# Sparsholt Community Newsletter

# **Merry Christmas**



A very Merry Christmas to all our readers and a big thank you to all contributors to the Newsletter.

While we think Covid is all over, it still has a few more tricks to play so remember to



Photo: Howard Annesley

# Village Events

Mini Christmas Market in the Memorial Hall

#### Sunday 5th December 10am – 3pm

Lots of stalls with Christmas present ideas; mulled wine and soup

All welcome - Masks Advised

#### **Other Events in December**

Sunday 5 – HG Volunteers Work Day Sunday 12 – Candlelit Carol Service in St Stephens Friday 17 – School Autumn Term ends Sunday 19 – Sparsholt Music Concert Tuesday 21 – Winter Solstice Saturday 25/Sunday 26 – Christmas Day/Boxing Day Monday 27 – Bank Holiday Tuesday 28 – Bank Holiday Friday 31 – New Year's Eve

#### Dates for your 2022 Diary

Saturday 1 January – New Year's Day Sunday 2 January – St Stephens Patronal Festival Monday 3 January – Bank Holiday Tuesday 4 January – School Spring Term begins Saturday 8 January – HG Volunteers Work Day Thursday 20 January – Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 25 January – Burns Night Monday 31 January – School Inset Day

#### **Useful Links**

The Calendar is frequently updated and can be viewed at: <u>http://www.sparsholtparish.org/Calendar</u>

Please let us know if you are planning an event by sending in the details, using the link below:

sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org

#### Shop and Post Office Festive Opening hours

Shop Usual opening hours (8-1 Mon—Fri; 8-12 Sat) PO Usual opening hours (9-12 Mon—Fri) except:

- Christmas Day—Shop & PO CLOSED
- Boxing Day—Shop & PO CLOSED
- 27th & 28th December—Shop 10—11am (PO Closed)
- New Year's Day Shop 10-11 (PO Closed)
- 3rd January— Shop 10 11am (PO Closed)

# Sparsholt

# Remembrance Service in Sparsholt on Sunday 14th November 2021

The Service on Remembrance Sunday was well-attended; many of the congregation found it very moving. It began on the War Memorial Green where poppies created by Sparsholt School pupils had been "planted".



The 2 minutes Silence at 11.00am was started and ended by a toll of the Church bell by John Cleverley;

John Wesley piped the RN 'Still' and 'Carry On'.



Major Sam Wesley SG laid the wreath, kindly provided by the Memorial Hall Committee.

Fifty people then moved to the Church for the rest of the Service, led by Lay Worship Leader Sally Wesley. The collection was taken in aid of the Royal British Legion and a donation of over £400 made to that charity.

If anyone would like any other Military charities to be considered as beneficiaries from this collection in future years, please let Sally Wesley know (776476).



We look forward very much to welcoming you on Sunday December 19th at 3pm in the village hall for the Sparsholt Music Christmas Concert. The programme contains a full mixture of seasonal and classical music including a couple of carols for everyone.

We are delighted that two of our own Sparsholt villagers will be performing for the first time; Catherine Tucker on the 'cello and John Wesley singing a Gilbert and Sullivan favourite. The lovely Melanie will be singing 'O Holy Night', Mark and Fiona will be performing a Christmas piano duet, Jackie our violinist will play a well-known gypsy dance and Tim Morris will play a virtuosic arrangement of Gershwin's 'I've Got Rhythm' on the piano. Our guest saxophonist Nick Willsher is also hoping to make it down from London.

Tickets are now available either online (preferable) or from the village shop with cash or card. The tickets are now £7.50 but this includes refreshments (tea and cake or mulled wine and mince pie).

For this concert only there will be small raffle. Raffle tickets are 50p each so you could add a strip of 5 for £2.50 and bring your total to £10! Please buy raffle tickets from the shop with your concert ticket or order online and add the total to your ticket price. They will be on the door with your ticket. Any raffle prizes gladly received by Mark and Fiona at Clareholme next to the church. Profits for the village.

#### ▲ www.sparsholtmusic.org

#### Missing Statue of a Deer

A lovely stone deer statue has gone missing from Wendy Dean's front garden. Her house is tucked away up in the corner of Woodman Close, so it is very strange that the statue has gone missing. The item is of significant sentimental value as it has been in her neighbour's garden for 30 years. It was gifted to Wendy when her neighbour had to move into a care home. It would be great if it was returned.

# Is travel really bad for the climate crisis?

Studies by Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis (WinACC) of greenhouse gas emissions show that in the Winchester District road travel makes up the biggest proportion of our carbon footprint. These emissions can be significantly reduced by choosing wisely how to travel.

