



# ST IPPOLYTS PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE 2021

Welcome to this year's St Ippolyts Parish Council Magazine. What a lot of changes there have been in the last twelve months.

Changes to regulations; in and out of lock down, rule of 6 indoors or outdoors and various tiers until it was difficult to remember what was, and wasn't, allowed.

Changes to our children's education; home schooling, bubbles and now back to normal (we hope).

Changes to our Parish with many current residents choosing to improve their homes and new developments to which we welcome new residents.

Finally, changes to your Parish Council. Four Councillors have been co-opted onto the Parish Council to replace those who decided not to stand for re-election. A big thank you to those who have left and a big welcome to those who have joined – more from them inside.



## **ST IPPOLYTS PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

This last year has continued to be extraordinary and unprecedented time for all of us.

Parish Council meetings were held on Zoom due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, but the Government decided this could not continue so in May 2021 in-person meetings resumed at St Ippolyts Parish Hall. We were fortunate to have the main hall for three meetings so that social distancing could be achieved,



I attended HAPTC (Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils) Chairman's meetings, a meeting with Bim Afolami MP, CDA (Community Development Action) Herts Halls networking meetings and various NHC (North Herts Council) meetings. Susan Mears attended HAPTC training and meetings. Cllr Rebecca Elliott joined the NHC Standards Committee. Cllrs Rebecca Elliott and Peter Hobson were nominated to attend Breedon Liaison Committee Meetings along with a resident representative.

Protocol for Public Participation was agreed, Parish Council Action Plan and Profile updated, LGA Code of Conduct adopted, and Parish Council website upgraded.

### **NEW COUNCIL.**

The elections for North and South wards in May were uncontested. Rebecca Elliott, Peter Hobson, Robert Moore, and I were re-elected. Thanks to outgoing councillors Sulu Pike, Trevor Smith, Paul Thapar and Barbara Thomas for all the voluntary work they had carried out, also Derrick Ashley for his assistance and coming to our meetings.



Following advertising, four co-opted councillors were welcomed at the July meeting Daryl Hayler and Jon Marsh for North Ward, Jane Lintott and Louisa Knapp for South Ward.

## HOW WAS YOUR MONEY SPENT?

During the last financial year (2020/2021) your parish council incurred payments of £21,843.32 and receipts of £36,285.16. The precept was £28,000 (including CTRS Grant). The accounts are independently audited with report and notice of conclusion. Each year your council agrees a budget for its estimated expenditure for the forthcoming financial year, commencing 1 April and requests the Precept this year for £28,000 (including CTRS Grant). For details of the break-down for last financial year and budget for 2021/22 please visit website [www.stippolytsparishcouncil.org.uk/finance](http://www.stippolytsparishcouncil.org.uk/finance)

## PLANNING ISSUES

Your council plays an active part in all planning issues that affect our Parish. During the year planning applications have been considered from household extensions to housing developments. Cllrs attended a presentation on proposals for a new care home at the former Gosmore care home.



### North Herts Council Local Plan proposed housing sites in South Ward

SI1 Land south of Waterdell Lane for 62 homes ref: 20/02412/FP. Presentation by Countryside Properties took place at October meeting with question-and-answer session. Parish Council objected. Councillors were invited to September meeting by Countryside Properties and expecting revised plans to be sent to NHC Planning in due course.

HT2 Land North of Pound Farm for 84 homes ref: 21/00434/HYA. Presentation by Osprey Homes took place at March meeting with question-and-answer session. Response submitted to NHC Planning.

SI2 Land west of Ryefield, Stevenage Road for 14 homes ref: 19/01669/FP. Parish council objected. Understand revised plans may be submitted.

Your council has been assured that these applications will not be determined until the North Herts Council Local Plan has been adopted.

The Inspector is currently reviewing the responses to the consultation on the Main Modifications, and depending on the points raised in the representations, it is anticipated that his Final Report will be issued during November 2021.

Education: - I contacted Mrs Rachel Peddie Headteacher of St Ippolyts C.E. (Aided) Primary School for her thoughts and received an excellent school information document relevant to future housing development. It is important that financial support for our local school is forthcoming so that it will be able to expand and accommodate more children in the future which the Parish Council supports.

Bowls Club House and Football Pavilion: - Meetings with both club's representatives were held to ascertain their aspirations on a replacement building that will provide separate accommodation for each club. The meetings were positive, and this will hopefully be a wonderful project for the community.

#### PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP (P3) CO-ORDINATORS

Thank you to Linda and Roger Smeed for all your voluntary effort and hard work during the last past twelve years, you will be missed.



IF YOU ARE interested in this voluntary position, please contact clerk for more info.

#### THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY (QGC)



This is a unique and exciting, UK-wide tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. It invites people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee." Your council will be taking part and if you can suggest or provide locations for planting trees, woodlands, hedges etc for the benefit of residents and future generations please contact clerk.

## PUBLIC SPACES

It was great to see our public open spaces used during the year.

Rainmakers Folk Dancing and Exercise classes on Gosmore village green started, also metal detection.

Unfortunately, St Ippolyts Football Club could not hold their usual Football Tournament on the recreation ground. St Ippolyts Bowls Club season opened with the Vicar's Cup in April, and they held their usual Macmillan Coffee Morning.

New site address signs have been installed on Dell field, Gosmore village green and the Recreation ground. NHC carried out the annual inspection of equipment and maintenance work is in the process of being carried out. Thank you to all our contractors.

Litter bin emptying was increased until October. If dog poo and litter bins need to be emptied, please contact John O'Conner on 0800 0286136. For fly-tipping please contact clerk.

Parish Council manages our open spaces for the benefit of all. Tree work has been carried out on Gosmore village green and Rowan Grove litter bin installed.

If you would like to organise an event, please contact [clerk@stippolytsparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@stippolytsparishcouncil.org.uk)

DEFIBRILLATORS Pleased that in addition to the one at St Ippolyts Parish Hall, there are plans for another at The Bull.

FLY-TIPPING AND LITTER St Ippolyts has the misfortune to have several 'rat-runs' and lanes where rubbish is regularly dumped. Litter and Countryside Code posters were put up in the parish to raise awareness.

NHC also launched Adopt an Area litter campaign where any litter picked up will be collected alongside normal waste and recycling collections, to register see [www.north-herts.gov.uk](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk). It would be great if every road was adopted. Thanks to everyone who helps to keep our Parish litter free.

To report a street cleaning problem, dog fouling, full litter bin, fly-tipping please report online to [www.north-herts.gov.uk](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk) or alternatively call their contractor on 0800 328 6023.

To report issues such as potholes, overgrown hedges and verges, street lighting etc. please report on Hertfordshire Highways reporting 0300 124 4047 or [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk)

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings will be held on Mondays 11 October and 15 November at 7.30pm in St Ippolyts Parish Hall. The 2022 dates are Mondays. 10 January, 14 February, 14 March, 11 April, 9 May, 13 June, 11 July, 12 September, 10 October, 14 November. There is not a meeting in August and December.

There is always an Agenda Item for Public Participation where we encourage residents to come along to ask questions and raise issues although it would be helpful if you could contact clerk prior to the meeting. Parish Council meetings are open to the members of the public and press, so you are most welcome to come along.

The Annual Parish meeting is on Monday 11 April at 7.15pm. Persons registered as local government electors for the parish are entitled to speak and vote. The agendas and approved or draft Minutes are displayed on the council noticeboards and website.

If you have any enquiries or anything you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact.

Pamela Skeggs [www.stippolyts-parishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.stippolyts-parishcouncil.org.uk)



The banner features the HM Government logo on the left and the NHS logo on the right. The central text reads "Let's keep life moving." Below this, five icons represent safety measures: a wavy line for "FRESH AIR", a test tube for "TESTING", a face mask for "FACE COVERINGS", a smartphone for "APP", and hands being washed for "HANDWASHING". The URL "gov.uk/coronavirus" is centered at the bottom.

HM Government

NHS

Let's keep life moving.

FRESH AIR TESTING FACE COVERINGS APP HANDWASHING

gov.uk/coronavirus

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

### Pamela Skeggs: Chairman

Hello, my name is Pamela Skeggs. We have lived in St Ippolyts for more than forty years. I became a Parish Councillor in 1988. I stood for election because I was asked and wanted to do something for our community.

