

## Parish News - FEBRUARY 2026

### HELLO AGAIN

Spring is round the corner, we're sure everyone is looking forward to the spring blooms and longer days! In this February edition of the Newsletter we have important updates on our annual participation in the Great British Spring Clean (please do come along and support us!) and information on local events, clubs and societies. **Read on...**



### MERIDEN ROAD CLOSURE

**Following a meeting with Solihull Council, the Parish Council has been advised that Meriden Road, by Patrick Farm, will be closed during daytime hours (8am-6pm) from 23 February to 8 March.**

The Parish Council has raised concerns with both Solihull Council and Ward Councillors about the impact of this closure on residents. We have been informed that the daytime closure will proceed, but we are continuing to seek clarification on the logistics, including access arrangements and bus services.

The latest news will also be published on our website: <https://hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk/news-issues/>

### SAVE THE DATE - GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

The Parish Council are joining forces with the Hampton Wombles and Solihull Council on the 14th March to take part in the Great British Spring Clean 2026! 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! Complimentary tea and biscuits to follow.

- **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

### PRECEPT CHANGES

**The Parish Council met on 7th January to discuss next year's budget. Due to increasing costs the precept will rise by 5% for the next financial year. In the current year, the cost per Band D household is £35.87; with the 5% increase, this will rise to £37.66 (an increase of £1.79 per band D household per annum).**

### COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

**When developers create new housing estates, they are required to pay a Levy called CIL to the Local Authority to help fund the additional infrastructure required to address the impact of more people and more traffic. A proportion of the funds received by Solihull Council is passed to the Parish Council to spend on worthwhile eligible projects. The rules and criteria for expenditure are quite tightly drawn, and the Parish Council has a CIL committee to consider schemes for funding.**

During 2025 the two main recipients for CIL funding in the Parish were the GP Surgery in Hampton and the George Fentham Endowed School:

- the cost of refurbishing Fentham Cottage behind the Surgery for additional consulting rooms was funded by CIL at a cost of £75,000.
- the Parish Council also provided CIL funding for new IT equipment and improved, more modern LED lighting for the school at a cost of £58,000.

Other recipients of CIL funding since the scheme began have been the Catney Village Hall Trust, the Parish Church, and the Hampton Festival Committee.

The main schemes on which CIL has been raised so far are the development on the old cricket pitch and Ashtree Grove. ***If you have a proposal which you feel might qualify for CIL support funding you should check our website and if it might be eligible submit an email with outline details to Julie, our Parish Clerk.***

### Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

## CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas Light Switch-On in Hampton-in-Arden on Friday 5th December 2025. Despite the poor weather, it was wonderful to see such a good turnout from the Parish. A special thank you

goes to the Corner Shop on the High Street for generously providing free mince pies, and to Meriden Rotary Club for arranging for Father Christmas to attend with his sleigh, which helped make the evening so enjoyable for all.

## FOOTPATHS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

**The Parish Council is pleased to announce a major initiative during this coming year to make significant improvements to our network of footpaths. For clarity, this will relate to field paths and the like, not pavements (which are the responsibility of Solihull Council's Highways department). These improvements will be funded from the Community Infrastructure Levy, paid to our Parish Council by developers of new estates such as Ashtree Grove. They will not be at a cost to the Parish precept.**

The objective is to make all of our paths more accessible, especially to the benefit of the less mobile amongst us, and to provide an opportunity to take exercise in a safe and stimulating environment.

- The first task will be to replace or remove all stiles within the parish – both in Hampton-in-Arden and Catherine de Barnes. They will either be replaced with kissing gates, or dismantled altogether.
- The next proposal is to form a working party of volunteers to help undertake light maintenance of our paths. Led by two of our members, Cllrs. Roger Waring and John Ainsworth, the Parish Council welcomes interest from residents accordingly. Please contact the Clerk for further information. Equipment and insurance will be included as part of any arrangements, so as to ensure the safe operation of working parties.
- Finally, once all of the paths affected by the M42 link roads are fully accessible again, it is then planned to produce a walking map of the Parish.

*We hope that you will see the benefit of all of these plans, and look forward to hearing your views.*

## PLANNING NEWS

- **PL2025/01572/PPOL - Up to 130 dwellings off Old Station Road:** Solihull Council's Urban Design team have objected to the application on the grounds of poor access to main facilities and the design/ street layout in incompatible with that existing in Hampton in Arden and to quote the report *"The site and its proposed design do not form a 'logical or proportionate' extension to Hampton-in-Arden village, but would produce a disjointed, outlying 'satellite' estate, remote from the village centre and the core settlement and built-up areas of Hampton-in-Arden."* They also comment on what they consider to be an inadequate access to the site. The full report can be viewed on the Council's planning portal. (<https://publicaccess.solihull.gov.uk/online-applications/application>)
- **Solihull Local Plan:** As a result of another Government update of the National Planning Policy Framework if Local Authorities wish their plans to be inspected under the current regulatory system they need to be lodged by the end of this year and this is the route Solihull Council has chosen to take. We expect to see the launch of a public consultation on the new plan in the not too distant future.
- **Motorway Service Area:** The Parish Council were due to meet with the developers recently but the meeting was cancelled and has been re-booked for the end of March. Members will recall that outline planning approval has been granted for this development, but the applicant still needs to submit a Reserved Matters application which will contain full details of the proposed development. Work is expected to commence early 2027.

