# Hailey Herald

#### Number 287

#### Email - TheHaileyHerald@gmail.com Twitter @haileywestoxon

April 2021

#### **Parish Council News**

#### From the Editor

As you may have realised the current lockdown has prevented us from distributing the Hailey Herald so far this year. However, the recent easing of restrictions should allow us to return to some form of normality from now onwards.

There are some signs of the community reawakening.

There will be a Plant Sale in May and the Scarecrows will be returning in June – see below. This edition also contains an Annual Report Newsletter from the Parish Council in the centre pages. This report summarises the activities of the Council over the last twelve months and replaces the Annual Parish meeting that should be held in April.

Clerk	T: 0781 1174733
Lisa Wilkinson	Email clerk@haileywestoxon.org
Chairman	T: 01993 899125
Graham Knaggs	Email knaggsgraham@gmail.com

#### Hailey Plant Sale – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May from 10.00am

The Gardening Club is still in suspended animation and also looking for enthusiastic and energetic volunteers to get it running again. However, there will be **an open-air Plant Sale on SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> MAY from 10.00am**, with proceeds to the Gardening Club. All the usual selection of geraniums, begonias, dahlias, bedding plants, tomatoes, vegetables, perennials, shrubs available. Social distancing rules will still apply and if it rains, we will all get wet! Hope to see you there.

#### Hailey Scarecrow Trail Registration

Graham Knaggs

Last year we ran the trail in the middle of the first lockdown. It was spectacularly successful – mainly because there were few other attractions open. So, we see few difficulties in organising the Hailey Scarecrow Trail again this year.

This year's theme is **HEROES**. The hero you select can be a Superhero, Sporting Hero, Fictional Hero, Hero from History etc. etc. However, your chosen hero must be sufficiently well known for members of the public to identify.

If you want to build a scarecrow this year **please register** by sending an email to **info.haileygc@gmail.com**. Please provide us with your **name**, **address and contact telephone number**. We will only publish your address on the Scarecrow Trail entry form. To be fair to all entrants, we will only accept email entries **from Sunday I Ith April** in order of receipt. Registrations before this date will not be accepted.

#### The closing date for registration is Monday 31 May.

If your chosen hero has already been taken, we will ask you to choose an alternative.

The trail will run from midday on Saturday 12th June to Sunday 27th.

Items for the next Hailey Herald should be e-mailed to **thehaileyherald@gmail.com** by **20th April** or delivered to Hayesfield, Middletown, Hailey (next to school car park).

#### St John's Church

Team Vicar: The Rev. Ness Whiffin

Tel 07774 524765, ness@witneyparish.org.uk

#### Church wardens:

Robin Carr Tel 01993 868079, robin.carr39@icloud.com

Elpie Lewis: Tel 07919 424605, 01993 703070

elpielewis99@aol.com,

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Well, this certainly feels like a bit of a novelty......

Sadly, we have very little to advertise in the way of physical church services in Hailey, in the near future. The church remains closed until we have permission from the diocese to reopen.

**However,** there is a lot happening online in the parish. All the details for parish activities are on the website: <a href="https://www.witneyparish.org.uk/">https://www.witneyparish.org.uk/</a>

Each Sunday we have a parish zoom service at 10.30am.

The same zoom connection for this, each week, is: 890 739 081, password: 020375. Everyone is welcome to join these occasions.

If anyone would like to be included in the weekly Benefice Bulletin which is sent out on Wednesdays with news of all that is going on, please let either Robin or Elpie know and we will ensure you are included.

You may remember that last year, before Easter, we invited people to create small Easter gardens, perhaps in a shoe box or on a tray, and we would love to ask you to do the same again this year. Can it really be a year? These could be put beside the path or under the cherry tree. The more the merrier. We will try and put the big Easter Garden in the porch, which has lots of lovely spring pictures in it, not to mention a beautiful sculpture..

Another alternative is to have more painted stones with bright spring flowers on them, edging the path. That would be lovely too.

We are very grateful for all the wonderful snowdrop plants that have been given to the churchyard. Robin and Clare have been very busy planting and planning where they should go, and next year the area around Hailey Church will be alive with snowdrops, as the messengers of Spring. There are also lots of other spring plants coming into bloom giving the churchyard a lovely optimistic feel.

