

# Parish Council Newsletter

# Ampfield



Annual Parish Assembly  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009  
7.30 p.m.  
at Ampfield Village Hall  
all parishioners  
are warmly invited

Issue 21  
March 2009

**TO ALL ELECTORS OF THE PARISH OF AMPFIELD**

**You are invited to take part in the**

**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

**To be held at**

**AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL ON  
MONDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2009 AT 7.30pm**

***The Agenda for this Annual Parish Assembly is:***

Apologies for absence

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 21st April 2008

Matters Arising

Speed Controls and Road Safety

Recreation Ground including the establishment of a football pitch and the need to raise funds for the pavilion

Other Reports for 2008/2009- Reports, including those from County Councillor Alan Dowden and Borough Councillor Martin Hatley, are included in the Newsletter circulated to all households within the Parish. Councillors will be happy to take questions on the reports.

Financial Report

Audited Accounts for 2007/2008

Anticipated Out-turn for 2008/2009

Precept for 2009/2010

*To receive any other Reports not contained within the Parish Newsletter  
Any Other Competent Business: Open Forum- any items Parishioners  
wish to raise*

*Refreshments will be served at the end of the Meeting giving Parishioners  
the opportunity to talk to their Councillors.*

***Doreen Matthews***  
***Clerk to Ampfield Parish Council***

**AMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

*Margaret Rothwell: Chairman*



**I**t is a pleasure to report that in the last year we have seen some progress on items of importance to the Parish, and especially on road safety, which was one of the key concerns highlighted in our Parish Plan.

### **SPEED LIMITS**

The most obvious change has been the re-instatement of the pedestrian refuge on the A3090 near the Recreation Ground. This has been done in a slightly different place and in a form modified to suit the haulage contractors whose problems caused the earlier refuge to be grubbed up. Furthermore, under the "Village 30" programme, the 40mph speed limits on the A3090, Hook Road and Hursley Road have been reduced to 30mph. Although not to the taste of all drivers, it is evident that this has had an effect and that the traffic speeds, especially on the A3090, have dropped markedly. Of course, in an ideal world some extensions of the limits on the A3090 would have been desirable e.g. at the Jermyns Lane and Hook Road junctions, but what we have achieved is a significant step in the right direction. We shall be keeping up the pressure for further improvements. And, as familiarity breeds contempt, we shall be re-inforcing awareness of the speed limits across the Parish with a mobile flashing speed indicator sign. This has been purchased in conjunction with Braishfield Parish Council and will be deployed on an irregular basis for use at key points in both Parishes.

**...traffic speeds have  
dropped markedly...  
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significant step  
in the right direction...**

We have been keeping a close eye on the possible implications for Ampfield of the Abbotswood development and it is likely that some further modifications, at Jermyns Lane at least, will be associated with the infrastructure for it (see Mr Clark's report below). At the other end of the Parish, as our local Councillors report, work on the Flexford Bridge scheme has begun and we will, we hope, ease another of our "blackspots".

### **RECREATION GROUND**

Last year we reported on the adaptation and preparation of the new Recreation Ground for wider use. We have made further progress this year. The cricket pitch is up to a high standard, allowing serious league fixtures to be played on it, and temporary expedients have been found to offer players and spectators some basic facilities. We had hoped to establish adult and youth football on the lower section of the Ground for the latter part of the season. Nets have been purchased and the pitch is ready to be marked out. We have, however, lost some time because of a problem over the siting of overhead electricity cables. Remedial work is now in hand, and we are grateful to both Scottish & Southern Energy and to Simon Harris, who farms the neighbouring fields, for their understanding and help over this.

### **FINANCE**

Financially the Parish is in a reasonable position and, though it remains among

the higher ones in Test Valley, we have managed to reduce the precept for 2009/2010 by 7.12%. We have also, thanks to the generosity of the owners of Hursley 2000 Ltd, been able to acquire the freehold of Chapel Wood which will allow us to retain and maintain it as an amenity for the Parish.