The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions created whie travelling vary considerably depending on the mode of transport used. The latest government figures show how average emissions vary per kilometre travelled, for example:

Mode	Grammes of CO₂e per Km	Unit
Long Haul Aircraft	214	Person
Domestic Aircraft	273	Person
Small car (petrol)	191	Vehicle
Medium Car (diesel)	205	Vehicle
Average battery-electric car	69	Vehicle
Medium sized motorbike (petrol)	128	Vehicle
Local Bus	127	Person
Train	43	Person
Bicycling/walking	0	

Clearly if more than one person travels in a car then you can divide the emissions by the number of people to calculate emissions per person per km. Similarly the 'local bus' figure is based on a bus carrying 13 passengers, so a bus that is occupied by more passengers will give lower emissions per passenger. Train emissions are an average for the whole train network in 2019 (before Covid-19).

#### What changes could you consider making?

We all live very different lives and a change in travel habits that would work for one person may not be feasible for another. There may not be a bus that goes to the right place at the right time. Changing travel can essentially be broken down into two categories:

- 1. reducing the distance you have to travel by changing where you shop/work/take holidays / go to school.
- 2. changing how you travel by lift sharing / reducing the size of your car / using public transport/ flying only when it is unavoidable.

Cycling and/or walking on short journeys would be a great change and good for your health too!

#### Help plan the future for travel in Hampshire

We don't just use transport - we can help shape it. Hampshire County Council (HCC) is our transport authority. To help people leave the car at home, HCC is looking at how to improve bus services. They will soon consult the public for views on what we want. Look out for a consultation in December and January about the "Winchester Movement Strategy". Later in the New Year, they'll consult on the Local Transport Plan 4. Even though this is called "local" it will plan schemes across the whole of Hampshire for the next decade.

This is your chance to tell HCC what we need from them to help us all to travel in more climate-friendly ways. Just a couple of ideas off the top of my head!

Why not reduce the size of our village bus during off peak times?

Living so close to the Winchester bus depot can our village bus service be converted to electric power?

See the poster at the end of the Newsletter inviting comment on the Winchester Movement Strategy.

Don't forget to have your say!

John Cooper

#### **Sparsholt Bell Ringers**

On 19 July the Sparsholt bells rang out for the first time since before the March 2020 lockdown. It was an important moment — an audible sign that we were all returning to normal and that we might begin to regain the many things that we had lost. But then that's what church bells do. They mark the important moments in the lives of individuals, communities and the nation as a whole. Weddings, funerals, the important festivals like Christmas, the transition from the old year to the new and momentous national events such as the ending of wars, and the passing of monarchs. and you may have heard the muffled bells ring on a week or so ago for Remembrance Sunday.

We take the sound of bells for granted. They have been in the background of many people's lives for most of their lives. They are part of our heritage, a connection with our history. The majority of bells that you hear today have been ringing week after week for hundreds of years.



The bells ready to go to Whitechapel Foundry for refurbishment – May 1995. Source St Stephen's Archive



... and reinstalled in December 1995 Source St Stephen's Archive

The sound of church bells as we know it is a peculiarly English sound. In Europe for example, bells are common but they sound very different because they are uncontrollable and untuned so they produce a cacophonous clangour, whereas our bells are tuned to a musical scale and can be controlled with split-second precision as to when they each sound. Of the sets of bells that can do this, there are over 5,000 in England and only 300 or so in the rest of the world. Sadly that quintessentially English sound is one that may not endure. There are fewer ringers now than there were and few are young. Already bells are falling silent across the land because they cannot muster enough ringers. Even here in Sparsholt we often struggle to get a full complement for Sunday services and weddings.





The answer of course is for more people to take up ringing. Although it takes some years and a degree of aptitude to excel, it is does not take long to learn to control a bell well enough to be able to ring for weddings and services and to play a valuable part in keeping the sound of bells alive. It is a sociable activity and immensely satisfying to be able to balance a bell that weighs as much as a small car on the end of a piece of rope! It is also a wonderful way of getting involved and contributing to your local community.

If you would like to learn more then please contact either John Cleverley on 01972 776325, or Jenny Watson on 01962 808167. Message from Steve Lewis, General Manager, Lainston House Hotel



Hello! It is my pleasure to introduce myself as the General Manager of Lainston House Hotel.

I joined the hotel in the summer as the business was finally welcoming back leisure, corporate, wedding and dining guests after a long time out. As well as having the most beautiful environment in which to work every day, I have the privilege of leading the hotel into the next stage of its development and can assure you of my full commitment to make Lainston House a place that we, and you, are proud to have as a local hospitality venue. We are well aware of the role we have historically played in the community and as we move forwards we are very keen to see old friends again and meet new ones. We can assure you of a clean, safe and welcoming environment and a smile and warm welcome from the team.

