



Sparsholt Community Newsletter

Plough Reopening



The Covid-19 situation continues to worsen with even local indicators going in the wrong direction. So, it still remains important to play safe and follow the guidelines.

We have included some charts later in the newsletter with links to further information.

On the good news front The Plough has plans to reopen in a Covid-safe way – see full article.

Do stay especially safe on Bonfire night we don't want any unintended visits to A&E.

Have you Helped with Free School Meals?

For a very limited time only, grants from HCC are available through Community First at:

<https://www.cfirst.org.uk/news/free-school-meals-over-october-half-term/>

Shop Goes Digital

We have recently taken possession of a new digital till (with scanner) to help with stock, accounts and pricing.

This was purchased with thanks to a grant from Winchester City Council. It has been a big learning curve for the staff and volunteers; but we are pleased with it so far.

Thank you for your continued support and patience while we get used to the new technology.

Mayor's Award Winners

The shop team has recently been awarded a Mayor of Winchester's Community Award for recognition in making a difference to the local community during the pandemic.

We are proud of the award and all that the shop continues to do to support the village and surrounding area.

More Volunteers Please

We are still looking for extra volunteers to help with manning, stocking or anything else that you can do.

Please contact either Janette in the shop (01962 776998) or Victoria (07809 432101) if you can spare a few hours.

Playground litter

Sparsholt Parish Council

WHY ARE YOU LITTERING?

- I'm lazy
- It's not my job to clean up
- I don't care about my community or environment
- All of the above

You brought the rubbish so now please take it home and dispose of it responsibly.



We have had complaints about the litter left lying around in the playground. Please make sure you either use the bins provided in the playground or, ideally, take your litter home with you. We have a group of volunteers who happily sanitise the playground on a regular basis, but it is not their job to pick up litter.

It is particularly important in this Covid crisis to ensure that nothing is left around that might transmit infection. Please can we remind everyone that you are advised to take no food or drink into the playground as part of the COVID-19 advice.

Please can everyone try and ensure their children follow this advice. Thank you.

New Footpath Map Boards – coming soon

Hampshire County Council have recently awarded a grant to Sparsholt Parish Council to provide maps of the local footpaths.

One will be placed on the reverse of the main noticeboard by the Memorial Hall and the other will be in Ham Green.



Opening times

The shop hours remain unchanged

<u>Shop</u>	<u>Post Office</u>
8-1 weekdays	9-12 weekdays
8-12 Saturday	
Sunday closed	Sat and Sun closed

Local Businesses

The Plough Plans to Reopen



Hello from James Bennett, your new resident landlord at the Plough.

We are hoping to be open on the 4th November with a fair wind and a lot of hope for no further lockdown.

"I've been the landlord of the St James Tavern in Winchester for the last 8 years, but I began my career as a rookie in the pot wash at the Plough back in 1999! Life is going full circle! I grew up in Littleton and my family and I are moving to Sparsholt for this huge adventure along with our two black labs Basil and Maya who are already rather famous at the SJT.

We are busily preparing to open the doors and finally get to meet many of our new neighbours in Sparsholt. We are giving the pub a wee spruce up with a new feel and new attitude as a proper "welly/dog/family" pub. Hope you are going to like it!

However. Things have changed rather a lot since the Plough closed and we are all doing our best with this "new normal". The days when we just nipped out for a quick pint or a bite to eat are long gone. We need make sure you have a table booked and a mask to wear. Right now, propping up the bar or waxing lyrical on a bar stool will have to wait. You can of course chance nipping out to see us but if there isn't a table free at which to sit you down we will struggle to let you come in! It is a brave new strange world and I doubt we will ever get used to it. We are totally compliant with all the Covid regulations, risk assessments, sanitising stations, social distancing et al. We want to keep both you and us safe and be compliant with the rules. We also want to keep everyone smiling and doing what we do best which is running a great pub."

To book ahead:

Online: www.resdiary.com/restaurant/theploughinn2 Email: info@theploughsparsholt.co.uk or 01962 776353

Our Regular Visiting Business – The Burger Van



Jon, the burger man will be in the Sparsholt Memorial Hall Car Park from 4pm until 8pm on Thursday 5th November 2020 and the first Thursday of each month until further notice.

See <https://www.originalfryupmaterial.co.uk> for menu and online pre-ordering.

Remote service from Local Resident – anyone for Jazz?



Looking for jazz instrumental lessons?

