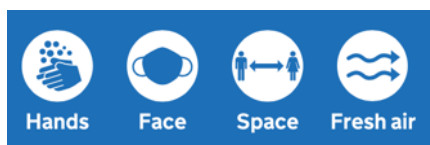


Sparsholt Community Newsletter

Covid Uncertainty Continues

Covid-19 restrictions with some small modifications were continued until at least July 19th. New Delta variant Covid-19 infections are sweeping the country but are not resulting in the same level of hospitalisations and deaths as seen in the previous waves. The remarkably successful vaccine programme seems to be working. People are returning to a new sort of normal, but many will remain reluctant to socialise as Covid can still be caught even if you have been vaccinated twice. It can still be a very unpleasant experience and there is still the risk of Long Covid for those not vaccinated.



There are events planned for the village in the weeks ahead, but these could be subject to change at short notice so please check with the Village Calendar <http://sparsholtparish.org/Calendar> for the latest information.

Village Clean-up

Perhaps the reluctance to socialise was behind the low turnout at the Village Clean-up in June.

However, thanks to those that did volunteer, we were able to clean the roads through the village if not all the footpaths. Many thanks to Year 6 at Sparsholt School for litter picking around the school area. Thanks also to many of you out walking your dogs who collect litter as and when you see it.

Litter pickers reported very little to pick and suggested that the vegetation on the roadsides was too well advanced and hiding the litter. So next year we will return to the clean-up being earlier in the year. This year's had been timed to fit in with the Keep Britain Tidy which was remarkably successful exceeding its target of litter picking a million miles.



Messy Church

Messy Noah Saturday 10th July 2021 4 - 6 pm Sparsholt School field (or Sparsholt Memorial Hall if wet). Numbers are limited and places must be booked at <http://bit.ly/MessyNoah>

NOTE: Bookings close Saturday 3rd July

Winchester Hat Fair

Not strictly a village event but, the popular Winchester Hat Fair is taking place from Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th of July – details available from:

<https://www.hatfair.co.uk/>

Events in July

Saturday 3 – Ham Green Volunteers Work Day

Saturday 10 – “Messy Church” at Sparsholt

Monday 12 – School Inset Day

Thursday 15 – Parish Council Meeting

Friday 16 – School Sports Day

Wednesday 21 – School Summer Showcase

Friday 23 - School Summer Term ends

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 15 August – Music Concert

Monday 30 August – Summer Bank Holiday

Saturday 4 September – Village BBQ & Hog Roast

Monday 6 September – School Autumn Term starts

Sunday 10 October – Music Concert

Friday 22 October – School breaks for Half Term

Saturday tba October – Village Autumn Clean Up

Sunday 31 October – Summer Time ends & Halloween

Please send updates or new event information to

sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org

Shop

Sweetie Friday 8am-4pm continues during school term time.

Hampshire

Local Covid-19 data

On Monday (28 June), the County Council published the latest weekly Covid-19 data summary.

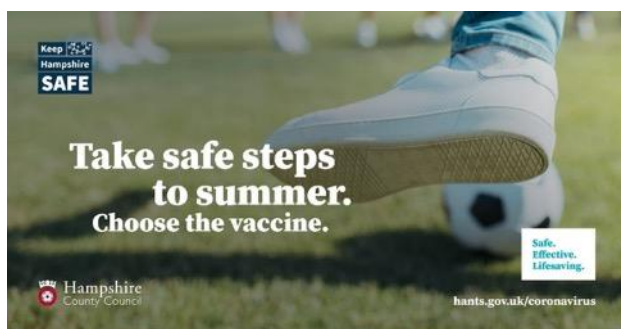
There has been a continued increase in positive cases, with the total number of cases in Hampshire since March 2020 now at 66,674 and 975 cases confirmed in the last 7 days.

The county's case rate in the last 7 days has increased to 53.8 per 100,000 population but remains below the England case rate at 119.5.

