

# Sparsholt Community Newsletter 2024

## Sparsholt Memorial Hall Committee.

Sparsholt Memorial Hall remains an important asset to our village and for it to continue to thrive the Committee is seeking new volunteer members.

The Committee oversees the Village Hall, ensuring its maintenance and appropriate use for the village community. We will have vacancies for up to three new members, commencing 27th March 2024.

### What does it entail?

Attending 2 - 4 meetings per year, usually for around two hours on a weekday evening. During these meetings you will consider issues of importance to the maintenance, use and running of the Village Hall, together with other Committee Members (Trustees). Members of the Committee can choose whether or not to take on any other roles as the need arises, for example secretary, chair; or to help with ad hoc tasks as they arise throughout the year.

### What sort of skills are needed?

No specific skills are needed. You must be resident in the village or surrounding area. It is helpful if you are a hall user, or have an interest in one of the community groups who benefit from the hall, e.g. if your children attend the Village School or the Scouts.

Further information is available from

Dr Andrew Page (Chair) – 07860189065, email : [andrecwpage@btinternet.com](mailto:andrecwpage@btinternet.com)

## Sparsholt Village Hall and War Memorial Committee

### Sparsholt Memorial Hall Bookings

Liz West has now retired from being the Booking secretary for the Memorial Hall after 25 years and Tonia Truter has taken it over. Future bookings should be made by contacting Tonia by email via [memorialhall.bookings@sparsholtparish.org](mailto:memorialhall.bookings@sparsholtparish.org)

Tremendous thanks to Liz from all the village for her unstinting contributions to the successful running of the Hall over so many years.

### Removal of Winchester A&E Department

If you object to the removal of Winchester A&E Department then you may wish to sign up to the campaign on 38 Degrees which at the time of writing is only 156 short of its target of 20,000 signatories <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-the-removal-of-winchester-emergency-dept-or-build-the-new-hospital-here>

### Village Cleanup



The Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean 2024 will take place from 15 - 31 March. The Sparsholt litter pick will be on the morning of **Saturday 23 March** from 10am to 12 Noon. Meet in the Memorial Hall car park.

Equipment and bags will be provided, please bring your own gloves. Some refreshments will be available.

### Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 20th April in the Memorial Hall at 10am.



photo: Howard Annesley

## Shop and Post Office

### Looking for a new role in the community?

Sparsholt Village Shop is looking for someone to help us with our book keeping and day to day accounting – your key activities would be:

- Paying our bills online
- Logging onto our accounting software to make updates.

You don't need to be an accountant or even have any relevant experience - training would be provided.

You would be working with our shop team who will work with you. The job will take half a day a week and as is the case with many of our supporters who work in our village shop team, we hope to find a volunteer.

If you'd like more information about the job, please email [sparsholtsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:sparsholtsecretary@outlook.com) or leave you details in the shop.

### Sparsholt Village Shop - Easter Cake Raffle

Back by popular demand! Please buy a ticket for the Easter Cake Raffle.

£1 a ticket available in the shop

Winner will be drawn on Thursday 28th March

**The Plough**

The Plough is open at 10am for coffee and brunch Wednesday to Saturday



Open Monday to Sunday every day from **April 1st**

**WE ARE HIRING**

- Kitchen Assistant

Reliable, friendly, honest and want to work? Please email us [theplough@thelittlepubgroup.co.uk](mailto:theplough@thelittlepubgroup.co.uk)

**Apply Now**

[theplough@thelittlepubgroup.co.uk](mailto:theplough@thelittlepubgroup.co.uk)

**Sparsholt Music**

Plans are well under way for the April 14th concert. Tickets available from 22nd March. [www.sparsholtmusic.org](http://www.sparsholtmusic.org)



*photos: Howard Annesley*

**Next Parish Council Meeting**

The next Parish Council Meeting is on **21st March 2024** at 7.30pm.

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

**Count Staff Vacancies**

The Returning Officer for Winchester City Council has vacancies for overnight count staff and we welcome applications from members of the public to be part of the team of casual election staff on – Thursday 2 May 2024.

- ✓ From 21:00 on 2 May 2024 for approx. 5 or 6 hours
- ✓ Earn extra money – £17.50 per hour
- ✓ No prior experience required
- ✓ Full training will be provided

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/elections/working-at-elections-staff-recruitment> or email [ElectionsStaffing@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:ElectionsStaffing@winchester.gov.uk)

# Sparsholt Cricket Club

## Hosting an International fixture.

The cricket club will be welcoming teams from the Isle of Man and from Guernsey on the 4th and 5th of May where they are playing each other in the ICC Women's World Cup competition, this is classed as an official International fixture and a great experience for the Club. We're hoping to have some of the Hampshire Womens side the vipers coming along as part of the event. We'll also continue to host Hampshire over 60's and over 50's men's teams.



