



# HUNCOTE VILLAGE NEWS

## ISSUE 44 – CHRISTMAS 2011

BROUGHT TO YOU BY HUNCOTE PARISH COUNCIL



### STAY SAFE THIS CHRISTMAS

- Keep your home and belongings safe, don't leave valuables on display.
- Don't drink and drive – decide on a designated driver; are you safe to drive the next morning?
- Don't put up with domestic abuse, help is available.
- Switch off fairy lights and extinguish candles when you leave the room.

If you would like advice about any of these safety tips ring the Blaby Community Safety Team on 0116 272 7725 or visit [www.blaby.gov.uk](http://www.blaby.gov.uk).

### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING SITES

People in Blaby are being urged to start their new year on a 'green footing' by recycling their Christmas tree when they have finished with it.

The Council's refuse and recycling team will be collecting trees as part of their standard garden waste collection after new year or residents can visit one of five drop off points listed below from Boxing Day until January 9:

- **Countesthorpe** – Co-op supermarket car park, Main Street
- **Elmesthorpe** – Village hall car park, Wilkinson Lane
- **Enderby** Leisure Centre car park, Mill Lane
- **Glenfield** – Stamford Street Car Park
- **Huncote** – The Pavilion car park, Sportsfield lane

People can also take their trees to the Housing Waste Recycling Centre in Whetstone (closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day).

For more information on refuse and recycling in Blaby district contact 0116 272 7555.

### HUNCOTE COMMUNITY DAY

Huncote Parish Council would like to thank everyone who attended the Huncote Community Day on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at the Community Centre and who came to the parish council stall to help us with our consultation on improving the play equipment in the play areas in Huncote on the Denman Lane/Critchlow Road playing field,

As mentioned in the Autumn Newsletter, the Parish council would like to gain opinions to back out grant applications in the hope of raising funds to cover the costs.

The day provided us with a greater understanding of people's thoughts and views on the park as well as many valuable suggestions and ideas for how you would like to see it improved, but we would still like more responses.

Further ideas from anyone who uses the park now or in the future, including children, parents, and grandparents are most welcome. Please contact the Clerk for more details.

### 2011 HUNCOTE HASH

The 2011 Huncote Hash will be taking place on Saturday 31st December 2011.

The race starts and finishes at The Pavilion, Huncote and is a mainly off-road event. However the Croft road will have to be crossed twice by those participating. Experienced marshals and high visibility warning signs will be displayed on the road at the points the route crosses the road.

For further information and an entry form, go to the Huncote Harriers website – [www.huncoteharriersac.co.uk](http://www.huncoteharriersac.co.uk).

### HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

Should you have an issue to raise or a question about something going on in your community that you would like answers to, please contact your local Councillor for help, support and advice.

**Cllr ALEC KNIGHT** (Chairman) - (0116) 284 1285;

**Cllr KEN DAVIES** (Vice Chair) - (0116) 286 2196;

**Cllr STEVE BOULTER** - (0116) 286 2585;

**Cllr CLAIR BROWN** - (0116) 284 1851

**Cllr JENNY GRUNDY** - (0116) 286 6669;

**Cllr BARBARA KILBY** - (0116) 286 5214;

**Cllr AILEEN TAYLOR** - (0116) 286 4672;

**VACANCY - Applications to the Clerk**

**Cllr MAGGIE WRIGHT (District Councillor)** - (01455) 888 306 or [cllr.m.wright@blaby.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.m.wright@blaby.gov.uk)

**Cllr ERNIE WHITE (County Councillor)** - (01455) 272 136 or [ewhite@leics.gov.uk](mailto:ewhite@leics.gov.uk)

**YOUR CLERK is STUART BACON** (01455) 844 539 or 07875 291 366

Our e-mail is [huncotepc@hotmail.com](mailto:huncotepc@hotmail.com)

Our website is <http://huncote.leicestershireparishcouncils.org>

Our postal address is Huncote Parish Council, c/o 3 Mountfield Road, Earl Shilton, Leicester LE9 7LW

## POLICE BEAT OFFICER UPDATE FROM PC ROB WESTON (1275)

Hello Fosse Villages,

We've had a few frosty mornings in this last month and I'm pleased to say we have had no motor vehicles stolen subject to keys being left in the ignition. Obviously this is what I bored you with in last month's email, but together we have prevented any of these offences occurring. Trust me, those criminals may have circulated the "Fosse Villages" but YOU haven't given them any opportunities.

In the meantime what has been happening on Fosse Villages?

On Sunday 13th the Remembrance Day parade at Croft was attended by myself and Alex. We assisted in making the event safe and in tradition a senior ranking officer (Ch. Supt Thomas) laid a remembrance wreath. It is a welcoming sight that the community is brought together through generations. Credit to those people who work tirelessly to ensure the event goes ahead. There are too many to mention, so Brian please give yourself and your team a pat on the back. Your efforts don't go unnoticed.