## CATHERINE DE BARNES NEWS

- **Parking Restrictions:** Solihull Council announced a public consultation on various sites for installation of double yellow lines at the end of Lugtrout Lane at its junction with Hampton Lane and on Hampton Lane after the Nisa over the canal bridge extending down to Bickenhill Lane. If you wish to support or object to the proposals, please submit your comments in writing, stating the grounds for your representation, including your address, by no later than 6th February 2026 to: Mr Lee Stevenson, Resources Directorate, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull, B91 3QB (or email [tro@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:tro@solihull.gov.uk)). All responses will be considered before a final decision is made.
- **Catney Christmas Craft Fayre 2025:** The Craft Fayre raised a fantastic £1341.29 which included a very generous donation of £100 from a couple who were unable to attend the event. The amount raised has been passed on to the Village Hall Trustees and will pay for some roofing repairs to the hall roof, organized for May. Our thanks go to all those who attended, helped on the day and especially to the cake makers who donated such a superb variety of cakes for thru refreshment table.
- **Catherine de Barnes Past and Present:** If anyone would like to learn more about the area we are so lucky to live in, for £5 you can purchase a book which was co-authored by our Residents' Association founder and first Chairman Pete Peters entitled **Catherine de Barnes Past and Present**. Money from the purchase of these books goes to the Village Hall fund. If anyone would like a copy please contact Lesley Cuthbert on 07776 480813 or [cuthbertlm@me.com](mailto:cuthbertlm@me.com)

## A BIG THANK YOU FOR A BRILLIANT DAY IN THE SPINNEY

**A huge thank you to Michael Abbott, who oversaw and coordinated the recent *Get Planting in The Spinney!* event on behalf of Hampton Conservation Group.**

We would also like to extend a thank you to all the residents, families, groups, and individuals who came along to lend a hand. Despite the winter weather, volunteers turned out in great spirits, worked hard, and helped plant new hedging that will strengthen the Spinney for wildlife and for future generations to enjoy.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN NEWS

**T**he Draft Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to Solihull Council who in turn are appointing an independent examiner to check that it complies with statutory process and is legally sound. Once this assessment has been satisfactorily achieved it will be presented to parish residents for acceptance in a referendum. **We hope to get to that point by the end of the summer.**

## GEORGE FENTHAM TRUST UPDATE

**T**he Trustees are delighted to announce the appointment of two new Trustees, Ed Purcell and Jon Devaney. Both Jon and Ed are surveyors and will be helping us to manage our portfolio of properties that include the Fentham Hall and the Alms Houses on Fentham Green.



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@georgefenthamtrust.org.uk](mailto:clerk@georgefenthamtrust.org.uk)

## HAMPTON SOCIETY UPDATE

● We thought a quiet village quiz with a fish and chip supper (great service from Knowle) would be just what we needed after a busy Christmas and new year. We were pleasantly surprised by the huge response from the village so thank you all. We completely filled the Fentham main hall (so great to have this venue in the heart of the village); 140 people, 25 teams (tables back to back), all vying for 1st prize. Our wonderful quiz masters, Katy and Stuart, lead us a merry dance with their questions – with the odd question about Hampton thrown in for good measure. A great fun evening - and now a firm favourite as an annual event – so see you all again next year! **Congratulations to 'The good, the bad and the snuggly' who won 1st prize and achieved best name award** – otherwise known as Ian Trahearne, Steve Carson and fellow team members.

● Future Hampton in Arden Society, Residents Association events will be posted on our village calendar (use this QR code if that helps) and watch that space – email us at [info@hamptoninardensociety.org](mailto:info@hamptoninardensociety.org) to add other events open to the village.



