

Hullavington News



June—July 2021

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We love to hear from you. Please send any articles & news to: editorhullavingtonnews@gmail.com or deliver to The Old Bakery, 1 Gibbs Lane. We reserve the right to edit any article. Please send in a Word file with a font of 12 and pictures/logos etc in jpeg. Pictures are printed in black and white.



Input deadline for the next issue is the 11th July 2021.



£65 per page for 6 issues a year and £35 per half-page (black & white). All payments to Liz Greenman, address below.

Email: julianandlizgreenman@gmail.com.



Donations are invaluable to the running of this newsletter, they can be made through the collection box in the village shop or sent to Liz Greenman, 84 The Street, Hullavington. SN14 6DU. Lloyds Chippenham. Sort 30 91 99, AC 'Hullavington News' No 03041845.



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Cover photo—'Jaffa in the Bluebells' - Sally Jeeves

Many of you will have heard about the brazen theft of a Catalytic Converter from a car on the Street, which took place in broad daylight (page 20). Disturbing and a good reminder to be vigilant, although who would have imagined that the appropriately dressed 'mechanics' jacking the car up were anything other than legitimate!

Further to the article in the last News asking for volunteers to come forward and help run the Village Hall, I'm delighted to hear that several people have offered their time—thanks to all those who have previously been involved and to the newcomers that have stepped forward to keep this valuable village resource running.

The Parish Council held their Annual Parish Meeting on the 28th April (page 16), reports were submitted by many groups in the Village. Sharon Neal our Parish Clerk will publish them on the Parish Website at www.hullavingtonparishcouncil.org.uk. There is lots of interesting information on there (including back issues of the Hullavington News). Thanks to Sharon, Maggie and all the Councillors for doing a great job of managing the day to day 'business' of the Village.

With best wishes, Sally Jeeves, Ed.



Carol Plumridge OSTEOPATHY

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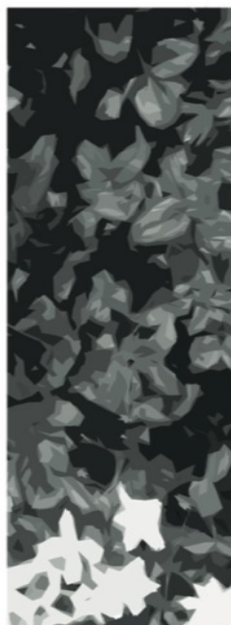
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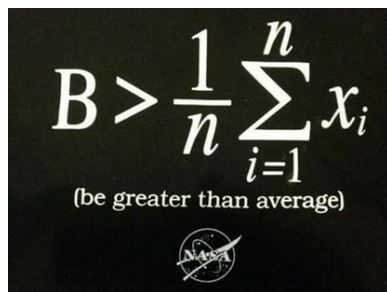
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Bill Sandiford and his wife Ruth recently moved from Scotland to Hullavington to be closer to their family. They have a daughter in Chippenham and a son in Bradford-on-Avon.

Prior to their move south, Bill had been tutoring maths in Scotland for 20+ years. He has also tutored maths in England, and is therefore familiar with the requirements of both the English and Scottish maths systems.

Bill has never “taught”. That is to say, he has never been a “teacher”. In his youth, and after a short spell as a Senior Technician working on V-Bombers with the Royal Air Force, Bill went on to gain a degree in maths, computing and statistics, and then spent the rest of his career as an Operations Analyst, both in the Military and Civil aviation sectors. He is now semi-retired.

In view of the newly discovered Coronavirus, Bill is currently tutoring via Skype.

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VILLAGE LIFE— Groups, Events & News

HULLAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 28th April via Zoom with 32 people “attending”! The last time we had such a turnout was in the nineties when the MOD put forward a proposal to build up to 12,000 houses on the airfield and over 100 parishioners attended.

The Parish Council looks forward to meeting more of you at our meetings when they can once again be held in the Village Hall.