## Maintaining a Superb Pitch

As the season rapidly approaches there's a lot of work going on at the Cricket Club. A new fence is being put up in front of the pavilion, some internal changes to the layout and hopefully a new fence at the back of the nets to replace wind damaged one. Repairs and maintenance of the machinery and stocking of the bar and refreshments area all undertaken by Club Members.

As hopefully the weather warms up and the rain stops falling we'll see the lush green grass starting to grow and be able to witness our groundsmans expert skill in making the pitch and outfield superb, it terms of the ground we were marked 4th overall out of 40 pitches in the Southern Premier League last season a fantastic achievement.



## Overseas Player for the Season

On the playing front we welcome Joe Merlino from North Sydney, Australia who is joining us as our overseas player for the season we've managed to find a accommodation in Littleton although we expect him to be at the ground most days. We are also welcoming a number of new players this season increasing senior numbers for our three teams. The junior section continues to thrive and juniors will be at the ground most nights of the week.

## Safina's Thai takeaway

Safina's Thai takeaway will be reopening in late April and is highly recommended. The club is hoping to host a number of events over the summer and would welcome any input from the village on what they might like to attend at the club from coffee mornings during the day to band nights or bingo in the evenings.

## Volunteers - More Help Needed

The club is run by volunteers and we are always looking for more help if anyone would like to assist either in a permanent or ad hoc capacity. There are many advantages to joining our group of volunteers who range in age from 12 to 80. The Cricket club is an outstanding facility with great views across the fields and a very tranquil setting during the day please feel free to take time out to sit on the benches, chat to the ground crew or give a helping hand.

## Cleaner Required

We are currently looking for a cleaner for ad hoc cleaning of the pavilion prior to Red Cross first aid course days this is a paid role which takes about 1 hour.

## Contact us

If you're interested in learning more about the club or any involvement please contact Andy Worth on [chairman@sparsholtcc.co.uk](mailto:chairman@sparsholtcc.co.uk) or phone 07738026608.

**Andy Worth Chairman Sparsholt CC**

## CHURCH SERVICES

Date	St. Stephen's Church, Sparsholt
10 <sup>th</sup> March	10am – Mothering Sunday
17 <sup>th</sup> March	8am – Holy Communion (BCP)
19 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30pm – Licensing of new Rector (please advise Sally Wesley if you want to attend and have not already put your name on the list)
24 <sup>th</sup> March	10am – Palm Sunday with Procession
28 <sup>th</sup> March	6pm – Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
31 <sup>st</sup> March	10am – Easter Sunday Family Communion
21 <sup>st</sup> April	8am – Holy Communion (BCP)
28 <sup>th</sup> April	10am – Morning Worship
19 <sup>th</sup> May	Open-Air Service (11am - at Northwood Park <i>followed by picnic</i> )
26 <sup>th</sup> May	10am – Morning Worship

If you would like to go to a Church Service on one of the Sundays when there is no Service in St. Stephen's, here is the normal rota across the Benefice:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month:

- 10am Morning Prayer at Chilbolton
- 10am Holy Communion at Crawley
- 4pm Café Church in Littleton Church Room

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month:

- 10am Family Communion at Littleton
- 10am Morning Prayer at Wherwell

### Parish of ST. STEPHEN'S, SPARSHOLT WITH LAINSTON

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in St. Stephen's Church on the 23rd day of April 2024 at 7.30pm.

Those wishing to attend need to be on the Church Electoral Roll. If you would like to add your name to the Electoral Roll, please contact Sally Wesley on [sally.wesley@btinternet.com](mailto:sally.wesley@btinternet.com) before 7th April to obtain the necessary form.'

### Churchyard Cleanup

'There will be a Churchyard Cleanup at St. Stephen's, Sparsholt on Saturday 27th April from 10.00am to 1.00pm.

All volunteers warmly welcomed with their garden equipment (gloves, secateurs, etc.). Elevelenses and lunch will be provided.



