

Sparsholt Community Newsletter

HAPPY NEW YEAR

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

An OBE has been awarded to Sparsholt resident **Dr Edgar Joseph Feuchtwanger**, historian and author of the memoir *My Neighbour Hitler; memories of a Jewish child*, for services to Anglo-German Understanding and History.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edgar_Feuchtwanger

Out with the old year and in with the new one while we all seek to stay safe

We will all, no doubt, be pleased to see the back of 2020 and at midnight on 31st December welcome in the prospect of a much better 2021. Although with most of the country in Tier 4 for the foreseeable future, it won't be the great start to the year that we may have hoped for. However, with two vaccines now approved there is a much brighter light at the end of a possibly shorter tunnel.

If you are thinking of celebrating, then do remember...

“Covid loves a crowd!” Professor Stephen Powis - National Medical Director



Village Events Calendar

We had intended to launch the new Village Events Calendar at the start of the new year. As it is mainly blank, we will save it until there are some events actually planned to take place.

A couple of possible save the dates that are far enough ahead they **might** happen:

- Sat 5th June 2021 – Village Clean up (as part of Keep Britain Tidy) and
- Sat 19th June – Village Fete(provisional date)

Old Year Clear out – why not try Freecycle once the restrictions lift.



The Freecycle Network™ is made up of 5,337 groups with 9,053,157 members around the world and also local to you. It is a grassroots and entirely non-profit movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns and neighbourhoods. It's all about reuse and keeping good stuff out of landfills. Each local group is moderated by local volunteers and membership is free. Unfortunately, due to Covid Tier 4 restrictions the exchange of items is currently suspended.

<https://groups.freecycle.org/group/WinchesterUK/posts/all>



Message from the Village Shop

Thank you to all of our customers for your continued support over a very challenging year. We would also like to extend an enormous thank you to the staff and volunteers who are a dedicated, reliable and fantastic group of people. We wish all of our staff, volunteers and customers a very Happy New Year.

**** Decorate a Christmas Tree for Sparsholt!****



St Stephen’s Church asked villagers to brighten up the Village for Christmas by decorating a small Christmas Tree and putting it on their drive or in their garden so everyone can see it.

The basic idea was:

- Trees could be decorated by anyone - a family, an individual, a club, any age.
- The trees could be decorated with anything – and were. There were bows, sweets, lights of all colours, baubles, tinsel, even fat balls for the birds and some great stars. Many of the decorations were homemade – there was lots of colour and energy!
- Some trees were even given a name.

Happily, it all proved very popular. The trees, which had been gifted to the church, were in high demand.

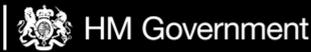
Some 38 trees were put out and it did really brighten up the village. Our Rector, Jax Machin, went around to have a look and was amazed at how inventive and wacky some trees were.

Well done everyone and thank you for taking part – we hope you enjoyed decorating your tree we certainly enjoyed looking at them.





COVID-19 Official Tier 4 Guidance




CORONAVIRUS TIER 4

STAY AT HOME

gov.uk/coronavirus

If you live in a Tier 4 area, you cannot join or form a Christmas bubble. You must not leave or be outside of your home except for specific purposes.

MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY 	BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS 	RETAIL 	WORK AND BUSINESS 
<p>No household mixing, aside from support bubbles and two people meeting in public outdoor spaces.</p>	<p>Hospitality closed, aside from sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery.</p>	<p>Essential shops can open. Non-essential retail must close and can only open for click-and-collect and delivery.</p>	<p>Everyone must work from home unless they are unable to do so.</p>
EDUCATION 	INDOOR LEISURE 	ACCOMMODATION 	PERSONAL CARE 
<p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open during term time. Registered childcare, other supervised activities for childcare purposes, and childcare bubbles permitted</p>	<p>Closed.</p>	<p>Closed (with limited exceptions)</p>	<p>Closed.</p>
OVERNIGHT STAYS 	WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS 	ENTERTAINMENT 	PLACES OF WORSHIP 
<p>You must not stay overnight away from home. Limited exceptions apply.</p>	<p>Funerals of up to 30 people permitted. Wakes and other linked ceremonial events can continue in a group of up to six. Weddings of up to six can continue in exceptional circumstances.</p>	<p>Indoor entertainment closed. Some outdoor attractions may remain open.</p>	<p>Open for private prayer and communal worship, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
TRAVELLING 	EXERCISE 	RESIDENTIAL CARE 	CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE
<p>You must stay at home and only travel for work, education or other legally permitted reasons. If you must travel, you should stay local, and reduce the number of journeys you make. You must not leave a Tier 4 area or stay overnight away from home. Residents in Tiers 1 - 3 should not enter Tier 4 areas. Do not travel abroad if you live in a Tier 4 area unless an exemption applies.</p>	<p>You can leave your home to exercise by yourself, with your household or support bubble, or with one person from another household. Outdoor sport allowed but gatherings limit applies except for youth and disabled sport.</p>	<p>You can visit relatives in care homes with COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits.</p>	<p>The Clinically Extremely Vulnerable are advised to stay at home as much as possible, except to go outdoors for exercise or to attend health appointments.</p>

