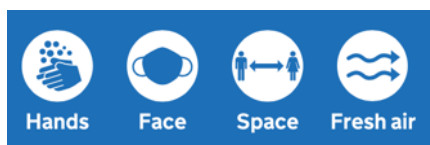


Sparsholt Community Newsletter

Covid Uncertainty Continues

Covid-19 restrictions with some small modifications were continued until at least July 19th. New Delta variant Covid-19 infections are sweeping the country but are not resulting in the same level of hospitalisations and deaths as seen in the previous waves. The remarkably successful vaccine programme seems to be working. People are returning to a new sort of normal, but many will remain reluctant to socialise as Covid can still be caught even if you have been vaccinated twice. It can still be a very unpleasant experience and there is still the risk of Long Covid for those not vaccinated.



There are events planned for the village in the weeks ahead, but these could be subject to change at short notice so please check with the Village Calendar <http://sparsholtparish.org/Calendar> for the latest information.

Village Clean-up

Perhaps the reluctance to socialise was behind the low turnout at the Village Clean-up in June.

However, thanks to those that did volunteer, we were able to clean the roads through the village if not all the footpaths. Many thanks to Year 6 at Sparsholt School for litter picking around the school area. Thanks also to many of you out walking your dogs who collect litter as and when you see it.

Litter pickers reported very little to pick and suggested that the vegetation on the roadsides was too well advanced and hiding the litter. So next year we will return to the clean-up being earlier in the year. This year's had been timed to fit in with the Keep Britain Tidy which was remarkably successful exceeding its target of litter picking a million miles.



Messy Church

Messy Noah Saturday 10th July 2021 4 - 6 pm Sparsholt School field (or Sparsholt Memorial Hall if wet). Numbers are limited and places must be booked at <http://bit.ly/MessyNoah>

NOTE: Bookings close Saturday 3rd July

Winchester Hat Fair

Not strictly a village event but, the popular Winchester Hat Fair is taking place from Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th of July – details available from:

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

Events in July

Saturday 3 – Ham Green Volunteers Work Day

Saturday 10 – “Messy Church” at Sparsholt

Monday 12 – School Inset Day

Thursday 15 – Parish Council Meeting

Friday 16 – School Sports Day

Wednesday 21 – School Summer Showcase

Friday 23 - School Summer Term ends

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 15 August – Music Concert

Monday 30 August – Summer Bank Holiday

Saturday 4 September – Village BBQ & Hog Roast

Monday 6 September – School Autumn Term starts

Sunday 10 October – Music Concert

Friday 22 October – School breaks for Half Term

Saturday tba October – Village Autumn Clean Up

Sunday 31 October – Summer Time ends & Halloween

Please send updates or new event information to

sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org

Shop

Sweetie Friday 8am-4pm continues during school term time.

Winchester

CENTRAL WINCHESTER REGENERATION OPEN FORUM

Since the last Central Winchester Regeneration Open Forum in January, Winchester City Council have been progressing with plans for the site and would love to share their progress with you.

They would like to invite you to their next Open Forum on Monday 5 July, which will be hosted online via MS Teams. They will update you on the work done and the next steps for the project ahead of a Cabinet decision on 21 July, you'll hear from some of the people they've been working with and also have the chance to share your thoughts with the team and ask any questions you may have.

When: Monday 5 July 2021 (7pm)

Where: MS Teams

To register your attendance please email CWRegen@winchester.gov.uk and you will be sent the link and instructions on how to join the session.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO TACKLE FLY-TIPPING



So far this year, Winchester City Council have received 900 reports of fly-tipping. Thank you to everyone who got in touch . They've taken action against 14 offenders in six months and will continue to do so, with court proceedings having resumed after a COVID-19 suspension.

To further tackle the problem and prevent an increase in fly-tipping, they're installing CCTV cameras in known "hot spots" across the district. But they need your continued help, too.

If you find illegally dumped waste, check if it has a sticker attached to it. If it has, the council is aware and will arrange for disposal as soon as possible. If you find any rubbish and there isn't sticker on it, please report it via www.winchester.gov.uk/report , or via **Your Winchester** App (available from Apple or Google App Stores) or call 0300 300 0013.

GRANTS AVAILABLE

We have two community grant schemes currently open for voluntary, community, not-for-profit organisations and businesses:

SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

Do you know a local voluntary or community group looking to buy a piece of equipment or plan an activity? They could be eligible for a grant of up to £500... Find out more <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations/small-grant-scheme>

CROWDFUND WINCHESTER

Match-funding support for organisations of up to £2,000 is available through the Crowdfunder platform, and both businesses and not-for-profit organisations within the Winchester district are invited to apply. Read more at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations/crowdfunding>

TEST AND TRACE SUPPORT PAYMENTS

The criteria has been extended to parents and guardians who are required to take time off work to care for a child or young person <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/benefits/are-you-eligible-for-a-test-and-trace-support-payment>

IT'S BBQ SEASON!