Reports were received from:

The Chair of the Parish Council

The Book Group and Film of the Book Group - from Elizabeth Parry-Williams

Hullavington Footpaths and Rights of Way - from Don Queen

Hullavington News - from Sally Jeeves

Hullavington Parochial Church Council - from Catherine Sanderson

St. Mary Magdalene Church – from Alison Reed

The Recorder Group – from Maggie Dyson

Hullavington Short Mat Bowls – from Pat Harper

Speed Indicator Device – from Peter Parry-Williams

The Toddler Group/Jolly Tots – from Rachel Cripps

The Village Show – from Jon Jeeves

Hullavington Women’s Institute – from Frances Edwards

Due to technical difficulties, the report from the Village Hall could not be heard but a written report from Bob Fenner will be available to view on the Parish Council website, as will all the above reports.

No reports were received from: Buckley Barracks, Wiltshire Police, Hullavington School and Wiltshire Council.

In Public Question Time a parishioner spoke about the need for the village to adapt regarding Climate Change.

Another parishioner questioned the Broadband speed of the village and his concern regarding the possibility of the Neighbourhood Plan being overturned.

The positioning of the new 30mph sign at the Cemetery end of the village was raised by a parishioner.

The village verges were also mentioned by a parishioner who wanted to know if they could be left in order for wild flowers to thrive - what were the farmers spraying on the fields and he also mentioned a damaged drain in Greens Close.

ROADWORKS

The recent roadworks at Cemetery Corner certainly got the village reacting on Facebook!

As the Parish Council had not received notification of a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order for any roadworks in that area, I queried it with Wiltshire Council and managed to get to the bottom of it - eventually! Well - it has only taken four years but at last there will soon be flashing advisory 20mph speed limit signs in the area of the school! They will only be used at school drop-off and pick-up times and was an aspiration brought forward from the Hullavington Neighbourhood Plan.

Initial discussions with the school were held in March 2017, when the then Leader of Wiltshire Council Cllr Jane Scott, Dave Thomas - Traffic Engineering Manager of Wiltshire Council and myself met with the Headteacher Sue Tudge. It was agreed that there was justification for the sign but the school would have to update the School Travel Plan.

The update took rather longer than originally intended but the scheme itself was agreed as satisfactory by the Parish Council at the meeting held on 14th March 2018.

The Parish Council was then consulted regarding these road works in March 2020 and responded with a counter proposal to Wilts Council as below:

“To extend the 30mph limit onto the C1 Southerly direction from the Street towards the Rail Bridge (Norton direction) and again from the Street in a Northerly direction (towards the A429) to beyond the cemetery and Telephone Exchange in the interest of road traffic and pedestrian safety.

Through DYSON re-development of the Hullavington Airfield, a new Roundabout and Road layout is under construction at the junction of the A429 and the C1. Whilst welcomed, (there have been accidents/fatality at this junction) it is difficult to exit the C1 to the A429 at peak times in either direction, the improvement will undoubtedly increase traffic along the C1 as it will be much easier to exit the C1 onto the A429 instead of taking alternative but longer routes to avoid the junction. The increase in traffic will impact on the C1 junction at Hullavington increasing the possibility of a road traffic and or pedestrian accident. For a minor cost, the Highways Department could erect two 30mph signs in the locations suggested above and improve road traffic and pedestrian safety at the crossroads C1 and the Street at Hullavington. The cost would be the same as moving the two signs currently located near the school to the junction of the Street/C1 as proposed.”

Wiltshire Council then needed more additions and updates made to the School Travel Plan, then COVID-19 got in the way but now the scheme has finally been implemented.

THE SAME OLD STORY

I have received so many comments recently regarding the amount of dog poo throughout the village.

Worst affected areas are The Street, the path between the Village Hall and Greens Close and the footpath that runs alongside the school at the back of Mere Avenue, which has to be used on a regular basis by the children in our village school in order to adhere to Covid rules.



If you don't clear up, you could be served with a fixed penalty notice or prosecuted and fined up to £1,000. As with many things, it is the few that spoil it for the many.

