

# Sparsholt Community Newsletter



*The sunrise taken from Farley Mount on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021*

You will need to be up early to see it for real as:

- the sun rises at 05:36 on 1<sup>st</sup> May
- earlier each day
- just before 05:00 by the 31<sup>st</sup> May.

Cases of Covid-19 have dropped significantly along with the temperature outside giving us the coldest April since 1970. Our surrounding areas are almost free from Covid-19 infections - with most having fewer than 3 cases per area. The vaccination programme continues to be an outstanding success – as many have commented “the NHS at its very best”. Thanks are also due to the many volunteers contributing to that success. As we gain greater freedoms from May 17<sup>th</sup> let’s hope that the rising temperatures don’t result in a rise in Covid-19 infections. Keep staying safe so that we can return to ‘normality’ from June 21<sup>st</sup>.

In preparation for events actually taking place, see the article on the Village Calendar now being online.

As a result of changing Covid-19 regulations, the Parish Council meeting dates for May and June have had to change as remote meetings of the Council cannot take place after 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. However, face-to-face meetings are not allowed until 17<sup>th</sup> May and then they are limited to rule-of-6. Only from 21<sup>st</sup> June can the full council meet with public attendance. As we must have a meeting in May, it has been brought forward to 6<sup>th</sup> May as a remote meeting by Zoom. The June meeting has been moved to be on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

## Local Elections on May 6th

Voting takes place in the Mosaic Room at the Memorial Hall. Due to COVID-19, there will be safety measures in place at polling stations, to help you stay safe. When you go inside, you will be expected to wear a face covering just like you do when you go into shops.

**Remember to take a mask or face-covering with you.**

### Garden Sale – Save the Date

Anne Fairey is going to hold a garage/ garden sale on Saturday 26th June, from 10:30 am - 4pm at Dean House Cottage

Mostly garden tools, shelving, bits of furniture and masses of kitchen paraphernalia, platters, bowls, cutlery etc and some linen. Also, excess plants and last year’s cuttings which are not grown enough to move with her. Everything must go!

All proceeds will go to the Alexander Fairey Memorial fund, which has five sailing boats on the Hamble and in Portsmouth Harbour to introduce the underprivileged of Southern Hampshire to the joys and disciplines of sailing. Also to young troopers of the Parachute Regiment, in which Alexander served, to help them fund adventure training. A special two-man Bobsleigh has been purchased by the fund to give some of the more talented a chance to represent GB in the 2026 Winter Olympics.

### Shop and Post Office

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of May are **Bank Holidays** when the shop will only be open 09:00 until 10:00 and the Post Office will be closed.

### Burger Van

The Burger Van will be back on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May from 16:00 – 20:00 in the Memorial Hall Car Park.

For ordering see

<https://www.originalfryupmaterial.co.uk>

## Dog Poo IS Harmful– TAKE IT HOME IF YOU CAN’T DISPOSE OF IT PROPERLY in a Dog Poo Bin

Would everyone please ensure they always pick up after their dog especially through fields where livestock graze. Pregnant cows have just been returned to a field near the cricket club and already a cow has aborted her calf due to Neosporosis, which is caused by the neosporosa eggs in dog faeces, (so it’s clear that someone didn’t clean up after their dog last year).

Sadly, not only has that cow, a valuable pedigree Hereford, lost this calf but she won’t be able to keep any further calves full term.

**NOTE:** The gateways in Locks Lane ARE NOT suitable places to allow your dog to foul while you walk away – but that is what many people are doing.



# Coronavirus

## Getting ready for Step 3

HM Government

STEP 3

NO EARLIER THAN 17 MAY

At least 5 weeks after Step 2

BUSINESS / ACTIVITIES

- Indoor hospitality
- Indoor entertainment and attractions
- Organised indoor sport (adult)
- Remaining accommodation
- Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances)

SOCIAL CONTACT

Maximum 30 people outdoors

Indoors: Up to 6 people or a larger group from 2 households only (subject to review)

LARGER EVENTS

Most significant life events (30 people)

Indoor events 1,000 people or 50% capacity (whichever is lower)

Outdoor events 4,000 people or 50% capacity (whichever is lower)

Large seated outdoor venues 10,000 people or 25% capacity (whichever is lower)

TRAVEL

Domestic overnight stays

International travel (subject to review)

COVID-19 ROADMAP 2021

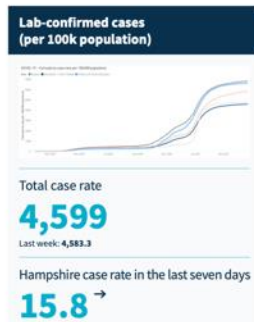
## Hampshire



### Hampshire COVID-19 weekly summary 26 April 2021

The data published here is correct as of **26 April 2021** but it may be updated and amended as new data becomes available.

#### Current status in Hampshire: Roadmap out of lockdown – Step 2



**Hospital admissions – NHS Trust**

Total patients admitted (as at 18 April)	Patients currently in hospital (as at 20 April)
<b>3,208</b> Last week: 3,201	<b>10</b> ↓ Last week: 12
<b>4,672</b> Last week: 4,663	<b>8</b> → Last week: 8
<b>737</b> Last week: 734	<b>1</b> → Last week: 1
<b>4,239</b> Last week: 4,231	<b>30</b> ↓ Last week: 32
<b>4,095</b> Last week: 4,083	<b>9</b> ↓ Last week: 16

Data source: coronavirus.data.gov.uk

**Hampshire vaccination data**

Total vaccinated with at least one dose  
**763,742**  
Last week: 750,974

Vaccinated with at least one dose in the last seven days  
**12,768** ↑  
Last week: 7,964