I was also elected as Parish Council representative on the Parish Hall Committee and member of the Project Group dealing with the extension and refurbishment.

In June 2002 I was elected Vice-Chairman and then Chairman in May 2012. It is rewarding being a Parish Councillor, working within a diverse team and trying hard to do what residents would like to make life better for the community as a whole. I continue to care about our environment and infrastructure.

Now that things are opening up again, I started to write my short column in The Comet community news again so if you would me to include a local event, please let me know.



### Rebecca Elliott: Vice Chairman

Hi, my name is Rebecca Elliott. I joined the Parish Council a couple of years ago with the aim of using my business skills to support to the Parish having lived here since the early 1970's.

Although I have always worked in industry, starting at BAE Guided Weapons at Stevenage I was also landlady of the Bird in Hand, supporting my late husband Keith Elliott for 20 years and for about 18 months at the Bull up until 1996. It's Keith's memorial bench on Gosmore Green which has been put to good use through the pandemic.

I am now retired and thoroughly enjoy making a contribution to the Parish in this lively and varied community.



I was recently nominated to be Vice Chair, supporting Pam as Chair and generally trying to keep on top of all the ongoing activities in the Parish and surrounding area.

I walk and garden a lot and as my house backs up to Gosmore Green often communicate over the garden fence or in one of the local hostelries. I am also a Trustee for the Parish Hall.

### Daryl Hayler MBE

I love living in St. Ippolyts and have been here for over 27 years, retiring last year from my profession of Chartered Engineer in the Defence industry.

My main interests are Rugby Union, Golf, Bowls, Walking, all forms of travel and enjoying an active social life.

My notable Rugby achievements include being elected 1st XV Captain and then Club Captain of a local Rugby Club; position as President of 2 Rugby Clubs and holding the position of President of the Hertfordshire Rugby Football Union for 2 years in the early 1990s.

My main walking challenges include completing the full Pennine Way in 2007 and then walking the 500 mile Camino de Santiago de Compostela ten years later.

In addition to the above, I have been happily married for over 50 years and my wife and I celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary at the end of last year.



### Peter Hobson

I have served on the Parish Council for 13 years, joining shortly after I moved to St Ippolyts with my family in 2006. I work in London but since the pandemic have been able to enjoy spending more time in the Parish enjoying our beautiful countryside whilst walking the dog. As well as being a wonderful environment another thing I really like about our Parish is the diversity of all of us living here and just how friendly everyone is. It's a really great place to live and my focus as a Parish Councillor has always been to ensure we keep it that way.



### Louisa Knapp

My name is Louisa Knapp, I am 43 years old and joined the Parish Council in June 2021. I have lived in Gosmore for 23 years, apart from a 4 year period from 2006. I have always rented property in the parish and so believe I am well placed to represent those of us who are not homeowners. I have worked for the safety team at easyJet for almost 12 years where I hold a position of responsibility. I am active in the Parish and certainly like to frequent the pub! I also enjoy walking in our beautiful countryside.



### Jane Lintot

I have lived in St Ippolyts for at least forty two years and in that time have appreciated the feeling of community that has been nurtured by the school, church and various clubs and societies associated with this lovely village. I hope to bring to the role of Parish Councillor my enthusiasm for real local participation by residents who feel as I do about this area. Its' obvious advantages, as well as its' challenges.



I still work full time in the post 16 education sector, so feel well placed to be an advocate for our younger residents.

I look forward to working with my Parish Council colleagues who give up much of their time and expertise to help to steer our community safely and sensitively in a direction that will bring benefits to all.

### Jon Marsh

Having lived in St Ippolyts most of my life and raised our family here with Carolyn I am delighted to be able to help improve our village life in any way I can.

After 40 years in business, it is a pleasure to spend some time at last working locally in various voluntary capacities.

We are lucky to have many friends in the village and family nearby and I look forward to getting to know many more parishioners now that I have more time to do so.

I care about our environment, homes, infrastructure, welfare and education and not in a political way!



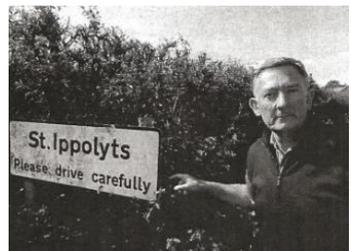
### Robert Moore

Education; attended Kingshott and then followed onto Hitchin Boys' Grammar School; subsequently won an Organ Scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music, in London.

Afterwards, joined the family business, Highacre Construction Company Ltd, and later went on to successfully open Gosmore Nursing Home in 1986.

President of a local charity, Hitchin Helping Hands and a Director of Macrame Properties Ltd; previously, in 2010, appointed a Regional Ambassador for the National Self Builders' Association.

Initially, became involved as Secretary of the St Ippolyts' Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group, and subsequently joined the full Parish Council from 2016.





**North  
Herts**  
Council



## **NORTH HERTS COUNCIL AND HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

The past year has been demanding, both at County and District level. The Local Plan has still to be determined, and it is unlikely that it will be finalised before the New Year.

I am pressing for 20mph speed limits in our villages, and I am investigating the possibility of reducing the 60mph National limit on our National minor roads and lanes to 40mph. Too many accidents are caused by speeding.

The pandemic has caused many projects to be put on the back burner and I will report progress as and when we make any!

I am still campaigning against inappropriate development and will oppose any development proposals which potentially destroy the environment that we have a right to enjoy.

I also note that some developers have a plan agreed in principle, then try to go under the radar and slip in a few more houses, hoping that we won't notice! Wrong!

The grass verges on our lanes have been cut a second time now, and some improvement in visibility is noticeable, but there is always room for more.

Fly-tipping is still the criminal scourge of our countryside. I believe that the penalties should be ramped up to be a real deterrent, and a compulsory Community Service sentence become mandatory.

The Police and Crime Commissioner reports that Hertfordshire now has a record number of Police Officers, with more in training. My observations are that we need to see more in our rural areas.

There are always new and ongoing challenges, and working Herts County Councillors, and NHC Councillors together, we can meet the challenges as they arise.

As winter and the long and dark nights are on us, please ensure that your outbuildings, homes, and possessions are kept safe from those who might seek to exploit criminal opportunities!

Councillor Faye Frost is your new Chair of the NHC Southern Rural Committee, and is dedicated to serving our communities, and furthering improvements where possible.

Thank you

Stay safe

Councillor David Barnard

## **NEW COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

My name is Paul Clark and I was elected to the County Council in May for the Hitchin South Division, which covers part of the St Ippolyts area. Clearly, I am in the process of learning a lot about the issues in the area I now represent.

I am looking at getting footpaths cleared so residents can walk safely and enjoy the area, I am working on a number of planning applications that affect the area, so they blend in with the way the area is and take account of resident's views. I am looking at the roads in the area and seeing what can be done to reduce speeds in residential area and make them safe for local residents. I am also supporting local schools to try and get funding to get much needed improvements to local schools.

I am a Councillor for Hitchin Highbury Ward which joins the area and so happy to help on those issues as well. In addition I also have the honour to serve as the Deputy Leader of North Herts Council and as the Executive member for Planning.

## **MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

### **TACKLING RURAL CRIME**



For too long, fly-tipping has not been taken seriously enough. I am working hard to stamp out fly-tipping in our community.

Over the past eighteen months, I have been deeply troubled by the alarming rise in rural crime across our constituency. In particular, the significant increase in reports of fly-tipping and littering has been a source of great concern to me. Working with local Councillors and the Police & Crime Commissioner, David Lloyd, I am doing what I can to tackle this issue.

Recently I wrote to the Secretary of State to call for a review of government guidelines in favour of higher fines and community sentences. This is part of a wider campaign I am helping to lead across several English counties, including Hertfordshire, and would act as a deterrent against these selfish acts of fly-tipping. This is a serious crime and sentences should be much tougher.

Stronger sentences are just one way we can tackle fly-tipping. I am also working hard to ensure that the right resources are in place to support our local authorities and the Environment Agency in dealing with fly-tipping and catching perpetrators. In the Environment Bill – which I sat on the Bill Committee for – the Government seeks further powers to detect and tackle fly-tipping.

Finally, it is important that we support the victims of fly-tipping. Local farmers and businesses across our constituency should not have to suffer the costs of someone else's anti-social behaviour. I was very



pleased to hear that the Police & Crime Commissioner is able to cover the cost to businesses in both urban and rural settings of clearing up fly-tipping on their land.