We all look forward so much to being together when we can, but in the meantime, we wish everyone a very **Happy Easter**, when the time comes.

#### **HAILEY FESTIVAL 2021**

Andy Smith

Sadly, most of the usual Hailey Festival events, including the summer fete, won't be taking place in 2021. Even if the lifting of restrictions were to allow them, there has been no real opportunity to meet as a group or to properly start the planning process. However, it's not all bad news. As announced in this Hailey Herald, the popular Scarecrow Trail will still run through late June, Sid the (painted stone) Snake is likely to appear, and of course we fully intend to be back to normal in 2022...

#### **Date of next Parish Council Meeting**

Parish Council meetings are currently being held remotely via Zoom.

The next (remote) meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30pm. Joining instructions can be found on the agenda.

Members of the public are welcome to attend remotely. Any items for the agenda must be received in writing by the Clerk at least seven clear days before a meeting. A short time is allowed at the start of the meeting for comments from the public.

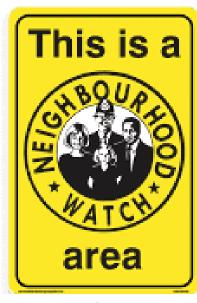
Hailey Village Hall www.haileywestoxon.org/village hall <a href="HaileyVillageHall@gmail.com">HaileyVillageHall@gmail.com</a> Restrictions will hopefully ease enough to allow us to re-open partially in late spring and fully by later in the summer. However, this depends entirely on a continually-improving situation. <a href="Dawn's Shop">Dawn's Shop is open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons</a>. The hall becomes a polling station on Thursday 6 May for the Local Elections.

The last 12 months have been challenging for the village hall and have really proved how much life and enjoyment the regular events injected into the community. It has been very quiet without them.

A vacancy has arisen on the hall committee and we are looking for an enthusiastic and energetic person to join the team to promote our activities and hopefully, secure some new ones. If you're interested in really getting involved in the heart of the village, contact Judith on 899125 for a chat. The village hall is a registered charity and all committee members are trustees.

Looking forward to "normal", we also have a vacancy for a part-time cleaner. There is some flexibility in the schedule depending on bookings and would suit someone local. Hours would increase as restrictions lift and bookings increase. Anticipated start date "summer" but for more details contact Dawn on 776471.

For enquiries about the Village Hall email <a href="mailto:HaileyVillageHall@gmail.com">HaileyVillageHall@gmail.com</a>
To book online go to <a href="mailto:www.haileywestoxon.org/villagehall">www.haileywestoxon.org/villagehall</a> and follow the link



#### Hailey Parish Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

My name is Pam Simpkins and I am the Neighbourhood Watch coordinator for Hailey and parts of Delly End. **Neighbourhood Watch aims** to help people protect themselves and their properties and to reduce the fear of crime by means of improved home security, greater vigilance, accurate reporting of suspicious incidents and fostering a community spirit as well as tackling new forms of crime such as cybercrime. My voluntary role is to keep fellow neighbours informed of any issues in our area and to promote the Scheme. Whenever I receive a notice from Thames Valley Police or Thames Valley Alert, I forward it onto those in the Scheme. If you would like to be included, I would be pleased to hear from you – just get in touch: **email address: simpkins.868@btinternet.com** 

# Local artists launch community project to encourage fresh perspectives on nature Miranda Davies

Do you have a favourite place, plant, or walk in the Wychwood area? Artists in residence at the Wychwood Project, Nimmi Naidoo and Flora Gregory, would love to hear from you. The artists would like to invite anyone living in the Wychwood area to share photos, videos, poems or artworks reflecting the places they love in the Wychwood Forest, to form the basis of an innovative virtual artwork that explores how we see the environment around us.

Using these contributions, the artists will create an accessible webpage that celebrates our local environment, encourages us to discover new spaces, and helps us experience familiar places with fresh eyes. The Wychwood Project will also share contributions on their Instagram channel, to inspire audiences to engage afresh with the natural world around them. Flora and Nimmi, known as the Mappists, create participatory art events that offer people different ways of connecting with nature. Recent events include 'Come into the Woods: Topples Wood' an opportunity for forest bathing and to connect to the woods through audio works, and 'The Map Room: Make your Mark!' where people mark the route of their Wychwood Forest walks on a map and talk about what they love about being in the forest. Flora and Nimmi both gained an MA in Social Sculpture at Oxford Brookes University. Social Sculpture is an art form that employs social processes, and puts forward the idea that we are all artists in that every aspect of life can be seen as creative.

