

HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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"Is the spring coming?" he said.
"What is it like?" ...
"It is the sun shining on the rain and
the rain falling on the sunshine..."
— Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The
Secret Garden*

This is the time of year to look forward to new outdoor projects.

The parish council will be organising another "Make Henstridge Tidy" event to begin the new season. Last year's event was the most successful yet, but we hope this year will be even better.

No-one can have missed the felling of a section of the evergreen hedge at the recreation ground. Read on for an update on this and repairs to the village hall.

The parish council is always keen to hear the views of residents. This year's Annual Parish Meeting is an ideal time to get together to hear what

has been happening in the parish, share a cup of tea and a biscuit and offer ideas for the future. More information follows on page 2.

On the topic of getting involved, there is a councillor vacancy on the parish council that will be filled soon. If you are interested in taking up the post, see the information inside.



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THE BIG TIDY-UP



Last year, we had the most successful litter picking event ever. So naturally, we want to make this year's event another triumph.

Everyone is welcome to come along. We will meet at the village hall at 11am on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th April. Picking sticks and bags will be provided, so all that is needed is an hour or so of your time.

There are ten areas of the village that need to be tidied, which will be allocated on the day. Alternatively, if you know of a space that would benefit from some attention, let us know.

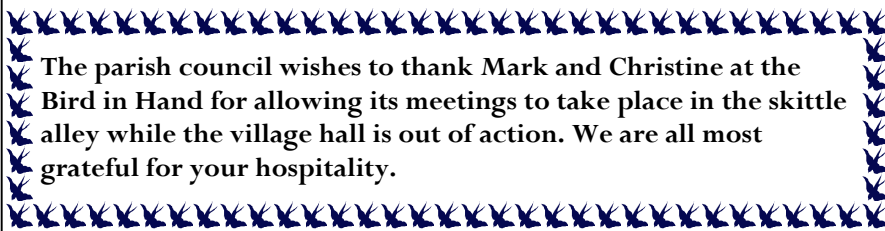
TREES, HEDGES, and FLOWERS—by Simon Cullum

As Spring gently pushes herself through the last vestiges of Winter, you will have noticed that part of the Lleylandii hedge in the recreation ground has been taken down, much to the delight of the immediate neighbours. Last week the contractor finished planting local indigenous hedging (maple, hawthorn, blackthorn, etc.) and we hope in time the hedge will grow to emulate most of the hedges around the ground. In a few weeks we also hope that the rest of the maintenance work on the trees in the rec will be completed, and they will be safer and healthier.

On the subject of hedges, we have been called by a number of people to complain about domestic hedges taking over the pavement. You are reminded that this is the responsibility of each household, and if the situation continues then Somerset County Council will take action to enforce the cutting.

On a happier note, we were given a few sacks of daffodil bulbs by South Somerset District Council rather late in the season, and I would like to thank the many residents who took these and planted them around the village, the results of which should be noticeable soon. If we are fortunate enough to get bulbs next year I will advertise earlier so that more parishioners get the opportunity to beautify a chosen area.

With Spring around the corner do not forget to check your trees; everything should be in bud, but if you have bud-free branches or evidence of die-back then call an arborist as soon as possible. While little acorns into mighty oaks grow, so small problems caught early are easier and cheaper to deal with.



The parish council wishes to thank Mark and Christine at the Bird in Hand for allowing its meetings to take place in the skittle alley while the village hall is out of action. We are all most grateful for your hospitality.

Henstridge Airfield 70th Anniversary Celebrations

2013 is Henstridge Airfield's 70th birthday. It was built during World War II as a training base for the Fleet Air Arm, who commissioned it as HMS Dipper. Celebrations will take place on Monday 1st April and on the weekend of 28th to 30th June. Events will include Fly-in Day, Memorial, Static Displays, WW2 Displays, Walking Re-Enactors, Celebration and Party weekend.



REMINDER—THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TAKES PLACE ON 20TH APRIL. EVERYONE IS WELCOME. Contact the clerk for more details.

Vacancy for Parish Councillor

There is currently a vacancy on the parish council and current members would like to co-opt a new councillor to join them.

Are you over 18?

Do you live within three miles of Henstridge or work here?

Are you on the Electoral Roll?

Are you interested in helping to improve the quality of life of your community?

Do you want to be involved in making important decisions in your community?

If you can answer yes to these questions then Henstridge needs you.

If you're interested, get in touch with the clerk. (Contact details on the back of this newsletter.)

VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The extent of the fire damage to the lounge is far worse than first thought. The builders are unable to continue work without approval from a structural engineer. Unfortunately, this means the completion date has been significantly delayed. The builders will hand back the main hall by mid-March and the lounge and changing rooms by mid-April.

Another potential set-back was averted when the parish council and local sports clubs contributed £1500 each to ensure that the changing rooms can be updated to Football Association standards.

HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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council.org.uk

MEET THE COUNCIL

The Parish Council in Henstridge is made up of 13 Councillors.

Adam Temperton—Chair, HACC and Youth representative
Dave Nichols—Full Council Vice Chair, SALC representative
Simon Cullum— Footpaths representative, Tree Warden
Pete Crocker—Highways representative
Paul Brighten—HALT Representative
Sue Place —Youth Representative
Jean Oswick—VHMC Representative
Carolyn Nichols
Caroline Rowland—Yenston representative
Jim Fitch
Geoff Jarvis
Paul White
VACANCY

Administration for the Council is dealt with by the Clerk and Proper officer, Zöe Godden. In the first instance all queries should be made to the Clerk.

Henstridge is in Blackmore Vale Ward—William Wallace is district and county councilor. Tim Inglefield is district councilor.

HAVING YOUR SAY

The Parish Council is keen to receive input from parishioners and would remind you that, while a discretionary public forum is held at the beginning of every meeting, lawful items for discussion and decision have to be listed on the Parish Council or Committees Agendas. Therefore, if there is something that you feel the Parish Council should consider, please put your concern or query in writing to the Parish Clerk. Planning applications are considered at the beginning of each meeting and public opinion on planning applications is always welcomed either at the meetings or in writing. Copies of meeting Agendas are posted the previous week on the Parish Council's Henstridge & Yenston notice boards.

The meeting dates for the second quarter of 2013 will be:

MAIN COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Monday 8th April
Monday 13th May
Monday 3rd June

INTERIM MEETINGS, ONLY IF NECESSARY:

Monday 22nd April
Monday 20th May
Monday 17th June

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:

Monday 20th May

PLEASE CHECK AGENDAS FOR EXACT START TIMES AND LOCATIONS AS THESE ARE SUBJECT TO ALTERATION UNTIL THE VILLAGE HALL IS BACK IN USE.

Documents relating to the relevant planning applications are available to view 15 minutes before the start of each meeting.