

Grendon Times - April 2025

Your Parish Council

- **Date of next Council meeting:** Monday 14th April 2025
Open forum from 7.30-7.45
- **How to contact us:** clerk@grendonparishcouncil.gov.uk, 07925 755112
- **Our website:** www.grendonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The full minutes from council meetings can be viewed by visiting www.grendonparishcouncil.gov.uk/council-meetings and clicking on the date of the meeting. Draft minutes are published a week after the meeting is held.

News and Updates from your Councillors

- **Parish Council Elections** are taking place on **1st May**, read on to find out more...
- **The flood working committee** are making **ongoing efforts to reduce future flood risk to residents**. Please read on to find out more.
- **Speed working group** – We are setting up a speed working group, to look at how we can **tackle the issue of speeding through our village**. Now's your chance to help reduce speeding. Requests for **local residents to participate** will be going out in April so watch this space.
- **Thank you** to Keith Abbott for painting the Church Rooms notice board.

If you know of any residents who would like to receive this publication please ask them to contact the Clerk on 07925755112

Flood Working Group: Ongoing Efforts to Reduce Future Risk

The Grendon Flood Group met on 26th February at Grendon Hall, with eight members in attendance and one apology received. The meeting focused on ongoing flood prevention efforts, community safety and future initiatives to enhance emergency response in the village.

It was recommended that Grendon Parish Council send a formal letter of thanks to the Environment Agency on behalf of the village for their recent work on Grendon Brook. In addition, the group will seek updates from the agency on:

- The state of repairs and works on the Yardley flood storage reservoirs.
- The schedule of future maintenance for both Grendon Brook and Gibbards Arm.

Discussions also focused on securing funding for additional defibrillators, with proposed locations at the northern and southern ends of the village. The group will investigate:

- Whether defibrillators can be mounted on existing street furniture.
- Alternative cost-effective stand-alone solutions for installation.

The group aims to improve emergency response readiness, particularly in Lower End. Key actions include:

- Identifying residents willing to be registered as first aiders in case of an emergency.
- Planning a basic first aid course for village residents later in the year.

The next meeting will take place on 14th May at 7:30pm at Grendon Hall. For any further information please contact cllrcdow@gmail.com.



Update from Stop Green Hill Solar Community Action Group

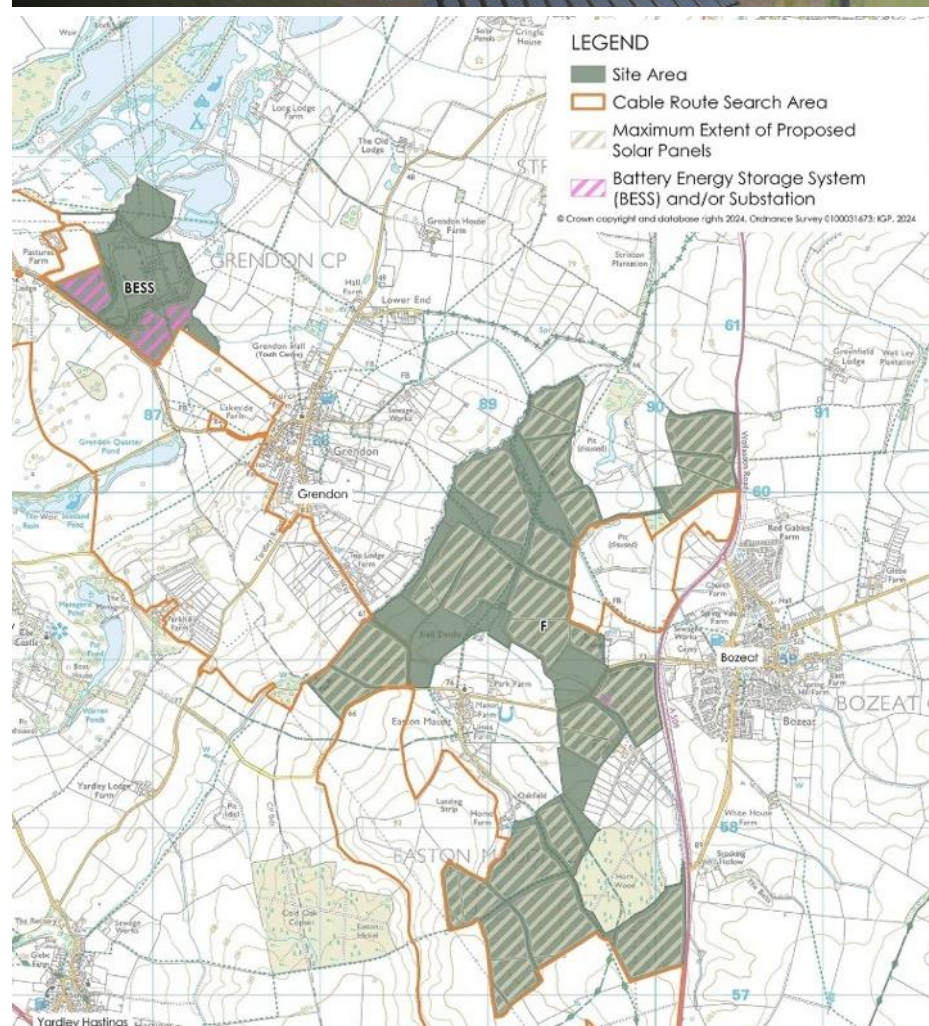
A new public consultation running until 10th April is under way regarding scheme changes and particularly traffic management and access points to Green Hill Solar sites.

