

Sparsholt Community Newsletter

Introduction

Spring is in the Air and the Future is looking Brighter



Hundreds of Crocus bulbs at Hillier Gardens

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens>

Read on for more details of the brighter future ...and how you can have your say in what that looks like.



The Shop Telephone Box gets a new makeover for Valentine's day.

The theme for March will be spring- time then in April it will be Easter.

The shop will be encouraging residents to put coloured pictures of easter eggs in their windows. Children will then be challenged to see if they can get the correct number on display.

More details will be available in the April Newsletter.



Shop and Post Office Opening Hours remain unchanged.

Census 2021



You must complete the census by law. If you do not, or if you supply false information, you could be fined up to £1,000. Some questions are clearly labelled as voluntary. It is not an offence if you do not answer these.

Census 2021 is a digital-first census, which means that people are encouraged to respond online if they can. You will be able to complete the census using any device, including your mobile phone or tablet.

People to get help from friends, family and local support groups to complete their census.

For more information see www.census.gov.uk

Please contact Sparsholt Community Support Group if you need assistance or know someone who will need help. Email: supportgroup@sparsholtparish.org

Council Elections in May

The following Local Elections will take place on

Thursday 6th May 2021

- Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire Constabulary
- Hampshire local election Winchester Downlands
- Winchester local election Wonston & Micheldever

For more information, especially if you are not on the Electoral Register, or need a postal vote then see:

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/elections/electoral-register>

or call the Electoral Registration Office on 01962 848125

Polling Station

You should get a poll card in the post before the election. This will tell you where to vote. If you don't get one, contact the council.

We will hopefully be able to confirm the location of the Polling Station in the April or May edition.

Coronavirus

The roadmap, which has now been published on gov.uk, outlines four steps for easing restrictions.

Before proceeding to the next step, the Government will examine the data to assess the impact of previous steps.

STEP 1 8 March 29 March		STEP 2 No earlier than 12 April At least 5 weeks after Step 1	
EDUCATION 8 MARCH • Schools and colleges open for all students • Practical Higher Education courses		EDUCATION • As previous step	
SOCIAL CONTACT 8 MARCH • Exercise and recreation outdoors with household or one other person • Household only indoors 29 MARCH • Rule of 6 or two households outdoors • Household only indoors		SOCIAL CONTACT • Rule of 6 or two households outdoors • Household only indoors	
BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES 8 MARCH • Wraparound care, including sport, for all children 29 MARCH • Organised outdoor sport (children and adults) • Outdoor sport and leisure facilities • All outdoor children's activities • Outdoor parent & child group (up to 15 parents)		BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES • All retail • Personal care • Libraries & community centres • Most outdoor attractions • Indoor leisure inc. gyms (individual use only) • Self-contained accommodation • All children's activities • Outdoor hospitality • Indoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents)	
TRAVEL 8 MARCH • Stay at home • No holidays 29 MARCH • Minimise travel • No holidays		TRAVEL • Domestic overnight stays (household only) • No international holidays	
EVENTS • Funerals (30) • Weddings and wakes (6)		EVENTS • Funerals (30) • Weddings, wakes, receptions (15) • Event pilots	

STEP 3 No earlier than 17 May At least 5 weeks after Step 2		STEP 4 No earlier than 21 June At least 5 weeks after Step 3 All subject to review	
EDUCATION • As previous step		EDUCATION • As previous step	
SOCIAL CONTACT • Maximum 30 people outdoors • Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review)		SOCIAL CONTACT • No legal limit	
BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES • Indoor hospitality • Indoor entertainment and attractions • Organised indoor sport (adult) • Remaining accommodation • Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances)		BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES • Remaining businesses, including nightclubs	
TRAVEL • Domestic overnight stays • International travel (subject to review)		TRAVEL • Domestic overnight stays • International travel	
EVENTS • Most significant life events (30) • Indoor events: 1,000 or 50% • Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25% • Outdoor other events: 4,000 or 50%		EVENTS • No legal limit on life events • Larger events	

Step by Cautious Step Assessment

The assessment will be based on four tests:

- The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully.
- Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.
- Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.
- Our assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern.

