

Parish News - November 2016

HELLO AGAIN

Well, it is November already and we are fast approaching the Christmas season! In this edition of the Newsletter we say thank you to two valued members of the village community (Gill Lewis and Reverend Duncan Ballard), welcome a new Parish Councillor and let you know when Santa's sleigh will be visiting the village. As ever, we have included up to date information about key issues affecting the Parish including HS2, planning, the airport, broadband and important dates for your diary. Thank you for reading!



TRIBUTE TO GILL LEWIS

As some of you may be aware, well known and long term village resident Gill Lewis has, unfortunately, had to resign from the Parish Council due to unforeseen family circumstances.

Gill has been a member of the Parish Council since 2003 and has been Chair since 2008. During this time she has worked tirelessly on many issues affecting residents of the Parish.

Gill has been particularly involved with HS2 and has appeared twice before Parliamentary committees to represent local opinions and concerns.



The Parish Council wishes to record its appreciation of everything Gill has done on behalf of the village and residents of the Parish.

PLANNING UPDATE

Catherine-de-Barnes Motorway Service Area (MSA):
There have been further delays to any decision on the MSA planning application. Solihull MBC are awaiting a response from Highways England (regarding impacts on the M42 and local junctions). We do not expect any decision **before January 2017.**

Shadowbrook Lane Traveller Site Public Enquiry:
The planned Public Enquiry re-scheduled for July 2016 was again postponed. This is now scheduled for **November**

29th at The George Hotel in Solihull town centre and is expected to last for four days. The Parish Council website will be updated with details and any outcomes.

- Interested persons may attend or be represented and may give their views if allowed (at the Inspectors discretion). However, members of the public are advised to contact Solihull MBC on 0121 704 8082 should they wish to attend as numbers may well be restricted due to room size.

HS2 UPDATE

Following our address to the House of Lords Select Committee in July 2016 we are still awaiting any outcome. The decision on Diddington Lane closure has effectively been referred back to Solihull MBC, as has the re-siting of the Municipal Waste Tip. There has been no feedback from Solihull MBC to date.

For those of you who signed the 742-signature Caroline Spelman 'Green Route' Petition to the Lords, we understand that it is still **held up** by a legal and procedural challenge.

HS2 Ground Investigations:

You may have noticed ground investigation and testing works going on in fields along the planned HS2 route (particularly along Diddington Lane). This is not construction (which still awaits Royal assent) but are preparatory works allowed under a Ministerial Works Order. Contractors are legally bound to leave any site (or road access) as they found it. **Please do alert us if you see anything untoward.**



Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2016: ROAD CLOSURES

We want to remind residents and businesses that access through the village via High Street/ Meriden Road and around the Village Green will again be severely restricted due to the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service at the War Memorial on Sunday 13th November.

Please also remember to advise your visitors that access will be restricted from **10.30am until 12.00pm** to allow a safe passage for the Parade and its dispersal after the service. Notices and road signs will be displayed throughout the previous week.



RT. HON. CAROLINE SPELMAN MP TALK ABOUT "HAMPTON TOWARDS 2028"

The Hampton Society organised for the Rt. Hon. Dame Caroline Spelman MP to speak at Fentham Hall on September 8th 2016 on "Hampton towards 2028". The evening was a great success and Dame Caroline spoke about a large number of topics. She spoke about HS2 where she acknowledged the widespread opposition to the scheme (not least from some of her own constituents!) but she said it was vital, in order to improve the infrastructure of the West Midlands and help boost its economy.

She also spoke about the devolution of power from national and regional government to local communities and advised people who wanted to have a hand in shaping the future of their village to use all the means available, principally the Neighbourhood Plan. During her talk she also touched on housing supply, our ageing society and fielded a number of questions from the floor on subjects ranging from public transport to road safety.

AIRPORT UPDATE

In April 2016 the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) announced its decision supporting Birmingham Airport's Airspace Change Proposal for 'Option 6' to become the permanent flight path for aircraft taking off to the south of Birmingham Airport. Since then, Birmingham Airport has been working to resolve a number of issues which originated either from

the CAA's decision, or from the work they have been undertaking in conjunction with the Airspace Stakeholder Forum.

The latest information on flight path changes can be read on-line at: <https://www.birminghamairport.co.uk/media/3326/august-2016-v2pub.pdf>

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PRE- SCHOOL – PLACES AVAILABLE

Let your children learn, develop and explore in a caring, educational and fun-packed environment! Run by highly qualified, experienced and caring staff.

