

## Parish News - August 2019

### HELLO AGAIN

**W**hat a fantastic few months we have had in the village – the Village Tidy Up, the Festival and the Arden 9 Mile Road Race! We're sure it makes everyone appreciate what a great village we live in! In this edition there is up to date information on our pedestrian safety and traffic calming plans, a bit of history about Catherine-de-Barnes, planning news (including information on the Care Home in Catherine-de-Barnes and the Motorway Service Area on the M42) and Speed Watch.

***And.... Have You Noticed How Blooming Marvellous the Village is Looking?!***



Train travellers amongst you may have noticed that there are now an extra two planters on the Birmingham bound platform at the station either side of the covered waiting area. These were installed in June following discussions and agreement with West Midlands Trains and will be maintained by our local Gardening Club. Residents may also have noticed the planter located by the Recreation Ground. This was kindly planted by Jo Joyner who has also volunteered to maintain and water the bed. The Parish Council wishes to thank everyone involved in supporting these projects.

### VILLAGE FESTIVAL - 2019

**A**nother year, another successful Festival with fantastic weather all weekend! The festivities kicked off on Friday evening with a BBQ at the Sports Club, with the main event on Saturday which saw:

- stalls and stands representing many of the village clubs, societies and businesses;
- tea and cakes provided by the WI in the Scout and Guide hut;
- our annual car show with a selection of over 50 old and new cars including a fine selection of Aston Martins; and,
- the second village dog show, going from strength to strength, provided an opportunity for the increasing number of dog owners in the Village to show off their favourite family members.

The Saturday evening saw Soul Matters performing to a crowd of over 1500 culminating in a firework finale, kindly sponsored again by Hampton Manor.

The Sunday was no less busy with a quick tidy up in the morning, the outdoor church service led by Reverend

Stuart and then the big lunch (which included a number of our more senior citizens benefiting from the hospitality of The Fentham Trust). This year also saw the introduction of a Duck Race organised by the Cubs and Scouts – a very popular event that we're sure will become a regular feature of the Festival from now on.

**The Festival Committee would like to extend their thanks to all those who helped out, making the day as great as it was. A big thank you to all those who attended as well. Special thanks also go to The Sports Club for providing the Bar Facilities, The Corner Shop for providing the Saturday evening catering and Hampton Manor for providing the fireworks display.**

After a number of successful Festivals, the Committee have now built up a reserve fund which will not only provide financial security for future Festivals and will also allow us to offer small grants to village clubs and societies. The Festival Committee are also proposing to donate a sum towards the Parish Council Christmas lights appeal.

### AN EARLY REMINDER - REMEMBRANCE DAY: SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2019

**Please could all residents please note that road access through the village will be severely restricted due to the Remembrance Day Parade and Service at the War Memorial on Sunday 10th November.**

***The High Street, Meriden Road and around the Village Green will be closed to vehicular traffic between 10.30 am and 12 noon. Access to and from the Sports Club will only be permitted from Catherine-de-Barnes***

***Lane and Shadowbrook Lane west between these times. No access will be permitted from the High Street.***

Please also remember to advise any visitors that access will be restricted during the morning 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.



*Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council*

## PLANNING NEWS

- **Motorway Service Area Applications (2015/51409 Catherine de Barnes and 2016/02754 Junction 4 of M42):** Following a recent telephone conversation with the planning department at Solihull MBC we understand that these applications are not likely to be heard until the end of the year. We will keep you posted on any news when we receive it.
- **Care village at Oak Farm – Catherine de Barnes (2018/00781):** The appeal made following the application being refused last year has now been withdrawn. The applicant has since made a second application (2019/01215) which incorporates some changes to the height of the building bordering the roundabout at Catherine de Barnes Lane and increased landscaping mitigation. The Parish Council together with representatives of Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association have had further discussions with representatives of the applicant and secured increased parking and additional landscaping. The Parish Council and Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association have raised no objection to the latest application. We await the decision of Solihull MBC.
- **Meadow View Dismissal of Variation 1 to the planning approval (2019/01801/VAR):** The Parish Council have written to object to removing the variation on the grounds that any further development on this and adjoining sites contravenes Policy ENV1 – Green Belt of our adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- **Change of use from Grassland to Burial Ground at Woodhouse Farm (2019/01702):** This is the fourth application for a burial site on this piece of ground. Two applications have been refused and one has been withdrawn, the last application made in 2015 (2015/00273) being refused. The reasons for previous refusals can be viewed in full on the Solihull MBC planning website-(applications 2014/01982 and 2015/00273). At the time of writing the Parish Council were discussing this application with our Ward Councillors prior to reaching a decision and responding to Solihull MBC. However, the Parish Council feel there is sufficient capacity in local cemeteries, one of which, Widney Manor, has sufficient capacity for the next 20 years. **Please see the Hampton Parish website for the latest information.**

## OUR CHURCH HALL – IS A REFURBISHMENT IN THE PIPELINE?

**P**lans are afoot to either refurbish the Church Hall in Hampton-in-Arden or demolish it and rebuild. The present hall, a prefabricated structure, was erected in the 1960s and has exceeded its expected lifetime by some margin. But the building is relatively expensive to run because of energy wastage due to poor insulation and has been branded “ugly” by some locals.

The hall is used for church events and by community groups including the Gardening Club and Wine Society as well as for such activities as keep-fit classes. A consultation of villagers on the future of the hall has taken place and possible changes were displayed at the recent Hampton Festival. Most people who gave an opinion favoured a rebuild. This would probably cost up to £150,000. Helen Wood, a member of the Parochial Church Council who chairs a church project committee examining the options, told

the Newsletter. Refurbishment would be cheaper, around £70,000 perhaps, she said:

*“There is some room for extending the hall on its present site, but not much. One of our congregation is an architecture lecturer at Coventry University and she put her students to work on designs for a new-look hall. This has been very useful to us. The hall is a community meeting place and has the advantage of being less expensive to rent than other places in Hampton like the Fentham Hall. We had some 200 responses to our consultation which shows people care about it. Most wanted a new building and certainly something a bit better looking; some thought the present one is ugly. They have a point, bearing in mind the hall is next to a beautiful church with Norman origins. No final decision on what will happen will be made for some time yet.”*

## TRAFFIC CALMING AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY – A DECISION FROM HS2

**We are sad to report that HS2 Ltd has confirmed that our application to the Community Fund for traffic calming measures through the village has been unsuccessful. Whilst this is disappointing news all is not yet lost. HS2 have a Road Safety Fund which has been divided up between the various Local Authorities along the route and, in our case, will be managed by Solihull MBC. We will be holding meetings with Solihull MBC officers in the forthcoming weeks to discuss and agree the next steps. Watch this space!**

### Traffic and Parking

In June this year temporary automatic counters were installed at two sites in the village – on the High Street and Meriden Road. They recorded **traffic volumes** and **traffic speeds**, in both directions. These have now been removed. The Parish Council has received the results and they make

both interesting and alarming reading. Traffic flows are high at around 4,000 vehicles per day in each direction. **BUT** it is the recorded speeds that set the alarm bells ringing:

- on the High Street 48.7% of vehicles exceeded the speed limit;
- on Meriden Road this figure increased with 65.0% of vehicles exceeding the speed limit!

***If ever justification for speed watch and traffic calming is needed, we now have the evidence!***

With the high traffic volumes (and speeds) through the village, there is now a greater need to clamp down on illegal and inappropriate parking. With this in mind the Parish Council will be holding discussions with the police to agree future actions (such as the issuing of warning notices to offenders). Keep checking our website for up to date information.

