

# Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

December 2024



# Notes from the Chair

Welcome to the December edition of the Parish Council's newsletter.

This is our final newsletter of 2024, and I can't quite believe yet another year has passed. This year seems to have been considerably wetter than previous years and has seen our local flood plains covered both at the start of the year and perhaps more surprisingly in September. I do wonder if this is a visible manifestation that climate change is increasing the risk of both flooding and drought in the UK and am therefore delighted that our Community Flood Group now appears to be gaining traction and most importantly active members.

Once again, this year's annual carol concert, which the Parish Council are pleased to support, will be held at the Pavilion on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm. Music will be provided by Huntingdonshire Concert Band, who have been excellent for the last few years, and mulled wine, hot chocolate, and mince pies will be available. I hope to see many of you there!

The Parish Council's Christmas tree on Vicarage Fields will be decked with its festive lights from the beginning of the month (see cover) and we hope that you will take time to go and see it.

2024 has been a busy year for the Council and I imagine that 2025 will be no different, but we wouldn't have it any other way.

On behalf of Hemingford Grey Parish Council, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**Cllr Richard Allen**  
*Chair, Hemingford Grey Parish Council*



# *Parish Council Updates*

## **Thank you and happy retirement!**

After around 30 years of working with or for the Parish Council, Terry Marsh retired at the beginning of November. Having been employed as the Parish Council's handyman since January 2013, and prior to that working as a self-employed contactor, many of you will remember Terry working for many years with the late Cllr Derek Clifton around the village. The Parish Council would like to thank Terry for all his hard work over the years and wish him a happy and well-earned retirement.

## **New Alternative Land Management (ALM) proposal**

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has been working throughout the district to increase biodiversity. In Spring 2024 five verges in Hemingford Grey were moved to c (ALM) with the aim of increasing biodiversity and reducing CO2 emissions. Two of the verges have subsequently been 'adopted' by local residents who have planted bulbs and wild flowers with the aim of giving nature a helping hand and providing an attractive green space for all to enjoy.

The green space at the top end of Sadlers Way has been identified as a further site to be managed in this way and as a large verge could contribute to increasing biodiversity and in time lead to a verge with wildflowers attractive to insects and people. The PC will request that a footpath is mown across the verge enabling residents to walk across it.

Local residents will be contacted directly for comment, but if you have any views on this proposal, please contact the Parish Clerk by the 15<sup>th</sup> December who will share them the Parish and District Councils.

If you live next to a verge that you'd like to be considered for Alternative Land Management please contact Councillor Anne Meredith by email on [anne.meredith@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:anne.meredith@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk).

The Parish Council has agreed to purchase about 1000 bulbs in the green (snowdrops and aconites). So, if you live next to one of the existing ALM verges and would like some bulbs to plant on your verge, please contact Councillor Anne Meredith. Any spare bulbs will be planted in Daintree Green, Yes Development and Vicarage Fields.

## Local Plan update

Huntingdonshire District Council's (HDC's) consultation on the latest stage of the Local Plan revision closed on 27<sup>th</sup> November. The Parish Council considered and responded on all 13 sites that had been put forward in Hemingford Grey. The Parish Council submission made it clear that we believe that all those sites identified for residential development within the Parish were 'unsuitable for development' including the proposed Houseboats on the Marsh Lane Lake site. Unsurprisingly, we were supportive of the two submissions for 'open spaces and biodiversity' we made next to and opposite the school. The Parish Council also considered and made submissions regarding the proposed sites at Galley Hill – Fenstanton, The Lattenburys - Hemingford Abbots, and the sites proposed in and around St Ives more generally, expressing our concern regarding lack of infrastructure, flooding, traffic and the potential impacts of these on our Parish.

We hope that residents made their own comments supporting or objecting to the HDC recommendations.

HDC will now review all the responses they have received, and the next public engagement is likely to be on the full draft local plan next summer. The Parish Council will continue to monitor this and provide updates.

In the meantime, the Parish Council are working on supporting documentation for our two submissions, with assistance from four local residents with biodiversity experience as well as the Hemingford United Football Club. If there is local planner living in the parish who would be interested in assisting us, we'd love to hear from you.

