# **Sparsholt Community Newsletter**

### Introduction



At the time of writing, it is still not clear if all restrictions will be lifted on 21<sup>st</sup> June as set out in the Government's roadmap out of lockdown. But it does look hopeful as the vaccination programme continues at pace.

We report on things to look forward to, but do keep an eye out for the latest status regarding Covid-19 restrictions.

#### **Village Cleanup**

As part of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign:



Litter picks, hi-viz jackets, black bags, route maps and safety instructions will be available on the day. Thank you to the School for collecting around the school before the half term holiday commenced.

#### **Village Shop and Post Office**

Volunteering.

The shop will be running 'Sweetie Friday' staying open until 4pm on Fridays from 11<sup>th</sup> June so that villagers can use the service and also children can get back to having their treats on Fridays again. Shop hours in June will be:

	Shop	Post Office
Mon-Thu	08:00 - 13:00	09:00 - 12:00
Fri *	08:00 - 16:00	09:00 - 12:00
Sat	08:00 - 13:00	Closed
Sun	Closed	Closed

\* Except 4<sup>th</sup> June when shop will close at 13:00

More volunteers are needed mainly for serving in the shop so afternoon hours can be extended on other days too. For latest information see:

<a href="http://www.sparsholtparish.org/Our\_Shop">http://www.sparsholtparish.org/Our\_Shop</a> where you will find a section on

### **Local Elections**

The results of the local elections held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 are as follows:

#### **Winchester City Council**

**Stephen Godfrey**, Conservative, was re-elected for **Wonston & Micheldever** with a majority of 975 on a turnout of 53%.

Winchester City Council is now made up of:

- 27 Liberal Democrat Party
- 16 Conservative Party
- 2 Independent Councillors (not designated a group)

#### **Hampshire County Council**

Jan Warwick, Conservative was reelected for Winchester Downlands with a majority of 1477 on a turnout of 53%.

Hampshire County Council is now made up of:

- 56 Conservative
- 17 Liberal Democrats
- 3 Labour
- 1 Independent
- 1 Whitehill & Bordon Community Party

## Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner

**Donna Jones**, Conservative, with 312,993 of the votes cast across the two counties was elected as the new Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and Isle of Wight.



## Village Calendar

Life is beginning to open up and the Village Events Calendar is slowly growing in size! We have added School Term Dates and Inset Days covering well into 2022 and, the Memorial Hall OGM in September, although this is for committee members only (the public AGM will be held early in 2022, date yet to be agreed).

The Calendar is a live document that is frequently updated and can be viewed at any time by using the following link:

http://www.sparsholtparish.org/Calendar

#### **Events in June**

Saturday 5 – Village Late Spring Clean Up

Sunday 6 – Ham Green Volunteers Work Day

Monday 7 - School restarts after Half Term

Sunday 20 - Fathers' Day

Monday 21 - Parish Council Meeting

Monday 21 - Summer Solstice

Saturday 26 - Garden/Garage Sale at Dean House Cottage, for Alexander Fairey Memorial Fund

#### **Dates for your Diary**

Saturday 10 July - Messy Church restarts at Sparsholt

Sunday 15 August - Music Concert

Saturday 4 September - BBQ & Hog Roast

Sunday 10 October - Music Concert

Saturday tba October - Village Autumn Clean Up

Sunday 31 October – Summertime ends & Halloween

As we progress further out of lockdown, we expect more events to be added so, please let us know if you are planning an event by sending the details to us, using the link below:

sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org



### Coronavirus

In England since 17 May, we have been able to socialise indoors in a group of up to 6 people or 2 households, including for overnight stays. Up to 30 people can meet outside. Pubs, theatres and other venues can open indoors. Hotels, hostels and B&Bs can open for people on holiday.

Unfortunately, a new COVID-19 variant is spreading in some parts of England, putting a question mark over the 21st June release from all restrictions.

For the latest situation see https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus

### **M3 Junction 9 Consultation**





Following on from the public consultation in summer 2019, Highways England have made some changes to the Proposed Scheme and would now like to know what the public think of their latest proposals. They are running a public consultation which started on Thursday 27 May 2021 and will end at 11.59 pm on Thursday 8 July 2021.

For further information about themed events and how to contribute to the consultation see: www.highwaysengland.co.uk

#### Winchester Sport and Leisure Park now open

For details and booking see

https://www.everyoneactive.com/centre/winchester-sportleisure-park/

### **Hampshire**



Hampshire COVID-19 weekly summary

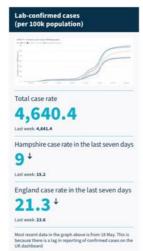
24 May 2021

The data published here is correct as of **24 May 2021** but it may be updated and amended as new data becomes available.