Nick Willsher who is in his second year at the Royal Academy of Music studying advanced jazz has space for a few pupils that he can teach via Zoom.

His specialism is the saxophone although he can also teach jazz piano to an intermediate level and jazz theory and jazz improvising skills for any instrument where the performer is already of at least an intermediate standard.

If you want to get in touch you can email him at: Nmwillsher@gmail.com



Hairy Pot Plants - Plants for People Update



For 4 weeks in April we ran our big plant giveaway scheme (Plants for People) in many local communities. With the help of a lot of fantastic volunteers, we delivered 87,575 plants to about 14,500 local households, that is over £480,000 of plants (retail value). We were overwhelmed by the generous responses and the tales of happiness prompted by the plants delivered.

Over a very short time we were able to efficiently clear all the crops that would otherwise have been composted by the time our garden centre customers reopened. Using the income generated by the plant giveaway, we speculatively potted fresh crops to be ready for sale later in the summer. Luckily when the garden centres did reopen demand was really strong and we have had records sales every week since. Sadly many of our visitor centre customers (National Trust, English Heritage etc) have not reopened their retail plant areas yet, so we have missed their usual summer custom, but the garden centres have thankfully compensated for their loss, with lots of new gardeners in the mood to buy plants.

The future of the nursery is looking more secure again after a chaotic

season and we count ourselves very lucky that we were able to find a way through some pretty tough times. We are very aware of many others who are still having to battle on.

We would like say a big THANK YOU all the hundreds of volunteers in those early weeks, who safely delivered the plants around their local communities, as well as our hero volunteer drivers and nursery helpers who put in so much work to support our hardworking but thinly stretched nursery team. We could not have done it without you all.

Thank you all & take care, from all the team at Kirton Farm Nurseries Ltd, home of The Hairy Pot Plant Company.



Lainston House



Lainston House is a remarkable 17th Century luxury hotel, home to a selection of exquisite suites, award-winning dining, events spaces and Season, the Exclusive Cookery School.

The hotel, like all across hospitality businesses across the country, has had a challenging year, but we are still standing. Following the easing of lockdown, we received a remarkable number of guests and further enquiries – those looking for a weekend break, a mid-week escape or a longer staycation – Lainston House has provided many a happy experience over the past few months.

A highlight was definitely welcoming David Jones from Manna from Devon to Season Cookery School for a series of outdoor wood-fired cooking classes. The collection of events was such a success that we will be welcoming the team back to Season in the Spring for more outdoor culinary adventures.

As we move into the cooler months, the trees are turning, and the grounds are looking beautiful. Guests are outdoors exploring the estate or cosying up beside the open fires. The hotel is providing a true escape from the 'every-day' of the last few months.

The festive season always bring so much joy to Lainston House with the twinkling lights, mulled wine and indulgent food, but it is difficult to know how we will be celebrating this year but we are paving the way for as normal a Christmas celebration as possible and everyone from Lainston House would love for you and your loved ones to join us, should you be able to.

Ham Green – Ash Die Back

An inspection of the Ham Green Ash trees was commissioned in May 2020, with the focus mainly on public safety along the footpath and bridleway running through Ham Green. All other types of large trees were also visually checked during the inspection.

Two year programme of works

The survey report was published at the end of June and the results show that there is a significant amount of Ash Dieback in the HG trees. A total of 34 trees require felling and a further 12 require removal of dead branches, all over the next 2 years. Based on degree of damage to the trees and the likely risk to users of HG, the work has been split into 3 phases: Phase 1 within 3 months, Phase 2 within 6 months and, the remainder spread over the full 2 year period. A degree of monitoring of suspect trees will also be required during this period.

It has taken a while to establish the funding for this work and, to consider the logistics of dealing with such a large amount of felled wood in such a small woodland as Ham Green. The trees must be felled carefully in order to minimise damage to the surrounding habitat and, it is clear that the whole look of Ham Green will change considerably as the work progresses. When the work has been completed in each area, we will need to carry out a replanting programme to "fill in the gaps" for the future, using a selection of appropriate trees, some of which will be donated by people in the village.

Top priority work from 2nd to 7th November

More immediately, Peter Yeates is scheduled to carry out the first phase of the work next week, from 2nd to 7th November. Most of this work will be along the upper (Western) section of the footpath, which runs down from Woodman Lane to the first green space near the footbridge to Stockers Down. This section of the footpath will be closed for the duration of the work and, advance warning signs have been posted. The bridleway just to the South of Ham Green Cottage can be used as an alternative path during the closure. The large Ash tree at the North end of the HG car park will also be felled during this first phase of work but, a date for this work has not yet been fixed.

