



HUNCOTE VILLAGE NEWS

ISSUE 46 – SUMMER 2012

BROUGHT TO YOU BY HUNCOTE PARISH COUNCIL



QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MONDAY 4th JUNE 2012

As part of HRH The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, to celebrate her illustrious 60 years as monarch of Great Britain, Northern Ireland and all the British Colonies (both present and former), a variety of events will be taking place locally within Leicestershire as well as those centred in London.

In the history of this country, the only other Monarch to achieve a reign of 60 years was Queen Victoria (1837-1901) who reigned as Queen of the UK and Ireland for a total of 63 years. In 2012, The Queen will become the second Monarch in British history to celebrate 60 years on the throne.

The opportunity to witness and celebrate an occasion as unique as this cannot be understated and already preparations to mark the occasion across the world are gathering great pace as plans for a spectacular Diamond Jubilee begin.

A Diamond Jubilee picnic will be held on The Green on Sunday 3rd June, from 12noon-2pm. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to bring along a picnic, something to sit on, and some bunting.

Further details of the event are on posters on the parish council notice boards on The Green and at the Community Centre.

DIAMOND JUBILEE BEACON LIGHTING CROFT HILL – 10:15 pm / 22:15 BST

A network of over 4000 Beacons will be lit by communities and others throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, along with the Commonwealth and UK Overseas Territories on Monday 4th June 2012 to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Britain has a long history of beacon lighting spanning many hundreds of years. We have celebrated Royal Weddings, Jubilees and Coronations by lighting beacons on village greens, castle battlements, church towers, farms, beaches, front gardens, car parks and mountain tops, as a symbol of communication initially and has now become a symbol of unity across towns, borders, countries and continents and is often the central point of focus for any outdoor gathering or celebration.

All Beacon Event lighting times are now viewable online at www.diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk - as a rough guide, all events will be between 22:00 and 22:30 BST in the UK on the evening of 4th June 2012. Events in other countries will be 22:00 local time. The Queen will light the National Beacon in London at approximately **22:30 BST**. This will be the last beacon in the UK chain.

A Beacon will be lit at approximately **10:15 pm** at the **top of Croft Hill**, as part of a joint celebration of the Jubilee by Huncote and Croft Parish Councils, on **Monday 4th June**.

GRANT AWARD SUCCESS FOR PLAYGROUND REDEVELOPMENT

As part of the Blaby South Community Forum Budget Decision Night, held at Sharnford Evergreen Hall on Wednesday 16th May, Huncote Parish Council were successful in obtaining a grant of £4,810 towards the redevelopment of the play equipment for the park, from a £10,000 fund towards community projects in the Blaby South area.

There was stiff competition for funds, with nine different projects put forward by various different groups from across the area. Four groups were awarded funding as part of the evening and two others were able to find alternative financing from other sources.

Huncote Parish Council would like to thank all those who made their comments known on the Community Forum website in support of our grant application. Your support was vital and we hope you and others will come together and continue to support our drive to create a park we can be proud of and which provides facilities which allow children, including disabled children, to enjoy a park of which they can be proud.

The proposed £90,000 park redevelopment in Huncote will see new, all inclusive equipment being installed in both the youth area and the under-11's play area, as well as the potential creation of a new adult fitness area with equipment provided to enable parents, grandparents and those interested youths alike to improve their own physical fitness while spending time in the park and watching over their smaller ones.

DIAMOND JUBILEE COINS

As a memorable way to mark HRH Queen Elizabeth II's 60 years on the throne, as monarch of Great Britain, Huncote Parish Council have chosen to provide a free commemorative coin to all the children in the village under the age of eleven.

Due to Data Protection Act restrictions, the coins will be distributed to each child via their school.

If your child has not received a coin by Wednesday 13th June, please contact the Clerk who will organise one for you.

Anyone still wishing to purchase a commemorative coin should contact the Clerk for details. Contact details can be found at the bottom of the back page.

