Sparsholt Community Newsletter

Introduction

Just when we thought everything was going so well and we could look forward to more events and further relaxation of the rules, we now discover that Covid-19 is back with a vengeance. Nonetheless, some events have been able to proceed in a Covid-safe manner. The Macmillan Cake and Coffee morning was a tremendous success and the Village Cleanup went ahead and found the side benefit of lockdown was that our verges had far less litter than in previous years only to be spoilt by some fly tipping in Dean Lane.

Macmillan Coffee and cake



Thank you for everything you did to help make Coffee Morning a huge success. Together we raised

£1,221.30 Every single item baked and every coin dropped in a box has helped change lives.



Nothing stops a Macmillan Coffee Morning. Every penny raised will

help Macmillan do whatever it takes to be there for people living with cancer, right now.

The Sparsholt Macmillan Coffee and Cake day was a huge success with so many cakes being provided, they were still being sold in the shop on Saturday.

Thank you to the organisers and everyone who supported this event by baking, serving, buying and/or eating cake whilst of course maintaining a safe distance with no more than 6 in a group.

Shop and Post Office

The Shop and Post Office continue to provide an essential service to the village and have recently been nominated for The Mayor of Winchester's Local Hero award that recognises and celebrates the organisations and individuals who have given outstanding service to the people of the Winchester district during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is our opportunity to say a public thank you for all they have done.

Opening times

Shop	Post Office
8-1 weekdays	9-12 weekdays
8-12 Saturday	
	Sat and Sun
Sunday closed	closed

Volunteers Needed

The shop is still looking for more volunteers to help serve in the shop during our opening hours. Anyone who can spare an hour or two on a weekly or more casual basis, please contact either Victoria (07809 432101) or Janette in the shop.

lage Cleanup



The village cleanup went ahead as planned and a steady stream of volunteers collected equipment and scoured the 20 routes in and around the village. A big thank you to everyone who participated. An enthusiastic team of volunteers took on the challenge of cleaning up the Memorial Hall and its surrounds.

It was rather pleasing to see that there were far fewer items of rubbish than in previous years, other than for the fly-tipping on Dean Lane.

These events are encouraged by Keep Britain Tidy and supported locally by Winchester City Council and idVerde, the UK's top grounds maintenance and landscaping provider, who loan out the necessary equipment and supply rubbish bags.

Fly Tipping on Dean Lane



This fly tipping incident happened sometime between 5pm on Thursday 24th September and midday on Friday 25th September has been reported to Winchester City Council.

Did anyone see it happen? Please report any information you may have to <u>sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org</u>

Waste and Recycling Centre

To book a slot at the centre see:



https://customer.bookingbug.com/?client=hantsrecyclingcentres#/services

Covid-19 Infections and the Symptom Study App

Daily new cases of COVID

Total numbers of new daily cases across the UK

19,247



While levels of infection in the south east are low there seems to be very little scope for complacency.

This chart from the Covid Symptom Study App and swab tests on 26th September shows the range of infection levels across the UK.

The COVID-19 Symptom Study app has been developed by health science company ZOE. 4,245,600 participants have downloaded the app and are using it to regularly report on their health, making it the largest public science project of its kind anywhere in the world. App data is being analysed in collaboration with King's College London researchers.

Download the app from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

See <u>https://covid.joinzoe.com</u> for more information.