People vaccinated with at least one dose by age group\*

Under 45	45-49
<b>129,105</b>	<b>61,404</b>
50-59	60-69
<b>192,287</b>	<b>158,014</b>
70-79	80+
<b>139,290</b>	<b>83,642</b>

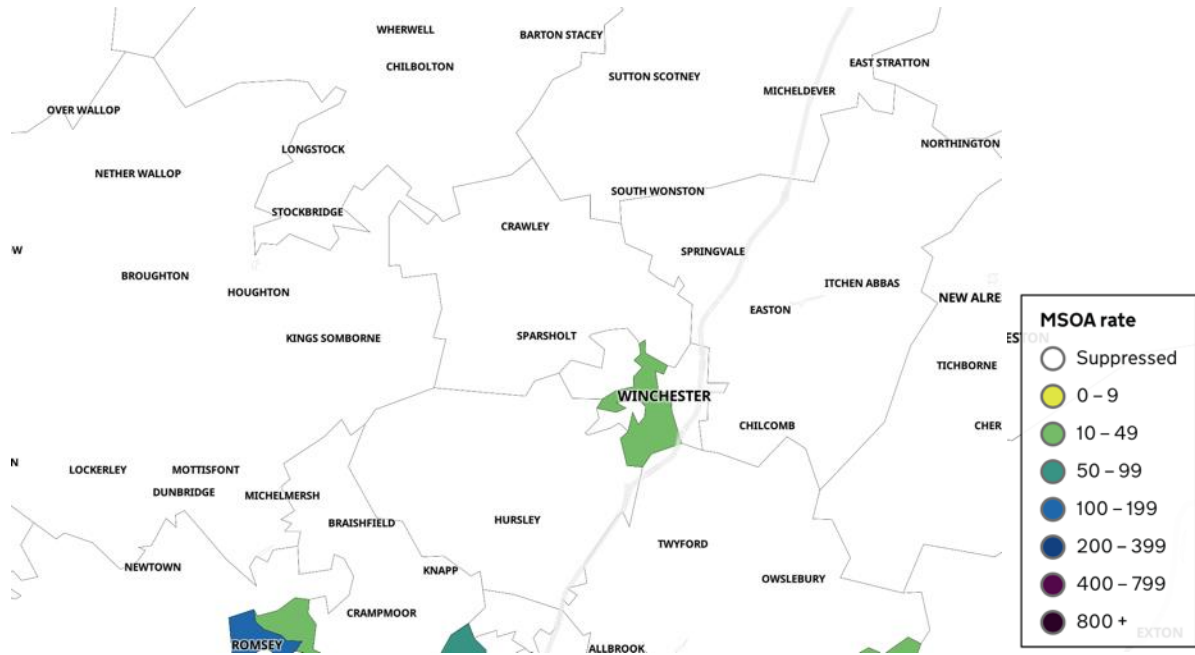
\*Data for additional age groups will become available as more people are vaccinated. The age groups used in the vaccination data section have changed. Where possible, the age groups have been grouped by 10 year age bands.



Screenshot



**Covid-19 Cases in Winchester**



*Mostly but not completely Covid-free.*

To keep track yourself see <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/interactive-map>

**Local News and Events**

**Charity Garden Event - Virtually**



**The VIRTUAL event is on Saturday 1st May and Sunday 2nd May 2021**

The real Garden Fair has, very sadly, had to be cancelled for 2021, but continued fundraising for St. John's Eye Hospital is VITAL. You are, therefore, warmly invited to be involved in this new event.

For full details about how to take part please visit:

[www.bishops-waltham-garden-fair.org](http://www.bishops-waltham-garden-fair.org)



**Sparsholt 100 Club Results of the Spring Draw**

The Spring Draw was held on the evening of 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at The Plough.

Although chilly it was good to support The Plough. They have done an excellent job on the outdoor dining arrangements so please make a booking.

The lucky winners of the draw were:

- £100 #3 Ted Salter
- £50 #8 Rod Machin
- £50 #6 Chrissie Morse
- £50 #35 Alastair Barron.

Thank you all for supporting the Sparsholt 100 Club, a very worthy village cause.

If you have a new neighbour, please let me know and I will make them aware of the 100 Club.

Ian Hay [hay588@btinternet.com](mailto:hay588@btinternet.com)



### POSTCARD: From Cairo to Sparsholt via a walk in the woods

In May 1996 I was visiting home for a couple of weeks, staying with my parents in Winchester and relishing the fresh air of an early English summer as well as familiar home comforts. It was a welcome tonic in comparison with the hectic but exciting streets of Cairo where I was currently living.

One afternoon dad and I took our family dog – Rufus, a golden lab – out for a walk.

“Let’s go up to Crab Wood,” suggested dad. “The bluebells are out and it’s rather a pretty sight.”

We set off through the woods, following well-known paths as Rufus bounded on, sniffing out canine temptations while dad and I chatted and exchanged news. It was a perfect May day: softly warm, tranquil, and fragrant with a carpet of bluebells in full bloom.

We came to an opening in the trees and looked across the fields towards a small settlement of houses with a distinctive pyramid-shaped church spire.

“That’s Sparsholt,” mused dad. “Charming example of a rural Hampshire village.”



*View across to Sparsholt from Crab Wood*

We lingered a while, admiring the sort of quintessentially English view that I sometimes yearned for in those days, along with Sunday roasts, the smell of daffodils, and the call of wood pigeons nesting in our beech trees.

You know how an image leaves an impression on the mind? Well, what I did not know that day, but do now – having stopped to enjoy that view many times – is that I was looking directly at my future home, my very house in Woodman Close, clearly visible from the forest clearing but still several years away in terms of life’s waypoints.

I always pause to remember dad at that spot.

By Cathy Tucker  
woodmanclose@yahoo.co.uk

### Lainston House – New Restaurant Opening



Part of the Exclusive Collection since 1983, Lainston House is a Grade II listed 17<sup>th</sup> Century manor, offering a truly unique luxury escape to the Hampshire countryside.

