

PARISH COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
March 2013 Issue 25

Ampfield



Ampfield Parish Assembly
Monday, 29th April 2013, 7.30pm
at Ampfield Village Hall
All parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

To be held at

**AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL ON
MONDAY, 29th APRIL 2013 AT 7.30PM**

The Agenda for this Annual Parish Assembly is:

Apologies for absence
Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 16th April 2012
Matters Arising
Chairman's Review of the Year
County & Borough Councillors
Council Finances & Administration
Transport and Highways
Ampfield Recreation Ground
Friends of Chapel Wood
Planning
Communications & Website
Other Reports for 2012/2013- see *Parish Newsletter*
Any Other Competent Business & Open session

Light refreshments will be served at 9.30pm.

Doreen Matthews
Clerk to Ampfield Parish Council

*The photograph on the front cover was taken in late January 2013 -
captions were invited on our website.*

AMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

CONTENTS

The Agenda for this Annual Parish Assembly	2
Chairman's Review of the Year	4
Baddesley Division County Councillor's Report 2013	5
Ampfield & Braishfield Borough Councillor's Report	7
Finance Committee Report	9
Transport Liaison & Road Safety	10
Ampfield Recreation Ground	12
The Friends of Chapel Wood	13
Planning	14
Parish Communications and The Ampfield Parish Website	15
The Ampfield Market	16
Ampfield Village Hall	16
Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area	17
Local Action Group (LAG)	18
Footpaths	18
St. Mark's Church Ampfield	19
Ampfield Community Pre-School	20
Ampfield C.E. Primary School	21

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR



2012-13 has been an interesting year, busy and not without progress.

We have succeeded, with quite a lot of hard work, in getting the Recreation Ground into good enough shape for it to be used for cricket and other functions. Rabbit, mole and cattle

assaults have been contained and in the wettest summer for a long time, the new drainage system has functioned effectively. We have improved the surroundings, making a better ambience for players and spectators. We are sorry that the footballers decided, for the time being, to go elsewhere due to the problems posed by rabbit damage, but are looking forward to the 125th anniversary celebrations of the Cricket Club later this year. Sadly, for the moment, a new pavilion remains a pipe dream - but it is still a target.

Actuality has, however, brought us improvements in speed limits and traffic management; and we look ahead to more action, in Green Lane and elsewhere, to reduce existing problems. A factor in this will, we hope, be an echo from the past - the appointment of a "lengthsman", in cooperation with other local parishes, to improve our own control of highway and general maintenance and to give us the capacity to deal promptly and cheaply with practical problems that arise in the Parish.

Bus services, or rather the lack of them, continue to be a worry: we monitor arrangements carefully to try to get the best possible service for our parishioners, and, as part of what is a conscious effort gradually to improve communications in general, we conducted a special mail drop of HCC's questionnaire on this subject to those parts of the parish that were most affected by

changes mooted for the Flexford area. We are intending to develop our redesigned website to allow more targeted communications and "alerts" to parishioners with interests in special concerns - e.g. planning- coming up before the Council. This will also involve the creation of an email address bank - see Pete Edward's and Julian Jones' article on Communications and the Website.

It has been a pleasure to see Ampfield School moving forward under its new management arrangements, and growing back from a difficult period. The present interface of school, church and parish is welcome and encouraging. This is helped by the work being done in Chapel Wood to improve the facilities there, and by the addition - thanks to a grant from the Big Lottery Fund- of really good digital projection and sound equipment in the Village Hall.

Financially, the Parish is on a sound footing. We are slowly building up essential reserves to help with a new Pavilion, and (a new central government requirement) to fund any elections that we may face in the coming years. In the last financial year (accounts will be available at the Assembly) we have kept a tight rein on expenditure, but managed nonetheless to meet our essential requirements for upkeep, purchases and repayment of loans as well as ad hoc demands. We succeeded in producing a modest decrease in our proposed precept for 2013/14; it is a pity that the arcane workings of central legislation and Borough calculations have transformed this to a - fortunately still small- increase in Council taxes.

Throughout the year, the elephant in the room has been the proposal for a development of 39 houses at Morley's Lane. At the time of writing, the final decision of TVBC on this plan has not yet been made, though we may have this before the actual Assembly. As you will be aware, there has been vocal opposition from a group of parishioners who wished to see the development transferred in reduced form to the Recreation Ground. Besides the various public consultations on the proposed Morley's Lane scheme itself, special consideration was given at

a meeting in public to these residents' alternative proposal. It received no support from parishioners (the scheme's proponents did not see fit to be present) and it was -as Allan Clark's note on planning explains- rejected. Representations received about the main proposal were fully considered by the Council in deciding their view on it. They concluded that the balance of advantage to the Parish as a whole was such that it should be supported. If the eventual decision of TVBC is in favour of the development, the Council's priority will be to ensure that it goes forward successfully and brings the greatest possible advantage to the Parish.

Looking ahead, there will be a lot to do on many fronts in the coming year, and the Council will hope for support and assistance from parishioners.

The Parish -civil and parochial- has been sorry this year to lose some long standing and well known supporters; June, the widow of Geoff Wood, Dorothy Jackson and Lahja Swan, who were always ready to offer good advice and a helping hand. We shall miss them.

I look forward to seeing you and hearing your views, concerns and expectations at the Assembly on 29 April."

Margaret Rothwell
Chairman

BADDESLEY DIVISION COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT 2013



I was first elected to represent the Baddesley division as the County Councillor in January 1992. My long experience at the three levels of local government has enabled me to get things done and helped me work successfully for all my constituents in Ampfield, Braishfield, North Baddesley and Valley Park.

Further reductions in grant settlements were announced by the coalition government in the Autumn 2012 statement and the overall financial position of the County Council for the foreseeable future will be even more difficult. The County Council have put in place an ambitious programme of cost reduction and efficiency measures to bring about savings of £97 million of the targeted £100 million. The County Council will utilise their Grant Equalisation Reserve to help balance the budget over the next two years.

It is good news though that I can report that the County Council's Council Tax will once again be frozen and will remain at £1037.88p for a Band "D" property. All political groups supported this position that there should be no increase.

