

Parish News - February 2023

HELLO AGAIN

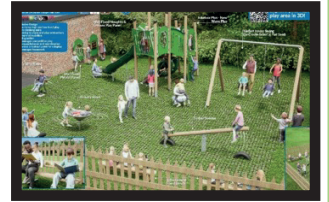
In this February edition of the Newsletter there is plenty of local news from Hampton-in-Arden and Catherine-de-Barnes with lots of important updates on local clubs and societies. We have several important events for you to mark in your diaries including the **Parish Council Annual Meeting on the 26th April 2023**. Held in Fentham Hall, with drinks and nibbles from 7.30pm onwards, everyone is welcome to attend and hear what your Parish Council has been up to over the last twelve months. **Please do come and see us!**

GREAT NEWS – CATHERINE-DE-BARNES NOW HAS AN UNDER 11'S PLAY AREA!

Finally, Catherine-de-Barnes has some children's play facilities which are situated at the rear of the Village Hall. The installation was completed and inspected just before Christmas and is now open. The playground was officially opened by our local MP Saqib Bhatti MBE on 28th January 2023.

A small working group organised the facility with funding being provided by Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council via the

Community Infrastructure Levy Fund and Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association. Included in the park is a memorial bench to Pete Peters, who started the Residents Association back in the 80's and was heavily involved with village affairs up until he passed away recently.



ANOTHER SUCCESS - CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHT SWITCH ON!

We were pleased to see lots of residents turn out for the Christmas tree light switch on at the start of December. Our new electricity supply installed in November, ensured that the lights shone brightly when Santa switched them on at 6pm. It was clear to see everyone enjoyed themselves! Our thanks to Meriden Rotary Club, the Church Choir, the George Fentham School PTF, the Village Corner Shop, all the Marshalls and Central Fast Response first aiders for supporting the event and making it such a success!

THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN – 18TH MARCH

The Parish Council are joining forces with the Hampton Wombles and Solihull MBC on the 18th March to take part in the Great British Spring Clean 2023! This national initiative looks to involve local communities in tidying up their local areas and carry out a litter pick.

We would love for as many residents as possible to take part! We will provide all the necessary equipment – all you

need to do is turn up!

- Hampton-in-Arden: Please meet at the Parish Meeting Room (next to the Beeches) at 10.30 am

- Catherine-de-Barnes: Please meet at the Catherine-de-Barnes Village Hall at 10.30am

Refreshments will be provided. **We hope to see you there!**



CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

The Coronation of our new King takes place on Saturday 6th May 2023 in Westminster Abbey. This will be the first Coronation since that of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Monday 8th May will be a Bank Holiday to celebrate the occasion.

- **Events:** At the time of writing the Parish Council is not aware of any specific celebrations in either Hampton or Catherine-de-Barnes, but is contacting the various community groups asking if they have any proposals for marking the Coronation which can be shared with residents. Anyone with relevant information is asked to send it to our Parish Clerk Julie Barnes.

- **Street Parties:** Anyone hoping to plan a street party, or any other event on the public highway, needs to notify Solihull Council and, if applicable, apply for a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to close a road. **The deadline for submitting a road closure application for the Coronation is Friday 24 March 2023. To apply for a street party visit – www.solihull.gov.uk/About-Solihull/organising-street-party - where you will also find useful tips, advice and support.**

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT

The Precept is a tax that Solihull Council charges local electors to meet budget requirements. The Parish Council does not receive any direct funding from central government or Solihull Council and relies on the Precept plus any other income generated from services or facilities provided. The Precept is collected as part of Council Tax.

There has been no increase in the Precept for the last two years however, at the Annual Finance meeting on 4th January 2023, Councillors, after considerable debate,

reluctantly approved an increase of 5% in the Precept for the financial year beginning in April. The increase will help fund the inevitable increasing costs for the services the Council provides for the benefit of residents.

In money terms the increased Precept means that, for a property in Council Tax Band D, the charge will increase from the current £31 per annum to £32.55.

