

Parish News - August 2017

HELLO AGAIN

Well summer has well and truly arrived and we have been having some (very!) hot and sunny weather. The village has enjoyed some great events including the Village Tidy Up (with lots of very enthusiastic volunteers, as well as the Cubs and Beavers helping out – thank you all so much) and the Festival, which was fabulous as always! In this edition of the Newsletter we have some important information about the Neighbourhood Plan (you said ‘yes’ in the Referendum), the possible redevelopment of the Sports Club and traffic calming proposals for the village. There is also an important proposal to consider about altering the Parish Council boundary to include the whole of Catherine-de-Barnes – we need your feedback. **Read on...**



THE FESTIVAL – WHAT A WEEKEND!

The weekend of 30th June saw our biggest and most successful Festival to date! The weekend represented the end of the annual Scarecrow competition that this year saw over 20 entries compete with the theme of “Comic Book Heroes”. We are pleased to confirm this year’s winners were ● best open (inspiration/imagination) – Maisie Redfern ● best open (perspiration/effort) – Sarah Meharg ● best group – Hampton Gym ● best children’s (under 12) – Evie Walsh Cooper.

The Festival itself started on Friday Evening with an opening party kindly sponsored by The Beeches Bar and Grill, with over 100 people enjoying the BBQ and music (despite the inclement weather at times!). The Festival officially opened at 11am on Saturday and in addition to some fantastic cars on show throughout the day, many of the Village organisations and societies were also represented. The evening culminated

in an open air concert attended by over 500 people and ended (for most!) with a spectacular fireworks display that was once again very kindly provided by The Hampton Manor. The Open Air Church Service on Sunday was followed by the Festival’s Community Lunch. This included a lunch provided by The Fentham Trust for senior members of the village.



Next year’s Festival is already pencilled in! However, with all things like this they don’t organise themselves. Therefore if you would like to be involved and join the Festival Committee for 2018 then please do let Julie Barnes, the Parish Clerk (01675 442017) know and she will pass on your details to one of the existing Committee Members.

SUCCESS OF THE RELAUNCH OF SCOUTING

The relaunch of Scouting within Hampton-in-Arden has been an overwhelming success. The Beaver Colony and Cub Pack got off to a fantastic start with a mixed introductory session, showcasing skills they would learn such as fire lighting and knots. Both have since been working towards various activity and challenge badges and have enjoyed activities such as Indian cooking, pond dipping, woodland exploration, a Father’s Day Cricket match, visits from nurses, the fire service and a trip to a Mosque, enjoying the amazing facilities in and around the Scout Hut.

Beavers and Cubs have also enjoyed supporting the local community, litter picking round for the Village Tidy Up, running stalls at the Festival and contributing to the Open Air Church Service. We are extremely excited to be going on our first camp in September where we will be joining members from all over our county. A Scout Troop is planned in January and we will be welcoming several new Beavers in the new academic year with additional needs, the experience and expertise of our leaders to enabling these young children to access a fantastic and varied programme.

**i.Scout
DO YOU?**

We are starting to form a strong leadership team, but extra hands are still needed. If you are interested in volunteering as a parent helper or leader, or if you want your child to join please contact chairman@1sthamptonscouts.org.uk

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SAYS YES TO NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We are delighted that residents have voted overwhelmingly in favour of our neighbourhood plan with 94.7% of voters answering 'yes' to the question 'Do you want Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Hampton in Arden to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'. We have made history - this is the first Neighbourhood Plan to be adopted in Solihull!

The voting figures were 399 in favour, 21 against with 1 rejected paper. The turnout was 27.4%.

This result means that the Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted and become part of the adopted Local Plan for Solihull. It will be used to assist Solihull Council in making decisions on development applications for the area for the next 10 years.

SPORTS CLUB – REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CLUBHOUSE

Hampton in Arden Sports Club (HIASC) is working closely with the Parish Council to agree how we can come together to provide a clubhouse facility that delivers for its members and the community. The team is working on a number of factors including what sports facilities it would provide and support, potential locations within the sports club site, the role of the stakeholders involved and their requirements for the future, engaging new community groups and exploring if any other village facilities could be included in the plans.

A project like this takes a lot of planning and effort to ensure that the outcome meets the needs of the village and the club's members, and also supports the Neighbourhood Plan. There is a long way to go but the team are sure with the "can do" spirit of the village behind them they can deliver a first-class facility. Once we are able to give confirmation on any details then they will be reported back here, so watch this space.

