

Sparsholt Community Newsletter 2024

SUPPLEMENTARY EDITION

'MAKE SPARSHOLT GREAT AGAIN' - SHOP TRIVIA WINNERS 2024

What a night – some serious concentration, quite a lot of noise, a little competitiveness, some great questions, some very dodgy team names, a wonderful supper and a well-stocked and popular bar... all of these things contributed to about 115 villagers and friends having a cracking quiz night last week in the village hall.

The questions covered General Knowledge, Name that Tune, Sparsholt and Guess the Tree and were set by Katy Cobbold. Some were straightforward but, frankly, several were not - for example:

- How many hearts does a worm have? **5**
- Which country is home to the longest continuous fence, designed to keep out invasive species? **Australia**
- Which other county in the UK is home to another Sparsholt Village? **Oxfordshire**
- In what year was a farmhouse converted into The Plough pub? **1909**
- Which country has the most islands, with over 200,000? **Sweden**



Who knew?... Well, it was very close but the team who knew more the rest were the 'Make Sparsholt Great Again' team who were our worthy winners – WELL DONE !!

The evening was organised and run by a team from the shop led by Katie Simpson, Janette and Ceri and Debbie cooked a really tasty supper and HUGE thanks go to them and also to those who helped in any way.

In addition to the evening being a lot of fun enjoyed by all, it also raised £2500 for the shop which is a truly amazing result so, again, a HUGE well done and thanks to those who organised the evening and also to those who came along and supported the event.

See you at the next Shop event !!

Alastair Barron

Save the date.

Sparsholt Fete Saturday 21st June 2025.

Please contact Caroline Horrill caroline@barronhorrill.com if you would like to be involved or can offer help in any way.

100 YEARS YOUNG



Congratulations to **Eddie Bush** who celebrated his 100th Birthday on Monday 21st October.

"All went very well with a family Sunday lunch at the Ghandi restaurant, not many centurions, centenarians choose that venue! Monday 21st, his actual birthdate brought visitors from far and wide. Lots of locals and others from further away. 65 people came in all. A wonderful day!" Marie

Eddie puts his longevity down to his daily routine of walking up Moor Court Lane (known as 'Angina Hill' for good reason) and a glass or so of red wine.

Remember to order your Tree

Order your Nordmann Fir Non-Drop Tree by Wednesday 27th November for delivery on Sunday 8th December.

SPARSHOLT CHRISTMAS TREES 2024

EMAIL
FRIENDSOFSPARSHOLTSCHOOL@GMAIL.COM
FOR AN ORDER FORM.

All money raised will be shared between Sparsholt Village Shop and Sparsholt Primary School.



Compost for Collection

Over the years at the cricket club, we have assembled a large amount of old grass cuttings. Leaves, scarified soil etc, currently approximately 65 cubic meters.



This has rotted down over the years and is now what we think is a very good garden or allotment compost.

We have contacted many people, companies to see if they would take it away but the cost to us has proven to be prohibitive.

So, we have been bagging this material up in the hope club members would take

some away, 1 member has taken well over 50 bags of grass cuttings.

However, we wondered if people in the village or local villages might like some of this compost. We are happy to bag it up so it could just be collected and taken away, we would like the bags back to refill. This would be free however if people would like to donate to the club that would be fantastic.

Please contact **Richard Edwards** on mobile 07808 347529 or email richardedwards1957@me.com to make arrangements.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

NEW PARISH CLERK

Nicky Breen our clerk since 2020 is resigning at the end December 2024 for family reasons.

The Parish Council thank Nicky for all her hard work on behalf of the parish especially as she joined during the very challenging pandemic lockdown.

We are pleased to say that we had two quality applications to replace Nicky and at the recent parish council meeting Becky Pickles was appointed as the new clerk.

Becky also works as a part time assistant clerk at Colden Common Parish Council and is looking forward to building on her knowledge and experience as well as taking on more responsibilities with Sparsholt.

TRAFFIC ISSUES

A priority list of repairs and restorations to road signs, pinch point bollards and white lines has been produced and will now be forwarded to City and County Councillors to take up with Hampshire Highways as mentioned at the Village Traffic Meeting.

Budget for 2025/26

The council discussed and approved the budget for next year. it was decided to not increase the precept (the total amount of money raised for the Parish Council) from this year's amount of £22,608. This amount covers the regular expenditure of the council. In addition, there will be two significant projects:

- Road Safety improvements with an allowance of £25K
- Playground improvements with an allowance of £11K

These allowances will be drawn from existing Reserves.

Meeting Dates for 2025

The following Parish Council Meeting Dates were agreed for 2025:

16 January	Full council meeting
20 February	Planning meeting
20 March	Full council meeting
16 April Wednesday	Planning meeting and annual meeting – this is a
15 May	Full council meeting
19 June	Planning meeting
24 July	Full council meeting – changed from the 3 rd
Thursday as the hall has been booked by the school	
18 September	Full council meeting
16 October	Planning meeting
20 November	Full council meeting

Wishing all of our
readers
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

County Councillor's Report

AFFORDABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY

STILL TIME TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AFFORDABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY AS DEADLINE EXTENDS

With more than 4,900 households in Hampshire expressing interest in the latest opportunity to benefit from more affordable solar energy, Solar together Hampshire is extending its registration deadline until 15th November.

