

HATHERN HERALD



The Hathern Parish Council Magazine

AUTUMN 2023

hathernparishcouncil.org.uk



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WELCOME

...to your autumn edition of the Hathern Herald.

Oh my goodness, where did the summer go? It feels like we didn't really get one and at times was cold and wet but as ever this doesn't stop Hathern having a good time - check out our picture special from the Big Week events back in June on page 12, plus what Hathern Community Library have been up to on page 14.

There have been a few concerns raised recently over an increase in crime in the village and our local team have been in touch with advice on page 3. Please remember to report ALL crimes, however small, to the police.

Have you ever wondered what the large metal box next to the weir on the River Soar contains? Then turn to page 8 where Peter Sergeant has been on the case finding out.

As we head into the autumn, we find ourselves finally getting back to normal with the re-introduction of Hathern Together's 'What's On' brochure, detailing lots of events happening between October & March. These events will definitely see you through the winter and I encourage you to attend as many as you are able - the majority of them are free!

I hope you have a fantastic autumn and I will see you again in December for our winter issue.

Benjamin Hardy

Benjamin Hardy
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LOCAL POLICE BEAT INFORMATION

Leicestershire Police have been in touch with their latest information for Hathern residents. You can come along to any of the Beat Surgeries if you have any questions, queries, issues or concerns for your local team.

YOUR BEAT TEAM

PS 836 Gina Baxter

PC 196 Jo Freeman

PC 1782 Michael Hodgson

PCSO 6136 Julia Parker

PCSO 6554 Lucinda Bailey

PCSO 6552 Mo Musa

BEAT SURGERIES

Saturday 7th October, 11-12 - Hathern Library

Saturday 4th November, 11-12 - Hathern Post Office

CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE:

Theft from Motor Vehicles

Often during the night, thieves will wander around streets trying car door handles. You will be surprised how many cars and vans they find unlocked. They are looking for loose change, tools, anything really that they can sell on. To protect your car:

- Keep it locked double checking that it has

been locked.

- Park in a well-lit area whether that be under a street light on a drive that has security lighting, or in a garage.
- Keep it empty. Do not leave any valuables inside or keep items out of view.
- Close all windows and the sun roof to prevent "fishing".
- Store car ownership information in your home, not in the car.
- Secure number plates with anti-theft screws available from car accessory stores.

If you are concerned about the catalytic converter being stolen ask your car dealer about locks and guards that can be fitted that are approved by the vehicle manufacturer. Register the converter and mark it with a forensic marker which will make it harder for thieves to dispose of.

Thieves will also try doors of homes, so again make sure they have been securely locked whilst at home as well as when out. Install a ring-door bell that records when detecting motion.

HOW TO CONTACT THE POLICE

In an emergency call 999.

Non-emergency – call 101.

Crime and anti-social behaviour can also be reported online at our website www.leics.police.uk where you can also find information on crime prevention, careers, and what's happening in your area.

You can also contact crimestoppers anonymously about crime or suspicious activity on **0800 555 111** or crimestoppers-uk.org

A WORD FROM OUR NEW CHAIR

Local elections took place nationwide in May 2023 and Hathern Parish Council, as it has for a number of recent elections, found itself in the position of having more vacancies than candidates - thus an election was not held. Following the first formal meeting of the new council, I was delighted to assume the role of Chairman.

I would like to start by thanking my predecessor, Roy Dann, for an outstanding job over the past 20 years. Roy has been extremely influential in a number of projects, most recently ensuring the adoption of the Daisy Bank Green Spaces which he was able to see through in May of this year. Having taken over recently, work load has far exceeded my expectations and to do that for 20 years is outstanding! I would also like to thank our other outgoing councillors, Dave Neville and John Boyes for their service to the village. Over the past 8 years that I've been on the parish

council, I've found it a privilege to learn from them both.

I'm proud to be Chairman and I'm equally as proud of the councillors that sit along side me. As you'll see below, we have been fortunate to receive 2 co-option applications that have been approved since I took the role. Both Lewis & Tracy will be huge assets alongside Martin, Rachel & Shona, who have stayed on.

We hope to continue to keep Hathern a great place to be, with many projects in the pipeline - and the day to day maintenance in the village will definitely be keeping ourselves busy! As mentioned above, Daisy Bank has now come under our adoption and we look forward to the challenge managing these green spaces provides. We're not alone though - as Hathern Wildlife Group continue to assist us in best practises for our new spaces.

As always, if there is anything you think the Parish Council can do for the village please contact us via the clerk - or if you see me around I'm always available for a chat!

