



AMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2021

Welcome to the Autumn 2021 edition of the Ampfield Parish Council Newsletter, which is being published online. If you would like a paper copy please contact the Parish Clerk: Kate Orange, on 07922 118840.

Mayoral Tree Planting

The Worshipful, the Mayor of Test Valley, Cllr Mark Cooper, accompanied by the Mayoress Sue Tippet, recently donated and planted an oak tree with a commemorative plaque to remember those who lost their lives to the Covid-19 pandemic and to recognise gratefully all the many volunteers who gave their time and support to help others. The tree is in the clearing by the dipping pond and available for all to see.

The Mayor also formally opened the newly installed dipping platform, the original was destroyed in 2010 when a large oak tree fell onto it during a storm. The pupils of Ampfield Primary School used to have lessons in the woodland, where the dipping platform was particularly important, providing a strong practical and visual experience. With the new dipping platform finally completed, Ampfield Parish Council has again been liaising with the school to make good use of this valuable learning space.



Planning

The planning committee has continued to meet regularly, with the benefit of public participation on some recent planning applications.

Most applications are straightforward but the Council does raise objections where we feel they are not in sympathy with the Village Design Statement. We also input our opinion to applications which go to appeal to the planning inspectorate.

We have considered and commented on several applications relating to the development of the care village (Ampfield Meadows) on Baddesley Road, with more likely to follow. This large development is now underway. Although we support the concept of the establishment of the care village, we have listened to the concerns of residents of Flexford Close and have formally objected to aspects of the latest application.

Recreation Ground and Pavilion

Improvements to the drainage at the entrance to the ground, which gets very waterlogged, have been carried out and we have already observed an improvement during the heavy autumn rain.

Now that the new car park is available, there is a steady uptake of hirings of the pavilion which is an ideal setting for family events. To hire the pavilion please contact the Parish Clerk, details on Page 11.

The ANBCC cricketers were able to use the facilities when lockdown was relaxed. As well as playing league matches this included the, very successful, Friday evening Allstars events where 5 to 8 year-olds enjoyed cricket coaching.

ANBCC have also entered 2 U9s teams into the Winchester & District Cricket league for the 2022 season and have entered an U9s team into the winter indoor league starting in December. The efforts of our cricket club to encourage the sports development of local children is to be commended.

Cont'd on page 3:

Thanks to funding from our Borough Councillor Martin Hatley and our County Councillor Alan Dowden, a defibrillator has been purchased and installed at the pavilion. Installation was carried out free of charge by our electricians Redington Home Services.



This is a welcome addition to the defibrillators which the Parish Council has already installed at the Village Hall and the Potters Heron.

Ampfield Allotments

Ampfield Parish Council has 16 allotments, at Morleys Green, for use by parishioners. We have some vacant plots, so if you would like to hire one please contact Kate Orange the Parish Clerk, details on Page 12.



Forestry Work in Ampfield Wood by Forestry England

Forestry England's contractors started work in Ampfield Wood this autumn. They are felling some of the trees to allow more room for others to grow and to encourage the wildlife and habitats beneath to thrive. Selectively removing some of the trees is known as 'thinning'. The wood from these smaller trees that are thinned is used for products like garden sheds, fence panels, gates and posts, pallets, wood chips and fuel. The remaining trees will carry on growing. The felling work is expected to be finished by early December, depending on the weather and ground conditions, the timber still to be collected in the following weeks.



The aim of this work is to create a healthy woodland with good structure that will improve the resilience of the woods in the long-term. The main forestry access point on Jermyns Lane will be closed during the felling operation.

Extra care should be taken during this time. Warning signs will be in place around work areas and it is important that people pay attention to signs for their own safety and that of others. People are urged not to climb on log stacks and look out for lorries moving timber. These forestry activities are part of a carefully managed programme and are carried out in accordance with the required permissions.

Local Beat Forester, Ben Phelan, explains: "Some people are concerned when they see trees being felled, however when sustainably managed, it's a key part of good woodland management. Harvesting trees provides the wood that we all use in our daily lives and helps promote new growth. Thinning lets more light reach the woodland floor which increases the diversity of the plants and encourages more wildlife."