## UNIVERSITIES MUST RESUME IN-PERSON TEACHING

The news that 20 of the 24 Russell Group universities are planning to continue at least some of their undergraduate teaching online, with 5 universities planning to move all lectures online, is deeply troubling. As we return to normality in virtually all other areas of life and people see full stadiums and open nightclubs, there can be no justification for universities to keep their lecture halls locked.

I have spoken to lots of constituents – both parents and students – about this and they are very concerned, as am I. Not only does in-person learning result in better educational outcomes for students, it also helps to foster the community that makes a university experience worthwhile – enabling students to build a rapport and personal relationships with their lecturers and their peers.

University is about more than just learning. The personal development that helps students bridge the gap between school and work comes just as much from the social aspect of it as the knowledge they gain from lectures. That personal development is put at risk when there are fewer students in lectures, on campus, and in that university environment.

What is even more outrageous, beyond the harmful effects that the decision itself would bring, is that universities want to provide a lesser service without doing anything to mitigate the impact on students. The then Education Secretary was absolutely right to say that universities who do not go back to face to face learning should not charge full fees.

In a recent survey, fewer than half of students felt that their university took steps to support their mental wellbeing during Covid and student satisfaction is now at its lowest level on record. Universities must urgently re-think their decision not to resume face-to-face teaching, for the sake of our students and their own reputations as places where people can grow and learn.



## **POLICE REPORT**



The rural Safer Neighbourhood Team continues to be based at Hitchin Police Station.

Chief Inspector (CI) Jon Roche based at Hitchin Police Station took over from Chief Inspector Sally Phillips at the beginning of 2021.

CI Roche is responsible for all of the Policing teams based in North Herts.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) is headed up by Inspector James Lant.

Guy Westwood is the SNT Sergeant based at Hitchin Police Station, with responsibility for the day to day management of the Hitchin Rural teams of Police Constables (PC's), and Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's).

PC Clare Wallace has responsibility for CODICOTE and KNEBWORTH wards.

PC Gary Pugsley has responsibility for HITCHWOOD, CHESFIELD and KIMPTON wards (Whitwell, St Pauls Walden, Bendish, Kimpton, Blackmore End, Peters Green, Wymondley, St Ippolyts, Graveley and Chesfield which includes part of the Great Ashby estate in Stevenage).

PC Johnie Streeter has prime responsibility for OFFA, HOO and CADWELL wards (Pirton, Offley, Hexton, Lilley, Cockernhoe, Tea Green, Ley Green, Kings Walden, Breachwood Green, Preston and Holwell).

PCSO Stuart Stone supports the Codicote, Knebworth, Chesfield, Hitchwood Wards and PCSO Heather Burrows continues to support Hitchwood, Offa, Hoo and Cadwell wards.

I have completed a search for all crimes recorded within St Ippolyts from 01/09/2020- 01/09/2021 there have been 11 crimes of note that have been reported these include 3 reports of theft, 3 reports of vehicle related crime, 2 drug related offences, 1 attempted burglary, 1 report of possession of an offensive weapon and 1 report of criminal damage.

Reports of any anti-social behaviour being committed are also low within St Ippolyts.

If any resident from St Ippolyts have any concerns/questions of a policing nature, please do not hesitate to contact the Hitchin Rural Policing team.



OWL keeps communities safe, helps reduce crime and keeps people informed of what's going on locally. It's a secure platform for the public and shared with the police and local authority to maximise the potential

of [Neighbourhood Watch](#), Rural Watch, Business Watch and dozens of other schemes. OWL sends you the latest local crime alerts and provides management tools for maintaining and expanding watches. OWL was featured on BBC Crimewatch.

Are you a member of Neighbourhood Watch? Would you like to receive up-to-date information, crime prevention advice and news direct from Hertfordshire Constabulary? If you are not already a member [Sign up to Online Community Messaging today!](#) It only takes a minute and is completely free.

After you have [signed up to Community Messaging](#) you will receive messages of interest relating to Hertfordshire and/or specific to your neighbourhood. This service is completely free. Visit [www.owl.co.uk](http://www.owl.co.uk) to sign up or for further information.

In the event of an emergency dial 999, Call [101](#) for non-emergency enquiries. Please visit <https://www.herts.police.uk> for more information.

## **ST IPPOLYTS CHURCH**

### **NEWS FROM ST IPPOLYTS, LITTLE AND GREAT WYMONDLEY CHURCHES**

As life is beginning to return to some form of normality so is church life.

The following new service rota will take place in the three churches commencing at the beginning of Advent.



Advent is the period of four Sundays preceding Christmas Day! Advent means 'coming' in Latin and this is the coming of Jesus into the world. It is a time for Christians to prepare themselves for two different things: the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and for the Second Coming of Jesus, when he will rule over all the earth in peace. The four traditional advent themes for the four advent Sundays are –

God's people – The Candle of Hope. Hope is like a light shining in a dark place

Old Testament prophets – The Candle of Peace

John the Baptist – The Candle of Love

Mary the mother of Jesus – The Candle of Joy



### **CHURCH SERVICES**

<b>FIRST SUNDAY</b>	8.00 am BCP Holy Communion: St Ippolyts 9.15 am Breakfast Service: St Ippolyts
<b>SECOND SUNDAY</b>	9.15 am CW Holy Communion: St Ippolyts 11.00 am CW Holy Communion: Gt Wymondley
<b>THIRD SUNDAY</b>	9.15 am Flexi Service: St Ippolyts 11.00 am CW Holy Communion: L Wymondley 6.30 pm Evensong: St Ippolyts
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY</b>	9.15 am CW Holy Communion: St Ippolyts 9.15 am Parish Praise: Gt Wymondley
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY</b>	9.15 am CW/BCP Holy Communion: St Ippolyts



## BREAKFAST SERVICE

It will be good to start the Breakfast Service again as it proved popular prior to Covid – and who can resist warm croissants with a cup of tea or coffee! The December Breakfast Service will be in St Ippolyts Parish Hall as the Church will be packed with Nativity Crib sets.

The Flexi service will be a 30-minute Service to mirror the Breakfast Service – it will be decided each month what form the service takes – could be Matins or Red Book Holy Communion or a Teaching Eucharist Service.

Where possible services will continue to be streamed and there will still be morning and evening prayer via Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/RevGinni](http://www.facebook.com/RevGinni)

A date for your diaries:

**TUESDAY 2ND**

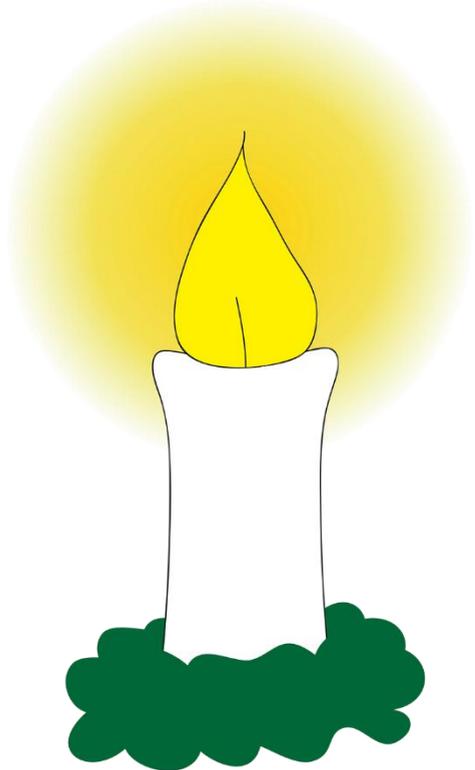
**NOVEMBER 7.00 pm:**

**St Ippolyts Church**

**ALL SOULS SERVICE – A  
COMMEMORATION OF  
THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

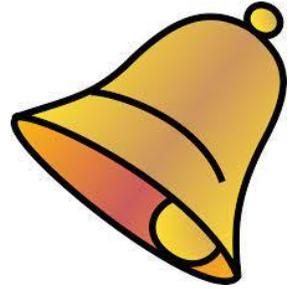
Join us for this reflective service as we remember those we have loved and lost with the opportunity to light a candle in their memory.

