

Sparsholt Community Newsletter

Coronation Festivities

Sunday 7th May 2023 will be forever etched in the collective memory of Sparsholt, not just because there was an amazing celebration for the King's coronation, but because later into the evening the village green witnessed its first ever conga dance round (and round) the memorial! Joking aside though, it was an absolutely fantastic day which will be remembered for a very long time.

Only five months ago the village shop association committed to organising a village event to mark the coronation and also help raise some much-needed funds to ensure the shop can stay open to serve us all. After all the planning, co-ordination and time from the many different people involved, we were able to celebrate in style.

Firstly, drinks on the Green for everyone, the vast majority of whom were dressed in red, white and blue to get into the mood. This was followed by close to 300 people singing the national anthem together, led by Fiona and Mark. Then Debbie and her team managed to serve a delicious sit-down lunch to 250 people, with Debbie even managing to sit-down herself! There was a fantastic atmosphere created by being able to share a meal together.



Following lunch, 'Sparfest' began with live music that continued into the evening, with locals such as Brian, Chris and Abby taking the stage. We also had a professional jazz singer whose session kicked off the dancing. Then onto 'The Great Sparsholt Bake Off' where we saw some friendly competition, judged by Ralph, Helen and Rosie which also meant we were all able to enjoy cake for the rest of the afternoon with our tea (and lashings of Somborne sparkling rose! – a must try Ed).

Then the general mood took a turn, changing to one of determination, competition and focus as 'Sparcrafts' got under way and some 22 well-loved (if not so well trained!) canine companions dazzled us with their prowess and control. After what must have been literally minutes of training, they performed tricks such as 'paw-raising', jumping up at their owners and lying down. The exceptional talent was judged by Dave, Wendy and Emily and the discipline and agility shown by owners Pete and Adrian was also recognised with prizes, as they dived through hoops and leapt over the fencing in a (largely failed) bid to 'lead by example'.

With activities such as the scavenger hunt, biscuit crown decorating and the giving out of Commemorative Coins by the Parish Council, the kids were all able to enjoy themselves too. Then the adults put on their dancing shoes and danced into the evening, chatting with neighbours and enjoying the company of all the wonderful people who live in our village. This was a fantastic reminder about how important and how much fun it can be, spending time with those people who live closest to us.

If we were going to mention everyone who we needed to thank for their part in making the day such a success, we really would have needed two pages in this magazine.

From the Village Shop Association (AKA Charlie's Angels)





Lots more photos of the Coronation Festivities were sent in. These will be collated into a 'Parish Archive' and a link published so that they can be accessed. If you have any photos that you would like to see included please send them in.

Shop and Post Office

The eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed a return of homemade cakes and sandwiches to the shop. We have a merry band of 18 bakers making sure that there is always a piece of cake and a sandwich waiting for you.

Looking for some spring cooking inspiration? How about trying this **NEW POTATO, SPRING GREENS AND PRAWN FRITTEDA**



A frittata is a light Italian stew of spring greens. This version uses new potatoes, spring greens and prawns for a quick and easy supper. How about pairing it with a glass of Rose, maybe our first of the season? The Domaine de la Vieille Tour at £13.99 in the shop would complement well, and of course all other ingredients for the supper can be picked up at the shop too.

Sparsholt 100 Club

The next Draw will take place at **The Plough Inn on Friday 26th May at 6.30pm**, this replaces the Coronation Lunch Draw as we felt it would not be appropriate for the occasion.

Looking forward to seeing you there. Let's hope summer will have arrived!

Ukraine Support

Debbie and Elliot Caldwell would love your support please.

We have offered to source and drive out a 4x4 vehicle to the Ukrainian border in a couple of weeks time. This will also be filled with food aid, which is obviously still desperately needed in Ukraine, along with methods of delivery. This will be the 16th trip made by a group of UK volunteers since February 2022 delivering aid via a Polish church on the border of Ukraine. They have requested urgent need for 4X4 vehicles to deliver into the war zones in Ukraine.

We have just acquired an old Land Rover Freelander, which Eddie from Hampshire Diesel Services has very kindly offered to service before we leave!

We will travel in convoy with similar vehicles and the cars and aid will then be taken into Ukraine by the local Polish church volunteers and we will fly home.

Below is the link to the fundraising page ...any support would be very gratefully received.



<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/caldwell>

Help raise £2499 to buy and deliver a Land Rover Freelander 4X4 to Ukraine for aid convoy use. The car has been bought and will be driven from the UK. Thank you.

Tell Me Tuesday - 23rd May BOOK TALK and BOOK FAIR!

Parents and members of the Community are welcome at 2:45pm.



Bridget, Lead Advisor from the School Library Service, will be talking about some new book titles and delving into a range of captivating new fiction and non-fiction texts.

We are incredibly excited that this event coincides with our Book Fair and after-school Book Café! At 3:15pm - PG Wells Pop-Up Bookshop and Book Café will be open to visitors!

New Location for the Aluminium Recycling Bin

Following a very engaging talk by Bonnie Stagg (pictured right) at the School Tell Me Tuesday event on 16th May, the Aluminium Recycling Bin has been relocated next to the Shop – behind the Telephone Box.



HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT AIR AMBULANCE

Aluminium Recycling

Yes Please - loose in the bin

- Drinks cans (crushed)
- Cleaned pet food containers
- Wine bottle screw tops
- Cleaned aluminium coffee pods
- Cleaned foil food containers
- Bottoms of used tea lights
- Empty deodorant cans
- Foil lids from Yoghurt pots ONLY if they stay scrunched up – if they re-open they are not Aluminium

Yes Please - each type bagged separately

- Bottle tops
- Jam jar lids
- Old wiring (no need to remove plugs)
- Medication blister packs

No thanks

- Food cans
- Sweet wrappers

IF IN DOUBT, DON'T PUT IT IN PLEASE

Sparsholt Music

The Spring concert took place in the village hall on Sunday 16th April. It was a classical music feast, which included a piano trio for the first time, along with beautiful singing by Melanie and amazing clarinet virtuosity by Claudio.



With the help and support of everyone involved we have distributed nearly £600 of profit to different village amenities. Thank you!

Performers have been booked for the summer concert on **Sunday 13th August at 3pm**. We are delighted to welcome back many of our regular performers, along with a new guest pianist, local musician Tom Jesty. He is involved with Winchester Arts and regularly performs and accompanies singers in lunchtime concerts at St. Paul's Church Winchester (by the station). There may also be a new guest guitarist. We look forward to seeing you in August. Tickets available from 22nd July. (www.sparsholtmusic.org)

Fiona Zarb-Adami

Save the Dates

Here are two dates for 2023 to save with more details to follow:

- Sparsholt Fete on **Saturday 23rd September**
- Harvest Supper on **Saturday evening 14th October**

Ham Green Conservation Volunteer Group

The Volunteers held work sessions at Ham Green at the beginning and end of April. We have cleared access to the principal trees (including the area across the road from the car park at the start of the Burrow Road track) ready for the tree inspection by HCC Arboriculture Consultancy in late May/early June to check for further ash dieback.

With the grass growing fast we have started mowing the sides of the bridleway and footpath and cutting back any overhanging growth to allow easy passage for walkers and, on the bridleway, also for horse riders and cyclists.

Sadly it looks like the Sweet Chestnut tree at the corner of the Green (just down the bridleway from the car park) planted by HCC has died as a result of drought stress last summer despite our efforts to water all the new trees. However, the remaining 15 new trees are blossoming and will hopefully survive, now protected from animal damage by the metal tree guards. We hope to plant some additional new trees in the autumn.

Michael John who worked at Sparsholt College and was instrumental in setting up the Ham Green Volunteer Group in the 1990's recently died. His children, Peter and Lindsey planted 4 Crab Apple whips around the Glade his memory. We have staked the whips and protected them with plastic guards. Hopefully they will survive.

Sue Woodd, a volunteer who has recorded flora and fauna at Ham Green for over 20 years, gave a brilliant talk on biodiversity in the conservation area at the Annual Parish Meeting [see transcript later in the Newsletter] and following another excellent talk by Susan Simmonds of the Wildlife Trust we are pleased to have arranged a walk around Ham Green with her to review our work there. In her own talk Sue referred to the bird survey conducted by Jon West and Geoffrey Beanland in the late spring of 2020 when they recorded 40 bird species over the course of a number of dawn visits. If readers would like a copy of Sue's report on biodiversity at Ham Green or the bird survey please contact malcolmhewson@btinternet.com

Finally, we have an old Mountfield grass mower in the Ham Green store under the Memorial Hall. The petrol engine turns the cutting blade but no longer provides powered forward motion because of a broken gear box. It is therefore of no use at Ham Green. However, it could be still of use as a garden mower so if anyone is interested please contact the writer. It would nice to add £50 to the Ham Green coffers.

Malcolm Hewson

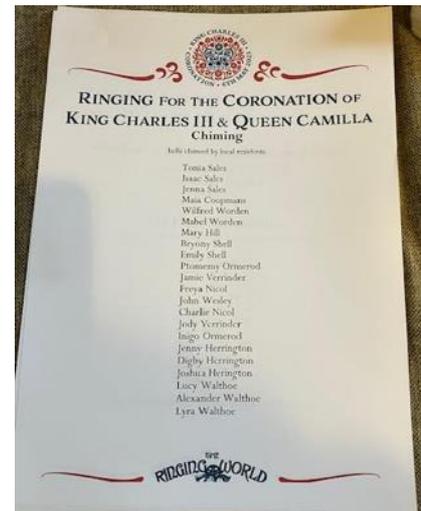
Sparsholt Bell-Ringing

On Coronation day, the bellringers in Sparsholt met at 2pm to ring to celebrate the crowning of Charles III by ringing a number of methods such as Plain Bob, Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury and St Simons.



Later in the afternoon an opportunity was available for local residents to chime a bell themselves and be a part of the celebrations. It was most successful and twenty two people (children and adults) came along to take up this offer, and all were really pleased to be involved in this way and receive their certificate stating that they had chimed a bell on Coronation Day. Their names will be added to the list of people involved in bell ringing for the coronation at Sparsholt, and collected by the Central Council for Church Bell Ringers.

The chiming certificate can be found at the back of St Stephen's church with all the names of those who came to chime a bell on the day.