The full plan is available on the Government website at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963491/COVID-19_Response_-_Spring_2021.pdf

Report your Vaccination Experience – help the NHS



You can now use the **ZOE COVID Symptom Study App** to log your vaccine and report any after-effects. Download it from App stores.

Whatever Happens Keep Staying Safe

Even as restrictions are lifted, it is essential that everyone carries on with the good habits that reduce transmission:

Safe Behaviours

- Wash hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds.
- Wear a face covering in enclosed environments.
- Maintain space with anyone outside your household or bubble.
- Meet with others outdoors where possible.
- Minimise the number of different people you meet and the duration of meetings, if possible.
- Let fresh air in.
- Download the NHS COVID-19 app.
- Get a test immediately if you have any symptoms.
- Self isolate if you have symptoms, have tested positive, or had contact with someone with COVID-19.

Hampshire

Hampshire Covid-19 Dashboard

Great to see the trends all going in the right direction...although numbers are still high.



Hampshire COVID-19 weekly summary

22 February 2021

Current alert level in Hampshire:

National lockdown (Stay at home)



For latest updates and more information visit:

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

Hampshire Covid-19 Vaccinations

More than 480,000 vaccines have been delivered to our communities, with the vast majority of those in priority group 1-4 now vaccinated. More than 95% of people aged 80 and over have received their first dose. **All those aged over 70 or clinically extremely vulnerable individuals who have not yet been vaccinated for any reason are being followed up and encouraged to take up the offer.**

Hampshire Together – Public Consultation Survey



People across Hampshire and the surrounding areas are being asked how they would like to receive information and provide feedback on potential changes to hospital services.

The results will inform public consultation plans for the Hampshire Together: Modernising our Hospitals and Health Services programme, which is expected to consult on proposals for change later this year.

The Hampshire Together programme was set up in response to the New Hospital Programme as part of the Government's Health Infrastructure Plan, which named north and mid Hampshire as one of the areas to benefit from funding to build 40 new facilities before 2030. It includes the potential for the construction of a brand-new hospital, with health and care partners working together to develop health, wellbeing and care services, that provide everyone across north and mid Hampshire with access to high-quality, timely and sustainable hospital services as close to home as possible. More information about the programme can be found at <https://www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk>.

Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HampshireTogetherSurvey> to take part in the online survey, which will close 5pm on Thursday 24 March 2021.

Winchester

YOUR PLACE YOUR PLAN.

Winchester District Local Plan

Between 15 February and 12 April 2021 Winchester City Council are consulting on the strategic issues and priorities for your new local plan. The Local Plan is a document produced by Winchester City Council in its role as the local planning authority, to set out what development may be allowed up to 2038.

They have established a new website dedicated to the Local Plan at <https://www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk>.

Virtual information events will be held in March – TICKETS can be obtained from the Eventbrite links below.

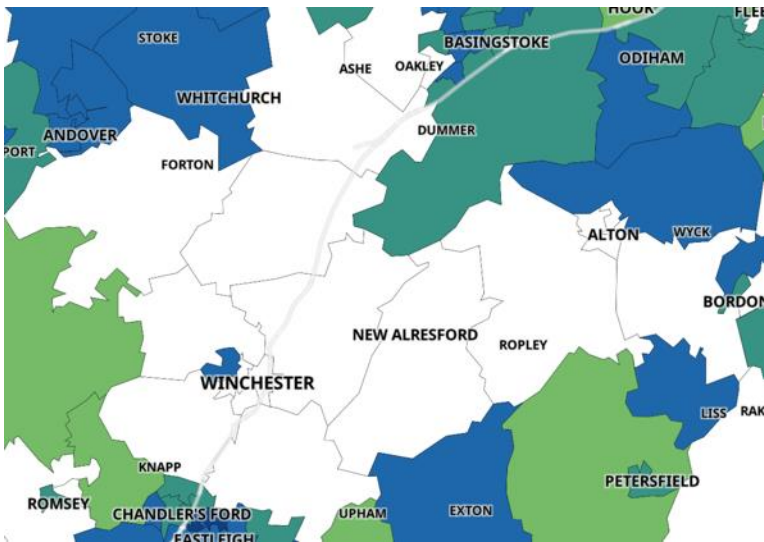
- Thu 4th at 2pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/winchester-district-local-plan-public-virtual-event-1-tickets-139925634339>
- Tue 9th at 7pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/winchester-district-local-plan-public-virtual-event-2-tickets-141015668661>
- Fri 12th at 10am <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/winchester-district-local-plan-public-virtual-event-3-tickets-141017879273>
- Sat 20th at 10:30am <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/winchester-district-local-plan-public-virtual-event-4-tickets-141018715775>

The Sparsholt Parish Council will be considering the information on the website with the intention of providing a parish-wide response to the consultation. However, everyone is strongly urged to go to the website, read the material provided and get involved by providing feedback.