There have been a quite a few metal thefts this month. The main village affected is Sharnford. I would urge everyone to take preventative measures if you have any valuable metal. Also consider whether you want to leave out "scrap metal" to be collected. There is a valid thought process that by doing this attracts collectors to the area, who then repeatedly return.

I have made 2 arrests for theft of metal this month, and recovered a quantity of stolen property. Those persons are currently on bail, whilst I make further enquiries.

I am pleased to say given the darker nights we have not suffered with any incremental reports of ASB.

I have managed to develop other crimes this month to achieve some good results. A snapshot of some crimes whereby offenders have been brought to justice include an assault in Sapcote, a theft in Croft, possession of drugs on B4114 and Croft, damage in Huncote.

Upcoming police beat surgeries – (come and meet myself and Alex):-

- Croft – 10am to 11am on Tuesday 20th December 2012 @ Café Latte, Winston Ave
- Huncote – 10am to 11am on Friday 27th January 2012 @ The Pavilion, Sportsfield Lane
- Other villages – dates to be confirmed in upcoming months

Here are the SAC (serious acquisitive crime) figures (i.e. Burglary Dwelling, Theft of motor vehicle, Theft from motor vehicle and Robbery) for November:-

Huncote – Two external thefts from motor vehicles. Tax disc from a moped, and number plates from a vehicle.

Please note our new 101 contact number:-

**101 - The new number to call to contact your local police is now 'LIVE'**

Leicestershire Police is working for you 24 hours a day seven days a week.

We want to make it quicker and easier for you to get the service you need from us. The new national 101 non-emergency number will do just that, giving you a single, easy to remember number for you to call to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency police response.

You can call 101 to report a crime that has already happened and any other incidents or concerns that do not require an emergency response. You can also call it to speak to your local Neighbourhood Policing Team, to make a general enquiry or make us aware of any policing issues in your local area.

If you have any hearing difficulties or a speech impairment, a text phone is available on 18001 101.

Calling 101 for situations that do not require an immediate police response helps keep 999 available for when there is an emergency. An emergency is when a crime is happening, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, someone is injured, being threatened or a life is at risk, or there is a traffic incident involving personal injury or danger.

Finally, with the Christmas season upon us, please support the drive campaign. Stay safe this Christmas- stay sober behind the wheel. Follow the link below and remember you can always report incidents anonymously or via crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Support the campaign and forward this email to your contacts – <http://www.cadd.org.uk/>

Remember to circulate this email to anyone you can think of who may be associated to any of the Fosse Villages. If they want to be included in my distribution list all I need is an email. Want to reduce crime in your area? Then please pass on my email address.

One last thing please "follow me" on [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and search for @LPFosseVillages. Please feel free to pass on my twitter username. I will be encouraged to see my number of followers increase, so have a look or if you know someone else who has a twitter account, ask them to add me as well.

Please take care, and enjoy your Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Rob Weston PC 1275

Principal Beat Officer – Fosse Villages

Braunstone Police Station

Leicestershire Constabulary

[www.leics.police.uk](http://www.leics.police.uk)

[Robert.Weston@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Robert.Weston@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk)

Switchboard (0116) 222 2222 Ext No. 6431 VM No. 1275

Fax +44 (0) 116 248 6427

## **ADVICE FOR MOTORISTS FROM LEICESTERSHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – CAR THEFT RISKS ON FROSTY MORNINGS**

Motorists who leave their cars to de-ice on frosty mornings could face the theft of their vehicles – and being left in the cold by their insurers.

Every year Leicestershire Constabulary has to deal with a number of car thefts which have happened while drivers have left the cars running while their windscreens defrost. Often they pop back into the warmth of their homes – and come out to find the driveway empty.

Thieves lie in wait on these cold mornings, and particularly target high value vehicles.

PC Steve Day, crime reduction officer for Leicestershire Constabulary's South Area, said: "We strongly advise drivers not to leave their cars while they are running.

"These days cars are fitted with sophisticated anti-theft devices, but these are usually useless if the engine is running and the car is not attended.

"If your car is stolen in these circumstances, your insurance company will not pay out."

PC Day added that it was an offence to leave vehicles with their engine running, because of the danger of it causing an accident.

## **FUNDING RECEIVED**

Huncote Parish Council would like to thank CSB Timber for their generous donation to purchase flowering bulbs and materials for the village display box on the entrance to the village on Narborough Road.

A generous donation has also been received from Caterpillar's CatCares scheme towards a future project within the park, which will form part of the planned play area improvements.

## **BRING SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER TO THOSE WHO WILL BE SPENDING CHRISTMAS ALONE THIS YEAR**

Every year hundreds of people across the county spend Christmas alone, either through age, infirmity, illness or proximity of family. This year, if you know of someone who is likely to spend the festive season alone, please take a moment to pay them a visit, to check on them and bring them some festive joy.

## **UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS**

11 December – **Huncote Methodist Church Gift Service.** 10am Donations of money and gifts are welcomed by the Salvation Army. Tel 0116 2841256 for details email: [bownjenny@aol.co.uk](mailto:bownjenny@aol.co.uk)

24 December – **Christmas Carol Service** 5:30pm Huncote Methodist Church, Forest Road. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate Christmas at this special family time.