Although you may be familiar with the hotel, I would be delighted to meet you and your families personally, and have the opportunity to reintroduce you to our team and the fantastic facilities we have. We are proud to say that we not only survived, but thrived in recent months. We have taken this very unusual time to invest in our incredible hotel, rooms and restaurants, and look after our staff, operating at a level that we can cope with, which not only protects our staff but ensures excellent service for our guests. You will agree I am sure that the heartbeat of any good hospitality venue is the staff and culture and we are so pleased to have retained so many great people in the past few months.

As we emerge out of a very difficult time for the hospitality industry, we are proud to be operating at the very highest standards, with an enthusiastic team, a fabulous range of dining options and a promising future. We are embracing the opportunities that the new business and leisure landscape is offering and are confident that with the support of our clients we can move Lainston House into a new era of luxury hospitality. As well as the award winning Avenue restaurant, you may not be aware that we have recently opened an exciting second dining outlet - The Wellhouse, a brand new Woodfired restaurant on site. While we are not yet fully open to the public, it would be our pleasure to welcome you to the restaurant, and would ask that you contact the team directly should you wish to come and dine with us. In addition to the two restaurants we are also very proud of the Season Cookery School, which offers indoor and outdoor classes and has a schedule of more than 100 exciting experiences to choose from in 2022. Season is overseen by Phil Yeomans and his team and will be welcoming guest chefs throughout the year.

You may be a regular visitor to the hotel and our grounds, or you may have never visited before. Whatever the case, I hope that our fresh approach, wide range of events and activities will appeal to you and that you feel that you want to come and get to know us again.

It is very clear that there is a renewed appetite for adventure closer to home and taking advantage of what is on our doorsteps. Family time, a newfound appreciation for the great outdoors, a renewed love affair with our own country and the desire for new experiences is what we are seeing and we have adjusted our offering accordingly to create the perfect environment to meet these needs.

We have 50 decadent bedrooms, 63 acres to explore, the two restaurants, and will be launching our Lainston Live programme in 2022 – a range of events offering everything from wine tasting to outdoor cinema nights, monthly Kitchen Garden tours to Outdoor Feasting tables, plus a very exciting series of "An evening with…" featuring some special guests.

#### Our first "An evening with..." on March 17th invites guests to spend an evening in the company of Mark England, the Chef de Mission for Team GB.

Mark has been a key figure in the success story of Team GB since London 2012, leading teams at both the Summer and Winter Games. In 2016, Mark was awarded an OBE for his services to Olympic sport. As a guest of Lainston House, Mark will be talking about how Team GB works to create the perfect culture and environment for the 350+ chosen athletes to achieve their full potential while representing GB across a multitude of sports. It's not an easy task! The evening will also include a Q&A session and will include drinks and canapes for guests. Full details of the Lainston Live calendar will be available on our website very soon and I will also update via the Sparsholt newsletter. In the meantime, if you are interested in attending the event please contact me directly, there will be a limited numbers of tickets and we anticipate that they will sell quickly when released to the public.

#### Lainston House and B Corp

In addition to this amazing range of activities, Lainston House, as part of the Exclusive Collection, is proud to have announced its certification as a B Corp, the first hotel group in the UK to achieve the certification.

Exclusive Collection joins a growing group of companies reinventing business by pursuing purpose, as well as profit. The company has been certified as having met rigorous social and environmental standards which represent its commitment to goals outside of shareholder profit.

We are now part of a community of 4,000 businesses globally who have certified as B Corps. The B Corp community in the UK, representing a broad cross section of industries and sizes, comprises over 400 companies and includes well-known brands such as The Guardian, innocent, Patagonia, The Body Shop and organic food pioneers Abel & Cole. We are proud to have been part of a vibrant community such as Sparsholt for so long, but recognise that there is more that can be done. Moving forwards, I welcome the opportunity to meet with you and talk about your businesses, communities, families and how we can help. Whether it is for an intimate family event, relaxed Sunday afternoon tea, woodfired cooking experience or business meeting we want to be the venue of choice for our local community.

The team and I are committed to preserving all of the things that everyone loves so much about the hotel while adding a dash of fun and energy along the way. We look forward to meeting you and wish you and your families a very happy and healthy holiday season.

Yours in hospitality, Steve Lewis General Manager <u>steve@exclusive.co.uk</u>

#### Seen around Sparsholt









Photos: Howard Annesley

# **Parish Council**

#### **Next Parish Council Meeting**

There is no meeting in December. The next Parish Council Meeting is on **Thursday 20th January 2021** at 7.30pm.