As the Adult Social Care Spokesperson for the Liberal Democrats I scrutinise and monitor the budget carefully and work closely with the administration's Executive Member in order to secure a balanced budget for the department. I was deeply concerned by the situation of those vulnerable individuals who required two carers to assist them to remain in their own home. They were being charged double amounts of money for their care. I felt that this clearly was an extra tax on disability and I highlighted it and spoke to

the Executive Members on this anomaly. I was grateful when the Conservative administration listened and then acted to change the situation at the following Full Council. In the 2013/14 Adult Social Care budget there is an additional £11 million allocated to tackle the rising demand for services from an increasing elderly and frail population.

At the Full Council in November 2012, I placed a motion on "The Future of Social Care" pressing the government to bring forwarded legislation for urgent reform of the social care system. It gained unanimous support. At a time when finances are so tight, finding the right solution is a huge challenge, but early this year the coalition government announced some changes that they intend to introduce later in 2017. The key reforms will be:

- A cap of £75K on the amount anyone will have to pay for their care.
- A massive increase in the means tested threshold from £23,250 to £123,000.

This means that more people with modest wealth will get help from the state with the costs of their care. Whilst the measures proposed are not perfect, when these changes are introduced they will be fairer, simpler and more sustainable than the current system.

The grant available for voluntary organisations in 2013/14 was oversubscribed by £600K and many voluntary groups will have had their funding cut by 40% with some being denied funding. I did argue for extra grant funding for the voluntary organisations on the basis that voluntary groups provide excellent value for money to the Hampshire Council Tax payer and should be fully supported and valued, if we are to encourage more volunteering. This time the administration did not support the request and some organisations may fold as a result of these cuts.

As a retired Investment Analyst I have enjoyed being an active member of the Hampshire Pension Fund panel. Over the last few years the fund has grown significantly and the value of the funds invested now amount to around £4 billion. The challenge is for the panel to choose the correct fund managers and the areas in which they would like the funds invested. The Panel

constantly scrutinise and monitor their investment decisions in order to gain the maximum returns for the pension scheme. With the economic uncertainty it has not been an easy task in recent times. However, most of the fund managers we have selected have made excellent choices in their investment decisions.

My County Council Community Allowance of £13K has supported grant donations to local voluntary organisations and sports clubs within my Baddesley division.

Highway improvements are an ongoing requirement. With an ever decreasing pot of funding it is a battle against other councillors' demands, to secure improvements throughout my division. I have recently been informed that on March 11th the extension to the cycleway along the Baddesley Road, Ampfield, from the Flexford Road Bridge to the junction with North Millers Dale will start. From this point there will be a signed on-road cycle route going along North Millers Dale, Ashbridge Rise and Vanburgh Way before connecting with the Baddesley Road/Hursley Road junction via the existing footpath between Vanburgh Way and Hursley Road.

I am delighted that out of the six schools within my division, three have been rated by Ofsted as 'Outstanding' with two that are Good and Improving. I serve as a school governor at my two local primary schools in Valley Park.

This year there are County elections in May and I hope that I will have the opportunity to continue to serve the best interests of all constituents of the Baddesley division.

HCC Cllr. Alan Dowden

AMPFIELD & BRAISHFIELD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT



In the 18 years I have been your Borough Councillor, the past year has seen some of the greatest changes, none more so than in planning and local government funding.

Planning matters and Draft Revised Local Plan

I remain Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation. As I reported last year, in January 2012 the Borough published a Draft Core Strategy for Test Valley for consultation. The progress to the next stage, which would have been public consultation on the final draft, has been affected by a number of changes in the planning system – ALL outside the Council's Control. Given the importance of these changes I considered it right that we took time to assess the impact of those changes. The Government produced the final version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012. This established new planning guidance our policies now have to comply with. The guidance in all the government's Planning Policy Statements and Guidance Notes, amounting to several hundred pages and on which the Core Strategy was drafted, have all been deleted and replaced. The emphasis is on a pro growth agenda to help the economy and overcome the shortage of an acceptable home for a large proportion of our population. With the abolition of the S.E. Plan, at long last, (in March), the NPPF and the Localism Bill now require us to calculate our own local housing figure but this must be robust and evidence based. Zero is not therefore an option! An important factor is that there are approximately 3,500 local households in Test Valley on our list for social/affordable

housing, many of these are young professional people who traditionally would have been home owners by now. Worryingly, the average age of a first time buyer in the Borough is 37.

The changes we have made to the Core Strategy mean that we need to undertake further consultation to afford the public opportunities to comment on the revised document now called The Local Plan – a better understood name which we are now able to use again. Whilst it may be frustrating to many I think it is only right that we make sure that those who want to comment on the changes can and that we do not fall foul of any procedural matters. As I said, when we voluntarily asked to withdraw the draft core strategy, I would do all I could to ensure that we produce an evidence based and Government Inspector friendly revised plan. I believe we have achieved this but it is now up to the public to comment. The first draft consultation ends at 4.30pm on Friday 26th April 2013. For details go to Test Valley website or see the plans at our new offices at the Former Romsey Magistrates Court or local library. It is hoped that the final draft Local Plan, which will incorporate any appropriate changes as a result of the current consultation, will be published for the second round of public consultation in September/October. A Deposit Local Plan should be lodged with the Secretary of State in February 2014, with an Enquiry in Public Hopefully in April and, subject to the receipt of the Gvt. Inspector's report, the Council is aiming to formally adopt the Local Plan in October 2014.

The Core Strategy covered a 20 year period up to 2031, the new Plan covers a shorter 18 year period up to 2029. This has helped to enable us to reduce the housing requirement for the whole Borough from 12,550 to 10,026 homes. Specifically, the housing requirement for Northern Test Valley for the plan period has been reduced from 8,250 to 6,516 and for Southern Test Valley it has been reduced from 4,300 to 3,510 homes. This means that the annual requirement for Southern Test Valley is 195 homes (this is less than the S.E. Plan) and for Northern Test Valley it is 362 (57 more than the S.E. Plan). Although the total number of dwellings has generally been agreed as being the lowest justifiable figure by

both political groups on the Borough, the final locations are still subject to much debate.

