

# HUNCOTE VILLAGE NEWS

## ISSUE 21. MAR. 2005

### HUNCOTE –BEST VILLAGE

This year Huncote is again entering the Leicestershire and Rutland Best Village Competition. Last year we were highly commended and hope to improve on that position. To help in this and to help keep the village tidy we are providing three skips for general use from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> April. Please use these to place general materials and help to keep the village tidy. We will all benefit.

### PARISH COUNCILLORS REQUIRED.

There are two vacancies on Huncote Parish Council. Any one may apply provided he or she is at least aged twenty-one and is an elector, lives within three miles, owns or rents premises in Huncote, or has his or her principal place of work in Huncote. Parish Councillors are not paid, but should find the role interesting and can benefit the community. Any one who is interested should contact the Clerk (01455 273414) or by e-mail [huncoteparishcouncil@hotmail.com](mailto:huncoteparishcouncil@hotmail.com).

### TERMINATION OF X48 BUS SERVICE

The X48 bus service from Leicester via Huncote to Sharnford ceased at the end of October. We are attempting to have a replacement service which caters for Huncote but under County Council rules are unable to do anything until six months after the service terminated. We are hopeful that a review will be carried out in April /May which will result in a usable service coming to Huncote.

**The next meetings of Huncote Parish Council are to be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April (7.15 p.m.) and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00 p.m. for the Parish Meeting and 7.30 p.m. for the Parish Council Meeting. Meetings are held at St. James Hall, Narborough Road and residents are invited to attend.**



### DOG FOULING

When walking your dog, please clear up any mess it makes. Suitable bags are available from the Post Office, and red bins are situated around Huncote to place these in.

### FRED SPENCE

The village of Huncote was saddened to hear of the death of Fred Spence on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2005, aged eighty. Fred lived with his wife Hazel on Forest Road in the house which he designed and had built himself for almost forty years.

A lot of people knew Fred from Empire Stone where he worked for fifty-two years before retiring in 1991 as Works Director.

Locally Fred served as a Magistrate on Leicestershire County Council for twenty-three years, retiring in 1994. He was a Councillor on Huncote Parish Council, was Chairman several times and during his service instigated the Horticultural Show which is now an annual event. He was also responsible for the under-eleven children's play area, which is named after him. He retired from the Parish council in 2000 having served for thirty-six unbroken years.

Fred was also a Blaby District Councillor, for twelve years and retired in 1999. During this time he served for ten years on the Planning Committee. The highlight of this was being Chairman of the District Council for 1995/1996, in which capacity he visited Buckingham Palace.

Fred's second home was Huncote Methodist Church where his family have been members for very many years. He held more positions than we can name here, but as Property Chairman he was responsible for (to name a few) the renovations in the Church itself, the new kitchen, the roof repairs and the most recent being the fantastic disabled access which he designed, arranged funding for and oversaw all the work.

Fred will be greatly missed in the village for all his hard work and dedication, and as a great friend to many people. Our sympathies extend to Hazel, his two sons, David & Richard, and his daughter-in-law Ann.

## DIRECTORY OF HUNCOTE

Changes:

Please note that Arterial Craft shop has now moved from Huncote to Cosby. The phone number has not changed.

Please report any other changes or errors to the Clerk.

## VANDALISM AND FLY TIPPING

The amount of vandalism in Huncote, and particularly on Parish Council and School property has increased recently to a totally unacceptable level. This results in having facilities and equipment either dangerous or unusable as well as been unsightly. It is also very expensive to tidy up, repair or replace, and reduces the morale of the community. The costs of it are such that about a seventh of the Parish Council Income, that mainly comes from the Council Tax which you pay have this year been spent on tidying up and repairing vandalised equipment and facilities. This has accounted for the rise in the Council Tax for the coming year.

Please ensure that you and your family are not responsible for any cases of vandalism or fly tipping. We appreciate that some of the damage is being done by non-Huncote residents. If you see any vandalism or fly tipping, please report it to the police immediately (999 or 222 2222, with any names or vehicle registration plate numbers you have. Without such action by you the situation will get worse, and next year could also find large increases in Council Tax.

## PARKING ON FOOTPATHS

There has been an increase in the number of vehicles parked partially or wholly on pavements. This is both illegal, (can result in fines and removal of the vehicle) and is also disruptive and dangerous to pedestrians. Forest Road seems to be particularly affected by this trend.

## CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS

Huncote Cemetery fence has been repaired, and the trees and bushes pruned. Gates and fences are due to be repainted within the next few weeks. There have been problems with moles in the cemetery over the last two months but we believe these have now been sorted.

## COUNCIL TAX

We are approaching the start of a new financial year and you will shortly be receiving your council tax bills or statements. The Parish content of this is by far the smallest portion, and we hope to keep it that way. For the last few years we have managed to have zero increases or below inflation increases in spite of increasing our services. This has been achieved in both by reducing our reserves, and by us having adopted a "best value" policy. Now our reserves are down to a realistic minimum and we have already taken out any "fat", for this year we are in the unfortunate position of having an above inflation rise of eleven per-cent, although this is a four year average of only three per-cent.

One factor in this is inflation, unavoidable on some of our costs, but the main factor in the increase is the high amount of vandalism we have suffered this year. Clearing up, repairs and replacement for this has this last year accounted for about one seventh of our income – a significant and unwanted item. We know that some, but not all, of the incidents have been caused by people living outside of Huncote, and we believe we have suffered because of the Anti-Social Behaviour Orders placed in adjacent villages which have caused offenders to move on to Huncote. The police have been involved on several occasions, but residents seem not to want to report incidents they see taking place, and without YOU reporting any incidents you see immediately to the police, our concern is that next year we could again see significant increases. Is that what you want? – the solution is in your hands.

## HUNCOTE FESTIVAL DAY

There will be a Huncote Community Day held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April from 1.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. at the Recreation Ground and Community Centre. This is being organised by the Huncote Community Association. Activities include:-

- Fun Run
- Magician
- Daniel Lambert's Long Trousers
- Craft Demonstrations
- Exhibitions
- \* Enderby Band
- \* Play by H.A.T.S.
- \* Vintage Car
- \* Refreshments

**Barn Dance in Community Centre at 8.00 p.m.**  
**Charlie's Folk – tickets £5.00 inc. refreshments –**  
**ph. 2863613 or 2863121**

## YOUR COUNCILLORS are:

**ALEC KNIGHT** (Chairman) (0116-284-1285); **KEN DAVIES** (Vice-Chairman)(0116-286-2196);  
**BARBARA KILBY** (0116-286-5214); **JAN MELVILLE** (0116-286-5165); **BRIAN MOLLOY** (0116-275-2428);  
and **RICHARD TAYLOR** (07971-260220) and **YOUR CLERK** is **FRANK BURGESS** (01455-27-3414)