

## Parish News - November 2019

### HELLO AGAIN

**M**any residents will have missed the chiming of the church clock which has developed a fault in the winding mechanism. The clock is nearly 130 years old so it is clearly showing its age. The clock, known as a Turret Clock, was installed in 1891 by A. H. Leeson and Sons of Coleshill who specialised in clocks for public buildings and especially churches. We are pleased to report that fortunately repairs are in hand and we should be hearing the "dongs" again shortly!



Keep reading.... To get up to date with local news and to find out about upcoming events in the Parish including Remembrance Day, visits from Santa and the very first lighting of Christmas Tree lights on the Village Green!

### REMEMBRANCE DAY - SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2019

**A** final reminder that road access through the village will be severely restricted due to the Remembrance Day Parade and Service at the War Memorial. **The High Street, Meriden Road and the roads 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-Barne Lane and Shadowbrook Lane west between these times, no access

will be permitted from the village side. Please advise any friends and relatives who may be visiting of these temporary closures.



*Finally, can we please request that everyone respects the solemnity of the occasion and refrains from travelling through the village during these times.*

### PARISH COUNCIL CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

**T**he first meeting of the Hampton Parish Council was held on 31st December 1894 in what is now the library. So this year, we can look back on 125 years of active service.

Prior to 1894 the primary unit of local administration had been the Parish Church Council (generally referred to as the Vestry) who levied a local tax on produce known as a tithe. However, during the 19th century, the Vestries had been progressively losing their powers to ad hoc boards and other organisations. The Local Government Act of 1894 abolished the non-ecclesiastical duties of Vestries, set up Urban and Rural Districts, established elected Civil Parish Councils for all rural parishes with more than 300 ratepayers, and

established Annual Parish Meetings. It was under this legislation that Hampton's elected Parish Council came into being.

*Many of the topics considered by the newly formed Parish Council will seem familiar to us today. They included relations with the Fentham Trust, provision of a village hall, influencing the provision of drainage, street lighting and utilities supplies, provision of 'affordable' housing after 1919, acquisition of land for playing fields and the war memorial, rail station access, maintenance and repair of footpaths and, as early as 1909, traffic speeds through the village!*



### AIRPORT NEWS


- The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has recently published its Post Implementation Review of the changes introduced for aircraft taking off and landing on runway 15 which routes planes close to both Hampton-in-Arden and Catherine-de-Barnes. The review gives final approval for the changes already in operation.
- The new departure procedure for aircraft departing from runway 15 using the northbound turn became effective in May 2019 with the intention of concentrating aircraft

on the centreline of the preferred route. Monitoring shows that this change has been successful.

- Following much consultation the Airport has published its revised 10 Year Master Plan which is grandly called "The Midlands Gateway to the World". Perhaps the most significant matter in this new Plan is that there is no mention of a second runway with the expectation that all forecast future growth can be achieved using the existing runway.

## Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

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## OUR LOCAL LIBRARY – UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Storytime – 12th / 26th November, 10th December, 7th / 21st January (1.45pm):** Join us fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon for two stories plus a fun craft activity - perfect for under 5s.
- **Stories and Painting – 8th / 22nd November, 6th / 20th December, 3rd / 17th January (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.
- **Learn My Way – 19th November, 3rd / 17th December, 14th / 28th January (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.
- **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.
  - **November 12th:** *Snap* by Belinda Bauer
  - **December 10th:** *The Keeper of Lost Things* by Ruth Hogan
  - **January 14th:** *Surprise wrapped books*
- **Craft Sharing - Patchwork & Quilting: An Introduction – 1st / 15th / 29th November. 13th December 10th / 24th January (2pm to 3.30pm):** Learn a craft fortnightly on Fridays. Suitable for any level of experience – whether you're a total beginner or you know your way around a needle, anyone curious to learn is welcome. Materials will be provided to start. Warm drinks and refreshments provided.
- **Coffee Morning – 5th November / 7th January (10am to 12pm):** Come along for a warm drink, a snack, and some company. Everybody welcome!

### Christmas Themed Events:

- **Christmas Coffee Morning – 17th December (10am to 12pm):** Join us for a chat together over hot drinks and special snacks at this lovely time of year.
- **Christmas Seasonal Storytime – Christmas Eve (1.45pm):** The Library is open on Christmas Eve, and we're making the most of the occasion! Join us for a special Christmas Storytime as we read some of our favourite seasonal stories. Suitable for under 5s, older children welcome too.
- **Winter Wonderland Crafternoons – 17th / 20th / 24th December (afternoons):** Pop in for some wintery and Christmassy crafts! We'll have a craft table up and running all afternoon with a variety of fun crafts to make. Suitable for ages 4+.