There are currently no major allocations for Ampfield or Braishfield. The main major sites proposed are 800 houses currently being built at Abbotswood, 1300 (reduced from 1500) at Whitenap, Romsey Extra, 300 (reduced from 500) at Hoe Lane, North Baddesley, 350 at Nursling and Rownhams and a new housing site of about 75 dwellings is proposed at Stoneham. It is worth remembering that Southern Test Valley, as far as the Local Plan is concerned, is strictly defined as the 7 parishes of Ampfield, Chilworth, North Baddesley, Nursling and Rownhams, Valley Park, Romsey Town and Romsey Extra. None of the 3,510 homes can be allocated anywhere other than these parishes. Furthermore, due to space constraints, Romsey Town and Valley Park have virtually no scope to accommodate any more large scale development other than that already accounted for on the Old Brewery site – a sobering thought!

The new Local Plan still includes the local gap that my predecessor Jimmy Wyss and I fought hard to achieve between Ampfield and Valley Park, Chandlers Ford.

Baddesley Road: Extended Thornden School to Valley Park Cycleway/Speeding

As I write this, work has just commenced on the main missing link of this cycleway, which is an important 'safe routes to school' project. A large number of pupils from Valley Park attend Thornden and the Hiltingbury Schools. The off road stage from the new bridge to North Millers Dale is a major engineering project which I have been campaigning for. The engineers who designed this inform me that they are confident that it will not only provide a safer route for cyclists, baby buggies and mobility scooters, but the engineering works will also solve the major drainage issues here and lead to a much reduced average speed of the traffic as a result of the realigned carriageway. From opposite Flexford Close, a new cycle route, suitably sign posted, will be created through North Millers Dale, along Ashbridge Rise, Vanburgh Way and via a widened footway to the traffic lights at the Baddesley Rd./Hursley Rd. junction. A marked on road route

is then planned for Hiltingbury Road. This is an excellent example of both councillors and officers from Test Valley Borough Council, Eastleigh Borough Council and HCC working together and pooling their resources to achieve a worthwhile project.

I am very mindful of the excessive speed along Baddesley Rd. We will monitor how the above works will affect the speed along this stretch of the road but I know that the speeds reached from Hursley Road to Beechwood Cres. are of tremendous concern to those who live along this part of the road. I have had some very useful conversations with local residents. Consequently in the last year I have had the 30 mph signs put back up, which had been removed in error. This now means that the police can now actually legally prosecute offending speedsters! Four speed camera signs have also been put up. Whilst it is not that safe to locate a 'speed trap' along this part, they are regularly located, together with the speed camera van, just down the road in my own entrance – often until gone midnight. Hopefully, it may be of some comfort to residents who hear boy racers whizz by while in their beds, there is a good chance that they have been caught just down the road and will be blowing into a breathalyser machine.

Council Tax

Central Government recognised that Test Valley BC, charging just £2.33 Council Tax per Band D dwelling, is one of the lowest in England. In order to help maintain services TVBC and these few other Councils were given special permission to raise the Council Tax by 10p per week for a band D property, without a referendum. Even after this increase, Test Valley remains one of the lowest in England and Hampshire – and still cheaper than neighbouring Eastleigh. We are always on the lookout to reduce costs in order to maintain the quality of services. One simple example is that from 15 April the Council will collect all the black bins across the borough one week and all brown recycling bins the following week. Until now, for operational reasons at the receiving centres, the Borough could only collect half the borough's black and brown bins each week. Successful negotiations have enabled us to maximise efficiency and avoid the creation of

a new round to accommodate the new houses being built throughout the Borough, saving approximately £140,000. Residents affected by the first phase of changes are those due to put out their brown bin for collection in the week commencing 15 April. Full details will be delivered to affected properties or visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/bincollectionchanges

As always, I remain readily contactable by phone or email. Tel. 07970 501050 or email cllrhmhatley@testvalley.gov.uk

Cllr. Martin Hatley

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Finance Committee met on 14th January 2013 to review the current year's expenditure and outstanding projects, and to consider budget requirements for the financial year 2013/2014. Recommendations about the Precept for 2013/2014 were also made at that meeting. All recommendations were presented to Council and approved at its meeting on 14th January.

Previous Financial Year 2011/2012

Accounts for 2011/2012 showed an income of £68,241; this was a significant jump from the previous year due to grants from Viridor for a drainage project on the Recreation Ground and from Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) for new playground equipment, totalling over £25,000. At £33,000 the Precept was the largest single amount of income with most of the remainder being made up of £496 from the Burial Ground, £985 from the sports clubs for rental of the ground and £200 from sponsors of the website. Braishfield, who co-own the speed limit reminder sign, paid us £417 as their share of the maintenance and management costs of the machine. Total expenditure was £72,150 which was nearly £30,000 more than the previous year due primarily to the drainage project. The year-end balance was £33,791 which included reserves of £18,750 in the Recreation Ground Fund, £9000 in General Reserves and £2500 set aside for Election Expenses.

Current Financial Year 2012/2013

At the time of writing, income and expenditure for the current financial year 2012/2013 is not yet complete; the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Bryan Nanson will give an update at the Annual Parish Assembly on 29th April. However, income was just over £42,000 to end February 2013; this was made up largely of the Precept at £32,615, rents from the Recreation Ground of £800, a Big Lottery grant of £1441 for a laptop and projector, Section 106 funds from TVBC and a grant from Hampshire County Council, totalling £477, for new signs in the

woodland. Unusually, there were no burials or cremations in 2012 but this changed in the early months of 2013 during which income from the Burial Ground amounted to £313. Expenditure to end February 2013 was £28,268 which is over £36,000 less than at the same time last year. The previous year saw a number of projects on the Recreation Ground, including the drainage work, which contributed to the high expenditure; no similar works have been undertaken this year.

Precept and Budget for 2013/2014

Regular reviews of expenditure were carried out throughout 2012/2013 to monitor costs and to help ensure that projects were on track. Tight controls were again set on the budget for 2013/2014 which produced a Precept of £32,537. This is a modest 0.24% reduction over the previous year and is the fifth year in succession that the Precept has been reduced. Whilst again recognising the need for prudence in the current difficult financial situation, the Parish Council continues to protect and improve the significant community assets of Chapel Wood, the Burial Ground and the Recreation Ground. These assets require resources in both money and volunteer time to improve their amenity value. Council agreed to set aside £1200 for the Recreation Ground Reserve Fund and for general parish enhancements, and £1500 for election costs. It would continue to seek external funding for projects.

