

## Parish News - Summer 2013

### HELLO AGAIN

**W**hat a privilege to be writing to you as the summer sun embraces our beautiful village enhancing the colours of its trees, flowers and buildings; the recent judging of our entry in the 'village' category of the Solihull Neighbourhood in Bloom competition went extremely well and we are hoping to top our 2012 Silver Award.

There is a hint of change in the air with the new Local Post Office opening in August as well as your Parish Council taking the first

steps in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan; do take special note of the items on Birmingham Airport, HS2 and Lorries.

Meanwhile, enjoy the village in its summer coat visiting the Wild Flower Meadow and walking some of our footpaths.



### HIGH SPEED RAIL

**B**oth your Parish Council and Hampton Society have passed a joint formal resolution which has been submitted to Solihull Borough Council:

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council supports, without reservation, the new **Option 7 proposal** for the slight raising of the rail viaduct, by one metre, at Patricks Farm which will:

- remove the need for a diversionary route (for the B4102) to be built behind properties in Diddington Lane
- prevent significant loss of land to soil deposition/land take

- remove the need for intrusive road construction (and its inevitable impact on the village and its roads)
- alleviate some of the damage to the ecosystems along the River Blythe

Solihull Borough Council have been formally requested to support this resolution and, following an initial meeting with HS2 engineers, we have confirmation that they see '**no impediment**' to our proposal; we now await confirmation from both Solihull Council and HS2 that this 'least worst option' will be adopted.

### BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT –airspace change consultation

**A**t a packed public meeting, held in Fentham Hall on 27 June, organized by Caroline Spelman, MP, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) representatives answered a range of questions from local parish councillors and residents on this consultation process which most feel was flawed surprise was expressed by the CAA that information on flight path 'obstacles' (eg high buildings, pylons) was not given by the Airport to the local community.

Hampton Parish Councillor, Alison Rolf, told the CAA that "the major concern was the Airports refusal to hold a further consultation on a community development proposal (**known as**

**Option 6a**) which would retain the 'Hampton Turn' if adopted" The CAA replied that they were aware of this and, when the Airport submits its preferred option, these concerns would be taken into account.

**Caroline Spelman, MP:** "I thank the CAA for accepting my invitation and for explaining the modern air safety rules; they did shed light on a confusing situation, **making it clear that they will look at any option, including a no change to the current flight path as long as it is safe**" Caroline is due to hold a further summit to see how we can continue our fight to make the airport change its mind.

### HAMPTON FESTIVAL 2013

**F**ollowing the success of last year's Jubilee celebrations, the Festival Committee organized the 'Hampton Festival', held on Saturday and Sunday 1 and 2 June and what success it brought:

Scarecrow Competition – this provided a special dimension to the start to the main weekend with the village welcoming all those happy Panto characters: pirates, jack and his beanstalk, snow white, Dick Whittington, old mother hubbard and many many more!

**Saturday 1 June** ● Fete and WI flower and produce show ● tennis festival and BBQ ● WI sumptuous tea and cakes ● Bouncy castle ● AD band concert with picnics ● evening firework display ● raffle

**Sunday 2 June** Following the open air morning Church Service (with some 350 attending) came the well supported 'Big Lunch'. A huge thanks to Hampton Arts and Crafts, the Manor (fireworks), Halifax Bank (bucks fizz and pensioner transport), local businesses (raffle), sports club, and all other organizers and unsung volunteers!

### BIRMINGHAM DOGS HOME

**S**olihull Borough Council have narrowly agreed plans for this facility to be relocated to new premises in Catherine-de-Barnes Lane.

Your Parish Council strongly objected to this **Green Belt development** and, via a local survey, Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association revealed that some two-thirds of their residents were against the proposal!

*Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council*

## VILLAGE WAR MEMORIAL

**The total refurbishment of the War Memorial is now almost complete with some minor gentle sanding of some of the more sensitive repaired sections of the stonework to be done – and doesn't it look splendid!**

The whole of the memorial has been machine cleaned, damaged areas repaired and some **400** individual letters have been re-engraved by hand matching the original style.