**Are you a carer? Do you look after someone?  
If so, then come along to our Home and Well Hubs  
for our Carers Community.**

**In partnership with SGN we will be holding Home and Well Hubs across the county for information, support and advice on how to save money and keep warm this winter.**

**Meet other carers in your area, enjoy a warm lunch and activities. You can also bring the person you care for with you.**

**Debt support and advice to make sure you're receiving all the benefits you're entitled to. Priority services register – are you signed up to get support if there's a power cut or gas leak? Get help with your energy bills. Have a chat with our energy experts.**

**Weeke, Winchester.**

**Wednesday 27th March 10am-3pm**

**Weeke Community Centre, Taplings Road,  
Weeke, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 6HG**



**Call 01264 835246 or  
email [info@carercentre.com](mailto:info@carercentre.com)**

Charity No 1040518 Company No 2955846



# HAMPSHIRE

## Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation

Hampshire County Council is asking for people's views on the future of some local services in a public consultation on options to help the Authority meet a £132 million budget shortfall by April 2025

**Consultation closes: 11:59pm on 31 March 2024**

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

## Hampshire County Councillor Update

### Highways Information: 20mph policy

Last month HCC's Universal Services Select Committee scrutinised the proposals for a 20mph policy.

The new policy confirms two things; firstly, that HCC will continue to consider 20mph zones in areas where they are deemed appropriate and there is a proven safety need for them - outside of schools for example.

More importantly the decision will introduce a policy which allows communities to request the introduction of 20mph zones in their own area. There will be a number of criteria any community led application will need to meet:

Firstly, and most importantly, there must be clear evidence of community support. Too often we have seen the introduction of 20mph zones elsewhere in the country where there has been little support, resulting in conflict and division in communities.

Communities or parishes will need to fund the introduction of the schemes they request themselves. This should be possible through Community Infrastructure Levy or other forms of developer contributions. You will no doubt have seen the posts elsewhere about the financial challenges facing the County Council. There is therefore no possibility of funding to help bring these schemes forward.

Secondly, the introduction of 20mph zones would need to be accompanied by measures to reduce speed. The implementation of Speed Indicator Devices for example, those that show the speed a vehicle is going with a happy or angry face. The police have been clear that they do not have resources to enforce any new zones, so communities will need to find ways by which they can encourage compliance themselves, such as Speed Watch for example.

There has been a vocal campaign by campaigners who want a blanket introduction of 20mph zones across the county, similar to that introduced recently in Wales. Whilst there is sympathy with their argument, which highlights not only the safety benefits of lower speed limits, but also the impact on the environment and health budgets, there remain two issues impeding that consideration. The first is finance, such

a move would cost £20 million, that funding would need to come from highway repair budgets, reducing them by almost 50% for a year. The second being public support, it is clear from Wales, from other parts of England, that there is far from universal support for 20mph zones, consequently best that communities decide for themselves whether a zone is right for them. Further details will be published on applying for a 20 mph zone soon.

### Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

Potholes:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

Pavement problems:

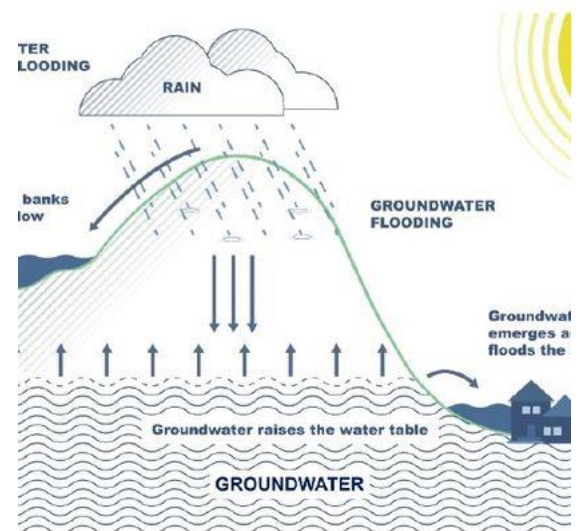
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

Problems with rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

**When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you**

**Groundwater Flooding Hampshire County Council** have provided a helpful update on ground water flooding across the County.



Flooding from groundwater is currently one of the highest risks across Hampshire. A wetter than usual summer and autumn has raised groundwater to significantly higher levels than the seasonal average in many areas.

Groundwater flooding occurs when the natural water level under the ground (the water table) rises to the surface.

Flooding can be devastating and can cause damage to homes and other property, as well as roads and frequently overwhelms drainage and sewer networks. Underground rooms, such as cellars and basements, are particularly at risk. This type of flooding is more likely where there is chalk under the ground - it can also happen in places with sand and gravel, such as river valleys.

There are currently 10 Flood Warnings and 30 Flood Alerts in place across Hampshire (including Hursley) covering both groundwater and river flood risks (correct as at 15.01.24).

