

Parish News - February 2016

HELLO AGAIN

In this first edition of 2016 we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Recreation Ground, the success of the bulb planting carried out before Christmas and the future installation of two all weather table tennis tables! There are some important planning and HS2 updates, news about plans for improved station access and changes to local policing.

Finally, the Probus Club are looking to recruit new members and the Library are trying out some new ventures – read on for details!



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE SCHOOL GOVERNORS TEAM?

Vacancy: Clerk to Governing Body of George Fentham School

If interested please contact the school: 01675 442800

VACANCY

SANTA'S VISIT TO HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN

Santa visited Hampton just before Christmas, much to the delight of local youngsters - and older people. His brightly-lit, motorised sleigh (no reindeer were available to pull it) toured roads in the village over two nights to bring seasonal cheer to residents and help put them in a festive mood.

The event was organised by Meriden Rotary Club, which through a collection by volunteers, raised around £450 for a number of charities including Acorns Children's Hospice and Marie Curie. Well done, Hampton!

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN RECREATION GROUND - 50TH ANNIVERSARY!

In 1965 Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council created the Recreation Ground in Shadowbrook Lane to be freely used by residents of the village. The area is a great asset for the village and together with the car park is maintained by the Parish Council on your behalf. The grounds including the Spinney, the Under 7's Play Area and the Outdoor Gym equipment are available for anyone to enjoy.

The Sports Club and Tennis Courts, the Astro Hockey Pitch and the Scout and Guide Hut are sited on Parish Council land and an annual rent is paid to the Council.

The Recreation Ground leads to the Fentham Trust Park, woodland, wildflower meadow and arboretum. Many residents walk their dogs in this area and bags and bins for dog waste are provided by the Parish Council.

This really is a lovely part of the village and if you haven't explored the area please consider doing so when the spring weather arrives!

BULB PLANTING

We would like to extend a big **thank you** to everyone who helped plant spring bulbs around the village before Christmas. The bulbs were provided by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and will provide a cheerful display in the coming months.



Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

IN LOVING MEMORY – GEORGE GOODALL

It was with great sadness and shock that we recently learnt of the untimely death of George Goodall.

Many in the village feel considerable gratitude for the great service which George has given over many years, through both the Parish Council (George was a Parish Councillor and Chair of the Council between 1981 and 1983) and the Hampton Society (he was Chair, and recently elected

as President, of the Society). George's expertise was in planning and he provided excellent and invaluable advice to the Council and Society over many years.

George will be greatly missed, not only for his professional opinion, but also for his wry humour and for his company when attending various planning related meetings.

HS2 UPDATE

The Parish Council and Hampton Society will have addressed the Commons Select Committee on 27th January 2016. We are objecting to Additional Provision 2 (the plan to realign and rebuild Diddington Lane) which we feel would become a through route via the village to the new Interchange Station. We are also objecting to Additional Provision 4 (the plan by Solihull and HS2 to re-locate the Waste Recycling Centre to the field at the top of Diddington Lane, with access off A45). We understand that Packington Estates have also petitioned against the re-siting of the Waste Centre. We also continue to address issues concerning spoil dumps, work camps and haul routes.

Note: Our address to the Select Committee will be available to view on the Parliamentary website and the transcript available the next day.

At the time of writing we have no news on the outcome on the 'Caroline Spelman' Petition calling for Diddington Lane to become a 'Green Route'. This petition was signed by 746 villagers and deposited across the floor of the House of Commons in October 2015.

As always we will keep you updated on our progress.

CHANGES TO LOCAL POLICING

In late December 2015 the Parish Council and the village Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators met with representatives of West Midlands Police for a briefing concerning changes to local policing going forward to 2020.

Police objectives are to reduce crime, provide a satisfactory response and protect the vulnerable. However with a 20% reduction in funding, for each of the last 2 years, calls are triaged to protect the most vulnerable against the greatest harm first. A total of 90% of 999 calls receive a response within 15 minutes by dedicated rapid response teams. In the future officers will be provided with portable computers

in order to remain out and about within the community whilst completing reports.