If anyone would like to know more please contact the David Tomkins (HIASC Chairman) and Mark Walker (HIASC Development Lead) via the club or email at me@davidtomkins.co.uk

DID YOU KNOW... LONDON MIDLAND RAIL HAS AN ASSISTED TRAVEL SERVICE

This service provides assistance to older and disabled rail passengers (including wheelchair users). It aims to ensure convenient and safe accessibility to platforms. In regard to travel from and to Hampton-in-Arden rail station, this service will apply as follows:

- Hampton to Birmingham New Street - assistance provided to Birmingham International (e.g. in a taxi, at no extra cost to you)
- Coventry to Hampton - any assisted passenger will need to travel through to Birmingham International where a normal assisted service will be provided back to Hampton station

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO: Telephone 0800 092 4260 giving 24 hours notice prior to travel. For more details visit the London Midland website (www.londonmidland.com/accessibility)

ALSO... Have you noticed the station improvements?

Hopefully you will have noticed the recent improvements which have been made to our Station, in the form of improved stair treads and brand new handrail installations. These changes have helped to improve passenger safety when accessing the platforms, and the overall station appearance. **Good news for all our rail users!**

CATNEY COMMON, BICKENHILL LANE

Friends of Catney Common meet on a monthly basis and the work parties keep the paths clear, carry out regular plant surveys (to identify the different flowers and grasses during the year) and to identify any invasive species (unfortunately Japanese Knotweed has been noted on the Common).

It is encouraging to note an increase in plant numbers - a total of 48 species of flowers and grasses have been spotted this year. With help from Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council we have arranged for expert help in dealing with

the Japanese Knotweed. The meadow area will be mowed in late August and plans for autumn include making an application under the Airport Free Tree Scheme and putting up some bird boxes in the woodland.

We are making a difference as we are getting some approving comments from walkers on the common! If you would like to get involved please contact Dave Cuthbert (dave.cuthbert@hamptoninarden.org.uk)

Many thanks to everyone who has helped with their time and skills.

TOTS TENNIS

Hampton Sports Club runs a comprehensive mini tennis programme for children of all ages and all abilities. This includes Tots Tennis which is tennis aimed for 2 to 5 year olds! They have children's group lessons and individual lessons running daily at the club. They also offer adult classes at various times during the week, again for all abilities.

To find out session times and for more information please contact Ian Poole on 07968 451956 or ianpoole23@yahoo.co.uk

HS2 UPDATE

Not a lot has been happening with HS2 in the village recently. Unfortunately, those of you who live on Diddington Lane received a rather abrupt letter suggesting contractors were about to carry out all sorts of tests in your back garden. Parish Councillor John Doidge was in immediate communication with the HS2 Engagement Team, who apologised profusely for the tone of these letters and promised to contact the contractors to ensure letters like that never go out again. If you receive any letters from HS2 or their contractors that you are worried about, feel free to contact the Parish Council for advice. *We have no further update on when work will commence, as soon as we know, we'll let you know.*

HS2 Wish List – However there is an opportunity to have some good come from this time of disruption. As part of their contract with HS2, the contractor will have to engage with the village and carry out community projects. Rather than end up with a project that suits them, but is not of any use to the village, the Parish Council would like to be proactive and knock on their door with a list of jobs we'd like doing. **So we are asking for your help.** Please email any small, community based projects to vicky.woodall@hamptoninarden.org.uk, so we can make up a wishlist. These could be decorating, fencing, paving etc but must be for the good of the community and something the contractors can do themselves.



PARISH BOUNDARY CHANGE – A PROPOSAL TO CONSIDER

Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association (CdeBRA) recently asked the Parish Council to consider the possibility of increasing the Parish boundary to incorporate the whole of Catherine-de-Barnes (rather than just the area east of the Union Canal, which is currently included in the Parish). The current boundary is considered arbitrary and unhelpful in determining issues affecting both villages. This was considered at a PC meeting and it was unanimously agreed to investigate further.

Solihull MBC have asked us to gather a petition as a representative sample of electors who support the proposal

in both Hampton-in-Arden Parish and in Catherine-de-Barnes. On submission Solihull MBC would instigate a Governance Review which would involve a consultation with all residents in both areas to establish the level of support for the initiative.

In order that the proposal can be fully understood by all concerned we will provide further information in September. We will shortly publish details of the petitioning process on our website. **However,** in the meantime we will of course respond to any questions you may have (please email clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk)

PLANNING NEWS

M42 Junction 6 Improvements: We understand from Highways England (HE) that an announcement by the Secretary of State is expected in August 2017 which will define the preferred route for this relief road to the NEC and Airport. Note we understand that no part of Solihull Road will be affected. Details and maps are available through the Parish and HE websites. We will update the website as soon as a decision is made on the preferred route so keep checking for more information.

