



# 1. VILLAGE LIFE

1 Is there a Community Newsletter/Parish Magazine? Yes  No   
If Yes, please give details on frequency and circulation

The Parish newsletter covers the villages of Brampton, East Haddon, Harlestone and Holdenby and is circulated monthly. This joint approach allows residents within Harlestone to gain insight into news/events in the other villages as well as providing information about Harlestone. The newsletter is delivered by a dedicated band of volunteers and circulated to all households in the village.

In addition Harlestone has now launched our website which can be found at [www.harlestonevillage.co.uk](http://www.harlestonevillage.co.uk). This provides a wealth of information about the village, life in the village and details of all scheduled events. Village residents can also request a user name and password which then affords access to the Harlestone Village Forum. This in-turn allows residents to have their say and ask questions about a number of differing issues ranging from the church and parish council to car share and lost and found.

2 Are there Public or Parish Notice Boards? Yes  No   
If Yes, please say where

There are a total of 5 Parish Notice Boards in the village, 3 in Upper Harlestone and 2 in Lower Harlestone. All notice boards are regularly updated and contain information relevant to the village.

3 Does your village put on any of these events or take part in any nearby villages?

- |             |                          |               |                          |               |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Fete        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Carnival      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bonfire night | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Street Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> | Beer festival | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other         | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please give details: -

The Village Institute is the location for many events which include:

- Annual pig roast and barbeque
- WI meetings
- Art Exhibition.
- Tiny Tots Group
- Race nights
- Quiz nights
- Plays and musical
- The Harlestone version of Britain's Got Talent which strangely enough was called 'Harlestone's Got Talent'.
- There is a Jazz lunch scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> June.
- The Christmas Eve Pantomime this year will be Jack and The Beanstalk.

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4 Does your village put on any Arts or History/Heritage activities or do you take part in them in nearby villages? If yes, please give details.

Harlestone is lucky enough to have as residents two extremely talented artists who are very happy to organise the following:

- The Harlestone Church Art Exhibition takes place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. There is a preview evening on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> during which wine and canapés are served to all attending.
- The Lee Burrows is a commercial artist and holds an annual art exhibition at the Village Institute which is well attended and enjoyed by local residents. This year is his 5<sup>th</sup> exhibition and will be held during the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> May.

There is a weekly meeting of the History Group which meets in the Village Institute. Harlestone is also lucky to have, as a resident, a local historian who is presently working on a book which records the history of the village over the centuries. It is anticipated that this will be published in the near future and is eagerly awaited by village residents.

5 Does your village have, or have access to, any sports and leisure facilities?

Yes  No  If yes, please give details.

Harlestone is fortunate to have a large playing field enclosed by a picturesque 'Northampton stone' wall containing a cricket pitch, football pitch and Pavillion. In the summer we have an active cricket club and in the winter the following football teams use the pitch:

- Kingsthorpe Cladding, Northampton Town League. Saturdays
- Ac Squirrels Duston, Sunday Combination League. Sundays
- Duston Dynamo Youth, Under 16 Northants Youth League. Sunday pm