This information is regularly updated at:

<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and...>

Finding the latest information:

You and your communities can sign up to receive Flood Alerts here:

Sign up for flood warnings - <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

Alternatively, sign up by calling Floodline; Telephone: 0345 988 1188  
Textphone: 0345 602 6340 This is a 24-hour service with alerts sent by email, text or phone.

**Reporting a flood:** The Environment Agency is responsible for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers and the sea. Incidents can be reported to their hotline on 0800 80 70 90.

The County Council is responsible for managing the risk from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. Further information and how to report this type of flooding is available here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../flooding/reportingflooding>

It is always advisable for residents to take photos of any flood water affecting them in order to evidence the impacts for insurance and investigation purposes.

It is also important for flooding to be reported to the relevant body as swiftly as possible so that this information can be used to identify properties at risk, initiate investigations and also for evidence to identify and claim potential funding for future flood resilience or alleviation schemes. If we are not aware of the scale or impact of flooding, then it significantly reduces any likelihood of actions being taken.

**Sandbags:** The County Council does not provide sandbags to properties impacted by flooding, unless the water is coming directly from the public highway.

Further information on the availability of sandbags, can be found here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../environment/flooding/sandbags>

**Protecting property from flooding** It is the responsibility of homeowners to protect their property. While it is not always possible to completely protect a home or business against flooding, positive action can be taken to reduce the damage and the amount of water that gets in, and also the cost and time of cleaning up.

Further information is available at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../env.../flooding/floodprevention>

Also refer to the further guidance below:

- Protecting your property – <https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/.../protecting-your-.../>
- Protecting property from flooding - <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/.../protecting-your-property...>
- Prepare for flooding: <https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for.../protect-your-property>
- Adapting your home or business to the risk of flooding - <https://www.gov.uk/.../adapting-your-home-or-business-to...>

### Finance: This Year's Budget (2024-2025)

Spending proposals totaling £2.6 billion to cover local services to Hampshire's 1.4 million residents will be considered by the County Council's Cabinet and Council this month. Extra funding was recently announced by Government for local councils for this coming financial year which will help towards delivering vital services for the most vulnerable people in our communities. Our local MPs have continued to lobby Government and highlighting the immense financial pressures all councils are under.

From 1 April 2024, a council tax increase of 4.99% is being put forward, of which 2% would go specifically towards adult social care and supporting the county's higher numbers of older people and adults with complex needs and disabilities. This recommended increase would generate an extra £39m towards our overall service delivery costs. If approved, this would work out as around an extra £1.40 for households to pay per week.

The recommended increase, which is below the current rate of retail price inflation, would still mean that Hampshire has one of the lowest council tax rates of any county in England.

**Capital expenditure** of £880.6m over 3 years is proposed for building and infrastructure projects across the county. The programme includes:

- £173m for the Older Adult care estate
- £192m investment in new and extended school for a further 5,312 school places and giving a total of 19,989 new school places by September 2027
- £163m for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges
- £73m of Integrated Transport Plan schemes including £43m of schemes focused around walking and/or cycling improvements
- £76m to address condition-based enhancements to schools

A final decision on the County Council's budget for

2024/25 will be made by the full County Council on 22 February 2024.

### County Council Budget consultation

You will no doubt have seen the publicity about Councils 'going bust' in the last few months. The latest was Nottingham City Council, closer to home Southampton City Council is close to declaring it cannot deliver a balanced budget this year and Somerset Council is asking the Government to allow them to increase Council Tax by 10% to avoid the same situation.

Hampshire County Council is NOT in that position, yet. Unusually for many councils we project our finances ahead by a number of years, we can therefore see when, and why, we anticipate there will be challenges in balancing the budget and continuing to deliver the services we are, by law, required to provide.

The County Council has a legal responsibility to carry out certain functions. We cannot say 'no' if someone asks for support and in many cases, we cannot means test or ask for a contribution toward the cost of providing a service. Examples of this are social care costs for older people, support for those with disabilities, the care of vulnerable children and young people and school transport for those who meet the necessary criteria. It's entirely right that we provide these services free of charge for those who need them. The consequence though is a cost that is only limited by the number of people requiring support.

Our projections show that while we will be able to balance our budget for the next two years, by 2026 there will be an anticipated shortfall of £132 million.

HCC therefore has to consider now ways by which we can balance our budget before then. We very much hope that comes in the way assistance from the Government, either by way of additional funding or more usefully allowing us to charge economic rates for some services and means test others. But it may not, so consequently we must now begin to consult on how we might change our discretionary services to meet that budget shortfall.