If you're having a BBQ please don't place loose ash in the rubbish. Let the coals cool down, bag it up, and put it in your black refuse bin.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Please make sure your summer party does not turn into a noisy nuisance for your neighbours. Also, if you are lighting a bonfire rather than taking your green waste to the recycling centre then make sure that doesn't become a nuisance too with more people enjoying being outside, airing their washing and hoping for fresh air through open windows.

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/community-safety-and-neighbourhood-services/anti-social-behaviour>

Sparsholt

The Sparsholt Bell Ringers Ringing Chamber Spring Clean

On April 17th a single was muffled and tolled for Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh’s funeral but the ringers are looking forward to continuing the tradition of ringing for weddings, services and marking other national occasions.

Before Bell Ringing can resume at St Stephen’s church, Sparsholt, the local bell ringers gave the Ringing Chamber a really good spring clean. The door to the chamber has been closed since March 2020 when ringing last took place and the ringers closed the door after their last practice. Since that time the bells have been left to hang and the only visitors were small insects.



First everything that was moveable was taken outside and given a good wipe down. So many carpets, pin boards, leaflets and pictures had got damp and mouldy over the past year and had to be just thrown away. The chamber itself was thoroughly swept and cleaned, and doors polished. It actually smells nice in there now!

The Ringing Chamber is now all clean and sparkling and just waiting for the ringers to use it. It had been hoped that ringing would restart at the end of June, but in view of the recent rise in Covid Delta cases this may well have to be put on hold for a few weeks. The band are really keen to get back to ringing and hopefully you will hear the bells at St Stephens rung again soon.

Jenny Watson

Seen around Sparsholt



A pair of hares



Juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker



Buzzard



Muntjac Deer

Many thanks to Howard Annesley for the brilliant photos.

Sparsholt Music

SPARSHOLT MUSIC

Afternoon Concert

Sunday 15th August, 3pm
Sparsholt Village Hall

Piano - voice - saxophone

and more...

- CPB Bach
- Schubert
- Duparc
- Poulenc
- Rachmaninov
- Liszt
- Sondheim
- Novello
- and more...

Tickets £5 in advance online
or from the Sparsholt village shop from August

Tea & cake available £1 each

www.sparsholtmusic.org

One letter

Plans are well underway for the first Sparsholt Music village concert on Sunday 15th August at 3pm (subject to lifting of lockdown restrictions). Performers include:

- Mark and Fiona Zarb-Adami from the village
- Ashton Gray who runs the Old Vine pub in Winchester and also teaches the piano to some villagers
- Fiona's 18-year-old daughter Maria who will be going to study singing at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire from September
- Fiona's 22-year-old son Nick Willsher who is currently studying jazz saxophone, piano and composition at the Royal Academy of Music
- Tim Morris, professor of Physics at Southampton University and
- Gilly Slot a local piano teacher.

Proceeds will be used to support the village.

Tickets are £5 and are available in advance from August. For more information or to get in involved please visit: www.sparsholtmusic.org or email Fiona at: sparsholtmusic@gmail.com

WELSH WANDERINGS

Once more, Jane & Terry Dunn have been out and about on another short adventure.....this time on a long weekend visit to our daughter and her partner, who live on a small farm in Wales just to the NW of the town of Brecon.

Our chosen route took us through Salisbury and the Wylie Valley to Bathampton Toll Bridge, and on up to a quiet spot overlooking Bath, where we enjoyed a picnic lunch in the sun. Then, the M4 beckoned but very soon we joined a queue of traffic, starting just before the Bristol spur road! After almost an hour of stop-start driving, we finally crossed the M5 where suddenly the road opened up and stayed fairly quiet for the rest of the journey.

We were reminded that driving in this part of South Wales is such a pleasure – very little traffic most of the time, superb road surfaces with no potholes and.....no rubbish along the verges! Wales may be considered financially poorer than England, but everyone there seems to have much more pride in their environment – a very refreshing change indeed.

Our accommodation was booked at the 17th century “Kings Head Inn” in Llandovery, where we were looked after very well by the staff, who couldn’t have been more helpful at all times. We were also lucky enough to see an Elephant Hawk Moth in the pub garden (photo below), a very rare and unusual sighting.



From the “Kings Head”, a 15-minute drive up into the hills took us to the farm where our daughter now lives. Pictured below, it is sited at the end of a long gravel drive and is invisible from the road. Being very high up, it has amazing views towards the Brecon Beacons and Pen y Fan (on a clear day!) and, the peace and quiet there is absolutely wonderful.



Property prices are so much lower in Wales and, we would be very happy to live there enjoying the peaceful isolation but....I once studied in Wales for 2 years and I remember just how wet and cold it can be in the Winter and, at my age now, I fear that I probably wouldn’t cope with it very well!!

