

Parish News - MAY 2024

HELLO AGAIN

Welcome to the May edition of your Parish Council Newsletter! After a successful 'Great British Spring Clean' in Hampton and Catney in March and our Parish Council Annual Meeting in April, we have lots more to look forward to in the coming months. The Hampton Festival is not long away (see our Festival article below) and our fantastic clubs and societies have plenty of events to keep us busy! And, as ever we have plenty of local news from Hampton-in-Arden and Catherine-de-Barnes to update you on. **Read on for all the details!**



PARISH COUNCIL – OUR ANNUAL REPORT

We are pleased to share with you the Annual Report of your Parish Council which provides a comprehensive review of the Council's work over the last 12 months. **The report is available on our website and can be viewed using the QR code provided here.**

This report serves as an informative resource that highlights the achievements, initiatives and decisions made by the Council for the betterment of the community. Additionally, we encourage you to take advantage of this report to ask any questions or seek clarification by reaching out to the Council's clerk, Julie Barnes, on 01675 442017 or by email: clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk. **Your feedback and engagement are valuable in shaping the future of our community.**



HAMPTON RESIDENT ELECTED AS WARD COUNCILLOR!

Local resident Alison Rolf was elected as one of our three Bickenhill Ward Councillors on Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council following the local elections on Thursday 2nd May. **Our congratulations to Alison who has represented the Ward previously.**

The full result was as follows:

● Alison Rolf (Conservative) - 1720 / ● Lynda Turner (Labour) - 654 / ● Mark Pearson (Green) - 301 / ● Adam Pilarski (Lib Dem) - 149

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN FESTIVAL 2024 – SATURDAY 6TH JULY

Last year's festival was a great success, with more stalls than ever and a huge total of over £10k raised. This year's festival will take place on **Saturday, 6th July, 2024** from 11am to approx. 3pm with a variety of stalls, the Dog Show, bouncy castles, the Car Show, 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 ending with our wonderful firework display.

This is a wonderful family and community event, so please come along and support. If you haven't already, put the date in your diary and we'll hopefully see you there.



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 2024! This national initiative looks to involve local communities in tidying up their local areas and carry out a litter pick. Despite the rain it was a successful event, both in Hampton-in-Arden and Catherine-de-Barnes. 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!

HS2 UPDATE – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF DIDDINGTON LANE

Diddington Lane will be temporarily closed for 4 weeks between 7th May and 7th June. This is to allow HS2 to carry out service diversions and install temporary traffic lights for future work.

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

PLANNING NEWS

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'.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Review Update

As you are aware, the process for securing a new Neighbourhood Plan is currently stalled because of the situation with Solihull Emerging Local Plan which is also stalled at the examination stage. Any Neighbourhood Plan has to be in general conformity with an adopted Local Plan. The current Local Plan was adopted in 2013 and it makes no sense for our new plan to be in line with that plan. Representatives on the working group are planning to meet with senior representatives involved with the Local Plan process at Solihull MBC to establish what other options may be open to us .

As things stand at the moment it could well be 2025 before we get any movement in the process. Obviously the greatest concern is the consultations and surveys previously undertaken could well be treated as out of date and need to be redone.

More news in the next issue.

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE UPDATE

As part of the Parish Council's commitment to reducing our impact upon climate change, in June 2024 Councillor Roger Waring is attending a presentation titled 'Unleashing the Power of Local Councils to Take the Climate Emergency' arranged by the National Association of Local Councils. The speakers come from various

organisations that have successfully implemented action plans to combat the known effects. It is hoped that we can adopt similar plans to those experienced elsewhere. As an example, the Parish Council will press for the planting of trees as an important feature of any new housing developments.

FOOTPATHS IN THE PARISH

Our Parish Council Public Rights of Way representative (Roger Waring) is continuing to survey as many paths as possible in order to identify essential and important maintenance issues that affect our ability to use our paths comfortably and safely. Some success has been achieved, such as the clearance of the path between Hampton Green and The Crescent and clearance of creeping vegetation and grass along the whole of the footway from Diddington Lane to Kenilworth Road. But more needs to be done. The Parish Council recognises that Solihull MBC are limited in their ability to service all of the works that we consider necessary. As a result, it is expected that in next year's budget, a modest allowance will be made to cover these sorts of works, in Catherine-de-Barnes as well as around Hampton.

