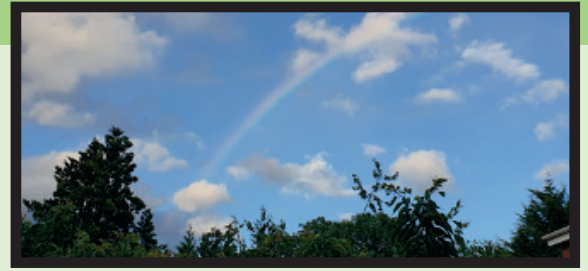


Parish News - August 2020

HELLO AGAIN

Welcome to the August edition of the Parish Newsletter. We hope that the easing of lockdown has meant you've been able to get out a bit more and see friends and family (in a responsible, socially distant way of course!). After the last edition of the Newsletter being published in a digital format only - we are back and hope that we will be able to continue to deliver to every household in the Parish for the foreseeable future.



FIRSTLY - A HUGE THANK YOU

The Parish Council would like to recognise the hard work and dedication of all local businesses that have stayed open over the past few months to support our community. This includes the Corner Shop, the Village Stores, Sandwiches @ No.6, the Post Office, The Beeches, Hampton Manor (via Peels on Wheels), St Mary's Pharmacy and Nisa in Catherine-de-Barnes. The commitment of these businesses to keep our residents supplied with essentials (and the occasional treat!) is truly appreciated... **Thank you so much!**

We would also like to thank **Meriden Rotary Club** who have kindly donated £100 to the Parish Council towards helping residents who might require assistance during the Coronavirus pandemic. This has been passed onto the George Fentham Trust to allow them to continue their fantastic work in the community.

A FEW REMINDERS

- **The Parish Office:** Due to the constraints of social distancing the Parish Office is currently open by appointment only. The Parish Clerk, Julie Barnes, remains available to assist with any issues or concerns by both telephone and email (01675 442 017, clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk).
- **Allotments:** It has been drawn to our attention that members of the public (especially young children) have been walking through the allotments on Fentham Road. Please can we remind users of the playground next to the allotments to stay off this area and keep young children out of the vegetable gardens. Thank you in advance.
- **Dog Fouling:** We have received reports of increased dog fouling on the footpaths and grassed areas. Dog

fouling bins are provided for your use (along with bags should you have ran out of them on your walk or forgotten them at home). The Parish Council have arranged for these bins to be emptied twice weekly. Please make use of them. Thank you.

- **Hedgerow Cutting:** Please can we remind residents to trim any hedgerows or vegetation that overhangs onto public rights of way or footpaths (particularly along the High Street where footpaths are particularly narrow). Of course, please ensure that you are able to do this safely and can complete this in line with social distancing guidelines).

COVID-19: VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS - WHERE TO GET HELP

Are you self-isolating, or do you know someone who is self-isolating, and need help with shopping and prescriptions? A group of Hampton volunteers can help. They can help fetch emergency supplies such as food and prescriptions, as a temporary measure to help people in the community over the coming week. **If you need anything, or are worried about someone in the community, please text or call 07780 591329.**

The George Fentham Trust is also providing an invaluable service to the elderly residents in the Parish during lockdown. They have been actively helping the elderly by providing meals on wheels and helping with funds if residents run out of cash, so that they can shop for supplies. If you need support, or know someone who might, please contact Eve Hickman at 07749 230924, 01675 443850 (office) or email evhickman@georgefenthamtrust.org.uk

Our thanks to everyone involved with both initiatives - a true reflection of the great community we live in.

VILLAGE TIDY UP - AN UPDATE

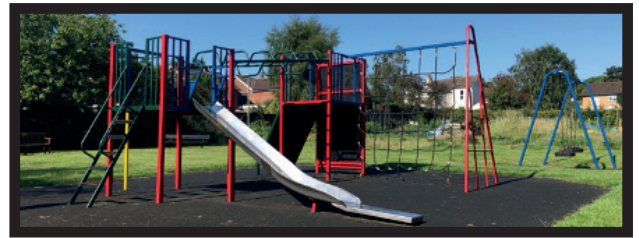
As readers will be aware, the Village Tidy Up, to be completed as part of the nationwide Great British Spring Clean, had to be postponed this year. The Parish Council are still hoping that this event can be carried out and we will be working with Solihull MBC to set a new date as lockdown restrictions ease. **Please keep an eye on the Parish Noticeboards, our website and/or Facebook page for updates on when the Tidy Up will take place.**

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

OPEN FOR FUN – PLAYGROUNDS, OPEN-AIR GYM EQUIPMENT AND TABLE TENNIS TABLES

The two playgrounds, the open-air gym equipment and the table tennis tables in the Parish are now re-open and can be used. During lockdown the playground by the school and allotments has been repainted. It is now looking very smart, ready to welcome back visitors to play!

