

Parish News - February 2017

HELLO AGAIN

Spring is not too long around the corner and we are sure that Parishioners are all looking forward to some spring flowers and warmer weather! This February edition of the Newsletter includes updates on the key issues in the Parish including HS2, the Neighbourhood Plan, the airport and planning. We also have details of how to give your feedback on the Revised Solihull Local Plan and the new Bus Service 89 (the service that replaced the Taxi Bus). You can have your say – please be sure to make your thoughts known on these two important issues!



We also give thanks to our Parish Clerk, Julie Richardson, who will be leaving the Council very soon.

And lastly do you know who to report a power cut to? And who to contact if you spot dog fouling on a pavement or fly tipping on public land? If not, read on....

A FOND FAREWELL TO JULIE RICHARDSON

The Parish Council has, with regret, accepted the resignation of Julie, who has been its Clerk for the past six years. Julie will continue as Clerk to the Trustees of the George Fentham Trust. The Council sincerely thanks Julie for her hard work, cheerful disposition and the support she has given to Councillors and residents during her time as Clerk.

Breaking News! At the time of writing the Parish Council

has just appointed a new Parish Clerk – Julie Barnes. We are excited to start working with Julie and are sure that all our Parishioners will make her feel very welcome. More details about Julie and her office hours will follow shortly on our website and in the May Newsletter. **Watch this space!**



PLANNING UPDATE

- **Motorway Service Areas:** a decision on the MSA at Solihull Road, and the alternative application at Junction 4, are still awaited-Highways England have again postponed a view until mid February, after which Solihull Council will determine each application.
- **Shadowbrook Lane Traveller Site Public Enquiry:** This Enquiry finally took place in December 2016 and the Inspectors report is expected shortly.
- **M42 Junction 6 improvements:** The Consultation process completed by Highways England has produced three 'preferred options' for the improvement of Junction 6 of the M42. These three options typically traverse land from just north of Solihull Road (at the location of the proposed Motorway Service Area at Catherine-de-Barnes) and under Catherine de Barnes Lane to the Clock island. Public consultation ended on the 27th January 2017. However the Parish Council continues to meet with Highways England, Catherine de Barnes Residents Association and MP Dame Caroline Spelman to establish a preferred route. For more information please visit <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m42-junction-6-improvement/>

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN FESTIVAL – SAVE THE DATE

We can reveal that this year's festival will be taking place between the 30th June and 2nd July 2017.

Make sure to keep that weekend free to come and

take part in all the festivities!

More information on the weekends events will follow in our May edition of the Newsletter.

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

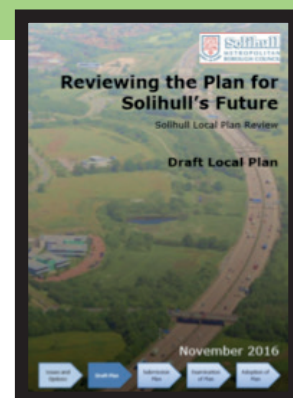
SOLIHULL LOCAL PLAN REVIEW – HAVE YOUR SAY

The Consultation period on the revised Plan has been extended and now closes on 17th February 2017. This is your chance to tell Solihull MBC your thoughts on the Plan which includes prospective housing sites in the Borough to 2033. This includes one site for approximately 100 homes in Hampton in Arden (at Lapwing Drive/Meriden Road and includes the Arden Woodshavings site).

The Parish Council has had several meetings with Solihull officers and the owners and prospective developers to try to ensure a coherent, integrated approach to development of the whole site in keeping with the ambience of the village and to include significant open space.

The Revised Local Plan also includes up to 1,000 homes at Balsall Common and at Knowle, and up to 650 homes at Damson Lane/Lugtrout Lane on the western edge of Catherine de Barnes village. Both the Parish Council and Catherine de Barnes Residents Association have expressed concern at the scale of this development.

For more information and to register your feedback online please visit www.solihull.gov.uk/lpr



UPDATE ON THE TAXI BUS AND BUS SERVICE 89

As readers are likely to be aware, the Taxi bus service has been replaced by the new 89 bus service. Many Parishioners agree that this is no substitute for the original Taxibus service, especially for the immobile members of our community.

The Parish Council have been in discussions with Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) and have requested the extension of the Ring and Ride service enjoyed by the remainder of the Borough to include Hampton-in-Arden. A representative for TfWM has advised us that a “form of words” is being put together explaining why this service cannot be extended to Hampton-in-Arden but after a month or so of asking this letter has still not been received. During the last meeting several alternatives have been introduced into

the discussion, including a volunteer community transport scheme, which is being investigated.