Peter Yeates has agreed to take the felled wood as part payment for his work, so please do not go along afterwards and help yourselves! If you would like some of the wood, then please contact Peter (07789 644322) to discuss your requirements.

Watch out for warning signs in Ham Green

Finally, if you are walking through Ham Green at all, please remain alert, look out for any warning signs and, stay well clear of any work sites for your personal safety. Thank you.

Affordable Housing

New Houses in Bostock Close



Winchester City Council are now working on the detailed documentation required to submit a planning application for the proposed housing.

There will be an opportunity to comment on the detailed designs at a further consultation before a planning application is submitted.

Revised Car Parking Scheme

The biggest concern arising from consultations on the proposals to build the affordable homes in Bostock Close was the impact on parking facilities.

New Parking proposals were drawn up and a consultation process was started.

Following consultation with local residents, Winchester City Council have now drawn up a modified scheme to take account of the feedback received. Details of the revised scheme are now available and a new consultation period has commenced to take any final feedback from residents.

Nearby residents will receive either an email or letter in the coming days and details have been posted on the council's website. For more information or to provide feedback please visit:

<https://winchester.citizenspace.com/housing/woodman-close-and-stockwell-place-updated/>

Please make your opinion count by replying before the deadline on 20th November 2020.

Winchester City Council have budgeted to carry out agreed works in this financial year and are keen to progress the work as quickly as Covid-19 restrictions permit.

Footpaths

As we are in the season of high winds, if anyone comes across a fallen tree or branch blocking a footpath you should report it to John Cooper on footpaths@sparsholtparish.org in the first instance.

COVID-19 LATEST

Three Tiers for England

Covid-19 three tier alert system in England

Medium

Follow the rule of six if meeting indoors or outdoors
Pubs and restaurants to shut at 10pm

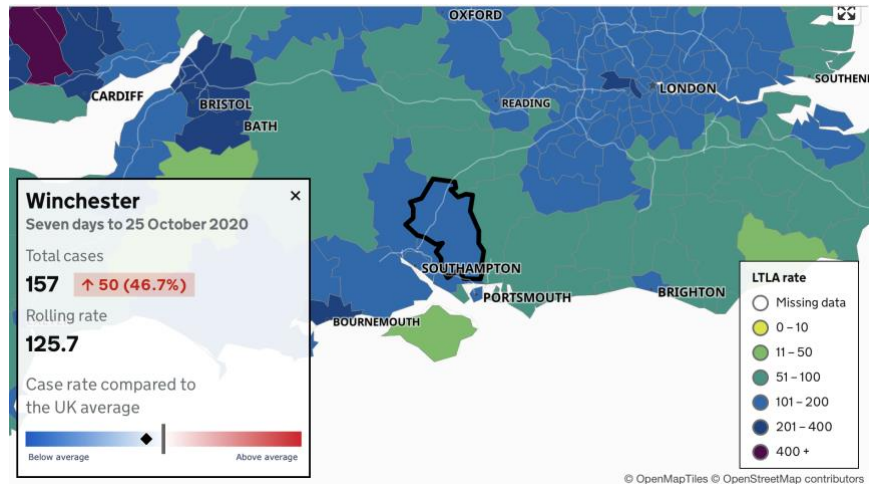
High

No household mixing indoors
Rule of six will apply outdoors

Very high

No household mixing indoors or outdoors
Pubs and bars not serving meals will be closed
Guidance against travelling in and out of the area
Rule of six applies to outdoor places like parks and beaches

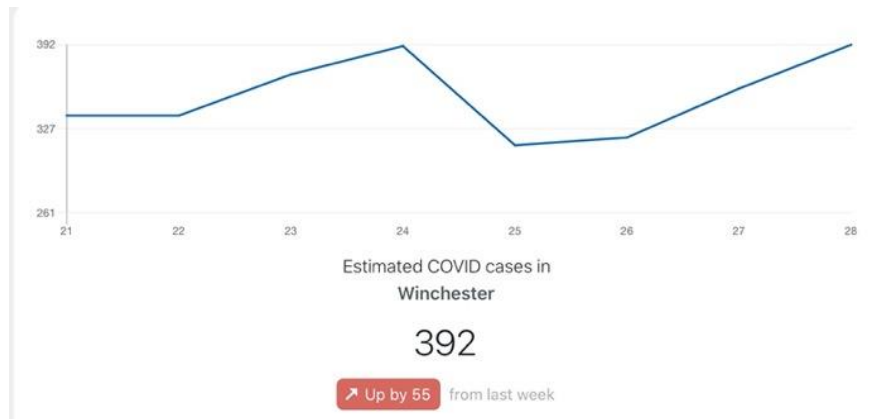
Government Data on Lab Confirmed Positive Tests