If anyone is interested in bell ringing then please contact Jenny Watson on 07743 779793 as learners are always welcome to come for a free trial.

Sparsholt practice night is Monday 7.30 to 9pm

Church Services

Church Services at St. Stephen's, Sparsholt for May, June and July

21st May	7 th Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion	8 am
28th May	Pentecost / Whit Sunday	Morning Worship	10 am
11th June	1 st Sunday after Trinity	Benefice Trinity Sunday Open-Air service at Northwood Park Farm followed by Bring-Your-Own picnic	11 am
18th June	2 nd Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion	8 am
25th June	3 rd Sunday after Trinity	Morning Worship	10 am
16th July	6 th Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion	8 am
23rd July	7 th Sunday after Trinity	Morning Worship	10 am

Inclusion and Wellbeing

Help us shape the future of inclusion and wellbeing in Winchester

We're looking for council tenants to contribute their ideas to two inclusion and wellbeing working groups that are delivering projects for Winchester district residents. By joining the Social Inclusion Partnership or the Digital Inclusion Project Board, you'll have the chance to talk directly with decision makers, improve people's lives, access training and build valuable experience. Come along to one of our sessions to find out more:

Wednesday 7th June

12:30pm - 1:30pm, Winchester City Council Offices (in person)

Thursday 8th June

7:00pm - 8:00pm, MS Teams (online)

Register your place:

Contact our Wellbeing and Inclusion Officer Charlotte Bailey with your preferred date and method of attendance by emailing cbailey@winchester.gov.uk or calling **01962 848 267**.

If you have any access requirements, please don't hesitate to let us know

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Chair's Report on 2022/23

The past year has seen the loss of 2 of our hard-working Councillors. Sue Annesley who represented the Northwood Park area and liaised with the Memorial Hall committee and Sue Wakefield who looked after the Playground and was also a member of the Finance sub-committee. Sue Annesley retired to fulfil family commitments and Sue Wakefield moved out of the village. The Parish Council are sincerely grateful for their commitment in looking after residents' interests and we wish them every happiness for the future.

Parish Councillors are all volunteers and replacing them is not easy as we all live busy lives. However, I am pleased to welcome Mark Himbury who lives near to Sparsholt College and will therefore be an asset for those residents living in that area and to Jon Walthoe who lives in Home Lane. Both of them are relatively new to the village and it is always good to see new young blood taking an interest. Both of them joined us in February of this year.

The Parish Council is the first step on the Local Government ladder and we are assisted by our City Councillor Caroline Horrill and our County Councillor Jan Warwick. Both of them attend our meetings bi-monthly to update us on City and County Council matters that affect our Parish and to take up issues of concern to parishioners with their respective councils. Their expert knowledge is always gratefully received. We hold 10 Parish Council meetings a year on the 3rd week of the month in the Mosaic Room of the Memorial Hall and any member of the public may attend.

Planning applications and traffic issues are always the main activities we cover along with maintaining the playground, footpaths and liaising with the shop and the Memorial Hall committee. Highways matters raise the biggest concerns and top of the agenda at the moment is the state of the potholes! The winter weather has only increased the poor state of our roads and we do ask that anyone who sees a pothole should report it to HCC. It is taking time for the Highway Team to get round to fixing all the problems but we have had work done this year and have been assured that our patience will be rewarded.

Communication is important and we do have to thank John Little who is the Editor of the Newsletter which is now electronically distributed to 257 households. Feedback tells us that it is well received and if you want to contribute, please contact John.

This past year saw the village celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the village fete on the same day in June 2022. The number of activities and the amazing Jubilee Lunch saw Woodman Lane closed to traffic for residents to sit together and enjoy a feast second to none. The team of volunteers who organised the event were rewarded by Alister Barron accepting a Mayor's Community Award on their behalf.

We now look forward to celebrating the Coronation of King Charles 111 in a similar fashion; this time organised by the Shop committee. Get your tickets now for the celebratory lunch for what I feel sure will be another wonderful Sparsholt feast under the direction of Debbie Caldwell.

This coming year the Parish Council focus will be on ensuring our contribution to the Winchester Local Plan reflects the need of our village and that we maintain the safety of residents on our roads. HCC are currently working with us reviewing the road signage and with the current development at Church Farm we feel that this is important. Once the Local Plan is adopted the VDS and the conservation area appraisal will need to be updated.

We are also looking at a plan to maintain and replace the Woodman Close playground equipment as several items reach their 25th anniversary. Grants to replace equipment are seemingly non-existent so the Parish Council will have to make the necessary investment for the enjoyment of the village's children. Surplus funds from this year will be reserved for playground purposes along with additional funds raised for this year 2-23-2024.

Ham Green is a special part of the village and much has been done to maintain it, especially recently in response to Ash dieback disease. After many years Terry Dunn has retired from leading the volunteers who maintain the Common for everyone's enjoyment. The volunteers and parish council thanked Terry at a celebration where we gave him some fitting gifts for all his work. We are very grateful to Malcolm Hewson who has taken over the role. The Parish Council will continue to provide financial support where necessary.

Thank You Time.

To all the Parish Councillors who give freely of their time to help make decisions for the benefit of all our residents.

To Malcolm Hewson and the Volunteers who maintain Ham Green Common.