For support and more information visit:
[**gov.uk/coronavirus**](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)





HAMPSHIRE

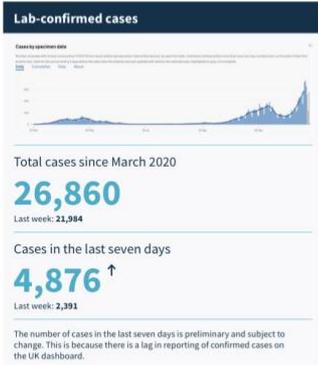
Keep
Hampshire
SAFE

Hampshire COVID-19 weekly summary

29 December 2020

Current Tier level in New Forest: **Tier 3 (Very High)**

Current Tier level for rest of Hampshire: **Tier 4 (Stay at Home)**



Hospital admissions - NHS Trust

Total patients admitted (as at 20 December)	Patients currently in hospital (as at 23 December)
2,039 Last week: 2,008	78 ↑ Last week: 76
1,947 Last week: 1,756	297 ↑ Last week: 170
281 Last week: 278	13 ↑ Last week: 3
1,637 Last week: 1,479	303 ↑ Last week: 243
1,957 Last week: 1,882	75 ↑ Last week: 52

Data source: coronavirius.data.gov.uk

The data published here is correct as of **29 December 2020** but it may be updated and amended as new data becomes available.



Unfortunately, **all the trends are in the wrong direction**. For the full data pack see...

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/public-health/jsna-covid19/Hampshire-COVID-19-Weekly-Datapak-301220.pdf>

Health Services across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

Pressure on the NHS, including current and projected occupancy - All health services across Hampshire and Isle of Wight continue to be **stretched but functioning** relatively well at present but this may change as the situation intensifies. Significant staffing challenges due to an increase in COVID-19 related illness amongst staff and unavailability means the NHS continues to be under greater operational pressure. Critical care capacity across HIOW is at "surge" levels. It is likely that the surge in capacity will require staff redeployment, cancellation of elective activity where appropriate and mutual aid through inter-regional transfers stepping up to support patients.

University Hospital Southampton – reassurance regarding text messages

University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust is reassuring patients who are waiting for a procedure that they are proactively contacting them by text message, phone call or letter and that it is not a scam. This is in recognition that patients may be concerned about the current delays in treatment and the Trust is asking them to select the statement that best reflects their current situation.

<https://www.uhs.nhs.uk/AboutTheTrust/Newsandpublications/Latestnews/2020/December/For-patients-who-are-waiting-for-a-procedure.aspx>



WINCHESTER

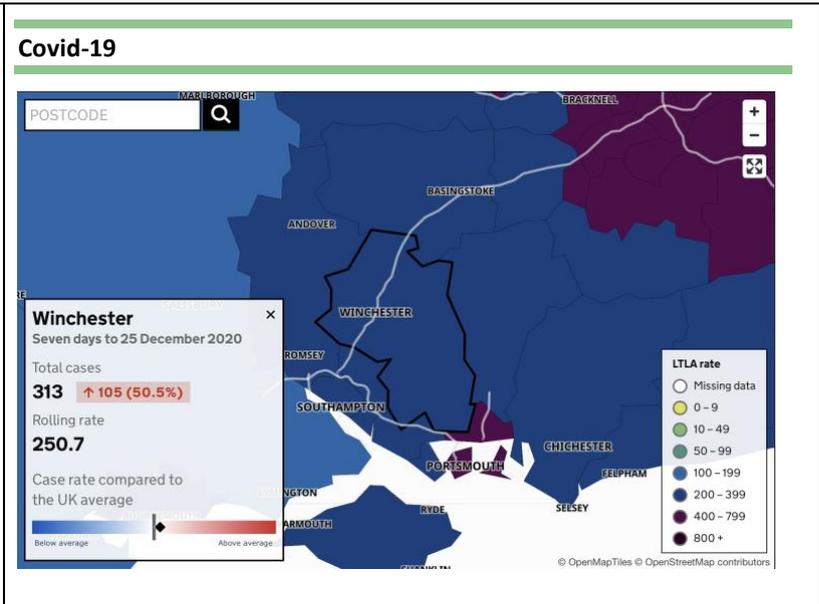
Council Offices

Council offices will be closed from 4.30pm on Wednesday 23 December 2020 until Monday 4 January 2021

In the event of an emergency call [01962 865 407](tel:01962865407).