Council meetings will take place in the Mosaic Room at the Memorial Hall Sparsholt.

# Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Ideas and Volunteers Needed

As most of you will be aware, next year marks Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee - 70 years on the throne. Some of you may remember the very successful Golden and Diamond Jubilee Street parties held in Sparsholt in 2002 and 2012.



Photo from: St. Stephen's Church Archive taken in 2002

The Parish Council are considering various ways that the Platinum Jubilee could be marked, given that none of us is likely to see another Platinum Jubilee. There is an extendedBank Holiday from 2-5 June, and we are seeking views as to whether something like a street party on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> (the date nominated for Nationwide Big Jubilee Lunch) would be popular.

The Parish Council gave all the children in the school and villagea commemorative mug for the previous Jubilees and would be interested in whether we should do something similar this time.

#### The Street Party

As part of Sparsholt's Jubilee celebration a street party was held at lunch time on Monday 3rdJune.

Despite a light drizzle the road looked suitably decorative with bunting, balloons, Jubilee hats and streamers. Villagers arrived with umbrellas and picnic baskets, many wearing Jubilee costumes. Recipes for 'Coronation chicken' werecompared and lunch washed down with cups of teafrom the WI

The Mayor, John Steel, proposed the Loyal Toast.There were prizes for fancy dress for thechildren and each child under 12 in the villagewas presented with a Golden Jubilee mug

The Celtic Dance Players provided music for the event and the party ended with dancing by the WarMemorial.

#### <u>Ideas</u>

We would welcome your views on:

- A. **Venue**. Should it be a street party on Woodman Lane, or say, on the Green in Woodman Close?
- B. Time. Should it be lunch or tea?
- C. **Commemorative** Mugs. Should we give them to all school & village children
- D. Other ideas to celebrate or mark the event?

#### **Volunteers**

As you can imagine, to make any event a success we need lotsof people to help organise it. Are you prepared to volunteer? The more the merrier.

In the first instance, please contact **Sue Wakefield** on her parish council email <u>playground@sparsholtparish.org</u> withideas or offers to volunteer.

# Church



'Nativity' by Philippe de Champaigne Photograph by kind permission of Lady Bridgeman

#### CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2021 - ST STEPHEN'S, SPARSHOLT WITH LAINSTON

Sunday 12th December 6.00pm Candlelit Carols with Readings

> Friday 24th December 4.00pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10.00am Family Service

Sunday 2nd January 10.00am St Stephen's Patronal Service & Benefice Family Communion

We are still managing the risk of COVID - if you would like to attend any service in church, please contact the Benefice Office on 01962 880845.

We look forward to celebrating the Festive Season with you

Churchwardens: Alastair Barron (01962 776844) and John Wesley (01962 776476)

### Ham Green

The November Work Day was again very busy and the Group continued with more major clearing work, preparing the 15 sites chosen for replanting in the Phase 1 Ash dieback felling area. The actual replanting, previously scheduled for the w/e of 27/28 November, has been delayed but should still be completed before Christmas.



The new tree and bench, which have been donated by HH/Skanska, were finally installed and handed over on Friday 5th December – as shown in the photos below.

The tree is a Sweet Chestnut and, together with the 15 trees due to be planted soon, should make a great improvement to the HG habitat.

#### Next HGCG Work Day

The next Work Day is planned for Sunday 5th December and, the main work will be to continue the clearing of other areas further along the bridleway, including the area where tree T27 was felled. Here, there is a lot of



heavy timber still to be cut up and stacked, plus brash (small branches) to be broken up and burnt.



For further details of our Work Programmes, contact terrydunn9@btinternet.com

#### **Other HG News Items**

The Phase 2b Ash Dieback felling programme has now been completed but, the felled trees still need to be cut up and stacked tidily, or moved to other areas of HG where they can be turned into new benches.

For the future, we have noticed that there are a few more Ash trees in very poor shape, that have not previously been listed for trimming/felling and, these will be monitored throughout the coming months to ensure the safety of HG users.



# Scam and Fraud Warnings

Police issue warning to Hampshire residents to remain vigilant after spate of fraudulent activity targeting elderly community



#### Hampshire

Constabulary is warning local residents across the whole of Hampshire to remain vigilant after an increase in incidents of courier fraud since the end of October and throughout November.

The crimes commonly

involve an unexpected call from someone who purports to be a police officer or a staff member from their local bank, or an employee from an internet / phone provider.

They then tell the victim that their account has been subject to fraudulent activity, or is in danger of being closed and then request the victim assist them with the ongoing investigation, with this involving:

a. being asked for detail about their financial accounts and bank cards,

b. being sent to their bank to withdraw money, or being asked to buy high value goods, or

c. grant the caller access to their computer or phone, by downloading an application.