Ben Murdoch



MEET YOUR NEW COUNCILLORS: TRACY & LEWIS

In the ever-evolving tapestry of Hathern's community, two new faces have stepped forward to contribute their expertise and passion to our beloved village. Let's get to know them better!

Meet Tracy Smith: Originally hailing from the North East, Tracy has called Hathern home for the past 17 years. Her diverse career journey, spanning design consultancies, Nottingham County Council, and IKEA, showcases her adaptability and creativity. A familiar sight in the village, Tracy can often be spotted walking her faithful companion, Alfie. Her mission as a Parish Councillor is to preserve and enhance our village's services and facilities, all while respecting its rich history and representing the needs of its residents. Tracy's enthusiasm for community improvement is truly infectious, and she sees it as a privilege to be part of the positive changes happening in Hathern. Fun fact: Tracy even shared a meal with IKEA's founder, Ingvar Kamprad, during her two-

decade-long career with the iconic company.

Meet Lewis Fuller: Born and bred in Hathern since 1991, Lewis is no stranger to our village. Having recently transitioned to the world of finance and estate planning, his earlier career as an events production manager had him deeply involved in local events like Wicked Hathern Fest and Bonfire Night. Besides his professional life, Lewis is a musical soul, playing in the local band Astrovan, often gracing both indoors and out at the Dew Drop. He's also an avid footballer, a passionate supporter of Nottingham Forest. Lewis's dedication to Hathern led him to join the Parish Council, building on his years of involvement with Hathern Youth Club and Hathern Village Association. He aims to make a difference in new ways and continues to be a shining example of community spirit.

As our village grows and transforms, Tracy and Lewis are here to ensure that Hathern's heart remains as vibrant as ever. Their unique backgrounds and commitment to our community make them valuable additions to the Parish Council. Let's support them in their mission to make Hathern an even better place to call home.





SPECIAL FEATURE:
**SUMMER THE
DOGGY BLOOD
DONOR**

For those dog owners or keen walkers in Hathern, you may have come across Summer and her ‘paw-rents’ Tony and Anne. Summer has an incredibly interesting backstory and was recently featured in ‘DRUE Life’ - the feature magazine for Doberman Rescue UK & Europe. Let’s hear Tony and Anne’s story of how Summer came to Hathern and what incredible work she does.

We sadly lost our beloved Dober girl, Poppy to Mast Cell Cancer at the beginning of the first Covid Lockdown. It all happened in a week! After 11 wonderful years we were heartbroken. “Pop” was our 4th Dobie and came into our lives as we retired so was with us all the time. She died strangely on the same day as her brother, Ossie, of the same disease!

We struggled with the huge “hole” in our lives so we approached Jay Kershaw who we knew, albeit slightly. She put us in touch with Liz Price at DRUE and we looked on the web-pages and saw Summer looking really sad and needing a loving home and nursing physically and mentally back to health (fair to say we already cared for her).

We were lucky enough that on our first viewing she “glued” herself to us and there was no way we were going home without her - we adopted her there and then.

She’d been in an awful state. Liz told us she had been initially rescued by the RSPCA and she had a body score of 1 out of 10. She had little fur left, many sores, demodex mange and other wounds. She had also had surgery of some sort so the suspicion was she was used for breeding at about 15months old!



Summer was transferred to DRUE for homing, weighing just 22kg. It took a month to stop her drinking out of the toilet bowl even though she always had clean water in her own bowl! She still is a “surface surfer” as she was obviously starving and I don’t think we’ll ever break her of the habit, just have to remember to put any food away if we go out!

Summer eventually came home with us and was very nervous and frightened. If anyone raised their arm, even to stroke her or was carrying anything like a stick she would cower to the floor shaking! So upsetting to see. Even grass freaked her out to start with.

We didn’t know if she was house trained so debated where to sleep her on the first night. She eventually spent her first night in our bedroom where Poppy had spent her last nights. She settled down on Poppy’s old bed and went straight to sleep and didn’t wake until I got up and stroked her about 08:30 next morning...obviously settled in! Took her a while to get used to the grass outside but only one accident in the house a few days later, that was it.

Summer took a while to adjust to other people but seemed to intuitively know we loved her from that first meeting. She is such a wonderful ambassador for her breed, known and loved by nearly everyone in the village. She does have a real character and is now a full part of the family especially loving the grandchildren and friend’s children when they visit.

She is now the most trusting, gentle and loving dog. Even loves the vet! After a couple of emergency visits following “arguments” with barbed wire fences where she just let the vet stitch her up they suggested she might make a good doggy blood donor. So we took her to a donation session locally.