There have been 2,855 Covid-19 associated deaths in Hampshire since March 2020, with 3 deaths reported in the last week.

A total of 962,799 people are vaccinated with at least 1 dose, and a total of 740,357 people are vaccinated with 2 doses in Hampshire.

Vaccination campaign



The County Council's young adult's vaccination campaign, 'Safe steps to summer – choose the vaccine' continues to reach and engage the target audience. The campaign which is primarily aimed at 18-24 year olds, is using a range of targeted outdoor media, including highly visible and eye-catching adverts on digital displays at bus shelters and on the roadside in various locations across the county. In addition, adverts continue across social media and other platforms until 10 July.

Hampshire Hospitals

Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT) is inviting stakeholders to attend its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 20 July. At the online event, frontline staff will share their experiences of caring for patients during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Trust will present their annual accounts and outline their priorities for the year ahead. Other short talks include presenting the steps the Trust is taking alongside health and social care partners to advance recovery plans and deliver the best possible care in the wake of the pandemic. For more information and to register attendance, please see the HHFT press release

<https://www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/news-events/news/hear-your-local-nhs-staff-latest-hampshire-hospitals-event>

Virtual Volunteering Fair



Community First, the largest Council for Voluntary Service in Hampshire, is promoting the county's first Virtual Volunteering Fair scheduled for Wednesday 14 July. Building on the increased levels of interest in volunteering throughout the pandemic, the free event will highlight the range of flexible volunteering opportunities in Hampshire. Around forty organisations are participating who are all seeking new volunteers to join them in supporting communities across the county. For more information and to register attendance, please see <https://www.volunteerfirst.co.uk/news/all-the-fun-of-the-volunteering-fair/>

Domestic abuse support

Throughout the Euros, the County Council and Hampshire's Police and Crime Commissioner are together highlighting the support on offer to anyone affected by domestic violence and abuse. Research shows that following major football tournaments and sporting events, there is a rise in domestic abuse incidents.

The Hampshire Domestic Abuse Service has remained available throughout the Covid-19 pandemic to support those affected via telephone, email and online support. In addition to calling the advice line, alternative ways to get help include:

- Facebook messaging: search 'Stop Domestic Abuse' or '@Southerndas' and leave a direct message;
- Attending a pharmacy and asking for 'ANI' (Action Needed Immediately);
- Call 999, and cough or tap on the handset. If prompted by the operator, input '55' and the police will be called. Always call 999 if you, or someone you know, is in immediate danger.

More information about the support available, including the response during Covid-19, can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/domesticabuse>

Winchester

CENTRAL WINCHESTER REGENERATION OPEN FORUM

Since the last Central Winchester Regeneration Open Forum in January, Winchester City Council have been progressing with plans for the site and would love to share their progress with you.

They would like to invite you to their next Open Forum on Monday 5 July, which will be hosted online via MS Teams. They will update you on the work done and the next steps for the project ahead of a Cabinet decision on 21 July, you'll hear from some of the people they've been working with and also have the chance to share your thoughts with the team and ask any questions you may have.

When: Monday 5 July 2021 (7pm)

Where: MS Teams

To register your attendance please email CWRegen@winchester.gov.uk and you will be sent the link and instructions on how to join the session.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO TACKLE FLY-TIPPING



So far this year, Winchester City Council have received 900 reports of fly-tipping. Thank you to everyone who got in touch. They've taken action against 14 offenders in six months and will continue to do so, with court proceedings having resumed after a COVID-19 suspension.

To further tackle the problem and prevent an increase in fly-tipping, they're installing CCTV cameras in known "hot spots" across the district. But they need your continued help, too.

If you find illegally dumped waste, check if it has a sticker attached to it. If it has, the council is aware and will arrange for disposal as soon as possible. If you find any rubbish and there isn't sticker on it, please report it via www.winchester.gov.uk/report, or via **Your Winchester** App (available from Apple or Google App Stores) or call 0300 300 0013.