Please remember to clean your hands before and after using the play and/or gym equipment. Where possible please clean down the equipment after use as well.



HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

After a long period of inaction caused by administrative problems within West Midlands Police, regular Community Speed Watch sessions have recommenced with volunteers having been retrained in the required procedures.

SLOW DOWN AND OBEY SPEED LIMITS! – This is the message to road users. Why? Because most vehicles are travelling too fast – a recent speed watch on the High Street and Meriden Road recorded 36 vehicles in one hour exceeding 35 mph in a 30 mph zone, with 51 mph recorded for one vehicle. Many more were between 30 and 36 mph - still too fast for our village roads!

Offending vehicle details from these speed watch checks are passed on to the police who will decide if any action should be taken.

The possibility of starting Speed Watch Sessions in Catherine-de-Barnes is being investigated.

1ST HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SCOUTS VIRTUAL GROUP CAMP

Over the weekend of 11th July 2020, the 1st Hampton-In-Arden Scouts celebrated the end to an unusual Summer Term with a Virtual Camp Out. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts did crafts, watched Magic Shows, built dens, even cooked and sang over a campfire, all from the safety of their own homes over a Zoom call.

Saturday evening ended with everybody retiring to their 'camp' to sleep, whether it was a tent in the back garden or a den in the sitting room. Although it isn't the same as being physically all together, the 1st Hampton Scouts have continued to hold virtual meetings, which has been a boost to everybody's mental health, child and adult alike. Fingers crossed we'll be back in the Scout Hut in September, but if not we'll continue to find fun ways to bring our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts together.



DID YOU KNOW...? THE SCOUT AND GUIDE HUT IS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

The Hampton Scout and Guide Head Quarters is available for hire. It offers a large hall and good outside space for functions and village events. With a large kitchen and good toilet facilities it is ideal for most events. Please visit our website for more details and information on how to book: www.hamptonscoutguide.com

ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC CALMING

The Parish Council has submitted an application to Solihull MBC Highways for an interim road safety and traffic calming scheme. The scheme consists of four informal pedestrian crossings and associated signage within Hampton in Arden. The proposed locations are:

- On the High Street by the church
- On the High Street at the Fentham Road Junction
- On the High Street by the railway bridge
- On Meriden Road Close to the Diddington Road Junction

The application is under the HS2 Road Safety Fund and will be match funded by your Parish Council. Once installed and operational we will assess the effect of these measures on traffic behaviour and speeds to see if further action is justified. In Catherine de Barnes discussions have started to investigate suitable traffic calming measures for community roads.

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

In a local referendum held on 6th July 2017 residents voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Hampton-in-Arden Neighbourhood Plan which was subsequently adopted by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (Solihull MBC). The Plan is used mainly to inform the planning application decision making process.

It was originally thought that the Plan would be an important reference document until at least 2028 with the occasional minor review to reflect changing local and national requirements. However, the Governance Review which brought Catherine-de-Barnes into the Parish in April 2019, makes it necessary to carry out a more comprehensive review of the current Plan to take account of this change.

You may have already received a letter from the Parish Council which

sets out, in detail, the review process and requesting every household and business to answer a number of questions and to give your opinion on a variety of important matters which affect our everyday lives.

If you have not yet received the information it will be delivered by post shortly. The Parish Council hopes that everyone will complete and return the questionnaire.

The new Plan, which will last until 2036, will be subject to full consultation with all residents, which will then be followed by another local referendum. The new Plan will then only be adopted if it then receives approval by Solihull MBC.