#### **Current status in Hampshire:**

#### Roadmap out of lockdown - Step 3













For latest information please see:

https://documents.hants.gov.uk/corprhantsweb/Covid19/Keep-Hampshire-Safe-Infographic.pdf

## **Sparsholt**

#### **Mayor's Community Awards**



Councillor Patrick Cunningham, one of Micheldever and Wonston's councillors was Mayor of Winchester for 2020-2021. He has advised us that the following people in Sparsholt were given a Mayor's award for services to the community during the pandemic.

Congratulations and sincere thanks from the community to the following for their contributions during an extremely challenging year:

- Elaine Chapman
- Keith Freeman
- John Little
- The Sparsholt Village Shop and Post Office
- Sally Wesley
- Tonia Sales

Thank you to Patrick for providing the information and for his services as Mayor during the rather strange year and especially for supporting one of the very few events that took place in Sparsholt in 2020 – The Macmillan Coffee and Cake morning.

#### The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC)

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee."

Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees from October, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

The Parish Council will be considering how it could contribute to this initiative, especially when so many trees have been lost locally to Ash Die Back disease.

https://queensgreencanopy.org/

#### **SPARSHOLT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**



#### **103 YEARS OF THE PATRIOTIC POTATO PATCH**

Our institute in Sparsholt was the oldest in Hampshire, founded in 1917 with Mrs. Cattley as President. At the time a local landowner, Mr. Bostock, gave the ladies 20 rods of land at a rent of one shilling a year, to be used by them for the good of the community. It was known as "the Patriotic Potato Patch."

They worked hard for the war effort, producing food, making garments for the troops and supporting village residents. Ever since then members have enjoyed friendship, support, learning opportunities and outings. Several of our 26 members had belonged for over fifty years.



As the first WI in Hampshire, we celebrated our centenary in 2017. Meetings took place in the Memorial Hall at 19.30 every second Tuesday of the month. There was a friendly welcome, an interesting speaker and a cup of tea too. All were welcome to come along and see if they would like to join us.

We had an enjoyable monthly coffee get together in a local cafe and educational visits to places of interest locally. In March and October we held a fundraising jumble sale much appreciated in the village and attended by customers from far and wide who became regular visitors. What fun we had preparing our entry for the Littleton Show every year where in the past Sparsholt WI acquitted themselves well.

So all in all there was plenty to share and enjoy as members of this worthwhile organisation. For many reasons we have recently had to suspend Sparsholt WI but we hope that over the coming three years of suspension it might be formed anew to bring friendship, support and learning to a new generation of women.

#### **Sparsholt Oil Group**

Some several years ago a group of village residents set up a non-profit group to take advantage of discounts available for the purchase of domestic heating oil in bulk.

Currently we have 35 members who are contacted by me by email roughly each quarter and normally we can gather enough customers at a time for a delivery qualifying for a discount of around 10% on the usual domestic price. The oil market is

extremely volatile and someone's sneeze in the Middle East can have a considerable effect on the spot price; the oil companies therefore have to cover eventualities including political uncertainties, and the season's weather can also have some effect on demand and supply although the summer downturn in heating oil requirement is counterbalanced by increased demand for petrol and diesel for recreational motoring.

We have built up a good relationship with a local branch of a national company; their depot is in Colden Common, so their transportation costs are low and therefore advantageous to us. Also, we are privileged to enjoy priority attention in emergencies — it's quite a frequent occurrence to find electronic monitors of levels in tanks giving false readings when their batteries run low.

I currently organize the Group, but only because I'm a double customer supplying the Church as well as my domestic needs. I have absolutely no expertise in commercial activities of any kind and particularly petroleum products, so would welcome anyone with any knowledge to take over!

If not already a member and you think you'd like to join the group, do please contact me.

John Wesley, Churchwarden johnr.wesley@btinternet.com

#### Flag Flying at St Stephen's Church



John Wesley Lt Cdr RD VR\* RNR

As St Stephen's bunting tosser† I have to report that bunting tossing has been even more unreliable than previous years, having been discouraged by the C-word restrictions from entering the church while it is closed except currently on Sundays and Wednesdays 10:00 – 16:00.