GRANTS AVAILABLE

We have two community grant schemes currently open for voluntary, community, not-for-profit organisations and businesses:

SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

Do you know a local voluntary or community group looking to buy a piece of equipment or plan an activity? They could be eligible for a grant of up to £500... Find out more <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations/small-grant-scheme>

CROWDFUND WINCHESTER

Match-funding support for organisations of up to £2,000 is available through the Crowdfunder platform, and both businesses and not-for-profit organisations within the Winchester district are invited to apply. Read more at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations/crowdfunding>

TEST AND TRACE SUPPORT PAYMENTS

The criteria has been extended to parents and guardians who are required to take time off work to care for a child or young person <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/benefits/are-you-eligible-for-a-test-and-trace-support-payment>

IT'S BBQ SEASON!



If you're having a BBQ please don't place loose ash in the rubbish. Let the coals cool down, bag it up, and put it in your black refuse bin.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Please make sure your summer party does not turn into a noisy nuisance for your neighbours. Also, if you are lighting a bonfire rather than taking your green waste to the recycling centre then make sure that doesn't become a nuisance too with more people enjoying being outside, airing their washing and hoping for fresh air through open windows.

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/community-safety-and-neighbourhood-services/anti-social-behaviour>

Sparsholt

The Sparsholt Bell Ringers Ringing Chamber Spring Clean

On April 17th a single was muffled and tolled for Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral but the ringers are looking forward to continuing the tradition of ringing for weddings, services and marking other national occasions.

Before Bell Ringing can resume at St Stephen's church, Sparsholt, the local bell ringers gave the Ringing Chamber a really good spring clean. The door to the chamber has been closed since March 2020 when ringing last took place and the ringers closed the door after their last practice. Since that time the bells have been left to hang and the only visitors were small insects.



First everything that was moveable was taken outside and given a good wipe down. So many carpets, pin boards, leaflets and pictures had got damp and mouldy over the past year and had to be just thrown away. The chamber itself was thoroughly swept and cleaned, and doors polished. It actually smells nice in there now!

The Ringing Chamber is now all clean and sparkling and just waiting for the ringers to use it. It had been hoped that ringing would restart at the end of June, but in view of the recent rise in Covid Delta cases this may well have to be put on hold for a few weeks. The band are really keen to get back to ringing and hopefully you will hear the bells at St Stephens rung again soon.

Jenny Watson

Seen around Sparsholt



A pair of hares



Juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker



Buzzard



Muntjac Deer

Many thanks to Howard Annesley for the brilliant photos.

Sparsholt Music

SPARSHOLT MUSIC

Afternoon Concert

Sunday 15th August, 3pm
Sparsholt Village Hall

Piano - voice - saxophone

Tickets £5 in advance online
or from the Sparsholt village shop from August

Tea & cake available £1 each

www.sparsholtmusic.org

CPB Bach
Schubert
Duparc
Poulenc
Rachmaninov
Liszt
Sondheim
Novello
and more...

Plans are well underway for the first Sparsholt Music village concert on Sunday 15th August at 3pm (subject to lifting of lockdown restrictions). Performers include:

- Mark and Fiona Zarb-Adami from the village
- Ashton Gray who runs the Old Vine pub in Winchester and also teaches the piano to some villagers
- Fiona’s 18-year-old daughter Maria who will be going to study singing at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire from September
- Fiona’s 22-year-old son Nick Willsher who is currently studying jazz saxophone, piano and composition at the Royal Academy of Music
- Tim Morris, professor of Physics at Southampton University and
- Gilly Slot a local piano teacher.

Proceeds will be used to support the village.

Tickets are £5 and are available in advance from August. For more information or to get in involved please visit: www.sparsholtmusic.org or email Fiona at: sparsholtmusic@gmail.com

WELSH WANDERINGS

Once more, Jane & Terry Dunn have been out and about on another short adventure.....this time on a long weekend visit to our daughter and her partner, who live on a small farm in Wales just to the NW of the town of Brecon.

