

Sparsholt Community Newsletter 2025

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 7pm in Sparsholt Memorial Hall.**

James Payne, Estates Director at Sparsholt College, will be talking about becoming more resilient based on his previous experience. There will be brief reports from other village organisations and Sue Wood, Chair of the Parish Council, will conclude with a report on the Parish Council during 2024/5.

SPARSHOLT • MUSIC •

The next concert for Sparsholt Music will be held on **Sunday 18th May 2025 at 3pm** in the village hall. Tickets will be available from 26th April, online and at the village shop. They are priced at £10 and include a hot drink and a slice of homemade cake. We all very much look forward to welcoming you back to these popular concerts, which entertain and raise funds for the village.

The programme will include selections from: a Mendelssohn cello sonata, the Milford flute sonata (by a guest flautist), Piazzolla's Primavera Porteña arranged for piano trio, Debussy's Premier Rhapsody for clarinet by the spectacular Claudio. Along with piano solos from Tim and Ashton, a magical Debussy song performed by Fiona, a well-known song from Carousel and a fun duet from Annie Get Your Gun.

Visit: www.sparsholtmusic.org for more details.

Winchester City News

Lots of interesting items in the latest edition of Winchester City News.

- An elected Mayor for Hampshire and the Solent: Government's Devolution consultation
- Re-organisation plans for local government in our area
- Mayor's Awards shines spotlight on local heroes
- Improving air quality across our district
- Buy loose, waste less
- Central Winchester Regeneration public information event
- 139% increase in council EV charger use
- Share your views on climate change

<https://mailchi.mp/winchester/your-council-news-8-march-15073199?e=40c0c2ae3d>

Sparsholt by Night

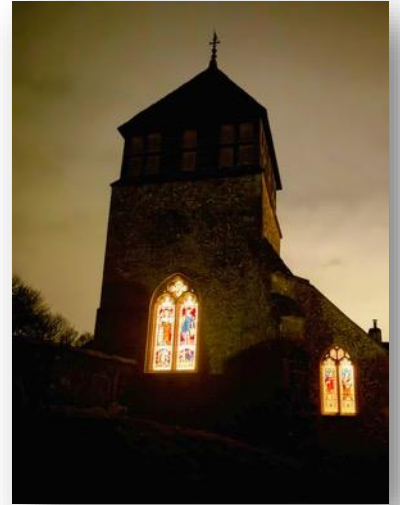


Photo: Sue Annesley

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is also on **Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 8:30pm.**

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

Parish Councillor Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor please contact Sue Wood the Chair of the Council for further information

chair@sparsholtparish.org

VHS to Digital

Does anyone have a setup to convert VHS tapes to digital? We have recently received some tapes of Village events, and it would be good to see if we can make them available possibly online. Please contact:

communications@sparsholtparish.org

Village WhatsApp Group

Sign up if you haven't already joined the group. See last page for details.

Sparsholt Cricket Club

A Fantastic 2024 Season & Exciting Plans for 2025

Sparsholt Cricket Club has enjoyed a hugely successful 2024 season, both on and off the field. As the only sports club in the village, we continue to provide opportunities for over 200 junior and 45 senior players. However, with the loss of the Red Cross using our pavilion for their courses, our income has dropped by 25%, and we are now hoping for support from Sparsholt village and surrounding areas in the form of sponsorships and donations.

On the Field Success

It was another strong year for our teams, with all fixtures fulfilled across the club. A standout performance came from Australian overseas player Joe Merlino, who set a new club record in the Southern Premier League with a stunning 153—the highest-ever individual score for a Sparsholt player at this level.

The 2nd XI secured promotion, with a memorable highlight from Rob Foy, who took an incredible 9 wickets for just 18 runs—all bowled! Meanwhile, our junior section continues to thrive, with several young players earning selection for district and county squads, reflecting the strength of our youth development programme.

Off the Field Achievements

We made great strides in sustainability, winning a climate change award for our solar panel installation—thanks to the dedication of Bob Selley—and invested in a robotic mower funded through an ECB loan and grant. Our efforts were further recognised when we were named Southern Premier League Ground of the Year 2024.

Looking Ahead to 2025

This season promises to be just as exciting. Sparsholt CC is set to host a Grey Ashes match (England v Australia Over 60s), and we're also hosting an MCC fixture in September.

Get Involved!

As a volunteer-led club, we are always looking for support. If you can help through sponsorship, donations, or volunteering, please message sponsorships@sparsholtcc.co.uk. A huge thank you to all residents who have already supported us and signed up for Gift Aid.

