



HARDWICK

HAPPENINGS



February 2021

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Headteacher: Mr James Hoban and Ms Cate Thompson 01954 210070
www.hardwickandcambourne.primary.co.uk

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Community Speed Watch: Alan Everitt csw.hardwick@gmail.com 07739322905

County Councillor: Lina Nieto Lina.Nieto@cambridgeshire.gov.uk 07402 351821

Doctors' Surgeries:

Surgery/Dispensary 58 Green End, Comberton 01223 262500/262399

Bourn Surgery 25 Alms Hill, Bourn 01954 719313

Child & Family Nurses: 01954 282830

District Councillor: Grenville Chamberlain grenville_c@hotmail.com 01954 210040

Evangelical Church: Hardwickevangelical@gmail.com

Co-Ministers: Steve & Kate Gaze 01954 211900/212556

Secretary: Liz Pamplin hardwickevangelical@gmail.com

General:

Community Education Office: CVC 01223 264721

Ashcroft Veterinary Surgery: 169 St Neots Rd 01954 210250

Cambridge Water Co (supply): 01223 403000

Anglian Water (sewerage): 08457 145145

Eastern Electricity: 0800 7 838 838

Gas Emergency: 0800 111 999

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Guiding information [www. Girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.Girlguiding.org.uk)

Hardwick Happenings: Peter Cornwell Howard Baker hardwickhappenings@gmail.com

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Hardwick pre school: hardwick.preschool@yahoo.co.uk 01954 212823

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Netball Club:	Alison Beresford	
Neighbourhood Watch:	Ashley Shepherd	ahshepherd@hotmail.co.uk
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Chairman: Tony Gill	a.gill@hardwick-cambs.org.uk	01954 211108
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Reporting highways /road problems		03450 455212
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Three fifteen club:		
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WI: Anne Jones	jeffandanne23@gmail.com	01954 211417

BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday February 3 rd	Black
Wednesday February 10 th	Green & Blue
Wednesday February 17 th	Black
Wednesday February 24 th	Blue
Wednesday March 3 rd	Black
Wednesday March 10 th	Green & Blue
Wednesday March 17 th	Black
Wednesday March 24 th	Green & Blue
Wednesday March 31 st	Black

Hardwick Happenings

February 2021

Issue number 363

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Twitter: @hardwickhap

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EDITORIAL



Thanks to Stella Joyner for the stunning front cover photo of the flooding at St Ives and for others on P.14

The article opposite from Betty Grimes is all about living with a Mum who has Alzheimers, ‘Gone is the nice lady I was so proud of and in her place is someone I am struggling to cope with.’ It is a really sad and moving account.

We have missed the monthly updates from the Parish Council since Jane Humphreys used to send them in. Great to have the Parish Council news back P. 18 Thank you Ackbar., we look forward to more reports.

On P 20 Robbie Thomson brings an exciting message about a village celebration at the end of lockdown . Roll on.

Great to have another book review P .54 Thank you to Sharon McMahon. Lots of people are reading more during lockdown so it’s good to have recommendations like this. The bookstall at St. Mary’s is still open twice a week with a good selection of books for children and adults. P 28

Save your stamps, milk bottle tops and crisp packets and read about where to send them and what will become of them. P 30

Finally congratulations to everyone who designed and built Advent windows P40.

What a creative village!

Peter

Thanks to all
who bought tickets
to support the
giant Christmas
raffle which raised
over £800 for
St Mary’s.
The raffle was won
by
Alison Mackie

This article comes from Betty Grimes who says, 'It's really important that people understand the 'loneliness' of coping with someone with Alzheimer's especially with the current 'covid' climate.'

Hello Mum, are you there?

The sad truth is no, not so much any more. It's like the Body Snatchers all over again except they've left the body and taken the stuff from inside, the important stuff, the stuff that made her who she was. After two years of suspicions and trying desperately to get a diagnosis we have finally got one. And yes, vascular Alzheimer's, of course it is, we knew it would be, well that or dementia but from what I see they are more or less the same, you lose the person you love!

Mum still looks like mum, more or less. Until you look at her face that is. Her face shows many emotions, confusion, fear, anger, pain, misery and worst of all, the look of being completely lost. Rarely a smile, even rarer is to hear her laugh. This person in front of me is no longer my mum. There are the little bits of her that pop out now and then. I take advantage of those moments to remind her of our good times. We were friends, very good friends. We went on trips together, the tulip fields in Holland, to see Pavarotti at Leeds Castle, Hampton Court garden show to name a few. Some she remembers, some she doesn't but I don't care. For a few precious moments I have my mum back. The lady that was always so well turned out, the lady who cared for others and was always ready to help, the lady that struggled to bring up a family on dad's meagre wage for his working a six day week at BR. She was strong, reliable, loving, caring and good mum and now She seems to have turned around completely on the personality front.

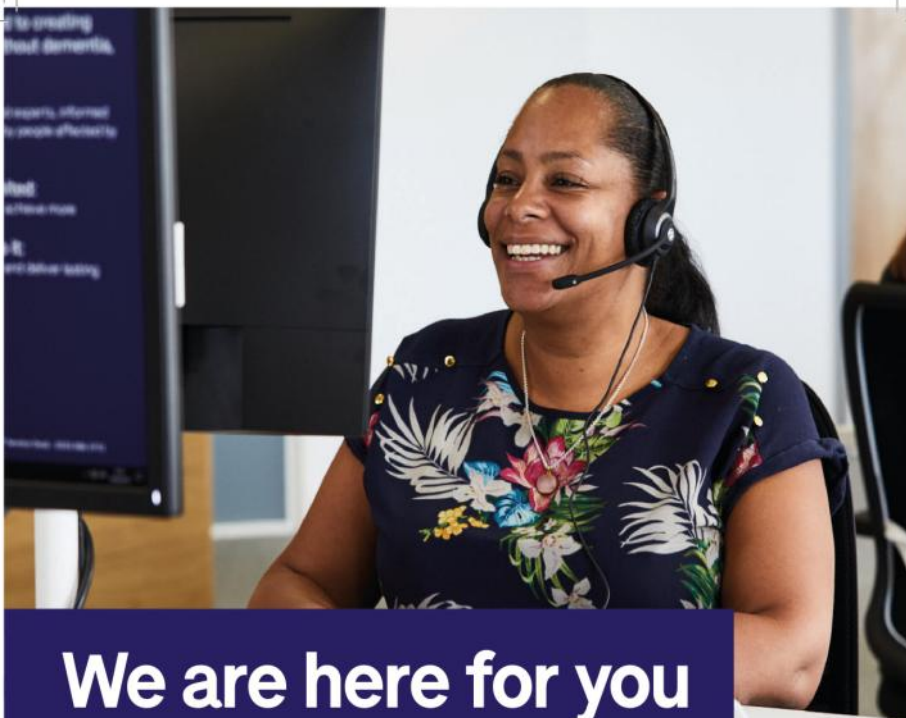
Continued on P.10

Gone is the nice lady I was so proud of and in her place is someone I am struggling to cope with. She can be nasty, hurtful, rude, she uses swear words I didn't think she knew, her habits leave a lot to be desired at times and I'm so heartbroken to know that this is not how she would have wanted to be. I'm still learning to take a step back, to breathe and not engage mouth until a completely innocuous answer is found. It's not easy but a very important trick to learn. Mum is stubborn now, if the black cardigan she's wearing is blue in her eyes then no amount of arguing is going to change her mind. The same goes pretty much for everything, you just have to go with the flow and agree with whatever she says. It makes life easier and I don't have to go through the process of beating myself up because I thoughtlessly argued about the colour of her cardigan and caused her pain and confusion and why does it really matter!

This is a roller coaster of a ride and I know I will never get used to it. My emotions are all over the place, the guilt, the feelings of uselessness and hopelessness are ever present and common for everyone caring for a loved one. I can't jump from one feeling to another as mum does. She calls me names and while I struggle not to cry she's started talking about something completely different and what she has said is forgotten, as if never said.