© OpenMapTiles © OpenStreetMap contributors

See <https://coronavirus-staging.data.gov.uk/details/interactive-map> for more information

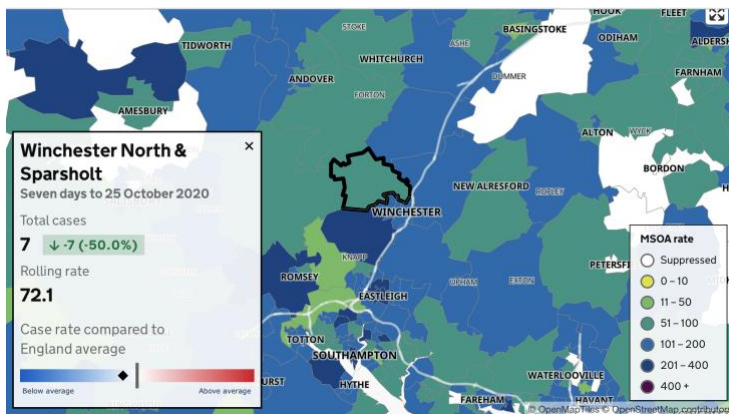
Covid Symptom Study App



Information as reported by individuals and estimated

See <https://covid.joinzoe.com> for more information.

Covid-19 in Winchester North and Sparsholt

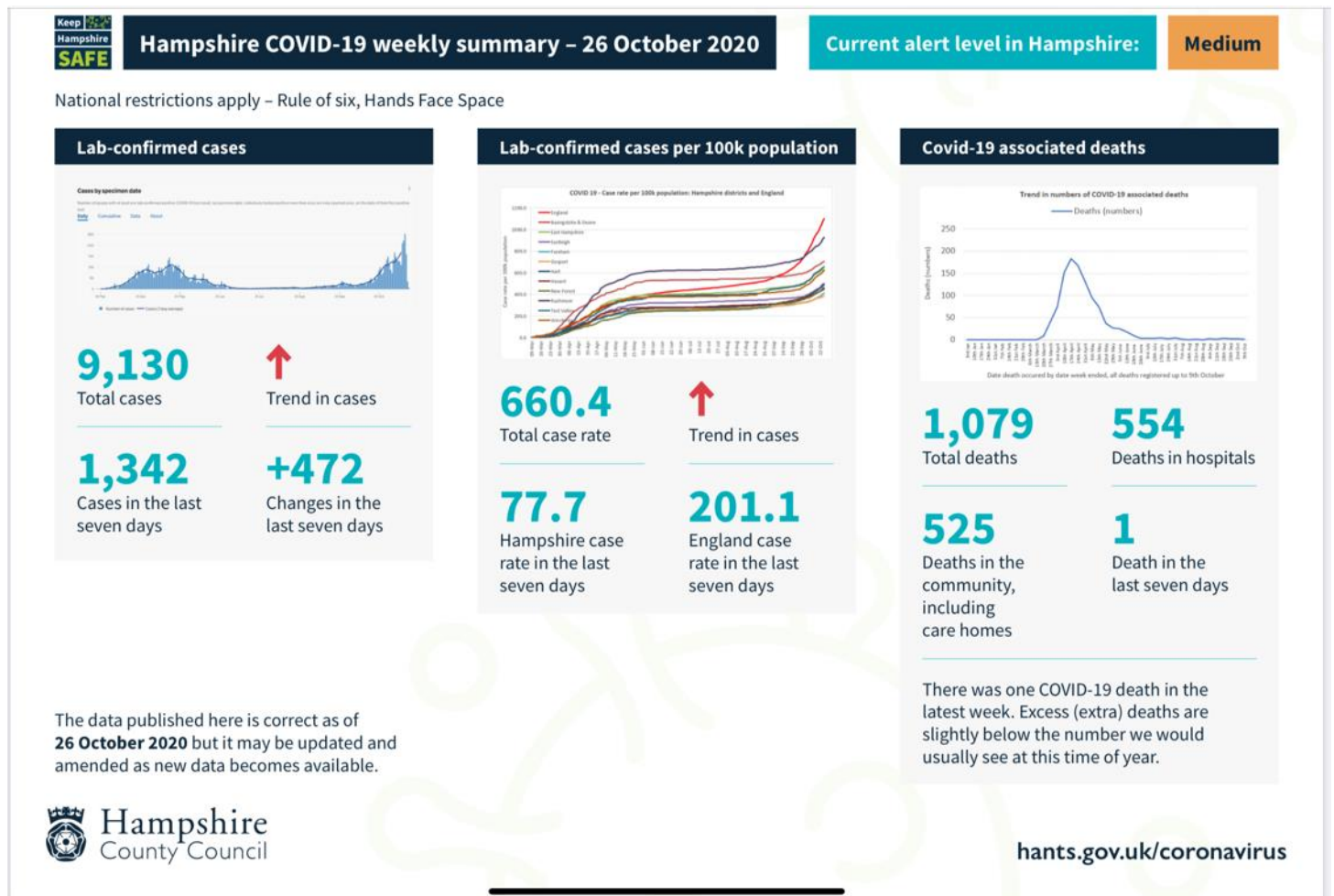


Good news here – low numbers and going down.

See <https://coronavirus-staging.data.gov.uk/details/interactive-map>

Where you can zoom in and out to select the level of detail you want and then click on an area to obtain information.

Hampshire Covid-19 Dashboard



Flu vaccination campaign

Hampshire County Council launched a flu campaign at the end of September for both staff and Hampshire residents. There have been wide ranging internal communications urging high risk groups and eligible staff to book their free flu vaccination as soon as possible.

For Hampshire residents, a weekly schedule of social media messages is being deployed throughout the season on Corporate and Public Health channels These are aligned with NHS communications and target specific groups week by week, including pregnant women, parents of 2 to 3 year olds, carers, people aged over 65 years and people with long term health conditions.

Flu vaccination is important

If you're at higher risk from coronavirus, you're also more at risk of problems from flu.

If you get flu and coronavirus at the same time, research shows you're more likely to be seriously ill.

It'll help to reduce pressure on the NHS and social care staff who may be dealing with coronavirus.

If you've had COVID-19, it's safe to have the flu vaccine. It'll be effective at helping to prevent flu.

For more information
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>

Future of Winchester

Winchester Vision 2020-2030 – have your say



What's the one thing about being part of Winchester today that you wish you could share with your great great great grandchild?

