

Sparsholt Community Newsletter

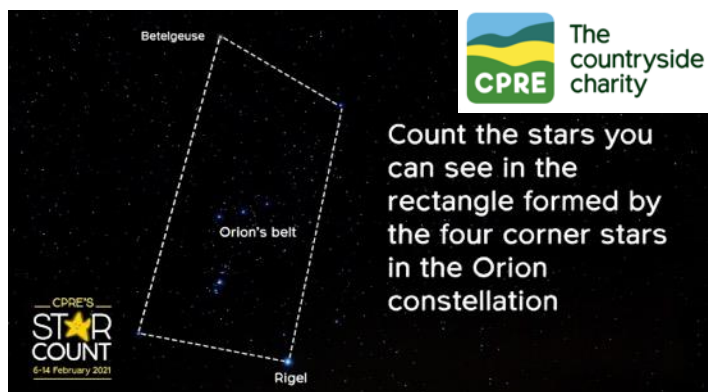
Introduction

So far 2021 is looking similar to 2020 with no definitive lockdown release-date. Although there is one very big difference over last year. The Coronavirus Vaccination programme is well on the way to meeting initial targets and hopefully will continue to be successful. But with new variants of the virus being more easily transmitted, there is no room for complacency as the NHS continues to deal with the most challenging of situations.

Organisations are being creative; finding new ways to keep us safely entertained and, where needed, bolstering their hard-hit income streams. If these events don't appeal to you then you could always contribute to the many consultations and surveys that seem part of a new digital pandemic. As daylight hours increase and the weather warms up, we can but hope that things will steadily improve.

Star Count: a lockdown-friendly activity

Dark and starry skies are a special part of our countryside. Nothing beats looking upwards to see velvety blackness, with twinkling constellations as far as the eye can see. Our buildings and streetlights emit light, though, and this can affect our view of truly dark skies. We want to make sure that we can all enjoy starlit nights, and we need your help in measuring what effect light is having on our views of the galaxy. Each year, CPRE asks the nation to help measure light pollution in their area by getting starry-eyed and counting visible stars.



You can do your 2021 Star Count on any night **between 6-14 February**. Pop the dates in your diary now! Report your finding to CPRE on their website at <https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/dark-skies/star-count-2021/>

Support Winchester Hospice – Attend an online Auction



For details of the online auction event see: <https://winchesterhospice.com>

The Well Stocked Shop and Post Office



The shop and Post Office are open and provide a valuable service to the community during lockdown with an ever-increasing range of produce.

Opening hours

Shop: Mon - Fri 08:00 to 13:00
Sat 08:00 to 12:00
Sun Closed

Post Office:
Mon - Fri 09:00 to 12:00
Sat/Sun Closed

You can also now recycle **electrical items** such as toasters and kettles.

Starting next week, you can pop them in a carrier bag and place them next to your bin on collection day. In addition, if you have any **household batteries**, you can place them in a sandwich bag on top of your bin and we'll collect these too!



<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/recycling-small-waste-electrical-items-and-batteries>

Countryside Code

A farmer and Sparsholt parish councillor reported the following:

“walkers, dogs and bicyclists - most are lovely and decent, some are not. I don't particularly take to be sworn at for politely asking walkers to stay on footpaths and in another incident sworn and spat at, which was an absurd over reaction to again a very polite ‘Hi...would you mind...sheep and crops etc.’ So important physically and mentally to get out though, but Countryside Code needs to be front left and centre.”

It is difficult to believe that anyone from Sparsholt would behave in such a disgraceful way. However, we hope that the Hampshire Chronicle take note of this and broadcast our plea that everyone follows the Countryside code, summarised below.



NATURAL ENGLAND

The Countryside Code
RESPECT • PROTECT • ENJOY

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways is clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Don't have BBQs or fires
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures

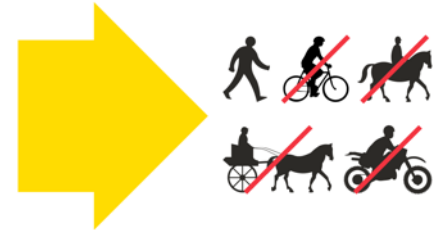
Enjoy, be safe

For more details see:

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

Key points

Footpath



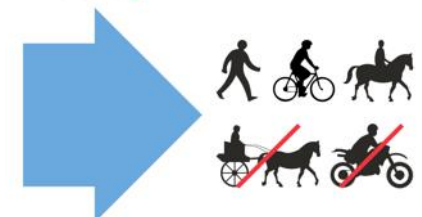
Follow paths unless wider access is available, such as on open country or registered common land (known as 'Open Access land').