To the village shop and post office. We are lucky to have this facility that has a wide range of produce and now wine too. Good luck to the new shop committee and please do volunteer to help in anyway you can to keep the shop open. This is our Community Shop so please use it whenever you can.

To our Village School who produce such caring and confident children ready to move on to secondary education in the knowledge that they have had an excellent start to their education.

To Fiona and Mark for their musical recitals that bring joy to those that attend and for their contributions to village charities from the ticket sales surplus.

Finally, to Nicky Breen our Parish Clerk who looks after all our administration and financial matters, which we can report remain in good order passing both internal and external auditor examinations

May 2023 be a Happy and Healthy year for us all.

Sue Wood Chair

Next Parish Council Meeting

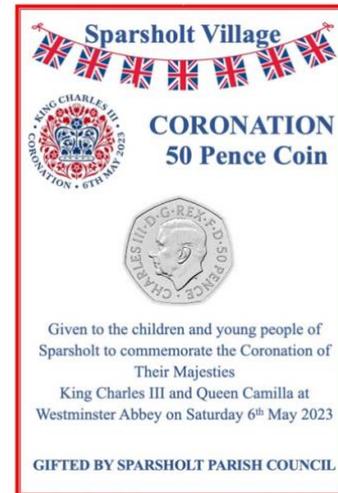
The next Parish Council Meeting is on **15th June 2023** at 7.30pm.

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

Coronation 50p Coin

Coins were handed out to children at the Street Party.

If you live in the village and have one or more children and have not yet received any coins please contact the Clerk clerk@sparsholtparish.org



Winchester City Councillors' Report

Report to Sparsholt Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting 22nd April 2022

From Cllrs Patrick Cunningham, Stephen Godfrey & Caroline Horrill

It has been our privilege to represent you as part of the Wonston & Micheldever ward for the last year.

We cover the 6 parishes of Crawley, Littleton, Micheldever, South Wonston, Sparsholt and Wonston, representing 7,984 residents across 109.8km².

The last year has been focused on the development of the new Local Plan and the first version of the plan, the Reg 18 has been consulted on and the 3,500 responses are currently being analysed. It proposes 3000 additional houses through to 2039 over and above those already to be built in locations such as Kings Barton. The City Council has still failed to confirm that it will not take additional houses for the Partnership for South Hampshire which says it has insufficient land to accommodate their housing needs.

The next stage of the plan will involve a further discussion about the housing numbers for the area and the location of sites. To date there has not been a requirement to build additional houses in Sparsholt, over and above those already approved, but we know there are developers who are promoting additional sites in and around the area.

As a Council we are committed to building more Council houses, some 1000 over the next ten years to ensure more affordable homes are available in the District. Sparsholt too will be part of that programme with the additional homes due to be built shortly in Woodman Close.

There have been several key projects that are of significance to the Winchester District during the last year.

Central Winchester has continued to grab the headlines and it has just been confirmed that a new development partner has been approved. This project has been frustrating as the Supplementary Planning Document setting out the agreed plan for the area following extensive consultation with the public was agreed by us in 2018.

River Park which is now vacant, following the opening of the new Sport and Leisure Centre, has been the subject of much, vandalism. The Liberal Council have agreed a plan to sell the land to the University of Southampton. Exactly how the site will be developed is still not clear a year on from the deal being announced.

Station Approach – the area around the railway station is being considered for redevelopment in partnership with the railway company. Exactly what and when is still being discussed.

As is the sale of the **Depot** the site next to the new Sport and Leisure Park at Bar End.

Residents in our ward continue to worry about the closure of the **Andover Road**. A 3,000-signature petition requesting the decision be reconsidered has still not delivered any changes to the proposed plan. We have been lobbying extensively about not closing the road and I know this will continue to be a discussion as the impact on our local road network could be extensive.

Planning is at the heart of City and Parish Council activities, and you have had your fair share of applications to review. This is a constant job and is important we all work together to ensure local views are well represented. For example, applications in adjacent parishes such as the solar farm in Hursley parish will have more impact on us than on Hursley.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak this morning and I am happy to take any questions.

Hampshire County Councillor: Annual Report 2022-2023

As presented to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Budget for 2023-2024

