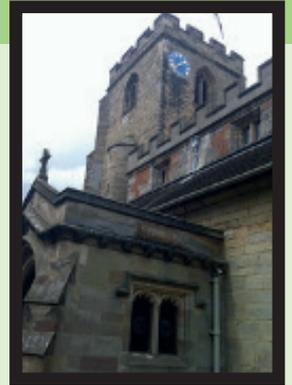


Parish News - February 2020

HELLO AGAIN

Isn't it wonderful to hear the Parish Church Clock back in action and chiming the hour?! It's a sound that adds to the special feel of the village. The clock was out of action for lengthy spells during 2019, and needed a major repair. The current clock dates from 1886, and replacement parts have to be specially manufactured. The current bells were installed in 1976, having been acquired from the church at Miles Platting in Manchester, replacing earlier bells (cast in 1725) that were sold to the parish of Nether Whitacre. The Parish Council was delighted to have been able to make a contribution towards last year's repair costs.

Keep reading.... To get up to date with local news and to find out about upcoming events in the Parish including the Great British Spring Clean, VE Day Celebrations and the Hampton Festival!



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - OUR ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at **8.00 pm on Tuesday 14th April 2020 in Fentham Hall**. The annual meeting is an ideal opportunity to hear about the work of your Parish Council over the past year, to peruse the accounts, ask your Councillors questions and to make comments relating to the Parish. Complimentary wine and soft drinks will be available from 7.30pm.

AND A FEW MORE... SAVE THE DATE FOR...

The Village Tidy Up – Be Part of the Great British Spring Clean! 4th April 2020

This year the Parish Council are going to do the Village Tidy Up a little differently! We are going to take part in the Great British Spring Clean, a nationwide campaign to keep Britain tidy. In 2019, over **563,163** people volunteered their time to take part in the campaign - the biggest ever! Cleaning up streets, parks and beaches, people across the country have made big improvements to the environment on their doorstep. In 2019, **17,097 clean-ups** were held and **957,377 bags of litter** collected- that's **239,344 wheelie bins** full of rubbish or **4,308 tonnes** worth.



Alongside Solihull MBC, we will be carrying out our Spring Clean on the **Saturday 4th April 2020 between 9.30am and 11.30am**. We would be grateful for any volunteers willing to come and lend a hand and take part in this fantastic initiative. Please meet at the George Fentham Meeting Room (next to the Beeches). All equipment will be provided and there will be refreshments for all those who help out.

VE75 Celebrations: Weekend of 8th May

The early May bank holiday in 2020 will move from Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

VE Day (or Victory in Europe Day) marks the day towards the end of World War Two when fighting against Nazi Germany came to an end in Europe. The holiday will form part of a three-day weekend of national commemorative events to enable as many towns, parishes, district, community and other councils along with individuals, voluntary organisations, the holiday and hospitality industry (including pubs, clubs and hotels) to join in the VE Day 75 celebrations. A number of local organisations are coming together to arrange events and we will ensure that residents are kept informed about the arrangements.

HAMPTON FESTIVAL 2020: 27th / 28th June 2020

We are pleased to let you know that this year's festival will be the weekend of the 27th and 28th June at the Recreation Ground. More details will be published in our next Newsletter and also on our Parish Council website and the village Facebook page as soon as they are known.

In the meantime, if anyone would like to help out and join the organisation Committee then please get in contact with Julie Barnes, our Parish Clerk.

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS IN THE PARISH - A SUCCESS!

Christmas Lights

We hope that everyone enjoyed the Christmas tree lights on the Village Green in Hampton-in-Arden and the new lights on the Village Hall in Catherine-de-Barnes. They looked wonderful and really added to the festive feel in the Parish!

Record Breaking Visits From Santa!

Generous Hampton-in-Arden residents helped Meriden Rotary Club raise a record amount for charity from its annual Santa Run just before Christmas. A total of **£856** was collected over the two evenings Santa's motorised sleigh toured the village, around 50 per cent higher than the 2018 figure.