There are thirteen litter/dog bins in the village! Enjoy your walks, please remember to keep your dog under control where there is livestock around and always follow the Countryside Code. A guide is posted on the web by searching for 'Wiltshire council dog owners guide'.

Thanks to Maggie Bawden for the Parish Council Report. Ed

THE NEW WAY TO ORDER REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

Malmesbury Primary Care Centre

From Monday 8th June, the quickest way to order prescriptions is to phone our dedicated prescribing service (aka POD) on 0300 123 6242. Phone lines are open 9am -5pm every week day excluding bank holidays. This service will be a safer and more effective way of getting your repeat medications. Once you have called the POD, your prescription will be available at your nominated pharmacy within 4 working days. There is no need to register for this service, simply call when you have 7 days left of your medication. You will also be able to order online

- via a new email address bswccg.podemergency@nhs.net
- or the POD online contact form <https://bswccg.nhs.uk/your-health/hospital-care/prescription-ordering-direct-pod>
- or you can register for the NHSApp and access your online record and order medication from your phone <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/online-services/>

We are closing our old repeat.ghs@nhs.net email and we will no longer accept paper requests which are all too easy to lose. Did you know? In an emergency, outside normal GP hours, you may be able to get a prescription by calling 111. Visit [NHS 111 online](#) to find out more.

CATALYTIC CONVERTER—STOLEN ON FRIDAY 30TH APRIL

In broad daylight! below is the information I received:

" *****'s car had its catalytic converter stolen last Friday afternoon whilst it was parked on The Street apparently by two men in blue overalls using a red car jack. We have sent a report to the police (just waiting for our crime number). Although *****
***** saw it going on it was thought they were just repairing *****'s car!

Sadly, no other vehicle was seen which could be associated with this matter. Thieves target catalytic converters because they contain precious metals, like platinum, palladium or rhodium, that are valuable to metal dealers.

Following the recent theft above, the following might be worth a read.

Car crime is a real problem in the UK. Alarming-ly, one car is stolen every ten minutes. With Covid-19 and the recent lockdowns, many people aren't driving or checking on their cars as much as they used to. At Neighbourhood Watch, we need your help to remind car owners to remain vigilant about where and how they park their cars, in order to keep them safe.



John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Network, says

"Most car crimes happen because cars are left unlocked. There is a misconception that some cars are auto-locking and lock themselves if left unattended after a period of time. This isn't always correct. Another misconception is that your car is too old and no one will bother stealing it. This is also incorrect – both new and old cars are at risk. Having a car stolen or broken into is more than simply a hassle, it can impact on people's livelihoods. The good news is that there are simple steps everyone can take to help reduce the risk to their car. With only a 46% recovery rate we're reminding everyone to leave your car locked, lit and empty."

VERY TRUE!

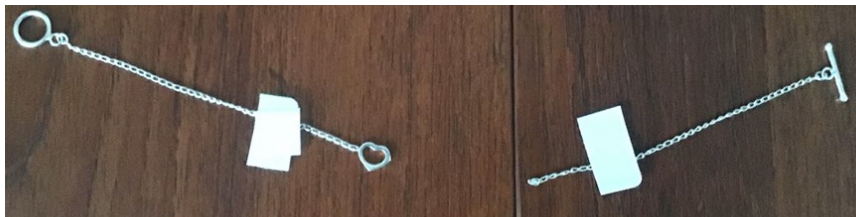
Facebook is a funny thing
A place to share your news,
but there is something special
about village news and views.
Nothing usually happens
maybe a cat is lost,
or Mrs Smith's begonias
have not survived the frost.
There are adverts for a plumber
and the local village fair,
but it always is a problem
that people love to share.
Two youths were seen in hoodies
walking by the shop
discussions start in earnest,
which one will call a cop?
It often is the farmers
who get it in the neck,
from Maureen in her swimsuit
relaxing on her deck.
What are those tractors doing?
What is that dreadful smell?
Human, dog or chicken?
It's really hard to tell.