Thank you for your continued support, and here's to another fantastic season ahead!

Andy Worth

Chair Sparsholt Cricket Club

Sparsholt 100 Club

The next Sparsholt 100 Club Draw will be held after the next Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting. This meeting will be held at St. Stephen's Church, Sparsholt at 7.30pm on Friday 4th April. The first prize is £200 followed by three second prizes of £50.

Thanks to the generosity of members, the 100 Club has raised over £42,000 since it was set up in 2017. These funds have been vital to supporting St Stephen's Church with half the money donated to the Sparsholt Parochial Church Council (PCC) and half donated to the Friends of St Stephen's Church (FoSS), the charity that provides for the maintenance of the church and the churchyard.

Total subscriptions amounted to £7,830 in 2024 and at year end we had a record 71 members contributing £10 per month. Total prize money awarded at the quarterly draws amounted to £1,600 and the Club was able to donate £3,000 to the PCC and £3,000 to FoSS. The net financial assets of the 100 Club at 31 December 2024 amounted to £6,820 and at its recent meeting the 100 Club Committee agreed further donations of £3,000 to the PCC and £3,000 to FoSS. This brings the overall amount distributed to a magnificent £42,000 for which all our members can be very proud.

Jeff Steer

Hon Secretary

Climate Change

Many people will be aware of the 4 R's of climate change prevention, **Recover, Reduce, Recycle and Reuse** well due to the ingenuity and skill of Howard and Malcolm, we have a shining example at Ham Green.

The old wooden bench at the intersection with the footpath over Stocker's Down had rotted away and rather than purchase a new one at a cost and using new timber. Howard spotted an opportunity to re-fashion a couple of old benches that were being disposed of thereby reducing unnecessary waste. Skillfully renewing and adapting them for a new purpose he and Malcolm then installed the two benches in the same vicinity doubling the amenity value and creating a wonderful spot to stop and stare at the sunrise or sunset over Stocker's Down or just a moment to catch your breath on your morning runs!..

As you can see from the photo they look very good and set off the recently planted trees to a T.

A big thankyou to Howard and Malcolm for making this happen.

John Cooper



The Countryside Code

Our Annual reminder to respect the countryside



The Countryside Code



Follow advice and local signs

The arrows show the legal and recorded rights of way for different user groups

Footpath



Bridleway



Restricted Byway



Byway open to all traffic



Permissive Path

Follow advice on local signs as landowners voluntarily provide access to these paths and choose who can use them. Some open access areas are also made available in the same way.



National Trail

National Trails are created for walking, with horse-riding and cycling possible on some trails or trail sections. www.nationaltrail.co.uk



Open Access

You can walk and explore away from paths.

www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk

For further information visit www.countryside-code.org.uk

St Stephen's Church

Date	St. Stephen's Church, Sparsholt
13 th April	10am – Palm Sunday Service with Procession starting in Memorial Hall carpark
17 th April	6pm – Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
20 th April	10am – Easter Day Family Communion
27 th April	10am - Morning Worship
18 th May	9am – Holy Communion (BCP)
25 th May	10am - Morning Worship
8 th June	11am - Benefice 5th Sunday Family Communion to launch Vision & Strategy followed by lunch
15 th June	9am – Holy Communion (BCP)
22 nd June	10am - Morning Worship



'Church service for little ones every Sunday!'

4pm at St Mary-the-Less, Chilbolton

Bubble Church is a Sunday church service especially for babies, toddlers, and young families. It's a puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, coffee-and-food fuelled, 30-minute kids and families adventure.

Here's the deal: you turn up 10 mins before it starts for a snack and coffee, then you'll be guided to a 'bubble', and you and your little ones will share in 30 mins of song, story, puppets, and prayer.

Sunday 4th April

Book [NOW!](#)

Motorway Roadworks

The M3 junction 9 improvements project

An update from the project team:

- Overnight on **Monday 31 March, Tuesday 1 April and Wednesday 2 April** we are closing the **A34 southbound at Three Maids Hill and the A33 southbound the Cart and Horse junction**.
 - **Diversion** - [A34 and A33 southbound diversions](#)
- Overnight on **Thursday 3 April** we are closing the **A34 northbound from junction 9 to Three Maids Hill and the A33 northbound from junction 9 to the Cart and Horse junction**.
 - **Diversion** - [A34 and A33 northbound diversions](#)

Our overnight closures will usually **start from 8pm** and **finish by 6am** but this can change depending on the volume of traffic and when we can close the road safely.