The police are having to work in more efficient ways to deal with the cut in funding and as part of these changes it is intended to promote the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) scheme in partnership with the Neighbourhood policing team. It is hoped that the flow of information to the NHW coordinators and onwards to residents will also be improved. If you would like to establish a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in your area of the village please contact our friendly Parish Council Clerk, Julie Richardson (01675 442017)



STATION ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PLANS

In November 2015 the Parish Council met with Steven Fisher, the Head of Regional services at London Midland to discuss access improvements at the train station. Steven confirmed that they will be implementing a scheme before the end of March 2016 to leave the ticket office area open 24/7 as a through route to improve access to and from the Birmingham bound platform. The scheme will include improved security measures for the ticket counter and construction of a small access ramp to the office door. London Midland have also committed to install a modern ticket machine in place of the outdated permit to travel machine.



There is still the big issue of platform access and we continue to press for funding for a ramp through the 'access for all' scheme. We are told that passengers number estimates are insufficient to be a priority. However, with a new franchise awarded December, meeting with London Midland again shortly to further press this issue and other concerns around the station.

We will let you know how we get on.

RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPORTS CLUB

Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club is in need of major structural renovation and the Club hopes to work towards building a new club house, possibly with a 20 m swimming pool.

The Parish Council, as land lord, are supportive of the plans which would provide a great asset for the village but must

be satisfied concerning the sustainability of any plans. A recent survey received 229 responses the majority of which were in favour of the scheme in principle.

If you would like any further information about the renovation plans please check out their facebook page: www.facebook.com/hampton.club.3?fref=ts

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

A total of 64 statutory and non-statutory bodies and local businesses were invited to comment on the Pre-Submission Draft of our Neighbourhood Plan together with all residents of the Parish.

Representations from local residents were, on the whole, very positive and included many complimentary comments. Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond. Representations from Consultation Bodies provided a range of constructive comments many of which have been

accepted by the Working Group in further amendments to the Plan. The final **Submission Draft** document has now been approved for submission to Solihull Council.

The next stages are for Solihull Council to check that our Plan meets the necessary requirements, to carry out a further six week consultation period and to then appoint an independent examiner.

We will bring you a further update on the progress of our Neighbourhood Plan in the next Newsletter.

AIRPORT UPDATE

In the last Newsletter we informed you that the Airport Company was expecting a decision from the Civil Aviation Authority (by 20th November 2015) following its submission of their proposals for changes to the departure route for aircraft taking off on Runway 15. However at the time of writing no decision had been received and there has been no indication of when this is likely to be.

The Airport Company has confirmed that work continues to

resolve the issue of some aircraft turning over the village to fly north and has said that revised routing should be operational by April.

Community updates on matters relating to aircraft departures issued by the Airport can be found by logging on to the following website:

<https://birminghamairport.co.uk/aboutus/community-and-environment/flight-path-changes/>

PLANNING UPDATE

M42 Motorway Services, Catherine-de-Barnes: Following significant comments by Highways England this application has been deferred until March 2016. However the applicants have submitted further information in response to the many local and statutory services objections. This includes additional information on access, environment and ecology.

Travellers Site, Shadowbrook Lane: A New Appeal Hearing date is still awaited.

Fat Fluffs Rabbit Rescue and Boarding Centre, Diddington Lane: One year on from initial approval, the Parish Council is still pressing for information from Solihull

Council on the Conditions to be imposed, including numbers, fencing and visitor and parking restrictions.

Dogs Home, Catherine-de-Barnes Lane: The developers have now seeded the 'Green Roof' and given apologies for its late completion.

Solihull Local Plan – Review: Solihull is conducting a review of its local plan and the Borough housing requirements over the next decade. All documents and a call for comment are available on the Solihull Council website: (<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/About-the-Council/Consultations/currentconsultations/ArtMID/9878/ArticleID/999/Solihull-Local-Plan-Review>)

'PING-IT' TABLE TENNIS TABLES

The Parish Council have recently been awarded £6,000 from The Lottery Fund to install two all-weather table tennis tables at the Recreation Ground. The tables will be available for anyone to use. One will be located behind the Sports Club and one will be located by the Scout and Guide Hut. The grant also covers a certain amount of coaching and equipment.

