

Parish News - August 2018

HELLO AGAIN

Well we have had some fantastic events in the village over the last few months – the Village Tidy Up, the Festival and the Arden 9 Mile Road Race! We're sure it makes everyone appreciate what a great village we live in!

In this edition of the Newsletter we give you information about your last chance to have your say on the proposed extension of the Parish boundary. Make sure you make your opinions

known – they matter!

There is information about local planning applications, traffic calming plans and Remembrance Day.

We also say goodbye

to one of our most valued Councillors, John Doidge, who will be dearly missed. **Read on....**



PROPOSED EXTENSION TO PARISH BOUNDARY – YOUR LAST CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

The **FINAL** consultation regarding the extension of the Parish Boundary is currently underway. You have your last chance to respond to the **final** proposals for extending the Parish Boundary – **by the 31st August** - it is now or never!

Responses can be made online at:

<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/cgr/hamptoninarden>

However, this Newsletter includes a separate response form which we hope **ALL** residents will complete and return to

the Solihull MBC address shown. ***If your newsletter does not include this form please contact the Parish Office in order that arrangements can be made to get one to you.***

Please note that this is last opportunity you will have to make your views known to Solihull MBC as the decision as to whether the change proceeds depends entirely with them taking into account residents' responses.

Have your say now!!

A FOND FAREWELL - JOHN DOIDGE LEAVES THE PARISH COUNCIL

John has recently resigned from the Parish Council as he and wife Margaret are moving to Earlswood.

John and Margaret came to live in the village in 1995 and he became a Councillor in 2010. John has always been very active in Council affairs: he chaired the Planning Sub-Committee and was instrumental in the preparation and writing of our Neighbourhood Plan. John became a key member of the HS2 Working Group and gave evidence to Scrutiny Committees in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords and has regularly attended meetings with Solihull MBC on behalf of residents.

John was Vice Chair of the Hampton-in-Arden Society and has recently accepted the position of President which will enable him to maintain a close relationship with the village.

We sincerely thank John for his support and contribution to the work of the Council and wish him and Margaret every happiness in their new home.



RAILWAY STATION IMPROVEMENTS

The four planted troughs are now in full bloom, cared for and watered by members of our own Gardening Club, they do indeed enhance the two 'welcome' posters!

This concludes the short-term improvements to our rail station which has included:

- replacement treads to both platform series of steps making for safe passenger access;
- reconstruction of the ticket office area enabling easier and safer access to Platform 2 (Birmingham);
- replacement hand rails (from Platform 1 to both the car park and High Street);
- replacement manhole covers on each platform; and,
- provision, in the station leaflet rack, for our new Village Information Leaflet (in the process of being printed).

We have received congratulations from so many villagers related to each of the above improvements and we return your kind comments with our thanks.



Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

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Parish Councillor Vacancies

Are you interesting in giving back to our Community? Would you like to get involved with helping to preserve and protect our village? If yes perhaps you should consider becoming a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council currently has two vacancies and wishes to co-opt new Councillors to serve until the local elections in May next year.

To be eligible you should be at least 18 years of age, be a British Citizen, an eligible Commonwealth Citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union and meet one of the following four qualifications:

- Be on the Parish electoral roll;
- Have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the Parish area for at least 12 months;
- A main or only place of work during for at least 12 months in the parish area; and/or
- Have lived in the Parish area or within three miles of it for at least 12 months.

Applications are welcome from any residents wishing to take a more active role in local matters and who wish to make a greater contribution to community affairs.

For more information and an informal chat please contact Julie Barnes, the Parish Clerk whose contact details are at the bottom of Page 1 of this Newsletter.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND TRAFFIC CALMING IN THE VILLAGE

The latest proposals for traffic calming and road safety were shown at the Village Festival and attracted a lot of interest and generated a lot of discussion – most of it positive! Our thanks to all who contributed and also to Solihull MBC Highways who prepared the drawing for us.

Your Parish Council will now finalise the overall plan in co-operation with Solihull MBC Highways, and prepare a new application for funding under the HS2 Community Fund for the priority section from the station to Diddington Lane. We are limited to a maximum grant of £75k which will be sufficient to cover the priority section along Meriden Road. This application will include a gateway entrance to the village, two new speed cushions, two raised speed tables and two additional crossing points.

HS2 – AN UPDATE

Ground Investigations are scheduled to continue throughout the rest of the year resulting in some night time road closures, but it is unlikely Hampton-in-Arden will experience any signs of construction until 2019. In the third quarter of 2018 work will start realigning the A452/A446 junction at the Chester Road going to the Birmingham Business Park. However, the really important news is that consultation will start soon in the **design for the viaduct**. It is vital that we participate in this engagement in order to ensure the viaduct is as aesthetically pleasing as it can be. Rest assured, the Parish Council will keep you informed.



