

Parish News - August 2015

HELLO AGAIN

In this August edition we introduce another new Parish Councillor and draw your attention to some of the main news items including the publication of the Neighbourhood Plan, access to the railway station and updates on HS2 (hot off the press!) and Birmingham Airport.

We would also like to take this opportunity to say a big **THANK YOU** to the Hampton-in-Arden Festival Committee for organising such a fantastic Festival weekend between the 3rd and 5th July! We hope you had the opportunity to take part in some or all of the terrific activities that took place (including the scarecrow competition, fancy dress, Theatretrain, Music in Motion, Hampton Singers, bouncy castles, tattoos/face painting, fireworks and much, much more!). And weren't we lucky with the weather?! A great weekend all round!

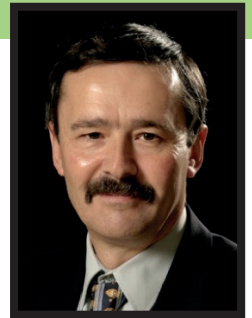
Pictured right: One of the winning scarecrows in the Open Prizes Category, the Redfern Family's "Boston Tea Party"



WELCOME

The Parish Council is very pleased to welcome Ken Blanch to its number following the May elections. Ken will already be well known to many in the village through his involvement with the Hampton Society, Gardening Club and Bowls and is very welcome as a Parish Councillor, particularly because of his knowledge as a former road and railway engineer. Through informed discussion on our behalf Ken has already been able to achieve favourable alteration of the HS2 design and further discussions are ongoing.

We're sure you will all join us in welcoming Ken to the Council.



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – YOUR COMMENTS COUNT!

The Pre-Submission Draft of our Neighbourhood Plan is now complete! We now have to put the Plan through a six week formal consultation period. This will begin on 3rd August and end on 14th September.

We really do want to hear your **thoughts and comments** on the aims and objectives in the Plan which will affect the ways in which development in our local area takes place over the next 13 years.

During the consultation period the Plan can be read online at:- ● www.hamptoninarden.org.uk and/or ● www.catney.co.uk

There will also be **hard copies** available at various locations in both Hampton-in-Arden and Catherine-de-Barnes:

● Parish Office ● Hampton-in-Arden Library ● Sports and Social Club ● Corner Shop ● Village Stores ● White Lion Inn

● Sandwiches @ No. 6 ● Spar shop in Catherine-de-Barnes.

We are also holding two **drop in sessions** at the Parish Office on: ● Saturday 22nd August 2015 - 10am to 12pm ● Wednesday 26th August 2015 - 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Please make the time to have a look at the Plan and record your comments on the response forms (available online and at each location where hard copies of the Plan are stored).

Your feedback can make a difference!



Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

RAILWAY STATION ACCESS

The Parish Council remains concerned about access to the railway station, particularly when the ticket office is closed. We have been working hard to amend the situation and have been pushing for a return to the situation which existed before the ticket office hours were cut four years ago. A recent email from London Midland stated:

"Good news. I have spoken to my colleague who is undertaking the scoping exercise for the work to enable the route via the ticket office to remain open when the station is unstaffed"

They have confirmed that site visits have been undertaken and that the scoping work is on target to be completed this month. The work is funded as part of the 2015/16 programme and so is planned for completion between **now and March**. Progress at last!

In the meantime we are continuing to press for a **ramp or lift** to the Birmingham platform to allow full access to both platforms for people who are disabled, infirm or have small children. We will keep you fully informed of any developments.

SOLIHULL IN BLOOM

Following on from the successful Village Clean Up on the 11th July, representatives from the Solihull Council Neighbourhood Rangers toured the village in mid July to judge the various categories within this Competition which included, for example: ● front gardens ● planter/hanging baskets ● disabled gardener ● retail/commercial frontages (including pubs and restaurants) ● wild flowers, and ● Village.

Your Parish Council entered the **Village Category** (in which we won within the 'Most Engaged Village' section in July 2014) with a 'working village community theme'.

We now await the results which we will be notified about at the end of August. **Watch this space!**

Meanwhile, may we extend our grateful thanks to all those

volunteers (over 25 in total!) who gave their time and effort to help 'spruce up' the village prior to the judging of this worthwhile competition. All to good effect may we add – you can see how much rubbish we collected!

THANK YOU AGAIN!

We are privileged to live in such a beautiful and caring village with its very many active organisations, clubs and societies operated in the most part by willing volunteers!