### **SPORTS PAVILION**

The next major hurdle - as the centrefold of this newsletter highlights - will be to raise funds for a permanent sports pavilion on the Recreation Ground. This will be a tough task, especially in the current climate, but if there is a collective effort we do hope to manage it. A fundraising sub-committee has been established, and plans for fundraising events and activities will be publicised on the notice boards, our website and elsewhere.

Please support them generously.

### **VILLAGE HALL**

The Village Hall continues to be very heavily booked and both its appearance and accessibility have been improved- the former by new stage and window curtains and the latter by the Parish Council funding

a really effective hearing loop and sound system adaptable to the many different uses made of the Hall. We are alive to the possibility that establishing a sports pavilion might draw custom from the Hall, but demand for bookings is such that we do not anticipate a detrimental effect on the success of the Hall – their purposes are quite distinct and should be complementary. The Parish Council is clear on this point.

### **VILLAGE MARKET**

The Village Market is thriving and provides a welcome focal point as well as a supplement to the funds available to the Hall Committee. (It is good to notice that both people who have moved out of the Parish, as well as newcomers to it, are coming to the market to meet and make friends.) But the cost of running the Hall rises inexorably- for example it takes a lot of heating- and it has become necessary to introduce a modest increase in rental charges for the coming year.

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**the acquisition  
of the freehold  
of Chapel Wood  
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an amenity  
for the Parish**

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### **PRIMARY SCHOOL**

It is good news that Ampfield Primary School is surviving and widening what is on offer to pupils, though their number still remains relatively low. The Pre-school, however, is strengthening its links with the School and looks set to continue, though new government regulations will require some adjustments in the next school year. Unfortunately, there has been no progress- beyond the introduction quite independently, but helpfully, of the 30mph speed limit on the A3090 – on the question of safer routes to

school, which was aired at the last Parish Assembly. The School has completed a survey of parents and local residents inter alia trawling for suggestions, and is preparing a submission on this issue. Whether this will produce any results or funding remains to be seen.

### **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

In June 2008, the Ampfield W.I. celebrated its 60th anniversary, but concluded with regret that falling numbers and lack of response to its appeals for new members and supporters meant that it must, technically at least, wind itself up. This was sad news, but the Parish can be grateful that the lease of the Village Hall has now been fully and formally transferred from the W.I. to the Village Hall Committee.

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

The membership of the Parish Council remains unchanged but we have allocated to different councillors responsibility for the various chapters of the Parish Plan and their implementation. Despite lack of enthusiasm at the last Assembly we are, as a long term aim, pursuing Quality Status for Ampfield. This includes finding new and/or better ways of communicating with the Parish. We were pleased that our 2008 Newsletter received the Hampshire Association of Local Councils award for the best local council newsletter throughout Hampshire. There is no saying that this year's effort will do as well but there is probably more we could do to bring Parish residents more closely into the loop. We are exploring possibilities but need to know what you think. What is needed? And how can it be done? Ideas are always welcome.

So, another full year ahead for the Council and for you, the Parishioners.

**Margaret Rothwell: Chairman**



Outside St Mark's Parish Church Ampfield, Parish Council Chairman, Margaret Rothwell and Clerk Doreen Matthews hold the Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils trophy for the best Local Council Newsletter throughout Hampshire in 2008. (Photo courtesy of Romsey Advertiser).

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## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S 2009 REPORT**

**Hampshire County Council's Council Tax will rise by 1.9% the lowest for many years. We are all facing a challenging economic situation and it is times like this we must cut back on unnecessary expenditure and reduce Council Tax.**

### **LOW COUNCIL TAX RISE**

**H**ampshire County Council's Council Tax will rise by 1.9% the lowest for many years. This will raise the Band "D" Hampshire County Council tax to £1018 .17p .



opportunity to include some of the recommendations within the government's own Green Paper on older peoples' services, intended to manage and improve care services. As one of the Commissioners I have felt it a privilege to have been involved. We listened to and read a huge amount

The opposition members put forward a budget that involved no increase in Council Tax at all, by proposing to reduce the huge Public Relations spend at the County and taking some money from the huge reserves the County hold.

