

Parish News - May 2015

HELLO AGAIN

In this May edition we introduce your new Parish Council following the elections and draw your attention to some of the main news items including planning items, HS2, Birmingham Airport and the Neighbourhood Plan.

We aim for the Newsletter to continue to update you on these very important news items and to also keep you informed on other aspects of village life which are a key part in making our village a wonderful place to live. In this edition we have included information on the **Hampton-in-Arden Society** and the upcoming **Hampton Festival**.

Following the elections we have **two more Councillor positions to fill**. If you are eager to get more involved in village life being a Councillor could be for you. If you are interested, this edition of the Newsletter also includes information on how to apply for a position on the Council.



INTRODUCING YOUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL

The four yearly election of your Parish Council took place at the beginning of May. We have five Councillors remaining in position: Councillors Mike Blomer, John Doidge, Gill Lewis, David Sandells and Cat Sellars. However, two long standing Parish Councillors have stood down in order to enjoy some well earned free time: Malcolm James and Clive Bowen. Both Malcolm and Clive have been Councillors for many years and will be sorely missed.

Goodbye...

Malcolm James has been Chair of both the Council and its Maintenance Committee. His work in these roles has contributed significantly to the life of the village. Although stepping down from the Council Malcolm will continue with his work as a George Fentham Trustee, School Governor and of course his invaluable contribution towards running the pensioners lunches on a Wednesday.

Clive Bowen has, up until this edition, been the Editor of our Newsletter. His hard work on this has really benefitted the village and ensured that Parishioners are kept abreast of important village issues. He has also been the co-ordinator of our highly successful Remembrance Day Parade and has taken care of the War Memorial for us, organising the wonderful restoration last year.

We would like to thank both Malcolm and Clive for their immense contribution to the life of the village through the Parish Council and wish them both well for the future.

Welcome...

We would like to welcome two new Councillors to the Council:

- Tim Beresford - who lives with his young family in Bellemere Road; and,
- Dave Cuthbert - who lives in Catherine-de-Barnes and will represent the views of this area of our Parish.

With our new Parish Council structure in place we believe that we will continue to have a strong team to work together and guide the village through any challenges that lie ahead.



Dave Cuthbert



Tim Beresford

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

HAMPTON FESTIVAL – 4th and 5th JULY 2015

The exciting new Hampton Festival and Scarecrow Competition is fast approaching so please remember to put the Festival weekend in your diaries.

On **Saturday 4th July** there will be a fete, children's fancy dress, cheer leading display, cake and art competition, classic car show and much entertainment for the whole family followed by the tennis club finals and family sports. In the early evening a band formed by local musicians will play with children from the village and later on provide music from the decades so please pack your picnic and come on down.

On **Sunday 5th July** Duncan will conduct an open air Church Service which will be followed by 'The Big Lunch' so please come along with your lunch baskets and join the pensioners lunch club for what we hope will be a lovely afternoon in the sun.

For more details please check out the Festival website:
<http://hamptoninardenfestival.weebly.com/>

We hope to see lots of you there!

PLANNING UPDATE

Muslim Burial Ground, Catherine-de-Barnes

In March we received notice of a **fourth** application for a Burial Ground/Cemetery at land off Catherine de Barnes Lane. Previous applications were **refused** and one **withdrawn**.

We are vehemently opposed to this proposal and have vigorously challenged other inappropriate and commercial developments on Green Belt land elsewhere in the Parish and will continue to do so. We have, with Catherine de Barnes Residents Association, **opposed** the burial ground plan.

Motorway Services (MSA)

We await further news about the proposed M42 Motorway Services at Solihull Road and the major 'Garden City' proposals for the triangle of Green Belt land between the A45/A446 and NEC, as reported in our Winter Newsletter. A formal planning application has yet to be made on the MSA. Both the Parish Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council are **strongly opposed** to this development proposal.

AIRPORT UPDATE

As most people are aware, over the last year the Airport company has been trialling two possible new take off routes. They have now stated their preference for Option 6 claiming this route, for aircraft taking off to the south ● replicates the original Hampton Turn as far as is technically possible, ● is safe, and ● is compliant with navigational requirements.