Our diversion routes are designed to suit all vehicle types.

We advise you not to use a Satnav when following any of our diversions because there is a risk it could direct you down an unsuitable road or back onto our network when it is closed.

Daytime works

We will continue to remove areas of topsoil and conduct archaeological surveys. These activities will take place away from the road, but you may see workers and machinery nearby.

Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause to your journey.

National Highways customer contact centre
0300 123 5000

<http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/>

M27 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme

An update from the Hampshire County Council Highways Engineering and Transport project team:

Lane Closures between 9pm and 6am

- **Sunday 30 March** – westbound lane 4 closure for drainage surveys.
- **Monday 31 March** – eastbound lane closures 1,2 and 3 for barrier installation.
- **Tuesday 1 April** – westbound lane closures 1, 2 and 3 for barrier installation.
- **Monday 7 April to Wednesday 9 April** - westbound lane closures 1 and 2 for the delivery of sheet piles construction materials.

We would like to provide advance notice of night works which are currently being programmed for summer 2025. The A32 Junction with the western end of Pook Lane will be closed however access to Pook Lane from the M27 Junction 11 and the eastern end will still be possible. The works to construct the new A32 Broadway roundabout, which has been taking place in the field to the west of the A32, will enable changes to be made to the traffic management measures that are currently in place on the A32 north of the M27. The exact dates and details of the traffic management needed will be published in the next e-bulletin update.

Further Information

Read more about the Welborne Garden Village, visit: [Welborne](#).

For further information on the diversion routes for the overnight closure please visit; [one.network](#).

We would like to thank everyone for their ongoing co-operation and understanding during these works.

Winchester City Councillors' Report

Local Plan

It has now been confirmed that the Planning Inspector will be visiting Winchester City Council on April the 22nd for a four-week period to examine the Regulation 19 plan.

The Inspector has sent questions that she wishes to review as part of her visitation. The Inspector has confirmed that he will not be reviewing omission sites i.e., those sites that were that have not been allocated in the plan for development.

Anyone may attend the hearings as an observer but only those who have made representations seeking to change the plan have a right to appear before and heard by the Inspector.

Several planning proposals have emerged in the last few weeks that may affect the outcome of the Local Plan Inquiry. Two adjacent sites near Sparsholt – Lanham Lane and Salters Lane – are seeking approval for a combined total of over 300 new homes. The promoters of a new town around Micheldever have submitted proposals for development of 20,000 new homes to the Government's New Towns Taskforce. There still seems little justification for development of a new settlement in this isolated rural area, particularly one with more homes than Winchester.

Central Winchester Regeneration

The Council approved the development delivery plan for Central Winchester at the cabinet meeting last week. The development is still very much under consideration and there are no specific commitments to any businesses or buildings currently. It is anticipated that there will be a masterplan and detailed design completed by Autumn 2026.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

The Government is consulting the public on the proposal to establish a Mayoral Combined County Authority for the local government areas across Hampshire (all of Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton, and IoW). A new elected Mayor will be responsible for strategic matters (including police, fire, major investment projects, strategic planning plus others). Submit your comments at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20250217DevoConsultation> by 13th April.

The 15 councils representing Hampshire and the Solent are preparing a document to submit to government on the 21st of March. This will be responding to the invitation for an interim submission on progress towards a single tier of local government. A full proposal outlining which councils will join together to form the larger new unitary authorities needs to be submitted by the 26th of September.

Discussions are still taking place as to the exact shape and combinations for the new unitaries and the size of these areas which government have indicated should represent 500,000 residents. The local councils are keen to ensure that any new unitaries are sustainable and can deliver the services expected by our residents. Public engagement was expected later in the process.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Community infrastructure levy (CIL) funding application allocations for 2024 have been prepared and were approved at cabinet last week. There was no money allocated in our ward. [-Note Sparsholt did receive CIL funds in 2024 directly without needing to apply - Ed]

Community Safety Performance

The annual review was shared at the recent scrutiny committee. Key features were the partnerships approach to anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, homelessness, safe and well visits undertaken by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue service and a safer streets campaign. The partnership includes the Police along with the City Council neighbourhood services team and other statutory and voluntary bodies.

continued...

Council Budget

The average rent increase for 2025/26 for all affordable, Shared Ownership and social housing of 2.7% based on the September 2024 CPI figure of 1.7% +1% was agreed.

Amendments were approved to HRA tenant service charges in 2025/26 to reflect cost recovery based on 2023/24 actual costs, subject to capping at 5% or £5, whichever is greater, and noting that capped charges will be subject to gradual increases.