Or maybe it's been raining,
there's mud upon the road
that's fallen from a trailer
that has shed some of its load.
Planning applications
send people in a spin,
but not picking up your dog's poo
well, that's the biggest sin.
Chat about the potholes
the menu for the pub,
litter louts and cyclists
the van that sells good grub.
And sometimes there's a problem,
a sheep stuck on its back,
that parcel that went missing
has been found around the back.
The church clock maybe be broken
there is woodworm in the pews,
the place to find the gossip
is on village news and views!

Jan Millward©

Thanks to Maggie Bawden for the round-up—and finding this fab poem! Ed

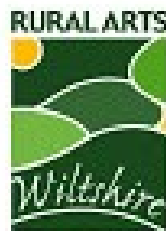
DID YOU LOSE THIS BROKEN BRACELET?



It was found in the Old Farm Close area and is now with me. If it is yours, please let me know the initial that is on both sides of the heart, collection can then be arranged. Maggie Bawden 837311

RURAL ARTS WILTSHIRE

Rural Arts Wiltshire & South Gloucestershire have joined forces with Jonny Fluffypunk to celebrate the life and soul of our communities and villages in the region and to spread a little joy. Recognising the amazing work of these special places and those volunteers supporting their local communities.



Rural Touring Poet in Residence has been in contact with Hullavington to ask questions during these difficult and isolated times and has got his hands on all the village gossip, all the juicy details. What everyone has been missing since March 2020, how they've coped, the sad and the funny stories. Jonny has been all ears. And here are the results.

The reference to Peggy and Rod is Princess Margaret and Roddy Llewellyn, who held pretty wild, sometimes naked, parties in Surrendell Farm, according to the late Victor Rawlins!"

Thanks to Anna Durrant who is our 'RAW' co-ordinator for collecting the inputs and liaising with Jonny—great fun! Ed

Hullavington

You'll know the turn-off when you get to it; a whitewashed hangar looming up, grass-topped, like something off kids TV; like Gaudi's found the place to be is here in rural Wilts.

You'll know you're nearly there then;
a glimpse of that swelling mound
would once have been the cue for
Peggy and Rod to loosen ties, for
naturists to brace themselves for
goosebump nip of country air for
Eton boys to pop the boater back
upon the bonce as the charabanc
geared it down for journey's end.

You'll see it, across the fields, past the wild expanse of runway where the
air force boys once learned their craft; hemmed by motorway and Roman
Road. Hullavington. Hunlaf's Town.
Huddled tight around The Street.
A garage. Pub. A church or two. The
Court House where they celebrate
and a bus during daylight hours.
You'll watch the people; watch them as
they make their way down Dane's

Bottom, up Pig lane from Parkland,
Newtown and Hill Hayes watch them as
they pass the school, where once, as
the Hanging Judge rode in, they stood
up in the windswept fields and crossed
themselves.

You'll see the open doors of
the phoenix village hall, a
silent call-to-prayer for all who
care to stretch themselves the
WI. The short-mat bowlers.
The artists, poets and movie-goers.
Dog-trainers, Mount Zion worshippers
Zumba girls and golden-throated choristers.

And then, just by St Mary's; you'll clock the coffee scent, and sit yourself
to rest upon the grass. You'll feel the warmth, soaking through your skin
and, looking up,

you'll see Ali, striding up the path
toward the open house of God. And
in her arms, a tray of home-made
scones as nourishing as any parable.

Jonny Fluffypunk 2021



PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE

SEVICES FOR JUNE AND JULY 2021

JUNE

Sunday	6	11.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday	13	11.00am	Morning Prayer (Informal)
Sunday	20	11.00am	Family Communion
Sunday	27	11.00am	All Age Family Worship

JULY

Sunday	4	11.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday	11	11.00am	Morning Prayer (Informal)
Sunday	18	11.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday	25	11.00am	All Age Family Worship

For the time being we will continue the Daily Services of Morning Prayer, 9.00am Monday to Saturday on Facebook. These will be broadcast on our Gauzebrook Group Facebook page and led by members of the ministry team and can be accessed from:

<https://www.facebook.com/gauzebrookgroup>

<https://www.gauzebrook.org/online>

Now that we can offer live services there will only be occasional Services uploaded to YouTube.