In recent cases we have seen a 'courier' being sent to victims home address in order to collect the goods, cash or bank cards; but in some previous offences, victims have also been directed to send the items or money to a nominated address.

Hampshire Constabulary received six reports of suspected courier fraud between Tuesday 2 November and Tuesday 16 November from communities in Alton, Liphook, Petersfield and the surrounding areas, with those residents losing a combined £17,600 to fraudsters. The offences, which have been targeted at residents between the ages of 75 and 88 have resulted in the victims losing an average £3,000 each.

While there were a further seven reports at the end of October this year in which residents of Gosport, Hayling Island, Fareham, Portsmouth and Southampton lost a combined £17,500 to courier fraud scams.

A Hampshire Constabulary spokesperson, said: "The public are our first line of defence in offences of this nature. It is really important for them to understand that the police, government agencies such as HMRC and banks will never make unsolicited calls to them, in order to try to obtain financial information, ask them to withdraw money from their bank, or to surrender money, goods or their bank cards.

"These incidents can often have a significant impact on victims – both emotionally and financially – as they come to terms with the fact that they have fallen for a scam, and the financial losses that come with it. However, we want to ensure that those individuals do not become repeat victims, educate them and their loved ones and ensure that fraudsters can no longer take advantage of Hampshire residents.

"If anyone receives a call of this nature, they should not engage with the caller and hang up.

"Hampshire Constabulary are committed to bringing an end to offences of this nature and will take steps to identify and prosecute the individuals responsible."

Please remember that;

• Police officers, banks and other organisations such as HMRC will never call people in this way and ask you to withdraw money or disclose personal or financial information. If someone does do this, please hang up – it will be a scam.

• If someone calls claiming to be a police officer, ask for their ID number and police force. Wait at least five minutes before calling back. A genuine police officer will not mind waiting while you check.

• Never hand money or your bank card/pin to someone at the door to be sent off elsewhere.

• Fraudsters often try to make victims buy iTunes vouchers or high end jewellery, which they will then sell to make profit. Genuine organisations will never contact you in this way to pay bills or debts.

• If you are a friend, relative or carer of someone you think might be vulnerable to this type of scam, please speak to them about this advice. You might be the only person who can stop them from being scammed.

# If you or someone you know has been a victim of fraud, report it to us by calling 101. If a crime is in progress, dial 999.

You can make yourself aware of this type of scam and how to protect yourself by visiting the Action Fraud website (<u>https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/</u>) or by calling them on 0300 123 2040.

#### Top Tips to shop online securely this Christmas



Online shopping scams cost shoppers £15.4 million over the Christmas period last year.

New data from Action Fraud, the national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime, reveals that 28,049 shoppers

were conned out of their money when shopping online over the Christmas period last year – an increase of almost two thirds (61 per cent) when compared to the same period in the previous year.

Ahead of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Action Fraud is warning the public to take extra care when shopping online as reports of online shopping fraud have continued to surge. Here are some simple tips to help you and your family enjoy a secure online shopping experience this festive season.

#### Where to shop

Buying from an online store you haven't used before? Carry out some research first, or ask a friend or family member if they've used the site and about their experiences before completing the purchase.

#### Your information

Only create an account if necessary or to save you effort if you're going to use that site a lot in the future. Be cautious if the website asks you for details that are not required for your purchase, such as your mother's maiden name or the name of your primary school.

#### Payment method

When it's time to pay for your items, check there's a 'closed padlock' icon in the browser's address bar. Use a credit card when shopping online, if you have one. Most major credit card providers protect online purchases.

#### Phishing

Some of the messages you receive about amazing offers may contain links to fake websites. If you're unsure about a link, don't use the it – go separately to the website. Report suspicious emails you receive by forwarding them to: <u>report@phishing.gov.uk</u>. Report suspicious text messages by forwarding them to: 7726.

#### **Email accounts:**

Make sure that your really important accounts (such as your email account or online shopping accounts) are protected by strong passwords that you don't use anywhere else. Need help changing your email account password? You can use these links to find step by step instructions: Gmail, Yahoo! Mail, Outlook, BT, AOL Mail.

#### If things go wrong

If you've lost money to an online shopping scam, tell your bank and report it as a crime to Action Fraud (for England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or Police Scotland (for Scotland). By doing this, you'll be helping to prevent others becoming victims of cybercrime.

For more of the government's latest advice on how to stay secure online, visit the Cyber Aware website: <u>https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware</u>

#### Beware of thefts of Catalytic Convertors

5 thefts of Catalytic convertors from cars on recent nights in Stockbridge. Beware! There is lots of info on line about how you can try and reduce the possibility of this happening .....

