

Parish News - May 2020

HELLO AGAIN

Welcome to the May edition of the Parish Newsletter. We hope you are all keeping well and managing in the 'new normal'. Things certainly are taking some getting used to but at least the sun has been shining to help keep our spirits up. This edition of the Newsletter will be published in a digital format only – the first time since it began. Whilst we are sad not to be hand delivering to every household in the village, the safety of our distributors and our Parishioners was considered paramount. As such, the decision was taken to distribute the Newsletter online (via our website and Facebook page) only. We will review this decision going forward and hopefully it won't be long before we are back delivering your Parish Newsletter through your letter boxes.



FIRSTLY – A HUGE THANK YOU

The Parish Council would like to recognise the hard work and dedication of all local businesses that have stayed open to support our community. This includes the Corner Shop, the Village Stores, Sandwiches @ No.6, the Post Office, The Beeches, Hampton Manor (via Peels on Wheels), St Mary's Pharmacy and Nisa in Catherine-de-Barnes. The commitment of these businesses to keep our residents supplied with essentials (and the occasional treat!) is truly appreciated... **Thank you so much!**

A FEW REMINDERS

- **The Parish Office:** The Parish Office remains closed for time being. However, the Parish Council is still active and able to assist with any issues or concerns you may have. If you have any questions or queries for us, please contact our lovely Parish Clerk, Julie Barnes (telephone 01675 442017 or email clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk).
- **Playgrounds:** Please remember that the two playgrounds in the Parish are currently closed and must not be used. This is in line with current Government guidance.
- **Open air gym equipment:** Please remember that the open air gym equipment at the Recreation Ground should also not be used. This is also in line with current Government guidance.
- **Dog Fouling:** We have received reports of increased dog fouling on the footpaths and grassed areas. Dog fouling bins are provided for your use (along with bags should you have ran out of them on your walk or forgotten them at home). The Parish Council have arranged for these bins to be emptied twice weekly. Please make use of them. Thank you.
- **Hedgerow Cutting:** Please can we remind residents to trim any hedgerows or vegetation that overhangs onto public rights of way or footpaths (particularly along the High Street where footpaths are particularly narrow). Of course, please ensure that you are able to do this safely and can complete this in line with social distancing guidelines.

COVID-19: VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS – WHERE TO GET HELP

Are you self-isolating, or do you know someone who is self-isolating, and need help with shopping and prescriptions? **A group of Hampton volunteers can help.** They can help fetch emergency supplies such as food and prescriptions, as a temporary measure to help people in the community over the coming weeks. **If you need anything, or are worried about someone in the community, please text or call 07780 591329.**

The George Fentham Trust is also providing an invaluable service to the elderly residents in the Parish during lockdown. They have been actively helping the elderly by providing meals on wheels and helping with funds if residents run out of cash, so that they can shop for supplies. **If you need support, or know someone who might, please contact Eve Hickman at 07749 230924, 01675 443850 (office) or email evhickman@georgefenthamtrust.org.uk**

Our thanks to everyone involved with both initiatives – a true reflection of the great community we live in.

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

HAMPTON FESTIVAL 2020 - POSTPONED

It is with a heavy heart that the Festival Committee have decided that, unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus situation the decision has been made to postpone the Hampton in Arden Festival.

The Committee has thought long and hard about this, but the safety of our villagers is paramount. The intention is to hold the Festival, or something similar to it, later in the year once things are a little clearer. This will hopefully give everyone something to look forward to - a BIG party! Thank

you for your understanding in these tricky times and for your support over the years. The Festival Committee will be in touch when they have more information...

For those of you wondering about the Scarecrow competition, it is intended to run it again this year, but in a slightly different way, to give the parents and children a fun activity to focus on whilst schools are closed and for the residents to look at on their 'once a day' exercise. More details to follow, so watch this space...

HERE 2 HELP – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM SOLIHULL COUNCIL

Solihull Council and the voluntary sector have worked together to produce some additional pieces of information to help people through the current period. These are being held on the new "Here 2 Help" pages and cover a range of topics including - shielding for really vulnerable people, help with food (particularly if self-isolating), money advice, how to stay well, how to stay safe and how to volunteer safely. These pages are now live on the Solihull Council website (<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/.../socials.../Coronavirus/Here2Help>)

PLANNING NEWS

- **Care village at Oak Farm, Catherine de Barnes:** After a Public Inquiry in January the Planning Inspector refused the applicants appeal against Solihull Council's decision to refuse the application on the grounds of inappropriate development in the Green Belt. It remains to be seen if this is the end of the scheme.
- **Old Station Road - Change of use from pasture land to construction industry training area:** This application by ARMAC based at the former Arden Brickworks has been withdrawn. A further application can be expected in due course.
- **M42 Junction 6 Improvements - New link road from new M42 Junction 5a to the Clock interchange:** The Planning Inspectors submitted their report to Government on 21st February and a decision is due on 21st May.
- **Motorway Service Area (MSA) at Catherine-de-Barnes:** Highways England has requested more traffic modelling to assess the likely impact of the proposed M42 Junction 6 improvements should the MSA be approved. A decision is not expected before July.
- **Land off Corbetts Close (the old cricket field):** The developer has submitted a planning application to change the approved plans by substituting four bungalows with family houses citing market demands for the change.