We are all facing a challenging economic situation and it is times like this we must cut back on unnecessary expenditure and reduce Council Tax.

I was pleased though as the opposition spokesperson to support the increased budget allocation for Adult Social Care of 4.8% which will be well above inflation for the next financial year.

### **CARE PROVISION & SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**In November 2008 the Hampshire Commission launched 'Getting Personal' a fair deal for all.** The Commission was set up by the Leader of Hampshire County Council and it has resulted in recommendations into how the care system, both nationally and locally, could provide a much better and fairer provision of care offering social justice for all. This document will allow government an

of information provided by national and local organisations and useful evidence was obtained. Many users and carers had the opportunity to express their concerns and inform us, from their own experiences, on how they felt the care system could and should change.

**The Commission have recommended that there should be a provision of choice, which offers a 'universal offer' of help and advice for every person with care and support needs,** regardless of their financial position. Free social care for up to eight weeks for all those at risk of hospital admission or facing discharge from hospital and in need of support. An increase in the threshold for means – testing from the present £22,500 to £50,000.

In addition, the commission recommends replacing the current charging rules with a national resource allocation system. This would compute a net contribution from public funds for each individual after taking account of the means-tested contribution they

should make, whilst still leaving scope for some local discretion.

### **FOOTBRIDGE**

I am so pleased at long last the Flexford Bridge Cycle/Pedestrian footbridge will be installed during this year's school summer holidays. It will be mostly funded from developers' contributions from the Knightwood & Brendoncare developments at Valley Park.

I and your Borough Councillor have been seeking its implementation for years; it has felt at times that it would never materialize.

### **SPEED RESTRICTIONS**

The County Council have installed the pedestrian refuge in a partnership project with the Ampfield Parish Council and have recently extended and introduced new 30 mph speed limits within the parish area.

It has been a testing winter for the Hampshire Highways Department. They have dealt with extreme winter conditions. It is always easy to criticise but officers worked round the clock, on occasions, in an attempt to keep things moving.

### **COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

I will be standing at the County elections in June and hope to retain the position as your County Councillor.

*HCC Cllr. Alan Dowden  
Baddesley division*

*Tel: 023-8026 6458  
e-mail alan.dowden@hants.gov.uk*

## **The Ampfield Market**

**T**he Ampfield Market is now in its ninth year. It takes place on the first Saturday of the month in the 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, cakes, bread, preserves, plants, books and a wide range of crafts. To date we have raised £9,500 and all proceeds go to Village Hall funds which help to provide a great local venue for all our community activities.

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

**The dates for 2009 are Mar 7th,  
Apr 4th, May 2nd, June 6th,  
Sept 5th, Oct 3rd, Nov 7th  
and Dec 5th.**

*For more information contact  
Julie Trotter on 023 8025 4587.  
The Ampfield Market.*

## **AMPFIELD & BRAISHFIELD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - Cllr. Martin Hatley**

### **STRATEGIC GAP BETWEEN AMPFIELD AND VALLEY PARK**

**W**hen I was elected some 14 years ago to succeed my good friend, the late Jimmy Wyss, he asked me to continue to preserve the strategic gap he had obtained between Ampfield and Valley Park and also to strive to get the promised pedestrian/cycle bridge built over the railway in Baddesley Road. I am very pleased to report that the gap is still there, and that at long last the preliminary ground clearance work has started ready for the building of the pedestrian bridge. The necessary vegetation has been cleared prior to the nesting season and hopefully construction will commence towards the end of spring. This saga has been going on for some 20 years and is something I have raised at every joint highways meeting with the County Council for the last 14 years!. Eventually, County Councillor Perry, (Deputy Leader of HCC and Chairman of the Test Valley Hampshire Action Team [HAT]), and I brokered a solution involving Test Valley, Eastleigh and the County Council working closely together. This partnership, together with funding from developers and the County, has enabled this bridge to at last materialise. It is desperately needed by cyclists, schoolchildren, pedestrians, parents with pushchairs and the more elderly with mobility scooters.



