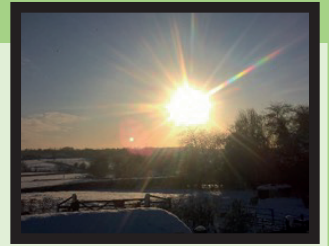


Parish News - February 2024

HELLO AGAIN

Welcome to the February edition of your Parish Council Newsletter! We have plenty of local news from Hampton-in-Arden and Catherine-de-Barnes with lots of important updates on local clubs and societies. We have several important events for you to mark in your diaries including the **Parish Council Annual Meeting on the 23rd April 2024**. Held in Fentham Hall, with drinks and nibbles from 7.30pm onwards, everyone is welcome to attend and hear what your Parish Council has been up to over the last twelve months. **Please do come and see us!**



PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT

The Precept is a tax that Solihull Council charges local electors to meet budget requirements. The Parish Council does not receive any direct funding from central government or Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) and relies on the Precept plus any other income generated from services or facilities provided. The Precept is collected as part of Council Tax.

At the Annual Finance meeting on 3rd January 2024, Councillors, after considerable debate, reluctantly approved

an increase of 5% in the Precept for the financial year beginning in April. The increase will help fund the inevitable increasing costs for the services the Council provides for the benefit of residents.

In money terms the increased Precept means that, for a property in Council Tax Band D, the charge will increase from the current £32.55 per annum to £34.17 an increase of £1.62.

Anyone wanting further information about the Precept should contact Parish Clerk Julie Barnes

THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN - 23rd MARCH

The Parish Council are joining forces with the Hampton Wombles and Solihull MBC on the **23rd March** to take part in the Great British Spring Clean 2024! This national initiative looks to involve local communities in tidying up their local areas and carry out a litter pick.

We would love for as many residents as possible to take part! We will

provide all the necessary equipment - all you need to do is turn up!



- **Hampton-in-Arden:** Please meet at the George Fentham Meeting Room (next to Soho Tavern) at 10.30am
- **Catherine-de-Barnes:** Please meet at the Village Hall at 10.00am **We hope to see you there!**

AN UPDATE FROM YOUR CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE

The committee met in November and agreed that the Parish Council would adopt a policy to mitigate the effects of climate change to the best of its ability, given the limitations of its powers and finances. Measures so far include:

- Ensuring that any new housing developments not only meet the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan, but include the planting of trees as an important contribution to any scheme.
- Encouraging activities such as walking and cycling, by taking advantage of local facilities such as footpaths, and the leisure

activities available at the Recreation Ground (particularly the Arboretum, wildflower meadow and woodland).

- Encouraging the use of local public transport.
- Encouraging recycling by advertising unwanted items on our Facebook sites.
- Supporting the provision of public EV charging points in suitable locations.

Suggestions from residents are always welcome! Please do get in touch if you have any ideas (clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk)

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW UPDATE

As outlined in the November edition of the Newsletter, a further draft of the new Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has been prepared and unofficially shown to Solihull MBC for comment. As the new Solihull Local Plan (SLP) is still on hold (and as our NP needs to conform with it) we are now sitting on our hands waiting for the SLP to be adopted. Once that happens we will officially submit the Plan to Solihull MBC and a further public consultation will follow.

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

GOAL POSTS - SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS

Residents may be aware that a few years ago the Parish Council installed goal posts in the school playing field (that were kindly donated by the Sports Club.) These proved extremely popular but have unfortunately reached the end of their life with one of them having collapsed and needing to be removed. This means there is currently only one remaining that has also seen better days.

The Parish Council has agreed to replace the one remaining goal post with a new set. They are currently sourcing these and hope to have them installed by Easter.

