

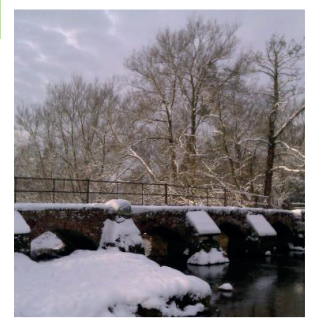
Parish News - Winter 2013

HELLO AGAIN

It is early days, but we are sure that everyone will now look forward to a fine Spring after the recent 'snow upon snow' weather

Again, this edition of your Newsletter contains some extremely important news from your Parish Council on **HS2, the Neighbourhood Plan and Birmingham Airport's airspace change consultation** (final roadshow in Hampton on Friday 8 February, 2013 between 10.00 and 1200 hours in Fentham Hall); please, also, - **see page 2.**

Finally, do keep your views coming in and we hope you will enjoy accessing our website, especially the Village Diary section - **see separate item. THANKYOU**



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - "Our Plan, Our Future"

In November, 2012, an application to Solihull Borough Council was submitted by your Parish Council for the whole of the parish (which includes part of Catherine de-Barnes) to be designated a "Neighbourhood Area"

The Parish Council has established a Working Group consisting of representatives from the Parish Council, George Fentham Trust, Hampton Society and others (yet to be decided); the **Neighbourhood Plan** will be launched at the Annual Parish Meeting on 16 April 2013.

Preparation of the Plan will be a lengthy process involving full consultation with **all** residents and local businesses; this will lead

to a professional examination of the eventual proposals which will need to be approved by residents in a **local referendum.**

Neighbourhood Area – this is the area on which the neighbourhood plan will be based **Neighbourhood Plan** – this aims to give the local community (as defined within the Neighbourhood Area) a greater say in planning for the future of the Parish (ie: in our case, Hampton-in-Arden and part of Catherine-de-Barnes) by setting out **policies** which will influence decisions on planning applications and development and other initiatives (eg: transport, local recreational facilities)

HIGH SPEED RAIL - The Latest News

Your Parish Council have responded to the Government's compensation proposals pressing for:

- no loss and full market value with an independent appeals process
- a reduction from 12 months to 6 months in regard to the property being on the market, and
- a '**Community Fund**' to help offset damage to the local environment (eg dislocation of local services and the effect of the new Interchange Station on village life - in operation and during its construction)

Caroline Spelman, MP met with the Secretary of State for Transport and we now understand that a Solihull delegation has now pressed for a tunnel, allowing realignment away from the village (Secretary of State response: "I am not ruling anything out")

Meanwhile:

- Judicial Review of Phase 1 route consultation – outcome awaited
- Community Forum meetings (HS2 with Hampton, Berkswell and Balsall Common) have continued, focusing on clarification of proposals such **viaduct design** (over the Blythe, Kenilworth Road) as well as local road and footpath changes

Phase 2 details have been announced (to Manchester and Leeds) so the battles now move North!

Finally, we plan to hold a Village meeting as soon as we have better clarification on local developments; **good news:** Solihull Council are now on our side in fighting for proper mitigation should the construction go ahead.

RAY PARKER - (1938-2012)

The whole village has been greatly saddened by the death of Ray Parker; Ray worked tirelessly in so many ways over the years as a Parish Councillor (and, here the Parish Council would like to express their deep gratitude for the work that he did on our behalf and for his contribution to the welfare of the village), School Governor, Chairman of the Arts and Crafts

Society, Church Steward, Leader of the Conservation Group and last, but by no means least, author of the long running 'Conservation Conversation' column in the Church Chronicle.

Perhaps he will be best remembered for his cheerful disposition and always having time for a friendly word; he is deeply missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

HEAVY LORRY CRASH

Shortly before Christmas a heavy lorry, approaching the Village from Solihull, strayed into the centre of the road by the Corner Shop; it swerved to avoid a car, and

- demolished part of the Church wall, and
- a telegraph post

Phone lines were wrenched from the opposite cottages causing roof tiles to catapult to the ground. It was an absolute miracle that no one was close enough to be seriously injured.

