

Parish News - May 2023

HELLO AGAIN

In this May 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 **rearranged** Parish Council Annual Meeting on the 24th May 2023. This will be 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!**

LOCAL ELECTIONS 2023!

Local elections took place on 4th May when there was, once again, no election for Parish Councillors. This is because there were no more than the 12 candidates nominated for the 12 positions available by the closing date in April, and thus the need for an election was not triggered. This meant that those nominated were declared duly elected without a contest.

The make-up of the new Parish Council is as follows:

- **Hampton-in-Arden Ward:** Mike Blomer, Tim Beresford, Ken Blanch, Alexander Clayson, Peter Green, David Sandells, Cat Sellars, Piers Reid
- **Catherine-de-Barnes Ward:** John Eccleston, Giles Cook, Dave Cuthbert, Roger Waring

PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING – REVISED DATE!

Our annual meeting, which is normally held in April, has been postponed (due to the pre-election period known as Purdah) and will now take place on 24th May.

This year the meeting will follow a new format. Our Annual Report document, with details from each committee of the Parish Council, will be circulated in advance of the meeting (via our website and and Facebook). This will allow everyone to consider the contents prior to the meeting. Please note, in addition to this, hard copies of the report will be available at the event.

On the evening itself there will be drinks and nibbles for all attendees from 7.30pm and a 'Question Forum' will begin at 8pm (where residents can put any questions to Councillors from the outset of the meeting).

If you're unable to attend and have something you would like to ask please feel free to email your question(s) to our lovely Clerk (clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk).

Please come and join us – 24th May, from 7.30pm at Fentham Hall.

VILLAGE MEETING WITH SKANSKA

As residents will know, in March, the Parish Council organised a village meeting to be held with representatives from National Highways and SKANSKA. This was to allow residents to put forward their queries or concerns in relation to the continued road closure between Hampton and Catney.

Thank you to those who for came along (over 60 attended).

The meeting was such a success that another meeting is expected to be held in June. In addition, drop-in sessions will also take place within the village. More information on this will be circulated on our Notice Boards and also via our Website and Facebook page.

HS2 NEWS

A number of residents have expressed concern at both the extent of the works and the desolation of the countryside caused by HS2. To help alleviate resident's concerns the Parish Council has obtained a series of aerial photographs of the completed HS1 contract through Kent. These photographs, which can be inspected on the Parish website, were taken a year or two after the completion of the construction work in the early 2000's and show how the countryside has recovered and 're-greened'.

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

HAMPTON IN ARDEN FESTIVAL 2023

It doesn't seem long since we were closing down the 2022 festival, yet here we are with our first SAVE THE DATE reminder for 2023. The festival will take place on Saturday, 1st July, 2023 from 11am to 3pm with a variety of stalls, the Dog Show, bouncy castles, the Car show, the tennis finals, live music, rifle shooting, food stalls and much more! Then, in the evening, we have our fabulous concert, headlined by 2 Weeks Notice again, and culminating in our wonderful Firework display. If you haven't already, put the date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you there...



A TRIBUTE TO TARIQ DAR

The Parish Council were saddened to hear of the recent passing of Tariq Dar, Postmaster at the HIA post office. He was a pillar of the local community and known and loved by many, he will be sadly missed.

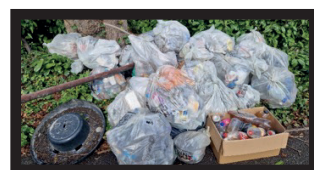
THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN – A SUCCESS!

In March, the Parish Council joined forces with the Hampton Wombles and Solihull MBC 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.

It was a hugely successful event both in Hampton-in-Arden and Catherine-de-Barnes, with our biggest turnout of volunteers yet... 46 in Hampton and 33 in Catney! We

managed to collect a tremendous amount of rubbish and participants enjoyed some well-earned refreshments after the event.

Thanks to all who volunteered to keep Hampton and Catney Tidy!