*Christmas & New Year Opening Hours: The library is closed on Friday 27th December and Tuesday 31st December. We are otherwise open as normal over the Christmas and New Year period, including Christmas Eve!*

## CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS!

**We are delighted to report that this year there will be an illuminated Christmas tree on Hampton Village Green! Donations from the Parish Council, Solihull MBC, the Hampton Society and the Hampton Festival Committee will fund the decoration of an existing fir tree near to the War Memorial with coloured lights over the Christmas period.**

Switch on of the lights will take place at 6.00pm on Friday 6th December (following the Christmas Fair at George Fentham School). We will keep you posted via noticeboard, the website and Facebook!

### And... Santa Is Coming To Hampton!

Christmas is not far away and that means Santa will again be visiting Hampton-in-Arden in his colourful motorised sleigh, bringing seasonal cheer to villagers. As usual, Meriden Rotary Club is organising a Santa Run around



Hampton in aid of charity. This year's run will take place on **Wednesday December 11th and Thursday the 12th between 6pm and 8pm.**

- **11th** – Santa will start his journey at Lapwing Drive and finish in Old Station Road;
- **12th** – Santa will set off from Engine Mews and make his way via several roads to the top of the village finishing on Solihull Road.

The Rotary Club's chosen charity is Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund but a number of local charities will also benefit. In 2018, £450 was raised and club officials are hoping to exceed that amount this year. **Please give generously!**

## THANKS A BUNCH!

**The Parish Council has been generously gifted over 500 daffodil bulbs by the Rosebourne Garden Centre (located on the Kenilworth Road). Could the second sentence be amended so that it reads: The Parish Council was keen to involve young people in the village in planting the bulbs and the local Beavers group helped to plant a large number of bulbs at the Recreation Ground (in the pouring rain!) at the end of October. The children at George Fentham School will also be helping**

**plant these bulbs on the borders of the school playing field at the beginning of November.**

We would like to extend our thanks to the Rosebourne Garden Centre for the bulbs and for helping to make the village a brighter place.... we're looking forward to seeing them pop up in the spring!



## HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN LIBRARY SERVICES – ITS FUTURE IN OUR HANDS

**Solihull MBC Library Services have approached the Hampton-in-Arden Local History Group (affiliated to the Hampton-in-Arden Society) for ideas on the future of our local library. It is the least used and therefore least cost-effective branch library in the Borough, and Solihull are seeking local views and ideas on its future.**

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) have pioneered an alternative strategy since 2011 when they decided that many of their village libraries were no longer viable and helped create several of what they call 'Community Managed Libraries'. Examples include Baddesley, Henley-in-Arden and Water Orton. These Community Managed Libraries are typically run by local community groups with support from county library services. They often share premises with other

public buildings (e.g. village halls or shops). A good example is the facility at Henley-in-Arden which has been established as a private, not-for-profit company with limited opening hours (4 days a week) and is run by local volunteers. Something like this could be a viable option for Hampton.

Roger Shinton, who is chairman of the Local History Group, is taking a lead in assembling a Working Group of interested parties to come together and consider possible proposals on ways forward. The Parish Council is anxious to play its part in helping to optimise the future for this service and will be joining this group. Our Ward Councillor, Alison Rolf, has also undertaken to join the group. **We will be working our hardest to protect our local library.**

## CATHERINE DE BARNES – A BIT OF HISTORY...

**To the outsider, Catherine-de-Barnes may seem like a sleepy English village where nothing of note ever happens. But locals would tell you otherwise, pointing to a number of newsworthy happenings, including one tragic event just over 40 years ago. It involved the old isolation hospital in Henwood Lane, which had been built jointly by Solihull and Meriden councils in the early 1900s to treat people with infectious diseases such as diphtheria, typhoid fever and smallpox, but well into the latter half of the century, was more or less mothballed.**

In 1978, a Birmingham woman called Janet Parker was taken there suffering from smallpox, a disease which was thought to have been eradicated world-wide. Mrs Parker was a photographer who worked at the medical school at the University of Birmingham. She was based in an office one

floor above a smallpox laboratory, headed by Professor Henry Bedson.

Sadly, Mrs Parker, who was 40, succumbed to the disease. Her father Frederick, who was visiting her in hospital, died of a heart attack a week before his daughter. The source of her disease was identified as the smallpox lab.

Mrs Parker was the last person in Britain to die of smallpox. In what was already a very sad affair became deadlier when it claimed its third victim. Professor Bedson, who was reportedly distraught at Mrs Parker's death, committed suicide.

The isolation hospital site has since been transformed into a luxury flats development.



## NEWS FROM CATHERINE-DE-BARNES

**The following are extracts from the Catney News a monthly newsletter produced by the Residents Association (available on our website).**

- **Catney Christmas Craft Fair:** 30th November - 11.00a.m. to 3.00p.m. (Catherine-de-Barnes Village Hall)
- **Carols Round the Tree:** 15th December from 5.00pm
- **Children's Crib Service:** Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December - 4.00pm to 4.30pm (Catherine-de-Barnes Village Hall)

**Finally, the Common** located off Bickenhill Lane is the only registered common land in the whole of Solihull. Maintenance of the Common is the responsibility of the Parish Council but the "Friends of the Common" are a group of local residents who have formed working groups to help by clearing brambles and bindweed. If you would like to volunteer please contact Frances Cook ([secretary@catney.co.uk](mailto:secretary@catney.co.uk)).

## HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SOCIETY NEWS

**The inaugural Fresher's Fair held by the Society on the 10th September was a huge success and there has been a great deal of positive feedback.**

We shall definitely repeat the event! Hampton is so lucky to have such a variety of groups active in the community. It is possible to engage in sport, faith, reading, music, languages, martial art and art (to name only a few!) on foot without leaving the village boundaries. In fact it would be unfair to list all the groups represented that Tuesday evening as it would be too easy to offend by leaving someone out! If you have any views or requests that would help to improve the event please contact a member of the committee. This was a first so there is room to improve.

**Next, a question – are you desperate for some politics with charm and reason?** If so the come along to the next Society

meeting on **Wednesday 6th November** in the Arden Room at 7.30pm. The speaker is our lovely Ward Councillor Alison Rolf who many villagers will confirm fulfils both criteria. Alison has agreed to speak on local issues which may impact on Hampton and will be able to answer any questions arising. If not she will efficiently find out and feedback. Alison's talk will follow the AGM. This is an important meeting as it will be the **official launch of the Hampton Society as a Resident's Association.** It will align us better with Catherine de Barnes now the Parish has been formally extended at the same time as making the Society more relevant and able to respond quickly to any concerns arising within the village. If you have a passion for Hampton and preserving the quality of life in the village, some great ideas, can give time or have any relevant previous experience to offer we are always enthusiastic to include a diversity of new members on the committee.



## TRAFFIC CALMING AND ROAD SAFETY

**R**esidents may recall that in June this year we installed temporary traffic counters in Hampton-in-Arden (on the High Street and Meriden Road). These recorded both traffic volumes and speeds. The eagle-eyed among you may have noticed two new counters in Catherine-de-Barnes (on Lugtrout Lane and Hampton Lane). These have now been removed and we are awaiting the results. We will then have the data required to reinforce our traffic calming plans throughout the Parish.

With the high traffic volumes (and speeds) through the two villages in the Parish, there is now a greater need to also 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. We will keep you posted!

## PLANNING MATTERS

**S**olihull Council is the Local Planning Authority and the Parish Council, as a Statutory Consultee, continues to review and, when considered necessary, to respond to every planning application affecting land or property in the Parish area. Most applications are relatively straightforward and non-controversial being for house extensions, tree works and the like. However,

occasionally there are applications for new developments or applications which may be contentious which are referred to the Planning Sub-Committee who will decide an appropriate response by either objecting, supporting or commenting on the application.

**Planning applications can be viewed on Solihull Councils Planning Portal at [www.solihull.gov.uk](http://www.solihull.gov.uk)**

## GP SURGERY NEWS – WELCOME TO THE FIRST CLINICAL LEAD MANAGER

**H**ampton-in-Arden GP Surgery now has its first Clinical Lead Manager, but the appointee is a familiar face around the practice - Kirsty Millard. Kirsty has worked as Practice Nurse at the surgery for the past 10 years and will be well known to many patients. Kirsty, who took over her new job at the start of September, has become responsible for the day-to-day running of the surgery and the clinical quality provided. She is in charge of a team of five staff and will look after the needs of all the doctors at the practice. At the same time Kirsty will continue her work as practice nurse.

In her former role, she spent two days a week at Hampton Surgery,

working elsewhere in the NHS for another three days. Her new job will now be full-time. Kirsty, who is 46 and is married with two grown-up sons, told the Newsletter: *"I'm very pleased to take the job, having worked in Hampton for a decade. I look forward to the continuation of the excellent community-based care that Hampton Surgery currently provides."*

Philippa Holroyd, who was Practice Manager, has left Hampton for a larger surgery. Kirsty will take on parts of her role. It looks like she will be a busy lady!



## HS2 NEWS

**A**s reported nationally the HS2 project is the subject of a major financial review with a decision expected before the end of the year. During this review period advance construction work is continuing particularly around the proposed interchange station.

Our application for funding under the Community Fund for traffic calming 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 are holding meetings with Solihull MBC officers to discuss and agree the next steps.

We also continue to participate in the Solihull MBC HS2 Implementation committee meetings which are also attended by other parish councils and representatives from HS2.



## LOCAL WATCH

- **Speed Watch:** A Speed Watch session with a police presence took place on 16th October 2019 when six erring motorists were reported for possible action. It is intended to hold further sessions on a regular basis subject to the police and volunteers being available.
- **Street Watch:** With the nights drawing in, Street Watch sessions have restarted after a summer break. More volunteers are urgently required to assist with this important community project. If you are willing to give a couple of hours a week mainly during the evenings please contact Julie at the parish office.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **17th November / 15th December / 19th January (11am):** Hampton Wombles litter pick - White Lion car park.
- **20th November / 17th December (11.30am to 12.30pm):** Police Surgery - Sandwiches @ No. 6
- **13th November / 8th January (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 FEBRUARY

*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))*