The hotel is home to *The Avenue*, an award-winning restaurant in the main house, renowned for its modern fine dining menu championing seasonal produce.

Also, on the estate is the historic listed outbuilding famous for its popular cookery school *Season*, which has a strong focus on mastering outdoor culinary skills, offering classes in partnership with Weber and Manna from Devon.

This year, the hotel will unveil a new restaurant, **The Wellhouse**, which will bring a year-round, unique food, drink and social experience to Hampshire, celebrating the simplicity of wood-fired cooking where guests will be able to eat in the historic rustic-luxe surroundings inside, or in the idyllic outside setting in the vast kitchen garden.

Hotel re-opens- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May

The Wellhouse opens Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May

Advance booking is advised.

<https://www.exclusive.co.uk/lainston-house/>

### St Stephen's Bells Rung for HRH Duke of Edinburgh



Jenny Watson ringing the bells on the sad occasion of the funeral of HRH Duke of Edinburgh.

You can see Jenny in action on the video she posted on

**nextdoor**

[https://nextdoor.co.uk/news\\_feed/?post=17592199753997](https://nextdoor.co.uk/news_feed/?post=17592199753997)

For more information about bell ringing in Sparsholt see <https://wpbells.org/sparsholt/>

### Musical Concerts in Sparsholt

The programme is prepared for the August 15th concert which includes piano music and songs performed by Mark, Fiona, Maria and friends. Composers include; Poulenc, Duparc, Liszt, Rachmaninov, Sondheim and Novello. More details about tickets soon.

Plans are to hold several concerts a year with opportunities for people to perform and share music in a friendly, non-competitive environment. Some concerts will be tailored for younger or less experienced students who would like performing practice.

If you are interested in performing or helping in any way (such as baking a cake!) in a future concert, please get in touch with Fiona at: [sparsholtmusic@gmail.com](mailto:sparsholtmusic@gmail.com).

### Bird Spotting around Sparsholt



Thank you to Howard Annesley for these brilliant photographs.



## Village Events Calendar

With restrictions easing and organisations looking to restart activities, it is time to reinstate the once-popular Village Calendar – but with a new format and on-line access making it available at any time!

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

[http://www.sparsholtparish.org/index.php?&pg=Village\\_Calendar](http://www.sparsholtparish.org/index.php?&pg=Village_Calendar)

The calendar is quite “thin” at the moment, but it does include the BBQ & Hog Roast on 4th September and the Music Concerts planned for August, October and December, all of which were detailed in the April Newsletter.

### Events in May

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – May Day Bank Holiday

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> – Local Elections (Polling station is in the Mosaic Room of the Memorial Hall)

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> – Parish Council Meeting remote by Zoom

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> – Annual Parochial Church Meeting (over Zoom)

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> – Ham Green Volunteers Work Day

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> – School breaks for Half Term

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> – Spring Bank Holiday

### Dates for your Diary

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Village Late Spring Clean Up

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June – Garden/ Garage Sale at Dean House Cottage, for Alexander Fairey Memorial Fund

### Planning an Event?

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 and send us the details using the link below:

[sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org](mailto:sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org)

## St Stephen's Church and the Downs Benefice

### The Sparsholt Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Sparsholt Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place at 7pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May. It will be a Zoom meeting.

Please contact Katie Simpson on [katiesimpson08@googlemail.com](mailto:katiesimpson08@googlemail.com) to receive the necessary papers in advance and the Zoom link to the meeting.

### Private Prayer

St Stephen's Church in Sparsholt will be open for private prayer and contemplation from 10am - 4pm Sundays and Wednesdays.

### Downs Benefice Church Services

Church Services across the Benefice during May will be as follows:

- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 10.00am Morning Prayer in Sparsholt, Holy Communion in Chilbolton
- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am Morning Prayer in Wherwell, Holy Communion in Crawley
- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am Morning Prayer in Littleton, Holy Communion in Wherwell
- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 10.00am Morning Prayer in Chilbolton, Holy Communion in Littleton
- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am Morning Prayer in Sparsholt and Wherwell

As it is requested, we continue to observe social distancing, it is necessary to book places for these services. Please contact the Benefice Office on 01962 880 845 to do this. It is also still necessary for everyone in church to be wearing masks.

[http://www.downsbenefice.org/index.php?if=S&pg=Sunday\\_Services](http://www.downsbenefice.org/index.php?if=S&pg=Sunday_Services)

## Parish Council Annual Meeting Reports

Each year the Parish Council normally holds an annual meeting open to all parishioners. We also invite guest speakers from organisations in the Village to provide an annual report on their activities. This is an opportunity for parishioners to hear what the council has been doing on their behalf as well as an opportunity for anyone to ask questions. Because of Covid-19 restrictions the annual meeting was not held in 2020 and this year it was held remotely as a Zoom video conference. As there was a very low attendance at the Zoom conference, we have decided to publish the reports in full in this newsletter. We are assuming Zoom-fatigue rather than lack of interest for the low attendance.

The meeting took place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The following reports from the meeting are set out on subsequent pages of the Newsletter:

- St Stephen's Church Warden and Chair of the Village Shop Association, Alastair Barron
- Head of Sparsholt Primary School, Elizabeth Hanratty
- Principal and CEO Sparsholt College - Julie Milburn
- County Councillor, Jan Warwick
- City Councillor, Caroline Horrill
- Chair of the Parish Council, Sue Wood

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### St Stephen's Church Warden and Chair of the Village Shop Association, Alastair Barron

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#### St Stephen's Church

It has been a turbulent year due to the restrictions on the use of the church imposed by Government and the Church because of Covid 19 and this has impacted our ability to be open and to hold services. Our priority has been the safety of those taking services, those working in and around the church and our congregation. We think this has been the right priority but it has been frustrating !

