

# HUNTLEY HEADLINES

MARCH 2024

Although the weather has not really decided what season it is, we can take comfort that it is getting lighter earlier in the morning and darker later each evening so that means that Spring is on its way! That is something to cheer us up!

Unfortunately, it is also the season for summer criminals to come out of hibernation; as we get the tools out to tend our gardens, so they come round looking at the unlocked sheds and gardening equipment left out on the grass in front and back gardens. Make sure your possessions are kept secure under lock and key; the recent Neighbourhood Watch newsletter sent out at the beginning of March told how to order padlocks, alarms and marking pens to keep property safe and identifiable.

People should also be aware of rogue traders calling who offer to carry out repairs or cleaning jobs for which they charge a high fee. Resist pressure to make decisions on the spot and use "check-a-trade" to find a reputable tradesman at your leisure. Please report any such occurrences to your coordinator so that others can be made aware.

## **NEWS FROM OUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR - PHILIP ROBINSON**

Our County Councillor attends nearly every Parish Council meeting with updates on what is happening in the Forest of Dean. This month he reported on the "Build Back Better" scheme that was introduced post covid. He told us that nearly all the money available to our area has been allocated to good causes that will benefit the Forest.

In addition, he pointed out that our County Council is not in the dire financial mess that has been reported from other councils nationally and, although there will be an increase to the council tax, it is going to be one of the smallest increases across the country.

So far, 50,000 potholes have been filled throughout the county, there are still quite a few left so please continue to use "fixmystreet" to report instances and they will be swiftly repaired. The Parish clerk reported to the meeting that the filthy and defaced bollards on the A40 west of B4216 junction have been speedily repaired and the faulty traffic lights at the A40/Grange Court Lane/North Road junction has been sorted (the pedestrian button was jammed on).

## **WAR MEMORIAL**

After much delay the council is now in receipt of the required 3 quotes to submit to the War Memorials Trust. It is hoped that our application for a grant to repair the plinth will be approved and we can then proceed to get the works done.

## **VILLAGE HALL**

As I write, the entrance doors to the Village Hall are being replaced with double glazed metal doors that will hopefully shut without brute force being needed. Go over and have a look!

## **TELEPHONE KIOSK**

After the last newsletter, two volunteers have come forward with an offer to complete the restoration work on the telephone kiosk. Thank you to them, and let's look forward to the finished article!

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. This is an opportunity for everyone and anyone to come to hear what has been happening in the parish during the last year; for groups and organisations to publicise their activities; and for suggestions about new clubs/activities that you would like to make. There will be a presentation about the review of the Huntley Neighbourhood Development Plan to conform with the shortly to be published Forest of Dean Local Plan - something to be aware of as it affects the future development of our parish.

Formal invitations will be sent soon to all potential speakers; each person is limited to five minutes, so it is not going to be boring! There will be refreshments and a chance to speak to other parishioners and ask questions.

If you have any queries or would like to speak at the meeting, please contact the clerk to the council or any councillor to register your interest. Please be aware that only residents who are registered to vote are legally allowed to participate.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Dymock Woods	Daffodil Walks, Tuesday 12 March 10.00a.m-1.30pm
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Go to website [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk) for more details and meeting point.

Home Farm, Newent Lane	Daffodil Celebration 10 March, 7 April and 28 April See their website for details
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Huntley Village Hall	70s and 80s Disco Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 8.00 til late    Licensed bar
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Entry £5 Tickets available in advance from Mark Evans ( 07707754745 )

Huntley Village Hall	40s style tea and cakes in celebration of D Day Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> June
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Dene Magna School	Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> June D Day celebration
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(More details to follow for both these events but make a diary note)

## **ONE LAST POINT**

A reminder that the Post Office van comes to the Village Hall car park every Friday between 11.00 and 12.00 offering a full service and cash withdrawals. The Hall is open during that time if anyone wants to pop in for a cup of tea/coffee, a chat or just to shelter from the rain!

In addition to the hard copy, this newsletter is available on the Parish Council website and the Noticeboard at the Village Hall.

Any queries/feedback please contact [jillcroxall@hotmail.com](mailto:jillcroxall@hotmail.com)