TRAFFIC CALMING AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY UPDATE

The first stage of Phase 2 of the traffic calming measures in Hampton in Arden will be installed in the next two months. These measures will consist of:

- New Gateway on Solihull Road including a raised table at the narrow point (this should be completed while the road remains closed as part of the M42 J6 construction)
- Addition of a raised table at the narrow point at the existing Meriden Road Gateway
- New raised tables at the existing traffic island on Meriden Road close to the entrance to The Crescent

Exact dates are unknown at present but will be confirmed by Solihull MBC Highways. **Keep an eye on the Parish Council website for updates.**

The second stage of Phase 2 will be the installation of average speed cameras. These are expected to be installed in the latter part of 2023. Again, once more details are known they will be published on our website.

The extent of traffic calming measures in Catherine-de-Barnes have been discussed and agreed with Solihull MBC Highways. Funding options are now being investigated.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Consultation on the Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan was completed on 22nd March 2023, with 49 responses from residents, businesses and consultees being received. This was an encouraging response and significantly higher than the number of responses when a similar such consultation exercise was launched for the previous comparable document in 2015.

Several useful suggestions and corrections were put forward and the Working Group is now working through the detail to update the draft. The next stage will be to submit the Draft Plan for formal examination and approval. However, this is likely to be delayed due to Solihull Council's own Local Plan (with which our Neighbourhood Plan needs to be in alignment) unlikely to be finalised within the next 12 months. We will keep you all updated.

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

- Following on from our very popular talk on the life of George Fentham given by the History Group and our annual May Day Walk, we'd like to let you know we will be repeating our Beer, Band and Curry night on **15th September** in Fentham Hall.
- We'd also like to invite you to an evening of intrepid travelling presented by two stalwarts of the village, Evan Grant and Ken Blanch, on **27th September** in the Arden Room.

If you have any questions about our events or anything else we do, please come and visit us at our stall at the Village Festival.

PLANNING NEWS

- **PL2023/01402/MINFDW - 21a Meadow Drive Erection of a 2 storey Dwelling:** Following the refusal of the original application an appeal has now been lodged. The application was refused, after much debate by the Planning Committee, on the basis of over intensive development of the site and will now be considered by the Planning Inspectors at Bristol.
- **Battery Storage Facility in Henwood Lane Catherine de Barnes:** At the time of writing, no planning application had yet materialised for this facility, although the word on the grapevine is that there will be one lodged around the end of the month.
- **Solar Farm in Catherine de Barnes:** There is no further news on a possible planning application for a solar farm in fields north of the Grand Union Canal, although the Parish Council are endeavouring to meet with the developer shortly to discuss the proposals.
- **Solihull Local Plan Examination Update:** Following the recent ending of the Levelling Up Regeneration Bill- Reforming the Planning System consultation, it is probable that changes in Planning regulations including the National Planning Policy framework are likely to be announced shortly. On this basis, Solihull MBC have suggested to the Planning Inspectors that it would be appropriate to put the examination process on hold until the changes are made clear as they could well impact the Plan. This, plus the news that the Government plan to build 300,000 homes a year looks like it may be watered down, could also have implications for housing numbers in the Plan mean it looks like it will not be adopted any time soon.

Details of current planning applications and their status, and the Parish Council's responses, can be viewed on our website <https://hamptoninarden.org.uk> under the headings 'Your Parish Council' and then 'Planning'.

NEWS FROM THE GEORGE FENTHAM TRUST

● **Allotments:** Last year the Trust provided a field near the garden centre on Eastcote Lane to be used for allotments. The Trust have funded the preparation of the site, including providing a car parking area and water supply for the use of allotment holders. The allotments are rented from the Parish Council and are already being used by local residents. The allotments near George Fentham School are also on Fentham Trust land. Enquiries about renting an allotment or joining the waiting list should be made to clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk.

● **Fentham Hall:** The Trust owns and maintains the Fentham Hall in the centre of the village and the nearby meeting room. These rooms range in size with the main Hall seating up to 120 people theatre style, the Arden Room which has a capacity of 65 and the meeting room which holds up to 20 people. They are available to hire at reasonable rates for one-off events including weddings and parties, conferences and business meetings. Regular bookings can also be made, please see our website for more information.

