

PAPERCHAIN

February/March 2023



It might still be grey, wet and chilly, but Spring is just around the corner! To celebrate,, new beginnings and the returning of light and warmth many religions and beliefs have festivals at the start of Spring, many are 'moveable feasts', dependant on the lunar calendar (which just shows how much we all have in common, whatever our beliefs!) The Christian calendar starts the run-up to Easter in February, with Shrove Tuesday on the 21st as Lent begins the next day. The Hindu Maha Shivaratri (Great Shiva Night) is February 18th, Purim (or the Feast of Lots) in the Jewish Calendar is 7th March, The Muslim holy month of Ramadan begins on 23rd March, which coincides with the end of the Pagan celebration of Ostara. What is Ostara? Ostara is a celebration of the spring's warmth, light from the sun, and the awakening of the earth, focusing on the themes of balance, renewal, and rebirth. The symbols of Ostara are spring flowers, fairies, butterflies, rabbits, and eggs - Does it remind you of anything?



WARM SPACES—THE PARISH HALL—STARTING MONDAY 9TH JANUARY

Following the December Council meeting (Paperchain went to press before the meeting), the Council agreed the Parish Hall should be opened on Mondays, (Tuesdays and Thursdays to follow if there is demand) as a WARM SPACE between the hours of 10.00 AM and 1.00 PM, until the end of April 2023. Some books, magazines, jigsaws & games are available—or bring your own! Huge thanks to Val, Beryl, Doreen (Mondays) and Judy (Tuesdays & Thursdays if needed) for volunteering to host the days. The Parish Hall is, of course, already open on Wednesday mornings for coffee & games drop ins.



PARISH HALL AND BUDGETS

The Parish Council has agreed its precept for the year from April 2023 and submitted it to Central Bedfordshire Council. Unfortunately, due to the huge increase in running costs of the Parish Hall (the gas bill alone has nearly trebled, and the hall MUST be heated to prevent damage from damp), there has been no option but to increase the precept. A band D property will increase by £1.83 per month. If more people hired the Parish Hall, it might become more viable and less of a white elephant.

DATE FOR THE DIARY

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 25th April 2023 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall

This meeting is not a Council meeting but an opportunity for residents to find out what goes on in Harlington. Village organisations are invited to have a stand demonstrating their activities. You will be able to meet other residents, village organisations and find out what is happening in the village.

AROUND THE VILLAGE

PLANNING

At the end of November HPC Councillors had an online meeting (arranged by Cllr Walsh) with CBC's Head of Planning and Head of Highways regarding their proposals for Sundon Road due to the Redrow development. Over 90 minutes councillors argued against the proposed speed tables and humps, and made proposals about other possible solutions for the required traffic calming. Ultimately, CBC are not 'recommending' average speed cameras in villages, and will not consider the wider picture (additional developments) for traffic calming in the village. The one and only positive to come from this meeting was that CBC may consider moving the locations of some humps due to the age & structure of some buildings in Sundon Road.



LIGHTING

Hopefully, by the time Paperchain goes to print, the street light on Church Road which was damaged in an RTC should have been replaced. If it hasn't, it will be very soon!!

PETITIONS

Residents NEED to be aware that CBC will treat a petition as a SINGLE comment or complaint, regardless of whether it has one name or 1000. The only way to register comments (whether for or against) about something is to do it as individuals.



CRIME

Sadly, Harlington is seeing an increase in antisocial behaviour and criminal activity, everything from littering through theft to drug crime. Could all residents be vigilant and report any instances or suspicions to Bedfordshire Police, either online or via 111.



DOG FOULING



OOH LOOK!!!! DOG POO!!! NOT NICE TO LOOK AT IS IT? NOT NICE TO TREAD IN EITHER!!

But regardless of how unpleasant Dog Poo is, it continues to be a major issue in the green areas of the village, especially Bury Orchard and the New Grounds. We are extremely privileged that we have so many open areas in this village where we can allow our dogs to run and exercise, and it is very sad that there is an increasing number of irresponsible dog walkers who seem intent on ignoring the law and endangering the health of children who use the area for recreation. The law states:

"Anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100. "

If the case goes to court this could cost the owner or person in charge of the animal up to £1,000. Being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag is not a reasonable excuse. Dogs may deposit roundworm eggs in their faeces, which become infectious after about 3 weeks, and can remain so for up to 2 years. Anyone, particularly children playing near to the ground, runs the risk of swallowing the eggs, which then hatch in the intestine, burrow through the intestine wall into the blood stream and into the body. In the UK there are around 100 cases of toxocariasis diagnosed each year. In rare cases eye disease and loss of vision can be caused when the toxocara larva passes through the eye.

Get the Latest Information Fast!