## Food Bank Collection - Thank You



A big thank you to all those residents who donated, collected, organised, or helped in any way with the Foodbank appeal on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October. We'd also like to thank the Parish Church kindly allowed us to use the Parish Centre

We collected 325kg of food, equivalent to twelve 3-day parcels for a large family (two adults and two children). Your donations will be added to existing stock, significantly increasing the number of available parcels.

## **Grants available for local organisations – apply now!**

The Parish Council has a limited amount of money remaining in this year's budget to award grants to local groups, charities, or organisations for "purposes, which may bring a direct benefit to the area or any part of it for some or all the inhabitants". An application form is available from the [Parish Clerk](#) and any received will be considered at our March meeting.

## **Allotments available**

If you are interested in taking on an allotment, please contact the [Parish Clerk](#), as we currently have a small number of plots available. You will also be able to join the newly formed allotment association.

## **Budgets for 2025 set and agreed**

At its full meeting in November, the Council set and agreed its budget and its proposed precept for 2025. As with any budget setting exercise we've had to make decisions about the Council's priorities. As in previous years, we continue to make these based on the desire to improve our built and natural environment. The Council have therefore decided to support the continuation of our Big Green Projects and Community Chest initiatives which underpin the Council's Green Spaces strategy including our wider community engagement activities. We've also allocated funds to progress our plans to update and improve the play areas at Daintree Green and on the Yes Development, and to support the efforts being delivered by the Community Flood Group.

As always, we're keen to hear of any ideas that you may have about new projects that you or we can take forward.

## **Rubbish bagged!**



Thank you and well done to all those litter pickers who turned out for the Autumn Community Litter Pick, ensuring our parish will look spick-and-span for the coming winter. A great community effort.

The next Community litter pick will be next March/April, see you then!

## New Parish Councillors needed!

The Parish Council currently has several vacancies for Councillors. Being a Parish Councillor gives you the opportunity to make a positive contribution and play a key role in the decisions that affect life in our village.



If you think you might be interested, why not attend one of our upcoming meetings as an observer or get in touch with one of our existing Councillors who can explain what's involved. Being a Parish Councillor is a part-time commitment that many of our Councillors manage around full or part-time jobs, family, and other commitments. If you think you fit the bill and you have some time to spare, then please get in touch.

## Waste Collection during the Christmas season

A quick reminder that during the Christmas and New Year period waste collection days will change as per the table below.

Scheduled Day of Collection	Revised Day of Collection	Scheduled Day of Collection	Revised Day of Collection	Scheduled Day of Collection	Revised Day of Collection
Mon, 23 Dec	Sat, 21 Dec	Mon, 30 Dec	Tue, 31 Dec	Mon, 6 Jan	Tue, 7 Jan
Tue, 24 Dec	Mon, 23 Dec	Tue, 31 Dec	Thu, 2 Jan	Tue, 7 Jan	Wed, 8 Jan
Wed, 25 Dec	Tue, 24 Dec	Wed, 1 Jan	Fri, 3 Jan	Wed, 8 Jan	Thu, 9 Jan
Thu, 26 Dec	Fri, 27 Dec	Thu, 2 Jan	Sat, 4 Jan	Thu, 9 Jan	Fri, 10 Jan
Fri, 27 Dec	Mon, 30 Dec	Fri, 3 Jan	Mon, 6 Jan	Fri, 10 Jan	Sat, 11 Jan

You can also download a collection calendar from the [HDC website](#).

## Christmas Tree Recycling

HDC will once again be supporting East Anglia's Children's Hospices Christmas Tree Recycling. Trees will be collected on the 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> January, and donations will go towards caring for babies, children and young people with life limiting conditions, and their families. To register for collection visit: <https://just-helping.org.uk/register-tree>.

Alternatively, if you have a green garden bin your tree can be placed by the side of it on collection day. If the tree is bigger than the bin, please chop it in half. The Household Recycling Centres will also take trees.