We have, though, been able to hold some services once a month during some periods in the year, in conjunction with other churches in the Downs Benefice and we have been able, again at times during the year, to open the church on Sundays and Wednesdays for personal prayer and reflection.

We have sought to stay in touch with our church family through our benefice website and our Rector has sent a weekly letter to over 500 people around the Benefice. She has also kept in touch by phone with those for whom some pastoral support was thought to be helpful, being unable to visit in person. The church has also participated, with the PCC and the Shop, in the Village Support Team, which responded to the virus by offering practical help, particularly to those shielding or who otherwise needed some assistance.

We are now holding more services and the church is, again, open for prayer and reflection on Sundays and Wednesdays. We continue to hope for a cautious return to normality and restored and regular use of our much-loved village church.

Meanwhile, stay safe and God bless.

#### Sparsholt Village Shop and Post Office

We are proud to say that the Village Shop and Post Office has remained open during this difficult year – a valiant effort on the part of many. Changes to the way we operate have had to be made by Janette, Fiona and the team but the shop has played a real part in Sparsholt's response to the virus. Our opening hours have been shortened and changed, we have moved the shop outside to be able to work safely and, particularly during the first lockdown, we joined the PCC, the Church in the Sparsholt Support Team supporting the village by selling a wide range of healthy, fresh and packaged goods and by delivering groceries, and on occasions medicines, to those who were unable to get out.

It has been a strong year financially, finishing with an operating profit of some £3,000. Our trading volumes and numbers are now returning to more normal levels and so we are now looking at how we run and manage the shop going forward so, as before, we can continue to support the village.

So, a big thank you to all those who supported the Shop and Post Office in any way, staff, volunteers and the customers, and we look forward to a busy 2021.




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## Head of Sparsholt C of E Primary School, Elizabeth Hanratty

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Whilst the last year has been challenging for the whole school community due to lockdowns including partial school closures, teachers having to produce remote education for their classes, staff pupils and parents having to get used to the introduction of protocols and

procedures to try to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid 19, on the whole we have had a very positive year.

When the country locked down in March 2020, the school remained open (including through the Easter holidays) for the children of critical workers and any pupils who were deemed vulnerable. The school provided remote education for the pupils who remained at home.

In June, the school was allowed to welcome back pupils from Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 along with more pupils who were children of critical workers as the criteria for those who could attend was expanded. Due to space constraints, (the Government limited class sizes to 15) whilst we were only able to welcome back our other year groups for a day before the end of the Summer Term, this did give them the opportunity to reconnect with the school, their classmates and their teachers.

In September 2020, we were able to welcome back all of our pupils to the school. Due to the requirements to limit mixing, the school has been operating a bubble system. Children have been only allowed to mix with other children from their class. Due to this, we have had staggered start and finish times for pupils, separate break and lunchtimes (with children eating in their classrooms) and tried to reduce staff crossing bubbles. As a school, our protocols (including enhanced cleaning, hygiene etc.) were robust and we did not have to send any pupils home due to Covid related issues unlike many other schools.

Despite the limitations that the Covid safe protocols created, we have ensured that the children continue to feel like a whole community and have continued with our courageous advocacy activities. The children have raised over £1500 for a variety of local, national and international charities and collected substantial donations in the form of provisions for the Winchester Basics Bank and the Winchester Night Shelter.

The school have continued to ensure that they have maintained strong and meaningful links with St Stephen's church and the Pupil worship team have pre-recorded their own whole school worships which have been played to all the children across the school and collaborated with the Benefice (Rev'd Jax and the Foundation Governor, Sally Wesley) in services such as the Christmas and Mothering Day service. Despite the children not being able to gather as a whole school, class worship is taking place on a daily basis and the children still very connected as a church school community.

Having had the children back in school for one day on the 4th January, schools closed again due to the National lockdown. During this period the school had 42 children who attended school either part-time or fulltime due to falling within the Government's category of vulnerable or being the children of critical workers. The school have 134 children currently on roll so this equated to 31% of our pupils. During this period, teachers worked at school supporting the pupils who were attending school whilst simultaneously providing daily remote education for the children studying at home including targeted interventions for pupils on the SEN register who were working both at home and at school. On the 8th March children were able to return to school and the school had 100% attendance.

Since the 8th March, children have again been taught in bubbles with staggered start and finish times, and separate break and lunchtimes to limit any risk of transmission.

When we return after the Easter break on the 19th April, the same protocols will be in place but we will now be able to offer after school clubs including football, lacrosse, outdoor choir and gymnastics. We will also be able to again make use of the school field for break and lunchtimes now that the weather has improved.

Through this whole period, the school have been mindful of the staff's and children's wellbeing and have introduced the Sparsholt Wheel of Wellbeing which has five spokes: People – connect and give; Body – be active; Spirit – take notice; Planet – show care; and Inspire – be creative. Teachers ensure that an aspect of this is focused on each day. Through the Summer term we have also employed additional sports coaches to ensure that the children have an opportunity to experience a multitude of sporting activities that they were unable to access during the Spring term.

In terms of the school site, the field now has new fencing along the back and around the pond area which has ensured it is now safer and more secure. The soakaway in the car park has now been installed which should ensure there is a reduced risk of flooding to the school allowing the removal of the sandbags in the entrance area and the vents for the cesspit under the playground have now been repositioned allowing the children to be able to access this area fully.

For the Summer term, and now that restrictions have been lifted regarding groups of people meeting outside, the school are aiming to reinvigorate the Pond area by asking for volunteers to help clear the pond area, build seating and fundraise for a covered shelter.

As restrictions continue to ease, we are hopeful that we will be able to reintroduce or be involved with many of the amazing community events that have helped ensure the school remains an important part of the Sparsholt, Littleton and Crawley communities.