[Still time to take advantage of affordable renewable energy as deadline extends | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

SERVICES FOR THE FUTURE

CABINET DECIDES ON COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES FOR THE FUTURE

With the future of some Hampshire local services in the spotlight, the County Council's Leader and Cabinet have revised proposals and will protect Household Waste Recycling Centres, School Crossing Patrols, and homelessness support services after careful consideration of consultation feedback and examination of every possible option to help balance residents' needs against the Council's future financial pressures.

[Cabinet decides on County Council services for the future | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

WORTHY ROAD

WORTHY ROAD WALKING AND CYCLING IMPROVEMENT SCHEME START DATE CONFIRMED

Work on improvements aimed at making it easier and more appealing for people to walk and cycle for local journeys via Worthy Road in Winchester started work on Monday 21 October 2024

[Worthy Road walking and cycling improvement scheme start date confirmed | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

100 Years of HAMPSHIRE LIBRARIES!

This autumn Hampshire Libraries is marking its centenary of providing a public library service in the county, and residents are invited to join the celebrations. Whether that's by attending an event at one of the County Council's 40 libraries, contributing to a 'letter to libraries' display or enjoying one of the books in the special collection

CLlr Jan Warwick

City Councillors' Report

English Devolution

The Government is to publish the **English Devolution White Paper**. The proposed legislation will set out how the Government plans to change local government across the country by amalgamating councils into large unitary bodies with greater responsibilities. It is expected that some decisions will be devolved from central government to these new authorities and there will be fewer layers of local government. The removal of district councils, such as Winchester City Council, has been suggested as one way of simplifying local government.

Winter Fuel Payment

The recent announcement by the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, to restrict the **Winter Fuel Payment** only to pensioners who receive means-tested benefits like Pension Credit, raises concerns. Age UK estimates that 2 million pensioners who would benefit from these funds will no longer receive them. Among these are individuals here in the Winchester district who now face the impossible choice between heating their homes or affording other essentials. The Council is supporting the **Age UK petition** which residents are encouraged to sign - link below <https://campaigns.ageuk.org.uk/page/154268/petition/1?locale=en-GB>

Local Plan

Winchester City Council will be submitting the **Regulation 19 Local Plan** for inspection this week, with inspection anticipated in the Spring. All comments will be supplied to the inspector in full. The New Labour Government are indicating an aggressive house building programme and the potential for an additional 4,800 homes to be provided in our District. We still await the government response to consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework.

Empty Homes

Empty Homes are also a key focus. We have over 1000 homes in the district that are not occupied, and the administration has been asked to investigate the opportunity to bring at least these back into occupation.

New Bin Collection Rounds

The **new bin collection rounds** have been successfully implemented with very few issues. The new rounds are leading to far fewer miles driven and a more resilient service. The Council is now preparing for the introduction of food waste collection with a phased roll-out starting next Autumn. The Council's first all-electric refuse vehicle has been delivered.

continued...

Tenancy fraud

Tenancy fraud is when someone sublets a property without permission, misleads the council to receive a property, sells their keys to someone else, or does not live in the property as their main residence, perhaps because they have moved in with a partner but don't want to lose their home. WCC will be trialling a **Tenancy Fraud Scheme** over a six-month period using dedicated Officers starting in November. Tenants will be notified of the scheme, and how to report their suspicions. We understand that reporting suspicions can be a difficult thing to do and that is why there is a variety of communication channels available to included. Online form: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/housing/council-housing-tenants/reporting-tenancy-fraud>. Message directly to the Income Team: 01962 848392. Email: housingfraud@winchester.gov.uk

Community Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy

Winchester City Council is developing a new **Community Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy**, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and cost of living crisis. They are seeking the insights of members of the Winchester district community, to inform the development of the strategy and make it relevant to residents. Please complete the questionnaire or contact henry.lucas@templegroup.co.uk for more information. winchester.gov.uk/community-insight-questionnaire

Autumn Budget

Some of the highlights for Local Government from the **Autumn Budget** are as follows:

- £1.3bn of new grant funding in 2025/26 for local government to deliver core services, of which £600m is for social care and £700m to support general pressures.
- Local government in England is expected to receive around £1.1bn of new funding in 2025-26 through the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging scheme. The Treasury will guarantee that if local authorities do not receive fees in line with their payment estimates, they will provide an in-year top up.
- A £1 billion uplift to special educational needs and disability (SEND) and Alternative Provision funding.
- £233 million in additional resource funding for 2025-2026 for homelessness pressures. This funding should help to prevent rises in the number of families in temporary accommodation and help the sector in preventing rough sleeping.
- £640 million in Bus Service Improvement Plans funding to support locally led initiatives to improve local bus services, such as service support, fares initiatives and capital schemes.