Days when flags will be flown, restrictions allowing, can be found on the Village Events Calendar http://www.sparsholtparish.org/Calendar

† **Bunting Tosser** is an informal term used in the Royal Navy to describe the sailors who hoist signal flags. Although dating from the period of signalling by flags, it has survived as a general term for naval signallers. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bunting\_tosser

### **Dorset Doodlings**

Recently, Jane & Terry Dunn set off again on another mini adventure.....a week at Durdle Door for some (very windy) walking along the coast path and other challenging areas!

Arrival at DD was followed by a quick "sprint" over the big hill to Lulworth Cove and back, just for a warm-up. The next day saw us doing the very interesting Wareham River & Walls Walk but, the heavens opened with about a mile to go - the first soaking of the week!

For the next few days we were blessed with better weather and managed to enjoy a walk to the church of St Catherine by the Sea (overlooking Ringstead Bay) and back. This is a lovely little wooden church just off the Coast Path down to Ringstead and, the tiny graveyard behind it provides the most amazing views over Weymouth Bay and Portland – the perfect place to stop for our lunch.

Next day we did an interesting circular walk around the Ringstead Bay and Osmington area and encountered probably the longest, steepest climb of the week, back up to where we had parked our car!

However, our best walk was on a very sunny day mid-week, when we drove to Portland and walked the Coast Path circuit of the island, almost 11 miles, some of it quite challenging but all very interesting. The journey up the Eastern side was mostly through old stone quarries and was like being on another planet (or the set of a Stars War movie).

Sitting on Portland Bill, having our lunch, we saw a strange looking ship rounding the Bill several miles out (see the photo opposite), which turned out to be HMS Queen Elizabeth returning from final exercises prior to setting off on her round the world trip!



After following the old railway line back towards Portland harbour, we realised that we were faced with another incredibly long, steep climb to get back up to the top of the island, where we had left our car (once again)! This track took us up to the back of the prison and through an amazing narrow path, the "Tramway Gully", back to the car park and a wellearned cup of tea.

Our final outing was a circular walk around the grounds of Lulworth Castle and the nearby Coombe Heath Nature Reserve, and was where we received our next soaking, having to walk the last mile across a very exposed area of parkland into the teeth of a near gale and heavy rain. Still, it is said that rainwater is good for the skin!

Overall, a very strenuous but enjoyable and relaxing week and we can't wait to go again, later in the year (perhaps with less rain)!

### **Parish Council**

#### **Retirement of Stewart Wooles as Parish Councillor**

Stewart Wooles retired as a Parish Councillor on 30<sup>th</sup> April before the start of the new Parish Council year.

Stewart was first a Councillor in 1985 for 6 years and again served a further 9 years from 2012. He has been and still is involved with many of the village activities. He was a member of the team involved with establishing the Community owned Village shop and is also Chair of the Friends of St Stephen's church (FOSS). He also runs a Men who Munch lunch group due to restart shortly when Covid restrictions allow.

As a Parish Councillor Stewart was Deputy Chair and until towards the end of 2020 Chair of the Finance group of the Council. He also held the portfolio on Highways matters dealing with issues such as flooding at The Plough, Ham Green drainage and liaising with the County Council on such things as resurfacing of the roads and new HGV restriction signs on all the roads entering the village and Dean. When the County Council purchased a new Dragon Patcher, for filling pot holes, Stewart won a completion for naming the vehicle. His reward was a tree and rustic bench due to be installed in the Ham Green area.

One of the key highlights of Stewart's time as Councillor was his leadership on the Anaerobic Digester planning application, where he delivered briefings to the Sparsholt community and Chairs of neighbouring Parish Councils and was interviewed on local TV and Radio. More recently Stewart has been instrumental in liaising with Hursley Parish Council in sharing their speed limit reminders signs with us in the village.

We thank Stewart for his time and valuable contribution to the Parish Council and wish him and Jane a very happy retirement.

#### **Vacancy for a Parish Councillor**

Stewart's retirement means that there is now a vacancy for a parish councillor. If you think you may be interested, then please contact the Parish Clerk Nicky Breen. Or if you want to know what is involved then please contact Sue Wood the Chair or any other councillor. Contact details for the Clerk and all current councillors can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

#### **Accessible Website**

The Parish Council has recently improved the accessibility of the Parish Council Website. Details of the accessibility status and the use of the accessibility widget can be found in the Accessibility Statement. Follow the link on the bottom of any of the Parish Council's webpages.

As any document hosted on the Parish Council's website must meet accessibility criteria there have been a few changes to this newsletter. In particular to improve the flow of text and the relative contrast between text and background.



