

PARISH COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
March 2014 Issue 26

Ampfield



Ampfield Parish Assembly. Monday, 28th April 2014, 7.30pm at
Ampfield Village Hall.

All parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

AMPFIELD WAR MEMORIALS

We are fast approaching the one hundredth anniversary of a chain of events starting with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria on the 28 June 1914 in Sarajevo which led to the Declaration of War by Britain on Germany on 04 August 1914.

There is already much coverage appearing in all forms of the media discussing the many aspects of the causes and justification of the terrible destruction and loss of life in the following four years.

One incontrovertible fact is the devastating effect that all communities across the land must have endured as the loss of loved ones was reported. This would perhaps have been especially true in villages such as Ampfield where the individuals were known to so many of those living in the Parish.

Following the cessation of hostilities on 11 November 1918 there was a desire to mark in a permanent way the sacrifice paid by so many leading to the building of war memorials in communities large and small.

Our own War Memorial was completed by the Parishioners of Ampfield in January 1920 and dedicated on 04 April 1920. It was located in what is still a prominent position on the A3090 at the junction with Knapp Lane.

The Memorial carries the names of 14 members of the Parish who lost their lives over the four years. Unfortunately "the war to end all wars" was not to be and following the end of World War II a further eight names were engraved on a stone bench on the same site adjacent to the existing Memorial.

The Memorial provided, and continues to provide, for the bereaved family members and friends, a place to remember those who had no local grave or perhaps no grave at all. There is in fact only one Commonwealth Grave in St Marks' Church.

We also have a third War Memorial in the Parish which is situated in Chapel Wood. This commemorates five American service personnel who lost their lives when their plane crashed in the woods. The Memorial was dedicated in 1998 when some family members who travelled from America were present.

Unlike many war memorials the one in Ampfield has kept the garden area on the site providing a softer appearance. Thanks to the countless volunteers from the Parish who have for nearly 100 years contributed to the maintenance of the site we continue to enjoy the cared for appearance we see today.

Each year at 11.00 on Remembrance Sunday a short Service is held at the War Memorial to remember those who died in the service of their country. In spite of the passage of time in recent years the number of Parishioners attending has increased and all in the Parish are welcome.

Edward Butcher



The War Memorial at Knapp Lane

To mark the 100th Anniversary of World War I the cover images are taken from the British war memorials, and honour those lost

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

To be held at

**AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL ON
MONDAY, 28th APRIL 2014 AT 7.30PM**

The Agenda for this Annual Parish Assembly is:

Apologies for absence
Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 29th April 2013
Matters Arising
Chairman's Review of the Year
County & Borough Councillors' Reports
Council Finances & Administration
Transport and Road Safety
Ampfield Recreation Ground
Friends of Chapel Wood
Planning
Communications & website
Other Reports for 2013/2014- see Parish Newsletter
Any Other Competent Business & Open session

Light refreshments will be served at about 9.30pm.

Doreen Matthews
Clerk to Ampfield Parish Council

AMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR



Looking back as we approach the 2014 Parish Assembly, it is clear that planning issues have dominated the Parish Council's year - notably questions relating to Morley's Lane and the possibility of gypsy sites at Ampfield Hill and Ratlake,

but also consideration of some sixty other applications.

The Morley's Lane development is about to receive planning permission and construction is expected to start later this spring, with occupation completed in phases by about the end of 2016. The management of the actual housing area and associated drainage will be run by a Management Company that will be owned ultimately by the residents and other interested parties who will sit on the Management Committee. The Parish Council will be represented on that Committee, but the main open spaces, including the allotments, new Hall carpark and the "Village Green" will be handed over to the Parish Council. The S106 agreement that has been agreed with Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) and the Parish Council delivers several financial contributions that will cover such items as the management of the open spaces and new Village Green, a refurbishment of the Village Hall, improved arrangements for school traffic and railings to protect those walking along the A3090 from the development to Knapp Lane. It is also hoped that it will be possible to improve the overall street scene on the A3090 in the Village. Incidentally to this, the Council is taking the coordinating role among interested parties in exploring the possibility of extending the

present mains gas supply to cover more of the central area of the Parish.

The Council has also, as reported below, offered comments and suggestions on a number of TVBC initiatives and consultation documents which could impact on the Parish, including the Draft Local Plan and green space proposals. We owe thanks to Allan Clark for all his hard work as Chairman of the Planning Committee to coordinate the Council's responses on planning issues and to ensure that negotiations with TVBC and developers are in keeping with Parish interests.

A further major planning issue this year has been the application for six permanent gypsy sites on the Tadburn meadows at Ampfield Hill. A Parish Meeting on this came out strongly in opposition to the proposal and the Council reflected this, together with other planning and ecological arguments, in its comments to TVBC. At the time of writing, though the application was ruled invalid, the final outcome remains uncertain. Recently a second, separate, application for a further gypsy site at Ratlake has been submitted to TVBC. The Parish will do its best to obtain and reflect parishioners' views on this in its eventual response. A meeting of Ampfield Parish Council's Planning Committee has been fixed for Monday, 7th April; the response date to TVBC about the application has been extended to Tuesday, 15th April.

All this has involved a great deal of work, and no little expense, for the Council and will continue to do so as matters evolve. Council is at present in the process of identifying how best to handle responsibilities for Morley's and other possible developments, and the practical and legal issues that will arise.

The Council depends heavily on local volunteers as well as its members to keep abreast of its work and to keep things running smoothly, though helped this year by joining the Hampshire County Council's "Lengthsman" scheme that helps with maintenance and small jobs locally. Thanks are due to all our helpers. It is a great sadness that the Parish has

recently lost, through his untimely death, the unstinting support and help that Martin Trotter gave it over the years as a former Councillor, Footpath Warden, member of the Village Hall Management Committee and Friend of Chapel Wood. Our thoughts are with his wife, Julie, at this time.

One of the benefits accruing from the Morley's development will be a partial refurbishment of the Village Hall. Over the last couple of years, for a variety of reasons, some difficulties have arisen over its management and, though the Hall is well used by its hirers, the Management Committee has not felt able to keep up its usual level of activities. It is hoping that a fresh start may be possible in 2014, and looks forward to good support from the Parish. In parallel with this, and in the belief that the Hall should continue to provide a genuine community asset, the Parish Council is exploring with Hampshire Women's Institute, who own it, the possible purchase of the freehold of the Hall. It is envisaged that the present long lease would continue. It is hoped to be nearer a decision by the time of the Village Hall AGM on 19 May. If the purchase can be accomplished, it should be good news for the Parish.

It is good news too that Ampfield Primary School is now on an upward trend following its federation with Hursley's John Keble School under new shared teaching arrangements. Congratulations to those who accomplished this.

