

Parish News - Summer 2014

HELLO AGAIN

As there are so many important items to report in this Summer edition of your Newsletter, we have temporarily changed its format to adequately include them.

There are areas of continuous concern reported with reference to Birmingham Airport, Severn Trent Water and HS2 for example, countered by the good news on a number of other fronts including the new play area and the local library services.

Enjoy your read and continued spell of good weather in this wonderful village of ours.



BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT – southerly departure routes

There has been much anger and disquiet within the village concerning the sudden increase in aircraft noise since the new departure routes began in May 2014.

Route 5 presented a sharp increase in noise, but

Route 6 has been much worse which the Airport claim is because aircraft are not following the designated routes.

In addition, with the end of the extended runway being 300 metres closer to the Village, the noise from aircraft **taking off to the North** is much worse (especially in the morning when windows tend to be open)

'Hello' presentation by the Airport well over 150 residents attended this presentation on 21 June 2014 and made their feelings known in no uncertain terms – the Airport are noting all comments but have stated that there is

to be no further public consultation and that the trials data is for the eyes of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) only.

Petition to Parliament drafted by two village pilots, this was presented to Parliament by our MP, Mrs. Caroline Spelman, requesting the Minister of State for Transport to review the Trials Option 5 and 6 and to instruct Birmingham Airport to consider other possible routing which will mimic the 'Hampton Turn' and will be quieter for all residents of local and other rural communities within some ten days a total of **2200 signatures** had been collected (Hampton 880, Balsall Common 1300 and Barston 25) – we await the outcome!

Both the Parish Council and Hampton Society are fighting to ensure that both bodies are appropriately represented on the Airport Consultative Committee to ensure we have a strong voice with which to protect our communities from further environmental damage.

HS2 – update

Your Parish Council and Hampton Society have each submitted a Petition to the Commons Select Committee focusing on:

- Minimising and mitigating the impact of the construction and operation of this railway on village residents and village life.

This Petition has been drawn up in collaboration with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council with the support of our local MP, Mrs. Caroline Spelman.

We expect to be heard by, and appear in front of, the

Commons Select Committee in early October 2014; however, we understand that the process of hearing some 2000 petitions, nationwide, may take over twelve months – we will keep you informed!

Meanwhile, the Petition can be viewed on the Parish Council website.



Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

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SEVERN TRENT – water mains renewal

Representatives from your Parish Council and Severn Trent Water Authority met on 29 May 2014 to review what work remained to be undertaken by them and to discuss the lessons to be learned from the operations of the previous contractors. We have, therefore, to report as follows:

- **Marsh Lane** – work has now recommenced with six connections and approximately thirty customer services requiring to be connected to the new main (with some disinfection operation prior to service)
- **High Street and Fentham Road** – as work progresses the top section of Marsh Lane between High Street and Fentham Road will have to be closed for 1 - 2 weeks since the excavation will be large in order for the

contractors to make all the necessary connections; this section of the project will take place during the course of the **Summer Holidays** with traffic being directed down Fentham Road to exit at the Engine Mews.

The new contractors, **Laing O'Rourke**, have estimated that all of this water mains renewal work will take **nine weeks** to complete and then Solihull Council will be able to undertake the long postponed resurfacing work.

A programme of work is currently being developed with this new contractor, Laing O'Rourke, for other outstanding work to be done when the Marsh Lane operation has been completed – we shall, of course, keep you informed.....

SOLIHULL NEIGHBOURHOODS IN BLOOM COMPETITION, 2014

The Parish Council, for the second time, entered this new competition in the 'Best Village' category (which we won in 2013) with the theme 'a working community'.

After the village clean up on 12 July last, by some **20+ volunteers**, the village wore the cleanest of coats and looked quite splendid; we must place on record our grateful thanks to all those good people who helped on the village clean up day – as well as to those members of the Church who ensured that both the Church itself and the churchyard and its surrounds were in such good array – THANKYOU ALL!

The two Solihull Ranger judges toured the village on the 16 July, accompanied by two Parish Councillors – they were

impressed by the results of the efforts of so many villagers including those who separately entered other of the Competition's categories:

- The High Street shops and the White Lion entered the 'Retail/Commercial frontages' category (didn't they look good?)

We now look forward to the results – meanwhile thank you all again!



HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PRE SCHOOL – a new look

There really will be a new look to our preschool, with effect from September 2014, with a new leader, Kelly Kemp, and a new Committee in a partially refurbished Scout and Guide Hut.

Kelly is a mum of two with a strong background in childcare having run a private day nursery in Solihull and has also worked as a nurse practitioner; Kelly is excited to be taking on her new role and meeting and getting to know all the children.

We would very much like to thank the existing leader, **Gill Barrett**, for all her past hard work at our preschool and wish her well in her future endeavor's – **Thankyou Gill!**

Further information:

- Opening times – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.30am until 12.15pm during term time for children from two years up to school age
- Further details: www.hamptoninardenpreschool.co.uk

COUNCILLOR ALISON ROLF – election success!