The feedback from last year's consultation told us that Hampshire's residents were supportive of service change, but notably opposed to service reduction. We have taken that on board and have prioritised those changes as part of our proposals upon which the County Council will now consult. This will include further internal reorganisation, increased charging for services and the sale of assets.

When a Council can no longer meet its costs, the Government send in Commissioners to run the Council and oversee its return to financial stability. This is what has happened to Nottingham, Birmingham and many others. The Commissioner will look at every non statutory obligation and want to understand why the Council might still be operating in that way. Their view will be that the Council should only do

that which it is legally obliged, and any other services should be cut.

You can read more about the consultation here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/future-services-consultation>

### County Council Budget consultation - HWRCs

One of the areas we need to consider for change and potential reduction is our network of Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs). Hampshire is the best served county in terms of its waste and recycling centres, we have more per square mile, per head of population and open them longer than any other area. Are there better ways of delivering this service?

As a Waste Disposal Authority, we're obligated to arrange for the deposit of household and garden waste at no charge under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

In 2022/23, you made 2.1 million bookings, depositing nearly 120,000 tonnes of waste across our 24 HWRCs, costing over £10 million a year to operate. However, due to ongoing budget pressures, we are looking to reduce spending by a minimum of £1.2 million annually.

Proposed Changes Include:

#### 1. **\*\*Charging for Discretionary Services\*\***

- Premium booking slots
- Additional services by site staff
- Chargeable items like gloves and sacks

#### 2. **\*\*Alternative Delivery Models\*\***

- Handing over management to charities or community organizations
- Districts and boroughs managing some sites

#### 3. **\*\*Changes to Types of Waste Accepted\*\***

- Evaluating efficiency by restricting certain waste types at specific sites

#### 4. **\*\*Reducing Opening Days/Hours\*\***

- Potential reductions to opening hours and days to achieve savings

#### 5. **\*\*Reducing Number of Existing Sites\*\***

HCC have split the sites into 4 tiers, based upon their size, usage and the cost of running them:

##### Tier 1

Newer, larger sites, fit for purpose.

Andover, Basingstoke, Eastleigh, Gosport, Segensworth, Waterlooville, **Winchester**

##### Tier 2

Strategic locations, some investment may be needed.

Alton, Efford, Farnborough, Havant, Netley

##### Tier 3

Smaller sites, operationally challenging, investment required.



Aldershot, Bordon, Casbrook (Romsey), Hedge End, Marchwood, Petersfield, Somerley

#### Tier 4

Smallest sites, poorest performing, most expensive to run

Alresford, Bishops Waltham, Fair Oak, Hartley Wintney, Hayling Island

Using the above criteria and tiered system, the options for site closures include:

- No closures
- Closure of Tier 4 sites only
- Closure of Tier 3 and Tier 4 sites

It is NOT the case that each of these proposals will be taken forward. We do though need to consider how we can find the savings we need from the HWRC system to contribute toward the cost of the statutory services we provide for the most vulnerable.

Many people have asked why we can't charge a small amount for services at HWRCs. The law prohibits this – we have been lobbying Government for the power to do this since 2015.

The Government's decision to ban charging for DIY waste (the charge for which only covered our processing costs) has resulted in an additional annual cost to the County Council of £2million.

You can read more about the HWRC consultation here:  
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../household-waste-recycling...>

You can have your say on our proposals for change here:  
<https://hampshirecc.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/FSC>

Once you have gone through the first couple of pages, then tick the box marker 'Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) to be taken to the consultation on HWRC proposals.

#### Hampshire Hospitals 'Hampshire Together' (new hospital) consultation.

You may have seen publicity about the proposals being put forward by Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust (the hospital trust covering Winchester, Basingstoke and Andover hospitals) for a new critical treatment hospital at North Waltham, near Basingstoke.

There have been various plans for the reorganisation of hospital services across north and mid Hampshire for many years.

The proposals would see Winchester hospital's A&E department and maternity services change. The A&E department would no longer deal with acute admissions and the maternity department would be midwife led, meaning that maternity situations where consultant input was required, and serious injury emergencies would need to go to North Waltham or Basingstoke site.

The construction of a new hospital in this location needs really serious consideration. Adding a third hospital location (fourth if you include Andover) already stretches the HHFT clinical model.

More importantly, more thought needs to be given to the population south of Winchester, who might at this point choose to go to Winchester should they need emergency or maternity care, but who are more likely as a result of the re-configuration of services to head towards Southampton.

