherwise stated)

- Monday 18th December 2017—HBT
- Monday 15th January 2018—HBT
- Monday 19th February 2018—HBT

Parish Working Party

Our next Parish Working Party will be held in the spring of 2018, meeting at the Community Centre, Bank Tree in Ibthorpe and Dene Green. Keep your eyes out for the date—we will publish it in the Parish Magazine, the PC Facebook page, and on Parish noticeboards. For more information on volunteering, please contact Mark Thomas on 07815 082326 or email: mc.thomas.204@gmail.com

October Parish Working Party

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Parish Working Party day on Saturday 21st October. Three groups met at Dene Green, Ibthorpe and King George V Playing fields and carried out maintenance and litter picking. A large quantity of spring bulbs were kindly donated by Rosie Arkley of Church Street. We should hopefully see the fruits of our labour around the Parish next year. We aim to organise the working



parties twice a year—spring and autumn. As the Chairman mentions above, with budget cuts, many services are being devolved down from our local authorities so if we want our villages to stay looking in tip-top condition, and places to be proud of, many tasks will be down to us to complete. See above "Dates for your Diary" for information.



Planning

The best way to be aware of planning applications that might affect you is to register for planning alerts on the HBT website (www.hbt.org.uk). Test Valley will always communicate with neighbouring properties and post notices about new applications. We would always encourage residents with planning applications to keep their neighbours informed and for more significant projects we would suggest you attend a Parish Council meeting to make people aware of your plans.

Planning applications are discussed at each PC meeting and any comments from the Parish Council are recorded in the minutes.

Jamie Williams – Planning. Tel: 07977 077875. Email: info@locksdrove.co.uk

Environment & Allotments

All the allotments in Ibthorpe are now allocated. If you wish to go onto the waiting list, please contact the clerk (details overleaf). The annual pumpkin weigh-in took place amidst a tense and hoppy atmosphere at the Royal British Legion this October, and as tradition dictates, 6 entries made it to the final, following a season of agronomic ups and downs, largely caused by the weather and the grey field slug. Congratulations went to Master Pumpkineer, Gordon Willis, who retains the title for a second year, aided by the horticultural wizardry of his father 'Scadge'. Seeds will be taken from the champion fruit and young plants will be available in the spring for those wishing to enter the competition next year.



MeetYour New Parish Clerk



David Baker has been our Clerk since 2003. He has decided to hang up his hat and retire, which means that our new Clerk is Miriam Edwards (known to everyone as 'Mims'). Mims has lived in HBT for 5 years and is also a school governor at HBT Primary and a member of the Village Show Committee. She is the first to say she has a lot to learn to achieve David's knowledge and experience, but she is bringing enthusiasm and new ideas about community engagement and support for Parishioners, which we will be highlighting in the coming months. Mims & David will work together for a few months to ensure an efficient and seamless handover.

If you need to **contact the Clerk**, please ring 01264 736677 or email: theparishclerk@hbt.org.uk

If you are a Facebook user, search for "Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council" to follow us online



Road Safety

The speed indicator device has been installed on the A343 in HBT for some months now, capturing the speed of the southbound traffic approaching Dean Rise. A trial was carried out, turning it around to face the northbound traffic. Approval has been given to purchase a second SID, with a grant from Councillor Kirsty



Locke, the HCC councillor for Andover North. These devices can be moved around various sites in the Parish, to give a reminder to motorists of their speed. The speed limit reminder device, which flashes '30' in a red circle, is a shared resource with other Parishes and this will continue to be sited in various locations.

Upton

Unless you live in Upton, it's unlikely that you know that the village is split between two Parish Council areas. We will be holding an informal meeting on Wednesday 17th January at The Crown Public House, Upton, from 7.30pm. We would like to invite **ALL** Upton residents (including those who live in Vernham Dean's Parish area) to attend this meeting and to hear your views. Representatives from both HBT & Vernham Dean Parish Councils will be present.



Footpath clearance



If you are aware of any public footpaths which are blocked or overgrown, please report these to the Parish Council. We carry out minor maintenance ourselves throughout the year and can request that landowners clear any major obstructions. We can also nominate paths with more significant problems for the County Council's cutting scheme—this needs to be done by the end of February so if you know of any which may qualify, please let us know as soon as possible.

Playing Fields

A new bench was recently installed on King George V playing field in memory of Dinah Murdoch. Dinah was very involved with the community, having been a school governor and a long term member of the Parish Council. A second bench is now on Dene Green (the original wooden one is now conveniently sited by the bus shelter).



When the damaged fence onto the playing field from Church Street was being reinstated it seemed sensible to provide an alternative access for those passing through with dogs. These days, dogs are excluded from most play areas designed for young children. This would be difficult in KGV and many would feel unnecessary too. A dedicated entrance was installed by the bridge across the river, to provide dog walkers with an alternative route without the need to pass through the children's play area. We hope this is being made use of, although it is understood that some parents may want to keep their dogs with them whilst supervising their children. Please be a responsible dog owner—always keep your dog on a lead in or near the play area, and any dog mess should always be bagged and disposed of in one of the red or green bins provided.

Defibrillator in HBT

Many of you will have by now seen that an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) has been installed outside the Rural Business Hub (The Old Post Office) in The Dene, HBT, by kind permission of Caroline Reeves. If someone is suspected of having suffered a cardiac arrest, an AED can help to return their heart to a normal rhythm. Access to the AED is governed by the 999 service - having given them the ID number shown on the cabinet, the operator will provide the access code and further instructions. The unit is fully



automated, so anyone can use it - it will only deliver a shock if the system diagnoses that one is required. An initial training session including some basic first aid skills, took place in October, courtesy of a member of the South Coast Ambulance Service. The Parish Council is indebted to Yvonne Hill for her generous financial donation towards the cost of the AED, in memory of her husband Roy. If you have any questions, please contact Cllr Mark Thomas on 07815 082326.