The training pitch is used Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

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6	<p>What events or activities do the Church / Religious Groups put on for the village? Please give details</p> <p>As mentioned at 4 above, St Andrews Church is the venue for a popular art exhibition.</p> <p>Members of the village are also active in the organisation of a successful Christmas Fair held in the church which raises funds for the upkeep of the church.</p> <p>An established event in the Church calendar is the ringing of the bells during the noontide hours of New Years Day. This has developed into an extremely popular and sociable gathering for members of the village as well as passing ramblers who are invited to join in.</p> <p>The Church Warden regularly provides teas to residents, passing walkers and visitors to the village all proceeds going to church funds.</p>	
7	<p>Please tick whether your community has carried out in the last 5 years or is planning to carry out any of the following (Do not send in copies of these documents at this stage)</p> <p>Village Design Statement            <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Housing Needs Survey                <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Parish Plan                                <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>During July 2009 the Village Institute was the venue for an Open day, the purpose of which was to disseminate information collated from the Harlestone survey which had been carried out previously. Various exhibits displayed examples of other village statements, history of the village, details of the Sandy Lane Relief Road and its possible effect on the village and other items of local interest. The open day also provided an opportunity for residents of Harlestone to make further comments as well as speak to Parish Council members. The open day was well attended and enthusiastically received by all. The day provided a 'spring board' for the development of the Village Design Statement and will assist in reflecting within those documents the unique nature of the village. So far as a village plan is concerned we feel as there are only 256 households in the village the VDS will fulfil our needs.</p>	
8	<p>Does your village have social/affordable housing, including council houses or housing association houses still available for rent specifically for local people? Yes        <input type="checkbox"/>        No        <input type="checkbox"/>        If yes, please give details</p> <p>There are a number of Council Houses within the village. There are also a significant number of rental properties within the village, many of which are owned and maintained by the Althorp Estate.</p>	

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- 9 Has your Parish Council used its powers to introduce crime prevention measures?  
E.g. Village Special Constable, CCTV, Neighbourhood Watch.  
Yes  No  If yes, please list measures introduced

Harlestone does have a neighbourhood watch in place, albeit not very active! Harlestone, however, is a village where a number of residents are either serving or ex-police officers (the author of the Harlestone entry for the BVC being one) and whilst no formal arrangements are in place we all tend to look after the village, its residents and visitors, particularly in matters relating to crime and crime prevention.

We have a dedicated and very visible Police Community Support Officer who regularly patrols the village and easily accessible through direct contact to his mobile telephone. The PCSO in question regularly attends Parish Council meetings to provide feedback on policing and community issues. Crime levels in the village are very low which reflects the input provided by the local community police team. A number of local residents are recipients of messages broadcast through a community messaging system called 'Ring Master'. This provides an 'early warning' of crime and/or criminals affecting local communities which enables intelligence to be passed in a timely manner back to the police. Over the years this has led to some notable success including arrests and charging of offenders.

Harlestone is a village that is split into Upper and Lower Harlestone and is 'spread out'. Due to this we have found important matters such as crime prevention, and on occasions crime detection, as well as keeping an eye on neighbours and their property is split into mini communities within the village. This does not detract from the feeling of community cohesion the village as a whole feels.

## 2.COMMUNITY LIFE

1 Please list the type and frequency of regular activities that go on in the village hall or any other village meeting place.

The village Institute is the venue for the following meetings:

- Women's Institute (weekly)
- Benefice Beginners School (weekly and is a collaboration of all the villages in the benefice with classes being held in East Haddon)
- Tiny Tots (weekly)
- Harlestone Village Design Statement (monthly)
- Playing Field Steering Group (monthly)
- Parish Council (monthly)
- Art Group

There are also a number of classes which are held in the Village Institute:

- Yoga
- Dance
- Pilates
- History

As mentioned above there are regular and varied functions which take place in the Village Institute, all of which are organised by the Institute Committee for the entertainment of village residents as well as visitors.

2 What do you do to welcome ALL new residents into village life? E.g. a welcome pack/newsletter?

There is no formal method of welcoming new residents, however informally new residents are often met by near neighbours and introduced to village life. The vibrancy of the Village Institute helps to integrate new residents. This is helped by members of the Institute Committee visiting households to sell tickets.

The website is also a very useful medium for publicising the village, its amenities and other items of interest. The website is publicised in the Newsletter.

3 Does your village have access to any kind of community transport or voluntary car scheme?      Yes            No            If yes, please give details

There is an hourly bus service to and from Northampton which is well used by villagers.