## CATHERINE DE BARNES – A BIT OF HISTORY... THE VILLAGE HALL

**O**ne of the most prominent features of Catherine-de-Barnes is the Village Hall, as it is generally known locally. But it has had a much more varied history than the name would suggest. A clue as to its past is provided by the bell tower on the building in Hampton Lane. It was built as a school and church 140 years ago by the local squire, Joseph Gillott of Berry Hall, who wanted local people, many of whom worked for him or lived on his land, to have their own place of worship and for their children to have a local elementary school rather than having to travel to either Hampton-in-Arden or Solihull.

The main hall served as a classroom during weekdays for two classes as well as being effectively the nave for the church (or more precisely, chapel) on Sunday. There was a separate room for the use of school staff. Church of England Sunday services were held at St Catherine's, as it was called, during the end of the Victorian era and throughout the 20th

century. During World War I between 1914 to 1918, special services were held, including some to commemorate the fallen. There is an unusual war memorial inside the building, a carved oak font with brass plaques recording the names of village men who lost their lives in the two world wars, 23 in all (quite a lot for a small community like Catney).

The school was closed in 1974 and local youngsters now attend Yew Tree in Solihull. Regular religious services ceased some years ago and the hall, which is now run by a group of local trustees, today hosts a variety of activities, ranging from residents' association meetings to keep-fit classes.



## SPEED WATCH IN HAMPTON – UP AND RUNNING!

**A** Speed Watch on site training session took place on Saturday 22nd June when seven volunteers attended together with two Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's). The session lasted under an hour when four vehicles were seen to be in excess of 34 mph and one over 40 mph.

We now have to rely on the availability of our Neighbourhood PCSO to carry out further sessions and his intention is to hold two sessions per month. Your Parish Councillors consider this to be inadequate and believe that two sessions per week would be more acceptable. It is now essential to have a police presence at all Speed Watch sessions which, due to operational requirements will, inevitably, restrict what is seen as an excellent deterrent to speeding traffic. We will continue to work with the PCSO's to ensure that Speed Watch picks up momentum!

***There is currently no Speed Watch team for Catherine-de-Barnes where there are speed issues along Hampton Lane and Lugtrout Lane. Anyone willing to volunteer is asked to contact Julie, our Parish Clerk.***



## THE VILLAGE TIDY UP

**O**n 23rd June we carried out our annual Village Tidy Up. We had a group of dedicated volunteers who worked hard to collect plenty of rubbish from around the village. A big thank you to everyone who took part – and to Solihull MBC for supporting the event by providing equipment and collecting the rubbish at the end!

Our local Beavers group also carried out a mini Village Tidy Up at the Recreation Ground – they spent about an hour collecting litter and they did a fantastic job! Thank you to our young litter collectors for their efforts!



## NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PARISH COUNCIL?

The Parish Council's website ([www.hamptoninarden.org.uk](http://www.hamptoninarden.org.uk)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/HamptonInArdenParishCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/HamptonInArdenParishCouncil)) are regularly updated with information about the work of the Parish Council as well as a host of other details. Browse the website to see contact details, agendas and minutes of meetings, financial information, news and information on local issues, back copies of the Parish Newsletter, the village diary and much more.

**You can also receive instant email updates on local issues. If you would like to be added to our email distribution list please email our Parish Clerk ([clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk)).**

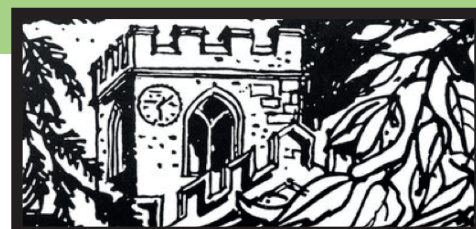
## HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SOCIETY FRESHERS' FAIR

**Are you new to the village? Or want to try something new? Or make new friends?**

Village organisations, clubs, groups and societies will all be showcasing their activities with representatives on hand.