Plans are available at www.greenhillsolar.co.uk: please comment and/or object via the website or writing via the email address given. In Grendon, this particularly affects access points to the massive BESS facility planned on Station Road, which the developers acknowledge will be affected by HGVs, increased traffic and outside deliveries as well as regular traffic from onsite workers.

Green Hill Solar is expected to submit a Development Consent Order (DCO) – the equivalent of a planning submission – to the Planning Inspectorate in May, followed by formal examination where we can present further objections.

We are actively consulting environmental experts, legal advisors and local residents.

Register at www.stopgreenhillsolar.co.uk and follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay updated.



Sunshine & Teamwork: Pocket Park Clean-up

A bright and productive morning saw members of Grendon Parish Council come together for the Pocket Park tidy-up day, ensuring that this cherished green space remains a welcoming and enjoyable area for all.

With the sun shining overhead, volunteers worked diligently to clear debris, trim overgrown areas, and enhance the park's natural beauty.

A special thanks goes to Russ and Grendon Hall for their invaluable support on the day. Their contributions made a significant difference in the clear up.

The Pocket Park is a vital part of the local landscape, providing a peaceful retreat for residents and visitors alike. Thanks to the volunteers, it continues to be a space for nature, relaxation and community gatherings.



Community Spirit Shines at Annual Litter Pick

The annual village litter pick saw a record turnout this year, with over 30 residents coming together to help keep our community clean. Armed with bags and litter pickers, volunteers covered streets, footpaths, and green spaces, collecting an astonishing amount of rubbish—sadly, even more than last year.

Despite the unfortunate increase in litter, the event was a true display of community spirit, with people of all ages taking part. Their hard work has made a visible difference, and we extend a huge thank you to everyone who contributed their time and effort. A massive thank you to Martyn Smith for your excellent organisation and to Lulu Denton for providing us with refreshments and snacks to keep us all going.

Let's continue working together to keep our village a cleaner, greener place for all!



Spotlight On: Trevor & Pauline Higgs - Walking Grendon

We're excited to introduce a new series of spotlights, highlighting the amazing people in our village who make a difference. From community volunteers to local heroes, we want to celebrate those who help make our village a better place for everyone. This edition's spotlight is on Trevor and Pauline Higgs.

1. How long have you been organising Grendon Village Walks?

Since moving to Grendon in 1986, I've been involved in local footpaths. After becoming the Parish Footpath Warden, I started publishing village walks in the Parish News, leading to requests for guided walks.

2. What got you into walking and why do you love it?

I discovered my love for walking in the Scouts, enjoying mountain expeditions in the Cairngorms and North Wales. Completing my Queens Scout and Duke of Edinburgh awards reinforced this passion. My wife and I bonded over hikes, and we've since covered many miles together. I love planning routes, reading maps and reaching summits.

3. How many people have benefited from your walks?

Over the years, participation has fluctuated, but we now average over 15 walkers per outing. There's no need to book—just turn up. Roughly, we've led over 2,000 walks.