Assets

The First and Second World War memorials at the end of Knapp Lane were re-evaluated during the year for insurance purposes; the same will be undertaken shortly for the American Airmen memorial in Chapel Wood. A laptop and projector were bought during the year; the projector has now been fitted in the Village Hall and is available for community use.

Details of the audited accounts for 2011/2012, a statement of the Council's current financial position and a copy of the budget for 2013/2014 will be available at the Annual Parish Assembly.

Doreen Matthews

Responsible Finance Officer

TRANSPORT LIAISON & ROAD SAFETY

Bus Services:

Services 46 and 66: The good news - according to the latest published timetable which commenced 3rd March this year, the frequency and timing of the services 46 and 66 have remained the same. Whilst this lack of any further degradation may be celebrated, it leaves Ampfield with only an hourly service to and from Winchester/Romsey outside the commuter periods in the morning and evenings. The last bus from Winchester is still just after 7.00pm and from Romsey 40 minutes later. Therefore residents wishing to use the rail connections from Winchester outside these times are unable to use buses and must rely on their cars or incur an expensive taxi fare.

Services C3/C4: In November 2012 a temporary contract for the C3/C4 route, (which runs along Baddesley Road and provides Ampfield parishioners in the area with a service to Chandlers Ford, Fryern Arcade and Eastleigh), was awarded to Xela bus after the previous contractor, Velvet, withdrew on commercial grounds. Hampshire County Council undertook a public consultation prior to awarding a longer term contract. During January we alerted some 200 households in the area with a leaflet drop to encourage participation in the consultation. The consultation has now been completed successfully and although at the time of writing no formal results have been announced, we are hopeful that the service will be maintained in the longer term. We are expecting the results to be published prior to our Parish Assembly, and should be able to update parishioners then.

Road Safety:

Speed Limits: Following enquiries from local residents and in conjunction with neighbouring parishes we were able to persuade HCC to introduce a 40mph speed limit along the full length of Pound Lane and to the adjoining roads of Flexford and Rownhams Roads. In addition turning left (up the slope) from Pound Lane into

Flexford Road will be prohibited. It is anticipated that these new restrictions will become operational shortly.

As part of this exercise a 40mph speed limit will be applied to Highwood Lane which is a major through route from the A3090 to Luzborough Lane which avoids the development at Halterworth. Green Lane was also examined but it was decided not pursue any speed limit at this time.

The Parish Council continues to have discussions with both TVBC and HCC Highways representatives regarding speed limits along the A3090 especially in the Straight Mile/Jermyn's Lane area which will be subjected to increased traffic when the Abbotswood development is completed.

Cycle Paths:

Residents will notice that a further extension of the project to construct a cycleway from Romsey to the Potters Heron was completed, with the section from the top of Ampfield Hill, east to Pound Lane. This included reinstating a short footpath into Pound Lane from the A3090.

Highways Maintenance:

We have received complaints from residents in Green Lane regarding the condition of the road surfaces and highway verges. Temporary repairs have been undertaken to repair the pot holes and it is hoped to persuade HCC to improve the road verges once funds become available.



Winter Arrangements:

The bins which were installed in 2011/12 have been kept fully stocked with grit/salt mixture and HCC and their contractors Amey are to be congratulated on keeping them operational throughout the bad weather this winter.

Lengthsman Scheme:

A number of years ago Lengthsmen were a feature of Hampshire Highways life and got their name as they were responsible for a "length of road" undertaking fairly simple tasks such as verge maintenance, sign and footpath cleaning etc. Recently Lengthsmen have been reintroduced on a trial basis into parts of the County. The Parish Council has successfully applied for funding from HCC which will enable us to join the scheme which works through several parishes working together with a Lengthsman. We are now seeking to join one of these groups, ideally with an adjacent parish. This would allow us to not only tidy up parts of the Parish which wouldn't be on the County's priority list, but also to set the priorities for work to be done. More news should be available in time for the Parish Assembly.

War Memorial:

Preliminary discussions have taken place with TVBC Highways to investigate the feasibility of closing the A3090 at the junction with Knapp Lane for a few minutes either side of the Armistice Sunday Memorial Service at 11.00am. This would allow the service and the minute of silence to be observed without interruption from the noise of traffic.

Allan Clark and Pete Edwards

Transport Liaison and Road Safety Representatives

AMPFIELD RECREATION GROUND



The rabbit problem was a constant source of concern throughout the year. Ampfield Football Club had had to play on municipal pitches and holes had to be filled on the day of cricket matches. A local contractor was then engaged who kept the damage under control and helped make sure the ground was fit for use. We considered, but did not go ahead with, the fitting of rabbit fencing which would not only have been unsightly and expensive but had no guarantee of success. A fresh challenge presented itself earlier this year when bullocks wandered in from the southern field on a number of occasions and munched their way up to the cricket square- the joys of maintaining a rural ground!

One benefit of the wet autumn was that, finally, the grass grew in the drainage trenches and, at the time of writing, there were only a few areas in need of attention before the new season commences. We were pleased to see that the drainage system, which was severely tested, coped well with the heavy rain.

As well as the regular school sports day, there were a small number of sports events run by local organisations which went well. Children continued to make good use of the playground and the new rope swing appeared to be a success. The playground is inspected weekly in the summer months and, generally, there are few problems; one instance where shards of glass from a broken bottle were left by a swing was dealt with quickly and the area made safe again.



We have continued to enjoy good service from Test Valley Borough Council staff who mow the ground, flail the weeds and are a source of

advice. We have also now engaged them to cut the hedge that borders the A3090 as this often presents problems with brambles straying over the pathway. The area to the east of the playground is next for attention as it is covered in weeds and rubble. This is not only unsightly but is difficult to walk over; arrangements will be made to remove some of the hard-core leaving a slight slope which could be grassed over.

The cricketers continue to patch and make the best of the existing inadequate and deteriorating pavilion, together with the portakabins. 2013 is the 125th Anniversary of Ampfield Crusaders Cricket Club. The Parish Council look forward to working with them and other potential users to develop our facilities.