My saving grace are my wonderful friends and neighbours. In particular I have a few very close friends, some have also been through the same so know exactly what I'm going through. They are always there for me whatever time of the day or night. They have seen me through some tough times and will be there to see me through the tougher ones coming but they are there. They can offer nothing but an ear or a

Continued on P12



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you're going through,
there is someone who
understands. I don't
feel alone now.'**

Person living with dementia



should and they know this, they can do nothing to change anything and they know this too but they are still there. I have to mention the Alzheimer's Society, the Carers Trust and the Council. These organisations have been a tremendous support in both trying to help sort mum out and in trying to help me maintain my wellbeing. There is a lot of help out there but you just need to know where to find it and who to trust. Stick to the well trusted groups, they know what they are talking about. My plea to you - If you have a friend or loved one caring for someone with dementia or Alzheimer's please take a few extra minutes of your time to contact them a bit more often, listen to them, be their lifeline, their contact with the outside world. Believe me, they will need it. I have my girlies and they are my touchstone to reality, my grasp on sanity and without them Thanks girlies!



*Betty's Mum
with one of the
girls
before she was
taken by
Alzheimers.*

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Out and about with Stella Joiner

On the 27th December 2020 I visited St Ives (Cambs) it was just amazing to see how the landscape had changed. Most of the surrounding area was flooded but we did manage to walk through the Thicket to Houghton.



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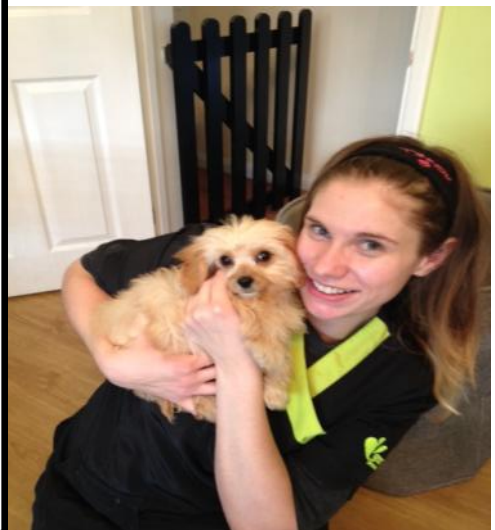
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Update from the Parish Council

Happy new year 2021

The Parish Council would like to wish a Happy New Year to all of Hardwick. We know that 2020 has been quite a challenging one for most of us. Whilst 2021 hasn't really started in the best way possible, we would certainly hope that things will get better and back to normal very soon.

Every January, the Parish Council discusses and approves the budget for the coming year. For more information about this, please check the Council minutes on the village website (www.hardwick-cambs.org).

Also, if residents have particular projects about the village that they want to discuss or bring up, they should not hesitate to contact the Parish Council with any ideas, queries etc...(clerk@hardwick-cambs.org.uk)

Beautiful photos of our village

The Communications and Engagement Working Group is looking for photos of Hardwick, which can be used for display on the Village website, so the whole village can benefit from them. Please get in touch either through the Village website, the Clerk or the Parish Council or Facebook, if you can contribute.

Millers Way

The Parish Council are taking over formal ownership of Millers Way so that the Public Footpath can be used without running the gauntlet of lakes and trip hazards. The legal transfer from the landowner (Persimmon as it turns out) is going through now and then the whole stretch from Worcester Avenue to St Neots Road will be provided with a proper hard surface. Cambridge County Council would not adopt the road.

Overhead lighting will also be provided and will be the first use of Solar lighting over a public space in the village. The footpath is not for motor-cycles and suitable barriers need to be provided which enable safe passage for walkers, wheelchair users, buggies and pedal cyclists. Hopefully this is something you would support and yes we know it's long overdue.

The Footpath Upgrade

The long awaited upgrade of the footpath on Main Street and Cambridge Road is finally getting underway. Originally due to start last February, the first work is scheduled to commence February this year. Funded, designed and managed by Cambridge County Council Highways, we hope

this is £ 400,000 well spent. We seldom get awards of this nature. They hope to start at the bend by St Marys and work their way up to Cambridge Road.

The stretch between the school and St Neots Road is not included but the aim is to derive a 2 metre footpath from the Village entrance from Toft end all the way to the School and encourage those who are able to, to ditch the car for short journeys. Highways assure us that property boundaries will of course be respected but there may be the need for some residents to trim back their hedges.

Unfortunately Highways will not make this shared use for pedestrians and cyclists but the work to slow the traffic on this stretch will continue with the aim of safer cycling for all.

Lighting in the Village

Some will recall that back in 2014 lighting changed forever when the government ordered a 25% reduction of lights in the country at the same time moving to “white” lights away from the old “orange” lights. Hardwick took a hit and the village agreed to a net loss of 48 lights. The lights in our village are managed by either South Cambs District Council (mostly Main Street and St Neots Road – “SC” markings) or Balfour Beattie on behalf of Cambridge County Council.

We have sounded out both of these Councils and they are adamant that they will not fund any additional lighting in the village BUT there may be other options e.g. solar. If there are specific places where you feel unsafe, please let us know. Several roads were generally highlighted in the Village Plan Survey but that was over 3 years ago. On St Neots Road and parts of Main Street, trimming back over-zealous tree branches can help but we know that is not the solution in every case.

Solar lights in Bus Shelters

The Parish Council is considering Solar lighting for our Bus Shelters on St Neots Road. South facing, open aspect makes them an ideal choice and we would be interested to know your views please. Let us know if you think that would that be useful?



There is a day coming...

when the difficulties of the last year will start to become more of a memory than a reality...

when we can hug our friends, stay over with family and consign the facemasks to the kitchen drawer...

when we don't have to count numbers when we're out and about or wonder how far two metres is...

when we won't worry about switching the TV on and seeing the next bit of bad news...



And when it comes... that day will be a day worth celebrating!

Plans are underway for a great big Hardwick village-wide party that we can hold when we are free from COVID-19.

We don't know when, but when we can, we'll run it -



and everyone is invited!

A team of people, including reps from lots of village organisations and societies have begun forming a steering group that will help gather all the ideas and plans together



So, how can you help?

Well, at this stage, we need ideas and we need people!

If you'd like to be involved in:

- helping get plans off the ground
- helping think of fun things to do on the day
- helping on the day with lifting and shifting, setting out and organising

we'd love to hear from you!

If you'd like to be involved in any way, please email us at

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and we'll get back to you!



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Please do note the change to our opening hours on Wednesdays. We are opening an hour earlier at 1.00 pm and closing at 5.00 pm. The hours on Mondays remain unchanged at 10.00 am until 2.00 pm.

The lockdown has meant that we are again only open for the return of items, which will be quarantined for at least 72 hours before being removed from customer library accounts, and the collection of pre-ordered items. There are currently no overdue charges being levied. We are also offering public computer access for essential need only, with one 45 minute session per day per customer allowed.

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SNIPPETS

Howard Baker reflects on Christmas just past

This contribution appeared recently on the letters' page of 'The Guardian: "A friend has sent me a photograph of the message I sent to him at Christmas 2019. *Things can't get any worse, can they? Onwards to a better 2020*".

I wonder what his message will be for Christmas 2021.

One of my Christmas presents was an ersatz Fitbit. I mention this because I like the sound of the name and because it's got all sorts of wonderful features. It can give you a blood pressure reading, tell you how many steps you've walked and perform other miracles of the modern world. The only snag is that we can't work out how to make it tell the time.

I know that we live in a secular society, that Christ was probably born in March and that Christmas was grafted on to an earlier pagan winter festival but I still find it hard to accept the complete secularisation of Christian terms. An 'advent calendar' of your favourite football team for example. I even saw an 'advent calendar' based on different packets of tea. And while we are being pedantic, the dictionary definition of 'tea' is "a drink made by infusing the dried leaves of the tea plant in boiling water.'



So, pouring boiling water over cinnamon, chamomile or liquorice does not make tea; it makes an infusion. But being offered a nice cup of infused ginseng doesn't have the same ring as 'a nice cup of tea', or hearing our friends in the BBC test match commentary box say, 'There's just time for another over before an infusion of turmeric.'

I note that the ratings for BBC television are the lowest since records began. There are various explanations for this. Now there are so many other forms of visual entertainment available. In our family, for example, we choose a couple of good videos to stream and have a few games of Trivial Pursuit. We watch the Queen's speech, of course, as all loyal subjects should.

Back in the 'seventies when Morecombe and Wise were in their prime there was hardly any opposition. Like the Queen's speech they were obligatory viewing. And were they all that good? No one seemed to mind. They were a Christmas tradition.

One programme that caught my eye was called 'Tom Allen comes to town'. This featured the Yorkshire city of Wakefield, 'not a town at all' as he was quick to point out. When I lived in 'Wakey' in the nineteen seventies it was a pretty dull place that lived in the shadow of Leeds but it has improved a lot since then.