Spotlight: Trevor & Pauline Higgs on Walking Grendon

4. How many walks are in the area? Which is your favourite?

There are 21 downloadable walks from Grendon, plus 55 more in the surrounding area. My favourite is the 6-mile Grendon-White Mills-Whiston Church-Castle Ashby loop, offering stunning views of the River Nene and local landmarks.

5. What's your favourite time of year for walking?

Every season brings something special, but winter has been particularly challenging due to wet and tiring conditions.

6. What gear do walkers need?

Our walks are open to all, with no registration required. We aim for 5–6 miles, sometimes stopping at a café or pub. Recommended gear: waterproof coat, walking boots/shoes, a pole, and a drink/snack.

7. Anything else to share?

These walks promote fitness, wellbeing and community spirit. Newcomers are always welcome! I continue to serve as the Parish Path Warden.

Thank you so much to Trevor and Pauline for everything you do for our village. See page 10 for the next scheduled walks or check out [here](#).

Stay tuned for more inspiring stories in our next edition.



Poor Lands Charity – education grants available

The 'Poors Land' is a field gifted by Rev. Robert Shelbourne, located off the track to Strixton at the bottom of Blackmile Lane. The Poors Land Charity was established in 2001 to provide relief for Grendon residents in need, hardship, or distress. The field is rented out, generating income for the charity. The Parish Council appoints the trustees, currently Ian Denton, Tony Knuff, and Jason Ross, with Deborah Rush as secretary.

Over the years, the charity has supported village organisations and school children with residential trip costs. However, applications have declined despite efforts to raise awareness. The trustees recently agreed to offer grants to young people in the village who are moving into post-16 education, apprenticeships, college, sixth form, or university in 2024. These grants may help with equipment, travel or ICT costs.

Applications should be submitted in writing to poorslandcharity@gmail.com, including your name, address, type of post-16 education, and a brief description of how you would use the grant. The number of recipients and grant amounts will depend on applications received. This initiative is designed to celebrate local students' success rather than being based on financial need.

Closing date 30.5.25



Elections are coming – Join Grendon Parish Council!

Election Day: May 1st

Are you passionate about your village?
Do you want to make a real difference in your community? Now is your chance!

Grendon Parish Council is looking for dedicated individuals to step forward and become the next **Parish Councillors**.

This is a fantastic opportunity to:

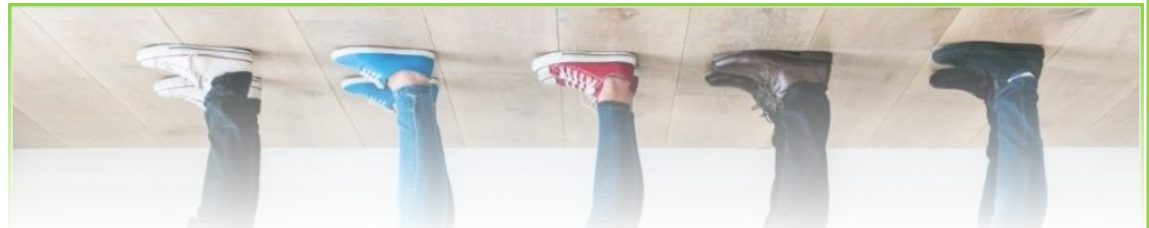
- ✓ **Use your skills** to make a positive impact on your neighbourhood.
- ✓ **Gain valuable experience** that looks great on your CV.
- ✓ **Be part of a team** that works together to improve village life.
- ✓ **Champion local projects** and help shape the future of Grendon.

You don't need political experience—just a commitment to your community and a willingness to get involved.

Be extraordinary—become a Parish Councillor and make a real difference!

Want to find out more? Email: clerk@grendonparishcouncil.gov.uk today!

Image courtesy of tartila / Freepik



Dates for your diary...



Grendon Walking Group

April 2025

On **Sunday 13th April** - We will be walking a circular route from Little Houghton via Great Houghton and the Washlands distance of 4½ Miles. Meet at [Bedford Road - Little Houghton - NN7 1AB](#) at 10.00am

On **Thursday 24th April** - A walk through Santa Pod - 5½ Miles - Meet at [Podington Garden Centre - High Street - Podington - NN29 7HS](#) at 10.00am

Everybody Welcome

Please contact us if you require more information, or just meet us at the starting point. We look forward to walking with you.