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**Principal and CEO Sparsholt College - Julie Milburn**


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**The students are back!**

At the time of writing it is a year this week of living with, coping with and adapting to the pandemic, and I could not be more proud of the achievements of both the staff and students of Sparsholt College Group in response to such extraordinary circumstances. Our dedicated teams have changed tack on a daily basis, in response to the everchanging Public Health and Government updates, in order to keep the campus Covid secure whilst continuing to deliver the student experience which our young people signed up to.

Teaching delivery models have been much more fluid this year to provide the flexibility for staff to deliver theoretical components of the course during periods of lockdown and condensed practical activities when we've been open to onsite teaching.

This term the campus has been really quiet, as the majority of students and staff switched to working remotely in January. Our expert lecturers have continued delivering engaging online lessons, including guest lectures from professionals in industry, and they've also been really creative in order to deliver some practical elements of the courses. For example, on the Fishery Studies and Aquatics course, students would have normally been on the River Itchen improving habitats and spawning conditions for salmon and trout populations, but instead were tasked with spawning their own Artemia cultures from their local area. Conservation, Countryside and Environment students would normally be found in local woodland sites and nature reserves carrying out coppicing and maintenance tasks, but instead have headed to their own nature sites to chart flora and fauna and undertook virtual tours of the national parks.

The critical workers who have remained onsite to manage college operations have worked exceptionally hard during this period, i.e. at the farm, equine centre, animal management centre (AMC), and grounds team.

To put into context, on a normal college day the AMC would function with a workforce of approximately 120 students undertaking practical duties, and yet all of the usual animal husbandry duties have still been necessary in their absence. In addition, the animal keepers, instructors and horticulturalists have filmed aspects of their daily routines to share via Teams with students in order that they stay connected with this aspect of their studies.

There was an audible sigh of relief when all students moved back into their halls of residence and returned to on-site teaching this month. The campus is now a hive of activity as we support students who, despite our best efforts, have missed so much practical learning this year already. We're preparing ourselves for a busy summer term like none before, in our quest to ensure that this cohort of learners are not disadvantaged and progress to their next destination, whether that be further learning or employment. Whilst examinations on many courses have been cancelled this year nationally, many students at Sparsholt complete qualifications where there is a licence to practice or industry 'ticket' needed in order to secure employment, and therefore we are unable to predict grades for these aspects of their studies. Driving qualifications, use of chainsaws, RCVS exams (veterinary nursing) and fitness instructor assessments are just a few examples.

The pandemic has led to worldwide digital and technological advancements, changing curriculum needs, new ways of working and studying, and a greater appreciation of the benefits of social interaction and the 'great outdoors' on our mental health and wellbeing. As we look to recover from the impact of coronavirus on both the College and our own personal lives, Sparsholt will take the opportunity to do things differently, not least to protect future generations from climate change and habitat destruction. As a Strategic Leadership Team, we're really looking forward to revisiting the College's strategic priorities next term, and we will shortly be relaunching the Sparsholt College Group strategic plan that will support the economic recovery post Covid-19 and equip our student community with the skills needed to be successful in the digital era.

And finally, I have recently been appointed as LEA Governor at Sparsholt Primary School, and therefore expect to see many of you regularly once restrictions are lifted.

*(Julie Milburn was unable to attend the meeting and sent this report in advance)*

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**County Councillor, Jan Warwick**


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**Facts and Figures**

- Hampshire's population is 1,376,300 (2018) the third most populous county in England (85% is rural and 15% urban).
- Hampshire CC maintains 5400 miles of roads, 4300 miles pavements, 133,000 streetlights, 481 schools, 45 libraries, 3 Discovery Centres and 1 e-library, 16 care homes with 960 beds for older people, 9 residential homes for children and young people, 24 Household Waste Centres and 5 Country Parks.
- Every year 94% of all household waste is diverted from landfill (40% recycled) is burnt for energy and powers 50,000 homes.
- Every day 454,000 people travel to work by car or van, 86,000 bus journeys are made, and 4% journeys are by train.
- More than half of Hampshire's EU citizens have signed up to the Government's EU settlement scheme.

Public Health -Coronavirus (Covid-19) Hampshire County Council continues to play a significant role supporting vulnerable residents and providing local guidance and information. To date over 32 million people in the UK have received their first dose of vaccine.

The Hampshire County Council helpline is available for frail or vulnerable residents who do not have support from families, friends or their local community, and who need urgent assistance with essential food or household supplies, collection of medication, or who are at risk of loneliness.

HCC approves £2.1 billion spending on local services in 2021/22

Plans for the next financial year focus on the county's ongoing work associated with the pandemic, support for vulnerable children and adults, investment in Hampshire's roads and infrastructure to support economic recovery, as well as climate change mitigation.

The annual council tax charge for a Band D property will be £1,350.45 – an increase of £1.23 per week, equating to 4.99%, of which 3% is for adults' social care – a Government request. The budget includes £13 million for the maintenance of 5,500 miles of roads and an extra £1.2 million in carbon reduction measures across the County Council. HCC's four-year capital programme of £744 million is one of the largest in the country.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/25022021HCCbudgetdecisionFeb2021>

The proposed capital programme includes:

- £68 million in new and extended school buildings to ensure there is a school place for every child in Hampshire
- £118 million for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges in Hampshire over the next three years
- £91 million for integrated transport schemes including over £18 million specifically focused on walking and cycling improvements
- £141 million for major improvement of school and other County Council buildings and land holdings over the next three years
- £33 million for decarbonisation schemes covering solar PV, single to double glazing window replacements, transition from oil to gas and the implementation of heating controls.