Gauzebrook YouTube service - <https://tinyurl.com/GauzebrookTV>

If you know of any friends, family members or neighbours who would like some pastoral support please contact the Revd Adam Beaumont, our Rector, rector@gauzebrook.org or 01666 311177.



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THE CHURCH CLOCK

At last we have some news! Thanks to Ken Reed's ingenuity, we now have it working but it does not keep accurate time. The regulator that was fitted over 10 years ago has gone wrong and we need a replacement. It will cost £2500 and we really need some help to finance this.

We are asking people living in the village if they would be prepared to help us fund-raise for this repair. If you can support us we will be very grateful.

There are considerable costs in maintaining our church, a really ancient building. Resources are always stretched so we hope that those of you who love seeing or hearing the clock may be able to support us. We have some general structural issues on the wall of the Bradfield Chapel that we are having expert guidance on and clearly our limited funds must be reserved for repairs to the fabric of the building.

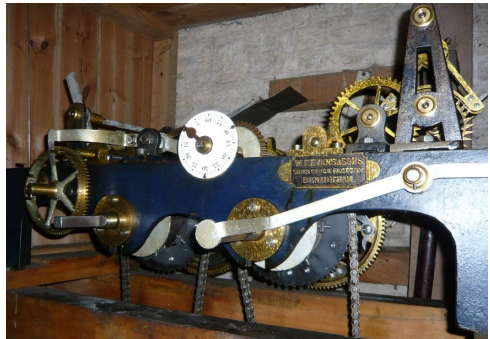


If you would like to help, envelopes are available in the church porch and if you pay tax and are happy to complete the details on the envelope we are able to claim back the tax making your donation worth an additional 25%! Envelopes can be handed in to any member of the PCC or popped into the letter boxes at Edenhurst House, 15 The Street or London House, 51 The Street.

If you prefer to make a donation by bank transfer the details are:
Parochial Church Council of Hullavington. Sort Code: 30-91-99
Account Number: 02481248
Reference: Clock

In this case, please let one of the Churchwardens know if you are happy for us to claim back any tax you have paid on this donation, and they will just need a signature from you.

Dudley Hewitt
Vice Chair, PCC of Hullavington





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Hullavington WI is celebrating its 60th birthday this May. Some people will remember Jean Giles who with her mother formed the WI . We will celebrate with a tea party in Isobel's garden for all our members and of course cut a beautiful cake from The Cake Tin. As our meeting is on 19th May the latest pandemic rules mean we can't meet in the hall but can have up to 30 people in the garden. We just need the weather to be kind to us.

In June we will have a talk via Zoom from Susan Essex on 'Being a House Mother in India' and in July we hope to be back in the hall for a talk from Angela Scofield about Her Life In Uniform. Using Zoom has helped us meet each month but being back in the hall will be wonderful.

Our WI meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2pm. We welcome visitors and new members.....just come along and see what is going on.

Isobel Acott

FILM GROUP



Film Group sessions will resume at the village hall when restrictions allow.

All film evenings will now be held on **Wednesdays**: Film of the Book on the first Wednesday in the month, Film Group EXTRA on the third, and Film Group on the fourth.

You will find updates on posters, the village hall website and on Hullavington Happenings.

Please support the film evenings when they return to the Village Hall.

Elizabeth Parry-Williams



Local Rotary Club helps with Covid Vaccination Roll-Out

Many of us will by now have had either one or both of our Covid-19 vaccinations. Those of you who visited the Malmesbury Primary Care Centre on one of the Pfizer mass-vaccination days will have, no doubt, noticed the stewards helping out in the car park. Hopefully you found their efforts helpful. These stewards were co-ordinated by the local Rotary Club of the South Cotswolds.