See <https://www.onegreatwin.com> for further information

Road Safety

If you see an incident

Please remember if you do witness a road safety incident for example vehicles driving at speed, HGVs that have no legitimate business in the village, causing obstruction and/or damage, vehicles driving too close to pedestrians, etc please report this to the Parish Clerk (clerk@sparsholtparish.org).

Any information such as, date and time, vehicle registration, company names on vehicles, photographs, etc will be helpful.

Speed Limit Reminder Sign

The Parish Council is investigating community lead initiatives supported by Hampshire County Council. As part of this work, we are progressing the introduction of Speed Limit Reminder Signs

The necessary license has been granted and Hampshire Highways have ordered the required pole work/adjustments to be carried out on two of the proposed sites. We are waiting for a schedule to be produced which will involve the SLR sign moving between sites in Hursley and Sparsholt. Moving the sign is more effective than leaving in the same place and we share the costs with Hursley.

Scams and Fraud

HMRC Bogus phone calls

Some people in the village have received bogus mobile phone calls from HMRC and these could be considered to be very threatening – “We will be sending the police round to your door if you do not press 1”. **They are scams.**

HMRC is aware of an automated phone call scam which will tell you HMRC is filing a lawsuit against you, and to press one to speak to a caseworker to make a payment. We can confirm this is a scam and you should end the call immediately.

This scam has been widely reported and often targets elderly and vulnerable people.

Other scam calls may offer a tax refund and request you to provide your bank or credit card information. If you cannot verify the identity of the caller, we recommend that you do not speak to them.