The White Lion and the Beeches welcomed the volunteer Rotary team to thank them for their work. Earlier in the

month, a further £103 was raised at the switching of the Christmas lights on the village green, for which the club provided Santa and his sleigh. All the money raised will go to the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund and a number of local charities.

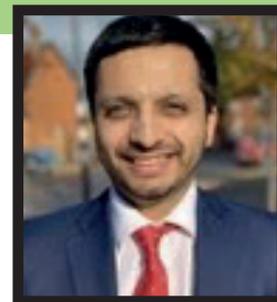
Rotary Club President Geoff Arthur told the Newsletter: *"All in all, it was a very successful fund-raising effort and I must thank the people of Hampton for their generosity. Also, thanks to the two pubs for giving our people a warm welcome on a couple of chilly nights."*



A NEW MP FOR MERIDEN

The people of Hampton-in-Arden and Catherine-de-Barnes have a new Member of Parliament. He is Saqib Bhatti, who retained Meriden for the Conservatives in December's General Election. Mr Bhatti polled 34,358 votes, giving him a majority of 22,836 over his Labour opponent. The Liberal Democrats and Green Party also fielded candidates.

A chartered accountant by profession, Mr Bhatti is a businessman and currently president of Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce. He is 34 and lives in Dorridge. Mr Bhatti succeeds Dame Caroline Spelman, who stood down as Meriden MP after serving for 22 years. He paid tribute to her legacy, saying she had been a *"fantastic"* MP. *"She will be a hard act to follow,"* he said.



TRAFFIC CALMING AND ROAD SAFETY

We have now received the results from the temporary traffic counters that were installed on Lugtrout Lane and Hampton Lane in Catherine de Barnes. The figures make both interesting and alarming reading. Traffic flows (vehicles per day) are high for single carriageway roads and are likely to increase with both HS2, M42 Junction 6 and the MSA schemes on the horizon. Traffic speeds are also high and justify action with around 70% of drivers exceeding the speed limit, but are not unrepresentative of other similar

roads in the area. However, the results do provide us with the backup data to support our road safety and traffic calming plans.

Final thoughts - none of these proposed measures would be needed if everyone obeyed the speed limits and the money could then be better spent on other projects. It is after all better to be late in this world than early in the next!

NEW GATE ON MARSH LANE

A plan has been put forward to close part of Marsh Lane in Hampton-in-Arden at night to curb anti-social behaviour. The idea is for Solihull MBC to erect a security gate across the road to prevent cars reaching an area near the Packhorse Bridge over the River Blythe where numbers of people are known to gather after dark.

The metal gate would be about five feet high and located just after the last house in Marsh Lane going towards the river, allowing all residents access to and from their properties round the clock. It would be locked just before nightfall by a council official and reopened at dawn, allowing normal use of the road by vehicles and pedestrians. Ramblers, dog-walkers and anglers are frequent users. Similar lockable gates have been installed as a security measure elsewhere in the borough, especially at the entrances to public car parks.

The gate plan has the strong support of ward councillor Alison Rolf, who told the Newsletter the police had done everything they could to stamp out anti-social behaviour. But there was a limit to the number of night-time patrols they could mount and regrettably, a number of security cameras placed at the trouble spot had been stolen: *"There's also a problem with fly-tipping; anything from building waste to old domestic appliances is dumped there at night. I hope approval is given to install the gate as soon as possible to try to remove this blot on our village."*

1ST HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SCOUTS

New Year, new you! Looking to do a bit of local volunteering (but wouldn't mind having fun whilst doing it)? 1st Hampton-in-Arden Scouts is looking for adult volunteers to help build bonfires, find bugs in woods, camp out under the stars and teach the youth of Hampton some valuable life skills along the way. We are a completely inclusive group, so why not come along and show us what you've got to offer? Contact Vicky on 446155 or vickyw79@gmail.com