Pauline & Trevor Higgs (Parish Path Warden) Tel 01933 663706;
trevorhiggs722@gmail.com or paulinehiggs9@gmail.com

Or alternatively visit the Grendon Walking Group Website:
<https://walksgrendon.wixsite.com/grendon>



Please join us for an Easter Egg Hunt and to explore the Easter Story

@ the Pocket Park

Easter Saturday 19th April 2025

@ 10 am

To book your place please email
grendonchurchwardens@gmail.com

Bring your basket
Everyone welcome



The Fish Man

Mobile fresh fish - Every Wednesday - 5-6pm - Half Moon Car park.



Dates for your diary...



Be extraordinary - become a local parish councillor

*Want to gain valuable work related skills
or keen to put your skills to use?*

Passionate about your village?

Make a difference today.

*Email:
clerk@grendonparishcouncil.gov.uk
or call:
Sylvia Tilaks on 07925755112*

and ask for more information now!

**Ordinary people
doing an amazing job**



Dates for your diary...

PRESENTED BY GRENDON HALL & GRENDON PARISH COUNCIL



CREAM TEAS*
BBQ
BAR
CAKES

MONDAY
5TH MAY

LIVE MUSIC
GAMES
RAFFLE
MEMORABILIA

Join us at Grendon Hall!
1-5 PM | Free Entry

*Free cream teas for village residents over 70



For more information, and to find out about free transport to Grendon Hall contact GrendonVEday@gmail.com

Grendon Safari Supper - Saturday 10th May 2025

The safari supper is such a fun evening to meet your Grendon neighbours. Starting at a pre-arranged location for drinks, then moving around the village for starter's and a main, to end up altogether in the village hall. If you have never tried it, give it a go, as you can get to know your villagers over the dinner table.

To book (or simply find out more), please text Jason on 07989556021 or email Jasonross2@gmail.com. Include any dietary requirements and your contact details.

We are looking for offers to host, please let us know. Those new to safari supper wont be asked to host a table, unless you want to. It's a really chilled evening.



Dates for your diary...

New Church electoral roll

Every six years each parish is required to prepare a new electoral roll and St Mary's is in the process of completing this. This needs to be done before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) which will be held on the 14th May 2025. During the period of preparation of the roll, members on the previous roll need to apply to be included - inclusion is not automatic. New people can also apply during this period. A person applies by filling out an application for enrolment form (paper copies available in Church). Please return the form to Deborah at 26 Main Road or put in the letterbox at Church by 13th April 2025.

You are eligible to be included on the roll if you are -

2A. a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England and am resident in the parish.

OR

2B. a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England, am not resident in the parish, [but have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months]

[and would have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months but was prevented from doing so because) ***

OR

2C. a member in good standing of a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, am also a member of the Church of England, (and have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months) and would have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months but was prevented from doing so because) ***

*You are invited to attend
The Annual Parochial Church meeting
On
Wednesday 14th May at 7.30pm
At
St Mary's Church*



Grendon Entertainment Committee Presents...

Bonkers, Boozy, Bingo



Date: Saturday 7th June 2025

Venue: Grendon Village Hall

Time: 19:00 - 23:30



Tickets **£5.00** per person (to cover the cost of the Hall) Any profits will go back into the account to help with future events for the Village.

Tickets ordered by contacting Jo Bourke on **07799 056434**

Bring your own Drinks/Foods/Nibbles and get set to enjoy a fun evening with friends and neighbours!

Save The Date: The next event will be on 27th September 2025 and will be an 'Oktoberfest'

Dates for your diary...



As we are sure you are aware, for a variety of personal reasons, the Daffodil Festival Committee have taken a rest this year. However, we will be back with the festival next year so please save the date

Sunday 22nd March 2026

Now that the festival has grown so much, we really need more committee members to be involved in all aspects of the planning & running of the event.

Please email

grendondaffodilfestival@gmail.com

if you would like to be involved.

Your Parish Council

Our Parish Council in Grendon is made up of volunteers from across our small community. With such busy lives you may not know us all, so we wanted to share an overview of the councillors to help put faces to names.



Calum Dow
Vice Chairman
Flood Working
Party



Martin Howell
Finance & Playing Field



Jason Codner
Police Liaison



Martyn Smith
Vice Chair, Allotments,
Finance & Village Hall



Martin Herron
Finance & Allotments



James Lister
Flood Working
Party



Phillip Mason
Sand & Gravel



Nicola Nimmo
Pocket Park, VE
Day & The
Grendon Times

Getting to know your councillors: Cllr Calum Dow

My wife, Gemma, our eldest daughter and I moved to Grendon from Wellingborough back in 2015 and promptly added to the population with a second daughter.