Bryan Nanson

**Founded 1888
AMPFIELD CRUSADERS
CRICKET CLUB**



**125TH YEAR
CELEBRATION 'PARTY'**

**SATURDAY 17TH AUGUST
AT THE AMPFIELD GOLF CLUB**

7PM 'TIL LATE

LIVE BAND AND HOG ROAST

**TICKETS £15 TO INCLUDE
FREE PRIZE DRAW**

EVERYONE WELCOME!

**CONTACT JOHN SORRELL FOR
TICKETS ON: 07810 606 866**

THE FRIENDS OF CHAPEL WOOD

Those of you who enjoy pottering around in the garden may well remember the past year as being one that presented more challenges than most as the vagaries of the weather seemed to impact even the simplest of tasks. March was warm and very dry but this was followed by one of the wettest and coldest periods ever recorded. Our community woodland, Chapel Wood, proved not to be immune to this difficult background and the fact that the Friends made any progress at all is a great testament to their enthusiasm and their skills.

For the second year, the largest single effort was made in the woodland burial ground. We were hoping that during 2012 the cruciform, laid out with bare-rooted box planted the previous year, would begin to define the centre of the plot. In the event, the main beneficiaries of our summer weather seemed to be the surrounding grass and the weeds. We were obliged to spend a number of additional working days clearing this unwanted vegetation, in the process laying a weed suppressant membrane. Even so, it was still an uphill struggle as the plants then had to cope with long periods of excessive surface water caused by a combination of poor drainage and high rainfall. However, happily and on a positive note, it seems most may have survived and, with a bit of extra TLC, we are hopeful that 2013 will prove more benign and progress will be soon become evident.



One other item relating to the burial ground is that we have cut back a lot of the encroaching rhododendron on the northern boundary and hope to get the roots dug up and cleared shortly.

This has greatly improved the visual sightlines, made a feature of a number of fine trees and

generally opened the area, giving a much better feeling of space. Once all of this has been completed, we can set out the plots for future burials, by which means we hope to maximise the use of this fantastic parish asset.

There remains one landmark event of 2012 that should not pass unmentioned. For some years, it had been an aspiration that the woodland should act as host to the church fete and, last year, for the first time the fete was held in the area surrounding St. Mark's church and the woodland glade. Despite the weather on the day being less than ideal, the general consensus was that it worked. We are hopeful this will continue and look forward to accommodating the event in the future.



Chapel Wood is a great asset to our community and we welcome and encourage visitors throughout the year. It should not be forgotten, however, that keeping the wood open, ecologically sustainable and user friendly is a direct result of the efforts of a relatively small band of volunteers, the Friends of Chapel Wood. We meet in the church car park at 0945 am on the second Saturday of each month, July and August excepted. With the emphasis being very much on friendly and relaxed enjoyment, new members are always very much welcomed and no prior knowledge is necessary.

Very many thanks to all those Friends, friends of Friends and to our suppliers all of whom have helped with this important work over the past year.

**Graham Roads,
Friends of Chapel Wood**

PLANNING



Since the end of March 2012 the Committee has met on 17 occasions which must be something of a record as in 2011/12 we met 14 times and 2010/11 only 11 times. As detailed in our report last year our submissions to TVBC Planning Department Officers, can be summarised under the headings of **Support, No Objection, No Comment or Objection**. The figures this year for each of these categories are, respectively, with last year in brackets: - 5 (2), 33 (38), 16 (14) and 8 (7). In total 62 applications were considered, one more than the previous year.

Many applications seek permission to remove or to prune trees. On the whole the Committee have found it is best to leave the determination of such applications to the professional officers who have the necessary technical expertise to judge such matters. This partially explains the high number of instances where the Committee has registered "No Objection" or "No Comment" with the Planning Authority.

Morley's Lane Development:

As Chairman of the Planning Committee one often has the unenviable task of conducting meetings to consider applications about which residents feel particularly strongly. There have been several recently, such as the field opposite the Potters Heron, the applications to build behind the same hotel and the redevelopment of the New Vicarage in Knapp Lane. However easily top of the list is the proposal to build 39 houses on land adjacent to Morley's Lane opposite the Village Hall. At the time of writing, this application has yet to be considered by Test Valley Southern Area Planning Committee but I hope that by the date set for the Parish Assembly it will have been heard and a decision made. After considering the application extremely carefully, and following two meetings, one set aside for public representations, the Council decided to support the application.

We did so on the grounds that there was a demand for such housing in the Parish, the quality of the proposed scheme and the benefits it would bring to the Parish including much needed improvements to the Village Hall and to the Recreation Ground and, it is hoped, custom for the school.

Ampfield Recreation Ground:

We also considered a proposal from a group of residents to build on the southern end of Ampfield Recreation Ground next the White Horse PH. Superficially this idea may have appeared viable, but following consultation with a number of experts, including paying for "pre-application advice" from TVBC Planning Department, the scheme was found not to be feasible. The Council produced a 17 page report which details the problems and issues with such a proposal and held a meeting in public to discuss the scheme. Unfortunately none of the proponents of the scheme were at the meeting and were thus unable to hear and participate in the debate of the issues. For residents who require further information, the Council's report can be found on our web site: www.ampfield.org.uk by following the links, Parish Council/APC Papers and Publications. The Council bought the Recreation Ground for the enjoyment and benefit of residents. This year marks the 125th anniversary of cricket being played on the ground. Since its acquisition the Council has sought to improve the facilities by levelling the field, installing a drainage system and a children's play area. We believe the ground will provide the community with a welcome and beneficial recreation facility for future generations for years to come, especially once a pavilion is constructed.

Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan:

Last year we commented on two aspects of the Test Valley Local Plan which is now again out for consultation. This has been necessitated by a number of changes to the planning system guidelines which are outside the control of TVBC. These include the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), South East Plan and the experiences of Planning Authorities of interpretation of the NPPF by the Secretary of State and Inspectors. Consultations are now ongoing and will continue to be accepted until Friday

26th April.

At the time of writing we are still considering our response, but unless we uncover any major changes to the original Plan, we will continue to support the Settlement Hierarchy, settlement boundaries and the proposals for a Local Gap between Ampfield and Chandlers Ford/Valley Park.