In some ways, Ampfield has been lucky this year. Crimes notified have remained few, though there have been some burglaries and fuel thefts. It is sensible to be cautious and take sensible security precautions. Unlike neighbouring towns and parishes, we got off lightly this winter with only a little flooding and relatively little serious damage, other than on the recreation ground. (The Council is considering whether it is necessary to expand its current fairly simple emergency plans and would welcome parishioners' views on what

might be useful.) Steps are being taken to repair some wind damage in Chapel Wood, but parishioners will have noticed that the changes in the last year to the Burial Ground have considerably improved its appearance and opened up more extensive views. The Council is working on, and will in due course make public, amendments, to be completed later in the year, to the regulations governing the Burial Ground, primarily to clarify what are currently ambiguous eligibility rules.

New and potentially costly requirements have meant that there are increasing calls on the Council's funds. By careful budgeting in drawing up the precept for 2014/5, we have nevertheless succeeded in keeping our bid just below the existing level - a decrease of 0.2%. Sadly, TVBC's arcane financial computations have negated this and produced instead an increase in the planned precept, though fortunately it seems by only 0.1%. We think that in the next couple of years we shall be able to meet our commitments, but funding will remain very tight. Professional and legal advice does not come cheap! We may therefore yet have to cut our coat according to our cloth, or envisage increases in future precepts. Our aim, however, as far as the matter is in our control, will be to keep the precept at the lowest realistic levels.

This year - as the front pages of this newsletter illustrate - is the Centenary of the start of World War I. It is good that in the last few years the number of those attending the Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial has increased and that more young people have been present. Ampfield did not, however, escape losses and we hope that the poppies we are planning to sow in the memorial and churchyard areas will grow into a suitable tribute and reminder.

The Council looks forward to seeing you on April 28th and hearing your views in the Open Forum that evening.

Margaret Rothwell
Chairman

BADDESLEY DIVISION COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT 2014



The winter's flooding has caused immense problems for many Hampshire residents. I would like to pay tribute to all the staff at Hampshire County Council who have worked day and night to keep Hampshire moving and help protect people's properties. Highways, Environment and

Emergency Planning staff have been involved as front line responders. Children's Services and Adult Services have helped those that have suffered from the flooding situation.

Hampshire County Council have agreed a capital programme of growth and investment in Hampshire's economy and infrastructure of around three quarters of a billion pounds. At £668.7M, it's the biggest capital investment of all county councils in the South East and it is set to build thousands of quality school places and plough £130M into road and bridge maintenance. This unprecedented programme will lever hundreds of millions of pounds of private funding into the care facilities that people want, £20M in broadband to rural communities who are missing out in the commercial market and further pump priming into the fabric of Hampshire to boost its economic growth and cultural wellbeing, all of which help keep Hampshire a great place to live.

Good economics suggest that you save in the good times and you invest in bad times- it keeps the economy moving, people in jobs and reduces benefits. This Coalition government is starting to do this now, at least with capital expenditure.

Despite a 43% cut in the grant it receives from Government since 2010 Hampshire County Council will still manage to freeze its Council Tax because of the additional Council Freeze Grant now incorporated within the formula grant. The

Government grant per head for Hampshire in 2014/15 will be £116. A portion of the New Homes Bonus is now coming to Hampshire County Council and this will provide £6million extra which has been committed to road maintenance and improvement.

The Budget approved at the Council on 20 February will see the County Council's share of the Band D Council Tax set at £1037.88.

The Liberal Democrats were the only other political party to place an alternative budget before the Council with a no increase in Council Tax. The Conservatives' approach to cutting budgets has been an accountant's approach, save 12% in each budget area, regardless of need.

Salami slicing of budgets places the needs of children with disabilities, and their parents in need of respite, at the same priority as the council's press office. The current approach will simply see more cuts to services next year and more and more the year after. It is not a sustainable way of managing Hampshire.

Labour, UKIP and the Independents did not propose any other alternative budget proposals.

One of the Conservative budget cuts that I tried hard to prevent is the loss of the Accredited Community Safety Officers at the end of this year. These officers have significantly reduced the amount of anti-social behaviour, vandalism, and petty crime within the Baddesley division. Their presence in my division has been a major contributing factor in reducing the fear of crime in our locality. I appreciate that the Police, through partnership working, do what they can. But with limited resources they are unable to respond to anti-social behaviour in the timely manner that the ACSOs currently do.

Within my division I have been successful in setting up that Eastleigh & Test Valley Dial-A- Ride Schemes will be working together in partnership on a new cross border proposal. The proposal will offer an enhanced travel opportunity to registered users living close to the borders of Test Valley and Eastleigh. The minibus service will allow Test Valley residents to be taken to Waitrose and the Library in Chandlers Ford. In return Eastleigh residents within Valley Park will be able to travel to the market town of Romsey. I hope many people who are unable to drive will take advantage of this new scheme.

HCC Cllr. Alan Dowden

AMPFIELD & BRAISHFIELD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT



In the 19 years I have been your Borough Councillor, Borough wide, this winter has proved to be one of the most challenging for all our staff in literally trying to hold the waters back. All the staff involved rose to the challenge and then gave even more,

and as Deputy Leader of

the Council, I had great pleasure going round and personally thanking them on behalf of the Borough and our residents. With rainfall and groundwater levels breaking all previous records it was a challenge. In a short time over 80,000 sandbags were filled and deployed within the Borough and the Borough's emergency control room was manned by our own staff, 24 hours a day throughout, so that no calls were diverted to our out of hours call centre. The Borough's new Commercial Services HQ situated locally in Sandy Lane was soon turned into a round the clock deployment centre for filling and distributing bags. Our staff worked in partnership with our various partners, including the County Council, Environment Agency, fire brigade, police, and of course the Army and Navy. The combined effort to install an innovative unique piece of engineering, affectionately nicknamed the cat flap, within the river to the north of Romsey, saved the town from far worse flooding. The enormous 'operation pick up the sandbags' has begun and all sand collected will be recycled. The Borough Council is very much involved in the planning of various physical features which will help to protect our properties and businesses from future severe surface water but ground water is another much more difficult problem. The new Abbotswood development was designed to cater for a 1 in 100

years flood plus 20%. This it did manage to do in the main but of course the rainfall exceeded this 100 year flood considerably. The area which is proving one of the most challenging in finding an engineering solution for, is the Budds Lane Trading Estate in Romsey. Within the Parish, the Borough increased its road sweeping and gully clearing to help prevent highway flooding. Various problematic areas have been identified with a view to preventative measures being carried out.

Council Tax, finance and parking fees

Here there is good news. The Borough announced in March that it was going to freeze its Council tax not only for this year but also for the following year until 2016. I also announced, as Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder, that to support our local businesses and residents car parking charges would also remain frozen until 2016 and remain free after 4pm each afternoon and all day Sunday. To further help the car parking in Romsey, there will be a new park and walk facility on the townside of the Rapids which will offer all day parking for just £2 a day. A convenient footpath links this to the town. This is aimed particularly at the workers who currently block many spaces close to the shops. This has been warmly welcomed by both the workforce and the traders. It should be open before the end of this April. To keep the Council Tax as one of the lowest in the Country, over the last 7 years Test Valley has made savings of £7.612 million, equivalent to over £1m per year or 9.3% of the Council's budget each year. Over the same period the Government grant to TVBC has been reduced by £2.44 per annum, equivalent to a 33.3% reduction.