When you take your dog into the outdoors, always ensure it does not disturb wildlife, farm animals, horses or other people by **keeping it under effective control**. This means that you:

- keep your dog on a lead, or
- keep it in sight at all times, be aware of what it's doing and be confident it will return to you promptly on command
- ensure it does not stray off the path or area where you have a right of access

When riding a bike or driving a vehicle, slow down or stop for horses, walkers and farm animals and give them plenty of room. **By law, cyclists must give way to walkers and horse-riders on bridleways.**

Bridleway





Coronavirus

Wait to be contacted

The NHS will let you know when it's your turn to have the vaccine. It's important not to contact the NHS for a vaccination before then. You need to be registered with a GP to get your vaccine. If you do not have a GP go to <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/gps/how-to-register-with-a-gp-surgery/>

Letters are being sent out every week – you might not get your letter straight away.



This means it is important to:

- continue to follow social distancing guidance
- if you can, wear something that covers your nose and mouth in places where it's hard to stay away from other people

Coronavirus Vaccinations in Hampshire

The County Council's vaccination information is now available at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine>

It contains important information for residents on the vaccination programme in Hampshire including signposting to local resources and national guidance on the vaccination programme. It also promotes useful reminders to residents including registering with a GP to be invited for a vaccine, waiting to be contacted by the NHS and continuing to follow 'hands, face, space' guidance following vaccination to avoid putting others at risk.



Further information has also been added to the County Council's support website on vaccinations including advice for people who may need help with transport to a vaccination appointment.

<https://www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/coronavirus>

For the first time in a long while some of the trends (eg lower rate of new cases) are in the right direction. But not all of them as hospital admissions and deaths are still rising.



Hampshire COVID-19 weekly summary 25 January 2021

Current alert level in Hampshire: **National lockdown (Stay at home)**



Too small to read? Here is the link <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/corprhantsweb/Covid19/Keep-Hampshire-Safe-Infographic.pdf>

Hampshire

Police and Crime

The Police and Crime Commissioner has launched his annual survey to ask residents their views on the policing precept of the council tax and if they would agree to an increase to support policing across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

Following the announcement that Police and Crime Commissioners would have the flexibility to increase the policing precept by up to £15 a year for a Band D property for 2021/22, wider consultation is now being undertaken and residents are being encouraged to give their view.

The survey can be accessed through the Commissioner's website:

<https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/transparency/money/council-tax/your-view-policing-precept-2021-2022>

The Chief Constable and her team have made a compelling operational case for investment in policing through an increase in the council tax. An increase of up to 7.1% (29p week based on a Band D property) would enable the force to build on what has been achieved during the last year, take the fight to criminals and to start to reduce crime.

An increase would enable:

- the early recruitment of 50 new police officers
- targeted operational policing to take drugs and weapons off our streets
- an increase in further prevention work, including diverting young people away from crime
- an investment in forensic capability to enable officers to get evidence to bring more offenders to justice
- continue investment in police officer wellbeing to improve productivity even further.

The public survey will be supported with online focus groups to explore residents' views around policing priorities and levels of an increase in more depth.

Local Transport Plan for Hampshire

Since 2001, Hampshire's Local Transport Plan has set the objectives, policies and strategy for transport across the County, helping people to maintain their quality of life and go about their daily business. Seven years have now passed since the Plan was last updated, and there is a need to review outcomes and design principles in the changed context of new technologies, the pandemic and increased focus on active lifestyles and the challenges of climate change.



Parishioners are recommended to be aware of the Local Transport Plan for Hampshire and the opportunities to contribute. Details can be found here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/localtransportplan>

While the consultation will take place in the summer you can provide feedback on the materials presented so far. You will find a button on the bottom of the page when you follow the above link.

Hampshire Perspectives

In 2020, Hampshire residents gave their views on a range of topics from travel to the financial impacts of the pandemic. Coming up in 2021 they will be asking you about issues such as climate change, home schooling and vaccinations.

If you would like to see how HCC have been using the responses on the five projects reported so far or if you want to contribute in 2021 then look out for the Join Us button. For all the details please visit: www.hants.gov.uk/hampshire-perspectives

Ash Die Back Disease

Ash dieback is a devastating disease which is spreading across Hampshire. It is predicted to severely affect or kill over 90% of ash trees.

Dead and dying ash trees pose a risk to life and property and this risk must be addressed. It is vital that people who are concerned about the trees in their garden or woodland do not start to panic and simply cut them down, please get expert advice.

In Sparsholt conservation area, notice to Winchester City Council is required for works to trees that have a trunk diameter of more than 75mm when measured at 1.5m from ground level. Consent is required from the City Council if there is a Tree Preservation Order on the tree.

