

Sparsholt Community Newsletter



Wishing everyone a Happy Easter and trusting that the excellent weather holds out and that you stay safe.

With trends heading in the right direction and providing it continues we should see further relaxations in restrictions through to the end of June.

With that in mind organisations are looking to restart activities and we can expect to see more events being scheduled in the months ahead. We highlight those that are in the planning stage already. Expect more details in future Newsletters.

Village Shop and Post Office – Easter Opening

Good Friday 10-11 shop. PO shut

Saturday 8-12 shop. PO shut

Sunday both shut

Monday 10-11 shop. PO shut.

Paper Easter Egg Hunt

Go to the shop on **Easter Saturday** morning to collect a map and go around village finding eggs in people's windows.



Make a note in your diary/calendar now for the following events:

Sparsholt Fete

As reported mid-month the Fete has been cancelled for this year and a BBQ/Hog Roast with Beer Tent and Band is being planned for the afternoon/evening of **Saturday 4th September 2021**.

Music Concerts in the Memorial Hall

Fiona and Mark Zarb-Adami are looking forward with great enthusiasm to organising concerts of largely classical music to raise funds for the village.

Providing that there are no Covid-19 restrictions at the time, the concerts are scheduled to start at 3pm in the Memorial Hall on the following Sundays:

- 15th August
- 10th October
- 19th December (a lighter Christmas one).

Are you planning an event?

Please do let us know so we can include in future editions.

Need to Recycle Unwanted items?



Is now back in operation. Time for a good spring clean. You will be amazed at the offers made and requests that are met...things you no longer want can be so useful to others.

Retirement of Memorial Hall Committee Chair

Richard Summerfield has been the Chair of the Memorial Hall Committee since 2007 but is now retiring and handing over to Andy Page. (Interesting fact – both Richard and Andy were consultants at Winchester Hospital. The Committee know it's always good to have a medic on hand!!)

On taking over as Chair, Richard formed an Executive Committee to meet regularly to ensure the smooth running of the Hall. This group then reported to the main Committee bi-annually. The Exec met at Richard's house and were the grateful recipients of homemade cakes (thanks Caroline!), snacks and wine. This certainly made the meetings very convivial – but Richard always ensured we got the business of the meeting done first.

Richard has always been a calm and thoughtful Chair – making sure that everyone has their say and getting us to a consensus. He is such a gentleman in his good-humoured approach to chairing that he is able to keep everyone to the agenda without ever causing any upset to our lovely chatty committee members. This resulted in a great team spirit and some of the members of the full Committee would normally re-convene at the Plough following a well-chaired General Meeting.

The Hall is an important asset for the village and especially for the school. It has been unfortunate that over the last year we have been unable to use our Hall as we would like, but we are hoping to be resuming normal service as lockdown recedes in the coming months.

We would like to convey our grateful thanks to Richard for all his dedication and hard work over so many years. Fortunately for us, Richard will be remaining as a Trustee and member of the Committee, so we all look forward to working with Andy and continuing to have the wise counsel of Richard.

The Sparsholt Memorial Hall Committee

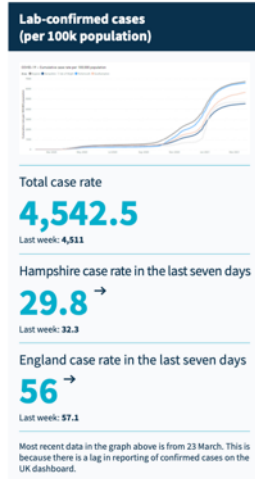
Hampshire



Hampshire COVID-19 weekly summary 29 March 2021

The data published here is correct as of 29 March 2021 but it may be updated and amended as new data becomes available.