If you want the plan to reflect the specific needs associated with living in a rural community and want to see the countryside appropriate for future generations then make your views known, directly or via one of your parish councillors.

You can register and have your say on the website at <https://www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk/have-your-say/>

Winchester Covid-19 cases



The number of cases of Covid-19 infections in and around Winchester (other than Winchester West) are too small (less than 3 in each area) to be shown on the Government Interactive map.



Winchester Prison, which is in Winchester West, is a Covid-19 hotspot as reported in the Hampshire Chronicle.

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

Sparsholt

Bird Spot of the Month of February - Fieldfare



According to the RSPB website:

“Fieldfares are large, colourful thrushes, much like a mistle thrush in general size, shape and behaviour. They stand very upright and move forward with purposeful hops. They are very social birds, spending the winter in flocks of anything from a dozen or two to several hundred strong. These straggling, chuckling flocks which roam the UK's countryside are a delightful and attractive part of the winter scene.

They may come into gardens in severe winters when snow covers the countryside.”



In the garden was where we saw about 10 of them helping themselves to the copious quantity of crab apples on Friday 12th February. They were great fun to watch especially on a very cold and frosty morning when the temperature outside was around minus 2° C.

Postcard from Lockdown: solo cycling, solo singing

Lockdown has been great for cycling, not so good for singing – one of my usual pastimes as a member of the Waynflete Singers. However, I have now found a way to combine the two.

On one of my local cycling routes, which takes me through the Sombornes, I noticed an old wooden signpost marked Historic Church. I never followed this sign until singing deprivation enticed me.

I turned right at the first sign and followed the road a couple of miles until I saw a similar sign pointing left. This led me down a narrow lane until I reached a tiny church nestling in a small graveyard. I parked my bike and went up to the heavy wooden door and pushed. It was open. Going inside I saw a few rows of wooden pews, an organ at the west end and a simple altar with a cross on it at the east end. This was the charming Saxon-Norman All Saints Church in Little Somborne.



Still wearing cycle helmet and leaving the door open so daylight could pour in, I started off with vocal warm-up arpeggios as up and down the aisle I walked. Nice acoustic. Then I decided to try a song or two. First I sang Scarborough Fayre (one of my favourite folk songs), progressing onto both verses of Jerusalem, and finally my rendition of O Waly Waly by Britten.

Completely care-free singing in a space like that is a bit of a luxury when you come to think about it. My audience? One drowsy bee trapped inside the lancet windows, a few sparrows pecking around the tombstones outside, and... well, it's a church, so who knows?

I signed the visitor book and left, closing the door behind me.

By Cathy Tucker
woodmanclose@yahoo.co.uk

News from St Stephen's

Following the Prime Minister's recent update on Covid-19 measures and the roadmap, we have been getting advice from the central Church to ensure we are adhering to best practice and keeping our Church family safe. Their guidance is :

"We urge everyone to be exceptionally cautious and, in particular, to do everything possible to prevent mingling outside of households and support bubbles. Churches are encouraged to continue with the advice to stay at home to save lives. We acknowledge and share the sadness many are feeling at not being able to meet together as we would usually do at the moment and prayerfully and confidently look forward to better times ahead."

As a consequence, we will not be opening St Stephens in March. We are very sad about this, but it would seem foolish to take the risk.