It was agreed the level of Council Tax at Band D for City Council services for 2025/26 be increased to £163.66, an increase of £4.30 reflecting an average Council tax increase of 2.7%.

Local issues

The mound of Christmas trees was successfully removed from the triangle on Church Lane.

Road sweeping has taken place in the village, but more has been requested to remove the high levels of dirt on some of our lanes.

Sparsholt School

After six years as Headteacher of Sparsholt C of E Primary school, Mrs Hanratty will be leaving at the end of this academic year. She has expressed what an incredibly difficult decision this has been and that she will very much miss being part of this wonderful community. The Governing body has responsibility for the recruitment of a new head with support from the County education team.

Cllr Stephen Godfrey, Cllr Caroline Horrill, Cllr Patrick Cunningham

You can contact your City Councillors at any time, or you can catch us at any of the Parish Council meetings.

Contact details on the last page of the Newsletter

Winchester Spaces of Sanctuary



For more information about this project visit our webpage winchester.gov.uk/community-recreation/city-of-sanctuary

Or contact the Communities Team at Winchester City Council at communities@winchester.gov.uk

Visit a Space of Sanctuary near you - Scan the QR code to find your nearest location.

Winchester City Council

Seen around Sparsholt



photos: Howard Annesley

UPDATE FROM HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

DEVOLUTION PRIORITY PROGRAMME

Hampshire County Council has been accepted onto the Government's fast-track Devolution Priority Programme – marking a significant milestone in the journey towards an elected mayor and devolution for Hampshire and the wider area. You can find out more and respond to the Government's consultation by following the link below (the consultation closes on 13th April).

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/governmentinhampshire/devolution>

MODERNISING HENRY BEAUFORT SCHOOL

I recently toured the science block at **Henry Beaufort School**, originally built in the 1960s. Thanks to a **£3.4 million upgrade**, the building now has:

- ✓ Insulated walls and roof
- ✓ Solar panels
- ✓ LED lighting
- ✓ Double-glazed windows
- ✓ Modern lab fittings

This investment will **cut energy costs significantly** while creating a better learning environment for students.

LOCAL PROJECTS FUNDED – THANK YOU!

My **County Councillor grants for 2024-2025** are now closed, and I'm pleased to have supported so many fantastic community initiatives again this year, including:

Applicant	Project	Grant (£)
Otterbourne Parish Council	D-Day 80th Anniversary Event	500
Winchester Scouts	Pinsent Barn Equipment	400
Play to the Crowd	Winchester Hat Fair	500
Littleton Junior Football	Defibrillator	500
Oliver's Battery Parish Council	Swish Clothes Swap Event	400
Sparsholt Parish Hall	Floor Cleaner	900
Southern Voices	Schools' Music Workshop	350
Compton Primary PTA	Playground Equipment	1,000

Thank you to all the voluntary groups making a real difference in our community.

COUNCIL TAX UPDATE – SUPPORTING ESSENTIAL SERVICES

To maintain vital public services, **Hampshire County Council has approved a 4.995% council tax increase** for 2025/26 (including 2% for adult social care). This will help ensure we can continue to support residents most in need. More details visit <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20250213Budgetdecision>

Continued...

OPEN CONSULTATIONS -have your say!

Shepherd's Down Special School, Compton Down.

Hampshire County Council is holding a pre-planning consultation in relation to the proposal to submit a planning application regarding College House and its ancillary building, The Hive, located just off Shepherd's Lane in Compton, Winchester. College House is no longer leased from Hampshire County Council by Eastleigh College and is located close to the entrance of Shepherd's Down School. The proposals include options to improve the current teaching space and reduce congestion and parking around the school entrance.

This consultation will run from Friday 14 March to Monday 14 April during which time comments on the proposal may be submitted.

Details regarding the proposal can be found at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay> or email strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk by Monday 14 April

Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation

Following approval of Hampshire County Council's budget for 2025/26, residents and stakeholders are invited to share their views on a range of proposed service changes that could help to contribute towards addressing a remaining predicted shortfall of £97.6 million in the County Council's budget for 2025/26.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/future-services-consultation-spring-2025>

Stay connected - if you have any ideas, questions or suggestions then please get in touch!

Cllr Jan Warwick

Deputy Leader Hampshire County Council

Hampshire Rural Times

This edition focuses on more proactive police efforts to maintain a visible presence in isolated rural areas, and proactively deter and disrupt rural criminals in the county. In addition to highlighting issues of livestock worrying as we head into spring.

