

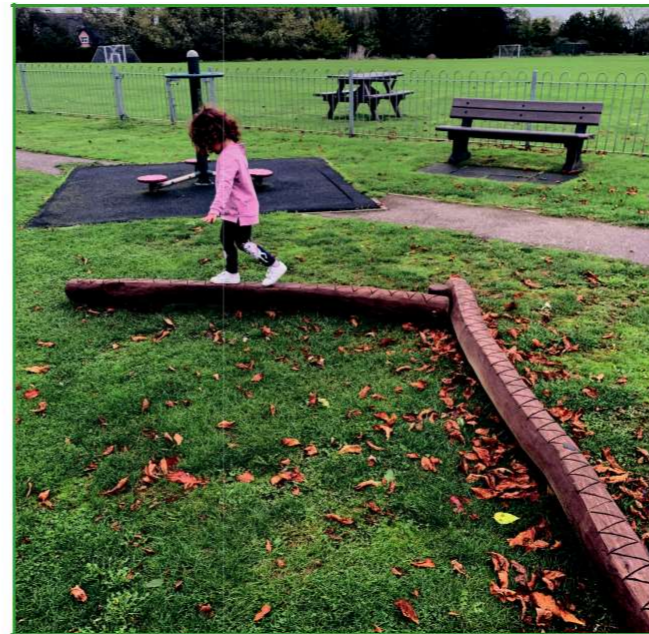
## Toddlers enjoy new playground equipment

Cllr Ben Mavely

Earlier in the year the Parish Council received a kind and generous bequest from the estate of Mrs Rita Philippon a resident of Haslingfield for many years. Her wish was to spend it on something that would benefit the parishioners. Following a poll at the May Annual Parish Council Meeting the vote was in favour of providing playground equipment and specifically something for the toddler age group. From speaking with parents and users it was identified this age group had a lack of age appropriate equipment to use without full adult supervision. The new pieces consisting of three climbing boulders and two balance beams were installed in the Playground in early October giving toddlers simple and safe pieces to play on which in turn help them learn to climb and balance on their own.



Three Climbing Boulders



Two Balance Beams

### Dates for your diaries:

**Monday 10 February 2020** - Parish Council meeting with a guest speaker, Sophie Moeng from Network Rail speaking on the proposal for a Cambridge South Rail Station and the routes it will service. **Thursday 27 February 2020** - Haslingfield Village Hall at 7.30 pm - Skate Park meeting

The Skate Park is now showing a lot of wear and tear and one of the pieces of equipment was removed over the Christmas period. We should now decide what is the future of this very important facility for the village. Anyone is welcome to come along to this first meeting, please do bring any ideas or comments you may have and we look forward to seeing you.

**Monday 18 May 2020** - Annual Parish Meeting, Village Hall at 7.30pm - This is an annual event where you can have an opportunity to discuss and consider ideas for the future of the village.

#### Your Current Parish Councillors are:

Jenny Jullien – Chairman, Tony Adcock – Vice Chairman, Helen Brown, Clive Blower, Simon Duke, Andrew Gillies, Lucian Hatfield, Ron van der Hoorn, Ben Mavely, Diana Offord, David Revell

**Haslingfield Parish Council welcomes communication from all its residents.**

*If you have any comments/questions on this Newsletter or any other local issue, please contact Haslingfield Parish Clerk (Jacqui Cressey) in the first instance by emailing [clerk@haslingfieldparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@haslingfieldparish.co.uk) or calling 01223 870269*



### February 2020

#### Special points of interest:

- Village Hall Extension
- Trees
- New Playground Equipment
- Dates for your Diary

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## Village Hall Extension

Cllr Tony Adcock

The village hall extension will provide a new first floor meeting room, an enlarged kitchen with professional kitchen equipment, and additional storage for users, completion is forecast for early June. Coincidentally, last year we made the final payment of a 25-year loan taken out to build the existing hall in 1994: (the extension is being funded by Parish Council reserves and no borrowing has been necessary).

The project started in September and the contractors have now completed the walls of the extension and are breaking into the roof of the current hall to create the new first floor meeting room. The hall has unfortunately had to be closed for three weeks in January to facilitate changes to the steelwork to support the new roof. Whilst this has necessitated the cancellation of some bookings, the long-term benefits will be a larger and better equipped hall to meet the needs of the village for the next 25 years.

Strip out of the current kitchen will commence at the start of February so that work can start on the enlarged kitchen and a temporary basic kitchen facility, (fridge and kettles), will be created to enable users to make tea and coffee. The new kitchen will not be available until the completion of the project which is planned for early June 2020.



Work in Progress on the first-floor extension

## Precept

Cllr Tony Adcock

The precept for 2020/2021 was agreed at the Parish Council meeting in December and will be included in your council tax bill in April. The total precept has fallen by 2% despite increasing demands on our resources, (for example the requirement to take over the management of some street lamps from the District Council, increased management of trees and green areas, and increased maintenance costs for the play area and skate park).

## Village Environment

Cllr Jenny Jullien

20% of our precept is allocated to looking after all the green spaces, the recreation ground, and the trees and hedges of the Parish.

## Trees

Cllr Diana Offord

*"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.  
The second-best time is now."*

**Chinese Proverb**

**It appears there is no time like the present to plant a tree!**

Trees, hedges, grass areas, and ditches are an important part of rural and urban landscapes. They provide vital habitats and food for wildlife, windbreaks in open areas, reduce pollution by cleaning the air, prevent flooding, help control extremes of temperature next to buildings, and assist with deadening traffic noise. Research also shows they can provide psychological and health benefits, helping to reduce stress.

