

## Parish News - November 2017

### HELLO AGAIN

**W**ith autumn in full swing in this edition of the Newsletter we take a look at crime in the village, provide important information about Remembrance Sunday, updates on HS2, planning issues, the Neighbourhood Plan and traffic calming, whilst also welcoming a new Vicar to the Parish. **And**, have you noticed that the minor improvements to our railway station continue with the installation of the two 'Welcome to Hampton' posters? These will be enhanced with appropriately placed and planted flower troughs, that will be maintained by members of our own Gardening Club - our grateful thanks go to April Worthington and to members of her team!



### CRIME IN THE PARISH – WHAT IS BEING DONE?

**Many residents have, understandably, become very concerned about the recent spike in burglaries of homes, garages, garden sheds and car theft in the village which has resulted in concerns about security and personal safety. Social media has been busy with various reports and criticism of an apparent lack of action by our police to tackle the problem.**

Local policing is carried out by the Solihull Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team which is based at Chelmsley Wood Police Station and comprises a Sergeant, two Police Constables (PC's) and four Community Support Officers (PCSO's). In addition to the local team there are fast response teams based at both Solihull and Chelmsley Wood Police Stations to deal with emergencies and urgent matters.

In response to the concerns of residents the Parish Council, with the cooperation of the Neighbourhood Policing Team, arranged for a Crime Prevention Day and on the afternoon of 11th October there was a high profile police presence and speed check in the village culminating in a residents meeting. Attending the meeting were Sergeant Mick Lloyd, who leads the Neighbourhood Team accompanied by PC's Simon Harrison and Andy Timmins. Fentham Hall was packed (estimates suggest around 150 people) when Sergeant Lloyd explained in detail the work of the Rural Policing Team and many present were surprised at the very large geographical area of 70 square miles the team is expected to cover. He went on to give advice on security measures and personal safety, the workings and use of the 101 and 999 phone numbers and answered

many questions. Afterwards he and the team spoke at some length to many on a personal level all of which gave some reassurance to those present.

The Parish Council is committed to assisting our police in any meaningful way it can and a number of initiatives were discussed with both Sergeant Lloyd and PC Harrison. Proposals now being actively considered are extending the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to those areas of the Parish not presently covered, reintroduction of community speed watch, more publicity for the monthly Police Surgery and more use of the Parish Council website and social media. A very helpful source of up to date local crime information is the website WMnow ([www.wmnow.co.uk](http://www.wmnow.co.uk)) – it's definitely worth a look.

The Parish Council is very aware of the severe reductions in the police budget but wishes to commend the Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team for their help and support during what is, for many, a difficult time.

An online petition organised by local MP Dame Caroline Spelman to Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson urging him to restore or better still increase police resources to the rural areas of Solihull received almost 1,100 signatures. Subsequently we have learned that Chief Superintendent Bas Javid of Solihull Police has said that our neighbourhood police teams have been allocated some additional resources by the Chief Constable which is obviously good news.

***The Parish Council will do its best to help improve matters and keep everyone informed of progress.***

### AIRPORT NEWS

**Recently the main emphasis by the Airport Company has been consultation on revised take off routes from Runway 33 to the north and which has a very much larger population than our rural area. The consultation procedure is similar to that for the departure routes using Runway 15 which passes close to and over the village.**

The airports Night Flying Policy is also the subject of a legally required review. A proposal to increase night flights which take place between 11.30pm and 6.00am is being strongly opposed by the local communities. It is expected that, after lengthy delays, a decision will be made by April next year.

*Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council*

## BROADBAND UPDATE

There is good news to report on Superfast Broadband.... Many of you will have seen brand new green Cabinets being installed by Openreach within the Village. These are our new Superfast Broadband cabinets which we hope will be live by the end of this year or early next year. Even better news if you live in Old Station Road as there is now a fibre cable running along part of the Road (Openreach won't tell us exactly where as it is commercially sensitive information!) but we do know that a number of properties as far as the turning for the Grove have already had fibre to their properties installed by BT.