Chairman's Report for Huncote Parish Council

May 2011 – April 2012

This year has flown by and it seems like only a few weeks since I gave my last report to the Parish. I must first of all thank all the Parish Councillors for their time and effort that they have put into the council. Two councillors have recently stood down due to family commitments. They are Mrs Aileen Taylor and Mrs Jenny Grundy and I give them my thanks and best wishes for the future. I would like to say a big thank you to Mr Stuart Bacon the Parish Clerk for his work over the last year. I am pleased to welcome Mrs Rhydell Poole and Mr John Benfield onto the Parish Council. I hope they find their role as rewarding as I do. However, the Council is still in need of another parishioner to come and join us and I would warmly welcome anyone who has an interest in our village to apply to become a member.

The year has been exceptionally busy with all the various planning applications that have been submitted.

I have been working with 11 other Parish Councils representatives on developing the Fosse Villages Development Plan which will form part of the Blaby Districts Council's Core Strategy Plan. The group will be consulting all parishioners in all of the Fosse villages to present and gather your thoughts and opinions. Fosse villages include Huncote, Croft, Stoney Stanton, Thurlaston, Sapcote, Sharnford, Potters Marston, Aston Flamville, Elmesthorpe, Wigston Parva and Leicester Forest West. The Development Plan will be very important as once it has been drawn up it will carry a strong argument for or against any Planning Applications that are submitted to Blaby District Council.

As you are all aware Jelsons have put in another planning application for outline planning permission for 86 houses off Narborough Road and were successful in their application. We are awaiting their more detailed planning application.

Blaby District Council put up for sale 36 garage sites they owned throughout the District. Two of these are within Huncote Parish behind Lodge Close and Compton Drive. If the Parish Council was interested then we had to submit sealed bids to the selling agent. We called a public meeting to gather opinions of all parishioners. The decision was that we should submit an offer for both sites. I have been informed that an offer to buy the whole of the 36 sites in Blaby District has also been submitted to the Selling Agent although the final decision will rest with Blaby District Council.

A Planning Application has been submitted by Westleigh Developments for outline planning permission for 71 houses off Denman Lane. The Parish Council called yet another public meeting to inform and gather public opinion. It was made very clear at this meeting that the vast majority of the village is against this application and an independent action group has been formed to oppose it. The Parish Council has put forward its objections of this application and will be putting the case before the Development Control Committee at Blaby District Council.

The Jelson Development on Forest Road has already started and the new road has been named Field View Close. There will be 23 houses when completed.

The Duncan Avenue/Quarry View development is now complete and I am told that there is only 1 property left to sell.

My thanks go to everyone who has spent hours reading the planning applications!

The work in all other areas goes on regardless and at the Community Open day in November Councillors displayed the ideas that we have in mind for upgrading the recreation ground. Adults and children could fill in forms choosing which items of play equipment they would prefer. The Council is currently looking at funding the project and we will hopefully be able to complete the work this year.

Moving on to highway issues of which there are several.

We have been monitoring the traffic with the aid of the Speed Activated Sign we share with Croft Parish Council. We will start our Community Speed Watch Campaign in July and some volunteers have come forward to support this. The Narborough Road entrance to the village is particularly hazardous and it is only with luck that no fatalities have occurred along this stretch of road. There have been some improved road markings and signage to try to make drivers more aware of their responsibilities as a road user. I am hoping that there will be further improvements linked to Jelson's future planning application.

The Forest Road entrance to the village is still a concern as everybody who uses it will know. The mud on the road remains a traffic hazard despite assurances that a road sweeper is used at all times. There is a wheel wash sited at Acresford Sand and Gravel Quarry and all lorries leaving the site have to go through it before exiting. To make matters worse the new development and farm vehicles exit along this stretch of road which add to the general problem of mud.

Our request for a pedestrian crossing to be located next to the shops on Main Street was refused by Leicestershire County Council on the grounds that it was a low risk site. The Parish Council dispute this and hope that the County Council's policy will change to allow us a crossing at this site.

Denman Lane is an "Access Only" road and it is obvious to all that a lot of drivers abuse it. There is a 20 mph limit by the school and I would hope that all drivers respect this. The Police have the authority to enforce the access only rule.

The Parish Council continues to liaise with all the local quarries.

Councillors attend regular meetings at Croft Quarry where we are kept up to date with all that is happening including blasting and dust issues. There are very stringent regulations around both of these and every blast is monitored and recorded by both the Quarry and Blaby District Council's Environmental Team.