Community Asset Fund (CAF)

The Borough recently announced a £300,000 community fund to support local projects in 2014/15. Local communities can bid for up to 50% of the cost of a project, up to a maximum of £25,000. It can be extremely difficult for organisations to get initiatives off the ground as finances are invariably an issue. The CAF will provide a valuable lifeline to ensure schemes which benefit the community can be progressed and delivered. As a Borough Councillor I also

have a small grant to be used within Ampfield and Braishfield up to a normal maximum of £500 per project. Currently there are proposals to use this to help fund some equipment for use by the Community Pre School and also to investigate the feasibility of a silver haired surfers club to meet in the Village Hall, subject to broadband being installed.

Green Waste Collections

Due to a change in the rules and the replacement of some of our older refuse collection vehicles with newer ones with hydraulic lifts, later this year (probably mid-summer) the Borough will offer its residents the choice of using the current green bags or green wheelie bins. If you still have your old green or brown wheelie bins then you will be able to use these, subject of course to you paying the normal charge for this green waste collection service. If not then you will be able to buy a bin or extra bins from the Council. Full details will be given nearer to when the new service will be offered. This should make it much easier for those who find dragging the green bags around hard work.

Recycling Bins at the Village Hall – new British Heart Foundation Clothes Bank

Due to the wastepaper company introducing a charge to collect the newspaper from the local recycling bins, not surprisingly the Borough has terminated this contract and the newspaper bank at the Village Hall has been removed. Newspaper and cardboard can conveniently be put in your normal brown recycling bin. The space vacated is soon to be occupied by a clothes bank which will be operated by the British Heart Foundation in support of their charity. The bottle bank, which is very well used by parishioners (!), will remain there.

Revised Local Plan

The Revised Local Plan (RLP) has just finished the final public consultation stage. Comments are being carefully examined and it is expected that a Deposit Local Plan will be approved by the Council to be submitted to the Secretary of State in June or July. This should result in an Enquiry in Public in the Autumn and we hope to receive the

Government Inspector's report early next year so that the Plan can be adopted by the Council in the Spring or early summer of 2015.

As a Council we have 4 main aims as identified by Test Valley residents themselves

- Improving access to a decent home
- Enhancing and preserving our natural and built environment
- A competitive economy
- Supporting our local communities

The purpose of the RLP is to help deliver these aims for the Borough – to provide homes, jobs and open space for our residents, whilst protecting the environment and the character of the area. To do this requires a difficult balance to be struck. Inevitably there will be those who consider the RLP is wrong!

The Coalition Government is quite clear that it wants to see economic growth which includes planning for more houses to meet the enormous national and local shortfall. In short, zero housing is not an option. The number the Borough is proposing is the absolute minimum which can be evidence based using either economic or demographic modelling. Recently planning inspectors have increased the housing figures for Hart, Wiltshire, Brighton & Hove, Waverley and Winchester. A low housing figure is therefore not one that can be defended. In fact most objectors, including ROMSAVE, recognise that our consultants have got their numbers right. The argument is just where around Romsey and in which green field and near which houses they should go. A housing requirement for the Borough of 10,584 dwellings for the period 2011-2029, or 588 dwellings per annum is proposed. This is split with 7,092 dwellings in the northern Test Valley (394 per annum) and 3,492 here in Southern Test Valley (194 per annum). This is an increase of nearly 600 dwellings in the north and a reduction of about 20 in the south.

As always I remain readily contactable by phone or email.

Tel 07970 501050 or email martin.hatley@testvalley.org.uk

Cllr. Martin Hatley

PLANNING



Planning activity during the last twelve months has continued at the same hectic pace as 2012, with the Planning Committee meeting on 18 occasions to consider the Parish Council's response to the Planning Authority, TVBC, for a total of 61 applications. These responses

can be summarised as follows: - Support – 4, No Objection – 37, No Comment – 17, and Objection – 4 which is roughly in line with the pattern in 2012.



Morley's Lane development site

In 2013, two applications dominated. Those were Perbury Group's at Morley's Lane to build 39 houses including 12 classified as "affordable" and Mr Maurice Black's for 6 gypsy pitches on land adjacent to the A3090 at the bottom of Ampfield Hill. Both were the subject of Public Meetings called by the Parish Council to allow residents an opportunity to express their views before the Planning Committee made their response to the TVBC Planning Department. The first on 2nd July concerned Morley's Lane and the second on 11th September dealt with the gypsy proposals at Ampfield Hill. Both meetings were well attended. Parish Councillors, having listened to and considered residents' representations decided to support the proposal to build 39 houses at Morley's Lane and objected to the application to develop the Ampfield Hill site as a permanent gypsy site.

The Southern Area Planning Committee resolved

to grant outline planning permission for the Morley's Lane houses to be built, subject to the S106 agreement being finalised. However, the Planning Department found the application for the gypsy site invalid and it was therefore returned to the applicant. At the time of writing, it is expected that the Morley's Lane, S106 developer's contributions agreement will be finalised shortly and construction work will commence at the site in late Spring of this year. To date we have no further information about the Ampfield Hill gypsy application, but notice of a separate application for another gypsy site at Ratlake has recently been received. The Council is, at the time of writing, considering how best to consult parishioners before reaching a decision and commenting to TVBC.

Southern Gas Networks

The Morley's Lane development offers the Village several opportunities to enhance facilities including utility supplies such as mains gas. APC have initiated discussions with Southern Gas Networks (SGN) to see if it might be both technically and economically viable to bring mains gas to the Village along the A3090. The existing gas main in the east runs part way along Hook Road and from the west, the complete length of the Straight Mile to Jernyn's Lane. We have identified approximately 160 residences, including the 39 due to be built at Morley's Lane, five business premises, the School and of course St Marks' Church which could benefit from such a scheme. SGN have done a preliminary assessment and are now in the process of completing a more detailed survey using data supplied by the Parish Council. From this they will be able to ascertain the economics and technical viability of our proposal. It is early days, and we don't wish to raise parishioners' hopes unrealistically at this stage. However, whatever the outcome we will keep everyone in the relevant part of the Parish informed of the conclusions of their review.

Allotments

As part of the Morley's Lane development, and for the first time in the Parish, allotments will become available. It is planned to initially have 22 quarter size (about 60 sq. m.) standard plots with the option to provide another 17 should there be the demand. They will be offered to residents

of the Parish and it is hoped that those interested in this facility will be able to register their interest later this year.