Anyone wanting further information about the Precept should contact Parish Clerk Julie Barnes.

M42 JUNCTION 6 – AN UPDATE

National Highways/Skanska had originally planned to open Solihull Road and Solihull Road bridge in December 2022. However, we understand that they have faced significant logistical and engineering challenges which have extended the construction time and consequently the planned opening date. These have included industry-wide product shortages and longer lead times on materials, and they have also encountered unforeseen ground conditions at the bridge site which delayed the construction of the foundations on the new bridge. **Solihull Road is not now expected to be open for traffic until spring 2023.**

HS2 NEWS

Solihull Council and HS2 Ltd have now confirmed to the Parish Council that Diddington Lane will **remain open** to traffic on a realigned route between the village and Stonebridge Roundabout as part of the new High Speed Rail Project. The main reasons given concern security issues regarding both unsocial behaviour and the danger of traveller encampments taking place on the closed sections of the lane. This is very **disappointing news** especially as the lane will likely be used as a cut-through to the new HS2 international station to the north of the A45.

The Parish Council will now be working closely with Solihull Council Highways and HS2 to ensure that suitable traffic calming measures are provided to control traffic speeds within the village.

TRAFFIC CALMING AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Following a recent meeting with Solihull Council Highways we can confirm that the Phase 2 traffic calming proposals for Hampton-in-Arden will now include average speed cameras together with other complementary works. The design is on-going, and these works are expected to be installed later this year with the exception of the new gateway on Solihull Road which is planned to be constructed by Easter this year. This will mean that the work can be completed whilst Solihull Road is still closed for the M42 J6 project.

With the confirmation that Diddington Lane will now remain open as part of HS2 works, discussions are now on-going with Solihull Council Highways to confirm traffic calming details for the village section of the lane. These details are likely to include a gateway at the limit of village development together with other measures nearer the Meriden Road junction.

Within Catherine-de-Barnes we are still seeking funding from National Highways for our traffic calming proposals for Hampton Lane and Lugtrout Lane.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

As you will see for the insert to this edition, the final draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan is now available to be consulted on by all residents and business owners within the Parish. The Plan is available to view on the Parish Council website, as is the Response Form which can be printed off, completed and returned to the Parish Office by email, personally or mailed of course. Those that don't have internet access can, by contacting the Parish Office, make arrangements to collect or get a hard copy delivered. In order to keep costs to a minimum we have a limited number of hard copies.

This is your opportunity to comment on how you would like to see the Parish develop - all responses will be carefully considered when drafting the final version of the Plan that will be submitted for examination by the Inspector who will make recommendations on what should happen next. A referendum usually follows and if 50% of the respondents support the Plan it will be adopted. Once the plan has been supported by the referendum it will become 'made'. This means it is legally part of planning policy.

Solihull Local Plan: *Following Solihull Council's letter of the 7th October 2022 to the Planning Inspectors (PI) seeking clarification on couple of points which significantly affect the housing part of the plan, the PI have responded and confirmed their position as outlined in the Review Examination Report. The net result is that Solihull Council probably need to find an additional 1700/1800 homes (through finding additional sites) over the Plan period which will likely result in at least a 12-month delay in the new Solihull Local Plan being adopted. This could impact on our Neighbourhood Plan next steps and by the time you read this, any implications should be known.*