PLANNING NEWS

- **PL 2023/01954/PPFL (Battery Storage Energy Facility -Henwood Lane, Catherine de Barnes):** The PC submitted a full response to the application dated 20th October and which is available to view in the Planning section of our website. Further documents appeared on the Planning Portal mid December which were submitted by the Applicant putting forward further information evidence trying to counter some of the objections earlier. Having viewed these responses the PC will be submitting a further response which will be supported by Cllr Bob Sleigh. This response will also be available to view after its submission.
- **PL2022/01660/PPRM (New residential dwellings on land at the rear of 86 Meriden Road):** Following Outline Planning approval in October, Full Reserved Matters approval was granted on the 24th November for 95 homes.
- **PL2023/02518/MINFHO(Design Amendments to front, rear and side elevations):** This is a retrospective application and we have written objecting to the proposed (although completed) design features on the front elevation
- **PL 2023/01031/PPFL (Erection of triple tepee at Newlands Bishop Farm):** Again this is a retrospective planning application which when used at the weekends as a wedding venue has given rise to complaints from local residents. We await the outcome of this application.

CHRISTMAS SUCCESS IN THE PARISH

● **Hampton-in-Arden:** We were pleased to see lots of residents turn out for the Christmas tree light switch on in Hampton at the start of December. It was clear to see everyone enjoyed themselves! Our thanks to Meriden Rotary Club, the Church Choir, the Preschool Committee, the Village Corner Shop, all the Marshalls and Central Fast Response first aiders for supporting the event and making it such a success!

● **Catherine-de-Barnes:** The annual Christmas Craft Fair, organised by the Catney Craft Club, was held on the

25th November in the Village Hall and generated funds of £1,045 which has been generously donated to the Village Hall Trust. The Christmas Light Switch on was held on the 2nd December. Thanks to those who braved the cold weather and came to the light switch on at the Village Hall which was followed by some enthusiastic singing of carols and seasonal songs with the participants rewarded by complimentary mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies.

What thoroughly enjoyable ways to celebrate the start of the Christmas season.

HS2

● Viaduct construction is proceeding on programme with piling work for the piers and abutments currently underway. The construction sequence is firstly piling, then piers, then decking and finally parapets that incorporate the noise barriers.

● There is no news on the safety issues identified for Diddington Lane. The design for this element of HS2 cannot be finalised

until the highway safety issues have been addressed. Consequently, discussions with Solihull MBC Highways regarding possible traffic calming measures for the lane have not been held. As soon as decision is reached on design the Parish Council will be pursuing this issue.



TRAFFIC CALMING AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

● **Hampton-in-Arden:** The start of Phase 2 should commence this financial year and will consist of an additional raised table at the gateway on Meriden Road at the entrance to the village (similar to that constructed on Solihull Road), a pair of raised tables at the existing traffic island on Meriden Road and minor kerbing work at the Old Station Road junction with Meriden Road. The provision of average speed cameras for the village has been approved and design is complete with installation proposed to take place during 2024. Funding for these two items will be under the HS2 Road Safety Fund that is administered by Solihull MBC Highways.

● **Catherine de Barnes:** The proposed traffic calming scheme has been approved by Solihull MBC Highways and is awaiting funding confirmation from National Highways (hopefully a decision will come in February). If successful, a meeting will be organised in the Catney Village Hall in order that residents can be reminded of the scheme.

Parking

● **Hampton-in-Arden:** Solihull MBC Highways have confirmed that a number of proposed parking schemes are included in the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Proposed Programme for 2024/25. These include for Marsh Lane (Fentham Road Junction), High Street (Marsh Lane Junction), Fentham Road (around the Library), High Street (Butchers Road Junction) and Shadowbrook Lane (around the war memorial). **Public consultation will be June/July this year.**

● **Catherine-de-Barnes:** The proposed parking schemes in Catherine-de-Barnes will be included as part of the traffic calming scheme (see above).

FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

A review of all of the paths within the Parish (including both Hampton-in-Arden and Catherine-de-Barnes) is being undertaken by the PROW officer on the Parish Council. This is being done in conjunction with Barston Parish Council, as a number of our paths are linked.

Some initial concerns which will be addressed are:

- The path to the rear of Meriden Road that link Lapwing Drive and Hampton Green estates to the village.
- The condition of the boardwalk approaches to the Packhorse Bridge.
- The condition of the bridge over the stream on the

boundary of our Parish towards Barston.

Some good news!