HS2 Community Fund

As detailed in the Newsletter you will see that your Parish Council will be submitting a new application for traffic calming measures. What residents and other village organisations may not be aware of is that this fund, as its name suggests, is available for other community projects throughout the parish such as improvements to the Church Hall and Scout and Guide Hut, as well as the provision of playgrounds. The limit for any one application is £70k. ***If your organisation is interested in making an application then please contact the Parish Council for more information.***

THE VILLAGE TIDY UP – THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all our volunteers who turned up to help with the Tidy Up on the 23rd June. We had the largest turn out to date and managed to give the whole of the village a good clean up. Over 30 bags of rubbish were collected in total!

We really appreciate the people giving up time to help give back to their community - it wouldn't be possible without you! Thank you also to Solihull MBC for loaning us the litter pickers, the bags and for collecting the rubbish at the end.

A Friendly Reminder....

For all residents young and old.... some amazing villagers worked

so hard to tidy up and the village looked beautiful before and after the Hampton Festival. However, sadly since then a few litter blackspots have been noticed. Mostly the ash path between the station and the sports club, but other spaces that we are so lucky to share as a community. Whether it's a Moam or a Werther wrapper, dog poo or a pop can – it is your rubbish. Please take it home and dispose of it properly so the village remains a joy and somewhere we can all be proud of. **Thank you.**



THE THREE WATCHES - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH, SPEED WATCH AND STREET WATCH!

We understand that Neighbourhood Watch is working well although, to share out responsibilities, more volunteers will always be welcome. Anyone willing to volunteer should contact Parish Clerk Julie Barnes in the first instance.

Unfortunately - we are still unable to report any progress in the re-introduction of Speed Watch or the start of Street Watch. Both of these schemes have the full support of both the Neighbourhood Police Team and the Parish Council. We will keep you up to date on progress with these.

FESTIVAL

WOW! What a festival! The sun shone, the cars glistened, the food was delicious, the stalls varied, the atmosphere chilled and the concert and fireworks were fabulous!

A huge thank you to all of those on the Festival committee and all the other volunteers who made this weekend another fantastic event. A huge amount of planning and preparation goes into the festival, not forgetting the work on the weekend itself!

We were delighted to have a large number of people pop in to see us at the Parish Council stand and talk about the proposed traffic calming and pedestrian safety scheme, as well as the proposed boundary changes. Thank you to our local Neighbourhood Watch envoy – Caroline Albrighton – for

coming along and raising awareness of the scheme and recruiting new members.

And finally - thank you to PCSO Aaron Murdoch and PC Simon Harrison for coming along and talking to our residents about all things crime. They were kept busy chatting with residents about personal and home security, amongst other policing matters. And - we mustn't forget the lovely 'police dog in training' Viper - everyone loved him!



PLANNING NEWS

- **M42 Motorway Service Area, Catherine-de-Barnes (2015/51409):** The developer has recently informed Solihull Council that unless their application, which was originally submitted in June 2015, is decided by early October they will consider an appeal to the Secretary of State for Transport on the grounds of "non-determination" unless they are satisfied with the progress being made. It is understood that the Planning Committee will consider both this application and the alternative scheme for a service area at M42 Junction 4 at the same time.
- **Land off Corbetts Close (the old cricket field) (2018/00989):** The developer has had further discussions with Solihull MBC and revised plans have been submitted incorporating dedicated increased open space and a change in the mix of properties. The Parish Council has had discussions with both the developer and the planning officer regarding a local lettings plan for the social rent homes and the type of tenure for the shared ownership homes. It is understood that the Planning Committee will consider the application on 8th August.
- **Continuing Care Retirement Community at Oak Farm Catherine-de-Barnes (2018/00781):** It is understood that Solihull MBC are in discussions with the developer on many issues relating to this substantial care village which lies partly in the green belt. It is likely that the application will be considered by the Planning Committee on 5th September.
- **New dwelling on land adjoining 8 Belle Vue Terrace (2018/01510):** This proposal is situated within the Conservation Area of Hampton-in-Arden and the Parish Council has strongly objected to the proposal. The contemporary design is out keeping with neighbouring properties and local street scene, contravenes Policy HOU2 of the Neighbourhood Plan, and does not comply with the Village Design Statement and the Conservation Area Appraisal.

AIRPORT UPDATE

The airport is preparing its Masterplan to 2033 and consultation is expected in September this year. Although the idea of a 2nd runway has been mentioned in the past, we understand that a reduction in government growth forecasts means that this is no longer under consideration. In addition, the airport is also in the process of preparing its 'surface access strategy' for the next five years which will consider both road and rail developments.

The new Night flying policy (which was agreed earlier this

year) will come into force in October and, amongst other improvements, will eliminate the night time scheduling of noisy Antonov cargo aircraft that have been operating under the previous policy – good news! The airport is now preparing its more general noise action plan.

All three of the plans mentioned above will be reviewed and discussed by the Airport Consultative Committee (ACC), which includes representatives from your Parish Council. We will continue to fight for the best outcome for the Parish and will report any progress on the website and in future newsletters.