Village Green

Currently the recreation ground adjacent to the White Horse Public House is used not only by the Cricket Club but also each year by Ampfield C of E Primary School for their annual Sports Day. However, again as part of the Morley's Lane development, provision has been made to set aside the area immediately behind the development/allotments for a village green. This open space will be available for events such as the School's Sports Day and might for example be used for the St Mark's Summer Fete.

Test Valley Revised Local Plan DPD 2011 - 2029:

In response to the above consultative document, Ampfield Parish Council has made a submission regarding maintaining the character of Ampfield Village, the maintenance of Local Gaps, such as those between Ampfield and Valley Park/Chandlers Ford and has proposed others such as from the Ampfield Conservation Area (by Knapp Lane) to Ratlake SSSI. We have also suggested that Chapel Wood and Tadburn Valley be designated as "Local Green Space", which is "one down" from Green Belt. We noted that the proposed policy continued to recognise the Ampfield Village Design Statement as a supplementary planning guide. (Full details can be seen on the web site.)

A Green Infrastructure Strategy for Test Valley 2014 – 2019 (draft):

Ampfield Parish Council in their submission to this consultation document broadly welcomed this initiative as it potentially would support the introduction of "Local Green Space" and the maintenance of "Local Gaps". We also believe the strategy would allow the improvement of footpaths throughout the Parish and encourage local countryside retention through the support of organisations such as the Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area Group. (Full details can be seen on the web site.)

Warning Notices:

We have a limited supply of warning notices with adhesive backings supplied by our Local Police Officers. The first is a HCC Road Safety poster warning drivers to "Slow down" which can be fixed to the side of a wheelie bin so they

are visible to motorists on bin collection days. The second is a Security Notice for household heating fuel tanks, cautioning that the fuel has been chemically tagged to make it traceable in the event of theft. It also adds that it will stain any containers used to transport the fuel. These will be available at the Parish Assembly Meeting on 28th April, Ampfield Village Hall.

Allan Clark

Chairman, Planning Committee.

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS AND THE AMPFIELD PARISH WEB SITE

Communications

During the past year we have continued to develop our communication capability while maintaining 'traditional' methods of disseminating information.

Meetings

Regular formal Council meetings are held bi-monthly. These are open to the public. Dates and agendas are posted on our notice boards and on the web site. Historically public attendance at these is low. There have also been frequent meetings of the Planning Committee and parishioners do attend these when there are items of specific concern or interest to them. The annual Parish Assembly usually attracts a large audience.

Publications

Press reports of our bi-monthly meetings are posted on our web site and sent to the Romsey Advertiser. These are also published in the Ampfield Messenger; coverage by this route is to about a third of parish households. The Council's annual newsletter is delivered by Councillors to all households each year in April and we are considering a trial issue of an additional information leaflet in the autumn, assuming that we have sufficient items to communicate at that time. Due to the high level of interest expressed by the community, leaflets were distributed to all households regarding Morley's Lane and the gypsy site planning applications and the associated Planning and public meetings.

Web Communications

The methods above are effective but lack immediacy, are slow to implement and also labour intensive. We are therefore trying to develop web based methods, so that we can more effectively broadcast information to the parish on meetings, events and other items of interest.

We have two means for parishioners to receive alerts from Council via the web. Parishioners can register via the parish website at www.ampfield.org.uk, to receive e-mails from the Council. The other mechanism is to follow us on Twitter via Follow@ampfieldparish. We are seeing a slow but steady take-up on both of these methods. The eventual goal is to send out regular messages to a wide audience in the parish. These will contain brief information on items with links to websites or contacts where more detail can be obtained. However, publicising and growing such capability is a slow process and managing such a resource is in itself demanding of Council time. There are inevitably limitations on what can be achieved beyond a simple monthly broadcast update, even with the new technology.

Ampfield Parish Website

The website design has remained stable in the last year and we have made only a few changes to improve the layout and navigation. We have added a menu item for notices which will in time be where we place the general news items. The home page still remains the place to check for the latest news items and important updates in Ampfield.

The calendar menu item that we added last year is working well and everyone who runs a club or activity in Ampfield should consider using it to alert people. It is easy to use; contact clerk@ampfield.org.uk in the first instance.

The website does get a lot of 'hits' and the various planning agendas, minutes and notices are by far the most visited pages. There are on average about 1000 unique visits a month to www.ampfield.org.uk, with more than 70% focussed on the planning issues. We have posted 30 tweets in the last year via Twitter and currently have 26 followers. These mainly focus on reminders of various events and meetings in the Parish.

These on-line resources are only effective if people regularly look at the website. We urge you to do so. If you have suggestions for website articles or information, please let us know via the Clerk.

Pete Edwards, Communications
Julian Jones, Ampfield website

THE AMPFIELD MARKET

ESTABLISHED 2000

The Ampfield Market is now in its fourteenth year. It takes place on the first Saturday of the month in Ampfield Village Hall between 10am and 12 noon, excluding January, February, July and August.

The Market has gained a great reputation and every effort is made to ensure that the sales tables are varied and display top quality, good value items including Fairtrade and fresh foods, fruit and vegetables, eggs, cakes, bread, preserves, plants, fresh flowers, pet foods and accessories, books, cards, jewellery and a wide range of crafts. We have raised over £15,000 and the proceeds go to Village Hall funds which help to provide a great local venue for all our community activities. In 2013 we introduced really good fresh coffee which proved very popular indeed. The November Market was the busiest on record and we were delighted to welcome visitors from all corners of Hampshire.



We work hard to create a welcoming, happy and relaxed atmosphere in our Market. The refreshments are freshly produced, generously donated and served between 10 and 12 by a wonderful team of volunteers without whose help the Market would cease to function.

Make a date to meet friends and sample our hospitality for yourselves? The dates for 2014 are: Apr 5th, May 3rd, June 7th, Sept 6th, Oct 4th, Nov 1st and Dec 6th.

To rent a table or for more information contact: Julie Trotter on 02380 254587.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Finance Committee met in October 2013 to review Council's Finance Regulations and again in January 2014 to review the current year's expenditure and to consider budget requirements for the financial year 2014/2015. Recommendations about the Precept for 2014/2015 were agreed at Council's meeting on 13th January 2014.

Previous Financial Year 2012/2013

Final accounts for 2012/2013 showed an income of just over £40,000, the majority of which was the Precept at £32,615. Other significant sources of income were £800 rental from the Recreation Ground, just under £2000 in grants for woodland signs and a laptop and projector, and VAT refunds of £984.

Expenditure was just over £31,100 most of which was spent in maintaining community assets. The year-end balance was nearly £43,000 which included reserves of £20,450 in the Recreation Ground Fund, £9000 in General Reserves and £2,500 for Election Expenses.

Current Financial Year 2013/2014

At the time of writing, income and expenditure for the current financial year 2013/2014 is not yet complete; the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Bryan Nanson will give an update at the Annual Parish Assembly on 28th April. However, income was just under £37,500 to end February 2014; as usual this was made up largely of the Precept at £33,388 boosted by an additional £852 from a tax benefit grant. Rents of £800 from the Recreation Ground, £1500 fees from the Burial Ground, £1121 of VAT refunds and £200 from local businesses supporting the website, make up most of the remainder.

