

Parish News - Summer 2011

HELLO AGAIN

In this Summer edition, we have important news from the West Midlands Police on the current disorders, news updates on HS2, changes to both the Doctor's Surgery and to some of our High Street shops – as well as other newsworthy items – your seven new Parish Councillors, the Taxi Bus, the Big Lunch, Dogs and follow up on the Best Kept Village Competition.

Again, we were pleased to receive your kind comments on our first two issues so please do keep in touch – don't forget to visit your Parish Council website (www.hamptoninarden.org.uk)

We all hope you had a good summer – in the Autumn edition look forward to news on our recreation facilities, Birmingham Airport, an update on HS2, Conservation (of particular note) and Parking! - THANKYOU...



RECENT DISORDERS – BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL

By the time you read this Newsletter, the current disorders should have been adequately dealt with. The following paraphrases an official West Midlands Police message sent to all local Parish Councils on 10 August, 2011.

"We appreciate the recent scenes and incidents will cause concern but we can reassure you that we are monitoring all activity and have comprehensive plans in place for Solihull; we have additional police patrols on the street and trained public order teams on standby; we are confident that we can provide an effective and proportionate policing response to any given situation and remain fully committed to supporting and protecting our communities.

Should there be any incidents of disorder, we would ask members of

the public to stay calm, remain at home and give police officers the space they need to monitor and contain any issues that arise. We remain concerned that young people are being drawn into unlawful activity and would encourage families and communities to ensure that their young people are safely at home during this period.

Anyone with information relating to the disorder is urged to call West Midlands Police on **08345 113 5000, quoting Operation View.**"

We have been told of an increased visible police presence in the Town Centre of Chelmsley Wood; finally, despite some disturbing rumours, the Police have also informed us that there is no hard information that Solihull is likely to be specifically targeted.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

It is made up of seven unpaid Councillors, proposed and elected by the Community on a four yearly basis; the last election was in May 2011.

All Councillors have a commitment to improving conditions within the Parish and are continuously active in this endeavour.

Planning and Strategic Development - Councillors Gill Lewis, John Doidge, Mike Blomer

Maintenance Committee - Councillors Malcolm James (Chair), Clive Bowen plus outside local parish council land users

Communication Group - Councillors Alison Rolf (Chair), Clive Bowen (editor, Newsletter), Martin Dove (youth issues)

Youth sub committee - Councillor Martin Dove (chair) newly formed

Outside local organizations - Clive Bowen (Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee/focus groups), Malcolm James (Police Consultation Committee), Gill Lewis, Alison Rolf (local councils liaison), Clive Bowen (organizer of Remembrance Day parade with the Borough Council and Police Authority)

Parish Clerk - (our Chief executive) - Mrs. Julie Richardson (first point for all enquiries)

HS2 Update

Both your Parish Council and Hampton-in-Arden Society are active in opposing HS2 – with other local Parish Councils, we submitted written evidence, against HS2 (details on our website – www.hamptoninarden.org.uk) to Solihull Council's Scrutiny and Overview Board on 5 July last together with an oral presentation; however, this Board voted to continue 'conditional support, in principle' for an HS2 rail network and to support the plans through to the next stage of the planning process (visit <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/>

[news/25146.htm](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/news/25146.htm)); this recommendation was approved by the full Council on 12 July!

Local opposition / support:

| | | |
|--|-------------------|------------|
| Caroline Spellman, MP | our own MP | YES to HS2 |
| Nikki Blake MEP | West Midlands MEP | NO to HS2 |
| local Parish Councils | Solihull area | NO to HS2 |
| Solihull Council | to date | YES to HS2 |
| Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Airport | | YES to HS2 |

We have a long way to go...