The link below gives some helpful guidance on the responsibilities and options for landowners dealing with ash die back disease.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/en/landplanningandenvironment/countryside/ash-dieback-disease>

Winchester

Local Plan Consultation

Winchester City Council is inviting public feedback on the potential Strategic Issues and Priorities for a new Local Plan which will cover the district outside of the South Downs National Park.

Across the whole District, the new Local Plan must allocate land for around 14,000 new homes by 2038 – up from 12,500 by 2031 in the current plan. The same options outlined in July 2020 are to be consulted upon soon, some of which will have a significant impact on our Ward - Wonston & Micheldever.

Consultation will commence on the 15th February and run until midnight on the 12th April.

Winchester City Council are really keen to encourage as many residents as possible across the district to take part.

Details of the action plan for the production of the new Local Plan can be found at.

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/assets/attach/27564/Final-Action-Plan-16-December-2020.pdf>

Sign up for email updates on the Local Plan at

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/no-listing/local-plan-enewsletter>

Biodiversity Action Plan



Winchester City Council has this week agreed their updated Biodiversity Action Plan. Further details at:

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/climate-change-and-energy/climate-emergency-what-we-are-doing-now/biodiversity>

Mayor of Winchester Community Awards



The Mayor of Winchester, Cllr Patrick Cunningham, launches the annual Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards.

The Mayor of Winchester's Community Award recognises and celebrates the organisations and individuals who have given outstanding service to the people of the Winchester District.

Nominations for an individual or

organisation can be submitted by anyone and must be received by 19th February 2021.

Local media coverage is anticipated for the awards. Please therefore ensure that your nominee is content to be nominated before submitting the citation.

Complete the online form at

https://www.winchester.gov.uk/forms/ShowForm.asp?fm_fid=490

or complete and attach a nomination form and send it to

Mayorssecretary@winchester.gov.uk

More details can be found at the end of the newsletter along with a nomination form.

Local Hospital

The Hampshire Hospitals consultation on the location and services to be offered by their proposed new hospital has been delayed until the summer. This should allow more time for development of the plans and permit more people to be involved in the consultations when they eventually happen.

Central Winchester Consultation

The latest consultation has now closed. 330 questionnaires were completed with 2/3rds in favour of the scheme and 1/3rd against. There was significant support for affordable housing, independent retail, and creative and cultural space. Decisions will be taken over coming months to develop the scheme.

Church Services in the Downs Benefice

In-Church services are regrettably suspended until further notice.

The Benefice website has many links to a wide range of digital resources from across the Church of England and within our Diocese, including our own recorded services. You will find all these resources at: <http://downsbenefice.org/>

Currently, you will find a recorded service for Candlemas and there will be more to come.



Sparsholt

The Plough



Every Friday in February The Plough will be offering take away between 5pm and 8pm.

The Takeaway Menu is updated on a Tuesday - with a Valentine's Day Menu due out this week.

<https://the.littlepubgroup.co.uk/the-plough-inn/whats-on>

Burger Van



Jon, the burger man will be in the Sparsholt Memorial Hall Car Park from 4pm until 8pm on Wednesday 10th February 2021

See <https://www.originalfryupmaterial.co.uk> for menu and online pre-ordering.

Still available every Saturday 4-8pm at Weeke Community Centre (behind 69 Taplings Road). They don't deliver to Sparsholt, but collections are fine!

Situations Vacant in Sparsholt

Parish Councillor

The Parish Council currently have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor to be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

This follows the reluctant resignation of Pete Chadwick who due to family and work commitments could no longer continue as a Councillor. Pete's contribution was greatly appreciated, and we will all miss him and thank him very much for his contribution over several years.

Parish Councillors are volunteers that meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm (except August and December) in the Mosaic Room of the Memorial Hall. Due to current conditions, currently all meetings are held remotely via Zoom video conferencing.

The Parish website sparsholtparish.org gives an insight into the work of the Council and our commitment to the Village Design Statement and Conservation Area Appraisal which were all developed with input from residents and approved by residents and subsequently adopted by Winchester City Council.

If you have the skills and enthusiasm to support the village to develop and grow and would like to join us, please do contact Sue Wood (Chair) or any Parish Councillor for further information.

If several people express an interest, then the Council will formally decide who to co-opt at a Council Meeting as there is only one vacancy.

Clerk to the School Governors

The Governors of Sparsholt Church of England Primary School are looking for a new Clerk.



This is a paid role and is for about 86 hours a year.

If you are interested in finding out more about this role, please email Kate Morey on Kate.Morey@sparsholt.hants.sch.uk

Ham Green

Ash Dieback

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, when the ground conditions become firmer. As previously reported, there was a lot of damage done to the upper section of the footpath during the Phase 1 work and, 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.