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



HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN LIBRARY NEWS

● **Opening Hours:** Tuesday 2pm – 5pm, Thursday 2pm – 5pm, Friday 2pm – 5pm. You can come in to browse the books, use our public PC and Wi-Fi, make reservations, print, and photocopy. If you aren't already a member of the library, it's easy to join. All you need is proof of your name and address, like a driving license or an official letter, and you can access all our books and our digital collections for free.

● **A Warm Welcome:** As part of offering a warm welcome to everybody who comes through our door, Hampton Library are providing both warm and cold drinks to library customers. There is no charge for this, but donations are welcome if you wish.

● **Summer Reading Challenge 2023, Ready, Set, Read!** Every year, the Summer Reading Challenge helps children to keep up reading through the summer holiday. They just need to read six books of their choice to complete the challenge and there are rewards along the way to make it extra fun. This year, the theme is 'Ready, Set, Read!' a sports and games-themed challenge, presented by libraries and the Reading Agency in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust. Children can join the Summer Reading Challenge starting **Tuesday 11th July**.

● **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 12th May (Alexander McCall Smith), 9th June (Historical Lives), 21st July (Crime books to follow National Crime Reading Month) **N.B. please note that the July meeting is on a different week of the month to normal.**

All information here is accurate at the time of writing. See www.solihull.gov.uk/libraries and www.facebook.com/hamptoninardenlibrary for the latest updates.

CATHERINE DE BARNES VILLAGE NEWS

The new driveway at the Village Hall has finally been completed which allows off road unloading and parking for users of the hall.

Since the installation of the Play Area and for added security, the Trustees installed an external CCTV system (comprising five cameras and supporting equipment) in April. A copy of the CCTV policy has been placed on the website www.catney.co.uk and a notice advising this fact will be placed in the notice board by the Play Area. CCTV signs will also be visible at the front and rear doors of the Hall.

Coronation Hog Roast Event

The Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association have organised a coronation hog roast event at the Village Hall on Sunday 7th May, with live music, face painting, games and refreshments including beers supplied by our local Silhill Brewery!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **8th May:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association (RA) Committee Meeting
- **10th May:** Parish Council Meeting
- **20th May:** Hampton Wombles Litter Pick (meet at 11am in White Lion car park)
- **24th May:** Parish Council Annual Meeting – Wine and nibbles from 7.30pm at Fentham Hall
- **5th June:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association (RA) Committee Meeting
- **10th June:** Hampton Wombles Litter Pick (meet at 11am in White Lion car park)
- **TBC June:** Village Meeting with National Highways and SKANSKA (Venue TBC from 8pm)
- **1st July:** Hampton-in-Arden Village Festival
- **3rd July:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association (RA) Committee Meeting
- **12th July:** Parish Council Meeting
- **22nd July:** Hampton Wombles Litter Pick (meet at 11am in White Lion car park)
- **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 Beekeeping Group** meets fortnightly on Saturday mornings in spring and summer to manage the beehives in the Arboretum. It is a great opportunity to learn about these fascinating creatures, and how they interact with the local landscape and changing seasons. For more information contact sarahmrickard@icloud.com
 - **Hampton Singers** was established 30 years ago and 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 give three concerts a year, often in Hampton Church or the Fentham Hall, 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-in-Arden Bowls Club** plays on the beautifully maintained Crown Bowling Green behind the Soho Tavern from April to October each year. Applications from all age groups and genders are welcome. They have sessions for Gents on Tuesdays at 10.00am and Ladies on Wednesdays at 10.00am, with open sessions for all at 2.00pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. They also organise tournaments and competitions throughout the season. If you wish to find out more, please contact peter.j.green@live.co.uk
 - Membership of the **Catherine de Barnes Residents Association** is open to all residents of Catherine de Barnes. Its aims are to preserve the local environment whilst endeavouring to ensure a community spirit associated with living in a rural community. See www.catney.co.uk for more details.
 - **Over 55s Table Tennis at the Scout Hut** – The Table Tennis club now has a few vacancies for new members if anyone is interested, contact peter.j.green@live.co.uk
 - **Rogers** – Roger's Music Evenings are held on Tuesdays in the Arden Room throughout the year. For more details contact Roger Waring on rogernwaring@aol.com
- If you want to see your Club featured in this section, contact peter.green@hamptoninarden.org.uk

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

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.