25 December – **Christmas Morning Service** 10am Huncote Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in with a short service to celebrate the Birth of Christ (Tradition is to bring an unopened present to open with everyone together.)

### **2012**

26/27/28 January – **H.A.T.S. Pantomime 2012 Beauty and the Beast** Whetstone Memorial Hall Adults £6.50 Children £5.50 7:30pm each night with 3:00pm Saturday Matinee. Call H.A.T.S. on 07757 491 291.

## **BUS SERVICE – EMAIL UPDATES**

Are you a regular user of bus services locally? Are you often left wondering how to plan your journey when services change? Why not sign up to Leicestershire County Council's new mailing list to receive email notifications of bus service changes in your local area at [www.leics.gov.uk/transport\\_downloads](http://www.leics.gov.uk/transport_downloads).

## **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Huncote Parish Council's Members would all like to wish all the residents, their families and the business owners of Huncote, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for the year ahead.

## **VOLUNTEER DRIVERS URGENTLY NEEDED, SOCIAL CAR SCHEME**

Community Action needs Volunteer Drivers in Narborough, Enderby and Sapcote areas to help older people get out and about. Volunteers use their own cars to take people to local activities and places. You will receive reimbursement for every mile you travel. If you would like to apply, or would like further information, please contact the Community Transport team on 0116 272 7668 or email: [transport@cabd.org.uk](mailto:transport@cabd.org.uk)

## **SOCIAL CARE SUPPORT SERVICE FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE IN LEICESTERSHIRE**

Leicestershire County Council has produced a short film using British Sign Language to show how the service can help people and is available to view online at: [www.leics.gov.uk/asc\\_services\\_for\\_deaf](http://www.leics.gov.uk/asc_services_for_deaf)

A series of drop in sessions take place every month in local social service offices for people to come and see a member of staff and find out about the support available to them. The sessions take place from 9.30am – 12.30pm as follows:

- First Tuesday of the Month – Loughborough
- First Thursday of the Month – Market Harborough
- Second Tuesday of the Month – South Wigston
- Second Thursday of the Month – Coalville
- Third Tuesday of the Month – Hinckley
- Third Thursday of the Month – Melton Mowbray

To find your local office visit: [www.leics.gov.uk/ss\\_contact\\_local\\_offices](http://www.leics.gov.uk/ss_contact_local_offices)  
Offices are open 8:30am – 5:00pm Monday – Thursday and 8:30am – 4:30pm on Fridays.

## **NEW DEBT COUNSELLING CENTRE OPENS IN NARBOROUGH**

Local people struggling with overwhelming personal debt are set to get free help from a charity opening a new centre in Narborough.

Growing debt counselling charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is opening 37 new church-based debt centres around the UK including one in Narborough, School Lane. The opening will mean that Blaby District people will be able to enjoy the debt help already offered by neighbouring centres in Wigston and Leicester City.

CAP offers people a uniquely in-depth, caring service to people with spiralling personal debt. The charity has 190 centres around the UK currently supporting £71m of secondary debts for its clients regardless of income, age, gender, background or faith.

To find out more visit [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org) or for help call 0800 328 0006.

## **THE HOME HEAT HELPLINE CAMPAIGN**

Today sees the launch of this year's Home Heat Helpline campaign. The main focus of the campaign is to encourage people to call the Helpline if they are worried about paying their energy bills this winter.

- The challenge many millions across the UK are missing out on easy ways to save on their energy bills. New research commissioned by the Home Heat Helpline reveals that one in ten British households are not claiming the help they are entitled to.
- Our campaign Dragons' Den star Hilary Devey will be launching the campaign and will be urging people to call the helpline to see whether they are entitled to help with their energy bills this winter.
- The key aim of our campaign is to get those people who need help with paying their fuel bills, or know someone who needs help, to call the Home Heat Helpline number - 0800 33 66 99. This is a free service that provides independent advice to people on low incomes on how to get help with their gas and electricity bills, including grants for insulation and new boilers, discount or rebate schemes, and other help with keeping warm. People can also access the service online by visiting [www.homeheathelpline.org.uk](http://www.homeheathelpline.org.uk).

## **DOG FOULING**

Dog fouling in Huncote has continued to be a problem in recent months.

Dog fouling that is not cleared immediately by an owner can result in the owner being fined anywhere from £40 - £1,000 by the Dog Warden's at Blaby District Council.

Contact the Dog Warden to report any dog fouling incidents or 'hotspots' on 0116 272 7515.

## **VEHICLE ACTIVATED SPEED SIGN**

Huncote's speed sign will be in place near the Red Lion and village shops for the next few weeks, to make motorists aware of their speeds over the busy Christmas period in an attempt to prevent serious accidents.

## **UPCOMING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The next meetings of Huncote Parish Council are due to be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012, 2<sup>nd</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Forest Road, Huncote. All residents are invited to attend Parish Council meetings to air their views about local issues/services.