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4	<p>Are there any village charities that provide support to the local community? If so, please give brief details, including how they are publicized.</p> <p>Yes      <input type="checkbox"/>      No      <input type="checkbox"/>      If yes, please give details</p> <p>The following charities exist in the Village.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Education Foundation provides assistance to residents in the village to assist in provision of books etc for children at college.</li> <li>• Relief in Need which provides help for the elderly.</li> <li>• A resident in the village is very involved in raising funds for the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance, and whilst not specifically dedicated to Harlestone the Air Ambulance is a valuable service to rural communities and has attended casualties within the village previously.</li> <li>• Whilst not directly supporting local charity one of our Church wardens collects unwanted clothing and toys for a Polish orphanage.</li> <li>• HAFF is the Harlestone Association for Fitness and Fun (with the emphasis on fun). This is a registered charity started in 2006 to buy sports equipment for the village.</li> </ul> <p>Publicity for the above is through the Newsletter and word of mouth.</p>	
5	<p>What do you do to welcome visitors to your village?</p> <p>The village is blessed by number of public footpaths and bridleways, all of which are used extensively by people who are not residents of the village and repeat visitors. Many of the walkers return week after week to admire the beauty of our village and the surrounding countryside. They are able to visit the St Andrews Church, The Fox and Hounds and Garden Centre where refreshments are available.</p>	

3. BUSINESS

1 a) About how many businesses do you have in your village?   
List all you can below

- There are a number of businesses in the village some of which are listed below:
- There is a local shop which services the village which used be the post office. Unfortunately the PO was removed during the last round of cuts. The shop owner (Dave Masters) has continued to provide the village with this much needed and appreciated service despite undoubted hardship.
- The Fox and Hounds is the local pub/restaurant.
- Harlestone is the home of the Northampton Golf Club.
- Harlestone Saw Mills.
- Printers.
- Harlestone Garden Centre.
- Harlestone Quarry.
- Northampton Aerials.
- Global Strategic Outcomes (provision of planning for major events).
- There are a number of farms in the village producing cereals, milk, lamb and beef.

Include all businesses in your total, E.g. Shops, Working Farms, Garages, Pubs, Hotels, Cafes, Window Cleaners, Sale of Plants, Hairdressers, Bed & Breakfast, Self employed working from home, Pick your Own, etc

2 How do local businesses support community life, beyond offering employment?  
E.g. sponsorship of local events or village activities.

Our local printer provides services free of charge for the production of tickets for events at the Village Institute and the Monthly Newsletter.

Dave Masters has been very generous in his sponsorship and donations to HAFF.

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3	<p>Describe briefly, what employment opportunities are available for <u>local people</u>? E.g. part-time work, job-sharing, apprenticeships or training.</p> <p>There are a number of full and part-time job opportunities in the village, particularly at the pub, garden centre, golf club and saw mill, indeed many of our local residents (particularly younger members of the community) do fulfill roles within these establishments.</p> <p>The local primary school is also a source of employment for local people, though at this time the staff are from outside the village, as are most of the children!</p>	
4	<p>Are villagers involved in running any of the village services? E.g. Shop, Café, etc          Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, please give details</p> <p>The owner of the village shop, Dave Masters, is also a resident as the shop forms part of his dwelling. He has included, as part of his service, deliveries of news papers and groceries which is of particular relevance to elderly residents. Dave is more than the owner of the local shop, he has lived in the village for many years and is the eyes and ears of the community making sure that those residents who may be vulnerable are looked after and any problems reported to the appropriate person(s)</p>	
5.	<p>Are there any facilities or activities to encourage visitors to your village?</p> <p>The church is active in encouraging visitor to the village through advertising teas and events in church. This is done in a number of ways through the Newsletter, Sandwich boards placed strategically on the main road through the village, the parish notice board, notices on public footpaths and the local press.</p>	



### 4. YOUNG PEOPLE

1 a) Does the village have, or have access to, any Crèches, Playgroups or Toddler groups or clubs aimed at pre-school children? Yes  No  If yes, please give details

- Tiny Tots
- Benefice Beginners School
- The Village Institute is used by the local primary school for PE lessons.

b) Are these groups helped or financed by community fund raising? Yes  No  If yes, please give details

They are self funding.

2 a) Does the village have any immediately after school clubs/groups\_for children and young people? Yes  No  If yes, please give details

The football and cricket clubs provide after school clubs.

b) Are these clubs/groups helped or financed by community fund raising? Yes  No  If yes, please give details

They are self funding.