# Community Matters

## Christmas in the Hemingfords 2024

### St James' Church

**15th December** 3.00pm  
Christmas Carol Service

**24th December** 4.00pm  
Nativity Service

Midnight service at St Margaret's

**25th December** 11.00am  
Christmas Service



### St Margaret's Church

**8th December** 9.30am  
Christingle Service

**15th December** 6.30pm  
Christmas Carol Service

**24th December** 11.30pm  
Midnight Service

**25th December** 9.30am  
Christmas Service



[www.churchbytheriver.org.uk](http://www.churchbytheriver.org.uk)

hemingford  
PAVILION

[www.hemingfordpavilion.com](http://www.hemingfordpavilion.com)

[enquiries@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk)

Tel: 01480 464490

Manor Road,  
Hemingford Grey, PE28 9BX

### THE ANNUAL ROUND THE TREE HEMINGFORDS' CAROLS

Lead by Huntingdonshire Concert Band

**SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER AT 5pm**

On the Pavilion Car Park—In the Hall in the case of poor weather

**MULLED WINE \*\*\*\* MINCE PIES \*\*\*\* HOT CHOCOLATE**

**FOLLOWED BY KIDS XMAS CINEMA IN THE CHRIS PAGE ROOM  
SEASONAL MUSIC PLAYING IN THE LOUNGE  
AND COMPLEMENTARY SAUSAGE ROLLS—ALL WELCOME**

### QUIZ NIGHT

In support of the  
Pavilion Play Park  
**Fri 31 Jan at 7pm**  
Unique format with  
audio/visual on the  
big screens in the  
lounge and popular  
'wipe out round'  
**Teams of 6—£10 pp**  
(inc cheese platter)  
**To book call:  
07768 066291**

### Pavilion Bar

#### Xmas Opening Hours:

**Xmas Eve 5-9.30pm**

**Xmas Day 12-2pm**

**Boxing Day 12.30-9.30pm**

**Friday December 27 5-9.30pm**

**Saturday December 28 2-7.30pm**

**Sunday December 29 2-7pm**

**Monday December 30 5-9.30pm**

**New Years Eve 5-9.30pm**

**New Years Day 5-9.30pm**

**Thursday January 2 5-9.30pm**

**Friday January 3 5-9.30pm**

If you're thinking about a new interest for the new year, have a look at

[www.hemingfordpavilion.com](http://www.hemingfordpavilion.com)

for what's on at The Pavilion, there's lots on offer.

ADULT FITNESS FOR ALL AGES BOTH DAY AND EVENING CLASSES, ART CLASSES,  
BABY SENSORY CLASSES, BALLROOM DANCING LESSONS + TEA DANCES, FLOWER CLUBS,  
HEMLOCS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP, HEMINGFORD HUB GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME,  
MINDSET MONDAYS WELLBEING PROGRAMME, PAVILION VILLAGE LUNCH,  
PILATES, SCOUTS/CUBS/BEAVERS, TABLE TENNIS, WALKING FOOTBALL, YOGA,

**BOWLS CLUB, CRICKET CLUB, FOOTBALL CLUB, GYM, SQUASH CLUB, TENNIS CLUB**

For Hall Hire enquiries email [bookings@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk](mailto:bookings@hemingfordpavilion.co.uk) or call 01480 465092

# Scouts Christmas Post 2024!

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 10am to 1pm

1<sup>st</sup> Hemingfords Scouts will deliver your  
Christmas cards for just 40p per card

Drop them off at Hemingford Grey Reading Rooms  
With Cake Stall, Raffle and Tombola!

Early drop-off available – contact [secretary@1st-Hemingfords-scouts.org.uk](mailto:secretary@1st-Hemingfords-scouts.org.uk) for more information



Deliveries to **Hemingford Abbots** and **Hemingford Grey**,  
including London Road, Elizabeth Court, Maytrees, Greenfields,  
Limes Park, the Brambles, Bridgefoot, Bridge Terrace, Mill Quay,  
Hemingford Road, Victoria Terrace and the Yes development

## **Hemingford Grey Gardening Society** *by Mike Henderson, Chair*

We've been lucky to have had another two great speakers this season, with Peter Jackson telling us about drought resistant plants in October, and Francis Mizuro, who runs the St Ives Electric Riverboat company, who gave us a really interesting talk not only on the plant life around the Great Ouse, but also the history of the river and the general quality of the water. Our next talk will be given by Tim Fuller on Woodland Plants on 12<sup>th</sup> December. For more details telephone Mike on 466101.

## **Hemlocs** *by Simon Clemmow, Chair*

Your local history society has enjoyed three outstanding talks so far this season – and one of them wasn't even a talk. Stuart Orme kicked us off in September with fascinating insights into the private life of local resident Oliver Cromwell, and Liz Davies got us feeling all festive in November with a light-hearted look at how Victorians spent their Christmases in Huntingdonshire. In October we were also treated to a very special performance by the Bedford Gallery Quire, who sang and demonstrated their wonderful old instruments for us. Don't miss our next meeting at the Pavilion at 7.30pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January.