Parish Website

Please remember to visit our website at www.ampfield.org.uk where you can find information about Ampfield parish.

The "Planning Tracker" function enables you to see what planning applications are pending and decided and to go directly to the information on Test Valley Borough Council's website. You can also be informed of applications near you shortly after they are submitted.

The "Report it!" page directs you to the appropriate authority (usually not the Parish Council!) to report all sorts of problems you may have, for example police and neighbourhood watch, report a pothole and many other helpful links.

You can find traffic speed and volume data collected by our Speed Limit Reminder sign.

Information on the footpaths in the parish can be found under the 'Community' heading.

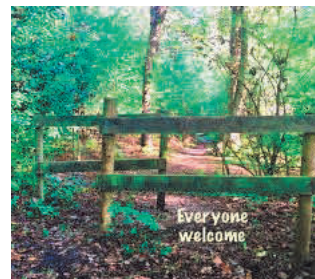
Transport and Highways

Correspondence with Hampshire County Council (HCC) Highways continues concerning the proposed traffic calming measures close to Morleys Green. It is proving difficult to persuade HCC Highways to implement a traffic island in the centre of the road at the bus stop east of Green Pond Lane despite the various objections raised by them being either refuted or overcome.

A replacement Speed Limit Reminder sign has been in use at various sites within the parish since July 2021. The parish council continues to monitor traffic speeds and volumes. This data can be found on our website.

Friends of Chapel Wood

Last year, our programme was heavily affected by lockdowns and by adverse weather, in contrast the past six months has been a very busy period for the Friends of Chapel Wood. We have had plenty of stuff to catch up on. Several planned projects have been completed successfully and others have been moved along to the next stage.



The most exciting job has been, finally, to replace the dipping platform over the pond. We were lucky to find a first-rate firm to undertake the work and to receive much support from the Borough during the process. In October, the Mayor of Test Valley, who was visiting our woodland, kindly opened the dipping platform, formally.



We are now in contact with Ampfield Primary School and hope Chapel Wood and its pond will be able to play a new role in teaching the children about the importance that nature and biodiversity has in just about everything we do. With that in mind, we have also added some 'home-made' benches to the area in front of the platform.

During the past six months, the FOCW has become a member of Team Wilder. This is an initiative from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to heighten awareness of the importance of nature in our daily lives and to channel efforts into giving nature a helping hand (<https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/team-wilder>).

Finally, your parish council must thank all the Friends for everything they have done. The increase in traffic in the woodland over this past difficult year is ample testimony recording how important this place has become to many people. The Friends' contribution towards this is invaluable.



We all look forward to a more peaceful 2022.

Ampfield Village Hall

In March 2020 the hall closed due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The Village Hall Committee decided that during these sad unprecedented times, the closure actually provided them with the golden opportunity to carry out some much-needed general maintenance, repairs and some more major enhancements.

The main hall and annexe were redecorated. The fitting of the new hall floor was completed by adding new oak skirting boards. Seven original doors, full of dormant woodworm were replaced with smart new doors that meet the current regulations. A new fixed bar and drinks servery was installed in the kitchenette.

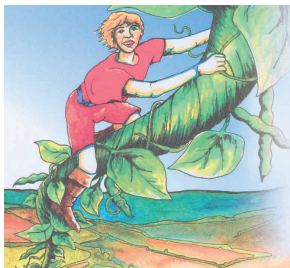
Finally, we hung new curtains in the main hall and annexe. Various TVBC and Covid 19 grants enabled us to do this work and we are very grateful for that support.

If you would like to join our enthusiastic, friendly team of volunteers and become a member of the Hall committee, then please don't hesitate to contact the Hon. Secretary, Julie Trotter, julie@ampfield.org.uk for further details.

The Panto will return on December 15th with Jack & The Beanstalk starting at 6pm prompt. (Doors open at 5.30pm).

Tickets: £8.00 Adult £4.00 Children

Martin Hatley 07970 501050



Our IT Help and Support service has reopened and takes place on Thursday afternoon between 2pm - 4pm. This advice is free but a donation to hall funds is always very welcome. Please contact Sue via ithelpavh@outlook.com for an appointment .