Allan Clark
Chairman, Planning Committee.



PARISH COMMUNICATIONS AND THE AMPFIELD PARISH WEB SITE

Our parish is a widely spread community comprising a mix of village, suburban and rural environments. It is possible that, in the coming years, we shall see a greater rate of change in the parish than we have experienced in the past and under these circumstances it will be important that the Parish Council be able to communicate effectively with all parishioners. There will always be an important place for face to face exchanges between councillors and parishioners. But increasingly other means of exchanging information, including use of the internet, can

provide councils with effective tools to help with that dialogue. To that end, over the coming months, we are planning to review and develop the different ways in which the Parish Council can communicate with parishioners.

Central to these changes will be our Ampfield Parish website, which has just been updated. We spent most of 2012 looking at what other parishes were doing and what we felt we needed in Ampfield. The old website had become a bit cluttered and hard to navigate. We hope we've got it almost right now. By simplifying the menu and keeping just the important and current information present, we hope we have made a lot of improvements. However, we'd like to hear from anyone with views on what does or doesn't work! In addition, as part of the move to a new website, we are actively trying to target our audience. We've added a Twitter feed (follow us on @ampfieldparish). We are also working on developing a database of email addresses to enable us to contact parishioners directly and send them the relevant information that they are interested in.

We would like as many parishioners as possible to register their e-mail contact details on our web site at <http://www.ampfield.org.uk>. (Just click on the "Register" button). All e-mail information will be held securely and not used for any other purpose than to send you news updates from Council on significant items of interest.

Pete Edwards, Communications
Julian Jones, Ampfield website



THE AMPFIELD MARKET ESTABLISHED 2000

The Ampfield Market is now in its thirteenth year. It takes place on the first Saturday of the month in Ampfield Village Hall between 10am and 12 noon, excluding January, February, July and August, which are holiday months.

The Market has gained a great reputation and every effort is made to ensure that the sales tables are varied and display top quality, good value items including Fairtrade and fresh foods, fruit and vegetables, cakes, bread, preserves, plants, fresh flowers, books and a wide range of crafts. To date we have raised over £14,000 and all proceeds go to the Village Hall funds which help to provide a great local venue for all our community activities. In June 2012 we marked the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at the Market. The Hall was hung with bunting and flags and the tables were beautifully decorated for the occasion. The 'crown' competition attracted a lot of interest and prizes were awarded, although it was a very difficult job for the judges, as the standard was very high indeed.

We have worked very hard to create a welcoming, happy and relaxed atmosphere in our Market. The refreshments are freshly produced, generously donated and served between 10 and 12 by a wonderful team of volunteers without whose help the Market would cease to function. We were all very saddened by the loss of our dear friend Lahja who had been an important member of our team since we began in 2000; a collection was made in her memory and sent to the Motor Neurone Disease Society in October 2012.

Why don't you make a date to meet friends and sample our hospitality for yourselves?

The remaining dates for 2013 are: May 4th, June 1st, Sept 7th, Oct 5th, Nov 2nd and Dec 7th, and we expect to resume on 1st March 2014.

If you are interested in renting a table or for more information contact:-
Julie Trotter on 02380 254587.

AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall continues to be fully used for regular and ad hoc meetings and for classes. A report on the flourishing Village Market appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Thanks to a grant from The Big Lottery Fund, the Parish Council has been able to install some excellent audiovisual equipment in the Hall that it will be able to use for presentations and other events such as planning meetings. This can also be made available for other functions, for example if the Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area resumes its programme in the coming year.

If the Morley's Lane development is approved by Test Valley Borough Council, it is expected that the Village Hall might benefit from improved facilities, especially to its kitchen and parking areas. An outline plan has been proposed and the Village Hall Management Committee hopes to discuss further details with the developer if the whole project goes forward.



Margaret Rothwell



Village Market-Jubilee event- 2013



Ampfield Market Jubilee- 2013

AMPFIELD COUNTRYSIDE HERITAGE AREA

Designated by Hampshire County Council in 1991, the Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area (ACHA) encompasses the whole of Ampfield and spreads into the parishes of Hursley, Otterbourne, North Baddesley and Romsey Extra. It comprises an area of unspoiled countryside; made up of many small fields, copses and settlements that have evolved over hundreds of years and to this day remain relatively unchanged. The Hursley Map of 1588 shows field patterns and parkland such as Hursley and Cranbury that are still identifiable today.

Today it is perhaps more important than ever to recognize and conserve those features of our environment that are of natural, geographical or historical significance so that they will be available for the benefit of the next and future generations. With this in mind, the members want to promote a practical and sustainable approach to the care and management of our local ecological and landscape features. We believe the best way to achieve this is to encourage greater knowledge and understanding of the area in which we live and, to this end, we have arranged a series of free Heritage Talks and encouraged local guided walks.

The Heritage Area has a fine network of countryside walks that allow the traveller to see many of the features that have been written about elsewhere and has published a book known as "Keble's Way" which covers numerous circular walks ranging from 1 to 18 miles. Although this is currently out of print, it is hoped that over the next few years this can be brought up to date and reprinted either in paper or electronic form.

2012 was a relatively quiet year for the group but it is hoped 2013 will see a resumption of the Heritage Talks and other activities. Details of these should be made available in the Ampfield Messenger, on the village notice boards and on the parish website. We also hope to commence walking the Keble Way and its associated

footpaths. At the moment the plan is to hold the usual Boxing Day walk, which has proved very popular in the past, especially the 'après walk' activities in the White Horse. Again details will be made available closer to the time.

If you are interested in joining in, or helping with any of these activities, please contact me (01794 367103) or anyone on Ampfield Parish Council. Also if you have any specialist knowledge of the area, be it historical, geographical or the natural environment, that you think could contribute to our understanding, again we would be pleased to hear from you.