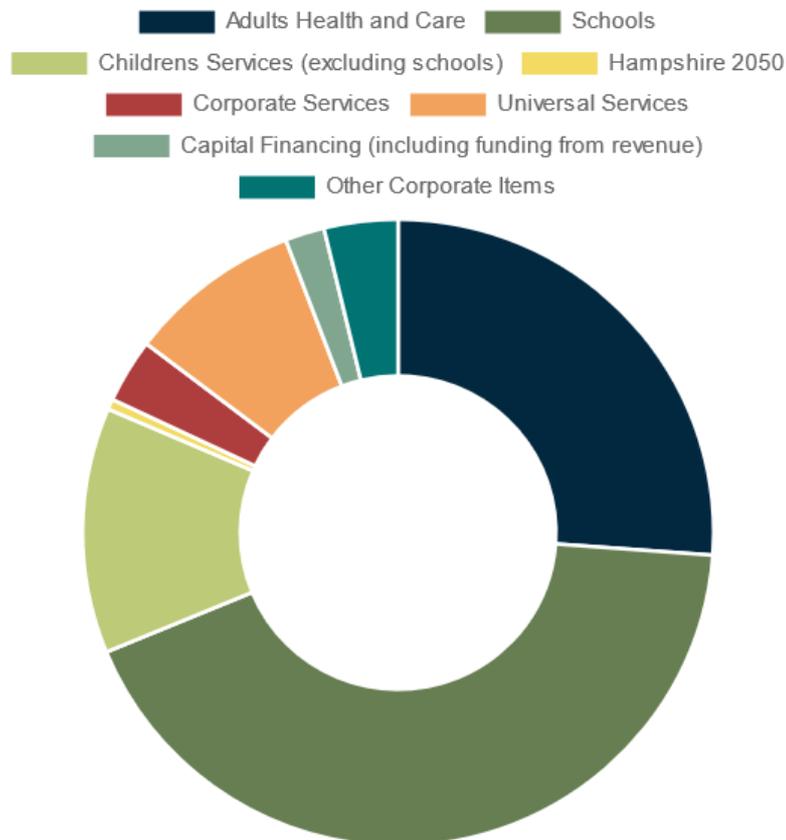
Hampshire County Council’s expenditure for 2023/24 includes a £2.6bn annual revenue budget and covers all the services delivered by the council for 1.4 million residents, including supporting its most vulnerable children and adults.

Capital budget projects totalling £645.3m over the next three years include:

- £175m investment in new and extended school buildings to provide school places for children in Hampshire, giving a total of 18,874 new school places by September 2025.
- £142m for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges.
- £103m of Integrated Transport Plan schemes including £58m of schemes focused on walking and cycling improvements.
- £0.3m funding towards the County Council’s Flood Risk and Coastal Defence Programme as part of our response to the challenge of climate change.

Hampshire County Council’s council tax precept for the financial year beginning 1 April 2023, will increase by a total of 4.99%, of which 2% will go specifically towards adults’ social care, in line with Government policy. This equates to an annual charge of £1,460.25 for a Band D property – an increase of £69.45 per year or approximately £1.34 a week.

Where the budget will be spent



HCC Highlights from 2022/23

Pan-Hampshire County Deal

Council Leader Cllr Rob Humby held discussions with central government on plans for a Pan-Hampshire County Deal, with the aim of investing in Hampshire's economy and improving the lives of all residents and communities across the area by decentralising key decision making and funding.

England's Chief Medical Officer Prof Sir Chris Whitty visited Hampshire County Council in March 2023 to discuss work by our Public Health team working alongside the NHS to help support a healthier old age. Preventing falls, being travel confident, better mental health and connecting through libraries will be part of the Live Longer Better programme launching soon. www.hantsiowhealthandcare.org.uk

Short Term Care Hampshire County Council's Adult Social Care service offers a range of care options to help our residents after a stay in hospital and help them settle back home. For some really good advice and help for older people visit www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk

The Chat About Scheme runs across our libraries and other community sites to provide a welcome space in which people can gather to connect and chat. The scheme is free to join and open to groups and organisations, such as libraries, cafés, community and voluntary venues, regular coffee morning gatherings, and workplace canteens.

Hampshire offers 97% of pupils their preferred Choice of School

More than 97% of parents in Hampshire have been offered a place for their child at one of their three preferences for a secondary school in September 2023.

Tree planting gathers pace

Hampshire Forest Partnership has continued to make great strides towards our target of planting one million trees by 2050.

Traffic Management

From 1st April 2023 the county council will take back traffic management (lines and signs!) from the district authorities.

Additional funding for pothole repairs

Confirmed in the government's Spring Budget, the county council will receive £5,954,400 to tackle this issue. Please report road issues at hants.gov.uk

HCC building a new Materials Recycling Facility in Eastleigh

This will enable the recycling of very many more items, including Tetra Paks and plastics. The site will be fully operational in 2025.

Major investment in Hampshire Schools

A planned investment programme in Hampshire schools of £221m was announced. The programme includes several proposed school expansions; projects for special schools, early years settings and children's social care; as well as other improvements and modernisation of existing buildings.

20mph zones in Hampshire

The outcomes of the Task and Finish Group on the introduction of 20mph zones has been published. There are a number of recommendations in the report including community support before introducing 20mph zones more widely.

Lengthsman Funding

Funding to Parishes for the Lengthsman Scheme will continue for the coming financial year 2023/24. The Lengthsman scheme is a good example of successful joined-up government in Hampshire.

Energy efficiency programme

Hundreds of public buildings such as schools, libraries and museums have been made more energy efficient thanks to the installation of solar panels, double glazing, and modern heating systems. This follows the completion of an initiative to cut carbon emissions and has helped to mitigate the impact of rising energy costs.

Welcoming Ukrainian families

The county of Hampshire has welcomed the third highest number of Ukrainian nationals in England. The county council will be increasing the payments made to all Hampshire residents hosting Ukrainian guests as part of the Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme from £350 to £500 per month from March.