So, whether it's a space with wonderful birdsong, that one tree you always admire, a view filled with memory, or just a path you walk along every evening, the Mappists would love to

see, hear, or read your impressions of it. Please send in anything you would like to contribute to <u>miranda@wychwoodproject.org.uk</u> (who will share it with the Mappists), and keep an eye on the Wychwood Project's Instagram (@wychwoodproject) to learn what others love about the Wychwood area. We hope you enjoy the project, and that it helps us all find fresh perspectives on the natural world around us, for lockdown and beyond.

Flers English Paul Doolan

It is with great sadness we have to announce the passing of Flers English on 19th February 2021. We felt it was appropriate, to inform the many friends and customers who we made and who supported the Lamb and Flag during our 11 years as proprietors from 2001 to 2012. We know Flers will be in your thoughts and remember the good times from the Lamb and Flag. We include our email for anyone who wishes to contact us . Julie English and Paul Doolan. doollie1973@gmail.com

#### Can you help please

Christine Campbell

We moved into Brackenwood, Delly Hill about 12 years ago and found some old framed photos when putting things in the loft. We then forgot all about them. This Christmas while tidying up we found them again. They are of a young lady, probably 1900 and a young girl around 1920's. We would like to give them to their rightful owners but have no idea who they belong to. If anyone could provide any information, we would be most grateful. Contact email <a href="mailto:campbellc28@hotmail.co.uk">campbellc28@hotmail.co.uk</a>

Dog mess Richard Gillies

Lately there has been an increase of dog mess on the pavements in Middletown and Giernalls Road. It is not nice to see and owners should take responsibility and pick it up.

# Annual Report 2020-21

#### Message from the Chairman

Graham Knaggs

The Parish Council would normally be presenting its reports in person in the Village Hall. However, these are not normal times so we have summarized most of our activities in the following Annual Report. I hope that you find it a useful account of the activities undertaken on the village's behalf. Thank you for your continuing support.

#### North Witney (1,400 houses)

Graham Knaggs

Construction was supposed to begin this year; however, WODC has indicated that it does not expect any houses to be completed before 2025. The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for North Witney - which provides details on the policies the developers must adhere to – has been repeatedly delayed. The PC has already contributed to the informal consultation on this SPD; the formal process and consultation should begin in April.

Highways Andy Smith

Although there have been noticeably fewer vehicles on the roads, the OCC Highways team have remained very busy repairing potholes, repainting white lines, and dealing with occasional flytipping across the parish. To facilitate even faster resolution to problems such as potholes, damaged kerbing, and drain issues, OCC has recently launched a new initiative for "super users" to be trained to be able to identify and assess local issues before marking them up and reporting them for fixing – Andy Smith is scheduled to complete this training in late March. Please remember that the most effective way to report and monitor progress of any highways issue is through the **FixMyStreet app** or website, which allows you to upload photos, location and a description of the problem. Please try it at <u>www.fixmystreet.com</u>. The six weeks closure of the B4022 for Network Rail bridge repair work at Finstock is due to complete at the end of March.

#### Burford Heavy Goods Vehicle restriction

Graham Knaggs

A temporary ban on 7.5t HGVs going through Burford has displaced many of these vehicles on to minor roads, including the B4022 through Hailey (have you noticed more large vehicles recently?). The PC has linked up with 19 other Parish Councils to seek the lifting of this ban.

#### Community Speedwatch

Andy Smith

A team of local residents have assisted on multiple Community Speed Watch (CSW) activities in Poffley End, Delly End and on the main B4022 through the village. These operations would not have been possible without the support of the local neighbourhood policing team who provided equipment, collateral and training. A new CSW Coordinator role has recently been implemented by Thames Valley Police and we have been in email and phone contact already. Although CSW activities have had to stop due to current restrictions, the team of volunteers is raring to go as soon as possible although with a new approach! Our volunteers will soon be able to use a "speed radar gun" (once training has been given) instead of the bulky unit that has recently had some teething issues. County Councillor Liam Walker has kindly agreed to fund the necessary equipment for Hailey and this is now on order. CSW will return as soon as is allowed. If you think there is a speed issue in the parish, please volunteer to help by contacting <code>andy@adbsmith.com</code>

Playground Ann Gibson

Although some local playgrounds were closed during 2020 because of the pandemic, the Parish Council took the decision to keep Hailey's playground open whenever it was permitted by the

Government. Signs were put up advising social distancing and the use of personal sanitiser. During the year, the Parish Council funded a new Agility Trail to replace the old one that had started to deteriorate. The spinner bowl was also replaced following damage to it.

