

Parish News - Spring 2011

HELLO AGAIN

Welcome to the second edition of our Parish Council Newsletter, which includes important news updates on such Village issues as village policing, HS2, Station Parking and, on a lighter note, detail on the forthcoming Best Kept Village Competition. All this plus other items of interest.

Your Parish Council Website (www.hamptoninarden.org.uk) is being continuously updated so please pay it a visit – it also looks good with some new splendid photographs, courtesy of our Chair, Councillor Gill Lewis.

The first issue has been well received so do please continue to let us have your views; Have a good Spring – we will be in contact again via the Summer issue - THANKYOU



PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS, MAY 2011

Local elections will take place on 5th May, 2011; as only seven people have stood for election as Parish Councillors (with seven posts available) they have now been elected without contest. Further details will soon be available on our website (www.hamptoninarden.org.uk) and in the Summer Parish Newsletter.

CUTS HIT VILLAGE POLICING

Village residents have been saddened by the transfer of our neighbourhood Police Officer, Steve Jones, to work in another area; our village will be now covered from a Balsall Common based team – we will not have a dedicated Officer. Steve always kept a high profile presence on the village streets and dealt with all our issues in a prompt, courteous and efficient manner.

In a reply to a strongly worded letter from your Parish Council the local Chief Inspector stated that “he had to employ his officers where they were most needed, as your crime rate is low, you will now be covered by a neighbourhood team” We will, of course monitor the situation and bring pressure to bear where it is warranted – Steve seems to have been a victim of his own success!

HIGH SPEED 2 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

We wonder whether our senior politicians always recognise how, from the start of a pronouncement, lives can be changed forever; this ‘Sword of Damocles’ has been hanging over us for one year now; its effect has been manifold:

- reduced property values
- properties not selling
- considerable uneasiness

From a recent village survey **94%** of respondents opposed the scheme; however, our own Member of Parliament continues to promote this HS2 proposal.

Some few weeks ago, our Parish Council Chair – Dr. Gill Lewis – presented the Village view to the Borough Council (via a four

minute time allowance); she sought assurance that **NO COUNCIL TAX** would be used to help finance this project; also, that in-depth economic and environmentally based studies would be made to mitigate the effects of the implementation of the scheme.

What can you do?

- visit website www.highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk
- ask Gill Lewis for sight of her copy of a relevant HS2 CD
- comment on these radical plans (**an urgent plea from us all**)
- visit the HS2 roadshow trailer on Wednesday 15 June, 2011, between 0800 and 2000 hours (Recreation Sports car park, Shadowbrook Lane)

Do respond and make your feelings known!

STATION CAR PARKING – AN UPDATE

Solihull Borough Council Traffic Restriction Orders – we are now ranked **7 (out of 62)** in the order for implementation of dealing with this problem – Councillor Bob Sleight is reasonably confident that we should get the go ahead in the current financial year – here’s hoping!

Parish Council meeting with Severn Trent – their staff are now being encouraged to use other car parks such as Tile Hill (soon to be expanded); a Severn Trent staff station user survey is being made and we are meeting with them in April/May to review progress.

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION - Tuesday 10 May 2011

Sponsor: Berkswell Association of Felons

Villages competing (4): Berkswell, Barston, Meriden and Hampton-in-Arden

Winner, 2010: Barston - we lost by only **one point!**

Day of judging: Tuesday 10 May 2011 (11.30am to 12.45pm)

Village 'tidy-up': Saturday 7 May 2011 (all volunteers to meet outside the Meeting Rooms, next to the Beeches Restaurant, at 9.30am; litter pickers, black bags and refreshments will be available)

We know that you will ensure that your front gardens will look as lovely as they can for the day of the judging; each year we

are hopeful that our beautiful village will win; there was only a difference of some eight points between villages (when we lost by one point) so the competition is extremely fierce

Scoring: gardens 20%; street scene 20%; litter (lack of it) 10%; noticeboards 10%; churchyards 10%; facilities 10%; overall 20%

Please do come along to the 'tidy up' day and let's all work together to make 2011 the year in which Hampton-in-Arden is crowned 'Best Kept Village' – we deserve it!

A plea from Councillor Alison Rolf and from us all on your Parish Council – Thankyou.

SAVE OUR SHOPS - (S. O. S.)

We all know what S.O.S. means in times of extreme distress and this particularly applies to our local shops. Throughout Britain village shops are closing every day due to car ownership, a rising cost of living and, in particular, the severe competition from supermarkets.

We would say that most villages no longer either have a village shop, a post office or even a pub! At the moment, in Hampton, we have all of these important facilities – but, they are under threat.

In Hampton, we do have a high proportion of retired and elderly residents many of whom do rely on the services which the shops provide (including the important social interaction and the inevitable 'village gossip'); All the shops have seen a marked reduction in turnover of late.



In the medium and long term we urgently need to encourage young families to move into the village as shops do need a fresh market in order to maintain a sustainable turnover.

The shops are at the heart of our village – its where people meet – and without a healthy heart a village can soon die; 'use them or lose them' so do help to - **SAVE OUR SHOPS!**
(Thankyou to Councillor Malcolm James for this plea)

SCOUTS AND GUIDES – our Village Headquarters

This important, remarkable village facility, is home to our:

● Beavers ● Rainbows ● Cubs ● Brownies ● Scouts ● Guides

We are fortunate to have a Hampton-in-Arden Scout and Guide Supporters Association (**HSGSA**); this is formed from volunteer parent representatives from each of the uniformed groups.

In terms of our Headquarters, what does HSGSA do?

- it ensures that the building is well maintained, and raises very necessary funds for this maintenance
- it supports each of the groups with the provision of appropriate equipment, as well as providing subsidies to young people attending International Camps.

Currently HSGSA is involved with:

- garden door replacements
- upgrading the disabled toilet and shower room and garden ramp
- provision of an all weather covered and paved area to the rear of the HQ (a long term plan)

Last month one hundred adults and children descended on the Headquarters for a family quiz and games night; the children wrote the questions and the competition was fierce with lots of refreshments and prizes- a good night indeed.

Also, each year the HSGSA:

- organises and carries out a Christmas post delivery
- hosts a legendary Summer Barbeque (Friday 17 June this year, 2011) to which all villagers are very welcome to attend, and
- it aims to host another fund raising event in 2011

Finally, the Headquarters is hired out to other regular users, for private parties/functions, table tennis, ballet, preschool Kung Fu and Zumba Fitness (booking secretary: Kim Roberts on 442842)

Thankyou to Councillor Martin Dove who, you may know, is someone who is heavily involved in this important village facility – as some youngsters may retort: COOL!

DRAINS - a postscript to the Shadowbrook Lane problem

Referring to our first Newsletter (Winter 2011) we said that we would keep you informed – well, we can now tell you that the guilty culprit was British Telecom. They said that “we did get our wires crossed when disposing of our waste” your Parish Council feels ‘flushed with success’ now that the problem is resolved. Sorry, Ed.

Our contributors: Councillors Lewis, James, Rolf, Dove and Bowen (editor)

SPEAK TO YOU NEXT MONTH.....