**Clare Reid Church Warden**



## ST IPPOLYTS BELL RINGERS

The bells at St Ippolyts are in good shape and voice! This may not be quite the case for those that ring them. Some still seem to be stuck in the Covid woodwork and we would like them to make an appearance now that we are able to ring again. There is also the opportunity now that you have more time on your hands of taking up a new hobby and learning to ring. In other villages there have been encouraging signs that there are people who are interested in learning, and we hope that this may also be the case in St Ippolyts.



If you are between the ages of 10 and 80, can stand for a while, raise your arms to nearly full height, and enjoy a hobby with friendly people, you might well enjoy bell ringing. All you need to do is get in touch with me; Shelagh Cox, 01462432445 [shelaghcox@outlook.com](mailto:shelaghcox@outlook.com).



## ST IPPOLYTS '100' CLUB

St Ippolyts has had a '100' club for over 30 years and it has now grown to around 170 members. As with other 100 clubs, half of the income goes back to subscribers in the form of modest prizes while the church benefits from the other half which goes to care and repair of the church fabric. Of course, some members have moved away or died but a steady trickle of new members has helped to keep the number of members reasonably stable in recent years.

We would very much like to increase the number of members – our present aim is to get to over 200. If you would like to help us, all you have to do is to commit to £10 per number (ticket) per year, preferably by setting up a standing order with your bank. There will be leaflets in the church and at other places in the community which will show how you can do this. Shelagh Cox, 01462432445 [shelaghcox@outlook.com](mailto:shelaghcox@outlook.com).



## NATIVITY CRIB FESTIVAL

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December, 11am to 5pm

We are very much looking forward to having our wonderful Nativity Crib Festival back in the Church this Christmas.

Last year we realised very early on that our beautiful medieval church with its narrow spaces between the pews was not going to allow social distancing. We decided to hold a Virtual Crib Festival instead so that everyone could still enjoy this amazing event, which marks the start of Christmas in St Ippolyts and beyond.

We managed to conquer the complexities of scheduling on Facebook and Instagram and discovered how difficult it is to take a good photo. We posted several cribs and their "stories" a day during advent (over 80 in total) to create a wonderful on-line event that reached over 20,000 people from as far afield as India, Vietnam and New Zealand.

It will be fabulous to be back in the church this year with, hopefully, more cribs than ever to see (we had 200 in 2019) and a host of angels! If you have a crib set that you would be willing to lend us, we would love to have it (no crib is below us, all are special in their own way) please contact Barbara Thomas on 07443 228468 [barbara.thomas@live.co.uk](mailto:barbara.thomas@live.co.uk) Entry is £3, children are free

## THE FRIENDS OF ST IPPOLYTS CHURCH

The Friends of St Ippolyts Church are happy to welcome new members at any time. We have a fortnightly rota to clean and put fresh flowers in the church. We also help to decorate the church for all major festivals.

We like to support each other when we can and are a friendly group.

Frances Williams 07927 221469, Carol Scott 01462. 450452,

Joan Pinkstone 01462 457660

## COFFEE MORNINGS

Come for a cuppa on a Monday morning after School drop-off! All welcome.



From Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September and every Monday during term time join us for a drink and a chat in the church once you have dropped your children off at School. A chance to catch-up with old friends and meet new ones. Younger siblings welcome.

Dee Soden

# Pax

I'm sure you will be delighted to hear that we have resumed the printed edition of PAX (the Parish Magazine for the Benefice of St Ippolyts with Great and Little Wymondley) from October 2021.....with a few changes!!

We know that the pandemic has caused a lot of difficulties for everyone, and charities have been particularly affected. We thought we would like to do a little bit to help so we have decided to put the price of PAX up by 10 pence to 50 pence per copy from February 2022. The annual subscription will therefore be £5, and subs will be collected in February. All the profit we make will be donated to charity. We have also found a printer who will cut the cost of our printing by about ten pence per copy so we should have a healthy donation to make each year.

We hope you will agree that a nice round 50 pence (or £5) is easier to collect and we would like your input as to which charity we should support. Please do let Reverend Ginni know if you have a charity suggestion ([revginni@gmail.com](mailto:revginni@gmail.com)) and we will go with the most popular for the first year and pick another each year after that.

Anyone who would now like to hear what is going on in the Parishes on a (almost) monthly basis please contact Clare Larsen (email: [clare.larsen@usa.net](mailto:clare.larsen@usa.net) or telephone 01462-453541) to have Pax delivered. Rev Ginni

## **ST IPPOLYTS PARISH HALL**

What a challenging year this has been! The Trustees have been keeping a close eye on the ever changing regulations and altering access to the Hall accordingly – it



has been postered to within an inch of its life and the Hall Secretary has done a magnificent job arranging and re arranging bookings. Hopefully, we are now on the homeward strait and things are starting to settle down. We have been lucky to receive several grants which have covered our expenses when no bookings were allowed and have been very pleased to be able to employ our cleaner and caretaker throughout.

Many of our regular user groups are only just starting back and it was wonderful that we were able to host some new groups in the interim. It is also lovely to see our casual bookings starting again and to see lots of parties and celebrations.

After much consultation the Defibrillator supplied by the Parish Council is now up and running which is brilliant news.



If you would like to hire the Hall either as a group for a regular meeting or as an individual for an event, please contact Sam Kelly 07389 891417 [info@stippolyts-hall.co.uk](mailto:info@stippolyts-hall.co.uk) who will be happy to help you. The Hall is perfect for any event. We have a large main hall which can seat 120 and a smaller committee room. There is a well equipped kitchen and bar area not

to mention Wi-Fi and lots of parking. For more information and photos take a look at our website [www.stippolyts-hall.co.uk](http://www.stippolyts-hall.co.uk) or visit our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/stippolysparishhall](http://www.facebook.com/stippolysparishhall).

## TRUSTEE NEEDED

We need another Trustee to help run the Hall. It isn't too much work (the Hall Christmas Fair, four meetings a year and generally mucking in) and many hands make light work. If you are interested, please contact our Chairman Frank Harding 01462 459124 [harding.wychling@btinternet.com](mailto:harding.wychling@btinternet.com)



## CHRISTMAS FAIR

We will (hopefully) be holding our annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 27 November 2- 4.30. The Hall will be filled with stalls selling goodies and loads of games to play plus, of course, Father Christmas will be paying us a visit and will be waiting to see children in his grotto. Our prize draw will take place at 4.00.



Please come along and experience our lovely, traditional fair. It is the main fund raiser for the Hall and is very important in providing the money to maintain the Hall in tip top condition so please support us if you are able. NB. Being old fashioned we can't take electronic payment so please remember to bring some cash!!

## PARISH HALL TIMETABLE

Day	Time	Group	Room	Info
Monday	1.15-4.45	Bridge Group	Cttee	
	5.15-6.15	Beavers	Main	Term Time
	6.30-7.45	Cubs	Main	Term Time
	7.15-10.00	Parish Council	Cttee	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday
	8.15-10.15	Come dance with us	Main	
Tuesday	9.15-11.45	Tiny Tots	Main	Term Time
	7.00-10.00	Dog Club	Main	
Wednesday	2.00-4.00	Phoenix club	Cttee	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday
Thursday	9.30-1.30	Weston Artists	Cttee	
	4.30-5.30	Rainbows	Main	Term Time
	4.30-6.00	Brownies	Cttee	Term Time
	8.00-10.00	Table Tennis	Main	
Friday	9.45-11.15	Zumba	Main	
	6.30-10.30	Dog Club	Main	
	7.15-8.15	Dog Club	Cttee	

## DEFIBRILLATORS

The Defibrillator on the wall outside the Parish Hall (situated at the end of the drive just before the shop on Waterdell Lane) is now up and running.

Hopefully it will never be needed but if it is the instructions on how to use it are very clear.

There is also a defibrillator at the Bull, inside at the moment but they are fundraising to purchase a box for it to go on the wall outside the pub.



## ST IPPOLYTS SCHOOL

The last 18 months have been one of the most unusual in the school's history.

It was truly wonderful to see the school fully reopen in September 2020 and we remained fully open right up to Christmas with no reported cases.

During the autumn, we competed in wide range of Virtual Sports competitions. Our children did incredibly well with sports they had never tried before, winning many events such as Archery and Boccia. Our Y3/4 Boccia team went on to become Hertfordshire champions!