The annual inspection of the playground and the outdoor gym was carried out in July by safety experts RoSPA (the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) and a written report was given to the Parish Council. A visual inspection is also made once a month by a Parish Councillor.

**Allotments** Ann Gibson

## FANCY GROWING YOUR OWN?

#### **Hailey Allotments**

There are currently vacancies at **Hemplands allotments**.

The area is undergoing a revamp with new plots being measured out in time for spring.

If you fancy an allotment, then **NOW** is the time to get your name downyou may even be able to choose the size of your plot!!

Water supply being installed (provisionally)

Affordable annual rent

Be part of the new Hemplands allotment community and help to design the space.

For more information or to walk around the site, please contact the parish clerk, Lisa Wilkinson, on 0781 1174733 or clerk@haileywestoxon.org

The lockdown and stay home rules had a very positive effect on the allotments. Allotment holders had time to work on them to grow their own vegetables and flowers. The weather was good in late spring and early summer and the allotments were bursting with colourful flowers and produce.

The Parish Council researched the possibility of providing water at the allotments. Work to provide a supply and water troughs at the Poffley End allotments is expected to begin soon, followed by similar work to the Hemplands allotments.

A sizeable amount of land at Hemplands is now available for additional allotments, which should be available for renting within the next few weeks so that Spring planting can begin – see advert.

Environment Michael Drew

#### Church Lane Burial Ground

As part of our continuing efforts to make our Village Burial Ground both welcoming for relatives and friends of those buried there, and a green space in the middle of the village for the benefit of the whole village, the Council has spent a considerable sum of money to:

• Create a hard standing and path to improve access for individuals, grave diggers, grass cutting contractors and hearses. This has been of particular benefit in this Covid year when several burial services have been held in the burial ground, due to limited access to the Church. A water tap and bins to the area have also been provided.

- Improve the area of the Burial Ground not yet being used for burials, with the help of volunteers from the village, by introducing a cutting regime, and the sowing of wild flower and Yellow Rattle seed, to encourage the predominance of wild flowers to the area
- Approve the planting of 5 small native trees to the area, which we hope will help to enhance the biodiversity.

Residents are reminded that grave spaces can be reserved in the Parish Burial Ground, by those living in the village, on application to the Clerk.

#### Old Burial Ground, Middletown

A conscious decision was taken during the year to allow this area to remain in a relatively natural state, as an antidote to our managed Burial Ground.

#### Trees

The one exception to the above is our responsibility to ensure that all trees on the property we own or manage are as safe as possible. Following the bi-annual Tree report, work has been carried out on trees in the Recreation field, and the Old Burial Ground.

#### **Grass Cutting**

In our budget for the year, we increased the number of cuts to be done by our grass cutting contractor, from 8 to 10, and as a result saw an improvement in the overall look of our verges and green spaces.

#### Footpaths

We continue to monitor and walk our many footpaths, which have been of particular use during lockdown, and to pass on any concerns to the relevant authorities.

Flooding Andy Smith

Following the flooding events seen over the Christmas and new year period, a Hailey Flooding Working Group has been established. Three main meetings have been held, with many separate smaller meetings taking place in between. The current areas of focus are upstream of Delly End and through Delly End itself. All the gullies, pipework, ditches, culvert, etc. from Whiting's Lane, through Delly Green, and through to the field across the B4022 have now been cleared, surveyed and tested as running clear. The main causes of flooding were the sheer volume of water (rain and groundwater) and the lack of maintenance of the drainage system over the past few years. Improved upstream water management through working with landowners and OCC (ditch clearing, water attenuation, etc.) and maintaining the system through and away from Delly End are now being looked at.