Consultation on Service 89

TfWM are consulting on two options for Bus 89

and the smaller feeder bus that serve our area. This is our opportunity to feedback on the service. **The consultation ends Friday 10th February 2017.**

More information on the consultation can be found at www.networkwestmidlands.com/89



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **1st March (7.30pm):** Hampton-in-Arden Society - Special General Meeting and ‘HS2 – What, When and How’ at Fenthams Hall
- **8th March (7.30pm):** Parish Council Meeting – George Fenthams Meeting Room
- **9th March / 23rd March (9am):** Hampton-in-Arden Society Conservation Group Meeting. Meet in the Recreation Ground Car Park
- **4th April (7.30pm):** Parish Council Annual Meeting – Fenthams Hall

NEW YEARS HONOURS

Congratulations go to two deserving recipients:

- **Peter Adams, MBE:** Over many years Peter has made a significant contribution to the welfare of the village via the Sports Club, Parish Council and, in particular, as a long time Trustee and former Chair of the George Fenthams Trust. **Many congratulations, Peter!**
- **Bob Sleigh, OBE (one of our Ward Councillors and Leader of Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council):** The Parish Council have seen the benefits our Village has received from the leadership which Bob gave, and is still giving. **Many congratulations, Bob!**

NEWS FROM THE HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SOCIETY

By now all residents will have received the Society's programme of events for 2017 and information about the household donations that allow the Society to continue its good work on behalf of the village. You will also know that the Society has a website and Facebook page. Why not pop to the website (www.hamptoninardensociety.org) and sign up to be on the mailing list to get event reminders and other useful Society information.

The Society hopes that many of you will come to the event on Wednesday 1st March at 7.30pm in the Fenthams Hall for a talk entitled “HS2: What, When and How”. This is a presentation on HS2, how it will affect Hampton-in-Arden

and a timeline of work to be carried out. It will include a question and answer session with Victoria Woodall, John Doidge, Ken Blanch and a representative from HS2 Limited. The event will be preceded by a brief Special General Meeting to consider the Society's proposed new constitution which can be found on the website.



Also, put the details of the Society's annual social in your diary which will be a Village Quiz at 7.30pm on Friday 9th June.

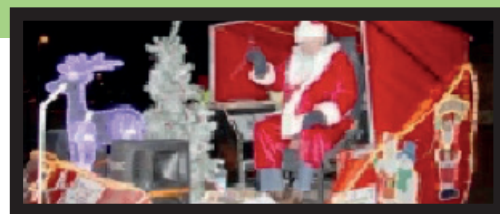
SANTA CAME TO TOWN... WELL, HAMPTON!

Santa dropped into Hampton-in-Arden just before Christmas to spread seasonal cheer - and raise money for charity. His motorised sleigh toured village roads on two nights in December and gave us the sound of some of the traditional carols.

Meanwhile, Santa's little helpers banged on doors, asking for donations to two Birmingham-based charities for the homeless that the organisers, Meriden Rotary Club, had

allocated this year: St Basil's and SIFA Fireside. They raised a superb £788, almost double the previous year's amount.

Well done, the Rotary volunteers and Hampton people!



HS2 UPDATE

The Parish Council continue to lobby for mitigation but await any news from Solihull MBC on the relocation of the Municipal Waste Recycling Centre and the closure or effective traffic calming of Diddington Lane.

We have submitted a detailed plan for **Traffic Calming** through the village. Furthermore, following the major accident on Meriden Road in November we met with Solihull Highways to seek urgent action. We shall continue

to press on this with our colleagues on the Hampton Society and Hampton HS2 Action Group.

MP Dame Caroline Spelman helped to secure a meeting of a number of your Parish Councillors with a senior University researcher who is developing an **environment/ecology improvement plan** for the Tame and Blythe valleys which could secure HS2 funding if adopted by Solihull MBC. We shall bring more news of this and any funding bids as soon as known.

AIRPORT UPDATE

Birmingham Airport recorded its busiest year ever with over 11.6 million passengers passing through the airport in 2016. The busiest month was August with 1.3 million passengers and the claim is that numbers continue to increase month on month.

It is pleasing to know that recorded aircraft noise complaints have reduced significantly compared with this time last year and that the redesigned flight path for aircraft turning to fly north is now fully operational.