The views of University Hospitals Southampton and Portsmouth NHS Trust are also vital in this conversation.

You can read more about the plan and respond to the consultation here:  
<https://www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk>

#### Hampshire Forest Partnership update

The Hampshire Forest Partnership is having a busy planting season. They have planted 24,300 trees and hedges and have an ambition to plant one million trees by 2050. There are two exciting opportunities for parishes or community groups to work with the Hampshire Forest Partnership:

- **Free Elm Trees available!** We have purchased 700 disease-resistant elms and we are still looking for homes for about 600 of them. Please help us by coming forward with a request for up to 20 Elm trees in your patch! The English countryside was once dominated by elms, but since the 1960s these trees have been ravaged by Dutch elm disease, accidentally introduced to Europe in the early 20th century. The Hampshire Forest Partnership with support from The Tree Council are funding disease resistant hybrid elm trees to help local nature recovery. Selective breeding of elms now means that we can bring these back to Hampshire; trials have shown that these hybrids show resistance to the disease and also support our native wildlife. We are particularly interested to plant the trees within hedges, in community spaces and as specimens in areas that have lost trees from ash dieback.
- **Shoots along the Routes** scheme seeks more projects. This scheme aims to improve landscape connectivity outside woodland areas. We'll be providing free trees to landowners and land managers to create over 630km of new green networks across the county. These networks will follow the routes of several A and B-roads across Hampshire. The scheme will also support eligible tree planting schemes within a 2km wide corridor along the routes to boost nature recovery.

If you are interested in proposing a location for either of the above, please email [treeplanting@hants.gov.uk](mailto:treeplanting@hants.gov.uk). We have funding for both so we can provide trees, stakes, guards and even information panels.

Cllr Jan Warwick  
Hampshire and Winchester City Councillor  
07717 104236  
[Jan.warwick@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Jan.warwick@hants.gov.uk) or [jwarwick@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:jwarwick@winchester.gov.uk)

## Courier Fraud

Police are urging residents in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to remain vigilant following six reports of courier fraud since January – with one woman losing almost £17,000.

This type of fraud typically sees a victim receive an unexpected call from someone who pretends to be a police officer, a staff member from their local bank, or an employee from an internet or phone provider.

They then tell the victim that their account has been subject to fraudulent activity and then request that the victim helps with the ongoing investigation.

Victims are usually asked for details about their financial accounts before being sent to their bank to withdraw money. They are then told to hand over money or an expensive item to a fraudulent courier, who will typically come to their home to collect it.

Although this is still a common ploy for fraudsters, recent reports suggest they are making a more direct approach and are telling victims they have been scammed, or that their cards have expired.

The fraudsters then send couriers to collect bank cards from victims and ask for PIN numbers and if they can hand over any relevant items, such as mobile phones.

Since the beginning of 2024, officers have received six reports of courier fraud, with five cases being reported in the last month. The total loss is approximately £70,000. One victim was scammed out of almost £17,000.

Officers are urging people to not engage with these type of calls. Victims are typically elderly and officers are asking anyone with an elderly relative, loved one, friend or associate to please make them aware of this scam.

Some recent examples of reports include:

On 19 February, we received a report that a man in 70s from Fareham had been scammed out of more than £2,300 after he was contacted by someone claiming to be from a bank who said he had been the victim of fraud.

He received a number of calls on WhatsApp and was told someone from their fraud team would come to his home address and collect his bank cards.

Between 12 February and 18 February, £2,341 was withdrawn from his account.

Meanwhile, on 2 March, we received a report that a woman in her 80s from Eastleigh was scammed out of £16,900 after she was contacted by someone pretending to be from her bank's fraud team.

She was told that she had been scammed and she needed to hand over her bank cards and mobile phone so they could resolve the issue.

A courier then attended her home address to collect her bank cards, PIN numbers and mobile phone.

She was told to not reveal the original 'scam' to anyone and that she shouldn't leave her address. The fraudsters also said she should be available to take calls from them so they could provide her with updates.

Between 29 February and 2 March, a total of £16,900 was withdrawn from locations including Eastleigh and London.

Both victims are being supported by officers and our detectives are investigating the incidents and our enquiries are ongoing.

Detective Constable Michael Dumbleton, from the Economic Crime Unit, said: "These fraudsters are heartless individuals who prey on some of the most vulnerable people living in our area.

"The scammers will constantly look at new ways to get money from people and it seems they are taking a more direct approach by telling elderly victims they have been scammed, or that their cards have expired.