Continued on P26

. Basically, the Tom Allen programme was a mess, or 'neither nowt nor summat' as they might say in 'Wakey'. There was a brass band that never got the chance to play, and a singer, Martin Kemp, who was never asked to sing. The visit to the cathedral lasted less than a minute as did the visit to the Hepworth Museum, and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park was mentioned but not visited. A few more minutes were devoted to the mining museum and of course we had to have a piece on rhubarb growing. Then came an imitation of two television game shows, all done at breakneck speed.

Basically, the idea behind this programme is good but someone needs to sit down with Tom Allen and agree to cut out a lot of the dross and focus on the town and its people.



Santa Came to Hardwick THANK YOU!! WE RAISED OVER £900!!

Thank you so much to everyone who booked tickets!! We couldn't have done it without you all booking; it was so nice to see so many happy and excited children!!

A big thank you to everyone who lined the village streets cheering us all on and donating money on the night. It showed so much community spirit and kept the elves and Santa smiling.

We have received so many heartfelt emails and messages after the sleigh ride and we thank you all for your kind words.

I would like to thank everyone who helped spread the word, pack the bags, make the sleigh, get donations and of course Santa for making a special trip...and his helpful elves and driver!!

Thank you to Ashcroft Vets and other local businesses for covering the cost of gifts. Thank you, Madingley Hall for their amazing gingerbread biscuits, and bags. Thank you, Travis Perkins for donating all the wood for the Sleigh! Thank you, O Wakeling Painting for all the paint for the Sleigh. Thank you, BHF home store in Cambourne for Santas armchair!

ALL MONEY RAISED IS GOING TO HARDWICK PRESCHOOL!!

We aim to improve the outdoor area for the children with the money raised!

CHECK OUT OUR FB PAGE (HARDWICK PRESCHOOL EVENTS) FOR ALL FUTURE EVENTS!!

Thank you again! And we look forward to seeing you all again next year!!

Hardwick PreSchool Committee



St Mary's Books



The books will continue to be available in the Cabin porch from 10.00 am to dusk (weather permitting) on Thursdays and Sundays. There will be a post box and envelopes on the side of the bookshelf for donations to church funds, or bring one or more book to swap. We have a cupboard full of books which we will use to re-stock the shelves so that we have new ones each week. There is a good selection of both fiction and non – fiction plus some DVDs and children’s books.

Please remember to sanitize hands before and after touching the books.

Thank you.



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A plea to all dog walkers from Anon

Since the start of lockdown I have taken to walking around Hardwick. I enjoy going for my hourly walks and it helps me unwind after a day's work. What is upsetting in recent months is the mess that is left by the dog walkers. Increasingly, I have noticed that the dog walkers are not cleaning up after their dogs, it means rather than enjoy the lovely Christmas decorations on my walk, I had to keep my eye on the pavement in order to avoid putting my foot on the dog mess.

I believe there is penalty if caught. Can we please do the necessary?

Your cooperation would be very much appreciated.

Hardwick resident - Anonymous.

There was a time when HH had letters about dog fouling almost every month. Does this mean that we are back to our old ways? Have things really deteriorated recently? Who can remember? Ed

'Collect to help others'

You may or may not be aware that some people in the village are collection points for various every-day items to help charities. I am aware of three so I asked them to tell you about it. Please, if there are any others, let me know and we can let others know.



Used postage stamps - Carole Foster writes this...

This is Freddie my great nephew. He is a Mito baby (Mitochondrial, recently highlighted in TV's Coronation Street). It is an incurable disease. Freddie will never walk, talk or sit up on his own. He has just reached the amazing age of 5. His parents are fantastic and 200% devoted, but they have had a lot of help from The Lily Foundation which conducts research into Mito. The Foundation collect used stamps which enables them to raise much needed funds for their projects and research. So, I would be grateful if you could kindly post any used postal stamps through my door (18 Egremont Road) which I can pass on to the Foundation. Many thanks for your help.

Plastic milk carton tops - Liz Tinkler writes this...

Lisa Kent Trust is currently collecting plastic bottle tops to send to our schools in The Gambia.

These are used as educational aids for counting, group work, colours etc and assist our staff in delivering the curriculum. A bin will be left on the drive way of 5 Pump Lane for any donations of tops.

Thanking you in advance.

Liz Tinkler - www.lisakenttrust.org mob: 07803 123023

If you are interested to know more about the Lisa Kent Trust, Liz wrote an article about it in the November 2020 issue of the Hardwick Happenings. Also, Liz is joining Hardwick W.I. at its monthly Zoom meeting on Wednesday, April 21st at 7.30pm. If

you would like an invitation and a link to the meeting, please let me know.



Crisp packets – Nikki Donne writes this...

There is a drop off point for recycling crisp packets outside 35 Ellison Lane. Packets can be dropped off at any time as there is a labelled bin outside, next to the wheelie bins. Any crisp packet is accepted, including the outer packaging of multipacks. It is just crisp packets that are collected so unfortunately chocolate and biscuit wrappers are not accepted. The crisp packets are sent off to Terracycle and they do ask that crisp packets are not folded into triangles and that packets are completely empty.

Once sent off to Terracycle, the crisp packets are separated by plastic type, cleaned, and extruded into plastic pellets to make new recycled products. More information on the scheme can be found

at www.terracycle.com.

So, please support these people by collecting these items and delivering them to the relevant houses.

Many thanks
Anne Jones

An infographic titled "THE CRISP PACKET RECYCLING SCHEME". It features a green header with the title. Below the header, it says "ACCEPTED WASTE" and shows five bags of Walkers crisps in various flavors: Cheddar & Onion, Walkers 70 Original, Walkers 70 Original, Walkers 70 Original, and Walkers 70 Original. Below the bags, it says "Any brand of crisp packets". Underneath, it lists "Waste that is NOT accepted:" with a bulleted list: Popcorn bags, Crisp tubes, Pretzel bags, and Meat snack bags. Below that, it lists "Waste that is accepted:" with a bulleted list: Any brand of crisp packets. At the bottom right, there are logos for Walkers and Terracycle.

THE CRISP PACKET RECYCLING SCHEME

ACCEPTED WASTE

Any brand of crisp packets

Waste that is NOT accepted:

- Popcorn bags
- Crisp tubes
- Pretzel bags
- Meat snack bags

Waste that is accepted:

- Any brand of crisp packets

WALKERS TERRACYCLE

Hardwick Community Centre Working Group update.

Dear Village Resident,

It seems to have been a long time since our last update to residents about the new Community Centre but throughout the pandemic the work has been progressing and we are now at a point where we can ask the architects to seek planning permission for the project.

We have had several Zoom meetings with the architects to adapt and refine the plans displayed at our last public meeting. Attached are the latest plans of the proposed building and I have bullet pointed a few key things that have happened since our last public meeting and display. An elevation of this drawing will be available in a few weeks and will be circulated later.

The building has now been sited between the Sports and Social Club and the play area taking up the majority of the footprint of the existing hard tennis court area. The building has been orientated so the cafe will also have potential outdoor seating with views across to the play park.

Total expected build cost will be approximately £1.13 million which will include changes to access points, landscaping and extra parking.

£106,000 from the two major developments in the village will cover the cost and will be coming on stream in sections as and when the new houses are sold. This is expected to be completed by the end of 2022 with all monies released to the Parish Council, by that time, to cover the cost of the new building.

An extra £30,000 has been added to the build costs to provide match officials (football and cricket) with changing facilities attached to, and with access to, the new Community Centre.

Various room size options have been included to increase the variety of activities The Community Centre can cater for.

There is still an opportunity for us to make minor changes to the internal layout of the building so if you have any ideas there is still time to send them to us for consideration.

As a group we are also pursuing ways to make The Community Centre as eco-friendly as possible and are looking for grants towards helping to achieve this goal.

We look forward to hearing your views and opinions which can be sent to;

Alan.west10@btinternet.com

Can we also take this time to wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Covid-free New Year.