The NHS Covid-19 (Track and Trace) App

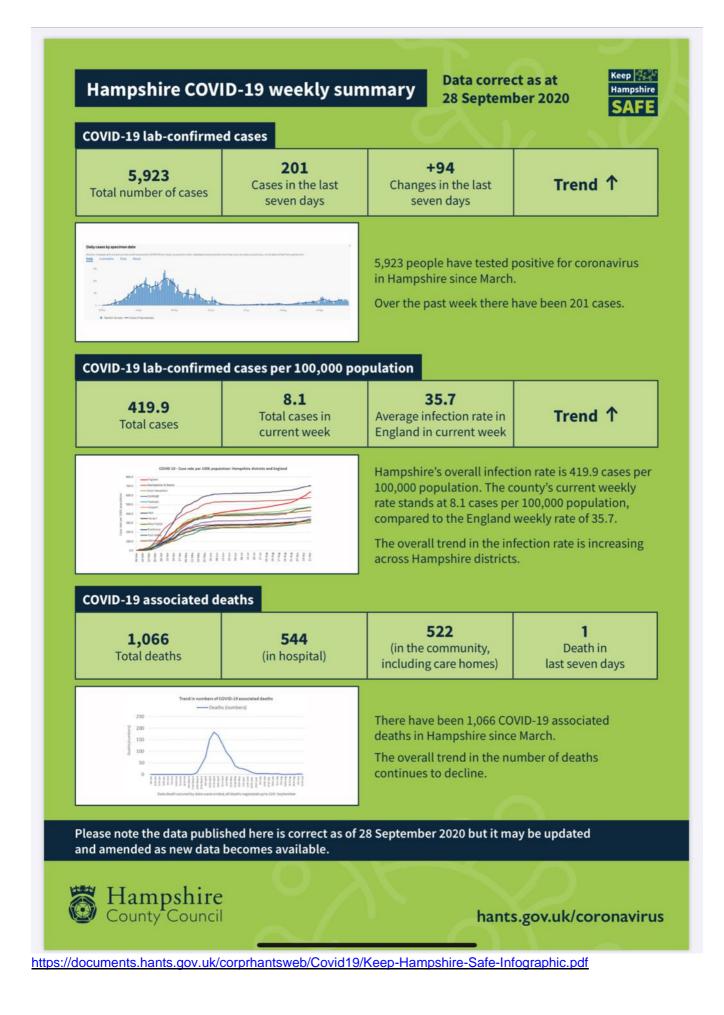
The new NHS COVID-19 app, (not to be confused with the NHS App) is now available to download for free in England and Wales, is the fastest way to see if you're at risk from coronavirus. The faster you know, the quicker you can alert and protect your loved ones and community. The app has a number of tools to protect you, including contact tracing, local area alerts and venue check-in. It uses proven technology from Apple and Google, designed to protect every user's privacy.

But do be aware that if you have an older phone you may need to buy a new one as the app only works on:

- Android version 6 (Marshmallow) and above
- Apple iOS version 13.5 and above

Other devices that cannot access the Google Play Store will not be compatible. The app is only available on smartphones, and cannot be used on a smartwatches or tablets.

To download the app, visit the App Store on your iPhone, or the Google Play Store on your Android phone and search for "NHS Covid-19".



Autumn Events

Remembrance Sunday in Sparsholt

Remembrance Sunday is 8th **November 2020**. There will be a Service of Remembrance that day but it is not yet known whether it will be in the Church or by the War Memorial. Details will appear in the next newsletter and on the Church board, when these are known.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The **Sparsholt Annual Parochial Church Meeting** is to be held on **Friday 30th October** at 7pm, in St Stephen's Church. All parishioners are welcome but prior booking is required and face masks will need to be worn.

Please contact Sally Wesley

on sally.wesley@btinternet.com or 01962 776476, by Friday 23rd October if you would like to attend. Papers for the APCM will be sent out by email in advance so please make sure that you pass your email address to Sally when you make your booking.

Sparsholt 100 Club

The next 100 Club draw was scheduled to take place on 9th October at the Harvest Supper. Sadly, because of the Coronavirus this popular event has had to be cancelled. Fortunately, the 100 Club's autumn draw can still be made, but in a "Covid safe environment" on the 8th of October. We will advise Members who this quarter's lucky winners are in the following few days.

Poppy Appeal



Every year during The Poppy Appeal fantastic volunteers distribute over 40 million poppies, last year raising over £45 million to help The British Legion's vital work in supporting the Armed Forces community. However, this year, as a result of COVID-19, many volunteers are understandably unable to assist, and reduced footfall in highstreets and train stations means **Poppy Appeal income is at real risk**. **This year, more than ever before, every poppy counts.**

For **Poppies in the Post** visit <u>https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-</u> <u>involved/ways-to-give/poppies-in-the-post</u>. The Poppy Appeal will send you a pack containing 20 poppies for you to give to your friends and family, collecting donations in aid of their vital work.