Parish Council Financial Report

Audit for Year Ended 31 March 2021

The audit for the Year Ended 31 March 2021 has been concluded by PKF Littlejohn. It was found that we had completed our annual return in accordance with Proper Practices and there were no matters giving cause for concern.

Assets

We recently constructed or acquired the following assets:

- In Chapel Wood: dipping platform, boardwalk and adjacent seating
- Oak Tree and plaque, commemorating those who have died in the COVID-19 pandemic, and in gratitude to those who have helped others to cope.
- AED (automated external defibrillator) at Ampfield Pavilion
- New noticeboard on the Straight Mile

The asset register records the disposal of the old Straight Mile noticeboard.

Gifts, Grants, s106 and CIL funding

We have received the following gifts:

- The excavation of a hole for the COVID-19 commemorative tree, from JN Landscapes Ltd
- The fitting of the AED (defibrillator) at Ampfield Pavilion, from Redington Home Services Ltd

These are the grants, s106 and CIL funds that we have received so far in the 2021-2022 financial year:

- s106 (developers' contributions) of £929 which we added to the earmarked reserve of £1,200 s106 money, to part-fund the new dipping platform in Chapel Wood
- Grant £400 from County Councillor Alan Dowden, and £833 from Borough Councillor Martin Hatley, towards purchase of public-access AED (defibrillator) for Ampfield Pavilion

The following overview of receipts and payments is provisional as we are partway through the financial year:

- We have received 100% of the precept for the year: £39,490
- Total receipts to end October 2021 were £49,843
- Total payments to end October 2021 were £45,953

St Mark's Church

Several changes happened at the church during the first few months of 2021, not least our vicar, Victoria, moving on to pastures new in September. The church is now in an interregnum and the church councils in the Benefice will actively be looking for a new vicar which may take several months. Church services will continue as normal with help from Diocesan Clergy.



Important works were carried out at the church over the past twelve months including the removal and reinstating of the two stained glass south windows. (Picture of the repaired windows on Page 11). The cost of the restoration was over £30,000 pounds which was achieved by a grant and community and parish giving. A new kitchen was installed with the monies being raised by the community and tradesmen contributing their work for free.

Unfortunately there was another theft of lead from the roof of St Mark's Room which is the second such occurrence to befall the church in two years. There have also been a spate of cars being broken into whilst parked in the church carpark. CCTV camera installation in the car park is currently being investigated.



Ampfield Market

The Market is always held on the first Saturday of the month excluding January and August which are holiday months. It takes place in Ampfield Village Hall (SO51 9BJ), between 10am and 12 noon. Parking and admission are free.

The Market has become a very popular meeting place. Every effort is made to keep the sales tables lively and interesting. There are many top quality, locally sourced items for sale including cakes, biscuits, honey, eggs, plants, fruit and veg, crafts, books, cards, wrapping paper, jewellery and collectables. We order our fruit and veg from a very reputable local supplier and we sell a good variety of seasonal produce every month.

All the proceeds of the Market are donated to the Hall funds and to date we have raised over £20000. I'm delighted to say that the Market reopened on September 4th and by employing a one-way system for shoppers we are confident that we are Covid safe. We now have a new bread supplier who will provide us with fresh loaves and pastries every month.

Our next Market is on December 4th and it will be our major Christmas event.

The Market dates for the first half of 2022 are:- February 5th, March 5th, April 2nd, May 7th, June 4th and July 2nd.

I still have a waiting list, but if you would like to rent a table in the future or would just like more general information, then please contact Julie Trotter via; julie@ampfield.org.uk



Parish Councillors

Bryan Nanson (Chair), Graham Roads (Vice Chair), David Stevens, Chris Ling, Julie Trotter, Julian Jones, Martin Hatley, Kathleen McCallum and Mujeeb Rahman

How to get in touch with the Parish Council?

Correspondence to the Clerk to the Council: Kate Orange
2, The Square, Braishfield Road, Braishfield, Romsey SO51 0PQ
Tel: 07922 118840
Email: clerk@ampfield.org.uk