#### Safe Password

Whether it's your Facebook, Amazon, or Netflix account, the explosion in popularity of online apps and services means more and more of us have to remember an increasingly long list of passwords.

Unfortunately, some of us cope with this challenge by resorting to practices that leave our data, devices and money at risk - by using the same password across multiple accounts, or by creating simple passwords that could easily be guessed by hackers.

Bad password practice is more prevalent than you might think - the UK's National Cyber Security Centre carried out analysis of passwords leaked in data breaches and found that more than 23 million users worldwide used 123456 as a password. You can read more about it here: https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/most-hacked-passwordsrevealed-as-uk-cyber-survey-exposes-gaps-in-onlinesecurity

Here are some top tips that will make your life easier and your online accounts more secure:

#### 1: Creating memorable passwords

A good way to create strong, memorable passwords is by using 3 random words. But remember, don't use words that can be guessed (like your pet's name). You can include numbers and symbols if you need to. For example, "RedPantsTree4!"

#### 2: Saving passwords in your browser

Saving your password in your browser means letting your web browser (such as Chrome, Safari or Edge) remember your password for you.

This can help:

- make sure you do not lose or forget your passwords
- protect you against some cybercrime, such as fake websites

It is safer than using weak passwords, or using the same password in more than one place.

Here are some useful links on how you can start saving passwords in your browser: Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Firefox, Safari.

#### 3: Email account passwords

If a hacker gets into your email account, they could:

- reset your other online account passwords
- access personal information you have saved about yourself or your business

Your email password should be strong and different to all your other passwords. This will make it harder to crack or guess.

Need help changing your email account password? You can use these links to find step by step instructions: Gmail, Yahoo! Mail, Outlook, BT, AOL Mail.

For more of the government's latest advice on how to stay secure online, visit the Cyber Aware website: https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware

### Winchester

#### A Digital Winchester District



Access to high quality digital services plays a growing and critical role in the economic health and resilience of the District. With the COVID-19 pandemic the ability to embrace digital technology has become even more vital. With this in mind Winchester City Council is keen to understand the changing digital needs of residents, employers, innovators and investors.

This will be achieved by exploring:

What a digital Winchester means for the different communities of Winchester district, including residents, businesses and community groups, organisations, students.

The benefits of 5G to the city and district. The experience of digital connectivity during COVID-19.

The council are inviting you to take part in this work and there are a number of different ways that you could get involved, including a call for evidence, online survey and online debate panel.

The Council has set out four challenges it is seeking to answer through this work. They are:

#### The challenges are:

#### 1. Infrastructure

- What are the gaps in digital provision and how can they be solved?
- What are the barriers to digital connectivity?
- What infrastructure provision will achieve greatest impact and benefit?

#### 2. Access

- What are the varying level of experience of broadband and mobile services across the district
- Do our various communities have equal access to broadband and mobile services?

#### 3. Opportunity

- What new business and social opportunities can be achieved through fast reliable broadband and 5G technologies?
- How are opportunities constrained? What will help overcome these constraints?
- What are people trying to achieve digitally?

#### 4. Future potential

 What technology and digital achievement could benefit the local economy and communities in the future and which are not currently available within the district?

- How would solutions which are not currently available aid COVID-19 recovery?
- What considerations should be taken in order to future proof provision?

#### **Call for evidence**

You wish to provide relevant research and information from articles, published papers documents and opinions to build up an evidence base for these challenges, a form can be downloaded from the link on the right side of this page to send us.

As the evidence based relating to the challenges is developed for an evidence library, which will be available on this webpage.

Send your evidence here:

https://winchester.citizenspace.com/economy-andarts/a-digital-winchester-call-for-evidence/

#### **A Digital Winchester Survey**

In order to understand the changing digital needs of residents, businesses, organisations, employers, innovators and investors please complete this short survey which should take around ten minutes. The results will be used to inform council policies and work with partners.

To take part in the survey, click here: https://winchester.citizenspace.com/economy-andarts/digital-winchester/

#### Panel debate

The online event had expert speakers and local witnesses debating the key challenges outlined.

Winchester City Council held the digital debate on Tuesday 23 November at 5pm to help shape the future of the digital economy.

During the 90 minute session attendees looked at four challenges that have been identified as tools to understanding the digital needs of those who live and work in the Winchester District: digital infrastructure, access, opportunity, and future potential.

A range of key decision makers and influencers joined the debate, providing them the opportunity to hear first -hand where the issues, challenges and opportunities are within the Winchester district.

The debate was held on an online conference.