<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/hampshire/advice/rural-times/2025/rural-times---march-2025.pdf>



More photos around Sparsholt



photos: Howard Annesley

Littleton and Harestock Gardening Club

Our club was founded more than 25 years ago and is an excellent source of gardening know-how.

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in Littleton Memorial Hall. SO22 6SQ

The Wednesday talks are by experts who share their knowledge in all aspects of gardening. There is always a chance to ask questions too. We have occasional outings to local gardens or places of interest to our members.

In August we have a summer break and in December we have some sort of Christmas celebration.

Members' perks include the club's RHS membership. Any member can borrow the club's card which allows two people into a RHS garden at half price. Members can get a discount from Suttons Seeds, and also are entitled to shop at The Shed, which is the shop for Park Road Allotments. This shop offers many useful items at good prices, including kilo bags of top brand fertilizers.

Our next talk in April is "Bhutan, Kingdom of Rare Plants", and in May "Big Ideas for Small Spaces".

Membership is £35 per annum. Visitors are charged £5 which is deducted off their membership if they join. Come along one evening and meet us!

Jackie Verrinder, Vice Chairman

Cyber Bobby Scheme



Helping protect people vulnerable residents in Hampshire from becoming victims of cyber crime.

The scheme from the Blue Lamp Trust offers FREE home visits giving advice and guidance about basic IT security and how to avoid being affected by a cyber crime or a cyber enabled crime.

We visit residents who are:

- Vulnerable due to age (over 60)
- Disabled (over 18)
- Previous victim of cyber crime

One of our police vetted Cyber Advisors, will visit advise on:

- What is cyber crime?
- Cyber and scam prevention advice
- How to check privacy settings
- Signposting to other advice and resources
- How to report issues
- How to recognise scam emails and text messages

For more information, to request a visit or to make a referral for someone you know

<https://www.bluelamptrust.org.uk/about-cyber-bobby/>

Call 0300 777 0157 opt 1

Email cyber@bluelamptrust.org.uk



photo: Howard Annesley

SPARSHOLT COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Parish Councillors

Sue Wood	Chair & Transport & Highways	chair@sparsholtparish.org transport@sparsholtparish.org highways@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776255
Mark Himbury	Memorial Hall	memorialhall@sparsholtparish.org	07956 371433
John Cooper	Footpaths & Ham Green	footpaths@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776753
John Little	Deputy Chair & Communications	deputy@sparsholtparish.org communications@sparsholtparish.org	07887 540218
Nigel Reid	Sparsholt Shop	shop@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776244
Jonathan Walthoe	Security	security@sparsholtparish.org	07752 390536
David Brown	Playground	playground@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776182
Sam Culhane		councillor2@sparsholtparish.org	07957 804618
Becky Pickles	Clerk	clerk@sparsholtparish.org	07553 033298

Please note there is a vacancy for a councillor please contact Chair or Clerk for further information.

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

Danny Chambers	danny.chambers.mp@parliament.uk	01962 868586
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WHATSAPP: SUPPORT GROUP VOLUNTEERS

To join the Sparsholt Parish WhatsApp group please contact - communications@sparsholtparish.org

Please provide your mobile number to be added to the group.

Police Contacts

PCSO 15075 Michelle Wilkinson – 07901102292

PCSO 13466 Kerry Croutear – 07976962677

PC 28364 Victoria McCallum – 07795454351

The Winchester Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team email address is winchester.rural.police@hampshire.police.uk

WEBSITES

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

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

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

VILLAGE CALENDAR

The Calendar can be viewed at:

<http://www.sparsholtparish.org/Calendar>

Please send updates to:

sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org

Ham Green Conservation Group

Malcolm Hewson malcolmhewson@btinternet.com

Sparsholt Oil Syndicate

John Wesley johnr.wesley@btinternet.com

Neighbourhood Watch

Sparsholt Neighbourhood Watch coordinator is Jonathan

Walthoe. Please contact: security@sparsholtparish.org

Aluminium Recycling Bin

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

Note:

Only Aluminium (no tin or plastic) and please crush cans.

New to Sparsholt or if you have a New Neighbour

If you are new to Sparsholt or have a new neighbour, please let Mark Himbury know so that a Sparsholt Welcome booklet can be delivered mark@markhimburydesign.co.uk

Copy Deadline next Edition

This is your newsletter so please contribute items of interest, news of events, offers to help and/or photographs. The deadline for the next edition is **30th May 2025** please submit all items to sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org