PLANNING NEWS

- **2022/01514/MINFHO (89 Hampton Lane notified of amended boundary fencing):** Following our response objecting to the initial design / materials of the original application the applicant has now replaced the UPVC grey plastic boarding with wrought ironwork, for which we have no objection.
- **2022/02283/PPFL (104 Lugtrout Lane - demolition of outbuilding – 5 new 3 storey dwellings):** We have objected to the application as we have concerns over the height of the dwellings which exceed the neighbouring properties, and that the very special circumstances put forward are insufficient to outweigh the impact on the openness of the Green Belt. Solihull Council Urban Design Team and Policy and Spatial Strategy Team have also raised objections which are still being considered by the Planning Department who are likely to prepare a report recommending approval/refusal to the Planning Committee who are likely to be making the final decision.
- **2022/01634/PPFL (Hampton Court, 55 Marsh Lane):** The applicant has submitted and got approved previous applications for properties in the roof space. This is another increasing again the number of units. The application is still awaiting a decision.
- **Land to the rear of Birmingham Dogs Home:** Following information received from a local resident we have drawn the Solihull Council's enforcement's attention to the activity including stabling and what we believe to be commercial equestrian events being held on the land by an organisation Party Paddocks which has moved from a field on Lugtrout Lane following complaints from local residents to Solihull Council. We are keeping a watching brief of events.

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SOCIETY PRESENTS THE HISTORY OF THE GEORGE FENTHAM TRUST

On the evening of Thursday 16th March in the Arden Room, The History Group will be giving a talk on the history of the charity that has been supporting the village and its residents since 1698. Please join us to learn more about the Trust. **Further details to follow** or please contact chair@hamptoninardensociety.org for more information.

NEWS FROM THE GEORGE FENTHAM TRUST

- Work has taken place to thin and manage the trees in Shadowbrook Wood which is owned and maintained by the Trust. Areas of Ash, which have unfortunately suffered with ash die-back, have been removed and will be replanted. The dense areas of pine have been selectively thinned to create more room and light. The logs and chippings created were used to improve the paths and to create wildlife habitat piles. In the next couple of months, the wildflower meadow, which has now been cleared of grass, will be replanted with wildflowers for walkers and insects to enjoy over the summer.
- The Trust provides grants each year to students from the village to help towards the cost of their further education at college and university. In return, the students undertake community service in the village, and in January they helped the Hampton Conservation Group with pruning and laying wood chip on paths in the Spinney. **The next round of educational grants will be open for application from April 2023 for the next educational year.**
- The Trust was established to support the residents of Hampton-in-Arden village. The Trust may be able to provide financial and/or practical support to any village resident who finds themselves in hardship. **Applications for assistance** must be made in writing and sent to the Clerk either by post to George Fentham Meeting Room, Marsh Lane, Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull B92 0AH or by email clerk@georgfenthamtrust.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **6th February:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association (RA) Committee Meeting
- **11th February:** Hampton Wombles Litter Pick (meet at 11am in White Lion car park)
- **6th March:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association (RA) Committee Meeting
- **8th March:** Parish Council Meeting (to be held at Catherine-de-Barnes Village Hall)
- **18th March: Great British Spring Clean (meet at 10.30am at the Parish Meeting Room in Hampton-in-Arden and at the Village Hall in Catherine-de-Barnes)**
- **3rd April:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association (RA) Committee Meeting
- **15th April:** Hampton Wombles Litter Pick (meet at 11am in White Lion car park)
- **26th April:** Parish Council Annual Meeting – Wine and nibbles from 7.30pm at Fentham Hall
- **Parish Council Meetings:** Take place at 7.30pm. The public are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- **Residents Association Committee Meetings:** *Any changes to the date will be notified on social media / and our website. Meetings take place at 7.30pm. Any resident wishing to raise an issue with the Committee can do so, at least 48 hours before the meeting, by contacting secretary@catney.co.uk. Any items of importance discussed at the meetings or decisions made, are communicated to members via Catney News, which is distributed to members only.*