We are now preparing the work schedule for the Phase 2 felling and will soon be marking the trees listed for attention. However, in order to try and avoid a repeat of the footpath damage that occurred during Phase 1, the work will not be started until the ground conditions improve.



Winter Work Programme

At the beginning of January, we held an emergency work session to clear and cut up several large old Ash trees and a big ivy bush, all of which had been blown down by the high winds at that time. Interestingly, one of the trees contained a "long-lost" Owl nesting box, which had not been seen for several years having become buried in thick ivy on the tree! A photo of the Owl box is attached and it can be seen to still contain the remains of a nest.

The planned January Work Day, scheduled for Saturday 9th January, was cancelled at the last moment due to a sudden change in the Covid-19 restrictions. The scheduled February and March Work Days are also on hold but, we will continue to carry out urgent and essential safety work at Ham Green, as and when the need arises.

Report a Concern

So, if anyone using Ham Green for their exercise sees something that they think needs attention, could they please contact Terry Dunn (07778 966843) or John Cooper (01962 776753).

Scam and Fraud Warnings

Organisations providing advice on the latest scams and frauds

There are just too many scams and frauds to keep reporting every single one.

The best advice is: **"unless you know it is definitely NOT a scam then best assume it is!"**

Here are some sites that will keep you up to date on the latest ones.

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/barnet/our-services/latest-scams/>

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/2018/06/10-of-the-latest-and-most-common-scam-threats-in-the-uk/>

<https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/personal-fraud/internet-email-mobile-fraud/>

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/business/tradingstandards/consumeradvice/scams/whatarescams>



Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is on **Thursday 18th February 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 March Edition

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



Mayor of Winchester's Award Nomination Form

Nomination made by	
Name	
Telephone number	
Email address	

Nominee's Details

Full name	
Age (if under 18)	
Telephone number	
Email address	
Postal address and postcode	

Citation – Maximum of **100** words which will be printed **verbatim** on the reverse of the certificate.

Please describe the work the volunteer does in your community/organisation and include any supporting comments you would like to make (for example, personal achievement, personal qualities etc) **MAXIMUM 100 WORDS:**

Please return your completed Nomination Form by email to: Mayorssecretary@winchester.gov.uk

Closing date for nominations: **19 February 2021**

Recipients will be sent their award on this occasion owing to Covid-19 regulations.



Mayor of Winchester's Community Award

It is with great pleasure that the Mayor of Winchester, Cllr Patrick Cunningham, launches the annual Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards.

The Mayor of Winchester's Community Award recognises and celebrates the organisations and individuals who have given outstanding service to the people of the Winchester District.

The aim of these awards is to celebrate the selfless activity that brightens the lives of many residents, and makes the District a wonderful place in which to live.

The Mayor invites your nominations, and seeks to ensure that the Awards reflect the full range of community support from all corners of the Winchester District.

Who can be nominated?

As in previous years, the emphasis is firmly on voluntary action. However, there is also scope to pay tribute to those who routinely go above and beyond the call of duty in the course of their paid employment.

Nominees can be

- Any age
- Volunteering or working in any area of life, except causes that do not respect equalities legislation, or promote extremism or otherwise conflict with established Council policies and duties

Nominees must:

- Live in the Winchester District (or, in the case of organisations, deliver a substantial part of their services to residents of the District) and in the case of children attend school or youth groups within the District)

How to nominate

Anyone can nominate an individual or an organisation, and self-nomination is permitted. The Mayor particularly seeks the assistance of Parish and Town Councils, City Councillors, schools and youth groups and others in public life who are well placed to see such work at first hand and throw a light on the – often unassuming – volunteers who do so much for our community.

There are simply two categories:

1. Individuals of any age
2. Organisation

Please note:

- Citations should be limited to **100** words which will be printed verbatim on the reverse of the certificate.
- Local media coverage is anticipated for the awards. Please therefore ensure that your nominee is content to be nominated before submitting the citation.
- The closing date for nominations is 19th February 2021
- Complete the online form via https://www.winchester.gov.uk/forms/ShowForm.asp?fm_fid=490 or complete and attached your completed nomination form to Mayorssecretary@winchester.gov.uk

Awards

All nominees will receive a certificate of appreciation signed by the Mayor together with a pin badge. The awards will be sent to the recipients on this occasion owing to current regulations.

Awards are made wholly at the discretion of the judging panel. The awards are discretionary and there is no right of appeal.

Further information

If you wish to discuss your nomination or any aspect of the Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards please contact the Mayor's Secretary

Debbie Hadwen or email Mayorssecretary@winchester.gov.uk