On our first full day there, it was lovely to chat and catch up after so many months of not meeting, and to just enjoy the sunshine and the stunning views. Next day, we set off up a long, steep track opposite the farm, which took us to the highest point of the surrounding area and provided us with even more stunning views for miles in all directions.

The narrow path down through a forest into the next village, was even steeper than the climb up and, at times we almost slid rather than walked down through the trees! From there, the return journey was mostly along the banks of a small river and provided some cool relief on such a hot day. However, the final “sting in the tail” was having to walk up a very steep lane for almost a mile to get back to the farm – all in all a very hard but enjoyable 6-mile walk!

All too soon, it was time to say goodbye to Wales and return home – back to everyday life and an in-box full of hundreds of (mostly) junk emails. C’est la vie!!

Scam and Fraud Warnings

Ghost Brokers

Action Fraud report that in a YouGov survey commissioned by the Insurance Fraud Bureau just 15% of people have heard of a 'ghost broker'. **Do you know what one is?**

Have you ever heard of a 'ghost broker'? No, we are not talking about things that go bump in the night – this is a lot scarier. 'Ghost brokers' are fraudsters who sell fake or invalid car insurance policies. Victims are sold fake insurance documents for a policy that does not exist, or for a genuine policy that has been set up using false details to lower the price of the premium.

How do 'ghost brokers' operate?

Fraudsters lure victims in with the offer of cheaper insurance premiums, usually via social media or by word-of-mouth. These individuals or groups pose as middlemen for well-known insurance companies, claiming they can offer you legitimate car insurance at a significantly cheaper price.

This type of fraud is typically carried out either by forging insurance documents, falsifying your details to bring the price down, or by taking out a genuine policy for you but cancelling it soon after.

Often, the victim is not aware that they have been scammed until they are involved in an accident and try to claim on the policy.

Who do 'ghost brokers' target?

'Ghost brokers' tend to target vulnerable communities, including members of non-English speaking communities who may not have full knowledge of UK insurance and laws, as well as young people looking for cheaper insurance deals.

Last year, Action Fraud received 694 reports of 'ghost broking', with almost a third (29%) coming from victims aged 17-29. The reported losses for these victims alone totalled £113,500, with each individual losing an average of £559.

Figures also indicate that over half (58%) of all reports in 2020 were submitted by men.

What could happen if I drive without valid insurance?

As policies sold by 'ghost brokers' are either invalid, non-existent or fraudulent, this means that the driver is technically uninsured, meaning that you could face:

- £300 fixed penalty notice
- Six points on driving licence
- Vehicle being seized and crushed

How can I protect myself from 'ghost brokers'?

There are simple steps that you can take to spot the signs of these scams and avoid being taken for a ride by 'ghost brokers':

- 'Ghost brokers' often advertise and communicate via social media, online forums and messaging apps. If a broker is only using a mobile phone or email as a way of contact, this can be a sign of this type of crime. Fraudsters do not want to be traced after they have taken money from their victims.
- They may also try to sell insurance policies through print adverts in pubs, clubs or bars, newsagents
- If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. If you are not sure about the broker, check on the Financial Conduct Authority <https://register.fca.org.uk/s/> or

the British Insurance Brokers' Association website <https://www.biba.org.uk/> for a list of all authorised insurance brokers.

You can also contact the insurance company directly to verify the broker's details. You can also check to see if a car appears to be insured on the Motor Insurance Database website <https://ownvehicle.askmid.com/>

- If you think that you have been a victim of a ghost broker, you can report your concerns to Action Fraud at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or on 0300 123 2040.
- You can also contact the Insurance Fraud Bureau via its confidential Cheathline on 0800 422 0421 or on the IFB website <https://insurancefraudbureau.org/>

Vaccine Certificate Scam

We have been made aware of a Covid Vaccine Passport scam email going around that purports to be from the NHS and informs recipients that they can apply for their "Digital Coronavirus Passports"

Clicking on the link within the email, takes you to a convincing but fake NHS website that asks for personal and payment details (for an admin fee).

The website has since been taken down, but in case similar emails/websites appear can you please circulate the attached alert to your residents, members, groups and mailing lists.

And just to reiterate, your vaccination status is obtained FREE through the NHS App, website or by calling the NHS on 119.

More information can be found on the gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/demonstrating-your-covid-19-vaccination-status-when-travelling-abroad>

Please note that any Phishing scams can be reported to SERS (Suspicious Email Reporting Service): report@phishing.gov.uk

Parish Council Meeting

The next regular Parish Council Meeting is on **Thursday 15th July 2021** at 7.30pm.

Council meetings will take place in the Memorial Hall Sparsholt.

SPARSHOLT COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Parish Councillors

Sue Wood	Chair & Transport	chair@sparsholtparish.org transport@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776255
Sue Annesley	Highways & Memorial Hall	highways@sparsholtparish.org 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	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
<i>Vacancy</i>			
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

WEBSITES

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

Sparsholt 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

Copy Deadline for August 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 23rd July 2021** please submit all items to sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org