Nearby residents were not totally surprised as, despite the newly installed **flashing signs**, the number of lorries speeding through

the Village has increased over recent months; some villagers have said that "we are being terrorised by the nature, frequency and speed of these lorries"

Your Parish Council had already asked Solihull Council to look into the main reasons for the increase of this type of traffic to halt their nuisance; following on from this accident, an urgent meeting was held with **Highway Safety Officers** who have organized a traffic census and will now be tracing the Contractors to enforce route conditions which form part of planning agreements; the Police are not keen on banning HGV vehicles from certain roads (enforcement is difficult). **however, we will keep you informed.**

GEORGE FENTHAM SCHOOL – PTA PANTO – Christmas 2012

To help raise funds to update the school playground, the PTA put on a Panto ('Sleeping Beauty') – "oh, yes they did – oh no, they didn't" they did, starting rehearsals in October 2011 with parents, children and many villagers involved in this mammoth task.

The audience response was encapsulated by such remarks as "it was certainly as good as any we have seen at the main Birmingham theatres" - **wow!**

The story was of Sleeping Beauty but with a twist:

- Doctor Who and his Tardis transported the Prince and page through time to help the stricken Princess

The dancing, singing and audience participation was something to behold with Hampton resounding to the laughter of children and parents alike

The PTA raised the enormous sum of **over £5000** for Phase 2 of the Playground Project (outdoor classroom and sun shade canopy)

Well done to the PTA and all who supported the Panto – not forgetting the children – **EXCELLENT WORK – 10/10!**

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2012, 2013 - Village War Memorial

Following last year's successful Remembrance Day on 11 November, 2012, with more villagers and others attending than ever before, this years ceremony should be even more memorable.

The road closures make the whole event safer, quieter and more respectful to those villagers who sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

In this respect, in April/May this year stonemasons will start work on the restoration of the Village War Memorial when they will:

- be re-engraving some 400 individual letters by hand, matching the existing style

- repairing all the many damaged areas, and

- machine cleaning the complete memorial

The total cost will be borne partly from the Parish Council's financial reserves made up with generous contributions from both the George Fentham Trust and Hampton Society to whom we are extremely grateful – **THANKYOU!**



WEBSITE AND VILLAGE DIARY - a reminder

Our website contains so much information you might need to know about the Village and your Parish Council via: 'www.hamptoninarden.org.uk'

Where you will find easy to use drop down menus with:

- lists of useful numbers
- information on village organisations
- minutes of meetings
- the village diary

The **village diary** details all forthcoming village events so all club/society secretaries or organizers are asked to please contact our Parish Clerk, Mrs. Julie Richardson, via clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk with your event details; we will happily promote them **FREE OF CHARGE!**

We want to ensure, on your behalf, the prevention of double booking on the same time and same date – **THANKYOU!** meanwhile, do take a look at the website as it is kept up-to-date.

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT – proposed flight path changes

The extended runway is planned to be fully operational by Spring 2014 which Birmingham Airport have stated necessitates changes to current flight paths.

Runway 15 – departures Currently, pilots taking off in a southerly direction operate a 20 degree right turn at 0.8 miles from the end of the runway, avoiding flying over the village; they say the 'Hampton Turn' needs to be abandoned as it would be difficult to manoeuvre with more heavily loaded aircraft.

Runway 33 – arrivals The Airport want to adopt new flight paths which will result in the reduction of the height above the ground of aircraft on the final approach to the runway (that is 51 feet lower than of now); the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) have said that this is necessary to meet Civil Aviation International requirements.

We all need to oppose these intended flight path changes, with vigour so do please try to attend the final Birmingham Airport Roadshow on **Friday 8th February 2013 between 1000 and 1200 hours in Fentham Hall.**

We have been told that these proposals are 'not set in stone'!

SPEAK TO YOU IN THE SPRING

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

STOP PRESS - Outdoor gym equipment has now arrived ready for use