AIRPORT UPDATE

As reported in the May edition of the Newsletter the airport company has announced that **Option 6 is their preferred route for departures to the south from Runway 15. An application for approval has been submitted to the Civil Aviation Authority and a decision is expected in September or October this year.**

The airport company has recently stated that the route currently being flown is the same Option 6 in use since December 2014 and that no changes have been introduced. However, with the warmer weather and the seasonal increase in holiday flights many people have commented about a **noticeable increase** in noise and it has been suggested by the airport that this is "perception rather than actuality". Residents are urged to continue making any **complaints** to the airport using the following link to the airport website: <https://www.birminghamairport.co.uk/about-us/community-and-environment/aircraft-noise/make-a-complaint/>

If you would like more information, a very helpful document written specifically for local residents on the airspace change process and aircraft activity in general can be found at: <https://www.birminghamairport.co.uk/about-us/community-and-environment/how-is-my-area-affected/>

HS2 UPDATE

Diddington Lane

The Parish Council has just received detail of the Amended Provisions to the Hybrid Bill and we have but four weeks to send our Petition. There are new plans to retain Diddington Lane to through traffic by constructing a diversion from a point beyond the last house across fields to the west of its current alignment, linking up to Kenilworth Road via a new over-bridge near Pasture Farm. This will be built to match its existing width.

We, together with the Hampton-in-Arden Society, will **petition against** this provision as we wish to see restrictions on access to through traffic and retention of the current alignment. We are in talks with Packington Estates who are also opposed to the new road.

Blythe Valley Embankment

We understand the Amendment confirms that a viaduct **will**, as requested, now be built to replace the former embankment along the River Blythe flood plain and to replace the 'tunnel bridge' over the B4102 at Patricks Farm. **Good news** for environmental protection, visual amenity and flood prevention.

We shall continue to press for mitigation on all other matters affecting the village.

PLANNING UPDATE

Burial Ground, Catherine-de-Barnes

Solihull Council's Planning Committee has **refused** the fourth application for a Burial Ground/Cemetery at land off Catherine de Barnes Lane.

Travellers Site, Shadowbrook Lane

We are still awaiting news of a **new date** for the Appeal on the Travellers site in Shadowbrook Lane (postponed in September 2014 and then again in February 2015). We will keep you posted.

Arden Brickworks

An application has been made by Arden Brickworks for retention of use of the former railway line as temporary storage for portable buildings, material and equipment. We have just been informed that this application has been **approved** by Solihull Council, subject to **conditions**.

Howard House

Solihull Council has approved a major development within the village – the conversion of offices at Howard House (located in Hampton Court, Marsh Lane) from offices to 26 apartments. They have also approved the erection of nine new houses (two and three beds) on the offices car park at its northern end.

BREAKING NEWS – Motorway Services

A planning application has now been made for the Motorway Services at the M42/Solihull Road. The Parish Council are **opposed** to this development and will respond accordingly. As ever will keep you informed of any progress with this planning application.

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT.... THE CENTRO TAXI BUS?!

At a recent meeting with **CENTRO** the Parish Council were asked to remind Parishioners that the **Taxibus** is available for all to use at the price of your usual bus fare!

The minibus offers a door to door service for **any age or ability group** from **Monday to Saturday** between **8am and 7.30pm** in the area outlined by Solihull, Coventry, Knowle, Birmingham International and Chelmsley Wood.

So why not use it to go out in the day or early evening, for travel to school outside normal school bus times or to travel to an accessible railway station.

Please call **0121 783 6869** for more information or to book (preferably the day before).



CATHERINE-DE-BARNES COMMON

This lovely common, which lies off Bickenhill Lane in Catherine-de-Barnes, is now formally owned by the Parish Council.

You may be aware that Damson Homes are building three luxury bungalows on land behind the Common. They have paid for a 'deed of easement' to allow access across the Common to the site and this fee will be used for maintenance of the Common into the future.

If you have not visited the area, why not go and have a look. You can park up on Bickenhill Lane and walk across the Common, along a footpath to Damson Parkway and back along the Grand Union Canal towpath - a lovely walk of about 2 miles - all within our parish boundary!



HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SOCIETY – THEIR IMPORTANT WORK FOR THE VILLAGE

If you visited the Festival on 4th July you may have seen the stall outlining the many ways in which the Society contributes to village life. Recently, **HS2 and the Airport** may have hogged the headlines but our committee members are involved in a host of other areas of concern including planning applications and transport issues. There are also talks and occasional social events that they organise.