Expenditure to end February 2014 was just over £31,200. Money was primarily spent on maintenance of our major assets Chapel Wood, the Burial Ground and the Recreation Ground.

Control of wildlife on the Recreation Ground remains a perennial expense and the Woodland trees have been subject to their 4-yearly health & safety inspection. A recently conducted survey of the Burial Ground will help us make the most of the space and create a more pleasant resting place. Challenging planning situations have taken up much time and money on advice, research and communications.

Precept and Budget for 2014/2015

Regular reviews of expenditure were carried out throughout 2013/2014 to monitor costs and determine outturn. A budget of £42,749 was set for the next financial year 2014/2015, which was much in line with previous years, and produced a Precept of £32,472. This is a modest 0.20% reduction over the previous year and is the sixth year in succession that the Precept has been reduced. Due to the method of calculation of tax based on the number of Band D properties, this reduction will perversely show as a minor increase in Test Valley Borough Council's tax list. As before, the majority of the Precept will be spent on the maintenance and enhancement of community assets. However, some provision has been made for activities associated, in one form or another, with planning matters which are expected to take up much time and resource in the coming year.

Assets

Storm damage brought down some trees and flooded one of the portakabins to the extent that it was written off by our insurers; we are now looking to replace it, perhaps with a customised container. We bought some road signs to encourage drivers to slow down when passing the War Memorial during the Remembrance Day ceremony. We have a new external audit company (which is always a challenge!) who have insisted we value our assets on the balance sheet at purchase price rather than current insurance value; comparisons with previous years will not be practicable.

Details of the audited accounts for 2012/2013, a statement of the Council's current financial position and a copy of the budget for 2014/2015 will be available at the Annual Parish Assembly.

Doreen Matthews

TRANSPORT LIAISON & ROAD SAFETY

Public Transport Services

Services 66 and 46: (Stagecoach), the published timetables show that the service levels have been maintained for 2014. The 66 service (Mon to Sat, unsubsidised, between Romsey and Winchester along the A3090) is the only service to cross the parish and we still lack a public transport connection between the Chandlers Ford end and the centre of Ampfield village. The 46, (Mon to Fri, with HCC subsidy, between Southampton Hospital and Winchester) is a limited 2 hourly service which touches the Chandlers Ford end of the Parish along Baddesley Road.

Services C3/C4: (Xelabus) (Mon to Sat, with HCC subsidy) this service is still running with the same timetable. The service runs along Baddesley Road and gives parishioners in that area a daytime 30 minute frequency connection to Chandlers Ford station and Fryern Arcade.

Hampshire County Council face a £93M reduction in annual revenue by 2015/6 due to a reduction in government funding. HCC Passenger Transport Services are undertaking a major review of subsidised services as part of a consequent £1.25 - £1.5M reduction in their budget. Between March – May this year they are consulting with organisations and individuals at a local level regarding the impact of different options for service level reduction. If you would like to participate in the consultation process there is a questionnaire aimed at individuals which can be accessed at www.hants.gov.uk/transportconsultation2014. The Parish Council will also be participating, attending forums and other meetings and we will provide feedback as and when results of the process are available.

Road Safety

Following representation in 2013 from Ampfield and North Baddesley Parish Councils, a 40 mph speed limit in Pound Lane was established in April 2013. However, a 'no left turn' restriction at the Flexford Road end of the lane was not

implemented as initially expected, due to some local objections raised in North Baddesley, in whose parish the junction is located.

Since the last Parish Assembly, where concerns were expressed regarding deer on certain roads, in liaison with HCC Highways we have also had installed some new 'deer warning' road signs in the parish. These are on the A3090 between the Potters Heron and the Hursley parish boundary and also in Pound Lane between the Green Lane junction and the railway bridge.

Now that the Abbotswood development is well advanced, the Parish Council is continuing to discuss potential modifications to speed limits on the A3090 (along the Straight Mile and around the Jermyns Lane junction) due to planned road layout changes and the expected increase in traffic flows in this area of the parish.

We hope also to develop plans for a future extension of the cycleway from Ampfield Hill to the Potters Heron and investigate changes on the A3090, in areas such as the war memorial, to help calm traffic passing through the village.

Highways Maintenance

The extremely bad weather we have all experienced during the winter has put the Highways Maintenance teams under severe pressure. Prior to the deluge we did arrange for the drainage ditches in Pound Lane to be cleared and maintained, but this is still a problematic area. Potholes continue to be flagged to HCC Highways for refill but this work has understandably had lower priority due to the flooding across the county.

Chris Sparkes, our parish Lengthsman, has been with us for just under a year. During this time he has undertaken a variety of tasks such as clearing ditches, repainting bus shelters and cleaning street signs, in addition to clearing vegetation from around footpaths. We feel that being able to direct some resources on the basis of local priorities is very useful to the parish. We have learned a lot from this first year and on the basis of the experience are now developing a more structured work plan for further work in the year ahead.



AMPFIELD RECREATION GROUND

Maintenance activities have taken place throughout the year.

Rabbits continue to be a problem and it was necessary to continue the practice of filling holes with soil and seed on weekends during the cricket season.

Problems with moles were exacerbated by the heavy rain in January and February which resulted in them moving to new areas of the ground.

Members of council repaired fence posts and arras rails in the playground.

Additionally two unfortunate incidents this winter damaged the waterlogged ground (a quad bike stolen from the Golf Club driven across the Ground and runaway horses galloping across the Ground); the effects of these may need attention before the cricket season begins.

The hard-core at the original entrance was successfully grassed over and looks much better. The Parish Council is grateful to ACE Liftaway for the kind donation of the topsoil used.

One of the PortaKabins and the cricket scorer's hut suffered roof damage in a severe storm in January. Although the buildings were quickly and temporarily secured, the water damage to the PortaKabin was so extensive that it was 'written off'. The cricket scorer's hut was repaired by members of the Parish Council. At the time of writing, work is in hand to remove the damaged building and to obtain a replacement. There was also some minor damage to the cricket pavilion which was dealt with by the cricket club.

There have been some justified complaints over the unauthorised use of the Ground for private firework displays. Fireworks are to be expected at e.g. New Year and Guy Fawkes Night and people can arrange then to keep their animals safe. At

other times, however, it is important that those planning to let off fireworks be considerate and ensure that they do not use the loudest ones and that those with dogs and other animals in the vicinity are warned in advance. If the Parish Clerk is informed in good time, such plans can be notified to Parishioners on the Parish website.

Bryan Nanson



THE FRIENDS OF CHAPEL WOOD

For the Friends of Chapel Wood, the past twelve months have proved both productive and rewarding. The year started with a very busy agenda as

we sought to pursue our long-term objective, which is to provide the parishioners of Ampfield with a wild,

community wood that is available for the benefit of all and from which each can take their own personal experiences. This was made all the more challenging, it must be said, by a bizarre period of winter weather as prodigious quantities of rain, invariably accompanied by continuous very high winds, contrived to interrupt our schedule as much as possible.

