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Police Issues

Our PCSO Richard Markham is leaving us to become a "proper" Police Constable. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the time that he has put into our community and wish him all the best in his new role. Richard will be replaced by Charlotte Pearson who takes up her new role on the 23rd March.

Following the last Safer Community Team meeting the following priorities have been identified for the area:-

- Anti-social behaviour in the lay-by at Yardley Hastings
- Crime Prevention and the use of Smartwater - further information will follow on this.
- Inconsiderate parking especially close to schools
- Speeding.

The next meeting is scheduled for the beginning of May. If you have any issues that you would like to be raised at this meeting then please contact me on 890223. Ruth Kentigern-Fox

Neighbourhood Watch

At last our scheme has been registered with the Police and with our Neighbourhood Watch Area, and e-mails are being received and forwarded on to those who have registered to receive them. If you have not registered to receive e-mails and would like to, then please send your e-mail address to ruth@kentigern-fox.com.

NHW Meeting : A meeting has been arranged for **Monday 20th April** starting at **8pm** in the **Sargeant Memorial Hall** to discuss how we take NHW forward and communicate information that is being passed to us from the police. We are hoping that our new PCSO Charlotte Pearson and our PC Roger Smith will also be able to attend and give further information on SmartWater.

Yellow Pages

As part of their policy to minimise the risk of burglaries being caused by Yellow Pages / Telephone Directories being left on doorsteps, the company involved in these deliveries has asked us to advise you that these directories will be delivered to the following postcode areas over a period of 2-3 weeks, starting on April 4th. NN1 to NN7 inclusive, plus NN11 and NN12.

They will be instructing their delivery agents not to leave directories anywhere visible from the street. However this is not always possible and some books will perhaps have to be left on view outside. If you are out at work all day, it might be worth asking a friend or neighbour to take your book in for you.

Secure your bag!

In an effort to reduce the amount of purse, wallet, and handbag thefts, Northamptonshire Police are asking all members of the public to follow some simple crime prevention measures in order to avoid becoming a victim.

- Never leave your bag on a pushchair or in a shopping trolley
- Keep your bag firmly closed and on your person at all times
- Wear a shoulder bag with the flap against your body
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash
- Only put items in your bag that you need for that occasion
- If your purse is stolen report the loss of credit or debit cards to the card issuers immediately
- If you witness a crime or are the victim of theft or attempted theft, contact the police immediately

Handbag and purse alarms are available, at a price of £2 each, from Campbell Square, Weston Favell, Daventry and Towcester police stations and the One Stop shop at the Guildhall, Northampton.

If you know of anyone who may be committing handbag or purse thefts, call Northamptonshire Police on 08453 700 700 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Arts News : South Northants

The Parish Council receives one quarterly copy of 'Art News South Northamptonshire' which is obviously difficult to circulate to all residents. If you would like to join the free mailing list, or have information that you would like included in future editions, please contact:
Sue Caverhill Arts Development Officer on 01327 322334 or email sue.caverhill@southnorthants.gov.uk

Next Meeting: Tuesday 19th May : Annual General Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting at 7 p.m. followed by the Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 p.m. Sargeant Memorial Hall Brafield

Village Spring Clean

You may have seen recent publicity in the media about renewed efforts to clear up accumulated rubbish in our towns and villages. We would like to do something in Brafield and would welcome help from local residents. We will be meeting on the **Village Green on Saturday 25th April at 10 a.m.** If you would like to give a hand to make the village a more pleasant place to be, please come along! Rubbish sacks and gloves will be provided. Please contact Dawn Allingham 899083 or Gill Ager on 891488 for further details.

Even if you cannot support us on this particular morning it would be wonderful if every resident who is able, could spare a few minutes and make a special effort to clear litter from their own frontage and other boundaries in an ongoing attempt to improve our environment.

Bus Service to Denton Surgery

Yorks Travel of Cogenhoe, subsidised by the County Council operates bus services to Denton Surgery from surrounding villages. On **Tuesdays** and **Fridays** only a service (no 153) runs from Cogenhoe through Brafield to Denton as follows:

Brafield Billing Rd. Grove Rd.	09.42
Brafield Bedford Rd. Red Lion	09.45
Denton Surgery	09.50
Denton Surgery	11.05
Brafield Bedford Rd. opp. Red Lion	11.10
Brafield Billing Rd. opp. Grove Rd.	11.13

Adult single £1.10 Adult return £1.90
Half single 55p Half return 95p

Half fares apply for OAP Passholders and children aged 5 – 16 (Under 5's free)

NCC produces a number of timetable booklets and leaflets for bus services in the county. These can be obtained from:
Sustainable Transport
Northamptonshire County Council
Riverside House Riverside Way
Bedford Rd Northampton NN1 5NX

Council Tax : Brafield Precept

You may have noticed on your recent Council Tax Statement that the Precept (the money allocated to the Parish Council from your Council Tax) shows an 8% change for the coming year. This is the highest percentage change in recent years but still only amounts to £39.04 this year for a band D property. The Parish Council funded a number of special projects during 2008/9 e.g. Clearing the Spinney on the Bedford Rd lay-by £1468; Redecoration of Village Hall £1500; Grant towards Play Area £800; and this increase will help our finances to recover from these.

Northamptonshire On Wheels : N.O.W

- Having problems getting to work/ training /education?
- Aged 16 – 25?
- Resident in Northamptonshire?
- Live in or need to get to a rural area?

Northamptonshire On Wheels could help!

This project aims to assist 16 – 25 year year old people who live in Northamptonshire in accessing education, training and employment opportunities, by providing transport solutions. We have a fleet of mopeds just waiting to be used by those who need them most! Each individual must either be accessing, or living in, a rural location.

For more information please call Ben on 07535151040 or email : ben.edge@northantsacre.org.uk

Kerbs and Parking

The Parish Council has received many positive comments about the dropped kerbs which allow mobility scooters and pushchair users easier access to footpaths.

However, we are receiving many complaints regarding vehicles parked on footpaths and on verges, particularly in Green Rd. Grove Rd. Horton Rd. and Billing Rd. This creates a constant hazard for people who often have to walk into the highway to avoid such vehicles. Verges in the Parish are becoming rutted from vehicles mounting the footpaths, which is not only unsightly, but also has serious safety implications, both from the ruts as well as from the mud on the footpath which becomes slippery and dangerous.

We have asked the Police to approach people who show little or no consideration for other pedestrians and road users, to help prevent accidents from occurring through inconsiderate parking. Please look after the village we all live in and show a thought for others - PLEASE PARK SENSIBLY.

Overhanging hedges

There are still a number of places around the village where hedges and shrubs overhang property boundaries, sometimes quite considerably, so restricting the footpaths or bridleways for pedestrians and other users. Once again, please ensure that you show consideration for others by maintaining your boundaries properly.

Visually impaired residents

If you know of any visually impaired resident who would find it helpful to have this Newsletter printed at twice this size, please contact Helen Barnell on 890373 and we will do our best to help.

Members of the public are most welcome to attend any meeting
At the start of the Parish Council meeting, time is set aside for public enquiries