Motorway Services (MSA): A decision on this application on land close to Solihull Road/Catherine de Barnes (and the MSA application at Junction 4) is not now expected before

the end of the year. We will keep you updated on any news as we receive it.

Planning Applications: We continue to monitor all planning applications within the Parish but wish to remind residents that any proposed building, tree or access work including railings or gates off the highway should be checked with Solihull planners before work commences in order to establish if a formal planning application is required. It will prevent possible problems later and is designed to ensure that any works are compatible with our approved Neighbourhood Plan and Village Design statements.

MP JOHN TAYLOR PASSES AWAY

Former Solihull Conservative MP John Taylor, who was born and raised in Hampton-in-Arden (the family home was in Meriden Road), has died at the age of 75. A solicitor by profession, Mr Taylor was elected to Solihull Borough Council in 1971 and to the new West Midlands County Council two years later. After leading the Conservative opposition for two years, he became leader of the Council.

Mr Taylor was elected to the European Parliament in 1979 as a member for the Midlands East constituency and began his Westminster career in the 1983 election when he succeeded Percy Grieve as MP for Solihull. He served as a junior

minister in the DTI and in the Lord Chancellor's Department under John Major, and as a whip in Margaret Thatcher's administration. He lost his seat in the 2005 election when he was narrowly beaten by the Liberal Democrat Lorely Burt.

Neighbouring MP Dame Caroline Spelman (Con, Meriden) described Mr Taylor as "a kind man with a big heart".



CRIME IN THE VILLAGE

As many of you are probably aware there has been an increase in the number of break ins, car thefts and attempted robberies in the last month or so. We would like to urge all Parishioners to be vigilant in locking doors (even when you are home), locking all doors and windows before leaving the house and making sure valuables (such as car keys) are placed out of sight. If you are unfortunate to fall victim to an incident please report it to 101. This will ensure the Police have an accurate log of any criminal activity in the area.

TRAFFIC CALMING IN THE VILLAGE

For many years now the Parish Council have been working on a Traffic Calming Plan for the village with Solihull MBC. Parish Councillor Ken Blanch has produced a comprehensive document assessing each area of concern and suggested the most appropriate traffic calming measures, and Solihull MBC have agreed in principle to this plan. Unfortunately, Solihull MBC are currently unable to fund any of this plan so the Parish Council are looking into other areas of funding.

However, before we go too far down this route, we would like to get your opinion on this Traffic Calming Plan. It can be found on the website, any questions or suggestions can be emailed to vicky.woodall@hamptoninarden.org.uk

ROAD CLOSURE - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (12TH NOVEMBER 2017)

This is an early reminder to residents and businesses that road access through the village will be severely restricted due to the Remembrance Day Parade and Service at the War Memorial on the 12th November 2017. The High Street, Meriden Road and the area around the Village Green will be closed to vehicular traffic between 10.30am and 12 noon. Access to and from the Sports Club will only be permitted from Catherine-de-Barnes Lane and Shadowbrook Lane west between these times. No access will be

permitted from High Street.

Please also remember to advise any visitors that access will be restricted during the morning to allow a safe passage for the Parade and its dispersal after the service. Notices and road signs will be displayed throughout the previous week.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **6th September (7.30pm):** Hampton-in-Arden Society 'Hampton's Neighbourhood Plan... What it means for the village and the Parish' - a talk by Mike Blomer and John Doidge in the Arden Room at Fentham Hall. All welcome to attend.
- **13th September (7.30pm):** Parish Council Meeting – George Fentham Meeting Room. All welcome to attend.
- **1st November (7.30pm):** Hampton-in-Arden Society 'West Midlands Combined Authority and UK Central and the effects on Hampton-in-Arden' - a talk by Councillor Bob Sleigh OBE (leader of Solihull MBC) in the Arden Room at Fentham Hall. Followed by the AGM. All welcome to attend.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE WHITE LINES GONE?

Residents, and motorists in particular, may have noticed that following the recent resurfacing of Meriden Road most of the white line markings have not been replaced. We have been advised by Highways department of Solihull MBC that this is to introduce a village "feel" and to encourage a sense of place and responsible driver behaviour. They hope that this new initiative will have a positive effect on the speed of traffic as has been found elsewhere. We will be monitoring this new arrangement closely.

THANK YOU FOR READING AND WE WILL SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN IN NOVEMBER

As always, thank you to all the contributors to the newsletter and the volunteers who deliver it to each household in the Parish.

Don't forget to check out our website for up to date information between Newsletters (www.hamptoninarden.org.uk)