Climate Change Hampshire County Council has been taking active steps to ensure Hampshire is resilient to climate change and in mitigating further changes through carbon reduction measures. HCC's own emissions have reduced by more than 43%, with more than a 50% reduction by 2025 and carbon neutrality by 2050. The 2050 Hampshire Commission of Enquiry placed climate change and the environment as its top priority. In the budget HCC pledged £2m towards climate change measures in addition to the capital schemes outlined above. HCC is aware its greatest leadership and influence will be achieved by working in partnership with the District, City and Parish Councils, businesses and communities via the Expert Forum. At a household level HCC is supporting the county-wide Greening Campaign (aims to find simple solutions around reducing and measuring power consumption, insulating housing stock, reducing water usage, sourcing local food, community travel and renewable energy schemes), the Help line, Solar Buy-in scheme and community energy projects.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/climatechange>

Councillor Grants Over the 4 years I supported the following local causes in my Division with grants amounting to £32000.

- Crawley Village Gateways
- Sparsholt Village Hall
- Voices for Hospices Fundraising Choir
- Citizens Advice Bureau Winchester
- West Dever News
- Friends of Otterbourne and Compton Primary Schools
- Worthy Down Family events
- Winchester Pavilion Project
- Speed Control sign -Badger Farm
- Winchester GoLD charity (supporting adults with learning disability)
- Winchester Goalball Club (Sports club for the partially sighted)
- Oliver's Battery Recreation Ground Project
- Wessex Cancer Trust (Winchester)
- Sparrowgrove and Oakwood Copse Conservation
- Hursley Youth Football Club
- Joyful Jams (Participatory Arts for Dementia groups)
- Winchester Street Reach workshops

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**City Councillor, Caroline Horrill**


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**Winchester**  
City Council

I have been privileged to be the councillor for Sparsholt since 2014. I represent the Wonston and Micheldever Ward along with my fellow councillors Stephen Godfrey and Patrick Cunningham. I am currently the Leader of the Conservative group at the Council.

Winchester City Council represents over 250 square miles across the District and although the city of Winchester is a key focus, over 80% of the District is rural. Understanding the wants and needs of all our residents is crucially important to the work of the Council.

The Conservative Group is in opposition at Winchester with the Lib Dems in control. We have elections on May 6th when one third of the Council will stand for re-election. This is because the 2020 elections were cancelled. We will also have the all-out County elections and the postponed Police and Crime Commissioner elections on the same day.

What a year under the Covid -19 restrictions. Sparsholt proved its amazing community spirit in the last year with the Support group, and the community shop. Moving the shop to the pavement has been an outstanding success.

The last 2 years have been a disappointment at the Council with many projects delayed. There has been little progress except charging you the residents in many new ways.

Planning and enforcement are a key focus for the Parish, and I have sought to support the Parish Council in their views on specific applications.

The most important document currently being developed by the City Council is the new Local Plan through to 2038 which has some options that will be seriously negative for our parish. The Royaldown development is excessive, and I will be opposing this option and the 100 houses proposed in option 4 for Sparsholt is equally frightening. We will recommend building on brownfield sites first and support the proposed Hampshire Green Belt.

We are proposing to reverse the damaging green tax imposed on garden waste and make it free again. You have had a 40% increase in Council Tax through the back door and your city councillors think this is wrong.

Delivering economic growth in the District is essential. Supporting tourism is a major focus and with over 5 million visitors each year pre pandemic it plays an important role in the District. We also want to support our high streets by cutting Sunday and evening car parking charges.

The new Sport and Leisure Park at Bar End in partnership with the University, the Pinder Trust and with funding from HCC is a legacy from the Conservative administration and we are very proud to be able to advise it will open in May. River Park will not reopen.

We are delighted Patrick Cunningham has been the Mayor this year and he has done a great job despite lockdown. Patrick supported our Macmillan coffee morning before we were all locked down at the end of last year but sadly missed the opportunity to open the fete.

All part of our vibrant and active community in the village.

Please do let me know if I can further support the Parish Council and the residents of the village.

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**Chair of the Parish Council, Sue Wood**


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The Parish Council, The Church and The Shop continue to work closely together, to ensure the health and safety of all our residents. The dedicated telephone line, email address and volunteer WhatsApp group are still available although as the Pandemic is subsiding and vaccinations are increasing, we are experiencing a much lower rate of enquiries and requests.

The work of the Parish Council has continued throughout this past year via video and email links and the rest of my report will focus on what we have been doing and looking forward to the 2021/2022 period.

In December 2020 Pete Chadwick resigned as a Parish Councillor having made a considerable and valuable contribution of his time to the Parish.

We are sorry to lose him but understand his need to focus on his family and his career. Thank you Pete and we wish you well for the future.

We co-opted Lynne Gibson as a Councillor on 18th March. Lynne lives in Crabwood off Sarum Road and will be a welcome voice for residents in that area. We have a full complement of 9 Councillors who volunteer their time to protect and maintain the character of our beautiful parish. To do this we have a Village Design Statement, a Conservation Area Appraisal and a Parish Plan all of which were developed and approved by the residents and subsequently adopted by Winchester City Council.

Planning applications and developments in the village contribute to the primary workload of the Parish Council to ensure they comply with our Village Design Statement and the Conservation area appraisal.



*Chair of the Parish Council, Sue Wood continued...*

We do request that residents talk to us prior to submitting their plans as we are a statutory consultee for WCC. Working together can often ensure a clear understanding of proposals, avoiding unnecessary delays and often avoiding unseen costs. Applications are always fully discussed by all Councillors at full Council meetings.

Road and traffic issues have for the past year greatly reduced because of lockdown measures and I am sure we have all appreciated the ability to walk and cycle on our narrow country lanes without having to disappear into a hedge as traffic speeds by. During lockdown our roads were resurfaced and recently a part of Westley Lane from the College to the village was completely rebuilt.