Funding has been secured by the PROW officer for the creation of a new path that will eliminate the unpleasant section of Shadowbrook Lane between the Hampton Manor grounds, and the start of the path to Bickenhill which is some way up the road. The existing path has stiles. The permissive path, funded by National Highways, will allow road-free walking to Bickenhill by simply crossing over to the gate entrance to the Arboretum, and continuing via the woodland. There will be no stiles! Work will begin in March.

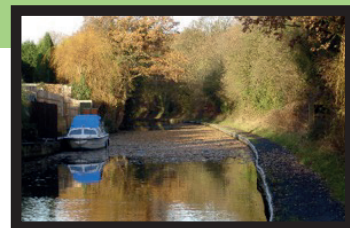
NEWS FROM CATHERINE-DE-BARNES

● **Village Hall Play Area:** The annual independent inspection was undertaken at the end of October and thankfully no issues were found.

● **Residents Car Parking:** We appreciate that in some areas of the Village are narrow and parking is difficult. If you have to park using the footpath, please bear in mind that mums with prams/buggies and people using mobility scooters need to be able to get past. **Thank you.**

● **Butty Breakfast:** A Butty Breakfast will be held in the Village Hall on **Saturday 17th February, 10.15am until 12.00pm.** Members of the Residents Association (RA) are welcome to a complimentary sausage or bacon sandwich accompanied by a hot drink. Vegetarians catered for. Non-members are welcome at a charge of £3 per head /£5 per couple payable on the door and includes your RA membership for 2024.

● **Residents Association AGM:** The AGM will be held in the Village Hall on **Tuesday 5th March 2024** commencing promptly at 7.30pm. The meeting will be followed by wine and nibbles. The meeting is open to 2023 members only but non-members are welcome on the basis they will join for 2024.



NEWS FROM THE GEORGE FENTHAM TRUST

● The Fentham Trust pays a monthly grant to support some of our older residents. In the run-up to Christmas, we provide these pensioners with festive food hampers, beautifully assembled and wrapped by Eve, our elderly support worker and our lunch club volunteers. In addition, our Wednesday lunch club enjoyed a traditional Christmas meal and festive entertainment in the Fentham Hall. Thank you to Hampton Singers for our Christmas Concert and to the lunch club volunteers for making lunch club so successful.

● In December, the new community orchard near the new allotments was planted. We enlisted the help of a specialist

who has chosen local and heritage varieties that should thrive in that location. Hopefully in a few years' time there will be fruit available over the summer months for residents to enjoy.

● The Trust was established to support the residents of Hampton-in-Arden village. The Trust may be able to provide financial and/or practical support to any village resident who finds themselves in hardship. Applications for assistance must be made in writing and sent to the Clerk either by post to George Fentham Meeting Room, Marsh Lane, Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull B92 0AH or by email clerk@georgfenthamtrust.org.uk

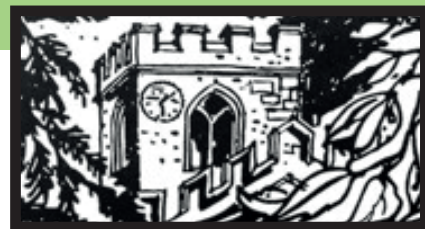
HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SOCIETY - UPDATE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

● We are delighted that the collection for Hampton-in-Arden's former sub-postmaster, Tariq Dar, raised over £900 which has been used to purchase a memorial bench to be positioned overlooking the Bowling Green where he enjoyed playing bowls.

● Following the fascinating and hugely well supported presentation about the history of the George Fentham Trust last year, the history section of the Hampton Society has kindly offered to give a talk about Hampton-in-Arden's connections to medieval knights. **This will take place at 7.30pm on 18th April** in the Church. **Entry is free and open to all residents.**

● May Day Walk: It is planned to repeat the popular village walk on May 6th. Details to follow.