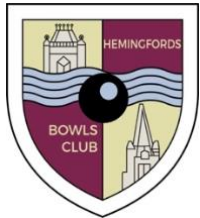


## Hemingford Grey WI



Hemingford Grey WI celebrated its 105th anniversary in November and we hope it will continue for another 105 years. We don't sing *Jerusalem* (except on special occasions!) and hardly ever make jam. We're a friendly group, who enjoy a varied programme of speakers and social events. We also have a walking group, craft group and book club. The WI nationally is the largest women's organisation campaigning to tackle issues that matter to women in their communities. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room. – visitors welcome. For more information telephone Phyl on 380240. Join us for a festive coffee morning between 10-1 on Friday 13th December in the Reading Room.

## Hemingford Bowls Club *by Sue Peel, Chair*



The season may have finished but the green still needs care and attention, and behind the scenes preparation is underway for the 2025 season. The hedge between the green and the car park has recently been removed and replaced with a fence, affording more space greenside that will be useful for seating.

Many thanks to those who attended our MacMillan Coffee Morning, which raised £1212.00.



Our AGM was well attended, and we are delighted to announce that Gareth Evans agreed to take on the role of Club Secretary and we wish him well in this role. Gareth will be well known to many of you in the village. Please contact Sue, [smpeel8159@gmail.com](mailto:smpeel8159@gmail.com) for more information or visit our website or Facebook page.

## The Hemingford Action Group update *by Iain Muspratt, Chair*

The Golf Club property is now owned by Mick George Properties controlled by Mick George and the Range continues to be owned by a company linked to Mick George Family Trusts. As far as we can tell Heidelberg AG has no remaining interest in these properties. The 'Astro Turf' Site has been cleared and remains unused. We have again asked CCC to remove from the list of Waste Sites. CCC have refused to do so. We will ask HDC to support our request.

## Hemingford United Football Club



Hemingfords United continues to progress in the County cup, with the Reserves and the A team reaching the semi-finals of their respective Junior Cups. We wish them every success in the next stage of the competition!

We are proud to announce that Ben Wood has been named Hunts FA's Young Volunteer of the Year. Ben, a dedicated coach and referee, is a fantastic role model for young players and has a huge impact on our village club.



We are thrilled to announce that the HUFC fundraiser on 16th November generated over £5000 to support club growth! Huge thanks to everyone who made this event a success.



**HemingfordHub** by Riva Elliott



### Care Micro Enterprises (CMEs)

CME's are small businesses which provide care and support services after a hospital stay, or to those who wish to continue living at home independently. Cambridgeshire County Council has produced an online [directory](#) of trustworthy and affordable CME's.

### Hoppa Bus pilot scheme set for the New Year

We've finalised our plans for a regular bus service travelling between the Hemingfords and St Ives and are presenting our business plan and vision of delivering cost-effective travel to residents to transport councillors.

### HubClub events - 3pm at the Pavilion (subject to change)



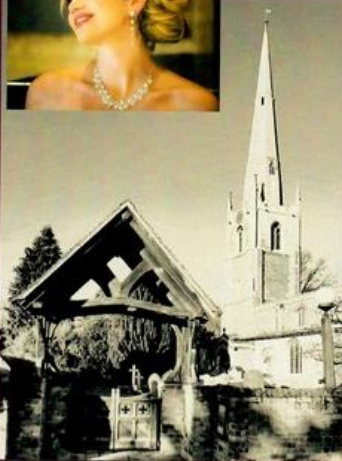
- Dec 4 Bootscooterz line dance show
- Dec 11 Seated exercises and Claire's Christmas party
- Dec 18 @2pm Christmas Party Parish Centre + Children's Carols
- Jan 15 & 29 Film or games

Plus, seated exercises 11<sup>th</sup> December, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, and 5<sup>th</sup> February.

Contact details: T: 07308 035416 E: [hemingfordhub@icloud.com](mailto:hemingfordhub@icloud.com),  
[www.hemingfordhub.co.uk](http://www.hemingfordhub.co.uk), Registered Charity No: 1194706

# A CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS MUSICAL FEAST

**KAREN ENGLAND** Mezzo Soprano      **MARK BURTON** Piano






Saturday,  
December 21st,  
7.00pm

St. Margaret's  
Church,  
Hemingford  
Abbots.