Police Andy Smith

Much of the year has been dominated by messages to "stay at home" whenever possible and the police have thanked communities for playing their part throughout the lockdowns we have found ourselves in. Perhaps predictably there has been an increase in email scams, prompting the police to have issued numerous alerts to be careful and alert of anything that seems "too good to be true" whilst online. There was a slight rise in rural crime reported, with concerns raised including cold callers, multiple break-ins to outbuildings, tool sheds, garages and vehicles, and a worrying increase in dogs being stolen. Please do use the 101 non-emergency number to report a crime or incident, or of course 999 if it is an emergency. The parish is lucky to have active Neighbourhood

Watch schemes operating and the parish council has agreed to fund some new signs which will appear over the next few weeks.

Village Hall Ann Gibson

The Parish Council rents the Village Hall to the Trustees of the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) and takes a keen interest in the VHMC's activities by nominating one of its Councillors to sit on the Committee. Sadly, the village hall has had to remain closed for hiring to the full range of customers for many months, partly due to lockdowns, but also as it was not economically viable to use it and carry out all the necessary Covid security cleaning required.

The exception has been the opening of Dawn's shop – providing pet food and food supplies, permitted by Government. This is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays with Dawn and her team taking full responsibility for ensuring that it is Covid secure. The Village Hall Management Committee rents the Village Hall from the Parish Council on a long lease. This lease was due to expire soon, so a new lease for a period of 10 years has been issued by the Parish Council. This additional 10 years provides the opportunity to raise funds for a new village hall before the new lease expires.

#### Super-Fast Broadband

Graham Knaggs

During Q2, Gigaclear will be installing fibre-to-the-premise (FTTP) broadband options to Hailey, Delly End and Poffley End. This will provide the potential to increase broadband speeds of up to 300Mbps – at a price of course.

#### Covid-19 Community Support

Ann Gibson/Andy Smith

At the outset of the pandemic and the restrictions that began in March 2020, no-one knew how long they were likely to last and what impact they would have on normal life. The Parish Council responded quickly by producing and hand delivering information leaflets and setting up a volunteer scheme to provide support for people who needed to self-isolate. In all, five "Covid 19" leaflets were produced providing information and advice during the different stages of the pandemic.

The number of people who joined the volunteer scheme was overwhelming – around 40 offered to collect shopping and prescriptions, take people for hospital appointments, have a phone chat, etc. All much needed in those early weeks while supermarkets and pharmacies worked to set up new Covid safe collections and deliveries. The Parish Council would like to thank all those volunteers once again for the wonderful support they provided.

#### Ongoing Parish Council Work Council Tax 2020/21

Graham Knaggs

Your Council Tax is split between Oxfordshire County Council £1,469, West Oxfordshire District Council £99, Thames Valley Police £206 and **Hailey Parish Council £66** (using Band D as an example). This provided HPC with an income of about £35,000 in 2020/21.

The average Parish Council charge for West Oxfordshire was £83, Witney was £140. **HPC has** decided NOT to increase their charge in 2021/22.

#### New Village Hall

HPC set aside £5,000 in its New Village Hall 'sinking fund'. This fund now contains £17,500.

#### Grants to local organisations

In 2020/21 we have provided grants to the following organisations:

Hailey Village Hall £1,000, St John's church £1,000, Community Woodland £300, British Legion £100 and Hailey Herald £100.

As the Hailey Festival was cancelled, the normal £500 grant was not awarded.

#### Joan Smith Educational Charity

The purpose of the Charity is to assist with the costs of educational expenses or to assist a young person under the age of 25 years who, or whose parents or one or the other of them, are resident in the Parish of Hailey, to prepare for, or assist their entry into a profession, trade or calling. During the last year the charity has provided assistance to ten individuals. The Trustees meet every three months, usually on the second Monday in March, June, September and December.

Applications should be sent to reach the Clerk to the Trustees, Lisa Wilkinson, Wyelands, Upper End, Shipton-under-Wychwood, OX7 6DP at least ten days before a meeting is due. See website for full details of how to apply.

#### 'From Playground to Plate'

Jill Harrison

Friends of Hailey School are fundraising for a garden kitchen, designed to deliver food education around growing and cooking. Our target is £3,000 this will enable a greenhouse, tools and materials plus a raised veg patch. We would like to encourage the children to engage in planting and tending to 'school grown' fruits and vegetables which will eventually make it onto their plates! If you would like to make a donation you can visit our website at <a href="https://www.friendsofhaileyschool.co.uk">www.friendsofhaileyschool.co.uk</a> or send a donation to the school directly.