For housing emergencies call [01962 865 405](tel:01962865405).

All non-urgent enquiries will be picked up from Monday 4 January.



Winchester City Council Waste and Recycling Collections in Sparsholt

January 2021	
Monday 04	
Saturday 09	
Friday 15	
Thursday 21	
Thursday 28	

Recycling Christmas Trees

We can collect your real Christmas tree. Please remove from the pot and strip it of all decorations and tinsel. Place the tree by your garden waste sack on your collection day weeks commencing 11 and 18 January 2021. Large trees over five feet tall will need to be cut into smaller pieces to enable them to fit in the collection vehicle.

Collection Service	Refuse + Garden Waste	Recycling only
Refuse only	Recycling + Glass	Change of collection day due to Bank Holiday



Winchester City Council are moving to a new garden waste collection service, starting on 1 February 2021.

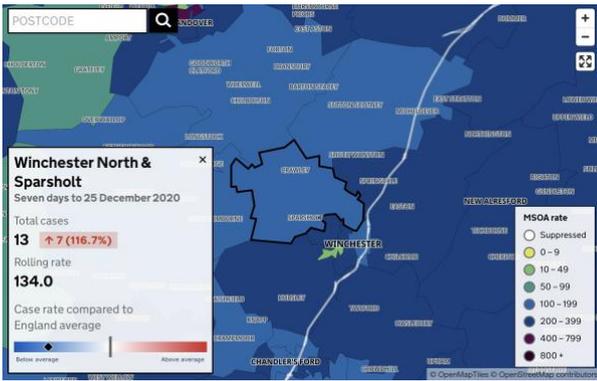
Residents can now sign up to the new garden waste service at an annual fee.

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/no-listing/garden-waste-collection-service-online-payment>



SPARSHOLT

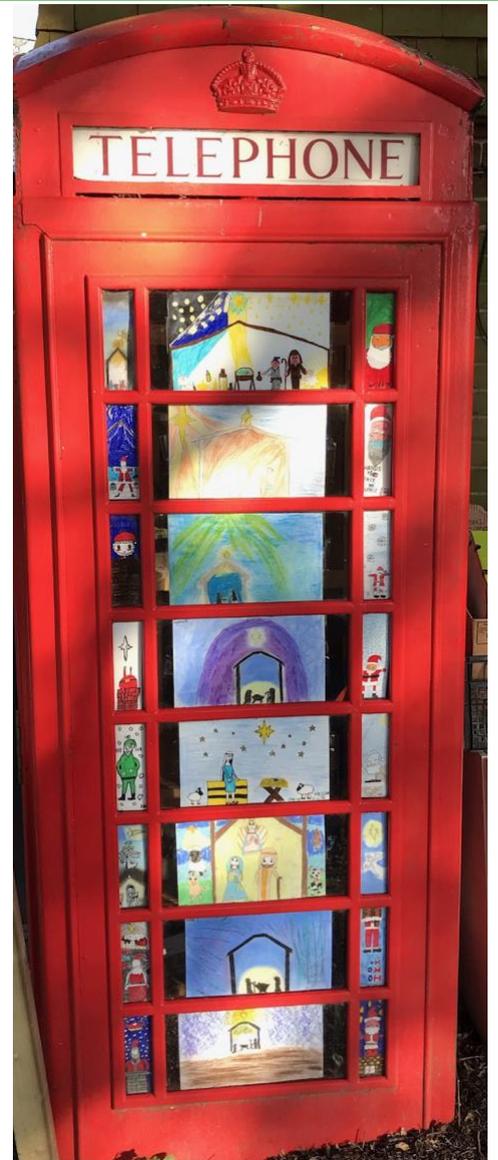
Covid-19 Situation



School Nativity Paintings



Just in case you haven't passed by the shop recently and seen the wonderful display in the telephone box...



HAM GREEN

Phase 1 of the felling of trees diseased by Ash Dieback has now been completed, apart from 2 large trees which need to be felled into the adjacent fields. However, this will probably not be done until the end of February, when the fields will be empty of crops and the surface will hopefully be firmer.