County Councillor Grant

My annual devolved Councillor Grant pot is for projects or events across the Winchester Downlands Division. It was opened on 1st April for Coronation grants and will open again for other applications on 1st June 2023. Please contact me if you have a project or event that will benefit residents. In the meantime, please see the list of projects that benefitted from my grant funding last year:

Councillor Devolved Grants made in the financial year 22/23

Applicant	Project	Grant
Winchester Walking Football	Defibrillator	£333
Winchester Stroke Aphasia Group	Support for group meetings	£250
Sparsholt Parish Hall Committee	Wooden Floor Resurfacing	£400
Hursley Parish Council	Village in Bloom Planters	£300
Wessex Cancer Trust	Counselling Services	£250
Maggie's Cancer Trust	Hospital Garden room for families	£400
Oliver's Battery Parish Council	Sustainability Event at Fete	£300
MHA Winchester	Tackling isolation and loneliness in the Elderly	£300
Worthy Down Tri Service Base	Contribution to family event for service personnel	£600
Winchester GoLD (Learning Disability)	Winchester Pantomime Visit	
Otterbourne Parish Council	QEII Memorial Garden and Bench	£600
Hursley Village Community Association	Mini Forest Tree Planting	£300
Winchester Beacon (Night Shelter)	Upgrade of bathroom facilities	£1000
Blue Apple Productions	Animal Farm	£250
Badger Farm Community Association	Repair Cafe	£450
Winchester Bereavement Support	Bereavement Counselling Services	£600

Cllr Jan Warwick

Hampshire County Councillor for Winchester Downlands

Winchester City Councillor

Tel: 07717 104236

Email: jan.warwick@hants.gov.uk or jwarwick@winchester.gov.uk

Biodiversity at Ham Green

[The full transcript of the talk given by Sue Woodd at the Annual Parish Meeting]

I joined the Ham Green Conservation group 20 years ago when we first moved to Dean Lane. I was interested in wild flowers so was asked to record the flowers, and given a list of what had previously been seen. But more on the flowers later.

I have no formal training in conservation or biodiversity. When I did my degree those words, as well as organic, were not part of my vocabulary! 20 years later my consciousness shifted and I felt that using weed killers in our large garden, as my father did, was not the right thing to do. I soon became very involved with the Hampshire Organic Group. From our members and some of our excellent professional speakers, who also gave guided walks in conservation areas, I started my ongoing learning process, supplemented by quite a lot of reading. I can't claim to be an expert, and even the experts ideas seem to change and develop all the time. In fact the one-time very knowledgeable warden of Crab Wood told us that whatever they did in the woods someone would complain about it. And from the point of view of the wild-life what was right for say the animals was probably wrong for the flowers. So there are no absolute rights and wrongs. Just a final coda to my introduction. The Hampshire Organic Group folded some years back. The feeling amongst members is that so many people now are trying to live in a more sustainable way that the group maybe wasn't needed any more. Good news I think.

Back to Ham Green. We are classified as a SINC site, a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, or a local wildlife site. These rely on good management and continued stewardship by landowners. Ham Green is common land for the use of local residents, and used by many others. Management is mainly by our group of enthusiastic and hardworking volunteers, and the Parish Council who organize major felling (for ash die back for example) and occasional repair of the bridleway. Crab Wood, our northern near neighbour, is mainly an SSSI site (Site of Special Scientific interest.) One of the big differences in the management of SSSI's and SINC sites is that the former forbids any interference in the way of planting, whereas we can add native-to-the-area plants. And we do!

So what are we trying to achieve?

1. Keeping the path and bridleway usable and attractive for horse riders, cyclists, dog walkers, runners and walkers.
2. Getting rid of some of the accumulation of some of the dead material like ivy and excess dead branches etc on bonfires (winter only to avoid disturbing nesting birds). Ivy is controversial! A healthy tree with ivy growing through it is a perfect habitat for many birds and insects. A less than healthy tree can easily be killed by excess ivy. We do quite a lot of ivy ringing as it does tend to take over in Ham Green. Left to its own devices Ham Green would quickly be taken over by fallen trees and branches, dead stuff, and those plants and trees which seed and spread all too easily.

3. Last but certainly not least we try to maintain a diverse habitat to encourage nature.

Ham Green boasts some ancient woodland with a wide variety of trees. The fruits and insect life on these encourage many different birds. Hazel trees have always been part of the working environment in woodland. We coppice some of these on a regular basis which opens up the understory to the light and encourages growth of smaller plants. We now try to use as much as possible of the coppiced and other wood. We make seats from long straight branches and dead hedges from not so straight branches. If you haven't seen these go and have a look. We also stack logs and branches for insects, although there is a limit to how much of all this wood we can keep in the area. We could give away firewood, pea and bean sticks.

A recent bird survey carried out by John West with help from Keith Betton from the Hampshire Ornithological Society, gave a count of 40 different species. John made 16 visits between 20th March and 1st July 2020, to coincide with the dawn chorus. He was especially excited to record Firecrest, Grasshopper Warbler, Little Owl and Sedge Warbler. The birds established a total of 64 territories, so Ham Green is clearly a des res for birds.