## HAMPTON IN ARDEN LIBRARY

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

- **Storytime:** Every Tuesday at 2:15pm, we read fun stories together then do some colouring! Suitable for under 5's and their grown-ups: 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th February, 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th March and 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th April
- **February Half-Term – Lost in Space Crafts:** Join us for some out of this world space themed crafting. Suitable for 5-11-year-olds and their grown-ups, just drop in (free of charge): Thursday 19th February between 2:15pm and 4:15pm.
- **Spring Crafts:** Join us for some Spring and Easter themed crafting. Suitable for 5-11-year-olds and their grown-ups, just drop in (free of charge): Tuesday 31st March between 2.15pm and 4.15pm.
- You are welcome to visit to browse and borrow books, use our public PC and Wi-Fi, make reservations, print, and photocopy. If you aren't already a member of the library, it's easy to join. All you need is proof of your name and address, such as a driving license or an official letter, then you can access all our books and digital collections for free.

**All information here is accurate at the time of writing. Phone 01675 442 629 or see [www.solihull.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/libraries) and [www.facebook.com/hamptoninardenlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/hamptoninardenlibrary) for the latest updates**

## CLUBS – GET INVOLVED!

- **Hampton Sports Club** - Contact [committee@hamptonsportsclub.org.uk](mailto:committee@hamptonsportsclub.org.uk). For more details on the individual sections, Pétanque, Cricket, Hockey, Tennis, Squash, and Pickleball, go to the website: <https://hamptonsportsclub.org.uk>
- **Hampton Health & Fitness Club** - Contact Gareth Thomas [gareth@thehampton.co.uk](mailto:gareth@thehampton.co.uk)
- **Hampton Badminton Club** - Contact Mary Daymond - [randmdaymond@hotmail.com](mailto:randmdaymond@hotmail.com)
- **Hampton Bowls Club** - Contact [peter.j.green@live.co.uk](mailto:peter.j.green@live.co.uk)
- **Hampton Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides** - Contact Fiona Bubb [fiona@bubb.net](mailto:fiona@bubb.net)
- **Catherine de Barnes Rainbows and Rangers** - Contact [17thsolihullrainbows@gmail.com](mailto:17thsolihullrainbows@gmail.com)
- **Hampton Gardening Club** - Contact Alison Dimes [alisonjdimes@outlook.com](mailto:alisonjdimes@outlook.com)
- **Hampton Conservation Group** - Contact Alan Seal [alanseal@hotmail.com](mailto:alanseal@hotmail.com)
- **Hampton Beekeeping Group** - Contact Sarah Rickard [sarahmrickard@icloud.com](mailto:sarahmrickard@icloud.com)
- **Catney Craft Club** - Contact Lesley Cuthbert [cuthbertlm@me.com](mailto:cuthbertlm@me.com)
- **Hampton Singers** - Contact [www.hamptonsingers.co.uk](http://www.hamptonsingers.co.uk)
- **Hampton Wine Society** - Contact Margaret Elsy at [hamptonwinesoc@gmail.com](mailto:hamptonwinesoc@gmail.com)
- **Solihull Scale Model Club** - Contact Alexander Clayson [a-clayson@hotmail.com](mailto:a-clayson@hotmail.com) or visit their Facebook site.
- **Hampton Probus Club** - Contact [peter.j.green@live.co.uk](mailto:peter.j.green@live.co.uk)
- **Local History Group** - Contact [info@hamptoninardenhistory.org](mailto:info@hamptoninardenhistory.org)
- **Hampton Walking** - Contact Evan Grant [hampton.walking@gmail.com](mailto:hampton.walking@gmail.com)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **3rd February:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association (RA) Committee Meeting
- **21st February:** Hampton Wombles Litter Pick (meet at 11am in White Lion car park)
- **3rd March:** Catherine de Barnes RA Committee Meeting
- **18th March:** Parish Council Meeting (7.30pm at Catney Village Hall)
- **14th March: Great British Spring Clean - Hampton: Meet at 10.30am at George Fentham Meeting Room, next to Soho Tavern**
- **14th March: Great British Spring Clean - Catherine-de-Barnes: Meet at 10am at Catney Village Hall**
- **24th March:** Catherine de Barnes RA AGM (7.30pm at Catney Village Hall)
- **7th April:** Catherine de Barnes RA Committee Meeting
- **11th April:** Hampton Wombles Litter Pick (meet at 11am in White Lion car park)
- **28th April:** Parish Council Village Meeting – Wine and nibbles from 7.30pm at Fentham Hall.

**Catherine de Barnes RA:** Generally, RA Committee meetings are now held on the first Tuesday in the month. Any resident wishing to raise any issue with the Committee, can do so, at least 48 hours before the meeting, by contacting [secretary@catney.co.uk](mailto:secretary@catney.co.uk). Any items of importance discussed at the meetings or decisions made, are communicated to members via Catney News, which is distributed to members only. Non-members are able to view it on our website the following month.

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

**D**on't forget to check out our website([www.hamptoninarden.org.uk](http://www.hamptoninarden.org.uk)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/pg/HamptonInArdenParishCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/pg/HamptonInArdenParishCouncil)) for up to date information between Newsletters.