If you are interested in finding out more about this please contact the Economy team on the following email: <u>ecodev@winchester.gov.uk</u>.

#### Outcome

The outcome will result with a series of findings that answer the challenges listed above.



Email: info@warmerhomes.org.uk

#### FREE SOLAR PANEL SYSTEMS FOR LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

#### **REFERENCE CODE TO APPLY: WHLAD1C21**

/inchester

Dear Homeowner,

Winchester City Council have been awarded additional funding through the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme (<u>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-homes-grant-local-authority-delivery-successful-local-authorities</u>) to offer **fully funded** installations of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Panels on homes within your area. In addition, all solar PV installations will be offered fully funded insulation measures, such as cavity wall or loft insulation\* (where appropriate) to help you further reduce your household energy bills.

Your property has been identified as potentially suitable for fully funded solar panels, through analysing publicly available energy efficiency data found within your home's Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). Installing solar PV panels on your home can help to save you money on your electricity bills and cut down your home's carbon emissions. An average property could expect to savearound £200 a year on their electricity bill, and 400kg of carbon dioxide emissions.

#### **Eligibility for funding**

- Your household must have a gross annual income of £30,000 or lower.
- Your property must have an Energy Efficiency rating of E or lower (if you are receiving this letter, it is because you have been identified as potentially having this rating).
- The property is owner-occupied. Funding is not available to private rental tenants, social rental tenants or landlords.
- Your property must not have already received Green Homes Grant funding.

#### Apply today to avoid disappointment!

This funding is offered on a first-come-first-served basis and is only open until the **30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.** Applications will take no longer than 5 minutes.

- Apply online: <u>www.warmerhomes.org.uk</u> (please use the reference code at the top of this letter to access the application form)
- Call us (freephone): 0800 038 5737

Please note: all installations will be subject to a survey to determine suitability and technical feasibility. The specification/size of the solar PV system installed will be at the discretion of the scheme administrators.

Yours Faithfully,

Warmer Homes Project Team

\*Where a property is viable for an insulation measure, but this is refused by the applicant without good reason, Warmer Homes reserve the right to withdraw the application.

# Hampshire

#### Hampshire History Trust seeks new Trustees

Hampshire History Trust (CIO), the charity which runs Winchester's Heritage Open Days, is searching for trustees to join their supportive and welcoming board, in particular those with finance experience and an interest in the role of Treasurer.

The role of Treasurer would involve monitoring the financial standing of the charity, overseeing financial riskmanagement practices, cash-flow, income streams, and management of financial resources. Key skills include: financial qualifications/experience, knowledge of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, good IT skills, analytical skills, ability to communicate and explain financial information to others. Specific knowledge of charity finance, law and insurance is a bonus.

Trustees serve in a voluntary capacity but with the satisfaction of supporting a distinctive and highly regarded heritage organisation.

# Closing date for applications: Monday 20th December 2021 (Interviews: January 2022)

In addition to Heritage Open Days, Hampshire History Trust runs free and low cost history and heritage educational projects for the public benefit, such as the podcast channel 'Hampshire HistBites', throughout the year.

The Trust would also like to hear from other individuals with different skill sets who are interested in exploring future board level roles with the Trust.

For further information about the Trust and its activities please visit <u>https://hampshirehistorytrust.com/</u> or email Nicky Gottlieb (Chair) via <u>info@hampshirehistorytrust.com</u> (Hampshire History Trust Charity number: 1191377).

#### **COVID Booster Jabs**

Vaccines give high levels of protection from COVID-19 but this reduces over time, so it is vital that vulnerable people get a COVID-19 booster vaccine to protect themselves.

If you are eligible, get your flu vaccine and booster jab as soon as you can...

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-boostervaccine/ Healthwatch Hampshire

# local healthwetch working together

Share your experiences of accessing GP (General Practice) services in the last six months

#### Who are Healthwatch?

Healthwatch Hampshire is the independent champion for people using health and care services in Hampshire. We listen to what people like about services and what they think could be improved and share their views with those who have the power to make change happen.

#### What issues are people facing?

We've heard that these new ways of accessing GP services have worked well for some people, allowing them to save time and get the help they need, quickly. But for others it's been more difficult, time consuming and frustrating to access support when they need it.

#### How you can help.

We've already run a survey for GP staff to understand how their roles have changed during the pandemic, what practices do well, and what challenges they face.

Now we need to hear about your experiences of accessing GP services so we can help the NHS understand what is working well and what could be better, so that together we can find solutions.

Please help us by completing our questionnaire here: <u>https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FT46JX/</u> and tell us about your experiences of accessing GP services in the last six months. We'd like your feedback on how you contacted your GP practice, how you booked an appointment and how your appointment went.

