

Parish News - Winter 2011

HELLO

A warm welcome to our first Newsletter which your Parish Council will be issuing to each Hampton-in-Arden household (including part of Catherine-de-Barnes) each quarter – Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn.

Our aim is to impart news and items of interest as well as to complement the information contained in your Parish Council website (www.hamptoninarden.org.uk). We hope (if you are able) you will visit our website – the content is both interesting and informative and covers:

- Details about the Parish, Parish Council matters, planning applications, useful local contacts, a village diary, tourist information, a photo gallery and a site map



Again, welcome to you all – we very much hope that you will look forward to each edition and let us have your views – THANKYOU

WELCOME FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR – Gill Lewis

Your seven Parish Councillors will be contributing articles to this Newsletter;

We are all elected by Parishioners giving time freely to help looking after village facilities, protecting the village environment and administering the parish budget (known as the 'precept') of about £25 per household, per annum, which is paid along with your Council Tax. We hope that this newsletter will help you to understand what the Parish Council achieves on your behalf.

STATION PARKING

This problem suddenly appeared, in October last year, when Severn Trent Water relocated some 1700 staff to new offices in central Coventry; unfortunately, parking space requirements were not calculated resulting in problems for ourselves and the feeder stations of Berkswell, Marston Green and Tile Hill – they have been similarly overwhelmed!

Cars parked all day, outside the Station car park, are causing safety issues particularly in Old Station Road where it is extremely difficult for traffic to pass safely along its route; Wyckham Blackwell are worried about the safety of their heavy lorries at the junction with Meriden Road.

At the January 2011 full Council Meeting (including some public participation), the Chair (Gill Lewis) proposed that the following requests, from a number of parishioners, form a Council motion; this, to be forwarded to Solihull Council for their urgent consideration; this motion was seconded by Councillor Bowen and unanimously carried:

- 1) double yellow lines at the junction of Old Station Road and Meriden Road
- 2) intermittent single yellow lines on Old Station Road, from Meriden Road as far as the entrance to Wyckham Blackwell, so creating 'pinch points' for cars to pass; this would necessitate parking restrictions on the other side of the road. Parking restrictions should apply from 0800 to 1800, Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays and weekends.
- 3) parking restrictions, in the form of double yellow lines, on both sides of the roads surrounding the Village Green, and
- 4) implementation of residents parking permits for the Meriden service road (nearest to Old Station Road) and the opposite Station Cottages, as soon as they become available.

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

FOOTPATHS

After some two year cajoling by your Parish Council, Solihull Council have now resurfaced the footpath between Lapwing Drive and the Crescent; we now have an all weather route for pedestrians to safely reach the centre of the village.

Also, after similar detailed requests we now have footpaths between Patrick's Bridge and the old Kenilworth Road; Gill Lewis is now asking for this old Kenilworth Road to be re-designated as a cycle route or bridleway to form a circular route for walkers, joggers and cyclists from the village – all safe for family use.

MYSTERY OF THE VANISHING CONIFERS

We are all very grateful to members of the Gardening Club for planting and maintaining flower displays around the village; we are sure you will agree that the summer flowers were quite beautiful.

The winter planting featured some attractive small, light green small conifer trees; But, three of these have been stolen – unbelievable we hear you say – oh hum! If you see a garden with three bright green conifers of the size which have been removed from our new plating troughs, well.....

VILLAGE DIARY

In 2010 we spent some time in updating the Parish Council Website (www.hamptoninarden.org.uk); One of the drop down sites is headed the 'Village Diary' containing information on village events covering their nature, location, date and times and who to contact for further information.

This important website page has not been supported to the extent which we would like; If you are an official of any Hampton-in-Arden club /organisation do please contact us – we can include any event you having coming up

- Giving you maximum publicity; please contact us at the address shown in this Newsletter; all Councillors would welcome this especially Councillor Alison Rolf who chairs our Communication Sub Group.
– **Thankyou!**



PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS, MAY 2011

These four yearly elections take place in May 2011 when all Parish Councillors stand for re-election. If you want to make a difference in your village, consider putting your name forward – please talk to any Councillor or visit our website (www.hamptoninarden.org.uk) or approach our new Parish Clerk, Mrs. Julie Richardson, for further information.

and to finish on a smelly, but nevertheless important note, we have the:

DRAINS

At the corner of Shadowbrook Lane, near the entrance to the Recreation Ground, something slimy and very smelly slowly crept its way beneath a manhole cover spreading across the road (Quartermass like to parishioners of a certain age!)

Solihull Council were informed of this health hazard and we all thought that things would soon be back to normal – how wrong we were:

Solihull Council - “not our problem mate, it’s a British Telecom manhole”

British Telecom - “sorry mate, its sewage, try Severn Trent”

Severn Trent - they inspected the area, not defining the problem : “sorry Mate, nothing to do with us, try the Sports Club”

Sports Club - they inspected the area and the mess wasn't coming from their area

Environmental Health - they were informed and with the winter weather upon us something just had to be done.....

Meeting - all agencies were called, with a dozen 'yellow jackets' standing around the now ice crusted offending hole; one by one each yellow jacket scratched their heads, suggesting “suck it out..... put the lid back on and let's have a cup of tea – it smells; it will go away”!

Seriously, the matter is in hand and your Parish Council is determined to define the problem which all agencies are working on; we will keep you informed!