In last year's Annual Report we drew attention to the work undertaken in the parish burial ground,



part of project to set out the burial ground in such a way that maximum use might be made of the space available and that, in addition, it should reflect more accurately the original plans. A full ground survey has been undertaken to that effect and following on from this a swathe of the *Rhododendron ponticum* that had colonized the area has been removed. Not only has this liberated a number of fine old trees but, in the fullness of time, we hope to remove all of the *ponticum* in this area and replant with a more traditional hedgerow. This would be more in



which is contained within the boundary of the wood. This continued into the current year as

keeping with current practice, whilst maintaining a degree of privacy for visitors to the area.

It is also pleasing to report that in the lower wood we have made significant inroads into another project that had been requiring attention for some time. This is the removal of the encroaching undergrowth that was threatening to suffocate the area around the pond and the boardwalks, areas that provide habitats for flora and fauna for our quest to improve biodiversity in the wood and, hence, ecological sustainability. Left to their own devices, the more aggressive plants and those with the most cunning survival techniques would gradually take over. The boardwalks and the footpaths would thus become difficult to pass and the pond would silt up. In such a way, the Friends are able to act as unofficial referees, maintaining some order on the field of play, as it were!

In addition, we have continued with the programme of planting, including *Amelanchier*

lamarkii near the pond, the jubilee oak in the glade and an area of bluebells in the upper wood. It is also worth mentioning that, inline with our Health and Safety Policy, we have commissioned a full survey of the health of the trees in the wood and will be appointing a contractor to deal with the outcomes shortly.



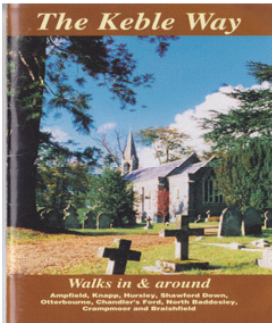
In the meantime, mention needs to be made of the volunteers that comprise the Friends of Chapel Wood, without whom not only would much of the above not be possible but it certainly would not have been achieved in such a convivial and amiable manner. We meet in the church car park at 0945 am on the second Saturday of each month, July and August excepted. With the emphasis being very much on friendly and relaxed enjoyment, new members are always very much welcomed and no prior knowledge is necessary. Very many thanks to all of you.

Graham Roads, Friends of Chapel Wood

AMPFIELD COUNTRYSIDE HERITAGE AREA

Designated by Hampshire County Council in 1991, the Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area (ACHA) encompasses the whole of Ampfield and spreads into the parishes of Hursley, Otterbourne, North Baddesley and Romsey Extra. It comprises an area of unspoiled countryside; made up of many small fields, copses and settlements that have evolved over hundreds of years and to this day remain relatively unchanged. The Hursley Map of 1588 shows field patterns and parkland such as Hursley and Cranbury that are still identifiable today.

The Heritage Area has a fine network of countryside walks ranging from 1 to 18 miles that allows the traveller to see first hand many of the local features. Originally printed in a book known as "The Keble Way" it is the intention to reproduce an updated version electronically that will be available on



the Ampfield Parish Council website. The first of the 'walks' has been completed and we hope to have a pilot version on the website as soon as possible.

The first of the new series of Heritage talks, entitled "Butterflies in and around Ampfield Wood" took place in early March. Presented by Dr. Andrew Barker, it offered a fascinating insight into the world of butterflies that can be seen in and around the ACHA area. The evening was well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The state of the butterfly population in our

area is important as it reflects the health of our countryside and there may be an opportunity to help gather information on this – please, watch our website. Further talks are planned for the Autumn.

The Boxing Day walk around Ampfield Wood was a great success. Led by Martin Hatley, a good number of people put on their wellingtons to get some fresh air on a delightful Boxing Day morning. A summer walk is planned for later in the year.



If you are interested in joining in or helping with any of these activities, please contact Martin Hatley (02380 254040) or Graham Roads (01794 367103). We are looking for people to help with bringing the Keble Way walks up to date. Also if you have any specialist knowledge of the area, be it historical, geographical or the natural environment, that you think could contribute to our understanding, please get in touch.

Graham Roads
Ampfield Parish Council

LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG)



The Local Action Group (LAG) is a rural policing objective with the aim of combating rural crime. We are lucky in Ampfield in that a low number of crimes are reported but we still need to remain vigilant. Thefts and other incidents

do occur. Please read the article from our local PCSO Jo Cole; she will be attending the Parish Assembly and will be available to answer any of your questions or concerns.

Cllr David Stevens

RURAL POLICING



My name is Joanna Cole and I have the pleasure of being your local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). I cover Romsey's rural villages including Romsey Extra. I have been a PCSO for 8yrs and thoroughly enjoy

the daily challenges it can bring.

My role is wide ranging and includes dealing with anti-social behaviour, neighbour and domestic disputes, giving crime prevention advice and carrying out reassurance visits to those who have been unfortunate enough to have been the victim of crime.

I work alongside partner agencies such as our local housing providers, the anti-social behaviour officer from Test Valley Borough Council, and the local schools. Working together helps us give a more efficient and effective response to the issues and concerns of the communities we serve.

I regularly attend all the parish council meetings providing updates and information regarding local issues, I visit the local schools to engage with the pupils, giving presentations on a wide range of topical issues. I set up the Romsey Farm Watch which I continue to run and I am actively involved in assisting our local Neighbourhood Watch set up new watches in the area.

It is widely believed the early intervention of PCSOs can often deter people from committing offences, and certainly stops minor problems getting worse, and so my main objective is to keep in contact with the communities as often as possible.

In an effort to support this, I regularly send out weekly bulletins reporting local updates on crime and preventative information.

Please report any suspicious activity in your area on 101 for non-emergency or if a crime is taking place 999.

PCSO Jo Cole

FOOTPATHS

The footpaths in the Parish have recently been in the care of Martin Trotter, helped by Mrs Robinson and Mr & Mrs Jerrome. The weather has been against them and in a number of places rain and wind have damaged the paths. With Martin Trotter's death we have lost our "lead" Warden and Mrs Robinson has also decided to withdraw. The Council is grateful to Barbara Jerrome for agreeing to take over the function of Footpath Warden with the assistance of her husband Paul. They would welcome support in this. If anyone is interested in volunteering to assist, they should contact the Clerk to the Council or Barbara Jerrome. Any problems with paths can, of course, be similarly notified to the Clerk or the Footpath team.

Margaret Rothwell

AMPFIELD COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL

2013/14 has been a very eventful year for the pre-school. In April 2013 Sandy Oliver announced her retirement after 23 years! The staff and parents said a sad farewell to Sandy, and some of the children that were leaving for school, at the woods for a very hot picnic in July!