Current status in Hampshire: Roadmap out of lockdown – Step 1



Hospital admissions – NHS Trust

Total patients admitted (as at 21 March)	Patients currently in hospital (as at 23 March)
3,185 Last week: 3,178	16 ↓ Last week: 25
Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	
4,640 Last week: 4,613	69 ↓ Last week: 82
Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust	
730 Last week: 725	9 → Last week: 9
Isle of Wight NHS Trust	
4,183 Last week: 4,140	86 ↓ Last week: 125
Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust	
4,028 Last week: 4,002	60 ↓ Last week: 68
University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust	

Data source: coronavirus.data.gov.uk

Hampshire vaccination data

Total vaccinated with at least one dose
659,427
Last week: 559,190

Vaccinated with at least one dose in the last seven days
100,237
Last week: 46,389

People vaccinated with at least one dose by age group*

Under 49	Under 50-54
130,895 Last week: Not available	70,543 Last week: Not available
81,408 Last week: 48,658	81,789 Last week: 73,723
72,472 Last week: 71,481	78,927 Last week: 78,785
59,755 Last week: 59,685	83,638 Last week: 83,704

Data source: NHS England. Latest date of data: 21 March
*Data for additional age groups will become available as more people are vaccinated



ROADMAP OUT OF LOCKDOWN

STEP 1: 29 March

- Rule of 6, two households outdoors
- Organised outdoor sport and outdoor leisure facilities
- All outdoor children's activities
- Outdoor parent & child group (max. 15 people, excl. under 5s)
- Minimise travel, no holidays

For details see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary>

Note the addition of **Fresh Air** to the guidance – outdoors or open windows.



Winchester

Local Elections



If you want to vote in the election on 6 May, make sure you register before midnight on Monday 19 April.

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/elections/absent-votes>

Sparsholt Polling Station

The Sparsholt Polling station is as usual in the Mosaic Room in the Sparsholt Memorial Hall.

Outdoor Sport is back

Adults and children can now take part in organised sport outside, and outdoor sports facilities are reopening in Winchester district...

Outdoor sports facilities can now be booked online before visiting **Meadowside Leisure Centre**

<https://www.everyoneactive.com/centre/meadowside-leisure-centre-winchester/> or via the **Everyone Active** app

<https://www.everyoneactive.com/mobile-app/>

River Park tennis courts will be available free of charge until Saturday 1 May, when temporary toilets will then be provided, and charges will start again.

The grass **football** pitches at **River Park** are also now open.

You can now book through the new online booking system for **River Park**.

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/RiverParkTennisFootball>

For all you cricket fans, the season will start in May, and bookings are already being taken for **North Walls cricket grounds**.

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/community-recreation/sports-pitches>

Skateboarding and scooter fans can now return to skate parks which reopened on Monday 29 March. Remember to follow social distancing guidelines when in skate parks and take care to avoid accidents! For latest guidance see

<https://skateboardgb.org>

Winchester Local Plan



Closing date for consultation responses is Monday 12th April 2021.

<https://www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk>

Universal Credit

Due to the impact of Coronavirus over 5.5 million people are claiming Universal Credit. Many of them are new to claiming Universal Credit having been negatively impacted by Coronavirus.

Winchester City Council are encouraging Parish Councils to share the following guide on their website and/or social media to help local people navigate claiming Universal Credit.

Here's the Universal Credit

guide <https://www.jobcentrerenarme.com/universal-credit/>

Coming Soon

The 3G football pitch isn't quite ready for pre-bookings but existing 'block booking customers' can contact sbookings@winchester.gov.uk to make sure they are all set up to continue their regular slot once we reopen.

New Leisure Park

The new leisure park at Bar End is expected to be made ready to open to the public by the end of May.



For the latest information see

<https://www.everyoneactive.com/centre/winchester-sport-leisure-park/>



EASTER FOOTBALL COACHING



COVID-19
SECURE

THIS EASTER, WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ACTIVEME 360 ARE PROVIDING FOOTBALL COACHING IN YOUR LOCAL AREA. EACH DAY WILL BE PACKED WITH FUN GAMES, FINISHING WITH A TOURNAMENT ON FRIDAY 16 APRIL!