I am sure residents will have noticed that a Speed Limit Reminder has been placed in different places around the village. We share the cost of this facility with Hursley Parish Council. We hope that as life gets back to normal that vehicles that use us as a 'rat run' will observe the new sign. We move it frequently to avoid familiarity and complacency. Please do continue to report excessive speed and unauthorised HGV's in the village to the Parish Clerk with as much detail as you can.

During the past year we have managed to maintain the opening of the playground with thanks to our wonderful volunteers Tonya and Keith who both live in Woodman Close. They have regularly sanitised the play equipment for which I feel sure all the children and parents and the Parish Council greatly appreciate.

Our Footpaths have suffered through the winter months and we look forward to the Summer recovery time. The Parish Council uses the services of Peter Yeates to cut a number of footpaths with HCC responsible for others. The bridleways are covered by the Countryside Rangers and we liaise with them when we are told of any problems.

We have a range of skills amongst our Councillors who each have a portfolio to manage and the details of which are published in every Parish Newsletter and on our village website.

3 Councillors meet bimonthly with the Parish Clerk to look at the finances of the Parish Council, discuss the detail and then report and make recommendations to the full Council. Likewise a sub-committee of Councillors look at all planning applications in detail before making recommendations to full Council.

The one paid member of the Parish Council is the Parish Clerk who is also our Responsible Financial Officer. Nicky Breen replaced Jill Judge as our Clerk on the 1st April 2020. As for anyone starting a new job during a Pandemic and Lockdown it has not been easy. A clerk's job is very varied and requires constant contact with Councillors and local authorities and we thank Nicky for her perseverance during this difficult time.

City Council, County Council and the Police Commissioner elections will be held in May this year although there is no Sparsholt Parish Council election until 2022. Our City Councillor is Councillor Caroline Horrill and our County Councillor is Councillor Jan Warwick.

Over the past year we thank them both for keeping us apprised of decisions made at WCC and HCC that affect us here in Sparsholt. Grants that both Authorities make, do help us to fund projects for residents' needs.

We receive an annual precept payment for the Parish which this year has been put to good use on a major project and expense in the Ham Green area. A professional survey of the area has been carried out and the Ash Dieback problem has led to a plan for work to be carried out according to priority over the next few years. A detailed report and the costs have been recorded and are available on the Parish website.

Residents will be aware that a number of trees have already been felled under Phase 1 of the project and priority has been given to those trees most at risk to the public. We are currently applying for a quotation for replanting and thanks to a grant from Kirton Farm Nursery and a contribution from the Parish Council, will soon be able to replace the trees lost. Terry Dunn has given a great deal of his time to organising and supervising this project and we offer him our sincere thanks.

#### **Coming up**

The proposed new social housing in Bostock Close should soon be available for residents to see before the plans are submitted for planning approval. These will be energy efficient properties and if any residents in current social housing are interested please do register your interest as soon as possible.

#### **The playground in Woodman close**

The fencing around the playground and the gate at the southern end are in a state of disrepair and we are currently applying for quotations for replacement. We are also planning to build a fund for the future replacement of the playground equipment.

#### **Village Clean up**

Please put Saturday 5th June in your diary as our village clean up date. Litter pickers and sacks and disposable gloves will be provided in the Memorial Hall Carpark from 10.00am – 12 noon. Thank you to those who always support this event and we look forward to many more joining us.

New Map boards of the area will soon be arriving, one for the back of the main noticeboard by the Shop and a new one at Ham Green car park. This noticeboard will also display signs of the Countryside code. Good use is already being made of the new green bin for dog waste and rubbish.



*Chair of the Parish Council, Sue Wood continued...*

I would like to conclude with a few thanks:

- Councillors – for your commitment and time to ensuring we do the best we can for the residents of Sparsholt Parish.
- Parish Clerk - for taking on the challenge in difficult circumstances
- Ham Green Group - for all commitment to maintaining and conserving one of our beautiful green spaces. We appreciate the extra work that you will be undertaking as a result of the Ash dieback problem.
- The Village Shop – For the continuing support to the village in a time of need. If ever the Shop has proved how valuable it is to this community it is now. Janette and the team of volunteers have shown such dedication in their support to all in the village, long may the shop thrive and we must all continue to use it and keep the doors forever open.
- The Church – Reverend Jax and her team have found new ways to keep in contact with the congregation and hopefully life will return to normal in the very near future. We look forward to the doors being open and the congregation returning and oh how we have missed those bells!
- The school – To the Teachers who supplied lessons to those at home and supported those children of essential workers and happily now have helped all children return to school, we thank you. The community has appreciated the wonderful pictures the children have produced to decorate the telephone box.

The Community as a whole – Lockdown has been difficult for all and Sparsholt rose to the challenge. We are so lucky to live in a beautiful village and to know that there is always someone ready to help if asked.

Thank you all for staying positive and caring for each other.

My apologies if I have missed anyone.

I consider it a privilege to serve this village as a member of the Parish Council and grateful that I am supported by 8 Parish Councillors who give their time freely to all of you.

## Business Grants

Winchester City Council is launching a new grant scheme to help businesses and organisations across the Winchester area to adapt, transform and diversify their operations due to COVID-19. The Transformation, Adaptations and Diversification Fund (TAD) offers grants of up to £5,000 for adaptations, and up to £20,000 for transformation and diversification, and is part of the Government's Additional Restrictions Grant Fund.