We hope to plan for socially distanced services on Easter Day, 4th April. Schools will have resumed on March 8th and scientists tell us we will see the consequences of this in infection rates about three weeks afterwards. Even if we do resume services on 4th April, we would be ahead of the timelines for Step 2 of the Government's roadmap instructions on public services which are :

- Weddings with a total gathering of 15 people are not permissible until 12th April.
- Funerals remain as 30 people indoors, and, rather oddly, 6 around the graveside.
- Under Step 3 instructions, weddings and baptisms with a total gathering of 30 people are not permissible until 17th May
- Under Step 4 proposals aim for a complete lifting of restrictions by 21st June.

Mothering Sunday

We plan to offer a recorded Mothering Sunday service for 14th March.

We will also put posies into the church porch, which families could collect to give to their mothers or perhaps place on family graves.

Future Events

We are also looking at holding other small-scale events later in March and April – we will keep you posted.

Stay safe and God Bless

John Wesley and Alastair Barron

Churchwardens

Downs Benefice Morning Prayers

Benefice Morning Prayer comes into your home Tuesdays at 9:30am on Zoom.

Come and join us!

If you would like to join us for this short service please call on 01962 880 845 or send an email to the

Benefice Office

We can then get in touch with you, sending you a copy of the service and the link to Zoom.

For more information on Zoom and recorded services see: www.downsbenefice.org or email office@downsbenefice.org.uk

Sparsholt 100 Club



Photograph courtesy of John Cleverley

Be a winner with your local lottery!

The Sparsholt 100 Club is a lottery organised through Sparsholt Parochial Church Council and The Friends of St. Stephen's Church Sparsholt for local residents with the aim of looking after and keeping open our beautiful 12th Century Church which stands proudly at the centre of our village.

Since launch in 2016 the lottery has raised over £19,000 that has helped to provide funds for vital work to maintain the fabric of the Church including refurbishment of the roof and many other essential repairs as well as supporting the work of the Parish's Church Council.

In recent times St Stephen's lost significant income following the cancellation of the Church fête last year because of the Covid virus whilst restrictions on gatherings continues to impact on Church collections and other revenue.

The support of 100 Club members is even more important in these difficult times.

Quarterly Prize Draws

There is a lottery draw every quarter with the chance of winning a first prize of minimum £100 and three second prizes of £50. Members, who must be 18 or over, may have more than one entry and are notified of the winners by email after each draw.

The results of the draw will in future be published in the Sparsholt Community Newsletter.

We currently have 57 members, and it would be terrific if we could reach our target of 100 (the maximum). Not only would this provide further funds to help the Church but would also allow us to increase the prize money!

There have been many happy winners over the last four years, and we look forward to many more joining them.

" So, forget the National Lottery with its fantastically long odds against winning, and join the Sparsholt 100 Club where the odds are so very much better, and you will be supporting this very good local cause!" - Reverend Jax, Rector of St Stephen's Church.

Please Join the Sparsholt 100 Club

You are invited to join for a monthly subscription of £10.

In extending this invitation we would be delighted to welcome to the Club the many new residents who have come to live in the village.

Please contact our Membership Secretary, Ian Hay at hay588@btinternet.com or telephone him on 01962 776468.

Ian will be pleased to send you an application form and standing order instruction to complete. Alternatively, if you prefer to set up the regular payment instruction online, he will be happy to provide our bank details and a membership number (for each £10 subscription) to which you can add your bank reference in identifying your payment to the Club.

Sparsholt 100 Club is registered as a small society lottery scheme with Winchester City Council.

Registration No. LOTTERY372 20/01389/GALOTT

The Plough - OPENING ON 12TH APRIL!



Provided the government's roadmap stays on schedule The Plough will be opening their doors to you again as soon as they can and cannot wait to see you!

They are currently serving takeaways every Friday night whilst they aren't allowed to open.

<https://the.littlepubgroup.co.uk/the-plough-inn>

The Burger Van

Jon and the Burger Van will be in Sparsholt Memorial Hall car park on Tuesday 9th March 2021 from 4pm until 8pm.



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

Parish Council

Map Boards



Now that the Parish Council has received the grant from Hampshire County Council, the map boards have been ordered.

Hopefully it won't be too long before they are on display on the reverse of the Noticeboard by the entrance to the Memorial Hall car park and on a new noticeboard in Ham Green. Then you will be able to read what they say!

Road Repairs on Westley Lane



At long last, following repeated requests from the Parish Council, Hampshire Highways have repaired the very worst sections of Westley Lane.