Although our traditional events had to be adapted, we still held our Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas activities, including making a film of the Christmas Nativity, an online Christmas Hamper Raffle, Christmas Dinners and even a 'Zoom' visit from Father Christmas.



The second school closure in January was quite different and we had large numbers of children needing to attend as key workers. By now our children and staff were proficient in their use of 'Google Classroom', an online learning platform which enabled us to teach daily live lessons over

video link. The staff were **AMAZING**, always looking for ways to adapt the curriculum, try new things and keep the wheels turning. They are an incredible team.

We continued to provide grocery packs, weekly newsletters, phone calls, drop in visits, virtual sports activities and even live Music, Science and PE sessions by video. We even managed World Book Day remotely! As the children returned in March 2021, everyone was given a 'St Ippolyts Bear', a keepsake of this strange time.



Our summer term was spent fully open, with children once again thriving in the classroom, spending time with their friends and loving face to face learning again. Although we had considerable restrictions in place during this time, through creative thinking, we were able to reintroduce key parts of school life such as sports days, pre-recorded class assemblies, a Y6 leavers service and an end of year production. The highlight of the summer term was being able to take 52 children from Years 5 and 6 on a residential school journey, to PGL Bawdsey Manor in Suffolk. What a blessing it was to see them having such a wonderful time, embracing outdoor activities and making precious memories with their friends.

# GOODBYE

At the end of the summer term, our long-serving Chair of Governors, Mrs Jane Thake, retired from her post on the Governing Body. Mrs

Thake has given over 30 years of service to our school and her departure marks the end of an era. She will be dearly missed by the whole school community and we extend our grateful thanks to her for all she has done during her tenure.

September 2021 sees a return to a slightly more normal approach to school life under the new guidance and we are enjoying opportunities to be united as a whole school once again. We are also delighted to have been awarded the PSQM (Primary Science Quality Mark, Gilt standard) in recognition of the high standard of teaching and learning in science across the school.

At school, our motto is “Love one another as I have loved you” (John 13:34) and as we look back over the past 18 months, never has this been more pertinent. As a school community we have stuck together, supported each other and stayed united through a time of immense crisis. Our parent body have been incredible with their compassion, understanding, and patience.



LOVE

Whilst we don't know for sure what the coming weeks and months hold for us, one thing of which we are certain is that we will continue to navigate the challenges ahead as 'The St Ipps Family', stronger together.

## **KINGSHOTT SCHOOL**

Our first week back at school this academic year was definitely a joyful one! We have all experienced difficulties

over the last 18 months or so and to finally be back at school where our time has been full of activity and learning, in and out of the classroom has been marvellous. The children have relished having the freedom of our extensive grounds and not being cooped up in designated areas.



The start of the year has allowed us to return to procedures once familiar and the children have responded well to the responsibility of greater independence. Likewise having parents back on site at pick up time and for our first few sports matches and 'Meet the Teacher' evenings has been fantastic to see. We have already held our first parents' association event – a 'Cinefunfest' which was enjoyed by many.

Our older children enjoyed a superb time in York during the first week of term. The residential has been an opportunity for our senior pupils to bond as they enter their final years at Kingshott. They dined out twice at the Hilton, went on a River Cruise and visited the York Dungeons to name a few activities.

Our exciting facilities project this year is the refurbishment and improvement of the swimming pool. A much-loved feature of Kingshott for many, many years, the pool had not fared well against storm Jorge just before the pandemic set in. It then went unused for a year and half. A decision was made during the last academic year to invest in bringing it bang up to date. The project is moving along well

and will see a new all-year round roof (which also covers the changing rooms) ready for use in the next month or so. We can't wait to be using it again!



## Your guide to enjoying parks and waterways, coast and countryside

### Respect everyone

---

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

### Protect the environment

---

- take your litter home - leave no trace of your visit
- do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo - bag it and bin it - any public waste bin will do
- care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance

### Enjoy the outdoors

---

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure - know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory

## **A TOWN AND COUNTRY WALK.**

A circular 4 mile/6.4km walk around the eastern side of St. Ippolyts Parish passing through urban and rural environments. Mostly flat, but with one stile.

### **1. Starting Point: St. Ippolyts Village Green**

From the Green cross the road, enter the churchyard and walk straight ahead, go through the kissing gate and into St Ibb's Park.

**2. Follow the path down the hill exiting the Park through the kissing gate and turn right onto London Road.**

**3. Continue straight ahead for about half a mile until you come to a path on the right (shortly after passing Mill Lane on your left). Turn right down this path and take the first turning on the left along Larch Avenue.**

At the junction turn right onto Broadmeadow Ride and then immediately left onto Rowan Grove. Where the road bends to the right take the footpath on the left. Follow this path and then the alleyway onto Langbridge Close.

**4. At the end of the road turn right onto Blackhorse Lane. Continue along Blackhorse Lane to the T junction with Stevenage Road. Cross over Stevenage Road and turn right. Walk along the path crossing over the junction with Whitehill Road.**

**5. Just after the houses there is a footpath on the left. Turn left here and follow the path alongside the stream.**

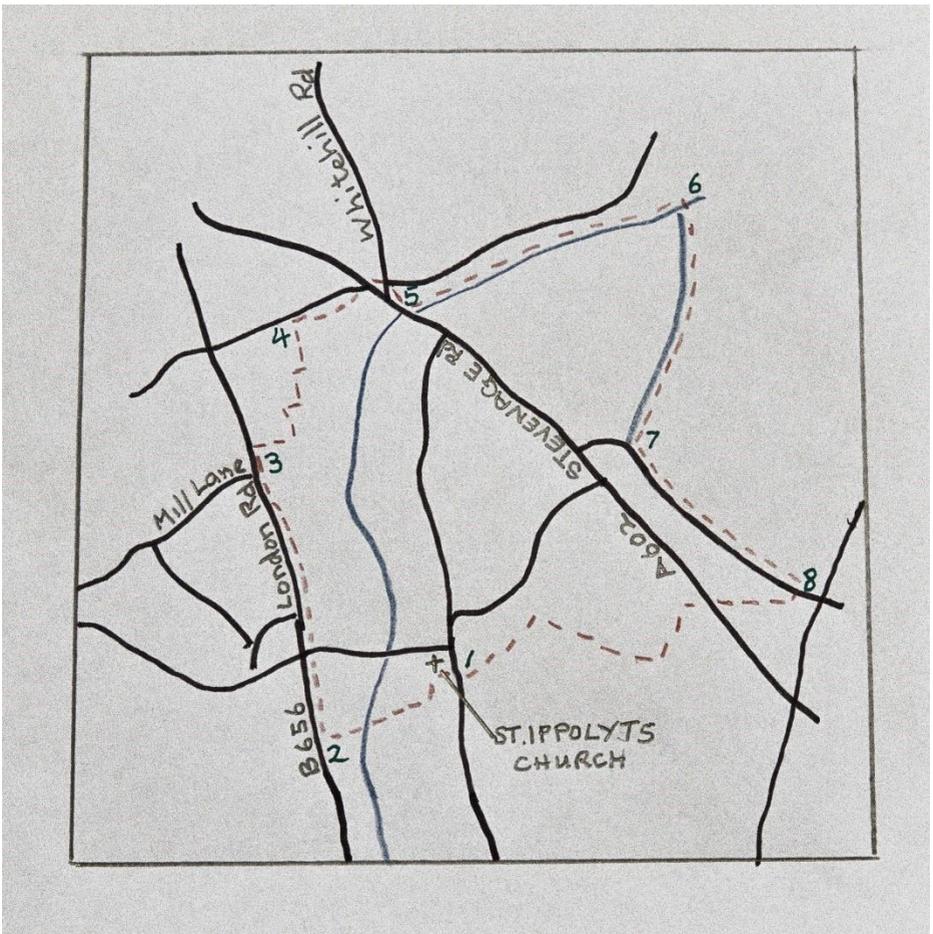
**6. At the end of this Path is a children's playground after which turn right over the stream. Follow the winding path along the field edge emerging eventually at the hamlet of Ashbrook from where many children in days past would walk to attend St Ippolyts school.**

**7. Turn left here walking in the direction of Little Wymondley**

**8. Just before the mini roundabout cross the road and take the bridleway beside the bus shelter. Follow this path along the field edge and under the bypass. (Take care here as it is often very muddy and can at times be flooded).**

Continue along this path and at the fork bear to the right (do not cross the wooden bridge on the left). Continue ahead crossing over the stile.