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3 Do you have any youth groups/clubs in the village, or access to them in nearby villages? E.g. Scouts, Guides, Church, Sports Clubs, etc. Yes  No   
 If yes, please list.

- Football and Cricket clubs in the village.
- Ballet at East Haddon
- Brownies in Church Brampton
- Scouts in Church Brampton
- Net Ball East Haddon
- Badgers in Great Brington

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### 5. OLDER PEOPLE

1 Are there any village run schemes to help older people?  
 Yes  No  If yes, please give details

Unfortunately the Evergreen Club has been disbanded this year due to a dwindling elderly population within the village.

2 How are older people involved in village life? E.g. reading in schools, oral history projects. Please give details.

As mentioned above a 'senior' resident of the village is writing an account of the history of Harlestone which will provide a great deal of information to young and old alike in the village and beyond.

Jean Bateman a resident of the village is a regular visitor and helper at the local primary school.

3 Are there any informal support services for older people in the village? E.g. Neighbourhood schemes. Yes  No  If yes, please give details

Dave Masters delivers papers and groceries to elderly members of the village and generally keeps an eye on them.

We also provide parcels at Christmas for those village members who are on their own, elderly or in need.

4 a) Is there a housing scheme specifically for older people to help them remain in the village? Yes  No  If yes, please give details.

No specific scheme, however some of our more elderly residents were previously employed by the Althorp Estate and now live in properties owned by Althorp.

## 6. ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

1 What environmental / conservation activities goes on in your village? Include any measures to improve the appearance of your village. For example: -

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife conservation area | <input type="checkbox"/> Allotments              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket or county parks     | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree or flower planting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                      |  |

Please give details.

The village of Harlestone comprises Upper and Lower Harlestone. Parts of Lower Harlestone are in a conservation area.

There is a large acreage of woodland in and around the village which is well maintained and harvested in a sustainable way. All trees felled are replaced. All hedgerows are properly maintained and cut within the guidance issued by DEFRA to protect nesting birds and other wildlife.

Many of our residents trim verges and the edges of public foot paths near to their houses.

Local Gamekeepers are always on hand to provide help and guidance regarding wildlife conservation and where necessary vermin control.

The local farming community is very skilled and cognisant of the effect that they may have on wildlife and the wider environment. As stated hedgerows are sympathetically maintained, spraying of headlands and bases of hedgerows is avoided to protect ground nesting birds and small animals and fences and gates are properly maintained.

There is a large lake within the Golf Course which is a haven for water birds including swans, geese, ducks, moorhens and coots. In addition, and, due to the prevalence of fish within the lake, herons, egrets and cormorants are regular visitors.

The local primary school provide pupils with education and information about the countryside and are regularly seen, during spring and summer, walking public footpaths with teaching staff and observing local fauna and flora.

2 Have you produced any leaflets or maps, guides to support any of these activities? Yes  No  If yes, please give details.

Judy Darby has produced a very interesting and illustrated book showing local walks.

The village is also featured in a number of books for ramblers and others who wish to stagger between public houses.

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- 3 Does the village have 'tidy up days' or regular litter pick? Yes  No   
Please give details of how this is organized.

Many residents pick litter on a daily basis, such is the pride we have in the village. 'Fly Tipping' which can be a problem in rural areas is reported to Daventry District Council in a timely manner to ensure it is removed as soon as practicable. Prior to removal the litter is examined for evidence of the identity of the person(s) who committed the act and this information passed to the police through the local PCSO.

Members of the village took part in the 'Big Litter Pick' on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April which was organised by Sarah Stock Clerk to the Parish Council. Tea and cakes for all participants were provided by members of the WI.

- 4 Are there any schemes in the village to reduce its 'carbon footprint'?  
E.g. recycling, energy efficiency or solar energy, or local food schemes.