With best wishes
HCCWG

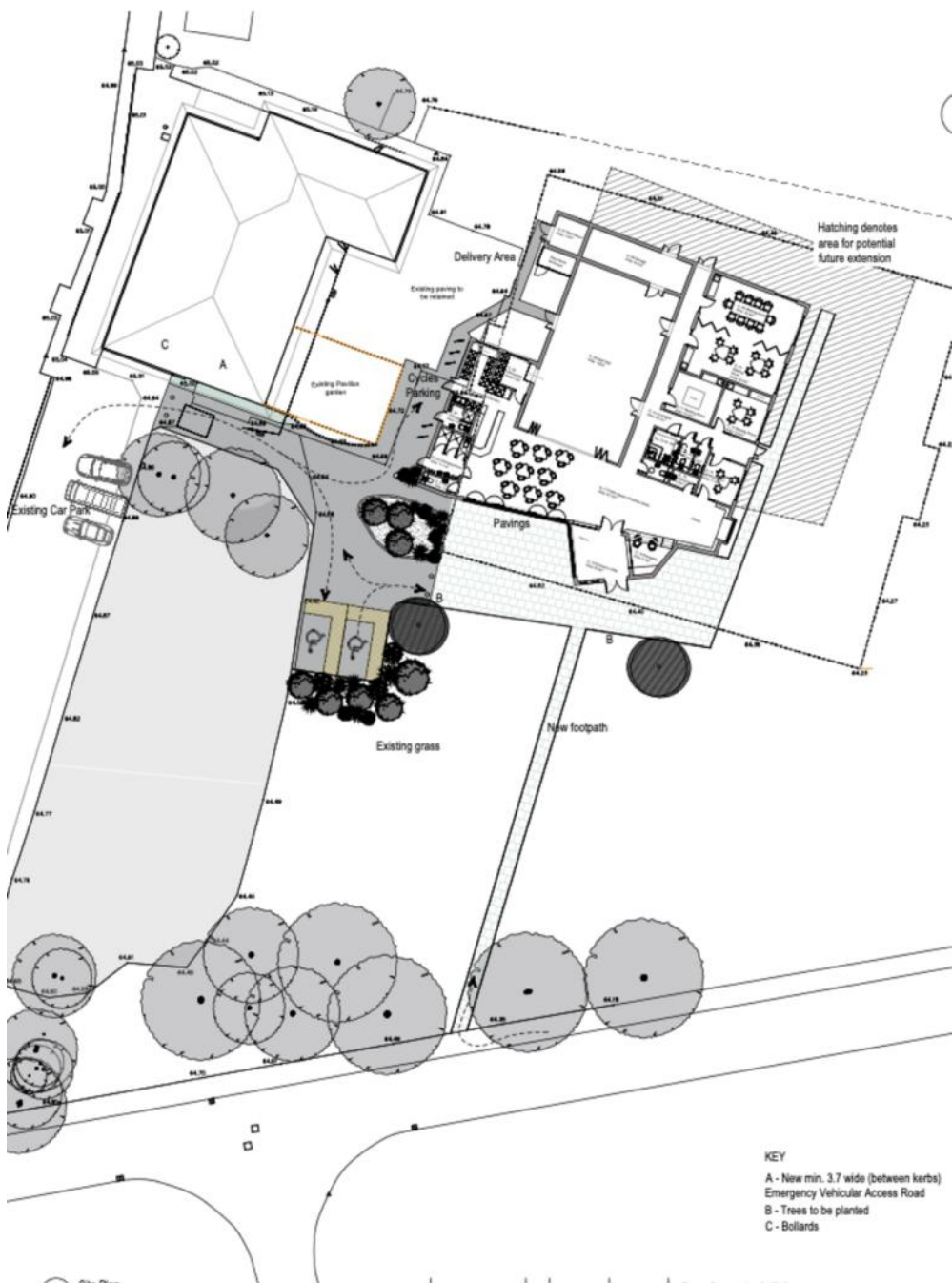
Hardwick Community Centre awarded an Energy Efficiency Support Package

The Hardwick Community Centre Working Group is delighted at the news that it has been awarded an Energy Efficiency Support Package in the latest set of awards under the Zero Carbon Communities scheme.

The Zero Carbon Communities grants were announced in early December by South Cambridgeshire District Council as part of its drive for the district to become net zero carbon by 2050. In particular it provides funding for projects to support communities to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels

The Hardwick Community Centre Working Group is working on plans for a new community centre in Hardwick with a target completion date for 2022. The grant will help with the installation of energy efficient systems in the new building.

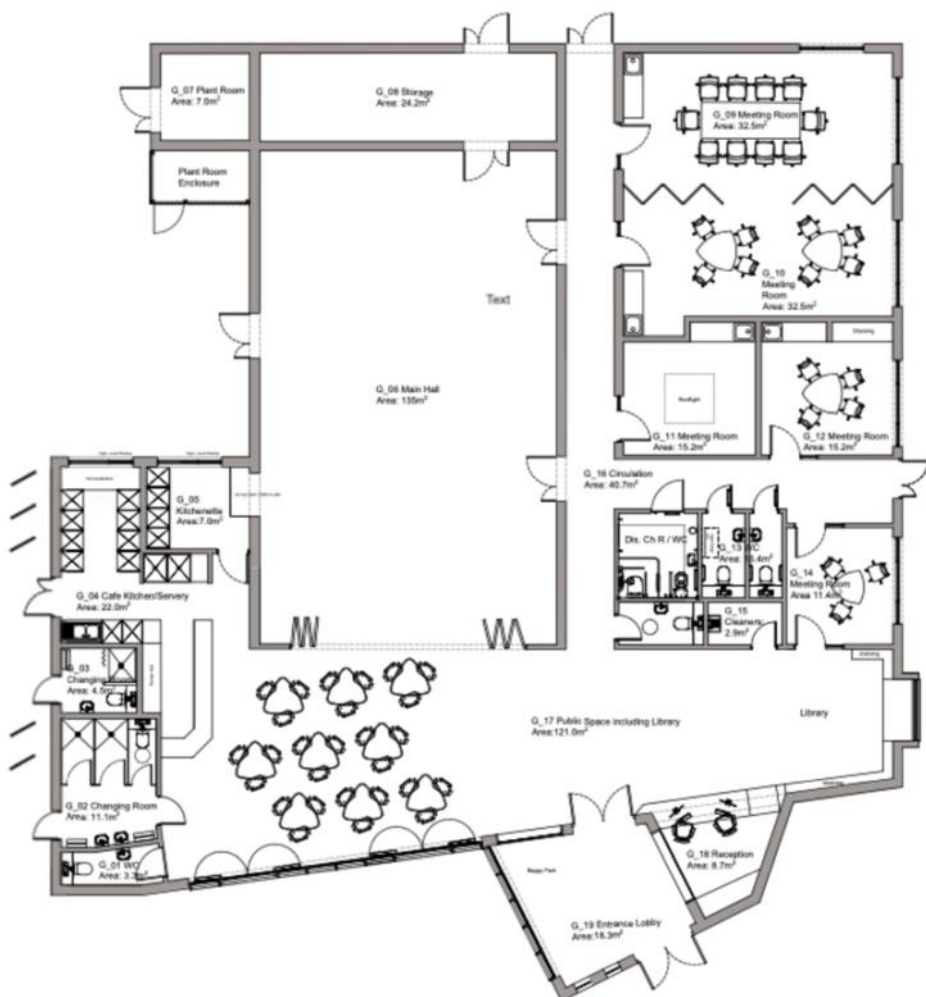
Nicky Kerr, a leading member of the Group, put together an application in August and September. She says "I am excited to say that we were successful in our grant application and we can hopefully soon get the ball rolling on this."