We have several areas which we keep relatively clear by mowing and always clear away the cuttings as we attempt to lower the fertility. Wild flowers don't enjoy a rich soil! The picnic area, first open area from the west on the left, is mainly kept well mown for use by anyone. Cowslips planted here are beginning to look well established. The various other more open areas are supposed to be managed for wild flowers by mowing less often, apart from paths meandering through them. 2 of these areas on the southern side have always been difficult. Run off from the chemicals added to the field which slopes down to Ham Green add too much nitrogen and encourage larger fast growing wild flowers like dock, hog weed and nettles which tend to suppress anything else. We have successfully introduced teasel, green alkanet, vipers bugloss and wild carrot, more robust wild flowers, while cutting back seed heads of hog weed, but none of these wild flowers are spreading very fast, if at all.

Butterflies recorded up here have never been numerous but 13 different species have been recorded in recent years. Butterflies are very sensitive to their environment. Some have extremely specific requirements. Because of this they are considered to be an indicator species of the health of an environment. The low numbers probably highlight that we have a narrow strip surrounded by over fertilized fields and are unable to grow the wild flowers they need. It has been noted that red admirals and peacocks are rare up here and as I write this I am wondering why we have never planted wild buddleia which can attract hundreds in a good season. Perhaps a project for this year.

Recording the wild flowers at Ham Green year by year has been quite difficult, as they are seasonal, weather dependent and also dependent on the mowing regime. At one time I tried to concentrate on establishing whether the open areas were doing better with their less frequent mowing regime. Again this

proved nigh impossible. For instance a wet summer helped by the nitrogen input would quickly create much tall growth suppressing small growth, so we had to mow. And as volunteers, we only work once a month, and are not always around.

So I then looked at the overall trend of what was recorded before I took over, and what I have recorded in recent years. This was much more encouraging! My original list from 1995 had a total of 62 wild flowers. Since then my annual numbers have varied from 50 to 83. I honestly don't think any of these numbers can be relied on. I have found flowers that weren't on the 1995 list which almost certainly were there back then. I have added flowers that have only lasted for a year, a few of those introduced are still there. Also some of the flowers (like the different species of violets) I still can't recognize so they haven't been recorded by me. Between 2017 and 2019 I was concentrating on the mown areas only, so inevitably missing out those which grew only elsewhere. And then we had Covid when recording was even more sporadic. What I can say is that there are only 4 flowers on the original list which I have never seen, angelica, greater stitchwort, common twayblade and hoary plantain. One day when we were busy cutting back some of the open areas a disgruntled visitor asked what on earth we were doing. Once there were orchids and now there were none. Yes the Twayblade is the one and only orchid ever recorded at Ham Green. It has gone and there could be many reasons for that. But on the whole users of Ham Green love what we're doing and are very supportive. Some of the wild flowers (including dog's mercury, sanicle and bluebell) are indicator species for ancient woodland.

2 of the mown areas are quite large, so in one we have allowed quite a large patch of brambles to grow which we keep under control. The other has wild raspberries in it – also very invasive, also kept under control. Both fruits, but especially brambles, are popular with wildlife, and they both provide good cover for smaller mammals in an otherwise large space.

In 2018 some staff and students from Sparsholt College did a survey of small mammals for us. They did one overnight trapping exercise and caught (and released) 5 woodmice and one vole and thought there were probably shrews around as well. This was described as a fair result for such a short trapping period. Also seen by John West were Hare, Rabbit, Roe Deer, Fallow Deer, Badger, Weasel, Bats. Once we had dormice but their corridor from Crab Wood was destroyed when the electricity board cleared underneath the wires (as they have to do). We then had yellow necked mice in the dormouse boxes.

Finally I have three requests!

1. Dog poo left hanging on trees in plastic bags is unwelcome and unsightly. It would help to have a dog poo bin in the car park.
2. Nitrate run off from farmers fields is also unwelcome. Earlier maps of Ham Green, unfortunately undated, show that both the fields to the north and south had conservation headlands ie strips alongside Ham Green which are not fertilized. These can be sewn with tall grasses, pollen and nectar strips, or wild bird

seed mixes. Today there are no headlands. There are Government grants to create these. The easiest is probably the Sustainable Farming initiative, or a more advanced approach is the Countryside Stewardship scheme. We would love it if the local farmers could be persuaded to join these schemes. Could you help here please?

3. We would like to give Sparsholt residents, or even sell in the shop, firewood, pea and bean sticks. We are too busy, too small in numbers and not often enough there, to transport this material anywhere else. Any suggestions?

The Henry Beaufort School

In March twenty-four Year 11 students visited St Hilda's College, Oxford, to get an experience of university life and especially what it is like to be a student at Oxford University. The day included a student panel, tours of the college, academic taster sessions and lunch in the college dining room. Here is what one student had to say about the day:

"What I found really interesting about the trip was the emphasis on opportunity. We learnt that there were many different paths you could take for example if you studied History at university you could go into investment, economics, and countless other career paths. I found this really useful to know. The students touring us were also extremely kind and down to earth, which was truthfully not what I had expected either.

I am planning on taking English Literature, French and Law for my A-levels, mainly because I find them interesting and fun. The Oxford trip really opened my eyes to how I could choose a beneficial career while including the things that I am passionate about; before I thought this was not possible. This helped broaden my options for university and helped me decide what to do for further education! The thing I most enjoyed was lunch! The food was extremely delicious, and we were able to chat with the students during lunch which was very enjoyable.

Not only that, I really enjoyed getting toured by the students around the university and getting to know them. The student touring my group was informative, and I really looked up to her decisiveness in her career, and her passion for her subject."