Graham Roads
Ampfield Parish Council



Ampfield House

LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG)

The Local Action Group (LAG) is a rural policing objective with the aim of combating rural crime. We are lucky in Ampfield in that there are a low number of crimes reported but we still need to remain vigilant. However, due to the co-ordination of the LAG and the public, the Police have been able target criminals more effectively and this has helped bring them to justice. You can also help make Ampfield a crime free area by observing the following:

- Make sure your house and outbuildings are locked and secure, even when you are at home.
- Make sure any portable equipment such as chainsaws are locked away safely and securely.
- If you use oil for heating please make sure your tank is secured with a suitable lock.
- Make sure anyone entering your premises has valid identification.
- Report any suspicious behaviour by contacting Romsey Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team: Contact no 0845 045 45 45 or 101

Are you concerned about speeding motorists in your area?

Community Speed Watch is a scheme being rolled out by Hampshire Constabulary with the aim of providing local voluntary action to combat speeding motorists. Details of the scheme can be found at the following website <http://www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/advice-and-information/crime-prevention/community-speedwatch>

This is a voluntary scheme; however, Ampfield Parish Council may be able to help provide funding against the operational costs if –

- The costs were to be shared among other parishes such as Braishfield, Timsbury and Michelmersh.
- The scheme attracted enough volunteers to run the scheme.

I would like to know if you are interested in the scheme and would like to take part.

If you would like further information on any of the above, please contact me,

David Stevens 02380255275

or email me on adavidjstevens@gmail.com

FOOTPATHS

The footpaths team (Carolyn Robinson, Paul and Barbara Jerrome and myself) have continued walking the footpaths during the year and trying to correct any problems that have been found. The huge amount of rain hasn't helped with the walking and has certainly made some sections pretty unpleasant. As usual there have been some fallen trees and other minor problems to sort out. Once again there have been no problems reported by members of the public during the year which hopefully means that the footpaths are usable!

The particularly muddy section of footpath at the end of Wingham Lane continues to be a problem which didn't get sorted out last year. The two sections of proposed permissive path are also still on the list of jobs to be done this year!

Remember that all the footpaths are detailed on the website at <http://www.ampfield.org.uk/footpaths.htm> which contains maps and some descriptions of the paths. I have had some feedback during the year from people who have found it useful so please make use of it and download the maps – they are free! If you have some photos of sections of the paths or improved descriptions I would be pleased to receive them for inclusion on the site.

If you notice a problem with a footpath that you think needs correcting please report it. The website has individual links for reporting problems on specific paths but if you are not sure of the path number then please either email a description to footpaths@ampfield.org.uk or phone me and I will try and get the problem resolved.

Martin Trotter 02380 254587
Footpath Warden

ST. MARK'S CHURCH AMPFIELD



The Ministry Team for Ampfield, Chilworth and North Baddesley consists of Revd. Peter Gilks (Vicar), Revds. Claire Maxim, Clifford Stride and Vanessa Lawrence, and Mrs Sally Kerson and Mr Jonathan de Vile who are Readers; Mrs Kerson also is the parish administrator, working from the Parish Office in North Baddesley. In July it will be joined by Revd. Hilary Healey who will be ordained Deacon to serve in these parishes for her Curacy.

The clergy are regularly involved with Ampfield School; Revd. Gilks is a foundation Governor and the clergy regularly lead Collective Worship and assist in resourcing the Religious Education. The Parochial Church Council elect two foundation governors and the other foundation governor is Miss Doreen Walker.

The church continues to work closely with the Parish Council over the day to day running of Chapel Wood Burial Ground. Once again we are greatly indebted to the Parish Council and to the Friends of Chapel Wood for all their care of the churchyard. It has been particularly valuable this year to have increased use of the Glade for church activities, particularly the Good Friday activity day for families, the Fete, the Jubilee cream tea, and a new Advent activity – the cutting of the greens.

The fete took place in the Churchyard and in the Glade this year; this was the first time it had taken place there for some years and despite

earlier misgivings it was felt that this site worked admirably well. We trust that car parking did not prove too much of a nuisance to local residents. One advantage of being on-site was that the church building could be open for visitors during the fete, and this was certainly appreciated.

This year saw the first anniversary of the Friends of St Mark's, a new body that was created to help keep a link between the community and the church, and to help keep in touch with those who have moved away. The "Friends" also raise funds for the upkeep of the building, which are restricted to this purpose and are not available for on-going day-to-day parish expenses. Currently there are 47 members of the Friends, and the first AGM took place in February.

St Mark's building is in good repair, and all major repair work identified at our last inspection has been completed; however in a building which is 170 years old, repairs can become necessary at any time, and constant vigilance is exercised by the churchwardens in their care of the church. New work we hope to put in hand soon includes the provision of new gates to the churchyard and repairs to the bell mechanism.

Although none of the Ministry team live in Ampfield, we are all committed to serving the pastoral care and worshipping life of this parish and appreciate very much being part of this friendly community.

Peter Gilks
Priest-in-charge

Contact details for St Marks

Revd. Peter Gilks:	02380 740515
Parish Office: (Mon, Wed, Fri: 9-12)	02380 737617
Revd Claire Maxim:	02380 739145
Revd Clifford Stride: (for baptism enquiries)	02380 739835

Churchwardens

Derek Allen:	02380 276350
Jean Smith:	01794 519685

AMPFIELD COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL

We had a slow start at the beginning of the year with very few children. However, over the terms our numbers have increased and we are now looking much more secure. We have a lot of children going on to school again in September so the hard work of marketing places will have to start all over again.

Our dedicated staff members and committee members work diligently to ensure that Ampfield Pre-school can endeavour to offer the quality of care and learning that it is known for. Although staff changes have occurred over the year we have managed to re-deploy the existing staff and keep the valuable, friendly team that interacts so well with the youngsters.

Children are making the most of the opportunities to use the woodlands for natural outdoor learning; even though the weather has been really awful this year; with appropriate clothing the children have still managed to use these facilities. The Playground has enhanced our physical development and is always very popular with the children.

In May we are hoping to have a sponsored walk with the children around the recreation area in order to raise money for more equipment. Fundraising has been slow, due to the small number of families, however the Pre-school did receive an award from the Big Lottery Fund that enabled us to purchase some more up-to-date IT equipment. The children now have the opportunity to take their own video footage, mainly of the woodland floor or the cloudy sky, but they are learning and enjoying the process.

Once again we are looking for a volunteer to come into the setting for a couple of hours a week to help prepare the children's snack. This can be anyone from a retired person looking to fill a few hours or a young person who is looking to fill time before college etc. It is only during

term time. If you are interested please phone 07712566879.