AIRPORT NEWS

The airport has created a Daytime Noise Limit Review Group with the purpose of discussing a proposed reduction in the daytime noise limit of 90 dBA and to agree a way forward. Currently aircraft recorded in excess of the limit are fined £500 with an additional charge of £150 for every decibel above the limit. Over the past five years only large Anatonov cargo aircraft have been regularly fined. The noise limit is not to be regarded as a punishment for

airlines but as an incentive to encourage them to operate the quietest aircraft. Perhaps surprisingly records show that Birmingham's daytime noise limit is amongst the lowest of UK airports. As a first step, and to inform the debate, the airport is to monitor noise levels of aircraft on take off between 86 dBA and 90 dBA. Any aircraft that fall into this band will be subject to further investigations in order to determine the cause and identify potential solutions.

HS2 NEWS

There is still no news yet of the financial review into HS2 though a decision is expected shortly. Advance work is continuing around the proposed interchange station. However, this should not affect the Parish.

Following our unsuccessful application to the Community Fund for traffic calming, we are continuing to lobby Solihull MBC regarding the Road Safety Fund which is being managed by the local authority. The latest news is that SMBC have completed the first stage of their review process and are now inputting the various proposed schemes throughout the area. This process should be completed by the end of March 2020 when we should know if we have been successful in securing funding for our proposals.



NEW LOOK NISA IN CATHERINE-DE-BARNES

Catherine-de-Barnes has a new-look village store after it re-opened following a change of ownership. Nisa, a retail chain owned by the Co-operative Group, took over the Hampton Lane shop from Spar and it was closed for five weeks to be given a thorough makeover. Floor space has been enlarged to more than 1,000 square feet and the product range increased.

The store sells meat, fresh fruit and vegetables, household goods and alcoholic drinks, and has a cashpoint for any shoppers who find themselves running out of money during their visit! It also has a coffee machine - just the job on a cold winter's day. The Nisa store is open every day of the year, including Christmas Day, from 6am to 9pm on weekdays, with slightly later opening times at the weekend and on bank holidays.

Manager Manny Singh told the Newsletter: *"We aim to be a first-rate convenience store which will give local people all the basic food and drinks and their other day-to-day requirements and which has extended shop hours to suit their needs."*

PLANNING NEWS

Residents are encouraged to respond to any planning application that affects them and the local environment. Details of applications affecting the Parish are able to be viewed on the Parish Council website, as are our responses to applications. Residents are encouraged to view the website for information on a regular basis in order that they are able to respond to applications in good time (within 21 days of the date they are validated by Solihull MBC).

- **Motorway Service Area (MSA) - Catherine de Barnes:** The applicant has lodged an amended application outlining how the scheme would be delivered if Highways England's proposed scheme to build a new Junction 5a as part of the Junction 6 improvement scheme. The PC have submitted a response to the application expressing our objection to the latest element to the scheme (please note that our submission expressing rejection to the original scheme still stands as a relevant response). A decision on this application is not expected before March 2020.
- **Oak Farm - Catherine de Barnes Care Village:** Readers will recall that this application was refused by Solihull MBC but the applicants have lodged an appeal (APP/Q4625/W/3237026). The inquiry by the Planning Inspectorate was held in mid-January 2020. The PC did not object to the application but it was refused by Solihull MBC.
- **2019/02803/PPFL - Change of use of land within approved mineral extraction area for location of nearby training ground:** The Parish Council received numerous copies of letters to Solihull MBC from local residents who would be impacted should this application be approved. We have submitted our response seeking its refusal on the grounds of inappropriate development in the Green Belt.
- **2019/03108/ PPFL - Retrospective detailed planning application for change of use of land for a transport depot at Woodhouse Farm, Catherine de Barnes Lane:** The Parish Council have submitted a response requesting refusal on the grounds of inappropriate development in the Green Belt and Highway Safety.
- **M42 Junction 6 Improvement scheme - New Junction 5a:** The Planning Inspectorate Examiners have until 21st February 2020 to submit their report to the Secretary of State following the hearings held last year. It is expected that a final decision on whether the project will go ahead will be made within a further 3 months.