She was amazing - even on her first visit! She

loved all the staff, “gravy bones” were in the equation so that was it!



She’s now given 3 pints without any issues, completely laid back about the whole procedure! The only time she looked concerned was the very first session when they picked her up to put her on the table. But “dad” was there so it must be okay....an absolute star. So proud of her!

As told by Tony Croft to Di Worby, Editor of DRUE Life.

For further information about DRUE, visit their website.

www.dobermanrescueuk.co.uk



SPECIAL FEATURE

DO YOU RECOGNISE THIS BUILDING?

EVER WONDERED WHAT IT'S FOR? READ ON AND FIND OUT...

It is unlikely that an American engineer called Jeremiah Burnham Tainter (1836 – 1920) is a household name in Hathern (or anywhere else for that matter) but a site-specific variant of his 1886 invention, the radial flood gate (also known as a Tainter gate), is to be found next to the weirs at Zouch where it forms part of the Soar Valley Improvement Scheme completed in 1995. The National Rivers Authority Severn-Trent Region pamphlet, “The Soar Valley Improvement Scheme”, published in October 1995, contains the following:

A radial gated flow control structure has been installed at Zouch. Under normal operation the radial gate remains closed and water passes over the adjacent weir. During flood conditions the gate is slowly raised by counter balance weights to allow water through the structure. The approach channel to the structure has floating booms across it to prevent boats from being drawn in. A flashing light has been installed to warn navigation when the flood gate is in operation. An emergency mooring has also been provided upstream of the structure for use by boat users in an emergency.

Furthermore –

At Pillings, a steel radial gate structure, similar to that at Zouch, has been constructed to enhance the flood discharge capacity at this location. As at Zouch, there is a floating boom at the entrance to the approach channel to ensure the safety of navigation users.



But why were such structures considered so necessary? The pamphlet explains –

The objectives of the Soar Valley Improvement Scheme were to alleviate flooding of:

- Villages and townships within the Soar valley;
- Roads crossing the valley; and
- Agricultural land, while at the same time improving land drainage.

Beginning in January 1984, the project took

11 years to complete at a cost of £10 million and the notable flooding of the roads and land alongside the river – which long-time residents of the village may remember occurring in the 1960s and 1970s is now, thankfully, very much a thing of the past.

On the north side of the flood gate there is a commemorative plaque, regarding the improvements. Now much stained and obscured by weathering it reads thus:

“National Rivers Authority. Severn Trent Region. River Soar Improvement Scheme 1984-1995. Opened by Guy Hawthorne, Flood Defence Committee Chairman 1974-1994 on October 25th 1995.”

A close examination of the plaque will reveal that the background to the raised lettering is a bas relief representation of the Soar Valley which illustrates the various elements of the project and terrain through which the river flows.

A project of this size, however, does not just end with its official opening. The NRA pamphlet referred to earlier also looks towards the future maintenance of the installations:

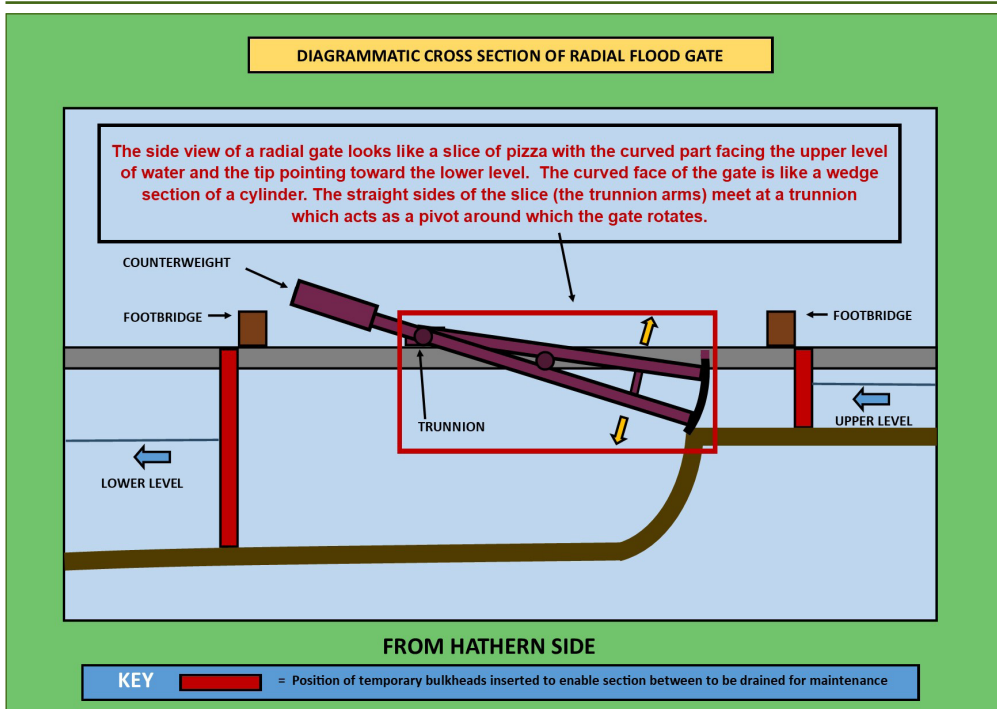
River maintenance and surveillance of the flood defences are essential to ensure that all of the benefits of the improvement works are achieved.