Proposed Hardwick Community Centre

10 January 2021

G_01 - WC	3.3m ²
G_02 - Changing Room 01	11.1m ²
G_03 - Changing Room 02	4.5m ²
G_04 - Cafe Kitchen	22.0m ²
G_05 - Kitchenette	7.0m ²
G_06 - Main Hall	135.0m ²
G_07 - Plant Room	7.0m ²
G_08 - Storage	24.2m ²
G_09 - Meeting Room	32.5m ²
G_10 - Meeting Room	32.5m ²
G_11 - Meeting Room	15.2m ²
G_12 - Meeting Room	15.2m ²
G_13 - WC	16.4m ²
G_14 - Meeting Room	11.4m ²
G_15 - Cleaners	2.9m ²
G_16 - Circulation	40.7m ²
G_17 - Public Space (Cafe&Library)	123.5m ²
G_18 - Reception	8.7m ²
G_19 - Entrance Lobby	18.3m ²
TOTAL:	531.4m²



VILLAGE DIARY in 2021 (hopefully)

Date	Event	Venue	Time
Feb			
12 th	Library Bus - route H12	Hardwick School St Neots Rd, Blue Lion Limes Rd, near school	10.40am-11.50am 2.15pm - 2.30pm 2.40pm - 2.55pm 3.05pm - 4pm
17 th	W.I. - Lucy Lewis - first female bomb disposal expert & first Cambridge University Marshall	Zoom	7.30pm
23 rd	Parish Council meeting	Zoom	7pm
March			
12 th	Library Bus - route H12	As above	As above
17 th	W.I. - Annual General meeting	Zoom	7.30pm
23 rd	Parish Council meeting	Zoom	7pm
April			
4 th	Easter Egg Hunt	St Mary's Church	10.30am
9 th	Library Bus - route H12	As above	As above
21 st	W.I. - Liz Tinkler - 'The work of the Lisa Kent Trust'	Zoom	7.30pm
27 th	Parish Council meeting	Zoom	7pm
May			
14 th	Library Bus - route H12	As above	As above
15 th	St Mary's Church Fete	Around the Cabin	Midday to 4.30pm

19 th	W.I. - Resolutions	Zoom	7.30pm
25 th	Parish Council meeting	Zoom	7pm
June			
11 th	Library Bus - route H12	As above	As above
13 th	Garden Safari	Around the village	2pm - 6pm
16 th	W.I. - Paula Baker - 'Suffolk Prickles Hedgehog Rescue'	Zoom	7.30pm
22 nd	Parish Council meeting	Zoom	7pm
July			
9 th	Library Bus - route H12	As above	As above
21 st	W.I. - David Clark - 'Banned by the BBC'	Zoom	7.30pm
27 th	Parish Council meeting	Zoom	7pm
Aug			
11 th	St Mary's Summer afternoon	Cabin at St Mary's	2.30pm - 4.30pm
12 th	St Mary's Summer afternoon	Cabin at St Mary's	2.30pm - 4.30pm
13 th	Library Bus - route H12	As above	As above
18 th	St Mary's Summer afternoon	Cabin at St Mary's	2.30pm - 4.30pm
18 th	W.I. - Summer Social (we hope!)	TBC	7.30pm
19 th	St Mary's Summer afternoon	Cabin at St Mary's	2.30pm - 4.30pm
24 th	Parish Council meeting		7pm
25 th	St Mary's Summer afternoon	Cabin at St Mary's	2.30pm - 4.30pm
26 th	St Mary's Summer afternoon	Cabin at St Mary's	2.30pm - 4.30pm
Sept			
3 rd	Hardwick Eco Event	Cabin at St Mary's	10.30-4pm



St Mary's Church Community, Hardwick

St Mary's, Hardwick, is part of the Lordsbridge Team of Churches, and the Diocese of Ely

www.stmaryshardwick.org.uk

"St Mary's Church, Hardwick"

Vicar: Revd Canon Alison Myers, Tel: 01954 212815; Email: alison-myers@lordsbridge.org

The Rectory, 50, Main Street, Hardwick, Cambridge CB23 7QS
Assistant Ministers: Revd Howard Bigg & Clare Bigg; Revd Paul Garnell



Online and print services every Sunday in February

Worship at Home service – audio or video, and print

11am Zoom Sunday service – contact Alison for the link

Look out for Ash Wednesday resources for 17th February.

Created and run by members of the 'Lordsbridge Team' of local village churches.



In-person services in church in February

Please check our website, Facebook group and noticeboard for details of when in-person services will resume. They are currently suspended in favour of print and digital.



DailyHope phone line – 0800 804 044

This initiative of the Church of England is available for those who can't easily access services and prayers online.

Children, families and young people

As part of our 'Worship at Home' resources each week we are providing a sheet of children and family 'Pick & Mix' activities. Other things are circulated via the families mailing list from time to time. Youth work is organised by West Cambridge Christian Youth Ministries (WCCYM).

Churchyard open and church building open on Sundays

The church building is open for personal visits and private prayer from 9.30am until dusk on Sundays. The churchyard is always open as a peaceful destination on a winter walk.

Pastoral care & help from St Mary's

Please contact Clare or Alison if you, or someone you know, would like us to be in touch. The St Mary's church community also partners with the Hardwick Network to help support people in the village. Clare: cebigg53@gmail.com; 211673.

For any of the above or to find out about joining the St Mary's community

Check our website www.stmaryshardwick.org.uk or Facebook group "St Mary's Church Hardwick", or get in touch with Canon Alison to join our weekly or families e-mailing lists or to ask about joining the church community, via alisonmyers@lordsbridge.org.



Hello. My name is Paula Rowley and I would like to introduce myself as the new Community Warden for **Papworth, Hardwick, Caldecote, Comberton, Toft, Bourn and Wimpole**. Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have been delivering these schemes for 27 years and with the funding support from

South Cambridgeshire District Council we are pleased to be in a position to expand the scheme to those living within the above mentioned villages.

I have worked in the health and social care sector in the local area for 22 years and have extensive experience and knowledge of supporting older people in the community.

The Community warden service assists adults over 60 to continue to live independently and safely at home by providing daily contact (Monday to Friday) and support by a personal visit (COVID19 compliant) or a telephone call to ensure a sense of security and wellbeing. We can help you on a long or short term basis depending on your needs and wishes. An example of some of the things I can do to help you are;

- Doing small amounts of shopping

- Collecting prescriptions

- Reading post and making phone calls on your behalf

- Spend time with you to have a chat

- Listen to any concerns and help you find a solution

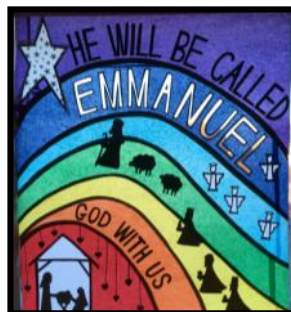
You will receive a 2 week **FREE** trial and after that we ask for a small charge of £9 per week for a single person and £11 per week for a couple. Below are some quotes from people that use our service.

“During Isolation the telephone call and chat is a lifeline in such worrying times.”

“That phone call every day to check on me gives me such a great deal of security. You can’t believe what a phone call can mean at my age”

If you are interested and would like to know more, I would love to hear from you.

Please call me on **07812495997**



*A selection of
the advent
windows which could
be seen around the
village this Christmas.*

“Thank you so much on behalf of Hardwick Evangelical Church and our friends at St Mary’s to all who engaged in and supported the various projects that were run across the village over Christmas.

The Hardwick Advent Windows project run jointly between St Mary’s Hardwick and Hardwick Evangelical Church saw 50 resource boxes go to families in the village full of crafts, activities, stories and resources to explore throughout the run up to Christmas, as well as activities and resources provided for adults and teenagers.

There was great feedback from families in the village - one parent saying “we couldn’t wait any longer, so we opened our pack early and started all the activities!” and another commenting “it was so nice, at a time where we couldn’t do what we’d usually do, to have some really nice, fun and creative activities to tell the Christmas story”.

Thanks to all those who came and stood on their doorsteps and encouraged the carol singers as they made their way around the village and thank you to all who came and added a star to the Nativity scene as well. It was so nice to see so many handmade stars on Christmas Eve - who knows, maybe a tradition to go alongside the carol singing every year!”

Robbie Thomson

THE FEBRUARY QUIZ

Because of current lockdown conditions it is unlikely that the February Quiz, one of the highlights of village life, will be held this year. To partially compensate for this Howard Baker has compiled a shortened quiz, without bread and cheese, unfortunately. In the interests of economy some of the questions have been re-cycled from a past allotments quiz. (Answers on Page 63)

1. Jonny Buckland, Guy Berryman, Will Champion, Phil Harvey and Christopher Martin all met at University College London. What else do they have in common?
2. Which former student of Comberton Village College became captain of the England cricket team?
3. Who was the first woman to be elected to the House of Commons?
4. How many of Henry VIII's wives were called Katherine?
5. Who was getting tired of sitting with her sister on the river-bank?
6. Which chemical element has the symbol K?
7. Which former Chelsea footballer made his international footballer made his first international appearance at the age of seventeen when he came on as substitute for his father?
8. Which Agatha Christie play ran for 68 years in the West End?
9. Which European city has 23,000 bridges- Hamburg, Amsterdam or Venice?
10. Who is the only man with the name of Oscar to have won an Oscar?
11. Whose symphony was unfinished?
12. Which English novelist wrote 'Girl 20' , 'Take a girl like you' and 'Difficulties with the girls'?