#### **Church Hanborough Petition**

Dr Lidia Arciszewska of Church Hanborough

A recent head on collision on Lower Road near the Willow Cottage Nursery, has brought the issue of traffic safety on this road into the focus again. A petition has been created on change.org. to reduce the speed limit, exclude aggregate lorry traffic and facilitate cycling on Lower Road. Lower Road is a narrow, winding, unclassified country road, which runs from the A4095 junction east of Long Hanborough to the Eynsham roundabout on the A40. In recent years, it has become a busy traffic corridor due to massive growth in population and intensified business and commerce activities nearby and further afield. It is also being routinely used by aggregate lorries and increasingly by drivers trying to avoid traffic congestion elsewhere. Because of its nature and condition, Lower Road is unsuitable to carry such large volumes of traffic. The current national speed limit of 60 mph is totally inappropriate. Lower Road is dangerous! The imminent expansion of Eynsham will make matters much worse. Urgent action is required! To sign the petition and for more details, please find 'Reduce the limit on Lower Road' on Change.org website or follow http://chng.it/hvRBq6HB

## TO LET

4-bedroom Farmhouse in Middletown
Hailey
Ample Parking
Unfurnished
Large Garden with Views
Available Mid May

Further Details 01993 702624

#### **HAILEY REARED LAMB**

Ready end of April

Available as 1/4, 1/2 or whole Joints cut to individual requirements

If you would like to order or find out more details please contact Karl Franklin on 07792 262124, 01993 776471 or <a href="mailto:karl.franklin@outlook.com">karl.franklin@outlook.com</a>

#### HAILEY SINGERS

Well, it has been a year to forget and some may say the good bits could be inscribed on the top of a pin head with a pneumatic drill. Which is not true of course as the level of care support and love in our village which we will always remember has been unprecedented. But don't we long to sing again?

With that joyful chorus of enthusiasm, mirth, and confidence, and musical prowess enough to dwarf a stadium full of rampant Welshmen singing "Land of my Fathers."

And with Easter upon us Irving Berlin would have us don our Easter bonnets, whereas young Georgie Handel would have us cracking into Judas Maccabaeus.

I might just settle for "O Peaceful England," don't we just long for that?

I can't say when we can sing again but there is no business like show business and as a prelude I might envisage a semi-circle of chairs in an uncut field of grass singing lustily with a crazy maniac in a bowler hat sitting in a horsebox playing a piano, finally, happy, caked and hoarse tip toeing discreetly through the cow pats as we sing our favourite Elgar.

And the settling sun ensanguines the sky. Any takers?

Jeremy Lewis jeremywlewis@aol.com

#### **USED MOWERS FOR SALE**

Masport - Push mower ~18" cut
Lawn Flite-MTD self-propelled mower 18" cut
Honda 45 self-propelled mower ~17" cut
Kawasaki – petrol strimmer .... Large
(Old but in good working order)

Mowers from £50 - £90

Strimmer £20

Any trial - No reasonable offer refused
All proceeds to Village Church or
School

Contact: Alan Bailey mobile 07591756206

## Pat Winslow

is your local Humanists UK accredited celebrant for non religious baby namings and welcomings,funerals and memorials, weddings, vow renewals and anything else you'd like to commemorate

07857 273695 or 01993 704346

thepatwinslow@gmail.com

http://humanist.org.uk/patwinslow



The Lamb and Flag - 01993 700694

**Matt Cantwell** 

#### The Lamb and Flag will be opening on Monday 12th April.

In accordance with government guidelines, we will only be able to serve customers outside in our garden, however we do have cover over some of our tables in case it rains.

We will be carrying on our takeaway service on Thursday and Saturday evenings 6 -9 pm; the menu can be found on our website and on facebook. We will also be serving food on those two evenings at the pub.

We would like to say a big thank you to those of you who have supported us by ordering takeaways during lockdown; we really do appreciate it.