*As soon as we receive any further information we will share it with you all on our Parish Council website.*

## HS2 CONSTRUCTION AND WISHLIST

**During the most recent HS2 Implementation Advisory Group meeting the HS2 Engagement Officer revealed the most up to date construction timeline. It is now unlikely any construction will occur around Hampton in Arden until 2019. Groundwork and environmental investigations will continue throughout 2018, but we should not expect any major disruptions.**

While we are celebrating a slight reprieve, the downside

of this is that it is also unlikely the contractors will carry out any community projects until 2019. Please feel free to continue sending ideas to us, via [vicky.woodall@hamptoninarden.or.uk](mailto:vicky.woodall@hamptoninarden.or.uk), but be aware that they will not be looked at by the contractors for at least a year. Remember that any ideas need to be projects the contractors can carry out themselves (they are unable to pay for other work to be done).



## PROPOSED PARISH BOUNDARY CHANGES

In order for Solihull MBC to undertake a Community Governance (Boundary) Review a petition of at least 187 signatures is required from residents of both the existing Parish and the new proposed area. Many of you have signed the petition and in total 260 signatures were obtained (over 100 of which came from residents on the Parish electoral roll). Representatives of the Parish Council and Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association delivered the Petition to Solihull MBC on the 12th October and they are now in the process of drawing up Terms of Reference which will be presented to the Governance Committee, all being well on the **28th November**. This will be followed by a series of Resident Consultations which will probably commence at the turn of the year. **More information will be provided as and when we have it.**

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 12TH NOVEMBER 2017: ROAD CLOSURES

**Please note that road access through the village will be severely restricted on the morning of the 12th November due to the Remembrance Day Parade and Service at the War Memorial. The High Street/Meriden Road and 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 week previous to Remembrance Sunday.**



## VILLAGE WAR MEMORIAL AWARDED GRADE II LISTED BUILDING STATUS

**We are delighted to announce that Historic England has confirmed that the Hampton-in-Arden War Memorial has been added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The memorial is listed as Grade II.**

The recommendation for listing reads as follows: *"This is a well-executed example of the Latin cross type of war memorial. Prominently situated on the main street through the village, this simple yet dignified memorial commemorates those from the local community who lost their lives in the First World War. An inscription was added later in dedication to those from the village who died during the Second World War and this adds to the historic*

*interest of the memorial. Overall, it is considered that the memorial has special architectural and historic interest and meets the criteria for listing".*



Listing helps to mark a building's significance and celebrate its special architectural and historic interest. It brings specific protection so that its special interest can be properly considered in managing its future.

## PLANNING NEWS

**Motorway Services at Catherine-de-Barnes:** Highways England have now withdrawn their opposition to this provided four lane running is installed. However, the application, together with the alternative site at Junction 4, has yet to be determined by Solihull MBC and we understand no date has yet been set for a decision to be made.

**M42/Junction 6 improvement:** 'Option One' has been announced as the preferred route running north of Solihull Road and under Catherine-de-Barnes lane to the Clock Junction. There will be further local (resident) consultations by Highways England shortly on the more detailed design. The application to build 13 homes on land north of No.

**Land North of Old Station Road** has been the subject of extensive consultation. The Parish Council has registered its concern at the loss of Green Belt, drainage and parking/traffic issues, and has asked for clarification on the type of 'affordable homes' scheme. If you have comments to make

we understand you may still do so to Solihull MBC.

*The Parish Council, together with the Hampton Society, closely monitors*

*all planning applications both large and small*

*affecting the Parish in order to ensure they comply with our adopted Neighbourhood Plan and Village Design Statement. Any proposed building, tree, access or boundary works should be checked with Solihull Planning department before works commence in order to establish if a formal planning application is required, and to prevent problems later.*



## OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN HAS BEEN FORMALLY ADOPTED!

**O**n 10th August 2017 and following the local referendum vote overwhelmingly in favour, Solihull MBCs Cabinet formally confirmed adoption of our Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan now sits alongside the Solihull Local Plan to assist in the determination of local planning applications. The Parish Council will now make good use of the Plan when deciding its response to planning applications for the next 10 years.

The Council will monitor the implementation of the Plan and consider the need to revise it in response to changing national, borough or local requirements.



## SECURITY OF RECREATION GROUND CAR PARK

**I**n response to growing concerns about unauthorised access to the Recreation Ground car park located off Shadowbrook Lane, especially by travellers, the Parish Council is to have height restricting barriers installed. The work, to be carried out in November, will also include bunds and posts along the footpath access from the railway bridge and minor rearrangement of parking spaces. The barriers will prevent access by large vehicles and vans but will be capable of being opened when the need arises.



## HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN HAS A NEW VICAR!

**H**ampton-in-Arden has a new vicar. He is the Reverend Stuart Dimes, who is moving to the Parish from St Anne's Church at West Heath in Birmingham, where he has been vicar for 12 years. Before that, he was a curate at Poole in Dorset.

A Londoner, Stuart is 57 and divorced with two grown-up daughters. Before taking holy orders, he worked as a scientist in NHS laboratories, specialising in microbiology and virology. He lists rugby, cricket and ballroom dancing among his interests.

Stuart takes over at St Mary and St Bartholomew Church from the Reverend Anne Hinks, who has stood in as Parish priest since the departure of the Reverend Duncan Ballard for a new ministry in Derbyshire. As well as Hampton, Stuart

will also be in charge of the neighbouring Parishes of Bickenhill and Barston. He will be installed as Vicar by Bishop of Aston Anne Hollinghurst at Hampton Church on November 14th.

Stuart told the Newsletter:

*"I took the post because I wanted the challenge of working in three independent Parishes with different characters."*

**We extend a warm welcome Reverend Dimes and are sure that you will do the same!**



## CONGRATULATIONS TO WARD COUNCILLOR ALISON ROLF

Congratulations to Councillor Alison Rolf, who has been promoted to the cabinet of Solihull MBC after just over three years on the Council. She has taken over the environment and housing portfolio. Alison, a Conservative member for Bickenhill ward, which includes Hampton-in-Arden, was a Hampton Parish Councillor between 2008 and 2014 and chaired the Communication Group, which has responsibility for producing the Newsletter.



## TRAFFIC CALMING – AN UPDATE

**The Parish Council would like to thank all parishioners who responded to our Traffic Calming Plan. As part of our continued work towards safer speeds through the village, members of the Parish Council have met with members of the Solihull MBC Highways team. Disappointingly we were told that Solihull has no money to put towards funding any traffic calming measures in the village, including being unable to provide any back-office support for average speed cameras on Meriden Road.**

Without this back-office support, even if we funded the actual speed cameras, there is no way we could run them. **Therefore, Parish Councillor Ken Blanch is currently reworking the plan for Meriden Road.** If the new plan is approved by Solihull MBC Highways team, they will send us through the cost and we will have to start fundraising. We believe the Meriden Road stretch of the village is the most urgent to work on and that the proposals may cost in the region of £30,000.

*We will keep you up to date as things progress.*

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS - YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

**The Parish Council arranged a further meeting with the local policing team on 28th October when it was agreed to seek volunteers to extend the currently limited Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the village. Given the ongoing concerns about speeding vehicles it was also agreed to reintroduce Community Speed Watch (last check was in 2015) as a matter of urgency.**

To better protect our community, volunteers are required to carry out the duties involved - the more volunteers the lesser the burden!

Full training for both Neighbourhood Watch and Community Speed Watch will be carried out by the police and if you wish to volunteer for either initiative please contact Julie Barnes at the Parish Office for more information and to register your interest.

## GEORGE FENTHAM TRUST - TRUSTEE VACANCY: *TREASURER*

**A vacancy has arisen for a person to be appointed to serve until April 2021 as Treasurer. The Fentham Trust invites applications from individuals who feel they have a contribution to make to the Trust. Applicants are requested to submit a letter to the Clerk to the Trustees (Mrs Julie Richardson), explaining why they wish to be considered for the appointment and the contribution they feel they could make:**

- Email: [clerk@georgefenthamtrust.org.uk](mailto:clerk@georgefenthamtrust.org.uk)
- Address: George Fentham Meeting Room, Marsh Lane, Hampton-in-Arden, B92 0AH
- Telephone: 01675 443850

*Closing date for applications is 8th December 2017.*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **8th November (7.20pm):** Parish Council Meeting – George Fentham Meeting Room. All welcome to attend.
- **8th November (7.30pm):** Women's Institute AGM – Arden Room at Fentham Hall.
- **13th December (7.30pm):** Women Institute Christmas Party – Arden Room at Fentham Hall.

## THANK YOU FOR READING AND WE WILL SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN IN FEBRUARY

*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](http://www.hamptoninarden.org.uk))*