Events Calendar

We are working on a new **online events calendar** and will publish the link in the next edition of the newsletter. An extract of the coming months will also be included in the newsletter along with any further details provided by the organiser.

Harvest Festival Service

The Sparsholt Harvest Festival will be held in St. Stephen's Church at **10.00am** on **Sunday**, **11th October**. There will need to be social distancing within the Church so numbers will be limited. All seats for services must be booked via the Benefice Office: 01962 880845 or <u>office@downsbenefice.org.uk</u>. Face coverings are required by law to be worn. As with previous years, we will be donating Harvest goods to the Winchester Nightshelter. A list of the goods they require is attached. If you would like to donate goods, whether or not you are planning to come to the Harvest Service, please could you leave them in the Church porch between Sunday 4th October and Saturday 10th October.

Friends of St Stephens (FoSS)

The long serving, and hardworking Treasurer of FoSS and the 100 Club Michael Williams, is retiring and moving to Somerset. Both organisations owe him a huge vote of thanks for all he had done over many years. If you would like to contribute to Michael's retirement present please make cheques payable to 'Ian Hay' and either leave at the Village Shop in an envelope marked for his attention, or send to him at: Victoria Cottage, Dean, Winchester SO21 2LP.

Burger Van



Jon, the burger man will be in the Sparsholt Memorial Hall Car Park from 4pm until 8pm on Thursday 8th October 2020.

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

About Winchester

Local Maths Tuition

Yousef Esmat, who lives in Woodman Close would like to offer maths tutoring for anyone needing help due to the pandemic.



Yousef has recently gained grade A in A level maths and can tutor GCSE maths no matter what grade is aimed for.

He is available most of the time, contact him on <u>yousef.esmat7@gmail.com</u> to agree terms and book a session.



The About Winchester E-newsletter gives residents frequent updates on local issues, community initiatives, council news and virtual events and so much more.

Here is a link to the latest About Winchester newsletter http://www.sparsholtparish.org/GetPDF.php?pdf=AboutWinchester Autumn2020

You can sign up to receive **About Winchester** by emailing resident@winchester.org.uk to start receiving regular local news straight to your inbox.

NOTE: Despite objections from rural parishes Winchester decided to change the way they collect Garden Waste and will be charging <u>a fee each year</u>. See <u>https://www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/garden-waste-collection</u>

Planning for the Future - Consultation



The Planning for the future consultation proposes reforms of the planning system to streamline and modernise the planning process, bring a new focus to design and sustainability, improve the system of developer contributions to infrastructure, and ensure more land is available for development where it is needed.

Have your say at...

https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MHCLG-Planning-for-the-Future/

This consultation will close at 23.45 Thursday 29th October 2020.



CPRE has long argued that the voices of local people need to be more included in planning developments so that communities can ensure that they get the developments they need and in the right places. But the new proposals aren't clear on how this democratic approach to planning can be ensured. See https://www.cpre.org.uk/news/major-planning-reforms-criticism/ for details

Letter to Sparsholt Community

From Julie Milburn the new Principal and CEO of Sparsholt College Group



Assuming the role of Principal and Chief Executive of Sparsholt College Group was always going to be my biggest career challenge to date but stepping into the role in the midst of a national crisis has certainly kept me busy.... That said, I started my teaching career as a sports lecturer over 20 years ago at a college in Durham and have many experiences to draw upon...!

The College Group incorporates our land-based Sparsholt campus, Andover Vocational College & 6th Form Centre, the University Centre Sparsholt, Sparsholt Corporate College (supporting employers) and Andover Town Football Club (never once did I expect to become Chairman of a Football Club!). Each aspect of the business has required a different response during the pandemic to continue to meet the needs of the learning community it serves, whilst also maintaining a Covid secure environment to protect our staff and students.