Monday 12, Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14, Thursday 15 and Friday 16 April

Weeke	9.00 - 10.15am	St. Mathews Road (behind Weeke Primary School), SO22 6DR
Stanmore	10.45 - 12.00pm	Somers Close Recreation Ground, SO22 4EJ
Kings Worthy	1.00 - 2.15pm	Eversley Park, SO23 7NJ
Winchester City Centre	2.45 - 4.00pm	Devils Island North Walls Recreation Ground SO23 7DD
Bishops Waltham	9.00 - 10.15am	Priory Park, SO32 15Q
Denmead	11.15 - 12.30pm	KGV Playing Fields, PO7 6EH
Newlands	1.15 - 2.30pm	Berewood Town Park MUGA PO7 5ST
Knowle Village	3.15 - 4.30pm	Knowle Village Green PO17 5GR
Colden Common	9.00 - 10.15am	Colden Common Recreation Ground, SO21 1RP
Whiteley For children in KS1	11.15 - 12.30pm	Meadowside Recreation Ground, PO15 7LJ
Whiteley For children in KS2	12.45 - 2.00pm	Meadowside Recreation Ground, PO15 7LJ

NEWLANDS RESIDENTS CAN ALSO ACCESS SKATEBOARDING SESSIONS
On Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 April



For more information please visit newlands-pc.gov.uk or facebook.com/westofwaterloovilledvelopmentnews

Suitable for girls and boys aged 6–13 years
£5 for all five sessions. That works out at just £1 a session!*

For further information or to enrol please visit:
activeme360.com/book-online

For enquires please email hello@activeme360.com

If you are an A2Dominion tenant please email us for your discount code before booking

*funded places are available on request, these will approved by WCC and ActiveMe 360.



Sparsholt

Recently Spotted Locally...



Affordable Housing Update

The proposed design for the Woodman Close affordable housing scheme has undergone an energy review and some amendments have been made to ensure the homes are as energy efficient as possible. This means they will be healthy and comfortable to live in, with low heating requirements. Residents living close to the proposed scheme will be receiving information on the updated design in the near future. This information will also be available online for everyone to view. **A planning application should be ready to be submitted in the summer.**

To be able to be considered for one of the new homes for rent you must be registered on Hampshire Home Choice, www.hampshirehomechoice.org.uk. Registered applicants with a local connection to Sparsholt will have preference for the homes. It is never too early to register and in certain cases time on the register is taken into consideration. Further information on Hampshire Home Choice, how the scheme works and how homes are allocated can be found on the website. Alternatively, you can call 01962 848 356 or email HALlocations@winchester.gov.uk.

The housing tenancy team will soon be making telephone calls to residents in the parish who are living in a council home with more bedrooms than they require, to find out if downsizing to a smaller property, such as those proposed, might be of interest. Benefits of downsizing might include the reduction in fuel bills, an easier to manage property and the wider benefit of freeing up a larger home for families who need them. **The council offers incentives to downsizers.** More information about downsizing can be found here: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/housing/council-housing-tenants/wise-move-help-for-tenants-wishing-to-downsize>. Alternatively, you can contact the tenancy services team on 01962 848 197 or email housingtenancy@winchester.gov.uk

Hedgehog Tunnel

Hedgehogs have been discovered crossing the road between the church and the school. To improve safety and protect these endangered animals the Parish Council have decided to place a tunnel across the road. HCC environmental services reckon it can be achieved with only a six-inch hump in the road which will have the additional benefit of slowing down traffic by the school and shop. The what3words location will be ///Oar Flip Lo.

Ham Green

The second phase of work on dealing with the Ash Die Back disease has been approved and will commence shortly.

Approval has also been given to the preparation of a Replanting Plan. It is expected that this as well as the actual purchase and replanting will be financed by a grant which is due to the parish.

The Plough



Subject to the continued relaxation of Covid-19 regulations, The Plough is gearing up to open on 12th April.

The advert for Bar and Waiting staff sent out by the Newsletter was very successful and new enthusiastic recruits are now being trained. Thank you to all of you who responded or forwarded on the request.

You can now book your outside table online at:

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

All booked tables will be under the marquee to ensure you are covered over should the heavens open!

There is also plenty more space in the beautiful pub garden for walk-ins.