In September I was very fortunate to be given the opportunity to take over the reins as pre-school Manager from Sandy. Having

previously run a pre-school in Romsey, I was ready to take on a new challenge.

So the start of the new academic year was a very positive one for the pre-school. To join our dedicated friendly existing staff we welcomed two new experienced assistants. We started with a very healthy number of children who began their learning journey with us in September; their ages ranged between two and six months and three year olds. The numbers continue to rise!

In November we had a successful AGM with a very positive outcome. Our new committee was formed. They help organize fundraising events and contribute ideas to help develop the pre-school. They are very valued and we would not be able to run without them. Among the fundraising events we have done since September, we have had a Pyjama Day, Cake Sales and a Christmas raffle/party which raised enough funds for new equipment and storage units. The next event we will be holding will be an Easter Bonnet Parade/ Party, where we have a very special guest to judge the bonnets. In May we will be having a sponsored walk with the children around the recreation area to help raise funds. Also in July we are hoping to

have a sports day which will, we hope, also take place at the Recreation Ground. This will be a lovely opportunity to say goodbye to many of our children who will be leaving for school.

From January this year we have been fortunate to be able to extend our hours from mornings only to full days on Monday and Fridays. This has become very successful and we have had to increase staff due to more demand from parents wanting to send their children all day, in preparation for school readiness.

Children are making the most of the opportunities to use the woodlands for natural outdoor learning, even though the weather has been really wet this year. With appropriate clothing the children have still managed to use these facilities. The Playground has enhanced our physical development and is always very popular with the children. We will continue as a team to give the children a very happy, safe and secure environment. Our wish for Ampfield Community Pre-School for 2014 is to continue to develop and grow.

We do have spaces for September but they are filling up fast, so if anyone is interested in their child attending such a friendly, nurturing setting then please contact Becky on 07712566879. Please let us know beforehand as it may be a day when we are at the woods or the play park, especially if we get some dry weather, and we will be walking our little train of children along the pavement again.

Becky Weaver



AMPFIELD C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have had an absolutely fantastic year at Ampfield CE Primary where I have been the Executive Headteacher since September 2012. Since writing last year, we have continued to grow and we now have 42 children on roll. Our links with the community feel stronger and we are still getting some very positive feedback and invaluable recommendations from our parents and carers.



In November 2013, we were subject to an OFSTED monitoring visit. Once again this visit was extremely complimentary about the work of the school and states that 'The School is able to demonstrate further improvements, particularly in the rates of progress made by pupils in all age groups across the school and in the quality of teaching. Teachers have responded positively to training activities and the opportunities to share effective practice and moderate pupils' work with the federated school. Consistently better teaching was observed in both classes and pupils are making above expected progress in lessons and over time. Standards are improving rapidly, including phonics, as a result of higher expectations and greater levels of challenge in lessons. Pupils identified with a special educational

need and those eligible for the additional pupil premium funding are consistently making above expected progress.

From September 2013 and after a year of collaboration, we formally federated with John Keble CE Primary School in Hursley and this partnership continues to strengthen both schools and the outcomes for all of the children in them.

The governing body who now work across the federation has continued to improve and is working with enthusiasm and vigour, ensuring that both schools continue to thrive.

From January 2014 we are delighted to have appointed full-time Heads of School at both Ampfield and John Keble. Both Heads of School will work across the federation, but initially we welcome Mrs Ellie O'Hearn to Ampfield and Mr Rob Sanders to John Keble. Both Heads of School are already making a significant impact, bringing their experience and determination to succeed.

Our teaching, and support staff have remained invaluable, but have improved further by the addition of an extra HLTA and Early Years Assistant. The team goes from strength to strength supporting all members of the school community to an exceptional level.

We have had special services in St Mark's Church with Reverend Peter Gilks for Harvest, a Candlelit Christingle service for Christmas and are looking forward to our Easter Service on Thursday 3rd April. Peter continues to provide worship in school weekly. In the Autumn term KS2 children visited

Hollycombe Stearn Museum and KS1 visited the Weald and Dowland Museum. For both trips, we joined the children from John Keble School. Some of our KS2 children took part in the Bikeability scheme again, giving them confidence in riding



a bike independently and we have welcomed visitors into school such as Hampshire Fire & Rescue, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Childline. The 'Friends' of the school have organised numerous events so far this school year, raising funds for our school. There will be an Easter Fete on Thursday 3rd April from 3.00pm for which you are most welcome to come along. I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank our supportive 'Friends' association and the many very valuable volunteers from the local and wider school community who regularly come in and help out in school. Your support is hugely appreciated and invaluable in so many ways. Thank you.

Looking forward we will continue to develop as a school and as a federation ensuring the best possible outcomes for every child. We are very proud of our journey over the past two years and we are determined to build on our achievements and grow as a school community. I am very proud of our pupils here at Ampfield. They constantly impress us with their excellent behaviour and attitudes to learning (Ofsted Nov 2013). They persevere and tackle challenges with confidence. I am also very proud of my staff who always go the extra mile and work with passion and drive to ensure all children progress well.

As I move on to my new role of Primary Phase Inspector for the Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service, I will feel sad, but know that Ampfield (no longer the smallest primary school in Hampshire) is thriving in every aspect. I would also like to welcome the new incoming Executive Headteacher Marcus Roe who is looking forward to meeting you all.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can further the work of our school, in any capacity, please contact Ellie O'Hearn our Head of School, via the school office or by email ohearn@ampfield.hants.sch.uk. We look forward to further strengthening our partnership in the Parish, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Julie Carrington
Executive head teacher

ST. MARK'S CHURCH AMPFIELD



The Ministry Team for Ampfield, Chilworth and North Baddesley consists of Revd Peter Gilks (Vicar), Revds Clifford Stride, Vanessa Lawrence, and Hilary Healey, Mrs Sally Kerson and Mr Jonathan de Vile who are Readers; Mrs Kerson also is the parish administrator, working from the Parish Office in North Baddesley. In January Revd Claire Maxim left us to take up her appointment as Vicar of Ludgershall and Faberstown in the Diocese of Salisbury.

The clergy are regularly involved with Ampfield School. Revd Gilks is a foundation Governor of the Federation of Ampfield and Hursley Primary schools, regularly leading Collective Worship at Ampfield and assisting with resourcing the Religious Education. The Parochial Church Council elect other foundation governors and those are currently Mr Bryan Vint (Chairman) and Miss Doreen Walker.

The church continues to work closely with the Parish Council over the day to day running of Chapel Wood Burial Ground. Once again we are greatly indebted to the Parish Council and to the Friends of Chapel Wood for all their care of the churchyard. It has been much appreciated again to have the use of the Glade for church activities, the Good Friday activity day for families, the Fete and the annual Pet Service. As last year, the fete took place in the Churchyard and in the Glade and once again it was felt that holding it on this site worked admirably well.