If you've been a victim of the scam and suffered financial loss, report it to <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

The calls use a variety of phone numbers. To help our investigations you should report full details of the scam by email to: phishing@hmrc.gov.uk including the:

- date of the call
- phone number used
- content of the call

For more information <https://www.gov.uk/topic/dealing-with-hmrc/phishing-scams>

Local Fraud Scam - Good News

Back in September it was reported that one of our long-established residents had been the subject of a fraudulent scam, resulting in the loss of a significant sum of money. The fraud involved transferring money from a high street bank account to a supposed BNP Paribas ethical investment account.

The latest, really good news is that the lost sum of money has now been returned to the resident in full!

After much debate, the high street bank accepted that their account cross-checking processes were somewhat lacking at the time of the scam transfer, and were not in line with the new, more stringent checks which have been adopted by most other banks.

Consequently, they accepted liability and reimbursed the resident in full for the amount taken by the scammers. So, a very happy ending for our resident, after what must have been a very stressful and worrying period.

Winchester Churches Nightshelter



After putting in place new procedures and strategies, we remain open during the Coronavirus pandemic for our current residents who are experiencing homelessness. At present, we do NOT have any confirmed cases of the virus at the Nightshelter. If you are able to help us to stay open either by volunteering or donating please contact admin@wcns.org.uk or go to the relevant pages of the website: <https://wcns.org.uk>

AGM and Supporters Evening

Winchester Churches Nightshelter invite you to join 'A Year of Change – Tackling Homelessness in a Pandemic' on Monday 9th November beginning at 6.45pm with their AGM. The main event will follow shortly afterwards at 7pm. The event will reflect on the challenges of recent months including how the Nightshelter has coped and their plans for the future.

Featured speakers:

Carly Eck, Brand Curator at Burberry, will talk about the link between the Nightshelter and the iconic British fashion brand.

Matt Downie MBE, Director of Policy and External Affairs at the homeless charity, Crisis. Matt will share insight into the national picture of homelessness and how the situation is being tackled in a changing world.

The event is free to attend and will be hosted as a webinar. This means that participants will not need to join with video or audio. There will be an opportunity to send questions to the key speaker, Matt Downie, on the night via the Q&A function.

Please click on the link below to book your place. If you have any queries regarding the event please contact admin@wcns.org.uk.

Book at Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/winchester-churches-nightshelter-online-agm-and-supporters-evening-tickets-125435758731>

St Stephen's Church Services



Numbers are limited for all services inside the church to maintain social distancing.

Booking must be made through the Benefice Office on 01962 880845 or by email office@downsbenefice.org.uk

Face masks must be worn at all times inside the church.

Services planned to take place

1st November 6pm - All Souls service.

8th November 10.55 am – Remembrance Service at War Memorial (whole Service outside).

15th November & 6th December at 10am – Holy Communion

13th December 6pm - Christmas Music and Readings in Candlelight

20th December 4pm - Crib Service

25th December 10am - Family Christmas Service

27th December 10am - St. Stephen's Patronal Festival (Holy Communion)

Please check the Downs Benefice website for the latest information.

<http://www.downsbenefice.org/>

Private Prayer

The Church is open on Wednesdays and Sundays between 10.00am and 4.00pm for Private prayer and contemplation. If there is a Service in the Church, it will be available for private prayer after the Service.

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday 19th November at 7.30pm. Council meetings will take place remotely in accordance with regulations issued under the Coronavirus Act 2020. All members of the public are welcome to join the virtual meeting. However, to protect the meeting from any inappropriate content those wishing to join the meeting are requested to contact the clerk@sparsholtparish.org in advance and no later than 17:00 on the day of the meeting in order to obtain the necessary connection details.

SPARSHOLT COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Local Councillors and MP

Parish Councillors			
Sue Wood	Chair & Transport	chair@sparsholtparish.org transport@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776255
Sue Annesley	Memorial Hall	memorialhall@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776653
Pete Chadwick		councillor@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776011
John Cooper	Footpaths & Ham Green	footpaths@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776753
John Little	Communications	communications@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776249
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
Stewart Wooles	Deputy Chair & Highways	deputy@sparsholtparish.org highways@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776419
Nicola Breen	Clerk	clerk@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776233
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 www.stevebrine.com	0207 219 7189

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: <http://www.sparsholtshop.com/>

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

Sparsholt Community Newsletter – Next Edition

This is your newsletter so please contribute items of interest, news of events, offers to help and/or photographs.

Copy Deadline for December Edition

The deadline for the December edition is **Friday 20th November 2020** please submit all items to sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org