### **PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTHERN HAMPSHIRE**

During the last year I continued as Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport. It is in these two roles I represent Test Valley Borough Council at meetings of PUSH (Partnership for Urban Southern Hampshire).

As reported to you before, I was successful in robustly defending Southern Test Valley's corner against suggestions from other Councils that there should be a major development of between 6,000 and 10,000 houses on a Greenfield site in the Romsey area. However, I am now very concerned that Eastleigh Borough Council are apparently attempting to renege on their agreement to accommodate about 6,000 dwellings at Hedge End. If they were to be deleted from Hedge End, then Central Government will require them to be built somewhere else within the PUSH area. I am sure they will not go eastwards along the M27, because Fareham has already agreed to take up to 10,000 houses and the infrastructure just could not cope with such a large number of extra homes. I am also sure there would be attempts made to locate them within Southern Test Valley, but as I said publicly at a recent PUSH meeting, I am determined that this would not happen 'on my watch'!

One piece of good news is that the PUSH area was the only area in the SE Plan where the Secretary of

State did not increase the housing numbers required over the next 20 years. Accordingly, the number of houses required in Southern Test Valley remains at 3920, although Andover (not in PUSH) has had an extra 1100 houses imposed on it and which we are objecting to.

### **UP TO 800 HOUSES AT ABBOTSWOOD**

Earlier this year, outline permission was granted for up to 800 houses at Abbotswood (the Local Plan Inspectors increased the figure by 300). I have lobbied for effective traffic improvements, at various junctions, to be funded by this development, especially either end of Jermyns Lane. As I reported last year, an enhanced junction and repositioning of the bus stop is now proposed for the A3090 junction, and a new 'lozenge' shaped round about is planned for the Sandy Lane crossroads.

### **SPEED LIMIT**

I do remain very concerned with both the number and frequency of accidents along the A3090 at the Jermyns Lane junction and in the vicinity of Pound Lane and The White Horse. I am lobbying for a 40mph limit to start west of Jermyns Lane on The Straight Mile up to the start of the new 30mph speed limit on Ampfield Hill. I am also closely monitoring the proposed junction improvements at Jermyns Lane with my highways officers.

### **IMPACT OF THE RECESSION**

The Audit Commission has just published an independent review of how district councils use their resources. It shows that Test Valley's results are not only

amongst the best in Hampshire but also meet the highest national standards. Overall the council is rated joint 29th out of the 238 councils assessed this year. This latest report shows that TVBC is performing well and provides value for money to local taxpayers.

I do not need to tell you that 2008/2009 has been an extraordinary year for the economy. **The single largest effect of the recession for the Council has been falling levels of investment income, amounting to a reduction of £1.3m, due to the Bank of England's interest rate cuts over the last five months.** The toughest budget round anyone can remember required quick and decisive action to identify unprecedented levels of savings to close a total budget gap that had risen from a manageable £225,300 in the summer to nearly £1.9m. It became clear very early on that in order to meet these targets the size of the organisation would have to be reduced. Some 25 vacant posts will be deleted and some redundancies will regrettably take place over the next few months. However, the impact on frontline services should be minimal.

### **BUDGET**

Finally, **a balanced budget has now been produced and the Borough's Council Tax at £118.44 for a Band D property remains one of the lowest in the Country.** This has been achieved in spite of the recession and another woefully inadequate government grant settlement which was especially hard for Test Valley, as it has suffered for the last eleven years from grant settlements which have failed to keep pace with inflation.

**Cllr. Martin Hatley**

## THE PARISH PLAN

**A**s shown in the following Progress Report, considerable progress has been made in addressing the objectives. Many of the achievements are described in more detail elsewhere in the newsletter.

Bryan Nanson

### **AMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN PROGRESS AT March 2009**

**OBJECTIVE 1**  
**Secure improved road safety**  
**within the Parish**  
**Cllr Allan Clark**

**How:** Work with and lobby organisations such as local authorities and Police and be proactive in identifying areas for improvement.