Most of the Phase 1 felling has been done along the section of footpath from Woodman Lane down to the grass area near the footbridge. Unfortunately, due to the amount of rain recently, the ground became very soft and has been rather badly damaged by the machinery needed to remove the felled trees. As soon as the ground has become firmer, we will arrange for this section of footpath to be repaired but, until then please be careful when using this pathway.

During the November Work Day, part of the Group tidied up in the main felling area and had a really nice (safely spaced) bonfire to dispose of the residual brash. The remainder of the Group worked further down at the Glade Area, where they removed a small Ash tree and made a second log bench from a previously felled Goat Willow tree - both of these activities are shown in the photos below.



The January Work Day is scheduled for [Saturday 9th January 2021](#) and, we may have to change our way of working to comply with the latest Covid restrictions.

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH

A Message from Reverend Jax Machin

Dear Friends,

I pray this finds you all well, having safely celebrated Christmas, and that your families are also thriving? I know our thoughts and prayers have been with Charlotte and her family on the sad news of her mother's death.

[Editor's note: Charlotte Nash lives in Chilbolton and is a Licensed Lay Minister, a key member of the Downs Benefice Ministry Team. She sometimes takes Sunday Services and Funerals in St Stephen's Church and leads the Benefice Morning Prayer (via Zoom) on Tuesday mornings at 9.30am.]

On Christmas Day, we had two services in the Benefice, at Sparsholt and Littleton. In the other three parishes, Churchwardens had agreed with my discernment that there were insufficient people able to open the churches or operate services safely within Coronavirus regulations. Accordingly, services in Chilbolton, Crawley and Wherwell were cancelled. For the same reasons, the Benefice Patronal Festival at Sparsholt on Sunday was also cancelled.

Going forward, our Benefice is now placed in Tier 4 of Government restrictions. People are advised to stay home unless absolutely necessary.

Legally, however, in Tier 4 we are allowed to 'leave home to attend or visit a place of worship for communal worship...'

However, over Christmas there has been a sharp rise in new variant cases of Coronavirus. According to the Hampshire Chronicle for 26th December:

THE Winchester district has seen the highest daily number of reported cases since the height of the first lockdown in the spring.

Listening to a very switched on epidemiologist on the Today programme earlier this morning, who advised the reinforcement of Tier 4 restrictions stating that populations should remain at home unless absolutely necessary in the face of rising Covid-19 cases, my view is that we do not hold the Benefice service planned to be held at St Catherine's [this Sunday, 3rd January](#).

The following [Sunday, 10th January](#), is Epiphany. I will review the situation day by day and hope we can hold a limited number of services by then.

Though my heart is to offer services to our faith communities, my care and concern for the safety and well-being of each and every one of my parishioners far outweighs my desire to gather in worship. In the same way, though it would be good to open churches to allow people the opportunity for private prayer, it is better for them to remain closed than to compromise the health of those opening and closing them.

I hope you will continue to uphold my discernment and am grateful to you all for the work you do behind the scenes to ensure our communities feel the love of Christ in these uncertain times.

With my love and blessings on you all for a safe and healthy New Year,

Revd Jax Machin

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is on **Thursday 21st January 2021** at 7.30pm. Council meetings will take place remotely in accordance with regulations issued under the Coronavirus Act 2020. All members of the public are welcome to join the virtual meeting. However, to protect the meeting from any inappropriate content those wishing to join the meeting are requested to contact the clerk@sparsholtparish.org in advance and no later than 17:00 on the day of the meeting in order to obtain the necessary connection details.

SPARSHOLT COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Local Councillors and MP

Parish Councillors			
Sue Wood	Chair & Transport	chair@sparsholtparish.org transport@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776255
Sue Annesley	Memorial Hall	memorialhall@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776653
John Cooper	Footpaths & Ham Green	footpaths@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776753
John Little	Communications	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
Stewart Wooles	Deputy Chair & Highways	deputy@sparsholtparish.org highways@sparsholtparish.org	01962 776419
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
Member of Parliament			
Steve Brine		steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk www.stevebrine.com	0207 219 7189

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.sparsholtshop.com/>

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

Sparsholt Community Newsletter – Next Edition

This is your newsletter so please contribute items of interest, news of events, offers to help and/or photographs.

Copy Deadline for February Edition

The deadline for the February edition is **Friday 22nd January 2021** please submit all items to sparsholt.newsletter@sparsholtparish.org