Hampshire Waste and Recycling Centres

You still need to pre-book slots before attending the HWRCs, which are expected to be busier than usual over the Easter weekend. Residents are reminded that bookings are currently limited to one slot per household per week and are asked to cancel their booking if they are no longer able to attend. From 1 April, sites will be open for longer: 9am – 6pm every day during the summer months. While at HWRCs, residents are urged to adhere to social distancing and follow the rules in place at the sites to keep everyone safe.

SPARSHOLT CRICKET CLUB

Early Beginnings



Cricket in Sparsholt began in the late 19th century when matches were informal and played on fields at Balldown and on the odd occasion near to Farley Mount. There was no real pavilion just a thatched open shelter, the three sides made of gorse.

Scores were not written but kept by notches cut on a stick. In the early 1900's a pitch was used near Locks Lane but soon moved to the north side of Lainston House.

By the 1920's the club, such as it was, played in a meadow next to the Memorial Hall and then on a field behind the Woodman Inn. It wasn't until 1929 when the Sparsholt Athletic Club, who were mostly concerned with football, initiated a cricket section, playing some fixtures with other villages that the "Club" proper was born.

Early players included Harold Privett, Head gardener at the manor, an explosive hitter with enormous forearms; Joe Tate, a chauffeur at Lainston, was Captain; Dennis Hawkins who was a really long hitter and a wicket keeper from Westley with big sideburns.

Locks Lane Ground

The club was given the ground at Locks Lane with a 999-year lease in 1934 by Mr Samuel Bostock. In 1935 after the AGM they separated from the Athletic club and Sparsholt CC as we now know it was formed.



The first pavilion was a chicken hut with a stable for horses, erected in 1935 by Jim Merwood costing £6.7s.8½ d.

During the war years, fixtures were occasional, but the club revived in 1946. In 1949 a pavilion of wood and an iron roof was given by Mrs. Bostock in memorial of Samuel. The pavilion was designed and built by the members including Sam Sumnall who put the club on a firm foundation.

1950s to 1970s



From the 1950s to the mid 1970s the club played many local village teams around Winchester and many village families and characters were associated with the club.

- The Craig Harvey family held the presidency since the early 1950's, Andrew holding the office for over 20 years.
- The Goater family led by Sid the village baker and shop keeper with sons Bert, Harold and Norman;
- The Stockwell's under "Stocky" village policeman, secretary and groundsman who grazed his pony on the ground at Locks Lane and cut it twice a year for winter feed and sons Dirk, Spencer and Louis;
- Bill Collins and sons Maurice and Monty were all truly formidable players ;
- The Mays, Bert and sons Michael and Peter who brought order to the club over various years as secretaries;
- The West family, Umpire Les and son Norman;
- Charlie and Eric Thompson;
- Dunford Brothers Eric, Eddie and Cecil whose son Tony a player, Captain and Chairman who has done and continues to do much work for the club;
- Tony Robinson and son Neil;
- The Tubb brothers, Charlie a member of the original Sports club who was a player, secretary, treasurer, groundsman , mechanic, carpenter, bricklayer and Jim, a great helper and supporter along with his two little dogs;
- Stan Taylor, a left arm bowler extraordinaire 100 wickets in a season;
- Percy Finch, Jack West, Howard Kerley , Ken Batchelor, Chris James, the Snell family, the Waters family and many others.

Not to be forgotten are the two stalwart tea ladies Mick Edwards and Joyce Snell and their hours of making sandwiches and thousands of cups of tea, having to hang the kettle on the tap in the old pavilion to fill it up as the water pressure was so low.

Hampshire League

Sparsholt joined the Hampshire League in 1975 and won the SW division 2 title in '79 and SW 1st division in '82. During these years it became obvious that a new brick-built pavilion with mod cons was needed. Under the leadership of new Chairman, David Gammell who lived in the house alongside the ground this became reality in August 1980 at a construction cost of £8,000 helped largely by craftsmen club members; David Stockwell, Richard Edwards, Bernie Salter, Dave Prior, and Nobby Russell with a major extension added in 1992.