Having a Risual Microsoft Academy on campus meant that our staff and students were already well equipped with the necessary digital skills to open up a fully operational online campus 'overnight' in March, when we closed our doors to face to face teaching. However, our Sparsholt campus never fully closed.... Home to the National Zoo Academy, Equine Centre and working farm (with more than 2,000 animals on site) meant staff were extremely busy maintaining the high standards of animal husbandry and welfare we expect, without the usual support from our students.



risual education was formed to help address the digital shortage through collaboration with Microsoft and our industry expertise to create a centre of excellence for IT in each LEP area in England and in each Regional Learning Partnership in Wales. These centres are formed in partnership with an FE College to develop the route from education into employment.

I am delighted at how our college community responded so positively, and continues to do so now that we have, once again, opened the campus to students. It's been great to see the level of enthusiasm from staff and students, all keen to continue their studies, particularly the practical and technical aspects which were missing. Of course, we are operating differently this year, with lessons starting at 10.30am, subject groups in 'bubbles' or 'households' and most social activities now virtual or socially distanced.

Whilst we continue to deal with the challenges of this pandemic, we are not losing sight of the need to continue to look to the future in order to deliver the best possible experience for our students who study and reside on the Sparsholt campus. We've recently launched the Sir Mark Todd Rider Performance Studio, established a new wetland area and opened a new outdoor rifle range. This year we will fully launch the £2.5million Animal Health and Welfare Research Centre (part funded by the EM3 LEP), a great new resource for current and future students. We really care about our environment and are well on our way to carbon neutrality with exciting plans to develop this through our Green Agenda, and once time permits the College will be working closely with Mrs Hanratty and her team at Sparsholt Primary School to develop this 'golden thread'.

I look forward to working closely with, and supporting, Sparsholt Parish and its community.

Julie Milburn

New Term Underway

Sparsholt College and University Centre Sparsholt



As a leading provider of a range of land-based courses, and home to The National Zoo Academy it is business as usual which is now in the safe hands of new Principal and CEO, Julie Milburn who leads the team in the task of assisting students of all ages back into safe face to face learning, essential practical sessions, apprenticeships and industry work placements. The Sparsholt team have been working hard to implement a comprehensive range of safety measures to ensure all students and staff feel safe and secure in classrooms, communal areas and whilst using the site's state-of-the-art facilities.



Students have already jumped behind the wheel of tractors at the college's working farm with its annual maize harvest, navigated kayaks on the site's lake, and aimed down their sights at the newly built 100m Outdoor Rifle Range on site.



Mucking out and daily routines continue at Sparsholt's Equine Centre whose residents have been getting to know the new cohorts of equine students. The 1200 animals at the BIAZA Licenced Animal Management Centre have enjoyed the company of students returning to their daily tasks and students have been excited to see the progress of the AMC's £2.5 million development which is still continuing under the project management of building contractors Brymor. Over the summer, UCS has adjusted the capacity of its higher education classrooms to provide for social distancing and invested in new technology to enable students to join live taught sessions from a remote location if they prefer to remain off site. A programme of essential hands-on practical sessions is also in store for students to enjoy as part of their TEF Gold standard curriculum.

There has also been some fantastic news for Sparsholt Alumni, with an ex-Agriculture student Bertie Newman up for Young Farmer of The Year, and Horticulture alumni Kate Smith winning 1st at the Farnham Secret Garden competition.





Arboriculture graduate Sam Kehoe has been awarded the David Cheshire Prize.

Blooming Wild owners and Sparsholt alumni Lauren and Will Holley were also recently featured in The Daily Telegraph in a feature all about their thriving eco-friendly nursery in Somerset.