If you would like any further information at this stage of the review please contact the Parish Office.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 8TH NOVEMBER 2020

An early reminder to all residents and businesses that this year's Remembrance Day is Sunday 8th November 2020. As with previous years **the High Street will be closed to all vehicles between 10.30 am and 12.00 noon** to allow the procession from the church to the war memorial to proceed safely.



PLANNING NEWS

- **2015/51409 Motorway Service Area and new Junction 5a Catherine-de-Barnes:** Yet another modified application has recently been submitted to Solihull Council incorporating environmental changes. The application is currently being reviewed by the Parish Council prior to a further objection being made. Highways England had requested a further decision delay until the end of August but have now withdrawn their earlier objections. It is understood that the requested delay is likely to end imminently.
- **2020/00709 1, Oakfields Way, Catherine-de-Barnes - Retrospective Application:** This application was approved subject to conditions. These conditions relate to replacing the current flat roof and re-configuring the upstairs room layout. A further application - PL/2020/01266/MINFHO has been lodged seeking approval for alterations to the front elevation of the property. As local residents are unhappy with the revised proposals an objection has been made.
- **2020/03208 The Brickworks at Bickenhill – Continued use as a Materials Recycling Facility:** The 10-year planning consent to use part of the site as a Materials Recycling Facility expired in November 2019. This application seeks to continue the use for a further 10 years. The topography of the current site bears no resemblance to the site for which planning approval was given in 2009 and 2013. The current facility is now on located on significantly higher ground than the original and the noise bund is ineffective as it is well below the present operating level. Local residents already experience significant noise, dust and vibration nuisance. A considerable number of objections have been made by residents which are fully supported by the Parish Council and a request for the application to be referred to the Planning Committee has made. Objections include unsociable operating hours, smoke from fires, noise, environmental issues, out of date plans and environmental assessments.
- **M42 Junction 6 Improvement -New Link Road from new Junction 5A on Solihull Road to The Clock Roundabout:** The Secretary of State for Transport granted consent for this project to proceed on 21st May 2020 and Highways England has awarded the build contract to Skanska UK. The Parish Council are to discuss the implications and possible impact the project is likely to have on the Parish with the contractor and to explore mitigation measures.
- **2010/01958 - 225 Lugtrout Lane, Catherine-de-Barnes:** A resident has drawn attention to large outbuildings erected either side of the dwelling which appear not to have been included in any planning application granted. The Parish Council has referred the matter to Solihull Council who are to investigate.
- **2019/02546 - Land Rear Of 86 Meriden Road:** This outline planning application for 110 homes was lodged in late 2019. The Parish Council's concerns over density, layout and provision of a neighbourhood play area has resulted in the application being withdrawn with a revised scheme to be submitted at a later date.
- **Oak Farm, Catherine-de-Barnes:** To date two planning applications for a care village on this land have been refused by Solihull Council and a subsequent appeal was dismissed. The main reason for refusal was insufficient benefits to outweigh the harm to the openness of the green belt. The site (which is partly in the green belt and partly brownfield) has been identified by Solihull Council for possible residential development of 80 medium- high density residential housing. Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association has conducted two surveys over the last 18 months with the results showing that a majority of the respondents prefer the care village development to a possible residential development. In an attempt to facilitate the possible approval of a new care village planning application, the Parish Council has advised Solihull Council that it will support removal of the whole site from the green belt. By agreeing to this, it is believed that the main reason for refusing the two previous applications are no longer relevant and any new application should be approved.

Please note that full details of all current planning applications relating to the Parish can be viewed on the Parish Council website and on Solihull Councils Planning Portal.

NEWS FROM THE HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SOCIETY

Although your residents' association has been unable to physically meet, we have continued to communicate and work on your behalf. Responsible committee members have continued liaising with the airport, checking planning applications, instigating noise monitoring etc. What is really missed is the usual flow of concerns and feedback, the kind generated by bumping into folk and chatting about village life or from conversations at the end of an event. If there is anything that you feel needs addressing urgently, please contact the society through the web page (<https://www.hamptoninardensociety.org/>). The Society is still here and will do our best to help.