On each of these days somewhere around 800 people were vaccinated – at a site in no way suitable for that number of people (and their cars) in one day! Each vaccination day needed a crew of at least 5 outdoor stewards – in all the Rotary Club organised well over 100 steward shifts. This was made more difficult as the Primary Care Centre generally only had a few days' notice of each batch of vaccine and then had to arrange vaccinators and book in recipients in a hurry – and to contact the Rotary Club to ask for car park stewards!

The stewarding resource required was beyond the capabilities of the South Cotswold Rotary Club alone – so the Club was very pleased to have the support of a number of friends and from the nearby Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett and District. In fact one of the friends who became a stalwart steward noted what we were doing when he came for his own vaccination and asked to join us!

Being outdoor stewards we were, of course, subject to the full range of British Spring weather, including rain, wind, hail, lightning, occasional sunshine and the coldest April for many a year! However we received many accolades and thanks from those coming for their vaccinations which reinforced the knowledge we were making a significant contribution to the vaccination effort locally.

Regards, Peter Wyman

Rotary Club of the South Cotswolds

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Michelle H,
December 2020



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HULLAVINGTON BOOK GROUP



The plan is to return to regular meetings at the Village Hall in June if restrictions allow. The sessions will be held in the side room, on the second Tuesday in the month, at 2.00 pm.

Micky the pony and Mike Scott delivered our books in March and April. They rose to the occasion beautifully when filmed by Channel 5 and Points West, also appearing in newspapers too, locally and across the country.

In March we read 'SHADOWPLAY' by Joseph O' Connor.

The book brings together the lives of Abraham 'Bram' Stoker, Sir Henry Irving, and Ellen Terry. Bram Stoker started his working life as a clerk, and went on to become a theatre manager and part time writer. Born in Dublin in 1847, he died in London in 1912, never having known literary success. 'Dracula', Bram Stoker's 1897 Gothic Horror story, made little money during his lifetime, but since the release of a Hollywood film version in 1931, the book has never been out of print.

Sir Henry Irving, born John Henry Brodribb, in 1838, was an actor/manager, one of the most famous of English actors, and the first of his profession to be Knighted. He died in 1905.

Dame Alice 'Ellen' Terry, was born into a theatrical family in 1847. As a child, she started acting in Shakespearean plays in London, and went on to become the highest paid actress in England, much beloved by the public. She died in 1928. It is said her ghost haunts the Lyceum Theatre in London.

Extract from the novel:

"Just before dawn, October 12th 1905. In which two gentlemen of the theatre set out from London for Bradford.

Out of the gathering swirls of mist roars the hot black monster, screeching and belching its bilious smoke.....

.....In the dimly lit First Class compartment of the dawn mail coach from King's Cross, two gentlemen of the theatre are seated across from one another, in blankets and shabby mufflers and miserably threadbare mittens and a miasma of early morning sulk.

Reviews:

'I did not like 'Shadowplay' - just not my sort of book and I am afraid I did not finish it.'

'I really did enjoy it, not the easiest of reads. The flow at times was a bit difficult to follow. I was unsure whether I was with the narrator, or with a record from the past. But I loved the prose, almost poetry at times. I really enjoyed Ellen's visit as an elderly lady, to London. I really appreciated the insight into Irving, Stoker and Terry as friends and colleagues - no idea. The backdrop of the Ripper was cleverly done and the hint of the supernatural added a real sense of atmosphere. Poor old Bram, he never got to realise his Dracula as such a character through generations.'

Our April book was 'A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS' by Khalad Hosseini.

All who read this book found it a difficult and sad read.

Review:

'I found the 'Thousand Splendid Suns' an engrossing, fascinatingly shocking read; what a terrible regime to live under.'

Our title for May is 'THE DRY' by Jane Harper.

Who really killed the Hadler family?