It was also great to see our Horticulture students' work proudly displayed in the new therapeutic garden for military mental health patients at Parklands Hospital. Find out more on their website: <u>sparsholt.ac.uk</u> or <u>sparsholt.ac.uk/university-centre</u>

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Climate Change in Hampshire

Hampshire County Council Climate Change Strategy 2020-2025

O Hampshire

harts.gov.uk/Sinatechange

Our County Councillor Jan Warwick, as Climate Change Advisor to the Executive reports: "Climate change has already had a significant impact in Hampshire. Flooding and extreme weather events alone have caused damage to homes, infrastructure and our natural environment, with far reaching consequences for us as an authority and for our communities. Engaging with Hampshire's communities and working with partners is key to ensuring this strategy is delivered and effective action is taken. We must embed climate change thinking into everything we do, and I am encouraged by how much

significant activity is taking place across Hampshire." See <u>https://documents.hants.gov.uk/environment/Hampshire-</u> <u>Climate-Change-strategy-2020-2025.pdf</u> for details

Bird Watching

The last time that Terry and Jane Dunn wrote about our birds was in May 2012 – how time flies when you are having fun!!



We are still feeding our birds (and the occasional passing rat!) regularly at what is now a quite significant cost. However, as I don't smoke, drink or play golf, I consider this activity to be my hobby and we are happy to "carry on feeding". The main down-side is that we have an ever-increasing flock of Feral & White Doves, which cause havoc to the grass underneath the feeders, as they paddle around in the mud whilst hoovering up the seeds dropped by the small birds.

A few years ago the flock numbered around 4-6 birds but has grown increasingly, to the point where there can now be 35-40 birds sitting on our roof, waiting for feeding time! Not only do they hoover up the dropped seeds, but they have also learnt to hang on the feeders (we think they learnt this trick from the Jackdaws & Collared Doves, who feed similarly).

Despite the presence of the large birds, many small birds still come to feed, and we greatly enjoy the variety and quantity that live in and around our garden. The House Sparrow flock is still resident in our lvy bush and their daily "shouting" sessions are highly amusing! We also see the odd Dunnock, a Robin or two and brief glimpses of a little Wren hopping from plant to plant. Our back garden is regularly visited by a twittering, flittering flock of up to 9 or 10 Long-tailed Tits – such pretty little birds.

At the moment, the Finches are relatively few but will no doubt increase as the Spring grows warmer. We currently see a few Goldfinches, a couple of pairs of Chaffinches and the odd Greenfinch, plus the occasional visit of a male Bullfinch with his amazing colour.

Soon we hope to see the Yellowhammers back in the garden, as well as our regular Starling flock and an increasing number of Blue Tits and Great Tits. No doubt we shall also be treated to the sight of the Sparrowhawk flashing through our garden, scooping up a small bird or two as he goes. A sad sight but it is all part of Nature's food chain and is ecologically better than losing small birds to the local hunting cats!

Further afield, we have been waking up most mornings to the joyful sound of a Song Thrush, welcoming the day from his perch over at the Hall car park. It will not be long before he is joined by the Greater Spotted Woodpecker that frequents the same area and can be seen hammering on a wooden power pole. When the Hazel nuts are in season, the "Woody" comes to our garden for a nut feast and wedges each nut into the top of our power pole so that he can devour it more easily, a very smart bird!

Ham Green Conservation Group

Tree works have been commissioned by the Parish Council and will be taking place to fell those trees with Ash Die Back that represent the most risk to the public. There may be times when restrictions are in place during the works to ensure public safety. Please respect any notices that may be posted at the site. Otherwise it is hoped that the following programme of volunteer activities will take place.

Ham Green Conservation Group Winter Activities Programme 2020 – 2021

The programme is subject to alteration, so tasks carried out may vary from those listed below, as the condition of the footpath and bridleway dictates work to be done and these tasks are also weather dependant.

Sunday 11th October 2020

Final mow as regime, plus general clearance of footpath & bridleway edges and overhead. Remove any remaining Hogweed seed heads by hand. Coppice old Hazel selectively along the footpath, stack ready for fencing & burning next month.

Saturday 7th November 2020

Overall cut of Butterfly area (except Teasles) and strim the bank and ditch. Overall cut of New Hedge area & scallops. Cut and top new hedges in all areas, as required. Burn stored brash in Upper Footpath area, select suitable logs for making rustic benches and log pile habitats.