As you now know the total cost has been borne partly from the Parish Council's reserves made up with generous contributions from both the George Fentham Trust and Hampton Society; Our **grateful thanks** go to each of these organizations as well as to the stonemasons, Bellamy and Waterhouse (especially David Bellamy)



## FOOTPATHS – 'Solihull Green Man Trail'

**This trail runs for more than 20 miles from Castle Bromwich, through Hampton-in-Arden to Solihull's St. Alphege Church and is highlighted by small circular signs on footpath waymarks in the Parish (eg near the pedestrian railway bridge, adjacent to the Crescent)**

The Trail takes its name from the historical figure of the **Green Man** (a 3000 year part of our folklore) and takes in: ● Alcott Wood ● our own Packhorse Bridge ● Grand Union Canal (part) ● Birmingham Airport ● Malvern and Brueton Parks

other lovely walks: [www.solihull.gov.uk/transport/publicrightsofway](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/transport/publicrightsofway)

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

**Our application for the village to be designated a 'Neighbourhood Area' was approved by Solihull Borough Council on 13 June 2013 which means that we are now able to move ahead with the preparation of our own Neighbourhood Plan.**

We have obtained a small government grant to help with the costs of preparing the plan such as printing, holding meetings etc.

**the next stage** this is to seek the views of all parishioners, including local businesses, on a wide variety of subjects, via a

comprehensive survey; from this a **draft plan** will be prepared for public consultation

**timing** these survey forms will be posted to each household and businesses during the course of this Autumn, 2013

**is this important to me? YES!** Such a plan will determine, organize and control the way in which our village community develops over the next 12 years – and your Parish Council urges each of you to fully participate in each stage of its preparation – **thankyou.**

## CONSERVATION AREA

**Since 2009 Solihull Council have been reviewing the conservation area of our village (ie as an area of 'special architectural/historical interest'), the character and appearance of which they have a duty to preserve and enhance; they have produced a draft appraisal document which outlines some changes to the boundary of the conservation area and the buildings contained within it.**

We now look forward to receiving their final document which will contain up-to-date detail of our conservation area which we can then incorporate in our Neighbourhood Plan; we shall, of course, keep you fully informed.

## HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES

**Lorries travelling to and from the Cornets End Lane Quarries are banned from using our village roads by the Planning Agreements relating to mineral extraction and landfill.**

Following on from the Parish Council's liaison meetings with the quarry operators any drivers found to be contravening these regulations are now to be fined.

**Please report any suspicious traffic to Wayne Davis (on 07793 165638 and/or [wayne.davis@tarmac.co.uk](mailto:wayne.davis@tarmac.co.uk) stating date, time and registration number..... THANKYOU**

## Hampton-in-Arden Post Office

**A new sub postmaster (Mr. Tariq Dar) has been appointed who will now run our Post Office as what is known as a 'local branch', which will mean:**

- post office services will be run from a till on the **retail counter** instead of from a separate security screened counter
- longer opening hours (Mon-Fri 0700-1800; Sat and Sun 0700-1700)
- most of the usual Post Office products and services will continue to be available during these times (please pick up a detailed handout from our Post Office which details all the services/products revised provision or contact their

**Customer Helpline on 08457 22 33 44)**

**Key Dates** ● scheduled opening at the current High Street location: Thursday 29 August 2013 at 1300 ● closure for refurbishment: Monday 19 August 2013 at 1730 ● available services during period of closure: Meriden Branch, Main Road, Meriden, CV7 7LP

This is a positive outcome with the Post Office confirming that this new service will be provided on a permanent basis so let us all use this updated facility (as well as all of our fine local shops) whenever we can!

## HAMPTON RAILWAY STATION ACCESS

**Following on from our recent meetings with London Midland, they have carried out a feasibility study concerning cutting a gate into the wall of the bridge – claiming that the capital cost would be in the region of £100,000 (!), which funds they do not have.**

We shall continue to press for action as it remains an urgent problem for many passengers. Meanwhile, a reminder that you can request a taxi to take you to another station (**phone the Assisted Travel Team on 0800 0924260**) – do let us know how you get on.

## SPEAK TO YOU IN THE AUTUMN

Thank you to Councillors Gill Lewis, Mike Blomer, Clive Bowen (editor), Alison Rolf and John Doidge