What does this mean for Hampton residents? There will be little or no change as Option 6 has been in use for some time and will continue to be used until the Civil Aviation Authority make the final decision - expected in

September 2015.

However, during the trials the airport company has identified a problem with some aircraft not flying the intended route when taking off to the south but then turning to go north. As a result, some types of aircraft are flying closer to the village than others and turning sooner than intended - creating **unnecessary noise** in the Bellemere Road area. In **June 2015** a revised route is to be trialled which should ensure that aircraft revert to the centre line of the intended route which is between Hampton-in-Arden and Balsall Common. It is hoped that any revised route will be operational later this year.

SOLIHULL NEIGHBOURHOODS IN BLOOM COMPETITION 2015

Having won the 'Most Engaged Village' category in the July 2014 competition, we have now entered the 2015 Competition in their Village section.

Solihull Council are inviting **all residents** to take part in the many other categories, such as: ● front garden, ● wild flowers, ● planter or hanging basket, ● disabled gardener, ● allotment plot or site, ● retail/commercial frontages (including pubs and restaurants). It is **free to enter** and we are told that "no experience is necessary - prizes will be awarded for effort and ideas". So, why not give it a go!

For further information call **0121 704 6784** or email snibloom@solihull.gov.uk. Alternatively visit www.solihull.gov.uk/solihullinbloom and apply online.

A few entry forms will also be available from our Parish Office (next to the Beeches Restaurant in Marsh Lane).

The closing date for entries is Friday 12 June 2015.

Village Clean-up Morning - Saturday 11 July 2015 (10am to noon): Please come along to our Parish Office when we will provide you with all the necessary equipment (bin bags, gloves, pickers, etc) to help 'spruce up' the village prior to the judging of the competition. The more the merrier! Just turn up or, if you have any queries, please telephone our Parish Clerk on 01675 442017. - THANK YOU!!

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Don't forget we now have our own Facebook page. We post regular updates on important issues, details about village services and reminders for local events so it is worth a look.

Just log in to Facebook and type "Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council" into the search box at the top of the Facebook window and we should pop up. To ensure our posts

automatically appear in your timeline make sure to hit the 'Like' button.



Not a Facebook user? Don't worry - you can access our Facebook page even if you do not have a Facebook account - just type this link into your web browser: <https://www.facebook.com/HamptonInArdenParishCouncil>

OUR TELEPHONE BOX – DO CALL IN!



The Telephone Box opposite the White Lion is not just a pretty village feature! It is owned by the Parish Council and is full of information useful to Parishioners and visitors to the village including copies of the most recent Newsletter and leaflets from Solihull Council.

In the coming weeks we will be giving the Telephone Box a bit of a 'face lift' and are also hoping to set up an 'honesty library' where people can exchange second hand books.

We are happy to include leaflets for other village organisations so if you have anything you would like to have popped into the box please do contact us (01675 442017 or clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk).

HS2 UPDATE

Blythe Valley Embankment

We now know that there **will be** a viaduct across the Blythe Valley, with a single span across Meriden Road. Design details are still awaited.

Diddington Lane and Packington Estates

A constructive meeting between the Parish Council, the Hampton-in-Arden Society and Packington Estates was held in April. As a result an agreed statement has been sent to HS2 detailing what would be acceptable to all parties (including the Council and the Society seeking to **retain** the existing alignment of Diddington Lane and **restricting** access to through traffic). We await a response.

Commons Select Committee

Due to the General Election, the Commons Select Committee process is now **suspended** and therefore any progress or response from HS2 is unlikely before June 2015.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The final touches are being put on our Pre-Submission Draft of the Neighbourhood Plan. It will then be sent to the printers and published ready for the final six weeks of consultation with residents and businesses during the summer 2015.

Your comments please! When the Consultation period on the Plan begins we will make the Plan available to all Parish residents. We urge everyone to read the Plan carefully, to ask for clarification if required and tell us of any comments they have.

How will I know it is available? We will let everyone know **when** the Plan is available, and **where** it can be viewed, via the Parish Council notice boards, our website, our Facebook page and leaflets.

