

Parish Pages

PARISH FOOTPATH FOCUS

There are some wonderful walks around the parish but sometimes the footpaths are misused so here is just a little reminder about how to 'treat' our natural walkways.

We must all make sure that we 'leave no trace' and the way to do this is to stick to the routes that are right for your sort of transport – your feet, a bike, or a horse.

Public footpaths

These are for feet or using a mobility aid but nothing bigger - no bikes or horses! These are marked by yellow arrows or wooden signs that say FOOTPATH.

Some landowners/farmers do allow people to ride horses on their land, however riders are NOT ALLOWED on the actual footpath - they can ride alongside the footpath but it is illegal to ride on any footpath itself.

Bridleways

Horses are allowed on bridleways and also those on foot, using mobility scooters/ wheelchairs as well as cyclists. These paths are stile-free/gate free. These have a blue arrow or a sign staying BRIDLEWAY.

Restricted byways

These are open to the same groups as bridleways (walkers, mobility vehicle users, horse- and bike-riders) with just the addition of anyone travelling in a horse-drawn vehicle. Sometimes there may be the odd farm vehicle that will use these. These have a purple arrow.

Byways open to all traffic (BOATS)

These permit all the same users as the restricted byways but also allow motor vehicles, motorbikes, cars or vans. They have a red arrow.

Permissive Paths

These are pathways that you're allowed to use because the person who privately owns that land has made the route available to the public. Take note of any restrictions

PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG AND TAKE IT TO A BIN - PLEASE DON'T LEAVE BAGS IN OUR PRECIOUS COUNTRYSIDE.

If there are any issues with a footpath - fallen trees, overgrown etc please contact the Amport Parish Council.

In this newsletter you can expect:

Footpath Focus

What's on in the Parish

Last Meeting in Brief

Weyhill Area

Village Hall Update

Neighbourhood Plan

Watercress and Winterournes

Volunteer



WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH

The Hawk Conservancy Trust

March is your last chance to come and see the beautiful winter birds of prey take flight for the season at the Hawk Conservancy Trust!



Evening Owls at the Hawk Conservancy Trust

Selected evenings throughout Spring 2024

Doors open at 5.30 pm | Flying display commences at 7 pm.

Breach Farm Brewing

The Brewery is open every Friday, and Saturday. There are food vans and events on the following nights in March:

- 1 March - Tipsy Toastie
- 2 March - The General (burgers)
- 7 March - Mug Night and Run Club
- 9 March - Peppones Street Food
- 15 March - The General (burgers)
- 16 March - Arty Stan - Pizza
- 21 March - Mug Night and Run Club
- 22 March - Tipsy Toastie
- 28 March - Brewers Guild Meeting
- 29 March - Peppones Street Food
- 30 March - Funky Pickle



WEYHILL AREA

Weyhill Noticeboard

The new noticeboard is to be located on land at the entrance to Fairways. This has been ordered and paid for by Amport Parish Council and Aster have kindly given the Parish Council permission to put it on their land. It will be put in place as soon as we receive delivery.

Weyhill Community Land

Amport Parish Council are looking at whether land could be acquired in Weyhill for community purposes eg: village green. The PC are exploring TVBC grants and identifying landowners.

Planning

In recent years, your Parish Council has developed good relationships with other neighbouring parishes. This means that where planning issues potentially involve more than one parish - a prime example being the Dauntsey Lane area in Weyhill - the PC is co-operating with the neighbouring parishes with the objective that submissions from residents in the Parish can be made to the planning authority. This is an ongoing initiative.

Food Vans on Amport Green

The following food vans will be on Amport Green over the next three months! Times are 5pm - 8pm

March 21st - Peppones Street Food

April 18th - Arty-Stan Pizzas

May 16th - Travelling Thai



*Volunteers
needed*

Volunteering Working Groups

Amport Parish Council is planning to do tree-felling of dead and fallen trees on the green and in the fen on **16 March** weather permitting. A couple of fit volunteers who can assist in clearing and stacking the felled trees would be welcome.

Meet at 9 am at the south-east corner of the green and bring sturdy footwear and gloves.

February meeting in brief

Play Equipment - repair to take place soon and APC are getting quotes for new goal posts for the green.

Highways – Amport Parish Council continues to correspond regarding problems around the parish that have been reported - in particular to the damage at the junction of Amesbury Road and Fyfield Road at Weyhill and of course potholes!

Water Testing - There is an initiative to test the water in the Pill Hill Brook and testing kits are being obtained from the Angling Trust. Some funding has been obtained from Southern Water and local businesses and Parish Councils are being asked to pay the balance.