At the end of this section the path bends to the left over a wooden bridge and across an open field. Cross this field and go through the narrow section to a lane immediately turning left to follow another narrow path between houses and by the school playground to arrive back on St. Ippolyts Village Green.



## **DIRECTORY**

### PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk Susan Mears [clerk@stippolyts-parishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@stippolyts-parishcouncil.org.uk)  
P.O. Box 286, Hitchin, Herts SG4 7WT 01462 421409

### NORTH HERTS COUNCIL

#### Hitchin Priory Ward

Richard Thake [Richard.thake@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.thake@north-herts.gov.uk)  
Simon Harwood [Simon.harwood@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.harwood@north-herts.gov.uk)

#### Hitchwood, Offa & Hoo Ward

David Barnard [David.barnard@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:David.barnard@north-herts.gov.uk)  
Faye Frost [Faye.frost@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Faye.frost@north-herts.gov.uk)  
Claire Strong [Claire.strong@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.strong@north-herts.gov.uk)

### HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

#### Hitchin South Division

Paul Clark [Paul.clark@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.clark@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

#### Knebworth & Codicote Division

Richard Thake [Richard.thake@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.thake@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

### MP

Bim Afolami [House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA](mailto:House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA)  
020 72194577 [bim.afolami.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:bim.afolami.mp@parliament.uk)

### CHURCH

The Reverend Ginni Dear [revginni@gmail.com](mailto:revginni@gmail.com) 01462 237032

### PARISH HALL

Sam Kelly [info@stippolyts-hall.co.uk](mailto:info@stippolyts-hall.co.uk) 07389 891417

To report a street cleaning problem

<https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/environmental-health/street-cleaning> 0800 328 6023.

To report highways issues [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk) 0300 124 4047

## **Beavers**

Beaver Scouts is for boys and girls aged between six and eight and takes place in the Parish Hall every Monday evening during school term time.



Last year presented us all with some unique challenges! An entire term of Beaver meetings via Zoom meant that we had to be creative. One of the best sessions was BGT (Beavers' Got Talent). The Beavers got to show off their various skills and talents via Zoom. The Beavers really entertained us with some amazing singing and dancing.

The district Beavers team managed to run a sleepover for all the Beavers in Hitchin. With the children joining via Zoom from home they were entertained with lots of pirate-themed activities. Everyone had a great time and we are very grateful to the district Beavers team for organising and running the event.

Once lockdown eased then we were able to meet outdoors for hikes, camp fires and more traditional scouting activities. We even managed to do our traditional summer swimming session.

If you are interested in sending your child to Beavers or would like to know more about the group, please contact Steve Cook on 01462 422427 or email: [4thhitchinbeavers@zoho.com](mailto:4thhitchinbeavers@zoho.com).

## **Cubs**

We meet on a Monday evening, following on from Beavers, from 6.30 to 7.40 during term time. We are open to local boys and girls from the age of 8 to 10 1/2.



We have a very excellent leadership team who provide a wide variety of activities, most being outside during the Summer.

The majority of Cubs gain their Silver Award, the highest in Cubs, before moving on to Scouts in Hitchin.

For more details about joining or adults helping please contact:

Paul Pinkstone [4thhitcchincubs@gmail.com](mailto:4thhitcchincubs@gmail.com) 01462 457660



## **BROWNIES AND RAINBOWS**



4th Hitchin (St Ippolyts)  
Brownies and Rainbows

continue to run in the village. We usually meet once a week during term time and will continue to enjoy a varied range of activities. During the last year, like everyone else we enjoyed the challenges of craft activities, treasure hunts and games via Zoom before our outdoor meetings in the summer. We are looking forward to getting back to a full programme of indoor meetings and welcoming new Rainbows and Brownies.

We currently have spaces for Brownies (7 – 11 years old), if you are interested in joining, please register your interest through our national website: [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk).

### **TINY TOTS**

Can I start by introducing myself, I'm Hannah, I grew up in St Ippolyts on East View. I came back to the village 18 months ago with my husband and children and am now in Orchard Close, St Ippolyts is definitely where my heart is.



I feel baby and toddler groups are needed here especially since lockdown. Having received lots of interest and help I re started our friendly, safe and welcoming baby/ toddler group, for all parents, carers and families to stay and play. Enjoy playtime, singing, refreshments, craft activities, seasonal themes and local, helpful, relevant information.

Thank you to everyone who came to our first session on 14th Sept, lots of fun had by all!

We meet every Tuesday morning in term time 9.30 – 11.15 and anyone caring for babies and toddlers is welcome to come along, the cost is £2.50 plus £1 for additional children.

You can contact me via the St Ippolyts Tiny Tots Facebook group.  
Hannah Needham

## HITCHIN LADIES BRIDGE CLUB



We meet in the small hall on Monday afternoons at 1.30 pm. We are a sociable, mixed-ability group who all enjoy getting together and playing Bridge (not too high-powered and scary).

We are always keen to welcome new members, so if it sounds like your cup of tea please come and give us a try, or phone first:

Barbara Phillips      01438-871381 or 07833120917

Gill Harvey            01438-317133

## COME DANCE WITH US

Come Dance with Us has been running Ballroom and Latin dance classes at St Ippolyts for over 15 years. The class runs on a Monday evening from 8.00 to 10.00pm. We are a relatively small friendly group and the lessons are suited to those who have never danced before and those wishing to improve on basic skills.

Our lessons are an introduction to all popular styles of Ballroom and Latin dancing. It could be a Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango, Rumba, Jive or Cha Cha. There is something for everyone to enjoy. Additionally, we also teach a variety of Sequence dances. The lessons are designed to help you feel more comfortable on a dance floor whether at a dance or social event. The atmosphere is friendly and social. There are no exams, competitions or medals and no need to wear sequins or glitter.

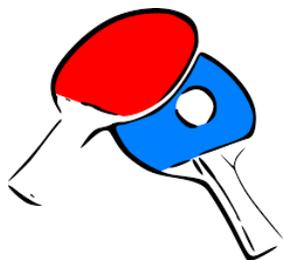


If you would like to try any of the dancing styles then why not join us for a Monday class, see what we do and join in if you wish. For more information contact Janice via email: [janice.comedance@gmail.com](mailto:janice.comedance@gmail.com) or telephone 01462 628247.

## TABLE TENNIS

We get together in St Ippolyts Parish Hall on Thursday evenings 8 till 10 pm. (Just turn up no appointment needed) from September 'till middle of May except for two weeks at Christmas. We have a half time break for refreshments. We chat if we are waiting to play but normally, we are able to play most of the time.

All levels of player and any age, young and old, are welcome just bring your own Table Tennis bat & ball and wear plimsolls or indoor sports footwear. (Under 16 years olds must register name and address information with club representative on arrival. Under 13 years must be accompanied by a responsible adult).



Fees. Playing visitors (non-members) £4. Club Membership (not compulsory) £70 per season. Junior (under 15 years) playing visitors £3 per evening. No charge for refreshments. For more information contact Fred Gearing 01438 357310 Mobile 07860 300928 Email Home [fred@ft-gearing.co.uk](mailto:fred@ft-gearing.co.uk)

## DOG CLUB

North Herts Dog Training Club was formed in 1960 to provide training to dogs and their handlers and has been training at the Parish Hall since then. The club is a Kennel Club registered club and as such is managed by a committee elected by the members.

We are a very friendly club run completely by volunteers, we meet on a Tuesday evening from 7.15pm and a Friday evening from 6.45pm and all classes are 45 mins in duration.

We have classes from puppy to adult and our trainers are fully qualified to offer training in basic general obedience to advanced competition level obedience. We also offer the Kennel Club Good Citizen Scheme Puppy, Bronze, Silver and Gold training and assessments. Please visit our website: [North-Herts-Dog-Training-Club](http://North-Herts-Dog-Training-Club) for contact and further details.



## **The Weston Group of Artists**

What an awful couple of years we've all had! We were very grateful to the Hall committee for allowing us to restart our Thursday sessions during 2020 in the big hall which gave more room for individual space. Now we've all been double jabbed etc we are back in the smaller hall which we all much prefer as it has less echo and is more intimate. This suits the group's mutually supportive approach to painting as there's always someone you can ask about mixing that certain colour, getting a cloud just right, and telling you when it's time to stop.