Do please remember that the policies set out in the plan could affect the way the Parish is developed for many years to come – your feedback counts!

THE SPORTS CLUB

In the heart of the village is Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club which offers ● tennis, ● squash, ● cricket, ● hockey and ● boules, ● along with a friendly bar. During weekday evenings and at weekends in the summer months cricket, boules and tennis are all in full flow. Do come and watch!

The sports sections all offer **professional coaching** for every age group and all ability levels (group coaching sessions or 'one to one' for tennis and squash). For more information please email chair@hamptonsportsclub.org.uk or call in to the club any afternoon after 5pm.

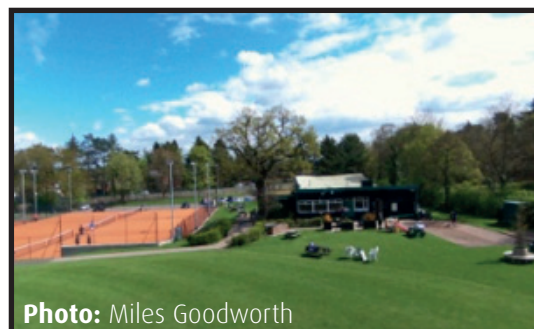


Photo: Miles Goodworth

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SOCIETY?

The Hampton-in-Arden Society is a charity that was established in 1966 and works closely with both the Parish Council and the George Fentham Trust. They aim to preserve, protect and improve building design and the natural environment in the Parish. The Society is run by an Executive Committee who are elected annually and endeavour to keep Hampton-in-Arden a special place for us all to live.

Over the past two years, the Society has worked hard on the following local issues: ● HS2 ● Flight path changes ● Motorway Service Area (MSA).

The Society is always keen for **new members** (particularly if you have specialist knowledge!) and so if you are interested in getting involved you can help by:

- joining the Executive Committee,
- joining the growing team of volunteers who maintain the Parish Spinney once a month, or
- if you are short on time but would like to support us (and the village) please consider becoming a member (£2 a year for the first family member and £1 per member after that). Your membership will support the Society in helping to keep Hampton a village where we all want to live.

Alternatively, if you would like find out more please do come along to the **Summer Social** – a Cheese and Wine Party - on **Friday 12th June 2015 in the Arden Room.**

Contact: George Goodall (Chairman – **01675 442628**), Sandy Wasse (Secretary – **01675 442184**)

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PRESCHOOL – ENROLLING FOR SEPTEMBER 2015

Within the village we have a fantastic Preschool for little ones who are between two and four years old. It is Ofsted registered and is run by the lovely Kelly Kemp. All the staff are fully qualified and are experienced following the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

The Preschool is currently enrolling for September 2015 so please get in touch with Kelly if you are interested in

securing a place (hiapreschool@gmail.com) or visit www.hamptoninardenpreschool.co.uk for more information.

- open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between 9.30am and 12.15pm (term-time only)
- £12.50 per session (with free places available for 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds)

NEW COUNCILLOR POSITIONS – WE NEED YOU!

The Parish Council has had permission to increase its number of Parish Councillors from seven to nine. We are therefore looking to co-opt a further two Councillors in the months to come.

If you would like to get more involved in village life and make a difference to where we live, becoming a Councillor may be for you. If you might be interested in applying please phone our friendly Parish Clerk Julie Richardson (**01675 442017**), drop us an email (clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk) or just pop into the office for a chat.



PREVENTING TRAGEDIES

The National Police Counter Terrorism Network has rolled out an awareness raising campaign, designed to reach out to families to help prevent young people travelling to Syria.

For more information, or to speak with specially trained police officers, families are encouraged to call **101** or visit www.preventtragedies.co.uk.

SPEAK TO YOU IN AUGUST

Thank you, as always, to our contributors including Parish Councillors and others. I am pleased to have taken over as Editor of the Newsletter and look forward to continuing all of Clive Bowen's hard work. Your feedback is important so please get in touch if you have any comments about the Newsletter (clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk).

Finally, a date for your diary: the next Parish Council Meeting is being held on the **8th July 2015**. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Do feel free to come along - we'd love to see you!

(Cllr Cat Sellars, Editor)