Sunday services streaming live 10.30am

All welcome to join us
on Zoom or YouTube

SUNDAY SERVICE at 10.30am for about an hour.

A mixture of live worship and songs pre-recorded by our folk, prayer, live talks and videos.

(Zoom Meeting ID: 854 0402 4045. Passcode: 112700)

VILLAGE PRAYERS with St Mary's, Weds 9.00 - 9.30am.

(Zoom Meeting ID: 836 6679 7878. Passcode: 022397)

WEDNESDAY DROP-IN for a general chat 3.30 - 4.30pm.

(Zoom Meeting ID: 834 4852 5468. Passcode: 422335)

Use the Zoom logins above or find us at www.HEChurch.co.uk and go to "What's On?" to find clickable links.

To follow services live streamed on YouTube go to "Sundays Online" where you'll also find past online services.

For more information, need help or want to talk, contact

Co-Ministers: Steve & Kate Gaze

minister.hechurch@gmail.com / 01954 212556

OR

Pauline Blower

pastoral.hechurch@gmail.com / 01223 262525

www.HEChurch.co.uk

Charity no. 1163049. Member of the Eastern Baptist Association.

Bourn surgery newsletter

The major message we want to communicate is that **we are open**. We have remained open and here throughout the pandemic and previous two lockdowns, and will continue to be here during this next stage of the pandemic. We have maintained our normal level of appointments throughout, and will continue to see patients face-to-face when clinically needed. **If you need us, we are here.**

We do however need to ensure that we are able to protect our vulnerable patients who need to see us in person at the Surgery, by providing an environment that is as safe as possible. We also need to protect our staff from any unnecessary contact to reduce the risk of the nightmare scenario, which has happened in a number of practices, of having so many staff off sick and isolating that the practice has to close. **We are open and we are here, but we must act to protect our communities and our patients.**

The current important points are:

All GP appointments will continue to be by telephone/video in the first instance. Only after this initial appointment can a decision be made about whether a face-to-face contact is required.

No-one is to enter the practice building unless they have a pre-arranged face-to-face appointment. If you need to speak to Reception to book an appointment or update us, please do this by telephone.

- Dispensary are now handing out medications from the side window into the car park. We have an awning to ensure you have shelter from inclement weather, and are fixing the lighting to make sure that visibility is good in the evenings. We have used cones to create a safe space within the car park for this.
- Due to the impact of needing to deliver the COVID-19 vaccination programme at pace no appointments will be available to book more than 7 days in advance. This is to ensure that we do not have large volumes of appointments to rearrange when we are informed of our vaccine delivery dates and need to release doctors and nurses to the vaccine centre.

We will continue to work proactively to reach out to our patients who have more complex medical needs, to ensure that we continue to monitor and safely manage their health conditions throughout this pandemic.

This is a unique and challenging situation for us all, and so far 2021 is not proving any easier than 2020. We will continue to review, revise and revisit the way that we are responding to the pandemic, and we are grateful for your support as we do so.



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The Commercial Centre
6a Green End, Comberton
CB23 7DY



01223 264 187



david@dtlegalservices.co.uk



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Connor O'Reilly – Company director
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www.csococonstruction.co.uk

County Councillor Lina Nieto Reports-

Dear all,

Wishing you a Happy New Year and hope you have a safe 2021!

Public Health

Waving at a neighbour in the street or having a socially distanced chat with a person are just some of the ways you can help to tackle loneliness during lockdown.

The #50000reasons campaign was launched by Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and the Campaign to End Loneliness to encourage people to make contact with neighbours and friends. This year's pandemic has made it even more important to act on loneliness as many have suffered more with the restrictions imposed because of the virus. Statistics suggest that as many as 50,000 people who live alone across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are at risk of experiencing loneliness - that's 50,000 reasons for you to act to tackle isolation.

Lockdown is a difficult and isolating time for people who live alone or have family living far away and with the restrictions in place because of Covid it is likely to be even lonelier for many. It can be a time when people reflect on what they have lost in life, increasing feelings of loneliness. While people of any age can feel lonely, as we get older factors such as living alone, poor health and reduced mobility can lead to isolation, loneliness and put us all at risk of further ill health and suicidal feelings.

Top tips for good deeds to help #endloneliness include:

- Say hello (at a social distance) or wave at a neighbour
- Start a conversation with a neighbour or friend, following social distancing guidance
- Phone relatives and friends who you are unable to see
- Check on a friend or neighbour, telephone if possible and follow social distancing guidelines, if you haven't seen them for a few days and make sure they are in good health
- Email or Write a letter to a person who has made a difference to you
- Encourage children to say hello or wave when they see a neighbour, socially distanced.

Loneliness can have serious impacts on people's health but there is something we can all do to help tackle loneliness. Small gestures can make a massive difference to someone experiencing loneliness or depression. The top tips are really simple things that anyone can do in line

with social distancing guidance.” For more tips and information about loneliness visit our websites.

bewellcambridgeshire.co.uk/resources-and-campaigns/50-000-reasons

Comberton Greenway

Just to provide you an update that there have been a few delays on this scheme but the issues have been resolved and officers expect for this scheme to come to the GCP board in the summer for budget approval.

As always, here to serve you and help in any way I can.

Yours,

Lina Nieto

E-mail:

lina.nieto@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Mobile: 07402 351821

Website:

www.linanieto.yourcllr.com

Twitter and Facebook:

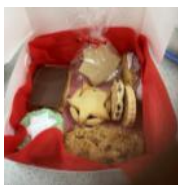
[@CllrLinaNieto](https://twitter.com/CllrLinaNieto)



Have you missed Pippin's during
2020?

Let's hope we can meet again in 2021.

Thanks to the bakers from Pippin's who offered to bake and make up nearly fifty cake boxes which were delivered to some of our residents at Christmas time. It certainly brought some cheer to people at a very difficult time. Several phone calls have been received and a mention on Facebook to thank Pippin's.



Anne Jones

SECRETS FROM BEHIND THE DESK

By Daniel Baker

February is the month that brings us pleasant events such as Valentine's Day, Pancake Day and Chinese New Year. It even brings us Decimal Day (but what's the point, if you excuse the wordplay). But ask yourself this: did you know there's a day dedicated to radio?

Perhaps one of the lesser known events in February is World Radio Day. Take it from a radio presenter – it's not as easy as it looks, but it sure is every bit as fun. I've been privileged enough to host shows at all hours of the day from the football results to drivetime and I've also dabbled in breakfast and morning radio too. So here's an insight into presenting and the lesser-documented parts.

In many cases, you'll be fortunate enough to have a producer to press the buttons and, as the name suggests, produce the show. But it's not always like that – I've often played the role of presenter and producer at the same time which means multitasking. It's as big a test of hand-eye co-ordination as riding a bicycle sometimes (although my crash helmet hasn't yet be called upon).

I hear you asking whether DJ's pick the music they play? They might and I have done before, but it'll always be done with the audience in mind. Do people want to hear techno rave music at 10am on a Sunday morning? Is it appropriate to play certain songs on days where sensitive news stories have broken? The Manchester terror attack of 2017 prompted me into last minute playlist changes to remove songs that might not have been quite right that particular day.

Which brings me onto the subject of thinking on your feet. No matter how hard you try, you won't be successful if you attempt to script a live show word for word, second for second and so on. One tip I can give you is come prepared with filler which you can use between songs. Even if you don't use all of it, it's there and is something of an antidote to dead air.

Whether it's what you had for dinner, exercise regimes, whether you put cheese on before beans on jacked potatoes or the time you opened a door with your selfie stick, I would say that audiences like to know about you and will almost always think 'tell me something about you'. And while you're at it, and if you do have a say in your music, write down appropriate song ideas in a document and you can have them ready as and when you need them. Plus you're bound to get requests!

They say never work with animals and children – I've only worked with the latter and they were very polite and pleasant. They also had plans to wear the station logo on football kits! Those of you old enough to remember the baby elephant incident on Blue Peter will be pleased to know this hasn't happened to me...yet.

As a presenter, you have to have that authority, confidence in yourself and the ability to keep calm even in adversity. I've had technical issues with audio, songs that cut off too early, faders that got stuck and more. But it's live, so all this comes with the territory.

As does keeping to timing. You never want to be rude, but sometimes a guest reaches the end of their slot and you might have to leave it there, even if they're engaging. I've been very fortunate with the guests on shows which has included

Olympians, Paralympians, local politicians and performers who've usually been very good value. I've only ever had to apologise for a guest swearing once (but let's not name and shame!). And Mr Trump never did reply to my request for a sit down interview...

