

## Parish News - Autumn 2011

### HELLO AGAIN

As our Village dons its Autumn cloak, your Parish Council has news and news updates on a number of important fronts – HS2, the proposed limited Parking Restrictions within the Village (yellow lines), the current stage of Birmingham Airport's runway extension – as well as items of interest on Catherine-de-Barnes, Nature Conservation, the George Fentham Day Club and the 2012 Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

All members of the Parish Council send our very best wishes to you all for a Happy Christmas and healthy and successful 2012 (the year of the Olympics) Our Winter, 2012, edition will include current news as well as important information on the Borough's Local Development Framework (LDF).



### PARKING RESTRICTIONS (double yellow lines)

Parking continues to be a real problem in several areas of the Village; However, overflow parking from the Railway Station is being addressed on several fronts:

- 240 additional spaces are now operational at Tile Hill
- the number of cars parked in Old Station Road are significantly less, and
- the implementation of our proposals to **SMBC** for further parking restrictions (double yellow lines)

Your Parish Council requested double yellow line parking restrictions around the War Memorial, the corner of Old Station Road and High Street and on a limited basis further down Old Station Road, with 'pinch points' to allow for the safe passing of vehicles; there will be some other double yellow lines on the

corner of Fentham Road/High Street as well as the corner of the High Street and Marsh Lane.

These proposals have been agreed and outline the success of our negotiations with **SMBC**, who wanted even more extensive parking restrictions.

Finally, it is hoped that rail travellers from outside the Village will consider parking at Birmingham International as a saving of £150 per month can be saved by commuters, via a deal with Centro and Virgin Trains.

There will be consultation on the parking restrictions but, meanwhile, we hope you will be happy with the outcome of our negotiations to limit the double yellow line onslaught favoured by the Borough Council!

### HIGH SPEED 2 UPDATE

Your Parish Council continue to lobby **against** HS2 and are active in the campaign to have the Government's proposals reviewed, submitting challenging responses to them in July of this year.

We now await an announcement from the new Transport Secretary, Justine Greening, in December, 2012:

- as to whether it is to go ahead as planned
- be amended by having some of the alternatives adopted, or
- be scrapped altogether (which we are hoping for!)

Whatever the outcome we shall continue to work, on your behalf, with all the other local Parish Councils to ensure the impact on the

village, all parishioners and the local environment is minimized and properly managed.

We are hosting the following Quiz to raise much needed funds to continue to lobby against HS2:

- Saturday November 26th, 2011, commencing 7.30 pm
- Fentham Hall – Adults £10 Children £5
- includes Fish and Chip supper and quiz (team sizes: between 6-8)
- tickets via either e.mail [mjsgal@doctors.org.uk](mailto:mjsgal@doctors.org.uk) or 01675 443517
- let us know if you would like to join a quiz team
- please bring your own drinks and glasses
- raffle prizes would also be welcome

**WE VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU**

### BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT RUNWAY EXTENSION

This runway extension is expected to be completed by the end of 2014 and it is estimated that this will increase the number of passengers to in the region of **18 million** (from the current level of some 9 million). The reason for this significant facility is to allow wide bodied airliners to take off and land, putting direct flights to China and the west coast of the USA within reach of both Birmingham's commuters and businesses.

This significant development is in its final few stages (eg the realignment of the A45, including new footpaths, and the construction of the runway itself) Both the Civil Aviation Authority (**CAA**) and the National Air Traffic organisation (**NATS**) will need to approve, with Birmingham Airport, any airspace change (and the current 'Hampton Turn') before the first operational flight from the extended runway. There will be a public consultation sometime towards the end of 2012/early 2013. **WE SHALL, OF COURSE, KEEP YOU INFORMED.**

*Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council*

## CATHERINE-DE-BARNES COMMON

**T**he boundary of the Parish of Hampton-in-Arden stretches as far as the Grand Union Canal, which includes the eastern section of Catherine-de-Barnes and its Common. Your Parish Council is responsible for this, the only 'common land' within the Solihull Borough.

Despite continuous routine work, the Common has become somewhat overgrown and the lovely walks towards the canal need to be improved; We work with the Borough Council and local residents implementing a plan to:

- enhance its natural features
- keeping the ponds fresh and clear, and
- giving space for the flora and fauna to survive.