Up until then, I had a fairly mobile life living all over the UK and working in sectors ranging from oil and gas in Aberdeen to the heritage sector in the midlands. Currently, I combine a personal and professional interest in flooding. Needless to say, Grendon is the longest I have ever lived in one place and I love it here.

Despite being as far from the sea in any direction here, I love anything to do with the water. I can often be found either sailing at Northampton Sailing Club where I race and teach or, sea kayaking off the North Norfolk coast. I am also for my sins, a long-suffering Scotland rugby supporter (please don't mention this year's 6 Nations) and have a head full of useless knowledge according to my wife!



Since being co-opted onto the council in September 2019 and becoming the Vice Chair in 2021, there have been a lot of issues affecting the village. In fact, as a council we are busier than ever. Currently, our beautiful countryside is under threat from energy infrastructure, our roads are frankly a disgrace and certain parts of the village face an increased flood risk.

Whilst there is only so much your parish council can do about these issues, where we can do something, we are working hard for you. If you have any thoughts on what the Parish Council might do or if you want to get directly involved and join us, please do get in touch!

Regular activities

You are invited to

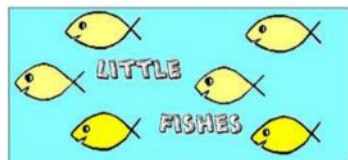
St Mary's Little Fishes

On the
1st Friday of the month
At 9.30 am (note new time)
At St Mary's Church, Grendon

£2 per family (to include refreshments)
Under 5's & their grown-ups welcome

Join us for stories, music, craft, fun & fellowship.

Contact
Deborah 01933 663918



Are you in School Year 6 or above?

YES!

Then you are invited to

Our Thursday Thing

Youth Group

On the last Thursday of the month

@ The Church Room, Grendon,

6.30-8.00pm.

(tuck shop also available)



Contact Deborah Rush 01933 663918

GRENDON VILLAGE HALL

is

**The
Place to Meet**

First Friday of every month

From 10am-12noon

ALL WELCOME!



Join us here for coffee and biscuits every month. A chance to catch up with friends and neighbours for a good natter, to make new friends and meet new residents.

**The next get-together will be on
Friday 4th April 2025.**

For more information, or if you need a lift to the village hall, please ring 01933 717088 and we'll happily collect you.

Charities and Community groups

Grendon Village Walks

Take a look at this website for walks in and around Grendon. If you spot any issues with footpaths please do contact the Parish Council Clerk or Trevor Higgs.

<https://walksgrendon.wixsite.com/grendon>

Poors Land Charity

Registered Charity Number 201467

“For the relief of persons resident in the parish of Grendon”

Poors Land Charity is administered by trustees (appointed by the Parish Council), to provide financial help to village residents and organisations.

Please contact the secretary Mrs Deborah Rush 01933 663918 or email poorslandcharity@gmail.com in confidence, if you would like to discuss an application.

Trustees Mr Ian Denton, Mr Tony Knuff & Mr Jason Ross



Donations for the **Daylight centre** can be left in the basket in the Church Porch between 9am-3pm every day.

Visit their website to see what they currently need....

<https://www.daylightcf.org/supportus>



Useful Information and contact details



North
Northamptonshire
Council

Contact details for North Northamptonshire Council

All council services can be accessed via the website:

<https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/>

Call 0300 126 3000.

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

The latest update from the Leader of North Northants Council, Cllr Jason Smithers, can be read by following this link:

<https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/your-council/leaders-update>

The Irchester division ward councillors are:

Cllr Jon-Paul Carr

Jon-Paul.Carr@northnorthants.gov.uk



Cllr Martin Griffiths

Martin.Griffiths@northnorthants.gov.uk



Cllr Tom Partridge-Underwood

Tom.Partridge-Underwood@northnorthants.gov.uk



The latest newsletter from the **Police, crime & Fire Commissioner** can be read [here](#)



Use the QR code to receive free updates of Northamptonshire Police in your area.



The latest newsletter from **Neighbourhood Watch** can be read [here](#)