Southern League

The 1980's saw the club grow rapidly, climbing higher up the Hampshire League to Division 1 until 2000, apart from one season in the Southern League. They then gained admission to Division 3 of Southern Premier League and were promoted to Division 2 as runners up. A 2nd XI was fielded in 1983 and a 3rd XI in '91. A junior section began in '92 expanding to today's level of a full programme for 5-18 years old, where girls are also encouraged to participate.

More recently the club has enjoyed major success in winning promotion to the Southern Premier League Division 1, finishing runners up in their first season. With the 2nd XI gaining consecutive promotions to now play in Hampshire League Division 2. The 3rd XI also gaining a promotion.

National Village Knockout

The Club takes part in the National Village Knockout competition where the final is played at Lords. Sparsholt being Hampshire county group winners in 1994, 2000, '02, '05 and '15; their best performance reaching the National quarter finals in 2000. They have won many trophies from the Winchester and District Cricket Clubs Association (WDCCA) winning firstly in 1964 and have reached the final twice of the Southern Premier League T20 Plate Competition playing at the home of Hampshire cricket and Test match venue The Ageas Bowl.

Get involved

The club is run by volunteers who continue to move the club forward both on and off the field. If you'd like to get involved in the social or playing side of the club please do get in touch via the club website at www.Sparsholtcc.co.uk or drop in at the ground.

The views and sunsets are spectacular on a summer's day. Sparsholt Cricket Club

The Norman Edwards Ground

In 2002 the ground at Locks Lane was renamed The Norman Edwards Ground in his memory, but who was he? Norman came to the village in 1924 aged 5, when his father William became Head chauffeur at Lainston and the family lived in Home Lane. William played cricket behind the Woodman and Norman played at school with rough bats made of bits of wood and on rough wickets between cow pats in fields.



At Sparsholt school he won a scholarship to Peter Symonds, where cricket was a hallowed part of the curriculum and he was much encouraged and gained a reputation for hard hitting. He was a quick bowler taking a mass of wickets and a consistent, powerful high scorer, at one time getting seven 50's in succession and being picked to play for Winchester and district. In 1936 he became auditor and secretary for a year or so before the war and was then treasurer for 49 years. His control of expenditure set the financial foundation for the expansion of the club in the 1990's.



He was awarded the WDCCA highest award for services to cricket, the Association badge and the Bill Cleeve Award and retired from playing in 1986 aged 67. In 1968 taking over the role of groundsman, he became a very knowledgeable master at the art of wicket and ground preparation and his unceasing work and high expectations on his beloved square and outfield resulted in the cultivation of a marvellous wicket and improvement of the ground which at his retirement in 1997 was consistently rated in the top ten in Hampshire.

At his 50 years at the club celebration, he said "there's nothing to it, just dedication and time and that means spending every available minute on it". He was buried in St Stephens in 2002 within the sound of leather on willow.

His son Richard, a fine player for Sparsholt, Hyde Ramblers, Winchester and the first Sparsholt Cricketer to represent Hampshire County Cricket Club was also Club captain, First XI Captain and Vice Chairman and continues to support and work tirelessly for Sparsholt. His grandson Tony is presently Vice Chairman, Secretary and Webmaster and this year his great grandson has played for the under 9's, the 5th generation of the Edwards family to play for Sparsholt. Norman was a man of exacting standards and dedication and many generations of cricketers at the club were reminded by him that nothing but the best would do. A TV interview with him in 1983 is on YouTube if you type in norman edwards-50 in its search box.

Special thanks to Memoirs of Norman Edwards - Jane King - Norman's daughter.

Best Ground in Hampshire

Sparsholt Cricket Club from humble beginnings goes from strength to strength and was voted best ground in Hampshire in a recent twitter poll. In 2017 the club won the most improved ground in the Southern League, thanks to the hard work of David Banks and club stalwart Colin Lovegrove.

Parish Council

Special Parish Council Meetings

Local Plan

There will be an additional special meeting of the Parish Council on **Thursday 8th April at 19:30** to agree the Parish Council's response to the Winchester City Council Local Plan Consultation.

The Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Thursday 15th April at 19:30** followed by a Parish Council meeting.

These will all be Zoom video-conference meetings.

Details can be found on the council website at <http://sparsholtparish.org>

New Parish Councillor



Lynne Gibson was co-opted as a Parish Councillor on Thursday 18th March. Lynne lives in Crabwood off Sarum Road and will be a welcome voice for residents in that area.

Lynne fills a vacancy created by the resignation of Councillor Pete Chadwick who after several years as a Parish Councillor found that his work and family commitments required more of his time.

We thank Pete for his valuable contribution and welcome Lynne to Sparsholt Parish Council.

A Note about the Precept

The Parish Precept is the amount of money the Parish Council receives to provide the necessary services to the parish.

Sparsholt Parish Council decided to not increase the total value of the precept for 2021-2022; keeping it at £19,209.

However, you will see from your Council Tax statement from Winchester City Council that the amount you pay for the Sparsholt Parish precept has increased by 2.5%. This is because of the way in which the amount you pay towards the precept is calculated.

While the total precept amount did not increase the number of properties that pay the council tax decreased from 304.54 to 297.13. This increases the amount to be paid by each paying property. Although the number of properties has not decreased the number of discounts due to households has increased. This arises, for example, if a property had two occupants in 2020-2021 and will only have a single occupant in 2021-2022; resulting in a 25% reduction in the Council Tax for that property.

For details of Council Tax discounts in Winchester see:

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/council-tax/discounts>

The Playground is Open

Latest guidance from Winchester City Council

PLAY AREAS - GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS
PLEASE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR CHILD...

- Please keep 2m apart
- Play equipment is regularly cleaned but you may wish to consider wiping it down before use
- Please don't bring food or drink in the play area
- Please place all litter in bins and take excess home with you if the bins are full
- Prevent children from putting their mouths on the equipment
- Encourage your children not to put their hands into their mouths
- Please wash or sanitise your hands before and after your visit

Church

Easter Services – Downs Benefice

Maudy Thursday - 1st April

No In-Church Services – there will be a Holy Communion Video Service on the Benefice website.

Good Friday - 2nd April

10am in Crawley - Easter Garden with Time of Reflection

2pm in Chilbolton - Time of Reflection

Easter Sunday - 4th April

9:30am in Littleton - Easter Communion

10am in Crawley - Easter Family Service

10am in Sparsholt - Easter Family Service

11am in Chilbolton - Easter Communion

Anyone who wants to go to the Easter Services needs to contact the Benefice Office on 01962 880845 or office@downsbenefice.org.uk before 5pm on Thursday 1st April.

We are also waiting to hear when we can open the Church for private prayer, which we hope will be soon.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be at 7pm on Friday 7th May. We are waiting to hear whether it can be in the Church or will have to be virtual.

The Friends of St Stephen's Church, Sparsholt

Some years after the Battle of Hastings in 1066, but before King John put his seal on the Magna Carta in 1215, the original stone, chalk and wood structure of St Stephen's was built. Over nine hundred years later it is still very much at the heart of the community. For some it is a regular place of worship, while others attend services at Christmas and Easter, or visit to find a few moments of tranquillity in a busy life.

All property owners know, to their cost, that as buildings get older, they need increasing amounts of maintenance, St Stephen's is no different. The finances of our Parochial Church Council (PCC) are regulated by the Diocese. This system effectively deters the PCC from accumulating reserves for the maintenance of the Church and its grounds. Consequently, in 1998 a group of residents decided to establish an entirely secular registered charity the "Friends of St Stephen's Church, Sparsholt" (FoSS) to provide funds that are exclusively used for the agreed maintenance of this beautiful old building and its grounds.

Over the past 23 years FoSS has been able to provide significant funding for a diverse range of projects. These included the restoration of the organ, treatment of death watch beetle, repairs to stonework, replacement of the heating system, as well as repairing the church wall, refurbishing the roof, and funding the rewiring of old and unsafe electrical circuits.