But, we do need YOUR help so if you would like to enjoy fresh air, exercise and, perhaps, learn new skills such as hedging and ditching, you are most welcome to join one of our Working Parties on one or more of the **following Saturday dates**, from 10.00am (for as much, or little, time as you can spare):

- December 10th 2011; 2012: January 21st, February 25th and, for pond clearing, March 31st

**Please give your names and preferred dates to our Parish Clerk, Julie Richardson on 442017 – you will be given a very warm welcome – THANKYOU!**

## VILLAGE NATURE CONSERVATION

**I**n the Village we have a number of quite beautiful areas which many of us enjoy in each of our wonderfully varying seasons:

- the Recreation Ground and the 'Spinney' (Parish Council land), and
- the Meadows and New Woodland (Fentham Trust Land)

These areas are being conserved by working parties, supported by the Hampton Society, the George Fentham Trust and your Parish Council.

A major area of conservation is the Wild Flower Meadow; this is now becoming well developed with a record number of species moving into what was once a sheep-grazed pasture; work continues to remove unwanted invasive species as well as to growing - on from gathered seed.

These voluntary working parties are supported by employing professional help, when necessary.

We are looking for **YOUR** help, in such tasks as:

- path-side improvement, tree and sapling removal, bramble pulling,
- hedge cutting, scrub clearance, hedge laying, wildflower planting
- pond maintenance and bird box installation

We know your time is precious and we often ask for too much voluntary support but we would welcome any time you can give:

- on either/or Thursday 1st and 15th December 2011 (2012 dates are yet to be determined)
- **times:** between 9.30 am to 12.30 pm
- tools are provided, so just kit yourself out in outdoor clothing, stout footwear and gloves
- don't forget a flask, with suitable beverage and a snack (outdoor work really does improve the appetite)

Please contact either Ray Parker on 442539 or David Grimshaw on 442680 for further information and as to whether a **Saturday** would be more convenient for you. **THANKYOU!**

## GEORGE FENTHAM DAY CLUB

**S**ome twenty four ladies and gentlemen meet, each fortnight, in Fentham Hall for social and other healthy activities (read on!)

After being picked up by taxi (courtesy of the Fentham Trust), the day begins with coffee, biscuits and a chat – with loads of village gossip; this is followed by an half hour Exercise Class, sitting on chairs, led by Sam of Hampton Gym – all agree that this is great fun.

On to a two course lunch with Janice Townley cooking the main course followed by puddings provided by the good ladies of the village 'Pudding Club' (bet you didn't know of its existence) – delicious!

Lunch is followed by a lively entertainment session, organized by Malcolm James assisted by Carol Grant, Martin Shalley and many others – recent sessions have covered:

- films, organ recitals, bingo, quizzes, music recitals, concerts, and
- interactive sessions: making Easter Bonnets and potting pot plants

### Trips and outside events

These have included – the Birmingham Hippodrome (a ballet), a River Avon boat trip and a 'Marie Curie' support evening at the Beeches.

This quite splendid Club's activities are organised and sponsored by The George Fentham Trust

## THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR, 2012

**O**fficial celebrations will take place over the weekend of 2nd – 5th June (Saturday to Tuesday inclusive), the Monday and Tuesday being Bank Holidays.

A Village Group is co-ordinating the celebratory events and it is hoped that the weekend will be fun packed with such events as:

- a village fete
- sports day
- musical concert with a picnic/fireworks
- big lunch and jazz band

These are initial ideas but the sky is the limit so if you have any ideas or would like to be involved in the organization of any event please contact our Parish Clerk, Julie Richardson on 442017

## POSTSCRIPT – WHERE DID ALL THE CARS GO?

**F**entham Road has, for a long time, had a serious problem with parked cars but, when the Gas man cometh and dug up all the road, all the cars disappeared – Not down the holes, we looked there – so where DID they go?

This could be the answer to our parking problems!

## SPEAK TO YOU IN THE WINTER

Our contributors this month were Councillors Gill Lewis, Malcolm James, Alison Rolf, Clive Bowen (editor), John Doidge and Ray Parker - **Many thanks to you all...**