This grant will support businesses and organisations to implement any new plans to adapt their premises to serve customers within COVID-19 restrictions guidelines. For example, by offering new take-away services, or if they have plans to diversify or transform their services, products and business model to reach new customers and markets. Awards will be allocated based on the individual business case submitted and organisations may apply for one or both elements of the fund. This is a limited fund and payments will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline for applications is Monday 24 May. To download the full criteria and guidance notes or to complete an on-line application visit [www.winchester.gov.uk/business/business-grants/tad](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/business/business-grants/tad) or contact the Economy team at: [ecodev@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:ecodev@winchester.gov.uk)

## Scam and Fraud Warnings

### On guard – quote from Sparsholt Resident about recent Scam attempts

“I keep getting the Appliance insurance scam, automated call telling me that my internet is to be cut off due to access by unknown foreign activity, automated call from Amazon Prime account has been debited for £99, and automated call telling me my debit card has been used in the last 20 minutes with an amount of £600 debited. (All this in the last week)”

### Look out for Ticketing, Travel and Health Insurance Scams as Lockdown Eases

Fraudsters are poised to target the British public with ticketing, travel and health insurance scams as consumers look to book in much-needed social activities as lockdown restrictions ease, warns UK Finance. The scam alert comes as the Take Five to Stop Fraud campaign publishes guidance on how consumers can protect themselves in the lead-up to further easing of lockdown restrictions from 17 May.

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/holidaymakers-and-festivalgoers-urged-to-be-vigilant-from-scams-as-lockdown-restrictions%E2%80%AFease>

## Ham Green

The second phase of work on dealing with the Ash Die Back disease has recently been started, with urgent safety work comprising the removal of dead or overhanging branches on 6 trees plus part-felling of 1 large tree in the area behind Ham Green Cottage (see photo). The main felling work, of 8 diseased trees, will take place in Autumn once the bird nesting season is over.

The tree has been reduced to about 3m in height, thus providing a wildlife habitat feature and, the nearby clearing will be laid out with log benches and stools, where users of Ham Green can sit and enjoy the tranquillity of the woodland.

The larger area surrounding this clearing will eventually be replanted with young trees to replace those lost during the first phase of felling, as well as a variety of bushes to provide homes and food for the woodland wildlife.

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### Next HGCG Work Day

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Provided that the journey out of lockdown restrictions continues as planned, the next Work Day will be on Saturday 8th May, but it will still be necessary to work in small groups until later in the year. For details, contact [terrydunn9@btinternet.com](mailto:terrydunn9@btinternet.com)




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### Sunrise at Farley Mount

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In case you are wondering where the sunrise photo on the front page came from...

On Saturday, Jane & Terry Dunn set off on an 11 mile walk...at 04.40!!

The reason for the early start was to be able to walk through Crab Wood & West Wood while listening to the Dawn Chorus– it was absolutely wonderful and well worth the early start! They then went on up to the Farley Mount Monument and arrived just in time to catch the sun rising over a distant Sparsholt.



Their journey then continued through Parnholt Wood for the original purpose of the walk...to see the Bluebells. The view through the Beech trees in Parnholt Wood is absolutely stunning when they are out in full bloom, and the photos don't really do them justice, as the sun was still rather low in the sky.

They then went on to Farley Church, where they stopped for a breakfast of cold bacon rolls at around 06.45 and then made their way back home, in time to collect the paper from the Shop at about 09.30, having done 11.7 very cold but joyful miles!!

If you want to repeat the experience you will need to get up earlier – but then it may also be warmer.

## Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021** at 7.30pm. This will be the last Council meeting to 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](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:chair@sparsholtparish.org">chair@sparsholtparish.org</a> <a href="mailto:transport@sparsholtparish.org">transport@sparsholtparish.org</a>	01962 776255
Sue Annesley	Memorial Hall	<a href="mailto:memorialhall@sparsholtparish.org">memorialhall@sparsholtparish.org</a>	01962 776653
John Cooper	Footpaths & Ham Green	<a href="mailto:footpaths@sparsholtparish.org">footpaths@sparsholtparish.org</a>	01962 776753
Lynne Gibson	Councillor	<a href="mailto:councillor@sparsholtparish.org">councillor@sparsholtparish.org</a>	07771 606974
John Little	Communications	<a href="mailto:communications@sparsholtparish.org">communications@sparsholtparish.org</a>	01962 776249
Andrew Osmond	Security	<a href="mailto:security@sparsholtparish.org">security@sparsholtparish.org</a>	01962 776197
Nigel Reid	Sparsholt Shop	<a href="mailto:shop@sparsholtparish.org">shop@sparsholtparish.org</a>	01962 776244
Sue Wakefield	Playground	<a href="mailto:playground@sparsholtparish.org">playground@sparsholtparish.org</a>	01962 776288
Nicola Breen	Clerk	<a href="mailto:clerk@sparsholtparish.org">clerk@sparsholtparish.org</a>	01962 776909 07714614662
City Councillors			
Caroline Horrill		<a href="mailto:CHorrill@winchester.gov.uk">CHorrill@winchester.gov.uk</a>	01962 776844
Stephen Godfrey		<a href="mailto:sgodfrey@winchester.gov.uk">sgodfrey@winchester.gov.uk</a>	01962 884477
Patrick Cunningham		<a href="mailto:pcunningham@winchester.gov.uk">pcunningham@winchester.gov.uk</a>	01962 883887
County Councillor			
Jan Warwick		<a href="mailto:jan.warwick@hants.gov.uk">jan.warwick@hants.gov.uk</a>	07717104236
Member of Parliament			
Steve Brine		<a href="mailto:steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk">steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk</a> <a href="http://www.stevebrine.com">www.stevebrine.com</a>	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](mailto:supportgroup@sparsholtparish.org)

### WEBSITES

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

**NEW WEBPAGES** for Sparsholt Shop:  
[http://www.sparsholtparish.org/index.php?pg=Our\\_Shop](http://www.sparsholtparish.org/index.php?pg=Our_Shop)

*The old website will close on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021*

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](mailto:sally.wesley@btinternet.com)

### Copy Deadline for June 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 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021** please submit all items to [sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org](mailto:sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org)