In the meantime, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Breach Wood news David Musson

It has been a wet and muddy winter but spring is on the way. At this time of year, you can see almost daily changes – emerging blossom and buds, primroses appearing, pussy willow catkins providing pollen and nectar - and it will only take a few days of sunshine to see more dramatic changes in the trees and foliage. Despite the weather many people have visited the woodland – with and without dogs – for exercise, and reflection during the long weeks of lockdown. Young families have been out exploring and having adventures.

We have managed to maintain some threads of activity through our links with Wychwood Project – a team of hedge layers has been able to lay more of the hedge on the ride down to Whitings Lane; and as participants in the Bird Aid project, we have put out feed daily for the small farm birds.

On a sad note, we report the death of Jude Wood who was a founding trustee of Hailey Community Woodland Ltd., and remained a staunch supporter. A kind, generous and naturewise woman who had lived in Delly End for many years – she will be greatly missed.

#### What to do in the Garden in April

In April, everything needs doing at once and the weather can be uncooperative. But the calendar says spring is here and the garden is bursting into life. However, take care as frost can still be severe.

**Summer bulbs:** Most summer bulbs can be planted outdoors. More tender varieties should be started off in pots or trays in the greenhouse and planted outdoors once the risk of frost has passed. This method brings forward flowering by at least a month. The same trick also works for dahlias.

**Roses** are growing rapidly by mid-April and they are hungry. Feed them now with fertilizer or manure.

**Seeds** – If you sowed any in March, they now need pricking out (and then potting on later in the month). You can sow hardy annuals outdoors in the second half of the month. Any surplus plants you grow could be brought to the **Plant Sale** in the Hailey Village Hall on **Sunday 23**<sup>rd</sup> **May.** 

**Summer bedding** – not too early to start planning! They are wonderful for a splash of colour but can be expensive. Have you tried raising the small plug plants – just as good, much cheaper and worth the effort. If you have space, plant up hanging baskets under glass to give them a head start.

**Lawn:** Your lawn should look green and healthy after the first mowing, provided you don't initially shave it. And the eternal battle to eradicate lawn weeds goes on and on...

Climbers: Clematis and other climbers need to be trained. Walls or fences should be equipped with stout wires to which stems can be tied or trellis through which they can grow. **Vegetables:** Carrots, parsnips and other main crop roots can be sown outdoors up to late April as can brassicas like cabbage and Brussels sprouts. Peas and beans are more sensitive to the cold but should be OK to plant by mid-month.



Want to build one? Registration opens 11<sup>th</sup> April

For info email info.haileygc@gmail.com

Scarecrow Trail will run from 12th June

#### Professional Mobile Valeter



Web: www.easylife-valeting.co.uk Mobile: 07805037392 Land Line: 01993 700818

Valeting Packages

Gold Valet: From £80 Silver Valet: From £60 Bronze Valet: From £30 10% Multi-car discount

Contact us for further details on the services we offer and check out our website for terms and conditions.

Thank you.

## Dawn's Shop

Hailey Village Hall Tuesday & Thursday 12-4pm

Homemade Cakes, Jams & Chutneys



Pet Foods, Treats & Accessories



Wild Bird Feeds loose or by the sack

Poultry, Horse & Livestock Feeds



Compost and more!



I am happy to take orders and deliver locally if it is more convenient.

Phone: 07799553275 or 01993776471 Email: dandgfranklin@gmail.com More information also on my Facebook page – Dawn's Shop

#### Lamb and Flag

**Opening Times** 

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 3:00pm - 9:00pm Wednesday: 3:00pm - 9:00pm Thursday: 3:00pm - 9:00pm Friday: 3:00pm - 10:00pm Saturday: 12- 10:00pm Sunday 12 - 9:00pm

**Food Times** 

Thursday: 6:00pm - 9:00pm Saturday: 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Food available to eat at location or for

Takeaway

Tel:01993 700694



#### **Diary Dates**

I Ith April Scarecrow Registration opens – contact <a href="mailto:info.haileygc@gmail.com">info.haileygc@gmail.com</a>

12<sup>th</sup> April Lamb & Flag reopens

12<sup>th</sup> April Parish Council meeting – remote on Zoom – 7.30pm 23<sup>rd</sup> May Hailey Plant Sale – Recreation Ground from 10am.

Every Sunday at 10.30am – **Zoom church service** 

Please register with Parish office on 01993 704441 or office@witneyparish.org.uk to attend church services.