Thank you to Howard Annesley for the nature and landscape photographs used in this edition.

#### The Role of a Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

The administration of the Parish Council is managed by its Clerk, a paid employee appointed by the council, who acts in a combined statutory role of Proper Officer (secretary or chief executive) and Responsible Financial Officer (treasurer).

In April 2020 at the start of the first Covid19 lockdown Nicky Breen became our new Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. The Parish Council would like to thank Nicky for her support in what must have been the most difficult year to take on a new job with all training having been cancelled, very limited personal contact to assist in hand over, coaching and mentoring. We have been very pleased to see her 'user-view' in developing an improved finance reporting system that makes her job more effective as well as highlighting errors that needed correcting. We are very pleased to see the year end with a successful internal audit report.

Nicky has also successfully introduced and established on-line banking for the Parish Council whilst considerably reducing the time spent visiting Councillors to obtain signatures for the old Cheque Book system.

We have all learnt so much during the past year and Zoom meetings have been a key part of Nicky's communication with all Councillors to ensure our public meetings have been focused and productive. She has quickly learnt how to maintain the website and ensure that documents are updated and uploaded. Her enthusiasm to learn and challenge the way the Parish Council works is a credit to her and we sincerely hope that in future life will be easier for all us and particularly for Nicky.

#### **Ham Green**

Despite the winds having been fairly cool of late, it is almost mid-Summer, and the recent rain has ensured that the growth through Ham Green has really "come alive"!

Our first post-lockdown Workday therefore came along just in time and, although we had to move it to a mid-week day to ensure dry working conditions, we still had an excellent turnout of 12 volunteers.

We were still required to work in small groups and formed 3 teams to tackle a variety of tasks including grass mowing, pathway clearance, Sycamore seedling removal, ivy ringing on selected trees. We also opened up the short bridleway leading into Burrow Road, by clearing 2 part-fallen trees — as shown in the enclosed photo.



#### **Next HGCG Workday**

If the journey out of lockdown restrictions continues as planned, the next Workday will be on Sunday 6th June. At that time, we will be allowed to work as a full group, but will probably still continue to work in small teams, as the group seems to prefer this way of working.

For further details of our Summer Work Programme, contact terrydunn9@btinternet.com

#### **Other HG News Items**

The preparation of the HG Replanting Plan is now under way, with the first site survey having taken place early in May. This initial survey was all about familiarisation with the areas for replanting within HG and, a discussion about our thoughts and the possible options available to us.

Further site visits will be required, to take soil samples and possibly to hold further discussions prior to the completion of the draft plan, which will be submitted for our consideration later in the year. We will then need to source the required trees and bushes, to be ready for planting them in the period from November to March.

#### **New Map Boards**

Recently, one of the new village map boards was installed at Ham Green – as shown in the photo below, and it looks very nice in its rustic frame.



The other map board has been installed on the reverse of the main Parish Council Noticeboard at the entrance to the Memorial Hall car park.



### **Scam and Fraud Warnings**

#### Caller ID spoofing scams – advice from OFCOM

Many phone handsets now let you see the number of the person calling before you answer. This feature - known as 'Caller ID' or 'Calling Line Identity' (CLI) - is a handy way of screening the calls you want to answer from the ones you don't.

However, there have been growing instances of nuisance callers and criminals deliberately changing the Caller ID, a practice known as 'spoofing'.

#### Why do they do this?

Sometimes there's a good reason for a caller to modify the Caller ID (for example, a caller who wishes to leave an 0800 number for you to call back if you want). However, with spoofing callers deliberately change the telephone number and/or name relayed as the Caller ID information.

They do this to either hide their identity or to try to mimic the number of a real company or person who has nothing to do with the real caller.

#### What is being done?

Calls with spoofed numbers can and do come from all over the world and account for a significant and growing proportion of

That's why Ofcom is working with the international regulators as well as the telecoms industry - to find solutions to the problem.

#### What should you do?

Identity thieves and other fraudsters often pose as representatives of banks, credit card companies, creditors, or government bodies (including the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly) to get people to reveal their account numbers and other sensitive information.

Never give out your personal information in response to an incoming call, or rely upon the Caller ID as the sole means of identification, particularly if the caller asks you to carry out an action which might have financial consequences.

If someone rings you asking for this information, don't provide it. Instead, hang up and call the phone number on your account statement, in the phone book, or on the company's or government department's website to check whether the call was genuine. Wait at least five minutes before making the call this ensures the line has cleared and you're not still speaking to the fraudster or an accomplice.