One very important part of Society is the varied work of the Society's Conservation Group, principally carried out within the Parish Council woodland known as the 'Spinney',

however, some of the Group's activities extend well outside this woodland. For instance, the very successful bird box programme now has nearly 60 boxes spread over forty acres! The Conservation Group are always keen for new volunteers so if you are interested in helping out please contact Dave Grimshaw (01675 442680) for more details.

Joining the Society costs just £2 for the first householder and £1 for additional family members. All households receive a membership pack early in the year.

Contact: George Goodall (Chairman – 01675 442628), Sandy Wasse (Secretary – 01675 442184)

THE LIBRARY

Hampton Library is your local branch library situated in Fentham Road. In addition to a varied collection of books (both fiction and non-fiction) there are also books in large print, spoken word books on CD, as well as DVDs. The library is open on Tuesdays (10am to 12pm and 1pm to 6pm) and on Fridays (1pm -5pm). If you haven't already, please come on down and visit!

Summer Holiday Activities For The Kids

For Under 5's: Story and craft sessions:

- **Tuesday 4th August at 2pm:** Story time and medal making; and,
- **Tuesday 25th August at 2pm:** Readings of fantastic super hero stories as well as the chance for children to make their own tube super heroes.

For 5 to 10 year olds:

- **A record breakers challenge afternoon:** Lots of fun things to do on Tuesday 18th August (2pm to 3pm); and,
- **The summer reading challenge:** Read six books

over the summer holidays (running until 8th September) and after **two books** you will get your record breaker chart and first set of stickers, after **three to five books** you get next sticker set, chatterbox and key ring and after **six books** you receive your certificate and for those who complete the challenge a medal will be presented at their school assembly. Register at the library to get started and receive your bookmark!



For more information telephone 01675 442629 or search for Hampton-in-Arden library on Facebook.

NEWS FROM THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Squash and Racketball: This part of the Club is looking to boost its membership at all levels and can offer: ● two well maintained courts free to members ● a simple online booking system for arranging games ● in-house coaching (group or individual) ● social, competitive and leagues (Fridays and Sundays) for all standards and ages ● a 'Try for Free' squash offer for newcomers (available until mid-September)

If you are interested in **joining**, just drop into the Club on any evening and ask for a squash membership form.

Hockey: This part of the Club continues to be active over the summer with: ● three summer league teams ● several junior coaching sessions ● social hockey (age 13 upward) every Thursday evening (7:30pm, £3 per player)

The main hockey season kicks off again in September and the Club day is on 12th September. For **more details** please check out the website (www.hamptonhockey.org.uk) nearer the date.

STOP PRESS – CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING

Solihull Council will be re-surfacing the Solihull Road and High Street commencing on Wednesday 19th August 2015. The road will need to be closed and it has been decided that night working will take fewer days and be less disruptive. Work will take two nights between the hours of 7.00pm and 6.00am.

As there are extensive sewer and service connections to be made at the old 'Ring of Bells' Garage works will **start** between this development and the sharp bend at the junction with Marsh Lane terminating at the Railway Bridge. Due to proposed

work along Meriden Road by Severn Trent Water work here will be **delayed** until the mains are complete.

During the **first nights work**, residents from the Marsh Lane area will be able to enter or leave via Fentham Road. It is planned to resurface the section between The Ring of Bells and The Lodge on the first night. This will then allow residents to access Marsh Lane directly from the High Street on the **second night**.

If you have any questions or queries please contact the Highway Matters team at Solihull Council on 0121 704 8004.

SPEAK TO YOU IN NOVEMBER

Thank you as always, to all our contributors including Parish Councillors and others, and to the volunteers who deliver this Newsletter to every home in the Parish.

If you would like to receive more frequent updates and news as it occurs please e-mail our lovely Parish Clerk Julie (clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk) with a copy of your e-mail address. You will then be added to our distribution list.

Dates For Your Diary:

- the Hampton-in-Arden Society is holding a talk on **"Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas – Lichfield Examples"** on **Tuesday 8th September at 7.30pm** in the Arden Room. Everyone is welcome to attend.
 - the next **Parish Council Meeting** is being held on the **9th September 2015 at 7.30pm** at the Parish Office. Members of the public are welcome to attend so please feel free to come along - we'd love to see you!
- WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE REST OF THE SUMMER!**