We do have some vacant places so if anyone is interested in their child attending such a friendly setting then please contact Sandy on 07712566879. Please let us know beforehand as it may be a day when we are at the woods or the playpark, especially if we get some dry weather, and we will be walking our little train of children along the pavement again.

Sandy Oliver



AMPFIELD C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

I am absolutely thrilled to be the Executive Headteacher of this rapidly improving and delightful school.

Our numbers have now very nearly doubled from only 18 in July 2012 to 35 on roll now and we are getting some very positive feedback and invaluable recommendations from our parents and carers.

In January 2012, we were subject to an OFSTED monitoring visit. This visit was extremely complimentary about the work of the school and states that the *'Executive headteacher and governors have taken robust and positive action since the inspection.'* additionally, *'the executive headteacher has the complete confidence of local authority officers, governors and staff to bring about rapid and sustained improvement. She has ensured highly productive collaborative work between the two schools that is supporting rapidly improving teaching and pupils' achievement.'*

There has been a significant impact and positive trajectory of improvement in all aspects of the school's work since September 2012 and this is resulting in pupils making much faster progress than previously. Pupils are rapidly reaching and exceeding nationally expected standards in all age groups. These outcomes would not be possible without the fantastic staff team who are all exceptionally dedicated to ensure they provide the very best education for our pupils. They have taken on board new and challenging ways of working with enthusiasm and trust of the new leadership team, this too was noted by the Her Majesty's Inspector who said *'Staff are completely behind the changes being made and are very positive about the collaboration within the school and with the partner school. They are particularly enthused by the clarity of the vision and direction for the school's future work. Staff feel involved in making decisions, identifying the next steps for improvement and in sharing in the successes already achieved.'*

It is not just the staff and pupils who are thriving. The governors, as part of the leadership team of the school, also now hold the school to account with vigour and often attend challenge meetings in school to scrutinise the work of the school, talk with pupils about their learning and drive the strategic direction of the school with enthusiasm.

It is a privilege as the executive headteacher to be part of this exciting journey and as a whole staff community we are dedicated to achieve an outstanding grade by OFSTED in the future. We will achieve this by knowing every child well and planning for accelerated progress through our bespoke next step pupil plans. We will achieve this by continuing to improve the consistently good teaching and learning to ensure that it is outstanding overtime and we will achieve this by continuing to place each member of our school community at its heart, by nurturing them both socially, emotionally and academically and continuing to provide outstanding care and support for our families.

Recently, we have seen a number of visitors from other schools, who have been keen to learn from our rigorous and robust plans for every child which recognise both their talents and interests along with their next step targets. It is a pleasure to showcase the hard work of the staff and children with other school settings.

In the autumn term I was fortunate to be supported by Christine Kirby in her role as Head of teaching and learning, who made some really valuable changes, including completely updating our school library to make it a vibrant and inviting part of the school, which will encourage and facilitate our children's reading.

From January I have been joined by Andrew De Silva who has already been instrumental in supporting with our recent Her Majesty's Inspector visit. The Inspector commented: *"Changes that had started in September have accelerated further. As a result, there is a clear momentum of rapid improvement demonstrated in all aspects of the school's work. The secondment of an additional leader since January, has brought additional focus to improving the quality of teaching."*

We are also blessed by our highly efficient and effective admin and caretaking team who provide a vital role in supporting all members of the school community and do so to an exceptional level.

Here at Ampfield Primary we make learning real, exciting and purposeful: visits by Tiger Class, to Milestones Museum during the Autumn Term and more recently the visit to St Mark's Church to see Revd. Gilks perform a Christening are good examples of this. At Keystage 2 our motivated learners have also visited The Living Rainforest, near Newbury in the Autumn Term and have recently held an Egyptian themed day which supported their work on the Egyptians – you may have seen them on the front page of the Romsey Advertiser!

The children have also experienced some really fantastic whole school events, which included us celebrating World Book Day. The children and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters and we invited John Chapman, author of the Jonnie Rocket books and X Wing Pilot from the Star Wars Films to officially open our new school library. The day was space themed and the 'Friends' parents association helped turn our school hall into a space rocket. It was super that some of you from the local community were able to come along, enjoy refreshments and share our special day.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our supportive 'Friends' association and the many very valuable volunteers from the local and wider school community who regularly come in and help out in school. Your support is hugely appreciated and invaluable in so many ways. Thank you.

Looking forward we will continue to develop each child as a lifelong learner, by inspiring them in school and giving them the skills to tackle the challenges of life with confidence. We are proud of our distinctive Christian character and family environment as it provides all stakeholders with a moral compass, but it also enables us to provide the children with a unique bespoke high quality education in every lesson, every day. If you are

interested in learning more about how you can further the work of our school, in any capacity, please contact Andrew de Silva our Head of Teaching and Learning, via the school office or by email Andrew.desilva@ampfield.hants.sch.uk. We look forward to further strengthening our partnership in the Parish, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Julie Carrington
Executive head teacher



Egyptian Day



World Book Day

NOTES

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Your Parish Council

Chairman: Margaret Rothwell C.M.G.

Vice-Chairman: Bryan Nanson

Edward Butcher, Allan Clark, Pete Edwards
Martin Hatley, Julian Jones, Graham Roads,
David Stevens.

Clerk to the Council: Doreen Matthews,
Blue Haze, Ampfield Hill, Ampfield, Romsey SO5 1 9BD
Tel: 01794 368437 • E-mail: clerk@ampfield.org.uk

Parish Website: www.ampfield.org.uk

The Parish has a number of committees and sub-committees including:
Finance, Planning and Woodland.

Date and time of all Council and Committee meetings are advertised on Parish notice boards and on the website and they can be attended by the general public.

The Parish Council has links to:

The Hampshire Association of Local Councils
The Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Councils
Test Valley Community Services
The Ampfield Village Hall Committee
The Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area Group
Ampfield Primary School

The Test Valley Passenger and Transport Liaison Forum
Councillors also attend a variety of statutory and ad hoc committees and consultations of interest to the Parish.

Your Parish Councillors are the first tier of local government and are unpaid.