As part of our common desire to get people out and about and walking more, we are very pleased to announce the **creation of a new footpath** that will remove the need to walk a busy section of Shadowbrook Lane. Roger has successfully lobbied National Highways to fund this project. **Well done Roger!** This permissive path will start opposite the exit from Hampton Manor Grounds, and will allow access to Bickenhill via the Sports ground, the arboretum, the wildflower meadow, and the Trust woodland. The works are expected to be completed in June.

TRAFFIC CALMING AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

TRAFFIC CALMING

- Solihull MBC have now confirmed that the additional speed table at the Meriden Road Gateway will be installed at the end of May together with additional works close to the station.
- The average speed cameras for the High Street and Meriden Road will be installed in June/July – Solihull MBC will carry out the work when funding is received from HS2.
- Approval from National Highways is expected very soon for the proposed traffic calming in Catherine-de-Barnes. Again Solihull MBC will carry out the work when funding is received, this time from National Highways.

PARKING

- Solihull MBC will be holding a formal public consultation during the summer regarding parking issues in both villages and proposed counter measures. **We will keep you updated!**
- We appreciate that some streets and roads in Catney are narrow and parking is difficult. If you have to park using the footpath please bear in mind that mums with prams/buggies and people using mobility scooters need to be able to get past. **Thank you.**

SHARED USE OF PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

- Throughout the Parish there are a number of roads with no separate footways which means that all road users – vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders – have to use the road itself. We would like to remind everyone that all these road users have equal rights to use the roads – it's known as shared use. **Motorists especially please note and slow down to pass other users.**

CATHERINE DE BARNES NEWS

● **Buttie Breakfast** - Members of the Residents Association were welcome to a complimentary bacon/sausage buttie accompanied by tea/coffee in the Village Hall on the 17th February. **The Association are planning to hold a similar event later in the year.**

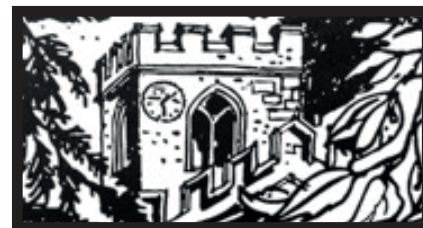
● **Hog Roast - Saturday 6th July at the Village Hall, Catherine de Barnes:** The social committee of the Residents Association has organised a village social event as detailed above. Please see www.catney.co.uk for more details

THE HAMPTON IN ARDEN SOCIETY - SAVE THE DATE - NATURE AFTERNOON (SUNDAY 9TH JUNE).

This is a new event for us with the aim of celebrating the green spaces around the village. We are planning guided walks around the Spinney, wildflower meadow and arboretum to explain some of the activities and developments in these areas. There will be talks, stands and some activities for children all based around the local flora and fauna.

Bring a picnic if the weather is nice. Tea and coffee will be served. Families welcome.

1-4 pm based in the Scout and Guide Hut. More information to follow!



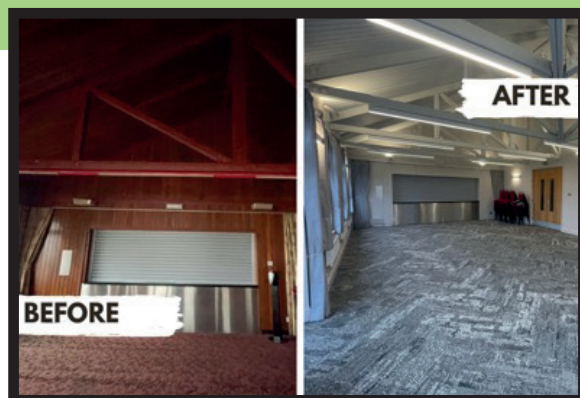
NEWS FROM THE GEORGE FENTHAM TRUST

● **Fentham Hall:** The Trust owns and manages the Fentham Hall and meeting rooms near the Doctor's surgery. The main Fentham Hall building comprises the Fentham Hall, a large airy space with a stage, lights, sprung dance floor and even a Compton Organ which rises out of the stage. The Organ Society host monthly concerts at the hall, which is also used by local organisations for meetings and classes and can be hired for weddings and parties, with the Hall being licensed for civil ceremonies. The building also includes a kitchen and bar and the smaller Arden Room, which has recently been refurbished and is now a light and airy room with views over the fields. If you would be interesting in hiring this space or for more information, please visit our website