A team of Year 9 students from both Design and Technology and Engineering were invited to take part in a competition at the very prestigious Winchester college. Two teams of three entered from the school.

The competition was made up of a selection of schools from Winchester College to Portsmouth and the surrounding areas.

The students were given a strict timeline in which to design and manufacture a full sized, and functional chair. The chair was to be made entirely out of corrugated card, use no glue or tape, be as light as possible, attractive as possible, comfortable as possible and hold the weight of a full-grown adult. Mr Brown, Teacher of Design and Technology said "I am delighted to say that out of the 8 teams Henry Beaufort came a very credible seventh and second.

Lainston House News

We are delighted to be able to share the latest news from the hotel with our Sparsholt neighbours, and we hope that this finds you and your families well.



Spring has well and truly arrived at Lainston House with new flowers bursting into colour, some new projects taking shape across the estate, a new orchard to show off, new cocktails, new restaurant services to share, and some new faces added to the long serving team at the hotel.



As a key part of the Exclusive Collection, our priority continues to be to Create Happiness in Amazing Places, and we prioritise the quality of guest service offered at every opportunity. With restrictions firmly behind us and global travel well and truly back, we have been delighted to welcome guests from as far afield as Japan, the US, Australia and China as well as lots of local visitors in recent weeks.

What brings them to Lainston specifically? The wide range of facilities, innovative events, flexible meeting space and of course our amazing bedrooms and restaurants are a key draw,,, but other attractions include a range of new courses at Season Cookery School where we are so pleased to be outdoors again and working across the School with a new partner – Kitchen Aid; the increasingly popular monthly Kitchen Garden Tour with Head Gardener Stef Bradfield, where we talk through what has been grown in recent months, and the specialised and unique ingredients currently serving the needs of our restaurants; the unique and highly personalised Chef's Table dining Experience at The Avenue restaurant.



The recently launched Sunday Lunch in The Wellhouse which is proving to be very popular – there's something about those large Yorkshire puddings! ... and last but not least, a specially curated King Charles Coronation Afternoon Tea (available throughout May) which features a Darjeeling and honey mousse, said to be a favourite of His Majesty, and a white chocolate and rhubarb éclair with fruit grown in our kitchen garden which adds a sharp fresh flavour to compliment the sweetness of the white chocolate.

Of course it wouldn't be Lainston House without a full calendar of events as well, and we have been so pleased to host a number of weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and other events already this year with so many of our guests. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if we can assist with any of your special occasions, the team can be contacted on 01962 776088 and we would be thrilled to help.

Looking ahead to the summer, Jazz days at Lainston are back, with events being held on May 21st and September 10th with contemporary crooner Paul Pashley back by popular demand. On June 22nd we will be hosting an evening Cheese & Wine Summer party in the Kitchen Garden, and we would love to see as many of our neighbours as we can. Tickets are from £50 pp and include a glass of bubbly, canapés and live music.



Finally, and in recognition of 2023 marking 40 years of top quality hospitality being served at Lainston House, we are hosting three Outdoor Cinema Nights in August. With films to be shown on the South Lawn, we invite you, your friends and family to bring a picnic and join us for the 80's classics Dirty Dancing (Aug 3rd), Back to the Future (Aug 17th) and Top Gun (Aug 25th). Tickets prices are £20 per adult and £10 per child.

Details of all these events and more can be found at the following link:

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

As always, the doors of Lainston House are open to welcome our Sparsholt neighbours, and we would love to meet you.

Yours in hospitality, Steve Lewis, General Manager
steve@exclusive.co.uk

SPARSHOLT COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Parish Councillors

Sue Wood	Chair & Transport	chair@sparsholtparish.org transport@sparsholtparish.org highways@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776255
Mark Himbury	Highways & Memorial Hall	memorialhall@sparsholtparish.org	07956 371433
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
Jonathan Walthoe	Councillor	councillor2@sparsholtparish.org	07752 390536
David Brown	Playground	playground@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776182
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

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

Police Contacts

PCSO 15075 Michelle Wilkinson – 07901102292
PCSO 13466 Kerry Croutear – 07976962677
PC 28364 Victoria McCallum – 07795454351
The Winchester Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team email address is winchester.rural.police@hamphire.police.uk

WEBSITES

Sparsholt Parish: <http://www.sparsholtparish.org/>
Sparsholt Shop: http://www.sparsholtparish.org/Our_Shop
Downs Benefice: <http://www.downsbenefice.org/>

VILLAGE CALENDAR

The Calendar can be viewed at:
<http://www.sparsholtparish.org/Calendar>
Please send updates to:
sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org

Ham Green Conservation Group

Malcolm Hewson malcolmhewson@btinternet.com

Sparsholt Oil Syndicate

John Wesley johnr.wesley@btinternet.com

Neighbourhood Watch

Sparsholt Neighbourhood Watch coordinator is Andrew Osmond. Please contact: security@sparsholtparish.org

Aluminium Recycling Bin

Bin is located by the side of the shop behind the phone box.

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 next Edition

This is your newsletter so please contribute items of interest, news of events, offers to help and/or photographs. The deadline for the next edition is **23rd June 2023** please submit all items to sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org