We hope to have the tables in place for the spring. Watch this space!



PROBUS CLUB

Hampton-in-Arden Probus Club is looking to recruit more members. The Club exists primarily to provide fellowship for retired or semi-retired professional and business men and holds monthly meetings at Fentham Hall, with talks on a wide variety of subjects. Recent talks have been on the development of the English language and growing

Bonsai trees. In addition, the club offers a range of sports and social activities, including outings to places of interest.

If you are interested in joining Probus please contact Geoff Dunbar on 01675 442473



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM HAMPTON LIBRARY!

New Ventures for 2016

This year at Hampton Library we would like to try some new ventures:

- Our first idea is to find out if people in the village would enjoy a knit and natter/ craft and natter group. The library will provide the venue and refreshments for the group to meet. The group would provide an informal meeting for like-minded people to gather and bring what they are working on (be it knitting, crochet, felting, cross stitch), exchange ideas and techniques in a very informal way and would be for socialising as well as a learning experience.
- Our second idea has involved talking to Solihull Active about starting a Hampton Striders and Strollers group, led by a trained volunteer. The group would meet at the Library before the walk and then afterwards to enjoy a chat and refreshments.

Please contact Hampton Library (01675 442629) if you are interested in the Knit & Natter Group or Striders and Strollers.

Free Computer Resources

You may not know that we are also able to offer free computer access and resources. Did you know that you can access a wide range of resources free of charge from any computer or tablet with an internet connection, using the 24 hour Virtual Library? Find out how at one of our drop-in sessions at Hampton Library:

- **E-Magazines and E-Newspapers:** Friday 11th March 2pm to 4pm;
- **Homework Resources:** Tuesday 15th March 3.30pm to 5.30pm; and,
- **E-Books:** Friday 18th March 2pm to 4pm.

Please register your interest for these sessions by calling us on: 01675 442629.

World Book Night

Finally, in the last newsletter we mentioned World Book Night which takes place in April. Our celebration for this will be on **Tuesday 26th April** with book chat, book giveaways and refreshments so save the date!

SUPERFAST BROADBAND

The Parish Council is aware of residents' concerns about the continued lack of availability of superfast broadband.

Solihull Council has, at our request, agreed that Hampton-in-Arden is to be prioritised within the next phase of the national broadband roll out programme. Unfortunately this next phase will not be announced until April 2016 with the

works due to be undertaken in 2017.

We envisage the works will be programmed based on **demand for the service**. Therefore if you are interested in receiving Superfast Broadband to help ensure we are considered please can you **register your interest** at either www.superfast-openreach.co.uk or www.cswbroadband.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **12th February, 7.30pm: Hampton Probus Club - Black Country Evening at Fentham Hall.** Entertainment from a comedy duo - called Dandy - and a traditional Black Country supper of faggots, mash, peas and gravy. Bar until 11.30pm. Tickets cost £10 (available at the Post Office, Corner Shop and from some Probus people including Ken Blanch - 01675 442762).
- **9th March, 7.30pm: Parish Council Meeting.** To be held in the George Fentham Meeting Room. The public (and press) are welcome at this meeting - please do come

along and express any concerns you have or just to see what we do.

- **12th April, 8pm (refreshments served from 7.30pm): Parish Council Annual Meeting.** To be held in Fentham Hall. The purpose of our annual meeting is to review work of Council within the last 12 months, to present our Annual Report and to allow members of the public to ask any questions that they may have. Please come and join us - refreshments are provided!

ENJOY THE SPRING WEATHER AND WE WILL SPEAK TO YOU IN MAY!

We wish all our Parishioners a belated Happy New Year! And, as always, we would like to thank all the contributors to the Newsletter and the volunteers who deliver it to all the homes in the Parish.