

HUNTLEY HEADLINES

This is the second edition of our newsletter. Many thanks to those who given positive feedback to the first newsletter, and ideas for contributions to this edition which covers two months as the Parish Council does not meet in August.

Spotlight on a councillor

Robert Watkins has lived in Huntley his entire life and been involved in local activities for many decades-football club, village hall, Parish council, local footpath association. He is responsible for keeping the bus shelters and footways clean in the village and helps out at "Tea and Chat" and the monthly luncheon club. He hopes to continue doing this good work for as long as possible. He is truly a community-minded person.

Quad bikes

Following recent incidents, the Trustees of Huntley Recreation Ground need to emphasise that the use of quad bikes, E-scooters etc on the recreation ground to the rear of the village hall is not permitted and that the use of any unregistered vehicle on the roads and footways leading to the recreation ground would be illegal. The police will seize any vehicle found guilty of such use, so please refrain from this anti-social activity.

Mobile Meals Service

The service, originally operating from Cinderford before the pandemic, has reopened as Dean Forest Kitchen, and is now based in Longhope. It offers a 7day per week meal delivery service (2 courses £8, 3courses £10) and you can contact them on 01452 649284 or go online quoting their name.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The final version of the plan is to be reviewed and voted on at the meeting of the full Forest of Dean District Council on Wednesday 19th July. If passed a referendum will be arranged, probably for September, when all residents of Huntley are entitled to vote. If more than 50% of those voting are in favour, then the NDP will become a legal document that must be taken into account when planning authorities consider a planning application, including appeal cases.

Community Car Scheme

Data gathered during the NDP process showed that some residents are isolated due to either not owning a car, living remotely or being unable to access public transport. From this has come the idea to form a community car scheme, initially taking people from their homes to clubs in the village hall. If successful it could be expanded to include medical appointments or shopping trips. There would be a small charge to cover petrol costs and any insurance premium additions.

We need to know who would be interested in using such a scheme, and who could offer their services as drivers for this to proceed any further. Please contact Liz Tustin on 01452 831784 or at tustinliz89@gmail.com to register your interest and have any further questions answered.

Rights of Way

This is for those of you who walk the footpaths in the fields around Huntley. If you come across a footpath or footbridge that Nature has reclaimed-and the undergrowth is flourishing this year- contact either Roger Cox (01452 830454) or Robert Watkins (01452 830571). They are the local representatives of the Footpath Association and will arrange for the growth to be cut back allowing the path/footbridge to be accessible once more. Our thanks to them for this service.

Some dates to remember

17-28 July - Night closure of the A40 from 8.00pm-6.00am from Morrisons store to The Fairways while the road is resurfaced. There are conflicting dates between the card posted to (some) properties in Huntley and the large road signs that have been erected. I have enquired whether the last night of closure is Thursday 27th or Friday 28th and will post a notice on the Parish Council noticeboard when I hear.

Although there is a long diversion around this area for vehicles, access will still be provided for residents of Huntley. National Highways has advised "it may involve a short delay depending on the stage of the work. Please speak to our gatemen who will escort you through the works if necessary."

28 July - Quiz at Huntley Village Hall. Already nearly fully booked but contact Phil Chew for information on 01452 830028.

29 July - Family Fun Day at The Red Lion from 10.00am- 10.00pm. Activities for everyone.

15 August - Pop-up picnic and mini pub on the Recreation Ground at the Village Hall from 12 noon. For everyone. Bring your own food and picnic equipment. Liquid refreshments will be on sale.

9 September – Village Hall and Recreation Ground. Charity Fete and Dog Show in aid of Great Oaks Hospice.

For feedback or future contributions contact Jill Croxall -jillcroxall@hotmail.com

Hard copies of this newsletter will be available at the Texaco Garage, Woods butchers, Margaret's Hairdressers, The Red Lion and the Village Hall. It will also be online at the Parish council Website.

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