A REQUEST – VOLUNTARY ONE-WAY SYSTEM ON FENTHAM ROAD

Were you aware that during school term time that there is a voluntary one-way system in place along Fentham Road?

During school drop off and pick up times, Fentham Road can become extremely busy – and blocked – with cars trying to pass in different directions on the narrow street by the school.

In order to help alleviate this we ask that, between **8.30am**

and 9am and 3pm and 3.30pm from Monday to Friday, cars operate a voluntary one-way system: only entering Fentham Road by the War Memorial/from Butchers Road and exiting Fentham Road onto Marsh Lane.

Hopefully this will help to alleviate some of the traffic problems along the road during these busy times.

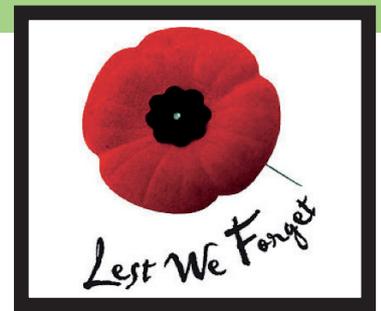
Something to bear in mind for September when the children start again at school.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

A reminder that the Remembrance Day Parade this year will be held on **Sunday 11th November**. This is a special year as it marks the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

As in previous years the High Street will be closed for a short while in the morning to allow a procession from the church to the War Memorial.

We are seeking additional volunteers to act as traffic marshals to ensure the safety of the procession so if you are interested please contact the Parish Council.



OUR LOCAL LIBRARY - UPCOMING EVENTS

Mischief Makers - Summer Reading Challenge 2018

The Reading Agency and Libraries are teaming up with Beano to celebrate the 80th anniversary of The Beano with Mischief Makers, the Summer Reading Challenge 2018! Read six books over the summer and get cool rewards as you go – and it's all free! Plus, if you read all six books you get a medal, a certificate, a free swimming voucher, and are entered in a prize draw for amazing prizes like tickets to Disney on Ice! The Summer Reading Challenge finishes on 8th September.

Crafty Creations - Tuesday 14th August (2pm – 4pm)

Suitable for ages 6+. A free craft activity tying into Mischief Makers, the Summer Reading Challenge 2018. You can try making clay models of the favourite Beano characters featured in Mischief Makers, draw and write your own comics, or make a Mischief Makers sign to hang up at home.

Storytime - 7th/21st August, 4th/18th September, 2nd/16th October (1.45pm)

Join us fortnightly for two stories perfect for under 5s, plus a fun craft.

Painters' Tales – 3rd/17th/31st August, 14th/28th

September, 12th/26th October (1.45pm)

Every fortnight we read a story and do some painting to go with it! Suitable for under 5s. Warm water to wash hands is provided, but we recommend wearing clothes that can get messy.

Readers Group - Held monthly on a Tuesday, 10.30am to 11.30am.

Everyone is welcome. A collection of books for next month is kept at the library.

- September 11th: The books of Alexander McCall Smith
- October 9th: The Essex Serpent by Sarah Perry
- November 13th: The Summer Before the War by Helen Simonson

Knit & Natter – 10th/24th August, 7th/21st September, 5th/19th October (1.30pm to 3pm)

Bring along any knitting or other crafts you're working on, and have a chat and a hot drink.

Coffee Morning – 7th August, 4th September, 2nd October (10am to 12pm)

Come along for a warm drink, a snack, and some company. Everybody welcome!

TEA AND TOAST – OUR LOCAL PLAYGROUP

Calling all new Mums and Dads and parents/carers with toddlers and pre-schoolers!

Every Friday morning during term time there is a friendly mother and baby/toddler/pre-schooler group held in the Church Hall – called Tea and Toast. As the name suggests, there are copious cups of tea (and coffee) on hand, plenty

of toast (for the little ones... or the grown ups!) and lots of toys to play with!

Pop in and meet the lovely ladies who run the group – Helen and Vicky – and meet other local Mums and Dads: **Friday mornings – 9am to 10am – free to part (donations welcome).**

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT.... THE VILLAGE TRANSPORT SCHEME?

The Village Transport Scheme is a volunteer led scheme run by the George Fentham Trust that has been put in place to assist elderly villagers without transport or family help to get to Hospital, the Dentist, the Opticians and/or G.P. appointments.

If you need our help - or if you would like to volunteer to join the team or be an occasional driver - please contact Bonita Bryant on 07775 731437.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **28th August (11.30am to 12.30pm):** Police Surgery – Sandwiches @ No. 6.
- **12th September (7.30pm):** Parish Council Meeting – George Fentham Meeting Room. All welcome to attend.

- **25th August (11.30am to 12.30pm):** Police Surgery – Sandwiches @ No. 6.
- **30th October (11.30am to 12.30pm):** Police Surgery – Sandwiches @ No. 6.

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)