Our chosen route took us through Salisbury and the Wylie Valley to Bathampton Toll Bridge, and on up to a quiet spot overlooking Bath, where we enjoyed a picnic lunch in the sun. Then, the M4 beckoned but very soon we joined a queue of traffic, starting just before the Bristol spur road! After almost an hour of stop-start driving, we finally crossed the M5 where suddenly the road opened up and stayed fairly quiet for the rest of the journey.

We were reminded that driving in this part of South Wales is such a pleasure – very little traffic most of the time, superb road surfaces with no potholes and.....no rubbish along the verges! Wales may be considered financially poorer than England, but everyone there seems to have much more pride in their environment – a very refreshing change indeed.

Our accommodation was booked at the 17th century “Kings Head Inn” in Llandovery, where we were looked after very well by the staff, who couldn’t have been more helpful at all times. We were also lucky enough to see an Elephant Hawk Moth in the pub garden (photo below), a very rare and unusual sighting.



From the “Kings Head”, a 15-minute drive up into the hills took us to the farm where our daughter now lives. Pictured below, it is sited at the end of a long gravel drive and is invisible from the road. Being very high up, it has amazing views towards the Brecon Beacons and Pen y Fan (on a clear day!) and, the peace and quiet there is absolutely wonderful.



Property prices are so much lower in Wales and, we would be very happy to live there enjoying the peaceful isolation but....I once studied in Wales for 2 years and I remember just how wet and cold it can be in the Winter and, at my age now, I fear that I probably wouldn’t cope with it very well!!

On our first full day there, it was lovely to chat and catch up after so many months of not meeting, and to just enjoy the sunshine and the stunning views. Next day, we set off up a long, steep track opposite the farm, which took us to the highest point of the surrounding area and provided us with even more stunning views for miles in all directions.

The narrow path down through a forest into the next village, was even steeper than the climb up and, at times we almost slid rather than walked down through the trees! From there, the return journey was mostly along the banks of a small river and provided some cool relief on such a hot day. However, the final “sting in the tail” was having to walk up a very steep lane for almost a mile to get back to the farm – all in all a very hard but enjoyable 6-mile walk!

All too soon, it was time to say goodbye to Wales and return home – back to everyday life and an in-box full of hundreds of (mostly) junk emails. C’est la vie!!

Parish Council

Councillor Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor if you are interested or wish to know more, please contact the Parish Clerk Nicky Breen or one of the Parish Councillors. Contact details can be found on the last page of this Newsletter.

Extraordinary Meeting on Monday 12th July evening

The owners of Mountview have appealed the decision made by Winchester City Council to reject their planning application for the change of use of a piece of land at the front of the property. Search for 20/00771/FUL on <https://planningapps.winchester.gov.uk/online-applications/> As the deadline for responses to the Planning Inspector is on 14th July a special meeting needs to be held prior to the normal council meeting on 15th July.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting. Please let the Parish Clerk know if you would like to attend so that we can ensure the necessary Covid-19 regulations are met.

Unfortunately, the meeting cannot take place remotely by video conference as the Covid-19 regulations allowing that have been dropped. Also, as yet there are no facilities to allow remote observation of the meeting.

Further information about the meeting agenda, time and location will be made available on the Parish Council Website.

Playground Fencing

The Playground refencing work is now complete and the new fence is a great improvement. The contractors were pleased to receive a number of compliments from local residents.

Church

Messy Appeal!

We are planning to restart Messy Church on Saturday 10th July, on the school playing fields in Sparsholt, with a session looking at the story of Noah.

Coronavirus restrictions mean that we have to limit the numbers attending and each family will have their own 'workstation' with box of activities, although we will all draw closer together for the worship celebration before a picnic.