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

Hampton Surgery – Patient Participation Group

At the joint request of our Doctor's Surgery and the Parish Council, the Patient Participation Group is being formed:

aim - to improve the offered patient service

need - to recruit surgery patients to provide an input into the way the service is, and should be, delivered

action - establishment of a 'guiding committee' - establishment of sub-committees in such areas as chronic disability, children's and women's issues.

contact - Dr. Martin Shalley, Chair (0788 5097563 or e.mail: mjsgal@doctors.org.uk)

If you would like to attend an open meeting, which is now being arranged, please contact Martin Shalley – you will be most welcome

New doctor duty rota Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - Doctor Prince, Thursday - Doctor Wright, Friday - Doctor Charlton

THE BIG LUNCH

On Sunday 5 June 2011, what is known as the 'Big Lunch, took place across the UK; this is an initiative set up by:

- the Eden Project - EDF Energy, and - the National Lottery

the aim is to get communities to interact with each other : for the past three years a date has been fixed, countrywide, when local communities organize their own activities (often communal lunches, barbecues)

In Hampton-in-Arden, this year, Bell Vue Terrace joined in: with a

massive barbeque, bunting and gazebos were evident with plenty of food and games for the children (from a few months to 90 years old!)

The response was excellent - **"we all look forward to next year"**

Date for your diary: Sunday 3 June 2012 – corresponding with the Queen's Jubilee celebrations; Bell Vue Terrace will be involved so how wonderful it would be if more of our village areas were involved - **how about it?**

UPDATE ON OUR SHOPS

In the Spring edition of the Newsletter, concern was expressed on the possible demise of our village shops ('use them or lose them' was the cry)

However, we are now pleased to report that the shops at the top of the Village are to be refurbished and the Corner Shop will now be under the new management of Julie Williamson.

DOGS

Most village dog owners are responsible when it comes to clearing up after their pets, **BUT, some are not!**

Solihull Council and your Parish Council have provided a number of bins around the village area

It is illegal to leave dog faeces in public areas (incurring a fixed penalty fine of £75 or a Court fine of £100); please take your plastic bag home, or bin it – do not hide it under a hedge – **THANKYOU**

TAXI-BUS

This is flexible service, funded by CENTRO, available to residents of Hampton-in-Arden, Catherine de Barnes, Berkswell, Balsall Common, Barston and Eastcote; it is a handy door-to-door service, perfect for work or leisure, to such areas as:

Solihull, Coventry, other Heart of England areas, Knowle, Birmingham International.

Days/times: Monday to Saturday 8.00 am to 7.30 pm available to all
Bookings: to be made 24 hours in advance, calling **0121-782-9322** between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm weekdays

Passes/fares: n-network and n-bus tickets accepted on board; typical journey fare is £1.70 per person

Use the service – go to town, to the station, meet your friends – **ENJOY!**

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

Following on from our item in the Spring edition, we have now received the results of the 2011 competition; this year's winner was Berkswell who scored 134 points – we were joint second on 129, so we were fairly close.

We scored maximum points on 'absence of litter' (due to the valiant efforts of those villagers who braved a bitterly cold, wet May Saturday morning to help to tidy the village – thanks again to all of you!) and maximum points on:

Condition of public halls, bus shelters, sports facilities, car parks

Bizarrely, the item we scored the lowest on was 'evidence of community spirit'; we just cannot understand this and are asking for additional feedback from the organizers (Berkswell Prosecution of Felons)

But, we were complimented on the high standard of:

Our website, the arboretum (we should think so), and our Newsletter, our sporting facilities which they said were the best in the area (I think we all agree with that)

Whilst it is disappointing not to win, we can draw comfort from the many items we scored highly on; we shall, of course, look at ways to improve those areas which we scored lowest on.

In 2012 we have the Queen's Jubilee celebrations so, as stated in the 'Big Lunch' item, let us all get together to arrange our own street celebrations and... **NEXT YEAR WE WILL BE UNBEATABLE!**



SPEAK TO YOU IN THE AUTUMN

Our contributors this month were Councillors Gill Lewis, Malcolm James, Alison Rolf, Clive Bowen (editor) and Doctor Martin Shalley - **Many thanks to you all...**