Sunday 6th December 2020

Make & install rustic benches in New Hedge area & scallop. Cut & tidy Glade area and scallop, trim rear growth and plant selected trees. Start clearing main Hazel area, and begin coppicing, using cut sticks & brash to build up the dead hedge in the Glade area.

Saturday 9th January 2021

Clear & coppice the area behind the Car Park, store brash for dead hedging or burning next month. Inspect all large trees throughout Ham Green, ring & remove ivy as needed, and identify any other tree work that needs to be done later.

(Annual Group Meal at Sparsholt Memorial Hall – approx. 1pm) - TBC

Sunday 7th February 2021

Continue with coppicing in the main Hazel area, and clear & burn old brash from all along the Bridleway. Replace the old bench (by the footpath Interpretation Board) with a new rustic bench. Check all new hedges, clear bases and weed.

Saturday 6th March 2021

<u>Might be the last bonfire</u>?? Clear & coppice the area behind Ham Green Cottage, as needed. Ring & remove ivy on large trees and remove small Sycamores. Check and consider reinstating posts that mark the key points on the information leaflet for the Common. Identify suitable sites for future Photographic Surveys.

Meeting Place and Time

Ham Green car park, SO21 2PA (SU 435 305) at 09.00 a.m. (to approx mid-day).

New Volunteers

New volunteers are always welcome, and no experience or tools are needed – just old clothes, sturdy footwear & work gloves. Training and safety briefings will be provided, plus tea, coffee, and biscuits (when Covid-19 restrictions permit!)

Contact

Terry Dunn on (01962) 776543/ 07778 966843 for further information.

STAYING SAFE AND AVOIDING FRAUDSTERS

Government Advice about Covid-19



Potential Green Homes Grant Scams

A new energy efficiency scheme was announced by the government earlier this summer and is due to open for applications at the end of the month. But be wary of any unexpected calls, texts or social media adverts about the scheme's vouchers – they may be scams._We've heard about homeowners getting scam calls, texts and emails telling them they were eligible for the grants before their details were known. Others were asked to supply their personal information. See https://www.which.co.uk/news/2020/07/beware-green-homes-grant-scams/ for details

Stop Unwanted Junk Mail

Most of us hate junk mail and while it's irritating, in the worst cases it can be intimidating and menacing. Whether it's nonstop leaflets from your local pizza restaurant or 'unaddressed' spam mail, here's a short guide on what to do if you do receive unwanted post through your letterbox. See <u>https://www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/advice/how-do-i-stop-</u><u>unwanted-junk-mail</u>

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday 15th October at 7.30pm. Council meetings will take place remotely in accordance with regulations issued under the Coronavirus Act 2020. All members of the public are welcome to join the virtual meeting. However, to protect the meeting from any inappropriate content those wishing to join the meeting are requested to contact the clerk@sparsholtparish.org in advance and no later than 17:00 on the day of the meeting in order to obtain the necessary connection details.

SPARSHOLT COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Local Councillors and MP

Parish Councillors				
Sue Wood	Chair &	chair@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776255	
	Transport	transport@sparsholtparish.org		
Sue	Memorial Hall	memorialhall@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776653	
Annesley				
Pete		councillor@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776011	
Chadwick				
John	Footpaths &	footpaths@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776753	
Cooper	Ham Green			
John Little	Communications	communications@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776249	
Andrew	Security	security@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776197	
Osmond				
Nigel Reid	Sparsholt Shop	shop@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776244	
Sue	Playground	playground@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776288	
Wakefield				
Stewart	Deputy Chair &	deputy@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776419	
Wooles	Highways	highways@sparsholtparish.org		
Nicola	Clerk	clerk@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776233	
Breen				
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	0207 219	
		www.stevebrine.com	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 - <u>supportgroup@sparsholtparish.org</u>

WEBSITES

Sparsholt Parish: <u>http://www.sparsholtparish.org/</u> Sparsholt Shop: <u>http://www.sparsholtshop.com/</u> Downs Benefice: <u>http://www.downsbenefice.org/</u>

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 November Edition

The deadline for the November edition is **Friday 24th October 2020** please submit all items to <u>sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org</u>