Social Media - Amport Parish Council has a code of conduct in place surrounding social media posts and will not tolerate any abuse on social media whether directed at the parish council or other parish individuals.

Neighbourhood Plan

The NP is progressing well. There are now 3 active working groups (WGs) identifying protected views and green spaces amongst other things.

The main framework of the plan has been written and the WGs are gathering evidence from parishioners about what they want to see in it. There will be a number of community engagement activities where parishioners can meet and share their views with WGs. These will be incorporated into the plan.

The Weyhill Working Group is being lead by Anthony Putt and Clare Hemmings, East Cholderton by Geraldine Grimshaw and Amport by Robert Talbot Rice. We are fortunate to have just over 20 volunteers who are working hard to put the plan together. When in place every planning application will have to reference the NP. We will publish Community Engagement meetings on social media, Amport Parish Website and Parish Pages.

FIBRE CONNECTIONS

Efforts to bring Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) to give Amport homes and businesses modern internet speeds have only been partially successful, and it is not yet clear when FTTP will be available to all Amport residents.

Sarsons Close have had FTTP for some years now and during 2023 FTTP was extended to houses connected to the Abbotts Ann exchange as part of the Abbotts Ann Community Fibre Partnership scheme.

Houses in the remainder of the parish (which are connected to the Weyhill and Grateley exchanges) now fall under the Government's Project Gigabit scheme, which is an alternative to the Community Fibre Partnership. In July 2023 BDUK gave a contract to City Fibre to connect 76,000 premises in Hampshire. The risk is that City Fibre will concentrate on properties which are easier to connect.

The Parish Council has engaged with Test Valley, Hampshire County Council, and our MP, to ensure that our concerns with the failure to conclude the Gigabit Procurement Process are understood. Amport residents who do not yet have the option of an FTTP connection might wish to register on the City Fibre website at <https://cityfibre.com> in order to receive their updates. As you will note when you go through the registration process, City Fibre say that they "haven't planned your area at the moment".



NEW NEWSLETTER

We hope you all enjoyed and found the new newsletter useful last month.

There are some challenges and this is getting it to everyone in the parish. We have to use 'parish power' - AKA manpower - to deliver these to everyone.

If there is anyone in the parish who likes a good walk and would like to volunteer to help us deliver the newsletter please do get in touch.

And if anyone missed out, please let us know - sometimes if we cannot find your post box we cannot deliver!

If you want to 'save a tree' then please SIGN UP to news alerts on the Amport Parish Council Website and then we can send you this newsletter digitally!

www.amportparishcouncil.org.uk

There is a blue button on the right of the first page of the website that says SIGN UP FOR NEWS.



Monxton & Amport Village Hall—UPDATE

The oak frame for the new hall has been erected. The erection of the roof is underway, followed by the walls and windows.

It is hoped that the shell will be watertight by about Easter.

They are still looking for 4 trustees for Village Hall Committee - Chairman, Treasurer, Admin and Booking so if there is anyone who would like to help please contact Mike Cleugh.

mikecleugh@hotmail.com



'Tales from the Riverbank' competition and festival



The Watercress and Winterbournes Landscape Partnership Scheme is teaming up with Hampshire Library Service to continue a literary tradition that spans centuries. Sharing favorite river-focused books, and celebrating creativity through a poetry competition and literature festival.

The poetry competition which is free to enter, asks 7-18 year olds to write a short poem inspired by the wonderful world of chalk streams. Winners will receive National Book Tokens worth up to £75, and have their poems published in a special commemorative booklet. Entrants must live within the Watercress and Winterbournes scheme area and submit their poem by midnight on 31st July 2024.

hiwwt.org.uk/tales.



Haydown Link - 2 years on

The end of March marks the 2nd anniversary of the planting of the trees on Haydown Link. They are doing very well and only 2 trees have had to be replaced. This spring will see the preparation and planting of wildflowers next to the trees.



Ongoing fundraising is in place to maintain and look after Haydown Link and if you wish to donate please just scan the QR code!

AMPORT PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK: clerk@amportparishcouncil.org.uk

If you have any events or other interesting information regarding the parish please do let us know so we can add it into the next newsletter.

CHAIRMAN: chris@amportparishcouncil.org.uk

EDITOR: Tessa@amportparishcouncil.org.uk

If you are unable to attend a meeting but would like to raise a concern, please contact the Clerk by email at clerk@amportparishcouncil.org.uk or by telephone on 01264 773796

MEETING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Parish Council meets on a Monday at 07:30pm at the Amport School.

Anyone is welcome to attend any of these meetings.

18 March

15 April

20 May

24 June

15 July

16 September

21 October

18 November



Thank you for reading!