- Ensure effective application of speed limits in Baddesley Road, Beechwood Crescent, Hook Road and the A3090.
- Rationalise the speed limits on A3090 from Winchester to Romsey.
- Reduce speed limits on the A3090 throughout the Parish.
- Install pedestrian refuges on A3090 in village.
- Resolve the long standing Baddesley Road bridge problem and secure the extension of the cycle way to Hursley Road.
- Address the problems of the A3090/Jermyns Lane Junction.

- Create 30mph Zones in Ampfield Village and the top of Hursley Road and the top of Hursley Road at Hocombe Road / Hook Road junction down to Baddesley Road traffic lights.
- Support the introduction of cycle paths.

#### **Achieved**

- Involvement in the **Village30 Programme** led to the introduction of 30 MPH limits in the Village, Hursley Rd and part of Hook Rd in 2008. This, together with the earlier introduction of 30MPH on Baddesley Rd, means that most of the properties in the parish now face onto a road with such a speed limit.

- A pedestrian refuge was installed on the A3090 in the Village in 2008. A portable speed warning device has been purchased (in conjunction with Braishfield PC) and is now deployed in the parish.

#### **Current actions in hand**

- Hampshire County Council have formally announced design and funding approval for construction of a pedestrian footbridge and a cycle way on Flexford Bridge/ Baddesley Rd. This should be completed in the Autumn of 2009

- Building upon initial comments on the proposed Abbotswood development proposals for the A3090/ Jermyns Lane junction; the Parish Council are engaged with Test Valley Planners and have made proposals for improvements which we believe have met with a favourable response.

.../...

**OBJECTIVE 2**

**Address identified road and transport problems**

**Cllr Allan Clark**

**How:** Work with and lobby organisations such as local authorities, bus operators and Police and be proactive in identifying areas for improvement.

- Parking on road outside St Mark's Church.
- Hook Road/Hursley Road junction.
- Hocombe Wood Road/Hook Crescent rat run.
- Road maintenance issues.
- Lack of buses, times of buses and number of stops.

**Achieved**

Approaches to HCC have resulted in repairs to pot holes and remedial action to the drainage problem at the foot of Ampfield Hill.

**Current actions in hand**

Lobbying of HCC & travel companies re routes X66 and 46 to enable those in the eastern part of the Parish to travel to Romsey.

**OBJECTIVE 3**

**Maintain the rural character of the Parish**

**Cllr Bryan Nanson**

**How:** Protect a local gap. Retain a Conservation Area. Seek to ensure through the planning process that any development is in keeping with the character of the area and to be

of starter, family, disabled-friendly homes or those suitable for the elderly.

**Achieved**

**The TVBC Core Strategy** issued in 2008 is sympathetic to the Objective.



**OBJECTIVE 4**

**Defend and improve the local environment.**

**Cllr David Gilks**

**How:** Work with and lobby organisations such as local authorities and Police and be proactive in identifying areas for improvement

- Reduce the impact of heavy traffic in Pound Lane and Green Lane.
- Fly tipping and litter problems.
- Dog-Waste bins.
- Light & Noise Pollution.
- Traffic Noise on A3090 and

Baddesley Road including road surfaces.

-Raising funds to build a sports pavilion through a fund raising sub-committee established in January 2009.

### **Achieved**

Successfully lobbied TVBC to address fly tipping in Straight Mile Improved signage installed on A3090 regarding hgv restrictions in Pound Lane.

### **Current actions in hand**

Prompt reporting of fly tipping.  
Improved signage in Pound Lane to warn of height restrictions.

### **OBJECTIVE 5**

**Maintain and improve recreational activities within the Parish**  
**Cllr Graham Choules**

**How:** Ensure that existing activities such as cricket, Brownies and the village market are maintained. Seek to facilitate and encourage the development of new activities where there is a demand.