On the River Soar the main aspects are:

- Ensuring that the design river capacity is maintained.
- Ensuring that the flood defences are at the design levels.
- Ensuring that the flow control structures at Pillings and Zouch operate effectively.

The maintenance of all the structures has to be ongoing, therefore, and anyone who has walked along the river bank between the chain ferry and the weirs in recent weeks will





have noticed that the emergency mooring upstream of the radial gate has undergone extensive restoration for the first time since its installation. Repainting the steelwork and replacing the wooden elements of the mooring are relatively straightforward tasks compared to those involved in the servicing of a radial gate, however, and that brings us – at last – to the ‘building’ referred to at the beginning of this article and to an explanation of its purpose.

It is, quite simply, a storage facility for the two temporary bulkheads which are lowered into position when the radial flood gate has to be serviced. Each comprising several sections, they are lowered into place in the channels in the sides of the gate chamber (see diagram and photograph), sealing it off so that it can be drained for inspection and maintenance, a procedure last carried out about five years ago and following which the storage building first appeared on the bank. Given

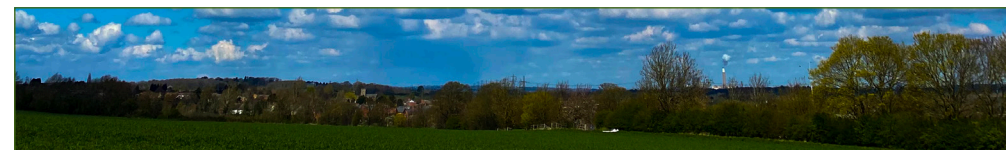
the substantial size of the bulkhead sections, their being stored adjacent to the radial gate obviously avoids having to transport them to the site when required so it is – it might be said – just a “convenience store”. That is, perhaps, more than enough said!

For more information about Jeremiah Tainter’s invention of the radial gate and how it works, the internet is awash with information.

For more information about the flood prevention scheme, “The Soar Valley Improvement Scheme”, pamphlet is accessible online at

<http://ea-lit.freshwaterlife.org/archive/ealit:2390/OBJ/20000936.pdf>

Peter Sergeant



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS: UNDERSTANDING LOCAL GOVERNANCE

In the intricate web of local governance, three key players take the stage: Parish, Borough, and County Councils. These entities play a pivotal role in shaping the communities we call home, each with distinct responsibilities that contribute to the well-being of residents. Let’s take a closer look at what sets them apart and how they work together.

1. Hathern Parish Council: The Heart of the Village

The Parish Council is the closest form of local government, directly representing the interests of the community it focuses on matters that directly affect village life. Think about maintaining green spaces, supporting local events and providing comment on planning applications for minor developments. The Parish Council is also responsible for the cemetery, as well as owning the Shepshed Road Allotment site. They listen to your concerns and strive to enhance the quality of life right where you live.

2. Charnwood Borough Council: Navigating the wider needs

Zoom out a bit, and you’ll encounter Charnwood Borough Council. They oversee a larger scope of responsibilities, including housing, waste management, transportation, and leisure facilities. If you’ve ever noticed a new park or a community centre, chances are the Borough Council had a hand in making it

happen. They collaborate with Parish Councils to ensure that local priorities align with the bigger picture. It is also Borough Councils that have the final say on planning decisions.

3. Leicestershire County Council: Encompassing the Region

At the highest level of local governance sits the County Council, responsible for managing an entire county or administrative region. This council juggles significant matters like education, social services, infrastructure, and strategic planning.

Working Hand in Hand

Though they have distinct roles, these councils aren’t isolated entities. In fact, they collaborate extensively to ensure seamless governance. The Parish Council feeds local concerns and insights to the Borough and County Councils enabling them to make informed decisions. Similarly, the Borough and County Councils provide necessary resources and guidelines to support the growth and development of villages within their jurisdiction.