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Elizabeth Parry-Williams

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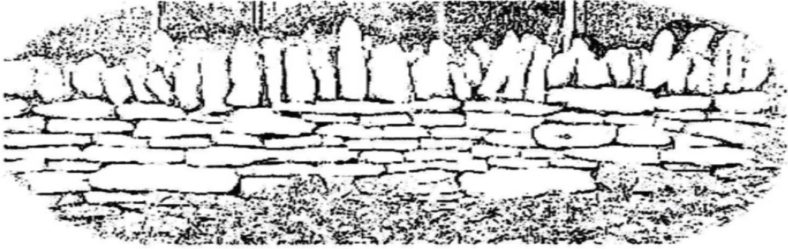
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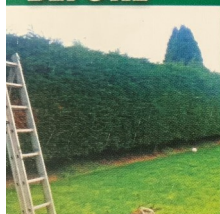
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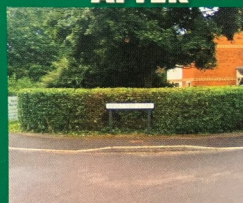
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RATES FOR HIRING HULLAVINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Rates from 1st April 2020

Basic charge for Hall £ per session (see note 1)

(Commercial/Government users see note 2)

User Category	Core User	Village User	Non-Village
Main Hall	£20	£26	£39
Side Hall	£12.50	£14.50	£24
Both Halls	£26.50	£31.50	£52.50

Supplementary Charges (below) are cumulative and additional to the above Basic Charge.

Up to 24 people	nil	nil	nil
25-49 people	nil	£5.50	£9.50
50-99 people	nil	£10.50	£15
100+ people	nil	£12.50	£28
Consumption of alcohol (see note 3)	nil	£10.50	£14

Notes

- 1 The Hall is hired on a session basis, there are 3 per day:
AM 09.00—13.00, **PM** 14.00—18.00, **Eve** 19.00—23.00
- 2 Booking fees for Commercial / Government use are by arrangement.
- 3 Temporary Event Notices (TENS) are required by law when alcohol is sold on the Hall premises. It is the sole responsibility of the hirer to arrange for the TENS and to declare his/her intention to apply for one when booking the hall.

To hire the Hall, please contact Paul Hadley on 01666 837096 or Bob Fenner on 01666 837320. Full details of hire are on the village website www.hullavington.info. Villagers who would like a one-off event in the hall should book min 3 months in advance.

For other matters concerning the Hall, contact Bob Fenner by telephone or at bobfenner5@gmail.com. **WiFi now available!**

200 Club for the Village Hall

It's so much more interesting now we're able to do our monthly draw outside with another committee member (socially distanced, of course). A nice opportunity to catch up.

Our recent winners have been:

March	Di Hamblin	£50	Andrew Shearer	£25
April	David Cheshire	£50	Sheila Scott	£25

Congratulations to them and we wish all our members good luck in the coming months. If you'd like to be in with a chance of winning, please contact Geraldine McKibbin on 837736 or Linda Hadley on 837096

Handy Information

Shop:

Mon—Fri	08.00—18.00
Sat	08.30—16.00
Sun	09.00—13.00

Post Office:

Mon, Tues, Thur	09.00—12.30
Wed	09.00—12.00
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(The News went to print just as lockdown rules were changing so please look online above or on the notice boards outside the pub for the latest info—thanks Ed)

Book group	Liz Parry Williams	01666 837713
Film Group	Sarah Harmer	01666 837704
Football Club	James Nation	07894 715080
Golden Threads	Alison Reed	01666 837661
Village Hall Committee	Bob Fenner	01666 837320
Health Liaison	Lis Cheshire	01666 837558
Jolly Tots	Rachel Cripps	07850 176901
M'bury & District Link		01666 840861
N'hood Police Team		101
Parish Church	Adam Beaumont	01666 311177
www.hullavingtonparishcouncil.org.uk	Sharon Neal	01249 659842
Poetry Group	Catherine Sanderson	01666 838824
Primary School & Little Hoots Nursery	Sue Tudge	01666 837604
Recorder Group	Maggie Dyson	01666 837358
Rights of Way, Roads & Pavements		0300 4560105
Short Mat Bowls	Pat Harper	07462 136889
200 Club	Geraldine McKibbin	01666 837736
Women's Institute	Isobel Acott	01666 837458

Meet the Villager

A light hearted chat with a local about their time in Hullavington

In this edition we meet Ali Reed



Every summer in the late 1950s early 60s saw the Brown family leave their home in Stanley Co Durham to drive to Chippenham for a 2 week holiday with family. There were no motorways, few services and the journey took upwards of 10 or 11 hours.