And last but not least, Alan Partridge moments. Anyone that's ever done radio has probably had one of those, but given his cult status it shouldn't be as frowned upon as it sometimes is. Cue this from one of my shows: "Onions have been scientifically proven to reduce cholesterol. Does that include green onions?" This was followed by Booker T & the MG's classic hit. Or saying "Ah-ha" in the style of Mr Partridge after playing Take On Me.

Daniel is a freelance radio presenter who has primarily appeared on Cambridge 105 Radio and is a regular contributor to the Happenings.

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Well another year comes round and we hope we will all be able to meet in person some-time later this year. Meanwhile, our fortnightly Zoom “meetings” take place – Cuppa/Cake/Chat and Book Club and I think we have ideas for Party Games and Quiz Nights – all by the magic of Zoom!

Our Christmas Social went very well – the committee delivered Secret Santa “goody bags” to all our members and at a given time, we opened our bags – and delved into all the goodies! The evening ended with our first Zoom Bingo session we hope to repeat this at Easter time.

By the time this goes to print, we will have had a speaker whose topic is/was “Living with Pulmonary Fibrosis” a subject that has great implications especially with the Covid situation being so present.

From time to time, CFWI arrange Zoom meetings on different topics/subjects –just a reminder to our WI members that these are very interesting and a way to spend 1hr listening and learning new subjects.

Meanwhile keep strong, stay safe, wear a mask and keep your social distancing –we can always meet on Zoom!!

THE LONG WALK
BY SLAVOMIR RAWICZ
REVIEWED BY SHARON Mc MAHON

I have chosen to review 'The Long Walk' by Slavomir Rawicz. I picked it up at the book swap outside the Cabin at St Mary's and I shall return it there. So maybe you will be able to collect it from there and see what you think of it too.

It was an unusual choice for me. It propounds to be 'a true story' of a trek to freedom. I'm not too keen on biographies, although during lockdown I've read a few, so I thought I'd give this book a go. I've also recently read 'The Salt Path' by Raynor Winn, which is a similar tale of a long walk in adverse circumstances. I'd enjoyed that, so was ready for another story of derring-do!

Slavomir purports to being a prisoner of the Russians, arrested in 1939, and sentenced to 25 years hard labour in the Gulags. His journey there is horrendous enough, literally stuffed into railway carriages with thousands of other prisoners, and enduring weeks of deprivation before arriving at the labour camp in Siberia. He tells of many moments of help and friendship, with which the prisoners keep themselves going. Once situated in the camp, he determines that many will not survive, and that escape is essential. There are many obstacles in his way, but eventually he and six companions escape and begin 'The Long Walk' to freedom.

The fact that he is recounting his adventures tells you that he succeeds, but not before many escapades. He and his companions always come over as true gents. They try not to steal food, but make efforts at recompense with free labour. I didn't know much about Tibetan people before reading this book, and learnt that

They have huge propensity for welcoming strangers and giving aid where it is needed, even when they have so little themselves. Together with a number of other characters, this is a tale of human kindness in adversity, which is why I enjoyed it so much.

Some of the party don't make it, sadly taken by the cold, hunger and dehydration, and maybe a bite or two. The descriptions of the landscape are wonderful, and being so different to here were a joy to imagine. The way the seven, sometimes eight of them get on together is remarkable, and a testament to human endeavour in trying circumstances.

Having finished the book, I decided to do a little research, and here is where it got really interesting. Apparently, there is a question as to whether the author actually did do the walk, or whether he closely questioned someone who did, and then wrote about it.

Documents exist to prove that Slavomir Rawicz was in fact imprisoned in Siberia, but there is some discussion on whether he was released in 1942 as part of an amnesty arrangement. This sort of ambivalence only increases the interest for me, as I can do a bit of research and come to my own decision. Records prove that he had a good education and that his mother was Russian, all giving truth to his ability to speak Russian expertly. After the war he settled in Nottinghamshire, where he married and raised a family. He died in 2004. You will have to read it to come to your own conclusions. I certainly enjoyed it; I like an interesting read with a hint of controversy!



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We are now in Lockdown 3 and as I write it feels as though nothing will change for some time yet. We know this is a very challenging time for everyone whether you are a key worker, shielding, living alone, coping with working at home, possibly with home schooling as well, or just trying to come to terms with not being able to go anywhere and see family and friends in real life.

We just wanted to remind you that Hardwick Network is still here. Hardwick Network volunteers are still available to help with shopping or collecting essential supplies and medicines, or an occasional phone call for a chat and to check all is well. (Contact details below)

Contact your neighbours We can all play our bit in making sure everyone stays as well and happy as possible this winter. Maybe this is the time to see how your neighbour is doing or to get to know the person who lives opposite you (while following current COVID-19 guidelines), especially if you know they are on their own or may be finding the current situation difficult. If everyone in the village reaches out to a neighbour, no-one will be totally alone.

The Hardwick Network Website (www.hardwicknetwork.co.uk) contains lots of information to help you through lockdown. There is information about the network and what we are doing to help the village through these challenging times, including online social groups, suggestions for local activities and walks, lots of information about council initiatives and other local services, local shops offering delivery services and some general information on mental health and staying healthy. Definitely worth a visit!

To get in contact with Hardwick Network:

Email: Hardwick.Network@gmail.com

Find out more at our website: www.hardwicknetwork.co.uk

Phone: your Hardwick Network volunteer

(details on your #HardwickViralKindness postcard)

Or call: Ruth Enge (Coordinator) 07814 358181

The Network has been involved in a number of events which have aimed to keep the spirits of villagers high during the year.

Rainbows, teddy bears and advent windows – during the first lockdown, residents were encouraged to put rainbows and teddy bears in their windows for children to spot while walking round the village, and before Christmas there was a show of advent calendar pictures in windows.



Social events Despite the restrictions social events were marked, especially VE day in May when residents celebrated in a socially distanced way in their gardens.



Carol singing Socially distanced carol singing groups were heard around the village before Christmas, organised by the Evangelical Church.



Christmas Hampers Volunteers from the Network, wrapped boxes with Christmas paper and along with nearly £400 funding facilitated by the Network and food deposited at the Food Bank at St Mary's, a small group made up 18 hampers which supplemented 25 others made by the Evangelical Church. These were delivered to families in Hardwick. Volunteers having also been helping with delivery of hot meals, provided by the council, to members of the community since the beginning of lockdown. Thanks to Jo Barton for arranging the donation of potatoes from NIAB Cambridge University Farm.



Community Online Groups

We have started up a few online groups for those of you who are not totally 'zoomed out' and would appreciate an opportunity to share time with like-minded villagers. Details of groups are below and can also be found on the 'Virtual Social Events' page on our website(www.hardwick.network.co.uk)and will be posted on the Hardwick Facebook page.

Parents with young children This is a very informal group for parents of babies and toddlers, and expectant parents close to their due date. It is an opportunity to have a chat, catch up with other parents from the village, share tips and ideas, and generally keep in contact throughout lockdown and beyond into winter.

It runs **every other Friday 9.30am - 10.30am**. No need to book, simply join the Zoom meeting any week you can make it. If you can't make 9.30 just come along any time within the hour!

Young Professionals This is a networking group promoting relationships between young professionals and trainees in the village. It is an informal time, offering you a place to relax and chat amongst your peers. Details of the next meeting are on the Hardwick Network website.

Online Games Join the 'largest board game table' in the world! Play online board games with others in the village to while away the winter evenings! Contact Shaun Hughes smghughes@gmail.com for further information and the date of the next meeting, or create an account at <https://en.boardgamearena.com/> and send Shaun your user name.

Harwick@Home This is a daytime group aimed at everyone who finds themselves at home during lockdown. It is an informal drop in session and will be held between 11.00hrs and 12.00hrs every other Thursday morning. The next meeting will be on Thursday 11th February and everyone is welcome to drop in when you can – with your coffee and biscuits – for a break in the day and the opportunity to chat with and get to know your fellow villagers. If you would like to know more please contact chris.richards74@gmail.com

Hardwick 20s-40s - book/films group': come along to meet others, and chat about books/films (amongst other things!) More information on the Hardwick Network website and Hardwick Facebook page

These groups are up and running, but do you have ideas for other groups? Get in touch – we would love to hear from you!