The big down for us all was that we were unable to hold our annual exhibition last year and we are finding it very difficult to find a suitable location for this year. We haven't given up though, so pictures are being finished and framed in hopeful preparation!

We continue to primarily paint in oils though some of us are now using acrylics, watercolours and other media. Collectively we are from a mix of professional backgrounds which greatly enhances our conversations as we paint and there's always 'have you seen... film/play/exhibition/book/news' chat washed down with tea/coffee and biscuits.



For further information about our group and hopefully our next exhibition, please find us on Facebook Weston Group of Artists (a public group – and you can buy online!) or email me [penelopewharris@msn.com](mailto:penelopewharris@msn.com)

## **Zumba/ dance fitness at St Ippolyts**

My lovely class of ladies and myself have returned to the Parish Hall (in May) to continue our Latin inspired dancing.

We are so grateful to be back doing regular exercise and embracing the opportunity to have more normal social togetherness again. We managed the lockdown(s) with online Zoom classes to keep up our fitness and boost our morale. These virtual classes proved so important in sticking to a routine and in seeing each other, albeit virtually, on a weekly basis.

Thank you to the parish hall for being so accommodating and to all the attendees for their loyalty, enthusiasm and positivity.

If you would like to join for some feel good dance-fitness, classes are every Friday at 10-11am.

Contact: Emma 07596 163995



## **St Ippolyts Bowls Club**

It has been another successful season for St Ippolyts Bowls Club, winning the Stevenage Mixed League Knockout Cup for the third time in a row and, at the time of writing, holding top position in the league. The men's team reached the final of the Letchworth and District Cairns Cup and also the final of the North Division of the County League. The women's team also advanced to the semi-final of the North Division. Celia Farley and Shirley Hughes were finalists in the North Herts Women's Bowls Association Pairs Competition.

One of the highlights of the season was the 8 hotshots obtained by Kevin Stollery, Paul Owen, Jeff Clark and Colin Davidson, playing against Letchworth Conservative Club in the County League on 27th May. The event was reported on and the players photographed in Bowls International. Seven new members joined us this year. Those new to bowling obtain free membership for the first year and new members will always be welcome.

Details of our club, including matches and social events can be found on our website [stippolytsbowlsclub.org.uk](http://stippolytsbowlsclub.org.uk) or telephone 07807 403316  
Brian Butcher



## **RAINMAKERS DANCING ON GOSMOR GREEN**

We would like to thank St Ippolyts Parish Council for allowing us to dance on Gosmore Green on a Sunday morning while our Group has not been able to dance indoors due to Covid rules.

We have received positive comments from local residents, who have sometimes been a bit mystified seeing international folk dancing being danced on the Green.

As you can see from these photographs, we have been dancing in all types of weather.

We are always looking for new members. For more information you can call Mark on 01462 454210.

Mark is Secretary of Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group.



## **INTERESTING FINDS BY LOCAL METAL DETECTORIST**

The parish of St Ippolyts is rich in history, from St' Ippolyts church to the Roman Tumulus and Maydencroft Manor. Recently there have been some very interesting finds at Gosmore village green, which became a recreation green in 1914. They show the history that's been left behind. Amongst these are Georgian and Victorian items such as coins, livery buttons, lead toy animals, parts of a pocket watch and a bronze pauper finger ring.

More interestingly these include finds from the around the First World War. A trench art gaming piece made from a lead bullet, an 'army veterinary corps' shoulder title, military buttons and even ammunition. Indicating that there was some sort of active military presence here, most likely the home guard.

It's a great insight to the lives of the people who would frequent here before us.

Tom Robertson



King George III penny,  
King George V penny,  
Queen Victoria silver six  
pence, Silver gilded  
'demi rampant lion'  
livery button,  
19th Century Bronze  
Pauper ring



Rifle shell casings,  
Belgian military button,  
General service British  
army button,  
Army Veterinary Corps  
shoulder title,  
Trench art gaming piece  
from a board game  
called 'put & take'

## **LOCAL HISTORY**

### **Robert Isaac's Family and Foundry.**

Robert Isaac (1830-1895) married Mary Onley in 1852 at St Ippolyts Church. He was victualler at The Greyhound (Cravens Directory 1853) and started his own foundry business in a barn at the rear. He then rented dwellings, outbuildings and land at Brook End and established the family business in 1862.

One of the reasons for starting a foundry in a country area was to serve the local farming community. In the early days customers were drawn from a radius in which a horse and cart could deliver in a day.

Robert and Mary Isaac had a family of ten (1861 census and onwards). Henry Isaac (1865-1958) was the sixth son, and he began to enlarge the type of work to include engineering, and this gradually became more important for the firm as the needs of agriculture decreased. Henry used to send his hand-written bills out once a year, around Christmas time. He would have an old wicker basket full of them ready for sending out. He would go down to Hitchin market in February to collect, a very different way of doing business in his day! Henry Isaac, after whom the firm is named, was a great local character, independent, cussed and determined. He was still working in the foundry when he was eighty-four. Henry Skeggs (1922-1967) and Michael Skeggs (1923-2002) grandsons of Henry took over the foundry in the late 1940's. Michael was also a church warden and parish councillor.

One of the last things made at the Foundry was the Millennium sign that stands on St Ippolyts village green. The Foundry closed in 1998. Henry Isaac Ltd closed in 2008 and Henry Isaac Fireplaces Ltd is relocating to new showroom and premises in Shefford, contact details remain the same.

If you would like to read more about St Ippolyts, I have some books: A Parish Remembers – Ippollitts 1900-1950, and A School Remembers – St Ippolyts 1846-1992 donations to St Ippolyts Church Fabric Fund. Pam Skeggs [pamela.j.skeggs@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.j.skeggs@gmail.com)



On the left is Michael Skeggs doing the pouring, Harry French, Charlie Andrews, Frank? and Alex?) (two Polish refugees), Chinner Thompson, John Slater.



Left to right Ron Blindell, Peter French and Harry French tipping molten iron into the pot for pouring into the moulds.

## **PETS CORNER**

Lockdown hasn't been easy on any of us.

However, a large number of us have been blessed with the companionship of our fur-babies or have acquired a pet, just for that reason. Now that more of us are returning to work our pets are left at home for longer periods of time and/or their routine has altered dramatically. Some of our pets take it in their stride when their human companions are not present however others will struggle. In extreme cases they will develop signs of separation anxiety. This is a well-known condition resulting in extreme anxiety and distress when separated from their loved ones.

Signs can vary and include;

- following you about
- unable to settle whilst you're absent
- soiling the house
- destructive behaviour
- whimpering and barking
- obsessive behaviour such as over grooming

If you suspect your dog has separation anxiety, it is vital to tackle it now as it affects your pet's welfare and if left unaddressed can lead to learned behaviours.

We have come up with some advice to help steer your puppy in the right direction:

First of all, make sure your pet doesn't have any medical issues causing similar signs- a trip to the vets is recommended to ensure nothing medical is going on!

It is advisable to create a routine that is consistent, predictable and resembles pre-lockdown life as much as possible.

Try to generate space between you and your pet, for example, by putting up pet gates to allow them time alone so that they are able to build confidence in their own company. Ensure they have a comfortable space to nap and some mentally stimulating toys to occupy themselves!

Reinforce calm behaviour when at home, your dog will feed off your energy so any stress or negative feelings will be passed to your pup! If you feel your little one is anxious, try not to make a fuss which can instil these feelings.

Teach your pet to go to bed on command and reward them with lots of praise when your puppy does this!

It is very important to minimise fuss when you leave or come back home as lots of fuss can increase anxiety as it makes your puppy think this daily event is a big deal. To help combat being left alone, leave an item of clothing or a blanket with your scent on for comfort while you are out, accompanied with the radio or TV left on to provide background noise that they will be accustomed to when you are around.

Once you are at home, wait until the dog settles then reward them with plenty of attention- this will also help to teach them that they will get the quickest attention when they are calm!

All the above steps can help yourself and your little pup and offer some guidance during this difficult time with anxiety training. However, if behaviours persist, we would recommend seeking further professional advice with a behaviourist to ensure your family member is as happy as can be.