Little Alison sitting in the back seat watched for the hangars covered in grass, and as they passed them she knew they were nearly there.

Roll forward to 1983, house hunting after a 3 year spell in Abu Dhabi and Kuwait, Ken and Ali Reed passed those same grassed hangars and found their forever home in Hullavington. We were passing through but stopped at the little village shop because the house next door had a For Sale sign outside. Peter Berry in the shop told us the owners were away but he was sure an Aunt of the owners would show us round. Miss Edgington duly came and sold us Edenhurst House, she should have been an estate agent!!

We moved in on December 5th 1983 and were made to feel welcome here by everyone we met. School for daughter Jenny was just next door, there was a playgroup in the village hall for little Philip when he was old enough, a shop, a post office, a garage with petrol pumps, 2 churches and 2 pubs --- perfect!

Ken had a new job with the Water Research Centre in Swindon, at times travelling all over the country, often spending a few nights away, but being here in the village without him felt very safe and secure.

Before long I became joint leader of the village playgroup, was involved with activities at church and as a parent volunteer at the village school. In 1988 a maternity vacancy became available at school and I was fortunate to be appointed – fortunate because I trained and worked as a Home Economics teacher before Jenny was born. However I was retrained on the job by Mrs Sneyd, and managed to stay employed at school until December 2002.

Early retirement it was not!!! 5 years earlier we had bought the empty village shop attached to our house. As architecture students our daughter Jenny and her fiancée Mike drew up plans to convert the shop into a 3 bedroom house—this became a live project and was built in 2002/3. On completion it became our B&B – Serendipity! -- and I had a new career which lasted until mid 2016.

It was hard work, lots of fun and we met lots of interesting people, some of whom are still friends. It was a very special privilege to be able to look after friends and family of people who lived in the village. We also hosted a weekly coffee morning which was popular for over 10 years and raised a lot of money for locally connected charities.

Since retiring I wonder when there was time to work. We now have 4 grandchildren, two in Bristol who are frequent visitors and two in Whitley Bay in Tyne and Wear, so before 2020 we travelled north once a month to do some childcare and refresh the accent!! I'm a volunteer cook at Doorway in Chippenham, and still very much involved in the life of our Parish church.

Frequent visits to the West Coast of Scotland are about to be resumed, but east or west home is best, and home for us is here in Hullavington.

Quick Fire Questions:

- Guilty pleasure? Ferrero Rocher
- Who would play me in movie? Judi Dench (as if)
- Change one thing in village? A proper playground
- Dinner guest? Sandi Toksvig
- Cat or dog? Dog
- Happiness is? Holiday on the Isle of Mull with our two families at the same time
- Bucket list? St Kilda again

HULLAVINGTON HISTORY—THEN AND NOW



The Star Inn/Hullavington Arms—In the early 1970's, a group of steam and transport enthusiasts formed the North Wilts & South Gloucs Preservation Society. The chairman was a Mr J Stevens who lived in the village. In 1972, they organised a large steam and transport 'Olde Tyme Fantasia' in fields just to the south of the village. In 1973, they organised a small event around the Star Inn. Two steam traction engines and a road roller were parked in front of the pub and stalls and smaller exhibits in the car park. At that time, the pub was famous for its Pile of Pennies. The pile was built up through the year and then 'knocked over' just before Christmas and the money passed to local charities. Apparently, a penny could only be added to the pile after having been dipped in a beer. It helped to secure the pile!

In recent years, the Star was renamed the Hullavington Arms and still continues the transport theme with its fascinating RAF displays throughout the rooms, and of course still offers a very warm welcome.
Dave Hunt