The Friends of St Mark's raise funds for the upkeep of the building, which are restricted to this purpose and are not available for on-going day-to-day parish expenses. Currently there are 47 members of the Friends.

St Mark's building is in good repair, and only minor work was required after the 5-yearly survey and inspection of the building. However in a building which is 170 years old, repairs can become necessary at any time and constant vigilance is exercised by the churchwardens in their care of the church. Unfortunately plans to provide new gates did not materialise as we would have been required to have architect-designed ones which were beyond our budget.

The two bells at St Mark's have been in place since it was built and, because they are in an inaccessible turret on the roof, no maintenance has been possible. Remarkably, after 170 years, they still work, but the mechanism is very heavy and there is corrosion on the head-stocks and the various moving parts exposed to the weather.



The PCC and the Friends of St Mark's are working together to raise funds to put the bells into good order and preserve them for the next period of Ampfield's history. The total bill is expected to be around £8,500 including the cost of scaffolding. Fortunately we can get our VAT reimbursed under the Listed Places of Worship scheme. Grant-awarding bodies will also be approached for assistance. A formal appeal will be launched once the final target figure is known.

It is believed that the unusual horizontal method of ringing may be unique. The bell ropes come down from the turret and travel inside two cavities in the west wall, emerging through the panelling at about 3 feet above floor level. The rope is then pulled horizontally with the ringer standing in the aisle. Demonstrations can be seen at the Friends of St Mark's AGM scheduled for Monday 19th May, and those who attend are very welcome to have a go!

This year we began a mapping exercise in the churchyard, as while we have a list of the monuments, we are also required to have a plan showing the lay-out. Work will be completed once

the drier weather comes. With the Parish Council we are currently reviewing the rules for the Burial Ground, primarily to clarify entitlement to its use. The new rules will be published later in the year.

Despite none of the Ministry team living in Ampfield, we are all committed to serving the pastoral care and worshipping life of this parish and appreciate very much being part of this friendly community.

Peter Gilks
Priest-in-charge

Contact details for St Mark's

Rev. Peter Gilks:	02380 740515
Parish Office: (Mon, Wed, Fri: 9-12)	02380 737617
Rev. Claire Maxim:	02380 739145
Rev. Clifford Stride: (for baptism enquiries)	02380 739835

Churchwardens

Derek Allen:	02380 276350
Jean Smith:	01794 519685

ACHA Dates for your diary:

The next free ACHA Heritage Lecture will be given by local ecologist Phil Lomax, on Monday Oct. 20th starting at 7.45pm in the Ampfield Village Hall and is titled 'God's Acre'. Churchyards over the centuries have enjoyed historical protection and so have also become sanctuaries for wildlife – often from the adjoining countryside. Phil Lomax is a founding member of the Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE) and is well known and respected both nationally and locally. Do come along. All are welcome.

The annual Boxing Day Heritage Walk has been confirmed for Friday 26 December 2014 starting from the Village Hall at 10.30 am and ending around the White Horse at 12.15. There will also be a Summer Walk and details will be announced via the notice boards and Parish Website. If you wish to be notified by email of all ACHA events then just email martin.hatley@testvalley.org.uk

AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall has continued to be used by various groups, the Pre-school and private hirers, while the Village Market continues to flourish under Julie Trotter's brilliant guidance. For many reasons, the Management Committee (constituted as a small charity) has not in the last year been able to organise its usual range of community activities, but hopes to resume its programme in the coming year, and to have full support in this. Plans for the restoration of the Hall, under arrangements linked to the Morleys Lane development, will require careful planning in conjunction with the Parish Council's new responsibilities in the area. So will the potential purchase of the freehold of the Hall by the Parish Council, at present being explored with the Hampshire Women's Institute as current owners, in order to maximise the benefit the Hall brings to the community.

Margaret Rothwell

What happens in the Village Hall every month? More than you think!

How about joining one of the regular groups?

AMPFIELD COMMUNITY PRE SCHOOL

During term time: Mon. to Fri. 9am to 12noon and also Mon. and Fri. 12noon to 3pm Contact Becky Weaver (Manager) 07712 566879 / 07933 316983
E mail: ampfieldpreschool1@gmail.com

ZUMBA GOLD – NEW class starting 28 April

Unique and fun exercise based on Latin American dance for active older adults & those preferring slower paced workouts. Mondays 3.45pm to 4.45pm. Contact Pauline on 07425 152642 (Half price £3 until July)

AMPFIELD BRIDGE CLUB. This very popular and friendly club meets every Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 10pm. Experienced players and beginners welcome.

1st AMPFIELD BROWNIES Weds. evening during term time. 6pm to 7.30pm Tel. Sue Moore 01794 523947

ROMSEY MODELLERS Build model kits? Want to get more from your hobby? Join this club 3rd. Weds. of each month 8pm to 10pm. Tel. Tony 07736 555664. www.romseymodellers.co.uk

AMPFIELD ART GROUP

Thursday afternoons during term time 2pm to wishing to develop their skills welcome. Very friendly. Contact Julie Trotter on 023 8025 4587

YOGA Thursday evenings during term time 6.30pm to 9pm. Very quiet and peaceful sessions. Contact Marie on 07906 233175

CRAFT CLASSES A range of crafts taught, meets monthly, normally on the second Saturday, of each month from 9am to 4pm. Relaxed day and delicious coffee provided. Details from Vanessa 01794 515490 or 07765 198088.

ABC (AMPFIELD BEADING CLUB) Meets monthly, normally on the last Sunday of the month, but this does vary. All day classes. Contact Julie on 07899 992682.

VILLAGE MARKET. This takes place on the first Saturday of every month 10-12noon (except Jan, Feb, Jul and Aug.). Entry free. Interested in renting a table? Ring Julie on 02380 254587.

General enquiries and hall bookings tel. Martin Hatley 07970 501050 / 02380 254040
E mail: villagehall@ampfield.org.uk

Your Parish Council

Chairman: Margaret Rothwell C.M.G.

Vice-Chairman: Bryan Nanson

Edward Butcher, Allan Clark, Pete Edwards
Martin Hatley, Julian Jones, Graham Roads,
David Stevens.

Clerk to the Council: Doreen Matthews,
Blue Haze, Ampfield Hill, Ampfield, Romsey SO51 9BD
Tel: 01794 368437 • E-mail: clerk@ampfield.org.uk

***Parish Website:* www.ampfield.org.uk**

The Parish has a number of committees and sub-committees including:

Finance, Planning and Woodland.

Date and time of all Council and Committee meetings are advertised on Parish notice boards and on the website and they can be attended by the general public.

The Parish Council has links to:

The Hampshire Association of Local Councils

The Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Councils

Test Valley Community Services

The Ampfield Village Hall Committee

The Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area Group

Ampfield Primary School

The Test Valley Passenger and Transport Liaison Forum

Councillors also attend a variety of statutory and ad hoc committees and consultations of interest to the Parish.

Your Parish Councillors are the first tier of local government and are unpaid.