Residents may have noted that the daily Emirates A380 flight to Dubai, which is the world's largest passenger aircraft, is now arriving and departing in the evenings rather than at lunchtime to meet a greater demand.

SOLIHULL CONNECT – HOW TO REPORT FLY TIPPING AND DOG FOULING

As Parishioners will be aware there continues to be incidents of two anti-social behaviours within the village:

- dog fouling on pavements (particularly by George Fentham School); and,
- fly tipping (particularly along Diddington Lane, Shadowbrook Lane and at the bottom of Marsh Lane).

A meeting with Solihull MBC has confirmed that we can report these issues to Solihull Connect, who will then process and deal with the problem.



Please call 0121 704 6000 or 0121 704 8000 to ensure any incidents are recorded.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

- **Want to find out more about your ancestors?** Or maybe you've got so far and can't get any further with your family tree. Our Family History one to ones are available to help you. Please ring to arrange a day and time.
- **Storytime Dates:** Tuesdays at 1.45pm on 7th February, 21st February, 7th March, 21st March, 4th April and 18th April.
- **The Reading Zoo:** Fridays at 1.45pm. Our new initiative for under 5's - become a member and enjoy stories and painting to help make a zoo display for the library. 3rd February, 17th February, 3rd March, 17th March, 31st March, 14th April and 28th April.
- **Knit Natter and Craft:** Meets alternate Fridays at 1.30pm from 10th February.
- **Blind Date with a Book:** Taking place throughout the whole of February. Come and pick a book from our selection - the only difference is, you won't know what it is until you get it home and unwrap it.....! All books come highly recommended.
- **World Book Night 2017:** Our event will be held this year on **Tuesday 25th April**, so come along to the library and enjoy our coffee morning and book giveaway. Lots of book chat and maybe a surprise or two.
- **Coffee Morning:** Once a month on the first Tuesday of the month from now on (the first being 7th February).

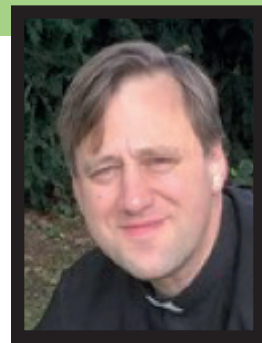
GOODBYE TO OUR MUCH LOVED REVEREND

Hampton parishioners bade a fond farewell in December to their vicar, the Reverend Duncan Ballard, and his wife Ellie who after nearly six years in the village left for Ashbourne in Derbyshire. In appreciation of their work here, they were presented with a substantial cash gift, a 12-month subscription to the National Trust and a watercolour of Hampton church painted by a local artist, the late Ray Parker.

Duncan not only served at St Mary and St Bartholomew Church in Hampton but also had responsibility for the neighbouring parishes of Bickenhill and Barston, and was senior chaplain at Birmingham Airport. He has taken up the

post of Rector of the Ashbourne group of parishes and Rural Dean of Carsington. Over 100 churchgoers from the three parishes travelled by car and coach to Ashbourne in January to attend the licensing ceremony and to witness Duncan Ballard's installation as Rector.

Hampton Parochial Church Council is currently in the process of selecting a successor to Duncan; this is likely to take some months. Our best wishes for the future go to Duncan and Ellie.



DO YOU KNOW WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A POWER CUT?

Many people don't know they should contact their local electricity network operator if they have a power cut. They often mistakenly call the electricity supplier they pay their bills to. That's why the electricity network operators have introduced 105 – to give you an easy-to-remember number to call that will put you through to the local people who can help. You can call 105 no matter who you choose to buy electricity from.

You can call 105 to report (or get information about) power cuts in your local area. It is free of charge and will put you through to your local network operator who can give you help and advice.

You can also call 105 if you spot damage to electricity power lines and substations that could put you, or someone else, in danger. If there's a serious immediate risk, you should call the emergency services too.

105 is a free service, available to people in England, Scotland and Wales.

You can call the number from most landlines and mobile phones.

For more details go to www.powercut105.com

**POWER CUT?
CALL 105**



UPDATE ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Progress with our Neighbourhood Plan has taken a major step forward with the appointment of Mr Andrew Matheson as the Independent Examiner.

Mr Matheson is an experienced Town Planner and has already examined a number of other Neighbourhood Plans. It is expected that the Examiners report will be available shortly so watch this space!

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

As always, thank you to all the contributors to the newsletter and the volunteers who deliver it to each household in the Parish.

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