Climate Change - Retrofitting your Home

The Economy and Tourism Team at WCC are providing new training courses for residents, businesses, housebuilders, and community groups in the Winchester district, to help them understand how to upgrade homes or premises to make them more energy efficient and climate change friendly - known as **retrofitting**. Winchester City Council is working in partnership with Hampshire County Council to offer this free training, thanks to funding from the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The two, new free courses available are:

Retrofit 101 is an introductory tailor-made course for anyone wanting to learn about the fundamentals of whole-house domestic retrofit: the principles, best practices, and why it is important. This online course takes just two hours to complete.

NOCN Level 2 in Understanding Domestic Retrofit is a two-day course to further develop knowledge around retrofit – from creating a warmer, healthier household to saving money and reducing carbon emissions. It will give participants an excellent understanding of the benefits of whole house retrofit and a foundation for developing specialist skills in the sector. This course can be undertaken online or in person at Basepoint in Winchester.

Residents can book directly onto one of the two training sessions by emailing skills@hants.gov.uk.

Code of Conduct for Councillors

The new **Code of Conduct** has been agreed by WCC. This will be circulated to Parish Councils by the Monitoring Officer with a request for all Parishes to adopt the new code if they feel able. Training will be provide to parishes if needed.

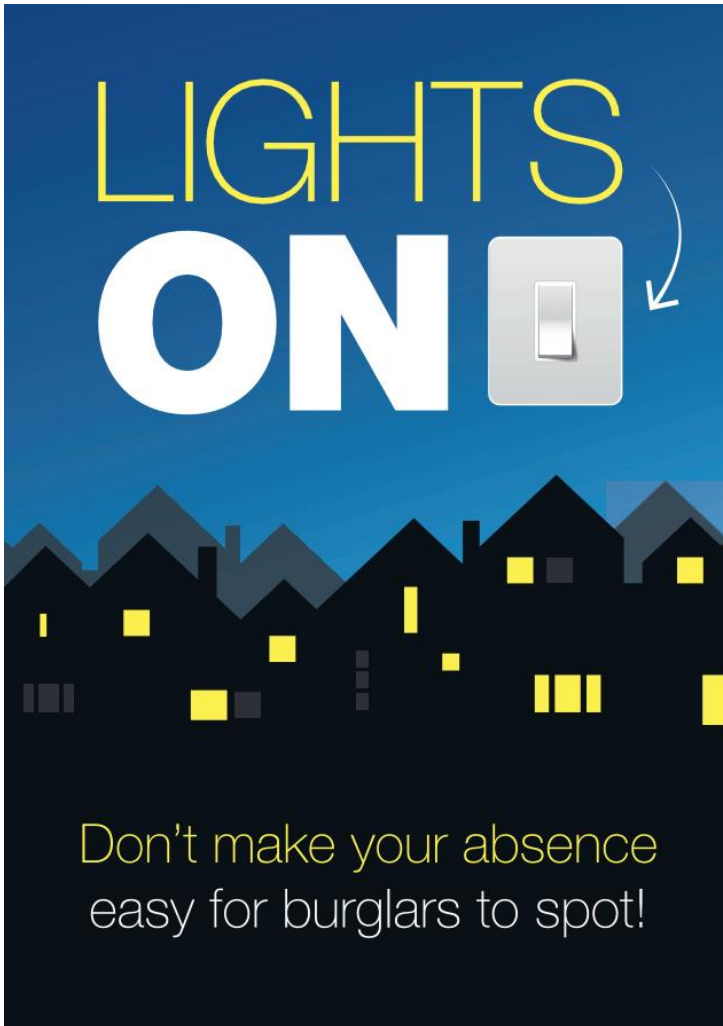
Contact Us

You can contact **your City Councillors** at any time - see last page of this Newsletter for details.

Cllr Caroline Horrill

Hampshire Crime Prevention Campaign

Especially relevant following the break in last evening in the village....



LIGHTS ON

Don't make your absence easy for burglars to spot!

- L**eaving a couple of lights on in your home will help to make it look occupied.
- I**nvest in some timer switches. These will turn lamps and radios on and off for you.
- G**adgets are available which fit into bayonet light fittings which will turn your main lights on and off.
- H**elp keep your energy bills down by using energy saving light bulbs.
- T**hieves are more likely to target homes which appear unoccupied.
- S**ecure your home by locking all windows and doors before you go out.
- O**nly tell the people who you trust if your home will be empty for a period of time.
- N**ow you have made your home more secure, share this information with your friends and family.



www.hampshire.police.uk

Deaf? Non-emergency text

07781 480999

For crime and community information

www.hampshirealert.co.uk

**HAMPSHIRE
ALERT**



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2024-11/Our%20News%20November%202024.pdf?utm_source=Alert&utm_medium=Link&utm_campaign=November+2024

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	07887540218 No landline
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
Nicola Breen	(to 31st Dec 2024) Clerk	clerk@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776909 or 07714614662
Becky Pickles	(from 1st Jan 2025)		

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 Sally Wesley know so that a Sparsholt Welcome booklet can be delivered sally.wesley@btinternet.com

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 **24th January 2025** please submit all items to sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org