**Tickets ~ £15.00**

A magical evening of  
ethereal and classical  
Christmas music to  
start the festivities in  
style.



Tickets available online at  
Eventbrite, or contact  
07971623243 to reserve  
your tickets.  
A percentage of ticket sales  
will be gifted to the church.

All proceeds to the conservation of St Margaret's Church  
THE FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH  
REGISTERED CHARITY 1104625




SAVE THE DATE!

## Hemingford Abbots Flower Festival

28 - 29 JUNE 2025

<p>Day ticket £10 Weekend ticket £16 Children free</p> <p>Free parking</p>	<p>Open Gardens Afternoon Teas Church Flowers &amp; Concerts Historic Cars &amp; Tractors Plant, Art &amp; Craft stalls</p>
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For more information visit  
[www.hemingfordabbots.org.uk](http://www.hemingfordabbots.org.uk) or Facebook: [haflowerfestival](https://www.facebook.com/haflowerfestival)



## Are you over State Pension age, or know someone who is?


**Pension Credit** tops up pension income and can help with day-to-day living costs.

If you are over State Pension age, you may be eligible to claim **Pension Credit**, even if you own your home or have savings. People who claim **Pension Credit** may also be able to get:

- The **Winter Fuel Payment**\* and other help with heating costs
- Help with rent and Council Tax
- A free TV Licence for those aged 75 or over
- Help with the cost of NHS services, such as NHS dental treatment, glasses and transport costs for hospital appointments

You could be eligible for **Pension Credit** if your weekly income is below £218.15 or, if you have a partner who lives with you, £332.95. Qualifying income level may be higher in some circumstances.

**Don't miss out.**



SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE

Check your eligibility at [gov.uk/pension-credit](http://gov.uk/pension-credit) or by calling **0800 99 1234**

Eligibility criteria apply  
\*or the equivalent in Scotland.

# Christmas Holiday Scheme Places

fully funded



**Would your child like to attend a fully funded holiday scheme this Christmas where fun experiences, a meal and snacks are included?**

**Children in receipt of benefit-related free school meals are eligible to attend a participating holiday scheme for up to 16 hours.**

Please visit the County Council webpage for details and the wider eligibility criteria:

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf)  
(or scan the QR Code)

Questions: [HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)







# Hemingford Grey Parish Council

*Proud to serve the people of Hemingford Grey*



The Parish Council now meets in the **Reading Rooms** on the **second Monday of each month** (except August and December) at 7.00pm for the main parish council meeting, including planning.

All parishioners are invited to attend the meeting and the first ten minutes or so are open to residents to ask questions or make comments and observations on matters or on items on the agenda (please note that after this time, further comments or questions are not permitted when the meeting is in progress).

Agendas are posted on our website and on the village notice boards. Information is also available on our social media pages:

- Website:** [www.hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/hemingfordgreypc](http://www.facebook.com/hemingfordgreypc)  
**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/hemgreypc](http://www.twitter.com/hemgreypc)

## Parish councillors:

	<b>Richard Allen</b> (Chair)	<b>Maristowe, London Road</b> 494783		<b>Robin Waters</b> (V/C)	<b>18 Hemingford Road</b> 07833 901680
	<b>Maria Di Gaetano</b>	<b>17 Dunnock Way</b> 07444 330921		<b>Riva Elliott</b>	<b>38 Church Street</b> 494142
	<b>Janice Flint</b>	<b>30 Marsh Lane</b> 07816 438765		<b>Nick Irish</b>	<b>10 Skylark Place</b> 464665
	<b>Tony Jackson</b>	<b>12 Madeley Court</b> 07973 751679		<b>Sarah Jakes</b>	<b>Meadow View, 99 London Road</b> 466813
	<b>Anne Meredith</b>	<b>18 De Vere Close</b> 465774		<b>Stephen Wright</b>	<b>20 Weir Road</b> 07429 956982

All our councillors can be emailed using the following format:  
***firstname.lastname@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk***

**Parish Clerk:** Ben Stoehr, 30 West Drive, Highfields, Caldecote, CB23 7NY  
Tel: 01954 210241, Email: [parish.clerk@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

***The next edition of the newsletter will be out in February 2025***

Published by Hemingford Grey Parish Council. Editor: Cllr Richard Allen