If you need this questionnaire in another format or version, please contact Healthwatch Hampshire on 01962 440262, email

enquiries@healthwatchhampshire.co.uk or go to www.healthwatchhampshire.co.uk

The results of this survey will be collated and put into a report and shared with NHS services and organisations to help shape the way services are developed in the future. All feedback is anonymous.

The questionnaire should take no longer than 20 minutes to fill in. The closing date for the survey is Friday 31 December 2021.

# Highways Maintenance Newsletter



October 2021

This is the time of year when, generally, we start to see the weather patterns changing and so the beginning of October marks the start of the winter season for the Highways team. Hampshire Highways is always well placed in being ready for snow, freezing temperatures, or whatever the winter season brings, and this year is no exception. Our salt barns are full and we have 45 modern gritting lorries and sufficient numbers of qualified HGV drivers, all with advanced driver

training, ready to be deployed to treat our roads and keep Hampshire moving. This also includes having the extra resources necessary to cope when demand peaks, or is prolonged, and allows for resilience to cover for driver absence.

Salt treatments are prioritised in line with our **Winter Maintenance and Severe Weather Response Plan**. Our first priority routes account for around 30 per cent of the entire county road network — 1,796 miles of road — and these carry the majority of all traffic. They comprise main 'A' class roads, many 'B' class roads, access roads to emergency services establishments and other critical infrastructure, and also areas of high traffic concentration.

More information can be found on our website: https://www.hants.gov.uk/ transport/roadmaintenance/ severeweather

#### **Countywide Statistics for September 2021**

<b>301</b> Emergencies attended	59,055 Square metres of carriageway resurfacing	<b>17</b> Operation Resilience schemes completed
<b>13,797</b> Gullies and other drainage cleared	10,500 Square metres of surface dressing and micro asphalt	<b>175</b> Arboriculture jobs completed
9,912 Square metres of footway repaired/resurfaced	<b>8,420</b> Potholes repaired (including extra Find and Fix gangs*)	5777 Other Jobs completed (outside of all works shown)

\*These repairs were recorded differently on our system. This is an approximate figure.



AWAY AINTENANCE

\*These repairs were recorded differently on our system. This is an approximate figure.

# Have your say on transport proposals

Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council invite you to share your views on ten proposed transport improvements, developed as part of the Winchester Movement Strategy.

Comments are also invited on a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for the city.

The proposals are intended to help people travel more sustainably in Winchester and if implemented would result in a lower carbon, greener and healthier city.

\*0300 calls are usually included in most landline and mobile call packages and if not, cost no more than calls to normal home or business landlines.

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The proposals include:

- a new park and ride site on the north side of the city;
- improvements to public spaces and for pedestrians;
- · bus priority measures;
- high-quality cycle routes into and across the city centre;
- · changes to city centre parking.

Find out more and complete the online survey from Monday 6 December to Friday 11 February at:

hants.gov.uk/ winchester-movement-strategy

Or request a paper copy of the survey by calling 0300 555 1388\*.

M3 junction 9 Improvements Scheme Update

Hampshire

ounty Council



Further to the public consultation earlier in the year, a public consultation summary report has been uploaded to the National Highways webpage and may be found here: <u>https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/south-east/m3-junction-9-improvements/</u>

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## SPARSHOLT COMMUNITY CONTACTS

#### **Parish Councillors**

Sue Wood	Chair &	chair@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776255
	Transport	transport@sparsholtparish.org	01962 770233
Sue Annesley	Highways &	highways@sparsholtparish.org	770052
	Memorial Hall	memorialhall@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776653
John Cooper	Footpaths &	footpaths@sparsholtparish.org 01962 77	776752
	Ham Green		01962 776753
Lynne Gibson	Councillor	councillor@sparsholtparish.org	07771 606974
John Little	Deputy Chair &	deputy@sparsholtparish.org	776240
	Communications	communications@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776249
Andrew Osmond	Security	security@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776197
Nigel Reid	Sparsholt Shop	shop@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776244
Sue Wakefield	Playground	playground@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776288
David Brown	Councillor	councillor2@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776182
Nicola Breen	Clerk	clerk@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776909
	CIEIK		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 <b>883887</b>

#### **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

Contact email address for volunteers and requests for support - supportgroup@sparsholtparish.org

#### WEBSITES

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

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 <u>sally.wesley@btinternet.com</u>

#### Copy Deadline for January 2022 Edition

This is your newsletter so please contribute items of interest, news of events, offers to help and/or photographs. The deadline for the January 2022 edition is **Friday 24th December 2021** please submit all items to <u>sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org</u>