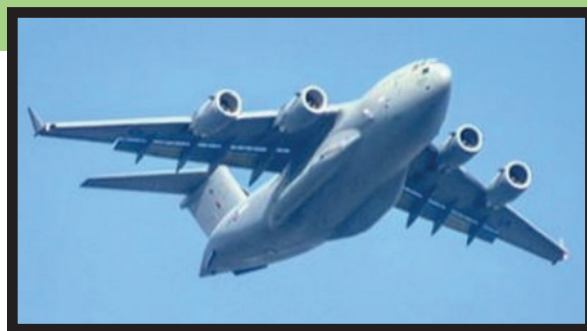
AIRPORT NEWS

One cannot but notice how quiet it is without the constant noise of aircraft taking off and landing. The air is also noticeably cleaner and we can hear the birds singing more clearly. Make the most of it because as and when normal life returns so will the noise albeit gradually.

The airport has been issuing regular community updates, the latest at the end of April, when they reported on the "unprecedented" reduction in air traffic with very little passenger traffic. Currently, KLM are operating a three times a week service to Amsterdam, Ryanair four times a week to Dublin and Pakistan International Airways three times a week to Islamabad. These are classified as repatriation flights and are being handled in line with Government guidelines.

With the airspace around the airport being so quiet they have decided to support a number of ad-hoc movements, including that by the Royal Air Force. Locals may have noticed the G-17 Globemaster from RAF Brize Norton undertaking visual training circuits, and also a number of Hawk (fast jet operations), also doing training operations. During this pandemic essential training for RAF crews needs to continue to be able to fulfil UK defence needs. With the reduction in civil traffic major UK airports are now easier for the RAF to use and provide useful training in unfamiliar airspace and this is what has been seen at Birmingham. The training is also very useful for the airport's own Air Traffic Control as it supports the ability for Controllers to train and maintain their operating licences.

The airport is supporting the Nightingale Hospital with any helicopter movements that may be required and some cargo services carrying essential medical and agriculture supplies. The airport has also been supporting the Coroner to provide land and a hangar for a temporary mortuary and for staff who are not working due to the Job Protection Scheme assisting with the NHS and West Midlands Police to promote and fill any support roles which they require.



NEWS FROM GEORGE FENTHAM TRUST



- **Trustee Vacancy:** The George Fentham Trust invites applications from individuals who feel they have a contribution to make to the Trust, particularly in Business and growth management and environmental issues. The Trustees play a crucial voluntary role in setting and supporting the George Fentham Trusts strategies. Applicants are requested to submit a letter to the Clerk to the Trustees, explaining why they wish to be considered for the appointment and the contribution they feel they could make. Closing date for applications is **31st May 2020**.
- **Educational Grants Scheme 2020:** Educational Grants are available for students to help with their study costs for Hampton-in-Arden students leaving secondary education and moving to apprenticeships, further education, training schemes, or NVQs. **THESE DISCRETIONARY GRANTS WILL BE VARIABLE AND AWARDED ON MERIT.** Applicants must have lived in Hampton-in-Arden for a minimum of two years. All applicants will be required to attend an interview and successful applicants will need to complete 10 hours work in the community of Hampton-in-Arden, as determined by the Fentham Trust each year; this will include attending a Mental Health Awareness Briefing. Closing date for applications is **31st May 2020**.
- **Almshouse Vacancy:** A one-bedroom almshouse is available at Fentham Green, Hampton-in-Arden, for person(s) who are in financial need. Applicants **MUST** have lived in the village of Hampton-in-Arden for not less than two years preceding the time of appointment. Any person(s) wishing to apply should request an application form from the clerk to the Trustees. Closing date for applications is **30th June 2020**.

Further details for these adverts are on the George Fentham Trust website (<https://www.georgefenthamtrust.org.uk/>), or from the Clerk: Sally Jarratt, Fentham Meeting Room, Marsh Lane, Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull. B92 0AH (01675 443850 or clerk@georgefenthamtrust.org.uk).

REVIEW OF THE HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

As most will be aware our Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by Solihull Council back in 2017 (with work having started on it in 2013). In April 2019, following a Community Governance Review, the remainder of Catherine-de-Barnes that was not already in the parish was incorporated into an enlarged Parish.

A review of the original Plan was due to commence later this year, but it has been decided to start early as the review

will need to include all of Catherine de Barnes. Solihull Council has approved the revised Neighbourhood Area, a pre-requisite of the review, and a working group comprising seven Councillors has been set up which started work in April. A planning consultant has provided a critique of the current plan and his suggestions will be carefully considered. It will probably be necessary to conduct a number of surveys over the coming months although the timing may be extended due to the current Coronavirus situation.

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

Although we are all facing challenges in these unprecedented times, it is worth remembering the amazing acts of kindness and neighbourliness that have been taking place in our community over the past eight weeks

Here's hoping that by the time we publish our next Newsletter that life will be looking a little more normal... Don't forget to check out our website(www.hamptoninarden.org.uk) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pg/HamptonInArdenParishCouncil) for up to date information between Newsletters.

Finally, we hope you all stay well and stay safe.