"The suspects then withdraw a lot of cash and make high value purchases in electronic or designer clothing stores.

"Victims of courier fraud can be any age, but the victims in the incidents currently being investigated range from 67 and 99 years old. I urge anyone who has an elderly relative to make them aware of this type of fraud as soon as possible.

"These incidents can often have a huge impact on victims as they come to terms with the fact they have fallen for a scam, and the financial losses that come with it.

"We do not want anyone to fall victim to these scammers and we are taking steps to inform residents of courier fraud; so that they are aware of this type of contact and can avoid becoming a victim.

**"Please remember that banks, police or other officials will NOT contact people in this way and will NOT request them to hand over bank cards, PIN details, cash or other valuables.**

"If anyone receives a call of this nature, they should not engage with the caller and hang up. We are wholly committed to investigating offences of this nature and will take steps to identify and bring those individuals responsible to justice."

Please remember that:

**Police officers, banks and other organisations such as HMRC will never call people in this way and ask you to withdraw money or disclose personal or financial information. If someone does do this, please hang up – it will be a scam.**

If someone calls claiming to be a police officer, ask for their ID number and police force. Wait at least five minutes before verifying details with the appropriate Force by calling 101 – do not use any number they provide unless you can confirm it as genuine. Ensure the call has disconnected as scammers will often leave the line open or use another phone altogether. A genuine police officer will not mind waiting while you check their identity (it's a sign that it is a scam if the person becomes pushy or stresses urgency).

Take a step back from everything and take a few moments to think. Speak to a trusted friend or relative for their opinion

before agreeing to anything. The fraudster's tactic is often to keep the victim busy talking and isolated. They stress that they should not tell anyone else about the call.

**Your bank or the police will never send a courier to your home to collect cash, bank cards, PINs or other valuable goods.**

If you are a friend, relative or carer of someone you think might be vulnerable to this type of scam, please speak to them about this advice. You might be the only person who can stop them from being scammed.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of fraud, report it to us by calling 101. If a crime is in progress, dial 999.

You can make yourself aware of this type of scam and how to protect yourself by visiting the Action Fraud website (<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>) or by calling them on 0300 123 2040.

## Community Resilience

The government are encouraging all local communities to develop resilience plans to supplement those of the county and city authorities, the emergency services and critical service suppliers.

Following problems with water, electricity, road gridlock, surface water flooding and storm damage, the parish council are formalising Local Resilience and Emergency Planning by establishing a Resilience Subcommittee.

We will be contacting organisations in the parish to understand any specific concerns they may have as well as resources that could be made available in an emergency.

If you have specific concerns that could affect you or your neighbours or you have relevant skills to offer the subgroup would be pleased to hear from you. Please email [communications@sparsholtparish.org](mailto:communications@sparsholtparish.org)

A brief progress update on Resilience Planning will be provided at the Annual Meeting.

## The Countryside Code

### Statutory guidance - advice for countryside visitors

The following extracts are taken from the full guidance which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code/the-countryside-code-advice-for-countryside-visitors>

### Farming, livestock and wild animals

Your actions can affect other people's lives and livelihoods.

Co-operate with people working in the countryside. For example, follow the farmer's directions when animals are being moved or gathered. This helps keep everybody safe.

Leave gates and property as you find them or follow instructions on signs. When in a group, make sure the last person knows how to leave the gates. Farmers close gates to keep animals in or leave them open to give access to food and water. Do not interfere with farm machinery, horses or livestock. If you think a farm animal is in distress, try to alert the farmer.

Give wild animals, livestock and horses plenty of space. Their behaviour can be unpredictable, especially when they are with their young and you could get hurt.

Do not feed livestock, horses or wild animals as it can cause them harm.

### Dog poo

Dog poo - bag it and bin it in any public waste bin or take it home

Always clean up your dog's poo because it can cause illness in people, livestock and wildlife.

Never leave bags of dog poo around, even if you intend to pick them up later. Deodorised bags and containers can make bags of dog poo easier to carry. If you cannot find a public waste bin, you should take it home and use your own bin.

## Lainston House News

The colour has finally arrived! To the Lainston House grounds, our Avenue and Wellhouse restaurant menus, the newly refurbished bedrooms, the kitchen garden and Lainston Live events calendar for 2024. We're eternal optimists at Lainston and are sure that we're not alone in thinking that that the wet weather will soon dissipate and be replaced by a glorious spring. The daffodils are out, fingers crossed the sunshine will follow...