We are only able to provide funds to St Stephen's for major and minor works because of the generosity of our members and their friends. To do this FoSS raises money by subscriptions and organising a range of social events, the last of which was an extremely well attended Burns Night supper in January 2019.

The Friends of Stephen's thanks all those who have supported us by giving their time, attending events, and maintaining their membership. We particularly welcome families who are newly arrived in Sparsholt, or anyone who would like to support us by becoming a member.

If you would like to join the Friends of St Stephen's, please contact:

- The Secretary, Ted Bell on 07970 979366 or email ted@bell.ro ; or
- The Chairman, Stewart Wooles on 01962 776419

Countryside Code



If you are out and about in this beautiful weather, then please remember the countryside code.

Recent requests based on experiences around Sparsholt include:

Keep **dogs** under control at all times and especially around farms and fields. **Under control** means if your dog does not always return to you immediately when called then **DO NOT let it off the lead**. Having an out-of-control dog can in certain circumstances be a criminal offence. A farmer can shoot a dog that is attacking or chasing livestock.

Always clean up your **dog's poo** because it can cause illness in people, livestock and wildlife. Never leave bags of dog poo around, even if you intend to pick them up later. Deodorised bags and containers can make bags of dog poo easier to carry. If you cannot find a public waste bin, you should take it home and use your own bin.

Cyclists need to be far more courteous and considerate on bridleways and roads without pavements – frightening people by powering down behind them is totally irresponsible – those people may be hard of hearing or on a mobile call and cannot hear you. Try to make your presence known well in advance and slow down and dismount if necessary.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code/the-countryside-code-advice-for-countryside-visitors>

Scam and Fraud Warnings

Be more thoughtful about what you share online



Just because you have seen something online doesn't mean you should share it without thinking.

If you have been encouraged to share it then there is a good chance that it is a scam.

See the latest government guidance.

<https://sharechecklist.gov.uk>

Ticket Fraud

As a result of the high demand for tickets, the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) are warning buyers to take extra care when buying tickets online.

We are urging people to be wary of fraudsters selling fake or non-existent tickets to events. NFIB have already started seeing reports of non-existent tickets being advertised for sale online, some at inflated prices.

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/alert/action-fraud-warning-as-demand-for-tickets-increase-ahead-of-lockdown-easing>

CIFAS Protective Registration

You can also contact CIFAS to apply for protective registration. This paid for service means extra checks will be carried out when a financial service, such as a loan, is applied for using your address and personal details, to verify it's you and not a fraudster.

<https://www.cifas.org.uk/services/identity-protection/protective-registration>

National Insurance Number Fraud

Victims have reported receiving an automated telephone call telling them their "National Insurance number has been compromised" and in order to fix this and get a new number, the victim needs to "press 1 on their handset to be connected to the caller".

Once connected to the "caller", victims are pressured into giving over their personal details in order to receive a new National Insurance number. In reality, they've been connected to a criminal who can now use their personal details to commit fraud.

Pauline Smith, Head of Action Fraud, said:

"We are asking the public to remain vigilant and be cautious of any automated calls they receive mentioning their National Insurance number becoming compromised.

"It's important to remember if you're contacted out the blue by someone asking for your personal or financial details, this could be a scam.

"Even confirming personal details, such as your email address, date of birth or mother's maiden name, can be used by criminals to commit fraud. If you have any doubts about what is being asked of you, hang up the phone. No legitimate organisation will rush or pressure you."

How to protect yourself

If you receive an unexpected phone call, text message or email that asks for your personal or financial details, remember to:

STOP

Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

CHALLENGE

Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

PROTECT

If you have provided personal details to someone over the phone and you now believe this to be a scam, contact your bank, building society and credit card company immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

Parish Council Meeting

The next regular Parish Council Meeting is on **Thursday 15th April 2021** at 7.30pm. Until May 7th 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
Lynne Gibson	Councillor	councillor@sparsholtparish.org	07771 606974
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 May Edition

The deadline for the May edition is **Friday 23rd April 2021** please submit all items to sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org