***Everyone is welcome!***

- Tuesday 10th September at 7.30 pm - Fentham Hall, Marsh Lane





## OUR LOCAL LIBRARY – UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Learn My Way – 13th /27th August, 10th / 24th September, 8th /22nd October (3.30pm to 4.30pm):** Are you looking to learn the basics of how to use a computer and the internet? In our fortnightly sessions, we will help you get into the Learn My Way website that teaches you computer skills at your own pace. *Booking is required, so please contact the library if you are interested.*
- **Storytime – 6th / 20th August, 3rd /17th September, 1st /15th / 29th October (1.45pm):** Join us fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon for two stories plus a fun craft activity - perfect for under 5s.
- **Stories and Painting – 2nd /16th / 30th August, 13th /27th September, 11th /25th October (1.45pm):** Every fortnight we read a story and do some painting to go with it! Suitable for under 5s. Warm water to wash hands is provided, but we recommend wearing clothes that can get messy.
- **Readers Group - Held monthly on a Tuesday (10.30am to 11.30am)**  
Everyone is welcome. A collection of books for next month is kept at the library.
  - August: No meeting
  - 10th September: The Trick to Time by Kit de Waal
  - 8th October: The works of Ali Smith
- **Coffee Morning – 6th August, 3rd September, 1st October (10am to 12pm)**  
Come along for a warm drink, a snack, and some company. Everybody welcome!
- **Summer Reading Challenge**  
The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children aged 4 to 11 to read six library books during the long summer holiday. The Summer Reading Challenge 2019 theme is Space Chase, an out-of-this-world adventure inspired by the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing. Space Chase runs through the summer at Hampton in Arden Library, finishing up on Friday 4th September.
- **Galactic Crafternoons**  
Join us for some afternoon crafts! We'll have a craft table up every afternoon in August and staff ready to help, with a different crafts rotating fortnightly. Plus, join in with creating our special display to take over the children's section.
  - 2nd / 6th / 9th August: UFOs and Planets
  - 13th / 16th / 20th / 23rd August: Blast Off Bookmarks and Alien Invaders
  - 27th / 30th August: All of the Above!
- **Haunted Crafternoons – 22nd / 26th / 29th October (afternoons)**  
Join us for afternoon crafts to celebrate Halloween! Our craft table will be set up with a variety of creepy creations to put your own spooky spin on.

## DOG FOULING

**The Parish Council is receiving regular complaints about dog poo being simply left on the ground. In addition, we are getting reports of dog waste bags being used but then not being put into one of the many bins we provide and instead being left on the floor or hung in hedgerows.**

It is extremely disappointing to receive these complaints. We are a Parish of dog lovers and it would be wonderful if every dog owner could be responsible in maintaining the open spaces where our four-legged friends are exercised to ensure everyone's enjoyment of these areas can continue.

To try and combat this issue, the Parish Council is going to purchase a further bin and bag dispenser (location to be confirmed but likely to be near the Under 7's play area at the Recreation Ground). Please make use of these facilities and help to keep our village a lovely place to live.

***N.B. a big thank you to all the dog owners that DO use the dog bags and bins provided!***



## OVERHANGING VEGETATION – A REQUEST

**After all of the warm and wet summer weather we have been having recently the hedgerows and plants in the village have been growing like mad!**

Therefore, please could we remind all residents to cut back

any vegetation that belongs to them that encroaches onto footpaths. This is particularly important along the narrow footpaths next to the High Street.

***Thank you in advance.***

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **4th August / 8th September / 13th October / 17th November / 15th December (11am):** Hampton Wombles litter pick - White Lion car park.
- **14th August / 10th September (11.30am to 12.30pm):** Police Surgery - Sandwiches @ No. 6
- **11th September (7.30pm):** Parish Council Meeting – George Fentham Meeting Room. Everyone welcome to attend.
- **13th November (7.30pm):** Parish Council Meeting – George Fentham Meeting Room. Everyone welcome to attend.

## THANK YOU FOR READING AND WE WILL SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN IN NOVEMBER

*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](http://www.hamptoninarden.org.uk))*