<https://www.georgefenthamtrust.org.uk/> or contact Jo on events@georgefenthamtrust.org.uk

● **Wildflower Meadow:** *After the success of last year's display, we will again be planting wildflower seeds in the wildflower meadow near the Arboretum as soon as the weather permits. The Fentham Trust will be represented at the 'Nature Afternoon' on the 9th of June being organised by the Hampton in Arden Society where you can enjoy a tour of the wildflower meadow, spinney and arboretum.*

● 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@georgefenthamtrust.org.uk



CLUBS SECTION

● **The Hampton Probus Club** - Contact peter.j.green@live.co.uk

● **The Local History Group** - Contact info@hamptoninardenhistory.org

● **Hampton-in-Arden Gardening Club** - Contact David Bixby davidbixby59@gmail.com

● **The Hampton Beekeeping Group** - Contact Sarah Rickard sarahmrickard@icloud.com

● **Hampton Badminton Club** - Contact Mary Daymond - randmdaymond@hotmail.com

● **Hampton Bowls Club** - Contact peter.j.green@live.co.uk

● **The Conservation Group** - Contact Alan Seal alanseal@hotmail.com

● **The Hampton Health & Fitness Club** - Contact Gareth Thomas gareth@thehampton.co.uk

● **Hampton Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides** - Contact Fiona Bubb fiona@bubb.net

● **Catney Craft Club** - Contact Lesley Cuthbert cuthbertlm@me.com

● **The Hampton Singers** - Contact www.hamptonsingers.co.uk

● **Hampton Wine Society** - Contact Margaret Ely at hamptonwinesoc@gmail.com

● **Solihull Scale Model Club** - Contact Alexander Clayson a-clayson@hotmail.com or visit their Facebook site.

LIBRARY NEWS AND EVENTS

Opening Hours: Tuesday 2pm – 5pm, Thursday 2pm – 5pm, Friday 2pm – 5pm.

- **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.
- **May Half-Term Crafts:** During half term we will have crafts suitable for ages 5 and up, as well as simpler ones for younger children, on our drop-in craft table. The crafts will be running on Tuesday 28th May, Thursday 30th May, and Friday 31st May.
- **2024 Summer Reading Challenge: Marvellous Makers:** 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 Marvellous Makers, celebrating creativity and firing up children's imaginations! We will have activities throughout the summer holidays too. Children can join the Summer Reading Challenge starting Tuesday 9th July, and if they're not already a library member, all you need is something official with an adult guarantor's name and address.
- **Drop-In Crafts: Marvellous Making:** This summer, to celebrate the 2024 Summer Reading Challenge, Marvellous Makers, we will have a drop-in craft table with customisable crafts where you can show your creativity to the world! All crafts will be suitable for ages 5 and up, and there will be simpler activities for younger children too. The craft table will be running: Tuesday 23rd July, Thursday 25th July, Friday 26th July, Tuesday 20th August, Thursday 22nd August, and Friday 23rd August.
- **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. We discuss a topic of the month, and hot drinks are provided. Books for the next meeting are available at the library. The group at 2:15pm on the following dates: Friday 10th May (Dogs), Friday 14th June (family secrets), Friday 12th July (The works of Margaret Atwood)

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.

A TRIBUTE - PETER KENNEDY

Peter Kennedy, a long time member of the Communication Committee responsible for producing and delivery the Parish Newsletter, passed away in February 2024. Peter, a retired journalist, was a valuable member of our committee and could always be relied upon to bring a good story and a cheeky smile to our meetings. **He will be missed.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **8th May:** Parish Council Annual General Meeting (7.30pm at George Fentham Meeting Room)
- **11th May:** Hampton Wombles Litter Pick (meet at 11am in White Lion car park)
- **13th May:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association (RA) Committee Meeting
- **3rd June:** Catherine-de-Barnes RA Committee Meeting
- **8th June:** Hampton Wombles Litter Pick (meet at 11am in White Lion car park)
- **1st July:** Catherine-de-Barnes RA Committee Meeting
- **10th July:** Parish Council Meeting (**7.30pm at Catney Village Hall**)
- **20th July:** Hampton Wombles Litter Pick (meet at 11am in White Lion car park)
- **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.**

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.