The Parish Council wholeheartedly congratulates Parish Councillor Alison Rolf on her election as Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council's Ward Councillor for Bickenhill.

We would like to thank Alison for the work she has undertaken, on the Village's behalf over several years, particularly concerning communication issues.

We are sure that Alison's experience and achievements with the Parish Council will be of considerable help when dealing with both Ward and Village issues.

We all wish you well in your new position.

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN LIBRARY – an important community resource

Hampton Library is your local branch library situated in Fentham Road, opposite the Village Pharmacy; in addition to a varied collection of books (both fiction and non fiction), there are also spoken wordbooks on CD, DVDs and books in LARGE PRINT

Also:

- There are two public computers with internet access and office packages (two hours free use)
- Wi-Fi free use
- Photocopying and fax services
- Ongoing sale of withdrawn stock from as little as 10p

Story time for the under 5's - a Tuesday fortnightly treat in addition to a monthly Reading Café and annual book displays and events.

Mythical Maze Summer Reading Challenge (all about mythology and legendary creatures).

- Started on 11 July 2014 carrying on until 12 September
- The children read six books throughout the summer holiday period and collect prizes for each book they borrow and read

Opening times: Tuesday 10am – 6pm (closed for lunch between 12 – 1pm); Friday 1 – 5 pm; please do give us a visit (all ages welcome!), Register for a ticket and look around; we are also on Facebook where we post information on current events and activities.

Telephone: 01675 442629

Your librarians Karen Wilson and Adam Rodgers look forward to meeting you.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Please take a moment to consider whether you would like to join our current team of six Councillors; we are looking for someone with time and commitment to contribute to supporting and developing our Village Community in both its short and long term future.

If you would like to become involved please contact our Parish Clerk, Mrs. Julie Richardson, to arrange an informal chat with one of our Councillors making your request by no later than 29 August, 2014 – **thankyou.**

UNDER 7'S PLAY AREA

We are delighted that we now have an open access under 7's Play Area which can be found:

- On the village Recreation Ground, Shadowbrook Lane, adjacent to both the tennis courts and outdoor gym.

This new facility was funded from several sources and grateful thanks go to:

- The National Lottery
- George Fentham School
- George Fentham Trust
- Severn Trent Water Authority
- The Hampton' Gym
- Hampton Society
- The Lillie Johnson Trust
- Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council



A thankyou, also, to the provider 'Sovereign'

HAMPTON FAMILIES IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR – an illustrated talk

The Hampton Society has arranged this talk by **Malcolm James, Chairman of the History Section of the Society on**

- **Wednesday 3 September, 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Arden Room, Fentham Hall**

There is no charge for what will undoubtedly be a most interesting talk which will cover.

- Life in Hampton as the First World War began
- The men of the village who fought in the war, and
- Life in the village during the course of the war

We look forward to seeing you – you will be most welcome.

PEEL CLOSE – Solihull Community Housing Development

The construction of five houses on the site of the disused garages, adjacent to Peel close, is now well underway with an expected completion date later this year.

Following pressure from your Parish Council, it is likely that three out of the five Houses will be given preference to tenants with a close association to the parish of Hampton-in-Arden.

This will be by way of a local letting plan and those tenants who are in priority Bands A, B or C on Solihull Council's Housing Register (which applies to both first and subsequent lettings).

Please contact the Parish Council Office for further information.

RECREATION GROUND CAR PARK – cctv surveillance

With several cars having recently been broken into at the Sports Club, unfortunately the existing CCTV was unable to clearly show the car number plates.

The Sports Club have now upgraded the cameras so, if any crime takes place they should now be able to provide the necessary evidence.

FENTHAM TRUST LAKE AND LANDSCAPING

For some months now work has been underway in developing this attractive facility situated on the far side of the Spinney.

An integral element is the provision of a **pathway** (suitable for both prams and mobility devices), which extends

- From the far end of the Recreation Ground Car Park

- Crossing the Sports Field, and
- Through the Spinney and around the Lake

If it is a nice day, and you are feeling a little intrepid, please seek out and enjoy this revamped area of our Village.

ATTENTION ALL DOG OWNERS!

Your Parish Council is grateful to all those responsible dog owners who use both the bags and bins, provided by us, around the Village including those located within the Recreation Ground and Arboretum.

We have received complaints about a few irresponsible dog walkers who still **fail to pick up after their dogs or leave non-biodegradable bags of waste poorly hidden in the undergrowth!**

The Parish Council is now considering making the areas of the Recreation Ground and the Arboretum a 'lead only' area which would be somewhat sad for those well behaved dogs and their owners – so we ask you to **please pick up your dog waste.**



SPEAK TO YOU IN THE AUTUMN

Many thanks to all our contributors including Parish Councillors and librarians Karen Wilson and Adam Rodgers; with a special thanks to all those non Councillors who help with the delivery to our 850+ village households including those in the Catherine-de-Barnes part of our Parish – **thankyou and all have a good Summer**

cfb editor.....