In addition to running events such as these, which aim to bring our community together and deepen our sense of place, the Hampton Society continues to scrutinise planning applications and developments that may affect the character of the village, has a seat on the Airport Consultative Committee and has regular communications with the HS2 engagement team. Any questions or interest to be directed to chair@hamptoninardensociety.org



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **10th February:** Hampton Wombles Litter Pick (meet at 11am in White Lion car park)
- **13th February:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association (RA) Committee Meeting (7.30pm at Catney Village Hall)
- **5th March:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association (RA) AGM (7.30pm at Catney Village Hall)
- **13th March:** Parish Council Meeting (7.30pm at George Fentham Meeting Room)
- **23rd March: Great British Spring Clean**
- Hampton: Meet at 10.30am at George Fentham Meeting Room, next to Soho Tavern
- Catherine-de-Barnes: Meet at 10am at Catney Village Hall
- **6th April:** Hampton Wombles Litter Pick (meet at 11am in White Lion car park)
- **8th April:** Catherine-de-Barnes RA Committee Meeting (7.30pm at Catney Village Hall)
- **23rd April: Parish Council Annual Meeting – Wine and nibbles from 7.30pm at Fentham Hall.**

LIBRARY NEWS AND EVENTS

Opening Hours: Tuesday 2pm – 5pm, Thursday 2pm – 5pm, Friday 2pm – 5pm.

- **A Warm Welcome:** As part of offering a warm welcome to everybody who comes through our door, Hampton Library are providing both warm and cold drinks to library customers. There is no charge for this, but donations are welcome if you wish.
- **Stories & Painting for Under 5s:** Every Tuesday at 2:15pm, we read a fun story and do some painting or colouring to go with it! Suitable for under 5s. Warm water to wash hands is provided, but we recommend wearing clothes that can get messy.
- **Half-Term Crafts:** On **Tuesday 13th, Thursday 15th, and Friday 16th February**, drop to our craft table and make something fun. Crafts will be suitable for children ages 5+, and we will have colouring for all ages as well.
- **Easter Crafts:** On **Tuesday 26th and Thursday 28th March**, we will have a craft table full of egg-related things for kids to make. Crafts will be suitable for children ages 5+, and we will have colouring for all ages as well.
- **Readers Group:** Everybody is welcome to our monthly Readers Group. We discuss a topic of the month, and hot drinks are provided. Books for the next meeting are available at the library. The group at 2:15pm on the following dates: **Friday 9th February** (Family Sagas by Anna Murray), **Friday 8th March** (Burnt Shadows by Kamila Shamsie) and **Friday 12th April** (Karin Slaughter)

All information here is accurate at the time of writing. See www.solihull.gov.uk/libraries and www.facebook.com/hamptoninardenlibrary for the latest updates.

CLUBS SECTION – WHAT’S ON IN THE PARISH!

- **The Hampton Probus Club** - Contact peter.j.green@live.co.uk
- **The Local History Group** - Contact info@hamptoninardenhistory.org
- **Hampton-in-Arden Gardening Club** - Contact David Bixby davidbixby59@gmail.com
- **The Hampton Beekeeping Group** - Contact Sarah Rickard sarahmrickard@icloud.com
- **Hampton Badminton Club** - Contact Mary Daymond - randmdaymond@hotmail.com
- **Hampton Bowls Club** - Contact peter.j.green@live.co.uk
- **The Conservation Group** - Contact Alan Seal alaseal@hotmail.com
- **The Hampton Health & Fitness Club** - Contact Gareth Thomas gareth@thehampton.co.uk
- **Hampton Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides** - Contact Fiona Bubb fiona@bubb.net
- **Catney Craft Club** - Contact Lesley Cuthbert cuthbertlm@me.com
- **The Hampton Singers** - Contact www.hamptonsingers.co.uk
- **Hampton Wine Society** - Contact Margaret Elsy at hamptonwinesoc@gmail.com
- **Solihull Scale Model Club** - Contact Alexander Clayson a-clayson@hotmail.com or visit their Facebook site.

M42 J6 UPDATE EVENT: 20th FEBRUARY (7.30PM TO 9PM)

National Highways will be holding an update event at Fentham Hall on 20th February. Please come along where you'll be able to meet the project team, find out more about our M42 junction 6 upgrade project and the work we have planned for 2024. To find out more information on the scheme, visit our project webpage by scanning the QR code.



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

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.