To report it to the police, call 101 or 999 if the crime is in progress action.

#### If you think you've been a victim of Caller ID spoofing

#### **Tell Action Fraud**

If you have been targeted by a scam, or know someone who has then call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit www.actionfraud.police.uk. Action Fraud is the reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Reports of fraud and any other financial crime in Scotland should be reported to Police via 101. However, if debit cards, online banking or cheques are involved in the scam your first step should to contact your bank or credit card company.

#### **Tell Trading Standards**

If you think something may be a scam, phone 03454 04 05 06 and tell the Citizens Advice Consumer Service, who can pass details of the case on to Trading Standards.

The Trading Standards service is responsible for protecting consumers and the community against rogue traders and traders acting unfairly.

#### **Tell others**

Warn family, friends, neighbours, the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme etc. If you get a suspicious circular or are contacted by someone you think may be a scammer, make sure you tip off others.

#### Spam texts - advice from OFCOM

If you receive a text message from a sender you are familiar with, or from a shortcode (a shortcode is usually 5 digits long but can be up to 8), reply 'STOP' to the telephone number or short code shown in the text message. This will inform the sender that you no longer wish to receive their text messages.

However, if the text message is from an unknown sender, or from a sender you are not familiar with, we recommend you don't reply.

Responding to the text will confirm that your number is active and might actually result in you receiving more messages, or even voice calls.

Instead, you may report the text to your network operator.

To report a spam text forward the text to 7726.

You may get an automated response thanking you for the report and giving you further instructions if needed. You will not be charged for sending texts to 7726.

An easy way to remember '7726' is that they are the numbers on your telephone keypad that spell out the word 'SPAM'.

#### Job scams and employment fraud

That online job application may not be as genuine as it seems.

Job seekers aged between 18 and 24 are most likely to be targeted by this scam, with victims losing around £4,000 on average. See <a href="https://www.which.co.uk/consumer-">https://www.which.co.uk/consumer-</a> rights/advice/job-scams-aFQaP4P9btJv

# **Parish Council Meeting**

Subject to Covid-19 restrictions being lifted, the next Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday 21st June 2021 at 7.30pm.

Council meetings will take place in the Memorial Hall Sparsholt. Please check the parish website for the latest situation.

### SPARSHOLT COMMUNITY CONTACTS

#### **Parish Councillors**

Sue Wood	Chair &	chair@sparsholtparish.org	776255
	Transport	transport@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776255
Sue Annesley	Highways &	memorialhall@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776653
	Memorial Hall	highways@sparsholtparish.org	01962 7 7 0055
John Cooper	Footpaths & Ham Green	footpaths@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776753
Lynne Gibson	Councillor	councillor@sparsholtparish.org	07771 606974
John Little	Deputy Chair &	deputy@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776249
	Communications	communications@sparsholtparish.org	01962 7 7 6249
Andrew Osmond	Security	security@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776197
Nigel Reid	Sparsholt Shop	shop@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776244
Sue Wakefield	Playground	playground@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776288
Vacancy			
Nicola Breen	Clerk	clerk@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776909
	CIEIK		07714614662

#### **City Councillors**

Caroline Horrill	CHorrill@winchester.gov.uk	01962 776844
Stephen Godfrey	sgodfrey@winchester.gov.uk	01962 884477
Patrick Cunningham	pcunningham@winchester.gov.uk	01962 883887

#### **County Councillor**

Jan Warwick	jan.warwick@hants.gov.uk	07717104236

#### Member of Parliament

Steve Brine	steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7189
	www.stevebrine.com	

#### SPARSHOLT COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

If you need help the support group remains available and can be reached on: 07595 967259

Contact email address for volunteers and requests for support - supportgroup@sparsholtparish.org

#### **WEBSITES**

Sparsholt Parish: http://www.sparsholtparish.org/

Sparsholt Shop: <a href="http://www.sparsholtparish.org/Our\_Shop">http://www.sparsholtparish.org/Our\_Shop</a>

Downs Benefice: http://www.downsbenefice.org/

#### New to Sparsholt or if you have a New Neighbour

If you are new to Sparsholt or have a new neighbour, please let Sally Wesley know so that a Sparsholt Welcome booklet can be delivered sally.wesley@btinternet.com

#### **Copy Deadline for July Edition**

This is your newsletter so please contribute items of interest, news of events, offers to help and/or photographs. The deadline for the June edition is Friday 25th June 2021 please submit all items to sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org