We would like to provide a gazebo for each family, to protect from the sun (ever hopeful!), so do you have one you could lend us for the afternoon?

For building our ark we are going to need large sheets of cardboard (such as from flatpack furniture) so, again, if you could help us, we'd love to hear from you.

Carol Coleman carolcoleman123@hotmail.com

Church Services in Sparsholt in July and August

4th July	10.00am	Morning Prayer
18th July	10.00am	Holy Communion
8th August	10.00am	Morning Prayer
22nd August	10.00am	Morning Prayer

Pet Service

We are planning to hold the Pet Service on Woodman Close Green at 10.00am on Sunday 19th September. More details to follow nearer the time.

Parochial Church Council - New Members Required

The PCC is looking for new members. We are cutting down the number of meetings to 4 a year, plus the Annual Parochial Church meeting.

If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information, please contact either of the Churchwardens: John Wesley on 01962 776476 or Alastair Barron on 01962 776844.

Ham Green

The June Workday was a quieter affair than the previous month. Due to holidays and other commitments only 8 group members turned out for the full morning, with 2 more coming along for the first couple of hours.

The amount of growth since the previous Workday was quite staggering and the whole morning was spent just trying to get on top of it all! The sides of both the footpath and the bridleway were mowed and cleared of intruding growth and, the bridleway was cleared overhead for at least half its length, making it easier for horse riders to get through without dismounting.

The clearance of unwanted Sycamore saplings has been completed and, the process of clearing around the bases of the new hedges has been started and will continue in July.

Next Workdays

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

Tree Replanting Report

The HG Replanting Report has now been received and is being examined by the Parish Council and members of the HG group, to fully understand the findings and to consider the recommendations and options.

When the Report has been finalised and accepted, it will become available to read on the Parish website. We will also need to source the necessary funding and to order the required trees and bushes, ready for planting in the period from November to March.

Parish Council Meeting

The next regular Parish Council Meeting is on **Thursday 15th July 2021** at 7.30pm.

Council meetings will take place in the Memorial Hall Sparsholt.

SPARSHOLT COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Parish Councillors

Sue Wood	Chair & Transport	chair@sparsholtparish.org transport@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776255
Sue Annesley	Highways & Memorial Hall	highways@sparsholtparish.org memorialhall@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776653
John Cooper	Footpaths & Ham Green	footpaths@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776753
Lynne Gibson	Councillor	councillor@sparsholtparish.org	07771 606974
John Little	Deputy Chair & Communications	deputy@sparsholtparish.org communications@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776249
Andrew Osmond	Security	security@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776197
Nigel Reid	Sparsholt Shop	shop@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776244
Sue Wakefield	Playground	playground@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776288
<i>Vacancy</i>			
Nicola Breen	Clerk	clerk@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776909 07714614662

City Councillors

Caroline Horrill	CHorrill@winchester.gov.uk	01962 776844
Stephen Godfrey	sgodfrey@winchester.gov.uk	01962 884477
Patrick Cunningham	pcunningham@winchester.gov.uk	01962 883887

County Councillor

Jan Warwick	jan.warwick@hants.gov.uk	07717104236
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Member of Parliament

Steve Brine	steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk www.stevebrine.com	0207 219 7189
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SPARSHOLT COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

If you need help the support group remains available and can be reached on: **07595 967259**

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

WEBSITES

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

Sparsholt Shop: http://www.sparsholtparish.org/Our_Shop

Downs Benefice: <http://www.downsbenefice.org/>

New to Sparsholt or if you have a New Neighbour

If you are new to Sparsholt or have a new neighbour, please let Sally Wesley know so that a Sparsholt Welcome booklet can be delivered sally.wesley@btinternet.com

Copy Deadline for August Edition

This is your newsletter so please contribute items of interest, news of events, offers to help and/or photographs. The deadline for the June edition is **Friday 23rd July 2021** please submit all items to sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org