This time a year ago I responded to the plea for more Parish Councillors and found myself at my first meeting. For several years there had been no Tree Wardens, as the villager who had been one for many years had retired and there were just not enough Parish Councillors to take it on. With the arrival of six new Councillors it was the ideal time, with fresh blood and eager to help. So, I became a Tree Warden.

This is a steep learning curve, I had loved trees before, admired them, knew the names of one or two of them, but hadn't noticed how many there were, their position and whether they are in the right place.

Cllr Jenny Jullien has shared the role with me, and last Spring we were seen walking around the village with notepad and pencil counting and marking the position of trees.

A responsibility of the Parish Council is to look after the trees on land owned by the Council. To this end we have appointed Argenta Tree Surveys, who are to carry out a Tree Survey the week beginning the 20th January with a report being delivered by the end of January.

When we have the Report we will make a plan for the future planting of trees on Parish Land.

We have been contacted by some Villagers who are keen to see more landscaping around the village, not only on Parish Land but recognise the need for planting on private land as well. If you are thinking of planting trees in your garden and would like some advice the following websites might be helpful:

<https://www.treecouncil.org.uk/About-Us>  
<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12145/2018-08-tc-tree-warden-leaflet-2017.pdf>  
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>  
<https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/20-trees-for-small-gardens/>

*"The true meaning of life is to plant trees,  
under whose shade you do not expect to sit"*

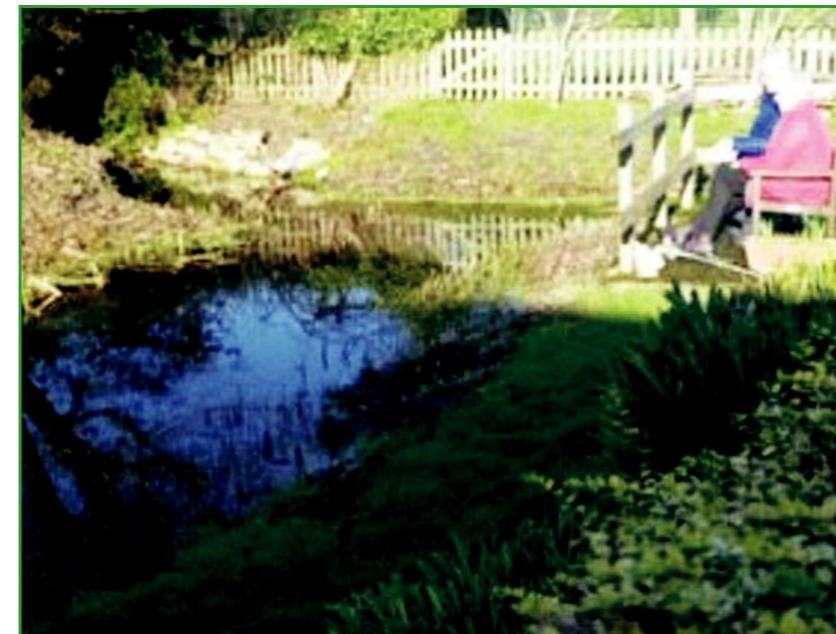
**Nelson Henderson**

## Environmental Group

Cllr Jenny Jullien

Jay Cole and I met at the Moringa Tree recently to review what the group has achieved and the plans for the future.

- Several lilac trees were planted at the end of Lilac Close and this is now maintained beautifully by a couple of residents in the close.
- The Wellhouse is looking good and more fruit trees have been planted.
- Daffodils were planted at a couple of the entrances in the village, and shortly we will all be in the position to enjoy the blooms. More bulbs have also been planted in the village some of them behind the tennis court and in Trinity Close.
- The area behind the tennis court has been cleared of rubbish, lots of dead trees and branches were lying around, these have been moved and several piles were left behind to encourage wildlife.
- Our biggest gathering of twenty-five parishioners and some of their children successfully cut back overgrown hedges and cleared weeds from School Lane.
- Our first for the group was taking on Wisbey's Yard. It was totally overgrown with weeds, brambles, dead trees and a couple of trees have been felled. Some work on clearing the stream also took place, but some of the weeds are thugs and we could do with some help with this. Do you know of anyone with a mini digger that could help?
- With a bit of coercion from Jay SCDC responded and cleaned out the pond clearing most of the weeds. The photo shows a couple of the residents enjoying the area in the sunshine.
- After clearing the ivy off the Wellhouse Meadow wall the Parish Council has now approved the engagement of a specialist contractor to repair it. Four companies have been approached to tender for the work. Hopefully this will be done shortly.



**The Pond at Wisbey's Yard**

## Plans for the Future

Obviously, all of the above will need to be monitored and maintained regularly. We would like to plant more trees within the village and perhaps look at some of the hedgerow especially around the village hall. If you see an area that you think needs the attention of the Environmental Group please contact either Jay Cole [jaythevamper@btinternet.com](mailto:jaythevamper@btinternet.com) or one of the parish councillors.

## Buchans Landscapes and Grounds Maintenance

Buchans are now in year two of a three-year contract to care for and maintain all our green spaces and hedgerows. This year we are adding the maintenance of the Skate Park to the contract. We wish to thank them for the improved look of the village.