Your Voice Matters

Remember, these councils are here to serve you. They exist to address the unique needs and aspirations of the community. Your participation in local elections, town hall meetings, and public consultations amplifies your voice and helps shape policies.

Parish, Borough, and County Councils collectively form the backbone of local governance. From the quaint charm of village life to the bustling energy of towns and cities, they work in harmony to create a vibrant tapestry of communities.

PICTURE SPECIAL
**HATHERN'S
BIG WEEK**

What a fantastic week was had by all this year. From It's A Knockout to Proms In The Park, the week encompassed everything. Here at the Herald we thought we'd compile a few photos of the week to show those of you who didn't get to attend any events, what you might have been missing out on!



COMMUNITY MATTERS
**HATHERN
 COMMUNITY
 LIBRARY**

This year's Summer Reading Challenge ran from 1st July to 2nd September and the theme was 'Ready, Set, Read!'. In keeping with its theme we ran a "Sports Challenge afternoon!" and invited all children who have signed up to the Summer Reading Challenge with us to our very own "Mini Sports Challenge". Each year we also hold a special event at the library for every child who completes the Summer Reading Challenge. Everyone who manages to read six or more books was awarded a medal at a special ceremony held at the library. At the time of writing, we have had 41 children from the village participate, which is amazing. Well done all!



**HATHERN COMMUNITY LIBRARY
 SPONSORED WALK**

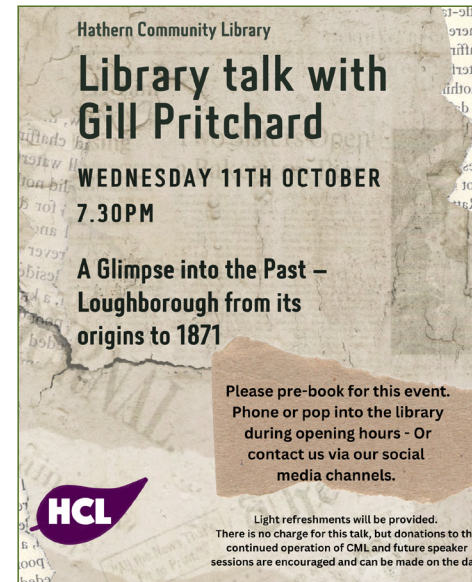
HCL sponsored walk 2023 took place on Monday 28th August, at 9am, with the aim of raising funds for the library. It was a 15 mile route around the Charnwood peaks, with a stop for lunch at Bardonia. Thanks to library volunteer Keith Harris for organising.



**LIBRARY TALK WITH GILL PRITCHARD: A
 GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST – LOUGHBOROUGH
 FROM ITS ORIGINS TO 1871**

Join us on Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 7.30pm and experience a whistle-stop tour through nearly 1000 years of Loughborough's fascinating history. Gill Pritchard may be known to us as a volunteer here at HCL but she is also a bit of a history nerd (her words!). She is also a volunteer at Loughborough Library Local and Family History Centre and has many years' experience not only helping people find their long lost ancestors but also as a researcher for local authors and on major projects for Charnwood Borough Council and The Victoria

County History Project. Gill hopes to open your eyes to some of the quirky and little-known facts and events in our local town's past from its earliest days to 1871 when something happened that was to change the face and fortunes of Loughborough significantly. Pop in to book a place for this talk or message us through one of our social media channels.



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

We are always looking for volunteers at the library and there are so many varied roles to choose from, so if you're looking to give something back to your local community, and make new friends in the process, why not get in touch?

LOTTERY

Hathern Community Library Lottery is based on the National Lottery and pays out each week on the Bonus Ball. Each ticket, from 1 to 59, costs £2 and 50% of the proceeds goes to the winner, 50% being retained by the library.

In the event of no one having the winning ticket, the prize is rolled over to the following week, for one lucky person! If you would like to support us by buying a ticket (or two!) every now and again - or even better by bagging yourself a permanent number - you can contact us through our Facebook page, or by email (janosorby@btinternet.com). Payment can be made through PayPal, bank transfer or cash.



OPENING HOURS

- Tues 14:00 - 18:00
- Weds 10:00 - 12:30
- Thurs 14:00 - 18:00
- Fri 10:00 - 12:30
- Sat 10:00 - 12:00

CONTACT THE LIBRARY

<https://hatherncommunitylibrary.org/>
 Tel. 0116 3053605
www.Hatherncommunitylibrary.org
hatherncommunitylibrary@gmail.com
[@hathernlibrary](https://twitter.com/hathernlibrary)



**NEW WHAT'S ON BROCHURE
COMING SOON**
check out our website for more



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