CHANGES TO LIBRARY OPENING TIMES

From **1st April 2020**, the opening hours of Hampton in Arden Library will be:

- Monday - Closed / ● Tuesday - **2:00pm – 5:00pm** / ● Wednesday - Closed / ● Thursday - **2:00pm – 5:00pm**
- Friday - **2:00pm – 5:00pm** / ● Saturday - Closed / ● Sunday - Closed

These hours will be run initially as a six-month trial.

- **Storytime – 4th / 18th February, 3rd / 17th / 31st March (1.45pm).** From April Storytime is moving to 2pm - 14th / 28th April: Join us fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon for two stories plus a fun craft activity - perfect for under 5s.
- **Stories and Painting – 12th / 28th February, 13th / 27th March (1.45pm).** From April, Stories and Painting is moving to 2pm: 10th / 24th April: 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.
- **Spring into Easter Crafternoons 7th / 10th / 14th / 27th April (2pm to 5pm):** Pop in during the Easter School holidays for some seasonal special crafts! We'll have a craft table up and running all afternoon with a variety of fun crafts to make. Suitable for ages 4+.
- **Learn My Way – 11th / 25th February, 10th / 24th March, 7th / 21st April (3.30pm to 4.30pm):** Are you looking to learn the basics of how to use a computer and the internet? In our fortnightly sessions, we will help you get into the Learn My Way website that teaches you computer skills at your own pace. *Booking is required, so please contact the library if you are interested.*
- **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.
 - 11th February: The Hamish Macbeth series by M. C. Beaton / ● 10th March: The works of Jane Austen
 - From April, Readers Group will be moving to an afternoon schedule. For more information, please visit the library.
- **Craft Sharing - Patchwork & Quilting: An Introduction – 7th / 21st February, 6th / 20th March, 3rd / 17th April (2pm to 3.30pm):** Learn a craft fortnightly on Fridays. Suitable for any level of experience – whether you're a total beginner or you know your way around a needle, anyone curious to learn is welcome. Materials will be provided to start. Warm drinks and refreshments provided.
- **Coffee Morning – 4th February / 3rd March (10am to 12pm):** Come along for a warm drink, a snack, and some company. Everybody welcome!
- **Coffee Afternoons – 7th April / 5th May (3pm to 4.15pm):** The first Tuesday of every month, 3:00pm to 4:15pm.

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SOCIETY SOCIAL EVENING

Children walking to school along the middle of a country lane with no cars to be seen. A butchers, a greengrocers, a bank branch and three pubs. Believe it or not all features of 1950's Hampton-in-Arden. If you would like a glimpse of the past in our village come along to our film evening at 7.30pm on **Wednesday, March 4th in Fentham Hall.** See for yourself how much has changed and what seems just the same. No charge but donations to the church welcome. Supper will be available separately from Adam at the Corner Shop.



NEWS FROM GEORGE FENTHAM TRUST

- The George Fentham Trust are very sad to announce that their chairman, Martin Cadman, passed away on 24th December. He will be greatly missed, and the trustees pass on their condolences to his wife and family. Our thoughts also go to the family of our past chairman, Peter Adams who sadly passed away on 11th January.
- **JOB VACANCY – Clerk at George Fentham Trust:** The Fentham Trust has a vacancy for the Clerk to the Trustees. The Clerk works closely with the trustees to ensure the day to day work of the charity is carried out effectively. The role is responsible for taking minutes and SAGE book-keeping and is approximately 18 hours per week. ***Closing date for applications is 21st February 2020.*** If you would like further information, please contact Julie Richardson on 01675 443850 or clerk@georgefenthamtrust.org.uk
- At the Trustees meeting held in January 2020 the following appointments were made: Chairman – Carol Grant, Tim Beresford – Vice Chair, Charlie Rickard – Treasurer.



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

Did you spot the production error in the November Newsletter?! The Editor wishes to apologise for the 'typo' in the 'Thanks a Bunch' article. Finally, 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)