COUNCIL WEBSITE AND NEWS UPDATES

We have approximately 974 households in Harlington and currently we have 323 subscribers to our **Website**.

It is great to see so many people have signed up and are now receiving 'instant' news, available on a day-by-day basis.

We will update you on CBC information such as road closures, planning and anything else which affects village life. If you haven't signed up yet, we would urge you to do so, we can then send you Parish Information straight to your inbox. Take a look at the website at www.harlington-pc.gov.uk and sign up to get regular updates and information.



DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?

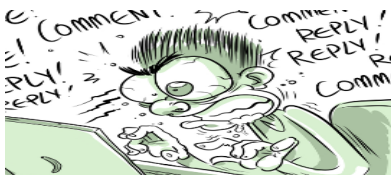
Are you happy with everything in the village?

Do you think things could be done better?

Do you want to put forward ideas?

Do you want to represent the views of others in the community?

You could be a keyboard warrior.....or.....



You could become a Parish Councillor!!!

You can find all the information about becoming a Parish Councillor on the website; <https://harlington-pc.gov.uk/do-you-want-to-make-a-difference-in-your-local-community/>



There's generally one meeting a month, and you can be as involved as you wish.

REPORT AND TRACK ROADS AND HIGHWAYS PROBLEMS

CBC has a new reporting system to make reporting street issues easier, quicker and more accurate and you can upload photos. You can now report and track highways and environment problems online, such as:

- potholes
- faulty street lights
- draining or flooding problems
- damaged pavements
- faulty traffic lights
- overgrown trees and hedges
- obstructions in the road
- damaged or missing road signs or other street furniture
- damaged bus stops and bus shelters

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/55/transport_roads_and_parking/588/report_or_track_roads_and_highways_problems_-_potholes_street_lights

You can also use the FixMyStreet app to report and track issues, you can get the app on Google Play and on Apple's app store.

WALKING With Spring arriving, do you want to find new & interesting walks? Walks suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs?

www.walkinginengland.co.uk/beds has loads of walks to download for FREE, and lots of information!



HARLINGTON PARISH COUNCILLORS

Councillor M Harris (Chairman)	Full Council and F&GP	CouncillorHarris.M@harlington-pc.gov.uk
Councillor P Hughes (F&GP Chairman)	Full Council and F&GP	CouncillorHughes.P@harlington-pc.gov.uk
Councillor T Culverhouse	Full Council and F&GP	CouncillorCulverhouse.T@harlington-pc.gov.uk
Councillor M Walsh	Full Council and F&GP	CouncillorWalsh.M@harlington-pc.gov.uk
Councillor J Goodenough	Full Council and F&GP	CouncillorGoodenough.J@harlington-pc.gov.uk
Councillor J Harfield	Full Council	CouncillorHarfield.J@harlington-pc.gov.uk
Councillor J Lewis	Full Council	CouncillorLewis.J@harlington-pc.gov.uk
Councillor K Saunders	Full Council	CouncillorSaunders.K@harlington-pc.gov.uk
Councillor M Street	Full Council	CouncillorStreet.M@harlington-pc.gov.uk
VACANCY—	Full Council	If you want to help your community please apply
VACANCY—	Full Council	If you want to help your community please apply
VACANCY—	Full Council	If you want to help your community please apply

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mary Walsh, C/O Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ

Phone: 0300 300 8514 **Email:** Mary.Walsh@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Cllr Silvia Collins, C/O Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ

Phone: 0300 300 8548 **Email:** Silvia.Collins@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

MP FOR HARLINGTON

Nadine Dorries MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Phone: 020 7219 5928 **Email:** dorriesn@parliament.uk

CPRE BEDFORDSHIRE

43 Bromham Road, BEDFORD MK40 2AA **Phone:** 01234 880624 **Email:** info@cprebeds.org.uk

THE CHILTERN SOCIETY

White Hill Centre, White Hill, Chesham, HP5 1AG **Phone:** 01494 771250 WWW.chilternsociety.org.uk

THE CHILTERN CONSERVATION BOARD

The Lodge, 90 Station Road, Chinnor, OX39 4HA **Phone:** 01844 355500 www.chilternsaonb.org

14th February 2023

Full Council

7.30 pm

7th March 2023

Finance & General Purposes

7.30 pm

14th March 2023

Full Council Meeting

7.30 pm

11th April 2023

Full Council

7.30 pm

25th April 2023

Annual Parish Meeting

7.30 pm

Parish Council Office, R/o Parish Hall, Church Road, Harlington, Beds, LU5 6LE Tel: 01525 875933

Clerk: Stewart Wilks Email: Clerk@harlington-pc.gov.uk

Office Email: Enquiries@harlington-pc.gov.uk