News from South Cambridgeshire District Council:

South Cambridgeshire District Council provides regular updates of information related to COVID and this includes the most up to date lockdown rules, and a '**Frequently Asked Questions**' section on their website, covers the support and many resources they are offering individuals and communities.

Key information includes:

Vaccination programmes

If people are registered with a GP and they are in the priority groups identified, they will be contacted to arrange an appointment – the NHS is asking people not to enquire with their local GP about when they will be vaccinated (unless they are not currently registered with GP) – a '**don't call us, we'll call you**' message is clear from the NHS.

People who have appointments to be vaccinated can and should leave the house even in lockdown to attend these appointments.

Help to access home schooling tech

The Council has provided funding to Cambridge Online, to help provide devices and data to children who are particularly affected during the pandemic and need support to access online education. For more information, visit Cambridgeonline.org.uk, email help@cambridgeonline.org.uk or call the Cambridge Online helpline on [01223 300407](tel:01223300407), quoting 'South Cambs Winter Support Grant'.

The **Cambs Youth Panel** is also working to help provide students with technology: <https://camb.youth.panel.co.uk/computers-for-students>

Payments of £500 are available to support a loss of income during the self-isolation. Anyone whose income has reduced should check the government website to see what benefits they may be entitled to, and then also contact us to apply for **Council Tax Support** and to find out about other help we may be able to offer, such as through a **Hardship fund**

Two hot food schemes are currently running, covering many villages in the district.

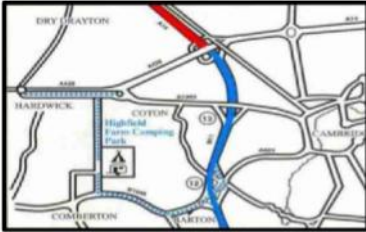
To find out more visit: www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/

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ANSWERS to the February quiz:

1. As members of Coldplay.
2. Keith Fletcher.
3. Constance Markievicz, Sinn Fein.
4. Two.
5. Alice.
6. Potassium.
7. Eidur Gudjohnsen.
8. The Mouse Trap.
9. Hamburg.
10. Oscar Hammerstein II.
11. Schubert.
12. Kingsley Amis

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VILLAGE PEOPLE 34

Nicky Kerr

Interview by Daniel Baker

Nicky Kerr lived in South Africa at the time of Apartheid. Her mother was instrumental in bringing about change in a bid to help stamp out the racial inequality that had torn the country apart for so long and therefore, she was fortunate that her home life was liberal and non-racial. She didn't really as a child bear witness to any atrocities although indirectly benefitted from a white privileged education and career opportunities.

She describes her mum Rina Prenzler as a "groundbreaker". Rina set up Edendale School just outside Pretoria in a bid to help give black children an opportunity to have a quality education. The school consisted of a primary school, a high school and an orphanage and its success enabled international links to be established.

One partner was a school in the United States and the other was Comberton Village College. Anyone who has either been to Comberton or has children who have, will know all about the connection, exchange trips and fundraising and the relationship stands strong to this very day. Nicky's family also have the distinction of hosting Principal Stephen Munday at their Pretoria home during a trip as well as other staff members and students.

Nicky has spoken to people who have benefitted from the Comberton and Edendale partnership and there's that sense of pride that her mother's vision and determination was the reason it happened.

Four years ago, Nicky and her family moved to Hardwick for her entrepreneur husband Kent's work. The couple have two children, Abi, 20, and John, 17. When I ask about her thoughts on Hardwick, she tells me how when her family were preparing for their move to the UK, village life was something she wanted to experience. "I've not been disappointed," she says, adding that there's a sense of community in Hardwick and that life in the village is "chalk and cheese" and "safe" compared to her homeland.

She's very much at the heart of village life having joined the community car scheme in 2018, something she did to get to know new people and her way around the villages. She helped with the Cabin at St Mary's, and is assisting with the planning of the new village community centre. Nicky is passionate about the wellbeing of all and started the Colour Wheel



Group in August 2019 in order to give back some of the love she has received. But above all, Nicky has a lot of gratitude for the Women's Institute who she credits for "giving my life meaning".

Nicky is an architect by trade and has a dream of building her own house in the UK – a feat she achieved four times in South Africa with the hands on

help of her husband. By her own admission she's a symmetrical designer and prefers more "traditional" designs. And we talked about a new pandemic hobby – knitting. Nicky has mastered socks and now making fingerless mittens, is the latest challenge.

When the pandemic ends, her family hopes to visit South Africa again for the first time in two years. Nicky admits it's tough as she has no family in the UK, but it sounds like the people of Hardwick have become something of a warm and friendly family in their own right for her

Left to right: Kent, Nicky, Abi and John

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Groups and Organisations in Hardwick

Group/ Organisation	Venue	Day	Time	Contact	Other details
Pilates	Cabin at St Mary's	Mon	10.30am – 11.30am	Lauren Daynes Lauren.daynes@aol.co.uk	
Brownies	Cabin at St Mary's	Mon	5.30pm – 7pm	Michelle Teague hardwickbrownies@hotmail.co.uk	Girls 7-10 yrs
Scouts	Scout & Guide Hut	Mon	7pm – 9pm	Paul Woodbridge Tel:01954 210711 Razz.scouts@gmail.com	Boys & girls 10.6–14 yrs
Jazzercise	Hardwick School	Mon	7.45pm	Danajazzerciscambourne@gmail.com Tel: 07760624609	Age 16+ any gender
Tues mornings at St Mary's	Cabin at St Mary's	Tues	9.30am – 11am	Clare Bigg cebigg53@gmail.com	For parents, carers & u 5s
Colour Wheel	Cabin at St Mary's	Tues	2pm – 4pm	Nicky Kerr kerranica@gmail.com	Alternate weeks
Rainbows	Scout & Guide Hut	Tues	4.30pm– 5.30pm	Jane Muncey lhardwickrainbows@gmail.com	Girls 5 - 7 yrs
Yoga	Cabin at St Mary's	Tues	6.15pm – 7.15pm	Michelle Veenman michelle.veenman@googlemail.com	
Guides	Scout & Guide Hut	Tues	6.30pm– 8.30pm	Janet Hayman hardwickguides@gmail.com	Girls 10 - 15 yrs
W.I.	Zoom	Wed	7.30pm – 10pm	Anne Jones jeffandanne23@gmail.com	3 rd Wed in the month
Mums & Babes	Cabin at St Mary's	Thurs	10.30am - midday	Ali Marcus Alison.marcus140@gmail.com	
Cabin Creative Arts	Cabin at St Mary's	Thurs	2pm – 4pm	Thelma Westbury tpwestbury@gmail.com	Alternate weeks

Friendship Club	HSSC	1hrs	2pm – 5pm	Joan Segrave Rajo67@hotmail.co.uk	Adults over 50
Cubs	Scout & Guide Hut	Thurs	6.15pm – 7.45pm	Paul Woodridge Tel:01954 210711 Razz.scouts@gmail.com	Boys & girls 8 – 10.6 yrs
Pilates	Cabin at St Mary's	Fri	10.45am – 11.45am	Lauren Daynes Lauren.daynes@aol.co.uk	
Beavers	Scout & Guide Hut	Fri	5pm – 6pm	Paul Woodridge 01954 210711 Razz.scouts@gmail.com	Boys & girls 6 - 8 years
Pippin's CommCafé	Hardwick School	Sat	10am - midday	Anne Jones jeffandanne23@gmail.com	1 st Sat in the month
St Mary's Church	On line	Sun	9.30am-10.30am	Rev Alison Myers alisonmyers@lordsbridge.org	
Evangelical Church	On line	Sun	10.30am	Steve & Kate Gaze Minister.hechurch@gmail.com	
Sunday Club	Cabin at St Mary's	Sun	9.30am – 10.30am	Peter Cornwell pccornwell@icloud.com	Reception - Yr 13
Hardwick Football Club				Kris Edwards hardwickfc@gmail.com	
Hardwick Pre-School	Hardwick School	Mon-Fri	9.15am– 3.15pm (Term time)	Sharon Griffiths hardwick-preschool@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01954 212823	http://www.hardwick-preschool.bick.co.uk
3.15 Club	Hardwick School	Mon-Fri	3.15pm – 6pm (Term time)	Sharon Turner hardwick3.15club@hotmail.co.uk	
Neighbourhood Watch	Hardwick School	Advertised in Hardwick Happenings & Facebook		Ashley Shepherd ahshepherd@hotmail.com	

To my knowledge all those in red are up and running in February.

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