Due to last year's success, the Hampton-In-Arden Society had hoped to put on another Freshers' Fair for all the Clubs, Groups and Societies of the village. We know so many of you found it informative and useful. However, due to the mingling nature of this event, we cannot in all due conscience run it while the risk from the Coronavirus remains. We hope to run it again in the new year. **Thanks for all your support.**

CHARITY HEAD SHAVE FOR MYELOMA UK

On August 1st 2020, Ailsa John AKA Sunshine (our Beavers Assistant Leader) shaved off all of her hair off to raise awareness and funding for Myeloma UK. Scout Leader Andy Seal was diagnosed with Myeloma in April this year. Andy lives in the village and has three young sons at George Fentham School. Myeloma is a very rare terminal cancer. This condition can be treated in the short term but currently remains a terminal disease. However, it does have the potential to become a curable cancer with further medical research. Funds are desperately needed to support Myeloma UK to fund clinical trials and research to help reduce suffering in patients, extend life expectancy and ultimately find a permanent cure.

Andy has fought the odds and made a miraculous and unexpected recovery. He is now home with his family and, despite two fractured vertebrae during recovery, he is continuing to enjoy family life. He is currently undergoing chemotherapy as an outpatient and is hoping that he will be eligible for a stem cell treatment in future months.

Sunshine is seeking to raise as much as she can to support Myeloma UK and to help Andy and his young family fight against this terrible disease. Should you wish to support this cause please go to Ailsa's Just Giving page and donate whatever you can (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ailsa-john>)



NEWS FROM THE GEORGE FENTHAM TRUST

The Fentham Trustees met on the 15th July 2020 for our socially distanced quarterly session in the spacious surroundings of the Fentham Hall. We welcomed our new trustee, Glyn Ryland.

We have spent a lot of time reviewing the latest government regulations so that we can re-open the Hall and Arden Room for socially distanced events, including designated entrance and exit routes, hand sanitiser points and reduced capacity. **If you are interested in holding a meeting or event at the Hall, please visit our website www.georgefenthamtrust.org.uk or email info@georgefenthamtrust.org.uk**

Like most organisations, we are having a challenging year financially, with our income streams reduced as a result of the pandemic. However, we are still helping local organisations where we can. We voted amongst other things to provide bursaries to university students from the village and agreed a donation towards the restoration of the church clock. Our payments to the village school have continued at the same level as before, allowing them to retain staff and budget effectively.

Over the course of the last few months we have continued to offer support to the elderly residents of the village. We were unable to provide our usual Lunch Club service to local OAPs

during the lockdown and have instead been delivering meals twice a week to the most vulnerable residents.

We are very grateful to Hampton Manor, The Beeches, The Corner Shop and The Family Care Trust

for providing the food which was delivered to homes by a team of volunteers. Eve, our Elderly Support Worker has been keeping in touch with our Lunch Club members to make sure they are not feeling too isolated and have everything they need.

Our charitable objectives are to provide assistance to the parishioners of Hampton-in-Arden and over the years we have helped many individuals and village organisations. If you are in need of any help, or you are aware of someone else from the village who may need help, please get in touch with us at clerk@georgefenthamtrust.org.uk.

There is more information about the Trust, our objectives and the Trustees on our website www.georgefenthamtrust.org.uk.



AIRPORT NEWS

Parishioners may well have noticed the unprecedented changes in operation at Birmingham airport as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Passenger traffic was virtually stopped with only very small number of 'repatriation' flights able to operate. In lieu of its normal operations the airport supported several RAF training flights and also helicopter movements for the Nightingale hospital. This has also helped to maintain the operating licenses of the Air Traffic Controllers. In addition, the airport supported the coroner with land and a temporary

hanger for a mortuary. Although flights are slowly restarting, the airport now faces a very uncertain future with passenger numbers not expected to recover to pre-Covid levels until many months or even years in the future. As a result of the downturn the Airport announced in July plans to make up to 250 redundancies. As the airport goes through these changes the Parish Council will continue to maintain its good working relationship with the Airport through the Airport Consultative Committee and relevant sub-committees.

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

Although we are continuing to face challenges in these unprecedented times, it is worth remembering the amazing acts of kindness and neighbourliness that have been taking place in our community over the past few months. Here's hoping that by the time we publish our next Newsletter that life will be looking a little more normal... Don't forget to check out our website (www.hamptoninarden.org.uk) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pg/HamptonInArdenParishCouncil) for up to date information between Newsletters. Finally, we hope you all stay well and stay safe.