There is no better time of year at the hotel than spring with its bountiful produce, colour bursts in every direction, the shift to outside events, and excitement about what lies ahead. We are excited to be able to share our schedule of forthcoming events and activities with our friends and neighbours in Sparsholt and we look forward to welcoming you, your families and friends to the hotel.



To kick things off we are thrilled to announce that **MasterChef: The Professionals Winner Tom Hamblet** will be taking residency as Head Chef of The Avenue restaurant between April 3<sup>rd</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>. Tom has grown up within the Exclusive Collection family and is based at our sister property South Lodge in Horsham. We are proud to be welcoming him to Lainston House for three months to showcase and share with you his dishes inspired by his time on MasterChef: The Professionals 2023. The demand for table bookings has been huge since his residency was announced, so we have limited dates and availability for table **only** bookings. Dinner bookings and "The Avenue dine and stay" residential package are now open online. We can't wait to showcase Tom's menu and welcome the very best of British cooking talent to our kitchen.



Our schedule of Lainston Live Events for 2024 is now available through the website. We will be running the following events throughout the spring and summer:

- **Easter Sunday** in the Wellhouse (2 sittings) March 31<sup>st</sup>
- The return of **Paul Pashley** and his band for **Jazz on the Lawn** June 2<sup>nd</sup>



- To celebrate **Father's Day** we will be having a special Father's Day Afternoon June 16<sup>th</sup>  
Tea menu throughout the month, and on June 16<sup>th</sup> itself, we will be offering  
Clay pigeon shooting, archery and hog roast – kids are welcome but must be over 7 years old
- **Summer Garden Party** with Cocktails and canapes and live music in the Kitchen Garden June 21<sup>st</sup>
- Woodfired Lunch and live music with **The Spitfire Sisters** August 25<sup>th</sup>
- 2 x outdoor cinema evenings  
August 9<sup>th</sup> (Dirty Dancing)  
August 30<sup>th</sup> (Pretty Woman)

<https://www.exclusive.co.uk/lainston-house/food/>

<https://www.exclusive.co.uk/lainston-house/experiences/jazz-lunch/>

New for 2024, we are delighted to announce a new partnership for **Season Cookery School** with Big Green Egg, the market leaders with 50 years' experience in high quality ceramic BBQs. Working closely with our inhouse kitchen team, Big Green Egg are showcasing their incredible products at Lainston. A range of courses, from BBQ beginners' days to masterclasses, are now available. Many of our local residents have done a woodfired cooking course with us, join Exec Chef Phil Yeomans and Season Cookery School Head Tutor Tom Lampitt and let them show you how the Big Green Egg can revolutionise your outdoor cooking experience.

From all of us, thank you for your continued support, we love seeing local, familiar faces and look forward to welcoming you to Lainston House in 2024.

Yours in hospitality  
**Steve Lewis**  
General Manager

# SPARSHOLT COMMUNITY CONTACTS

## Parish Councillors

Sue Wood	Chair & Transport	chair@sparsholtparish.org transport@sparsholtparish.org highways@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776255
Mark Himbury	Highways & Memorial Hall	memorialhall@sparsholtparish.org	07956 371433
John Cooper	Footpaths & Ham Green	footpaths@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776753
Lynne Gibson	Security	security@sparsholtparish.org	07771 606974
John Little	Deputy Chair & Communications	deputy@sparsholtparish.org communications@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776249
vacancy	Councillor		
Nigel Reid	Sparsholt Shop	shop@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776244
Jonathan Walthoe	Councillor	councillor2@sparsholtparish.org	07752 390536
David Brown	Playground	playground@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776182
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

Contact email address for volunteers and requests for support - [supportgroup@sparsholtparish.org](mailto:supportgroup@sparsholtparish.org)

### 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](mailto:winchester.rural.police@hampshire.police.uk)

### WEBSITES

Sparsholt Parish: <http://www.sparsholtparish.org/>  
Sparsholt Shop: [http://www.sparsholtparish.org/Our\\_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](mailto:sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org)

### Ham Green Conservation Group

Malcolm Hewson [malcolmhewson@btinternet.com](mailto:malcolmhewson@btinternet.com)

### Sparsholt Oil Syndicate

John Wesley [johnr.wesley@btinternet.com](mailto:johnr.wesley@btinternet.com)

### Neighbourhood Watch

Sparsholt Neighbourhood Watch coordinator is Lynne Gibson. Please contact: [security@sparsholtparish.org](mailto:security@sparsholtparish.org)

### Aluminium Recycling Bin

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

### 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](mailto: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 **26th April 2024** please submit all items to [sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org](mailto:sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org)