- From age 2 to school age (with free sessions for qualifying 2 and 3 year olds);
- Sessions run from 9.15am to 12.15pm every Monday to Friday during term time;
- Located at the Scout and Guide Headquarters, Shadowbrook Lane, Hampton-in-Arden, B92 0DQ



For more information please contact Nicola Stocks on 07527 006386 or email hiapreschool@gmail.com

BROADBAND UPDATE

You may recall our August newsletter announced that Superfast Broadband would soon be available in the Parish. However, whilst we are pleased to confirm Superfast Broadband will soon be available, we are sorry to have to tell everyone this will be to a very limited number of (and yet to be defined) properties.

Solihull MBC, as part of their commitment to improve Broadband provisions, agreed to allocate funding to upgrade our telephone exchange for Superfast Broadband as part of their joint initiative with Coventry and Warwickshire Councils (set up to improve the provision of Superfast Broadband to rural communities). Whilst this funding was very much welcomed, it transpires this was only enough to upgrade two of the nine cabinets at the exchange (CMHAMP1 and CMHAMP6), meaning the remaining seven will need to wait for further funding to become available. **Residents can check which cabinet they are connected to by visiting**

www.dslchecker.bt.com and entering their landline number.

We are also told that even if a property is connected to an upgraded cabinet that doesn't guarantee the property will be able to benefit from Superfast Broadband (due to the type or age of the phone line connection potentially not being compatible).

Ultimately despite Government and Local Councils announcements about being committed to extending Superfast Broadband the roll out is commercially driven and if we are to secure funding then we need to show there is sufficient demand to make it commercially viable for BT. The best way of showing this demand is to register your interest with them or CSW Broadband. We will also be contacting Solihull MBC to request further funding is made available through the CSW programme. We suggest concerned residents contact their local Solihull MBC Councillors to do the same.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR – VICKY WOODALL

Vicky Woodall was co-opted to the Parish Council in September 2016. She has been a village resident for the past eight years and has two young sons at George Fentham School. She is involved in a number of community groups and is chair of the Hampton in Arden HS2 Action Group. As part of this she has spoken before the Solihull HS2 Working Party, the House of Commons High Speed Rail Bill Select

Committee and the House of Lords High Speed Rail Bill Select Committee.

We are delighted to have Vicky as a member of the Council and look forward to working with her going forward.



UPDATE ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The final public consultation on our Neighbourhood Plan carried out by Solihull Council ended on 30th September 2016 and the comments received will be carefully considered.

The next stage is an Examination of the Plan by a suitably qualified person who will be independent of both Solihull

Council and the Parish Council. When this examination has been completed a Parish wide referendum will be held and if the Plan is approved by a simple majority of those voting the Plan will be adopted, will sit alongside the revised Solihull Local Plan and will influence future developments in the area until 2028.

A FOND FAREWELL TO OUR MUCH LOVED REVEREND

Hampton's vicar, the Reverend Duncan Ballard, is off to pastures new. He is to become the Rector of the Ashbourne group of parishes in Derbyshire and Area Dean of Carsington, and will leave the village in December.

He arrived at St Mary and St Bartholomew Church in Hampton nearly six years ago, having moved from a Parish in Worcester. He also took responsibility for two neighbouring Parishes, Bickenhill and Barston, and was made Area Dean of Solihull. In addition, he has served as senior chaplain at Birmingham Airport.

When he leaves Hampton, Duncan will have the satisfaction of knowing that during his time here, congregations at services at Hampton Church have doubled - from around 60 to 120 - and weddings and baptisms' numbers are up. He told the Newsletter he was very happy with this. He also said he was sorry to leave Hampton, where he had enjoyed the love and support of so many local people - but he thought it was time to move on.

Services at Hampton Church after Duncan leaves will be conducted by the serving assistant priest, the Reverend Anne Hinks, with the help of others. The interregnum before a new incumbent is put in place is expected to last several months.

SANTA'S SLEIGH IS COMING TO HAMPTON

Thanks to Meriden Rotary Club, Santa will again be visiting Hampton-in-Arden in the run-up to Christmas this year. His motorised sleigh will tour roads in the village on two evenings, December 14th and 15th. The sleigh will be brightly lit and there'll be plenty of cheery seasonal music to accompany its journey - so you can't possibly miss it!

