

# Sparsholt Community Newsletter

## Introduction



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

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

## Village Cleanup

As part of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign:



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

## Village Shop and Post Office

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

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

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

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

[http://www.sparsholtparish.org/Our\\_Shop](http://www.sparsholtparish.org/Our_Shop) where you will find a section on Volunteering.

## Local Elections

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

### Winchester City Council

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

Winchester City Council is now made up of:

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

### Hampshire County Council

**Jan Warwick**, Conservative was re-elected for **Winchester Downlands** with a majority of 1477 on a turnout of 53%.

Hampshire County Council is now made up of:

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

### Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner

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







**SPARSHOLT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**



**103 YEARS OF THE PATRIOTIC POTATO PATCH**

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

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



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

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

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

**Sparsholt Oil Group**

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

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

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

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

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

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

John Wesley, Churchwarden [johnr.wesley@btinternet.com](mailto:johnr.wesley@btinternet.com)

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



**John Wesley Lt Cdr RD VR\* RNR**

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

Days when flags will be flown, restrictions allowing, can be found on the Village Events Calendar

<http://www.sparsholtparish.org/Calendar>

† **Bunting Tossier** is an informal term used in the Royal Navy to describe the sailors who hoist signal flags. Although dating from the period of signalling by flags, it has survived as a general term for naval signallers.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bunting\\_tossier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bunting_tossier)



# Parish Council

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Vacancy for a Parish Councillor**

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

## **Accessible Website**

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

**Ham Green**

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

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

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



**Next HGCG Workday**

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

For further details of our Summer Work Programme, contact [terrydunn9@btinternet.com](mailto:terrydunn9@btinternet.com)

**Other HG News Items**

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

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

**New Map Boards**

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



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







## Parish Council Meeting

Subject to Covid-19 restrictions being lifted, the next Parish Council Meeting is on **Thursday 21st June 2021** at 7.30pm. Council meetings will take place in the Memorial Hall Sparsholt. Please check the parish website for the latest situation.

## SPARSHOLT COMMUNITY CONTACTS

### Parish Councillors

Sue Wood	Chair & Transport	chair@sparsholtparish.org transport@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776255
Sue Annesley	Highways & Memorial Hall	memorialhall@sparsholtparish.org highways@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776653
John Cooper	Footpaths & Ham Green	footpaths@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776753
Lynne Gibson	Councillor	councillor@sparsholtparish.org	07771 606974
John Little	Deputy Chair & Communications	deputy@sparsholtparish.org 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
Vacancy			
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
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### Member of Parliament

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

Sparsholt Shop: [http://www.sparsholtparish.org/Our\\_Shop](http://www.sparsholtparish.org/Our_Shop)

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 July Edition

This is your newsletter so please contribute items of interest, news of events, offers to help and/or photographs. The deadline for the June edition is **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021** please submit all items to [sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org](mailto:sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org)