The Parish Council has just passed a scheme to allow soil and rock excavated from the Sandy Lane North scheme to be transported overland from the point of extraction to the Harlestone Quarry. In doing so we feel we have greatly improved the environmental impact of large lorries driving a circuitous rout on our roads to dump their loads in the quarry.

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5 Are there any major developments near to your village (e.g. new housing, roads, wind farms etc) that will affect the village? What is, or has been, your response?

The Sandy Lane Improvement North scheme is a major road building project within the village. Whilst such schemes are bound to cause disruption and some anxiety to residents the Parish Council has done all it can to ensure proper consultation takes place during the construction phase. This has been managed by formulating a Sandy Lane Consultation Group which is made up of representatives of the construction companies, Parish Councilors, local residents and the Estate Director for the Althorp Estate.

Carillion, the Principal Contractor, produce a monthly newsletter which is distributed electronically to residents regarding progress on construction. Précis of relevant parts of the Carillion document, together with other items of construction news, are also reproduced in the Village newsletter for the benefit of those without access to the internet.

Carillion have been very helpful in supplying a direct link to Paul Thursby, the site liaison officer, who is present every day and more than happy to deal with issues or queries as they arise.

In conclusion, the formulation of the Sandy Lane Consultation Group has provided the village and contractors with a useful forum to discuss issues and has also assisted in the provision of lines of communication between all interested parties.

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### 7. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1 a) Does your village have its own web site? Yes  No

If yes then what is the web site address?

[www.harlestonevillage.co.uk](http://www.harlestonevillage.co.uk)

Webmaster email

[ashdvt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ashdvt@yahoo.co.uk)

b) How often is it updated?

Daily  Weekly  Monthly  Yearly

2 Does the Parish Council or other community groups use email or web sites for giving and receiving information? Yes  No  If yes please give examples.

All Parish Council communications are through e-mail including circulation of agendas, minutes, planning applications etc.

Other groups within the village use the same method of communication e.g. the Village Institute Committee, Harlestone Village Design Statement Committee and the Playing Fields Committee.

### 8. YOUR VILLAGE

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**FINALLY:** Tell us what makes your village an attractive and special place.

a) For Residents

We strongly believe that Harlestone is a wonderful place to live. It is set in one of the most beautiful parts of the County, and indeed the UK. We like to think of Harlestone as a closely guarded secret, though it seems, as the numbers of walkers using the public footpaths in the village grows.....the secret is out! A great many of the buildings within the village are constructed in Northamptonshire Stone. The church and some of the older buildings were constructed from locally quarried stone which has resulted in some interesting geological features in fields in the village.

There is a strong community spirit within the village with many of the residents, old and new, knowing their neighbours and the wider population. The functions that are held in the Village Institute and St Andrews Church also bring residents together and assist in fostering greater community cohesion and a general feeling of being welcomed.

A good example of co-operation in the village was during the snows of the past two winters. Many of the residents in Lower Harlestone turned out to help stranded motorists by providing hot drinks and assistance through use of 4 wheel drive vehicles to tow cars and lorries up the hills. One gentleman, who benefitted from our help, was a visitor to the UK from France and desperate to get to the airport to board a flight home. Once we had helped him out of the village he commented on our kindness stating that he had never come across such selfless people and had never experienced such help and assistance from strangers. This I feel typifies the generosity and public spirited nature of the people that live in our community.

b) For Visitors

Harlestone is a popular destination for walkers, ramblers and horse riders. The interlinking footpaths and bridleways that criss-cross the village and surrounding countryside, including Harlestone firs, are a magnet for people from other parts of the County. Refreshments for visitors can always be found at the Fox and Hounds, Garden Centre and on certain Sundays at the church all of which add to the enjoyment of the walks.

Visitors to the village often comment on its beauty and return time after time. The bench in the paddock behind the Old Bakehouse is placed there in memory of an elderly visitor to the village who used to stand on that spot for sometime before resuming her walk. This was her favourite part of the Northamptonshire



**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BEST VILLAGE ENTRY FORM 2010**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION AND GOOD LUCK!**