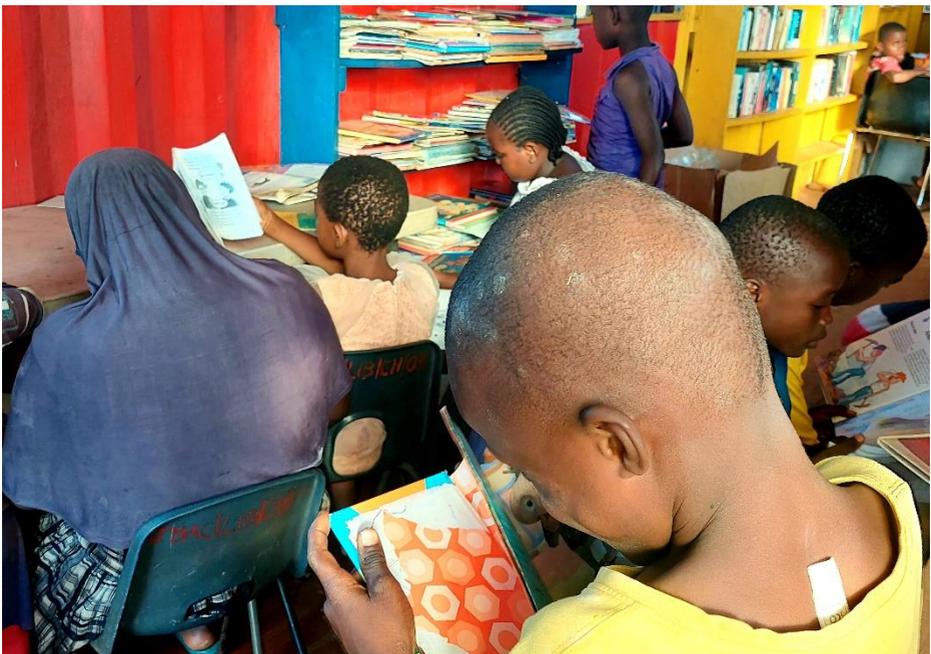


## **JUST BE A CHILD**

Just be a Child (JBAC), a charity based in Dollimore & Christie, Ashbrook set their sights on giving unwanted books a second chance on being read. Throughout the year individuals, schools, charity shops, clubs and businesses deliver books to Dollimores where they get sorted by a group of volunteers. When the time comes, typically around June, a yet larger group of volunteers get together and load the packed books, toys, games, jigsaw puzzles, sports equipment, stationery and more onto a 40ft shipping container.

The container sets sail for Mombasa, Kenya where it will become a community library and learning centre run by volunteers. JBAC already has six fully operational libraries and are working on its seventh. The libraries provide the only access to books and for many children and adults it is the first time they get to see, hold and read a book.

If you would like to get involved or just donate books get in touch via [info@justbeachild.com](mailto:info@justbeachild.com) or by visiting [www.justbeachild.com](http://www.justbeachild.com)



## **LOCAL HERO**

### **CIARAN'S CHARITY COAST2COAST21 CYCLE RIDE**

Inspired by our family bike rides during Lockdown, with the distances getting ever further and an aborted French summer holiday that resulted in us hiking up Ben Nevis, the discussion started as to which Challenge to next undertake.

Struck by the news that yet another family friend had been diagnosed with cancer, it made Ciaran realise that some diseases are more challenging than others to prevent yourself from catching. As we cycled along the Lea Valley towpath to London one day, the challenge was set. Cycle the Coast 2 Coast and raise some money for charity. The charity chosen was Cancer Research UK.

The Coast to Coast Route stretches just over 120 miles from the Cumbrian coast, through the Lake District, over the North Yorks Moors and onto the chosen finishing line at Sunderland. The excursions got even longer. Every hill between here and Luton had to be used for training. At this point, I volunteered to be the sherpa. Jason would be the escort and navigator.

The route planning got serious. Distances measured, old map reading skills honed as we studied the proximity of the brown lines to show the contours of the Lake District. Hostels and B&Bs were booked along the route. Puncture repair kits purchased. Ciaran gained his Cubs Cyclist Badge (Virtual). The Team T-Shirts were ordered.



May Half Term arrived. Fuelled by the generosity of the people around Ciaran – the fund raising started to roll in, we set off to the Start Point in Workington. The majestic rolling hills of the Lake District take on a different appearance when you're on a bicycle. Those long gradual inclines or short sharp steep climbs work the muscles really quite hard. All of this was just the practice for the next day moving on to the N York Moors where it is rumoured that the Brownlow Brothers train for the Bike Bit of their Triathlons. Yep, that bit was indeed challenging and the boys were keen to find some rest and shade at the top. In all, it took 4 days to traverse the country. Ciaran's extremely proud to have raised over £1500 for Cancer Research UK, and not needed the puncture kit for the whole route. Ask him about his favourite part of the ride overall, Ciaran will tell you it was the last day because it was all downhill. Rachel Wilkes

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ciaranscoast2coast21](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ciaranscoast2coast21)

## **CAROL SINGING**

After a year's absence we will be resuming our traditional carol singing around the Broad Meadow Estate on 22 December. We meet at Barbara's (1 Ash Drive) at 6.15 and work our way around the estate ending back at Barbara's for mulled wine and mince pies (possibly around a fire in the garden this year).



Everyone is invited to join us, if you love belting out carols, we sing all the favourites (we have song sheets). If you don't like singing, we still need people to knock on doors! All ages are very welcome but primary school age children need to bring their own adult.

If you live on the estate, please listen out for us and be prepared to answer the door to our band of collectors.

This year we will be raising money for Breast Cancer Now in memory of one of our stalwart singers Caroline Swindells who died earlier this year. If you don't live on the estate but would like to donate follow the link <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/carolineswindells1>

## **NATURE NOTES**

Have you noticed this autumn how the hedgerows are full of berries? The lanes around St Ippolyts and Gosmore have already seen bands of enthusiastic blackberry pickers all looking forward to a homemade blackberry and apple pie. Our normally prolific Bramley apple tree is now somewhat old and the crop this year certainly is not up to the standard of previous ones, anyway there is still enough for a few pies.

Seeing all the berries always fills me with optimism that we might have a “Waxwing” year this winter. Waxwings are handsome sleek grey visitors from Scandinavia and they come to feast on autumn berries in bumper years. Whilst I have never seen them in St Ippolyts, I have seen them in Hitchin and one year the trees outside John Lewis in Welwyn Garden City were alive with hundreds of these beautiful birds.

Last autumn and winter the cotoneaster bush in our neighbour’s garden attracted huge flocks of winter thrushes and it took the Fieldfares and Redwings about 5 days to devour all the berries. The attached photos were taken from one of our bedroom windows.



Other very welcome visitors to our garden last winter were Lesser Redpolls and Siskins who eventually found our feeders and stayed around for a few weeks. I had been hearing Siskins in St Ibbs Park where they always seem to stay in the uppermost branches of the tall trees near the church. One cannot mistake the male siskin with his greenish yellow body and a black cap. His beak is reminiscent of that of a Goldfinch a rather dainty affair. The highlight of the winter, however, was a Common Redpoll, which is indeed far from common, being slightly larger and brighter than the normal British Lesser Redpoll. This bird turned up with a mixed flock of finches, which enjoyed bathing in our garden pond during the coldest of weathers.

Anyway, if this winter is a bumper berry year, keep your eyes out for Waxwings, they just love Rowan berries!

Michael Hooper

## **LITTER**

Sadly, over recent time it feels as if the parish has been increasingly blighted by litter. Some is thrown out of the windows of passing cars and some left by those enjoying the countryside. Unfortunately, at times our litter bins fill up. A big thank you to everyone who takes their litter home with them when this happens, rubbish left in bags by the bins gets blown around or raided by foxes.



Can we also thank dog owners for picking up after their dogs but remind them that the dog poo and general rubbish bins are there for when you are out and about. Mess picked up in your garden can be disposed of in your purple bin.

## **LITTER HEROES**



A huge thank you to all those residents who spend a little time each week litter picking in their area, without your efforts the parish would not be such a pleasant area – you are all stars!

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ST. IPPOLYTS

## LOCAL HERO: CIARAN



**Local Hero Ciaran's Charity Coast2Coast21 Cycle Ride.  
Starting on the Cumbrian coast, cycling across the North Yorkshire  
moors and finishing on the beach in Sunderland.**