As the sleigh travels on its merry way, Santa's little helpers will be knocking on doors asking for donations to charity. Two

Birmingham-based charities for the homeless, St Basil's and Sifa Fireside, have been chosen to benefit this year. The Rotarians are hoping to beat the total they raised in 2015, which was around £400, so please give generously for a good cause.



Please visit the Parish Council website or Facebook page for more details of where and when the Sleigh will be around the village.

HAMPTON SOCIETY NEWS

The Hampton-in-Arden Society continues to work hard to support the residents of our beautiful village, working in partnership with the Parish Council to minimise negative impacts of HS2, inappropriate planning developments and the airport. The Society was pleased to see so many residents at both the cheese and wine in June 2016 and the talk by the Rt. Hon. Dame Caroline Spelman MP in September 2016.

The Society now has a website where residents can get information on forthcoming events:

www.hamptoninardensociety.org

The Society also has a revised version of our Constitution which we hope will be approved by our members at a Special General Meeting in the New Year. A letter will be delivered to residents in the New Year updating everyone on our activities and asking for continued support. This letter will also give further detail about the new Constitution.



SPORTS CLUB – HOCKEY UPDATE

The hockey section has been taking a break over the summer from the official hockey season but with two ladies and two mens teams in summer hockey leagues, and the very popular Thursday night knockabouts, it's still been very busy both on the field and in the bar.

We did see a number of our members representing their countries at Masters level with Jean Scott-Miller winning gold for England in the Over 60s and Andrew Scoular winning Silver for Scotland in the Over 50s in Australia. Of course the whole

club was supporting our Olympians with the GB Womens' Gold Medal giving a great boost to the game, creating an upsurge in members for the upcoming season.

We are looking forward to another great season with five Mens and four Ladies teams, along with plenty of opportunities for 100+ juniors.

Everyone welcome at all ages and abilities – visit the Sports Club for more information.

VOTING BOUNDARIES ARE SET TO BE DRASTICALLY CHANGED FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION IN 2020

The Boundary Commission has called for comments on initial proposals for major changes to the boundaries of the Meriden Constituency where the sitting MP is Dame Caroline Spelman.

Hampton-in-Arden, Catherine-de-Barnes and Barston could become part of the new constituency of Chelmsley Wood and Solihull North, which would also include the Elmdon and Lyndon Wards of the current Solihull constituency and

the Birmingham city ward of Sheldon. The Commission is also suggesting that Knowle, Meriden and Balsall Common should become part of a new Coventry West and Meriden Constituency.

You can find information about what is being proposed and make comments on line at www.bce2018.org.uk (follow the link 'West Midlands Initial proposal report').

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The Hampton-in-Arden Local History Group was formed in 1992 with the aim of promoting the interests of local history within the local community. We hold a large archive of artefacts and records relating to the village and are always seeking to add to the collection. In time we intend to publish an online catalogue of what we hold. In the meantime, we are happy to answer queries and to allow access to the collection by appointment.

Do not hesitate to get in touch if you have

- any questions relating to the history of the village;
- any historical knowledge you wish to share;
- any artefacts to donate; and/or,
- would like to join the group or would like to just express an interest.

If you would like to be kept informed of the group's activities we will be pleased to add your email address to our mailing list. Email: hamptonhistory@gmx.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4th November (10am to 12.30pm): Public Consultation Meeting at Hampton Library - Have your say on what you want from your local library

4th November / 18th November / 2nd December / 16th December (1.30pm to 3pm): Knit, Natter and Craft at Hampton Library

8th November / 22nd November (1.45pm to 2.15pm): Under 5s Story time at Hampton Library

9th November (7.30pm): Parish Council Meeting - George Fentham Meeting Room

13th December (10am to 12pm and 2pm to 4pm): Christmas Charity Coffee Morning at Hampton Library

18th January 2017 (7.30pm): Parish Council Meeting - George Fentham Meeting Room

THANK YOU FOR READING AND WE WILL SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN IN FEBRUARY

As always, thank you to all the contributors to the newsletter and the volunteers who deliver it to each household in the Parish. We would like to wish everyone the best for the Christmas season and a very happy new year.

And... don't forget to check out our website for up to date information between Newsletters (www.hamptoninarden.org.uk)