CLUBS SECTION

- **Hampton Singers** rehearses on Monday evenings at the Scouts & Guides HQ in Shadowbrook Lane. The choir comprises around 50 members from in and around the parish. They present three concerts a year, frequently with guest musicians and soloists. The repertoire ranges from classical, sacred, light operatic, jazz and contemporary music. If you can hold a tune and enjoy singing within a group, contact Sue Kiely on Peelwood3@gmail.com or go to www.hamptonsingers.org
- The **Hampton Probus Club** meets on the third Monday of each month at 2.00pm in the Arden Room. The club, which is open to men aged sixty or over, organises talks, excursions, sports events, social evenings, walks and a Christmas lunch, to which guests, partners and spouses are also invited. Anyone interested in finding out more should just turn up at one of their meetings, check out the Facebook page or contact peter.j.green@live.co.uk
- The **Local History Group** meets every two months. For details visit the website www.hamptoninardenhistory.org or email Clive Hinsull at info@hamptoninardenhistory.org.
- **Hampton-in-Arden Society** is the village Residents' Association. It works towards preserving the character and nature of the village and its surroundings. All village residents are automatically a member. It organises several social events and lectures each year with committee meetings once a month. Anyone who is interested in joining the committee should contact secretary@hamptoninardensociety.org
- **Hampton Conservation Group** is busy working to maintain the Spinney. Volunteers are working on many tasks, ensuring paths are clear, checking on bird boxes, planting wild-flowers and halting the growth of brambles! The group welcome new volunteers. Follow their activities on at www.facebook.com/HamptonConservationGroup
- The **Catney Craft Club** meets every Wednesday afternoon between 2.00pm and 4.00pm in Catherine-de-Barnes village hall. It provides a way to meet new friends and chat while you are working on your own project over a cup of tea and a piece of home-made cake. For further information contact Lesley Cuthbert on 07776 480813 or email cuthbertlm@me.com
- The **Hampton Wine Society** meets five times a year in the Arden Room at the Fentham Hall to taste a variety of wines presented by independent Wine Merchants. There is a long waiting list, but you are always welcome to apply to hamptonwinesoc@gmail.com.
- **Solihull Scale Model Club** - Meetings are held at The White Lion Inn on the last Tuesday of every month (at 8.00pm). For more information contact Alexander Clayson on 07891 390307 or email a-clayson@hotmail.com.
If you want to see your Club featured in this section, contact peter.green@hamptoninarden.org.uk

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN LIBRARY NEWS

- **Opening Hours:** Tuesday 2pm – 5pm, Thursday 2pm – 5pm, Friday 2pm – 5pm
 - **A Warm Welcome:** As part of offering a warm welcome this winter, Hampton Library are providing warm drinks to library customers. There is no charge for this, but donations are welcome if you wish.
 - **Stories & Painting for Under 5s:** Every Tuesday at 2:15pm, we read a fun story and do some painting or colouring 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:** Everybody is welcome to our monthly Readers Group and hot drinks are provided. Books for the next meeting are available at the library. The group meets at 2:15pm on the following dates Friday 10th February (Stephen King), Friday 10th March (The DCI Ryan Mysteries series by LJ Ross) and Friday 14th April (Comedian Biographies)
 - **Half-Term Crafts:** On Tuesday 21st, Thursday 23rd, and Friday 24th February, drop in to make some colourful crafts as we look forward to the start of spring. Crafts will be suitable for children ages 5+, and we will have colouring for all ages as well.
 - **World Book Day Crafts:** We're celebrating World Book Day with some readeriffic kids' crafts - drop in on Thursday 2nd March and make something to show the world you're a bookworm! Crafts will be suitable for children ages 5+, and we will have colouring for all ages as well.
- See www.solihull.gov.uk/libraries and www.facebook.com/hamptoninardenlibrary for the latest updates.

CATHERINE-DE-BARNES RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held in the Village Hall on Friday 3rd March commencing at 7.30pm prompt, followed by wine and nibbles. In addition to the usual items on the AGM agenda, we are fortunate in having our local MP Saqib Bhatti MBE MP in attendance, who will update us on relevant local issues followed by a short Q & A session.

Anyone interested in joining the Committee should contact secretary@catney.co.uk. Most of the existing Committee members are retired folk and have been on the Committee for at least 10 years. In those years the village has changed, as you would expect, and it is vital that the Association keeps pace with those changes and new blood helps in doing that. Are you an organiser, spending generally no more than a couple of hours a week, if that - then come and join us!

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

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.