

# Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

## UPDATE

For Hurstbourne Tarrant, Ibthorpe, Upton & Pill Heath

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

Issue 2

Spring/Early Summer 2018

May 2018

### Chairman's Corner

Dear Friends,

After the chaos caused by two days of snow at the start of March, it's a relief to be well into spring, and on the verge of welcoming summer to our Parish. The HBeT project is well underway with a steering group formed to take forward a wealth of ideas for improving the environment for our insects and wildlife. For the first time, the Parish Council will be at the Village Show on 14th July, showcasing some of these plans as well as giving some prizes for entries to categories with an environmental theme, to help encourage involvement. Reinstatement works to the River Swift have also been planned, with financial assistance from grants applied for from the Environment Agency & TVBC. These works should help protect the villages from the same levels of flooding we saw in 2014. You may notice that the precept—the income the Parish Council receives from you, the electors—has risen this April, the first time in several years, and which only equates to about £1 per household. You have a say what should happen to this money, so we are always happy to see new faces at our meetings and hear your ideas. We cordially invite you to our Annual Parish Meeting in May - especially as there will be light refreshments afterwards and the chance to say hello (details opposite).

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

- Monday 21st May 2018—Annual Parish Council Meeting at 6pm with the **Annual Parish Meeting of the electorate at 7.30pm**

- Monday 18th June 2018

- Monday 16th July 2018

(There is no planned meeting in August).

If you need to contact the Clerk, please ring 01264 736677 or email:

[theparishclerk@hbt.org.uk](mailto:theparishclerk@hbt.org.uk)

If you are a Facebook user, search for

@HBTParishCouncil



## H T Wildlife Group Guided Bird Walk

With Hurstbourne Tarrant's ornithological expert  
David Ellis



**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

9.30am to 12pm

**Meet on Dene Green**



David will take us on a guided walk up behind Prosperous Farm and around Thunderer Wood to observe and learn about local birdlife.

Please bring boots and outdoor clothing suitable for the weather on the day, together with binoculars if you have them. Children are welcome, but unfortunately dogs are not as they are likely to scare the birds! If walking a distance is difficult for you, we can provide a limited number of seats in a 4x4 to get you up the hill! David will finish up at the G&D where there will be the chance to talk about the walk.



For more information and to confirm your attendance, please  
contact David on 01264 736362

With thanks to local landowners Mr Alasdair Murdoch & Ms Jane O'Riordan,  
and Mr David Low

### The Upton Phone Box Needs YOU!

Since its purchase by the Parish Council, for £1, it has stood unused and unloved. Can you help bring it back to life? We would love to hear your ideas ... a book exchange? A local information point? A 'lifesaver' with a defibrillator? Maybe even a shop??!! It's amazing what you can find on Google! ...



## H T Wildlife Group

Following the open meeting held at the George & Dragon in February a steering group has now met to formulate plans to help wildlife and biodiversity in the Parish. Some initial projects and events have been identified:

- \* Habitat projects at KGV Playing Field and Dene Green will see planting of nectar rich, insect friendly shrubs, bird boxes and log stacks
- \* Guided Bird Walk on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May led by Hurstbourne Tarrant's ornithological expert David Ellis
- \* Village Show environmental garden competition
- \* Bee Discovery Event – to be held in the Autumn
- \* Other events being investigated – Bat Walk, outing to Hawk Conservancy, wild flower walk – more information to follow.

You can stay up to date with the project by searching for the HbeeT Wildlife Group on Facebook and we are keen to hear your ideas on events and projects, together with any local wildlife sightings of interest - and especially photos.

## Meet ..... Your New Parish Councillor

Ed Mills was co-opted to the Parish Council in February this year, to replace Mark Betteridge. Ed has lived in the area his whole life, and has strong links with Upton, where he now lives, and his parents have run Parsonage Farm for many years. Ed is very passionate about environmental issues, and with a young family, is keen to ensure that the area in which they live thrives for their future.



### ... And Goodbye David

After 13 years as the Clerk, David Baker has now retired, but continues to be a familiar face at Parish Council meetings and involved with the HBeeT project with his extensive bee knowledge. We will be saying a fond and official farewell to David at the **Annual Parish Meeting - 7.30pm on Monday 21st May** at HTCC, where there will be light refreshments after the meeting, to celebrate.



Your Parish Council will have a small stand at this year's Village Show, on Saturday 14th July, and we would love to hear your ideas, suggestions and comments about our community. Following some recent changes to local footpaths we will have a display clarifying rights of way. You will have the opportunity to vote on which projects you would like to see the council work on over the next year, find out about the local planning process and discuss any other matters with councillors.

## March Spring Clean ... in April!



Thank you to everyone who took part in our Parish Working Party day on Saturday 7th April ... delayed from March owing to our two bouts of snow which hampered the clean-up. Three groups met at Dene Green, Ibthorpe and King George V Playing fields and carried out maintenance and litter picking. In total, 30 adults and children turned out which was a fantastic effort. And a big thank you to Fiona Holland who organised Upton's clean up on 24th March.

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.

## Village Design Statement

**A Village Design Statement is intended to influence planning and provide a context for new development, based on local character or sense of place. It is about how planned development should be carried out, so that it is in harmony with its setting and makes a positive contribution to the local environment.**

**Are you interested in contributing? We need volunteers to help with bringing the project together (enthusiasm being the main skill required!)**

**Councillor Jamie Williams, our planning 'guru' will be happy to have you on board**

**[councillor.jamie.williams@hbt.org.uk](mailto:councillor.jamie.williams@hbt.org.uk)**

## Fly tipping ... and dog fouling

If you are a Facebook follower, you may have seen the issues we had earlier in the year with fly-tipping along Common Road at the top of Hurstbourne Hill, towards Pill Heath. Tyres and other rubbish was dumped within the space of a week after being cleared away by volunteers. Test Valley Borough Council were contacted, and got involved, and at present, this appears to have stopped. Fly tipping is a criminal offence and is taken seriously by enforcement agencies, so please do report any information, anonymously if needed - either to TVBC, the police, or the Parish Council.



Another antisocial problem which has increased recently around the Parish is dog fouling. Not only are dog owners not clearing up their dog waste, but some bagged waste is being left on footpaths, pavement verges, and around the edge of the KGV field, despite there being 8 bins in the village for this use. The Parish Council's efforts to put up signs reminding dog owners about their duty to clear up were ripped down on the footpath up towards Doles Wood. We will be working with the TVBC Dog Warden over the next few weeks to try to find some solutions.



## Hospital & Doctor Transport Volunteers



The Parish Council has been asked to look at a possible solution to the problem which some people face with transport to hospital and doctor appointments, especially those who live alone. We will investigate how this might be coordinated and would be keen to hear from anyone who would be prepared to go on a 'village register' of volunteer drivers, helping people to get to appointments at local surgeries and hospitals.

## Councillor Contact

If you would like more information about any of the items in this newsletter, please contact Councillor Mark Thomas or the Clerk, Mims Edwards. All members' details are listed below for information:

Ian Kitson - Chairman - 01264 736733 - [councillor.ian.kitson@hbt.org.uk](mailto:councillor.ian.kitson@hbt.org.uk)  
Mark Thomas - Vice Chairman - 01264 736456 - [councillor.mark.thomas@hbt.org.uk](mailto:councillor.mark.thomas@hbt.org.uk)  
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**And finally ... we are still in contact with The Post Office regarding reinstatement of a service to the Parish - the matter is NOT forgotten!**