Special thanks to Jan Warwick our County Councillor for persisting with this on our behalf.



Ham Green



Phase 1 Felling of Ash Trees Completed

Further to the report in the February Newsletter, the last 2 trees in Phase 1 of the felling programme have finally been felled. They were both dropped into the fields to the North of Ham Green, when the ground hardened up sufficiently to allow vehicle access during the recent icy spell. The photos show the larger of the 2 trees before and after felling – a lot of clearing up was required!



Phase 2 Felling of Ash Trees planned for March

The schedule for Phase 2 of the felling has now been drawn up and, all the relevant trees have been marked with red/white barrier tape for ease of identification. The number of trees listed for safety work or felling is slightly greater than for Phase 1 and there is more safety work and slightly more felling, although several of these trees are smaller than the Phase 1 trees. The trees to be felled in this phase are more spread out than in Phase 1 and therefore the work will be less obvious when completed.

This work was originally intended to start in March but, it is clear that the birds are already starting to nest and we must keep disturbance of the habitat to a minimum. Thus we have decided to carry out only urgent safety work and felling at this time, with the remainder of the less urgent work and felling to be done later in the year, probably around October time (before the pathways become too muddy again!).

Replanting Plan underway

We have started work preparing a replanting plan to replace the trees lost in Phase1. Fortunately, most of this work was done in the triangle of trees at the Western end of Ham Green, behind Ham Green Cottage.

Here, the loss of visual habitat equates to about 12 large Ash trees, together with some smaller items of “collateral damage” and, we are thinking about replanting maybe 20-30 trees and bushes in this area. We would like some help with deciding what species we should be considering and, what size of trees we should be purchasing, so we are hoping to get some advice and support from Hants Arb, who helped us with the original Tree Condition Survey back in June 2020.

We need some time to finalise our replanting plan and source the supply of the required trees and bushes, so we will probably carry out the actual replanting during the more suitable Winter period.



Scam and Fraud Warnings

Two recent scams reported in Sparsholt

Royal Mail Redelivery Email



WE'VE MISSED YOU TODAY !

Hi [redacted]@btinternet.com.

We tried to deliver your parcel today but you weren't in or there was no safe place to leave it.

Your action is required. If this item is unclaimed by the return date, then it will be returned to sender.

The first and second delivery attempt was free of charge

To schedule a new delivery, a shipping fee must be paid.

Please [click here and choose your redelivery](#) date online

Royal Mail News
Designed for journalists, this news section provides a list of our recent press releases, useful information, news stories and company profile.

All the best,
Royal parcel delivery team

Although this looks as if it could be genuine there are a number of giveaways that it is a scam.

Royal Mail would not realistically have your email for a delivery.

Unlikely they would address you using your email address. This method is used where the fraudster has obtained an email address but does not know who it belongs to.

If you know how to look at the address behind the click here link you will see it is not a genuine Royal Mail address.

Very unlikely they would have such a confused sign off as 'Royal parcel delivery team'

These are the types of error you need to watch out for before you click and hand over your card details to a fraudster.

Amazon Prime Subscription Renewal Phone Automated Call

A number of people reported receiving automated calls claiming to be from Amazon Prime – thanking you for your recent subscription and inviting you to press a number to cancel it. Whereupon the fraudster would be seeking to obtain your card or bank account details in order to make use of them.

This is a particularly neat trick as many people will either not have a Prime subscription or will have paid it a few months ago and will be upset and want to challenge the payment.

Don't fall for the phone call and think you must take action immediately – **just hang up!**

Take a note of the number if it comes up on your caller display – it may be withheld.

You can then report the number to <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk>

If you think it is necessary to confirm the accuracy of the claim then it is always best to do your own separate checking with your credit card provider or bank whether there has been any such payment to Amazon...(or any other company as the scammers are bound to adapt their claims).

Holiday and Travel Booking Fraud

Action Fraud is warning the public to remain vigilant against holiday and travel related fraud, as holiday bookings surge, following the Government's announcement on how lockdown restrictions will be eased.

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is on **Thursday 18th March 2021** 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
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 776909 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 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 April Edition

The deadline for the April edition is **Friday 26th March 2021** please submit all items to sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org