The nature walk around the hill continues to thrive and I am looking forward to the day when the bridge is put over the brook on the east side of the walk linking up Huncote and Croft. I must at this point say that I would appreciate it if all dog owners would clear up their dogs mess and put it in the dog bins, not just here but throughout the village. The bags thrown in the hedgerows are both unsightly and a health hazard.

Huncote Cemetery is a peaceful and tranquil place. When the housing development has been completed the cemetery hedge will be replanted. I would like to pass on my condolences to all those in the village who have lost family and friends over the last year. The Community has lost some very valuable members who will be sadly missed.

There has been and is going to be a drastic reduction of funding from Leicestershire County Council. This has led to the withdrawal in September of the free school bus service to Brockington College. We are still waiting for information on whether a bus service will be available for pupil use and what the cost to parents will be.

The work the Parish Council does is the basis of rural village life. It takes time and commitment to understand how local government works and getting to know your parishioners. Listening to what they are saying is paramount. We are very fortunate in having Mrs Maggie Wright as our District Councillor. Maggie has supported and spoken up for our village many, many times. Our County Councillor Mr Ernie White has always supported the views of the village including advocating the provision of the School Bus. My thanks go to them both for their support and friendly advice.

Overall I have found the last year both enjoyable and challenging. My aim is to be fair to all and to listen to parishioners' views and feelings. I will continue to serve the village as a Parish Councillor as long as the village is prepared to put up with me!

Alec Knight
Chair to Huncote Parish Council

3 May, 2012

HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

As the children have nearly finished school for the summer holidays and many people will be setting off on their summer holiday, we would like to offer some tips to help you make your home more secure while you are away.

Make your home look occupied by asking a trusted neighbour or friend to collect mail and water plants etc. Don't leave curtains closed in the daytime as this shows the house is empty.

Use automatic timer switches to turn your lights on when it is dark.

Cancel regular deliveries such as newspapers and milk.

Avoid discussing holiday plans where you may be overheard by strangers.

Cut your lawn before you go.

Consider leaving important documents and valuable items with other family members or a bank or a safe.

Don't put your home address on your luggage on your outward journey to your holiday destination.

Consider leaving valuable items kept in your shed in the house.

Put all your tools away including ladders so these can't be used to break into your house.

Finally, don't forget to lock all external doors, windows, and gates and set the burglar alarm if you have one.

Have a great time – and don't forget your passport and tickets!

NEW HUNCOTE VILLAGE SIGN INSTALLED ON THE GREEN

Following the support received from a number of residents to our recent requests for ideas for the village sign, the Parish Council has commissioned a new sign which has now been installed on The Green to replace the previous sign which was suffering from wood rot and weathering badly.

The new sign was produced by local firm CR Welding of Sharnford.

UPCOMING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next meetings of Huncote Parish Council are due to be held on Thursdays; 7th June, 12th July and 6th September 2012, at St James Church Hall, Narborough Road Huncote.

All residents are invited to attend Parish Council meetings. Please note there is no meeting scheduled for August

PROBLEMS WITH DOG FOULING

Dog fouling has been a persistent issue with the village in recent months.

Any incident that is reported and not cleared immediately by an owner can/will result in the owner being fined anywhere between £40 - £1000 by the Dog Warden's at Blaby District Council.

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

POLICE MATTERS

Your local Beat Officers are P.C. Rob Weston (1275) and PCSO Alex Joule (6075), and they can be contacted on 0116 222 2222. The Sergeant in charge of Huncote (Fosse Villages) is Sgt Rachael Payne (4322) who can also be contacted on the same number.

Should you have any concerns about noise related issues please contact Blaby District Council.

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 KEN DAVIES -- (0116) 286 2196;

Cllr CLAIR BROWN - (0116) 284 1851;

Cllr RHYDELL POOLE - (0116) 275 0629;

Cllr ALEC KNIGHT - (0116) 284 1285;

Cllr BARBARA KILBY - (0116) 286 5214;

Cllr JOHN BENFIELD - (0116) 286 3598;

VACANCY;

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

Cllr ERNIE WHITE (County Councillor) - (01455) 272 136 or Ewhite@leics.gov.uk

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

Our e-mail is 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