### **Achieved**

Worked with Ampfield Cricket Club to:

- Install new cricket square
- Replace unsatisfactory equipment storage shed with a secure container
- Install temporary portakabins for refreshment & storage

Installed a new multi-age children's playground on the Recreation Ground in 2007

### **Current actions in hand**

- Engagement with Ampfield Sports Club with the aim of introducing league football in 2009.

### **OBJECTIVE 6**

**Address community issues**  
**Cllr David Stevens**

**How:** Initiate action to:

- Encourage the introduction of more **Neighbourhood Watch** schemes.
- Install hearing loop in the Village Hall.
- Investigate how ambulances navigate to households with no numbers.
- Investigate concern over disabled facilities.

### **Achieved**

A hearing loop was installed in the Village Hall in 2008.

### **Current actions in hand**

Establishment of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Flexford Rd is underway.



## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Mr David Gilks was re-appointed as Chairman of the Finance Committee following the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2008.**

**The Finance Committee met on 10th November 2008 to review the current year's expenditure and outstanding projects, and to consider budget requirements for the financial year 2009/2010. Recommendations about the Precept for 2009/2010 were also made at that meeting. All recommendations were presented to Council at its November meeting and were approved.**

### **FINANCIAL YEAR 2007/2008**

**T**he accounts for 2007/2008 show an income of £58,662; £37,800 of that was Precept with the remainder being made up largely of grants for the installation of the Playground, and for new notice boards and signs for the Woodland. Income from the Burial Ground, and usage of the Recreation Ground, was just under £3,000. At £50,213, total expenditure was less than half that of the previous year as major work on the Recreation Ground had been completed. However, **at just over £30,000, the bulk of expenditure continued to be incurred by development and maintenance costs, and from loan servicing charges relating to the Recreation Ground and Chapel Wood.** The year end balance was £38,509.

### **CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/2009**

Income and expenditure for the current financial year 2008/2009 is not yet complete; the Chairman of the Finance Committee will give an update at the Annual Parish Assembly on 20th April. Income has been just over £44,500 to end December 2008, consisting largely of the Precept of £38,127 together with income from the Burial Ground and from the Recreation Ground. **Grants are being sought towards the costs of the pedestrian refuge, goal posts and nets, and the re-laying of the electricity cables on the Recreation Ground.** Expenditure has matched income at just over £44,000 to December 2008 with the development and maintenance of the Recreation Ground continuing to be the single largest item of expenditure. The Council's monies have been safe during the financial crisis although interest from bank deposits has fallen considerably as rates have tumbled.

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**Expenditure has matched income at just over £44,000 to December 08**

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### **PRECEPT AND BUDGET FOR 2009/2010**

The Parish Council is very aware of the current financial situation and, through tighter budgeting and frequent reviews of forecast expenditure, has been able to set the Precept at £35,411 which is a reduction of 7.12% or £2,716 over the previous year. The most significant areas of expenditure will continue to be the Recreation Ground and Chapel Wood; these amenities remain priority areas for funding and development. Council agreed to set aside another £5,000 for the Recreation Ground reserve fund. The next challenge will be fund raising for the erection of a sports pavilion.

## ASSETS

Additions were made to the Parish's assets during the year including a speed limit reminder sign which is shared with Braishfield, goal posts and nets for the Recreation Ground and the freehold of Chapel Wood.

Details of the audited accounts for 2007/2008, a statement of the Council's current financial position and a copy of the budget for 2009/2010 will be available at the Annual Parish Assembly.

*David Gilks*  
*Chairman of the Finance Committee*



## The Village Diary

**T**he Village Diary will soon begin its third year. It appears every month in the Messenger and is displayed on the Ampfield website and in the Village Hall.

I try to include all village events that could be of general interest to the community. I would be very glad to include any others I may have overlooked so far.

Please contact me in the month prior to your event and I will be glad to publicise it for you.

*Julie Trotter*  
*023 8025 4587*



## Calling all photographers

Give your best shot!

Have you taken interesting pictures of your village and would be willing to share them? They could appear in your parish council newsletter or on the website. Forward them to Doreen Matthews [clerk@ampfield.org.uk](mailto:clerk@ampfield.org.uk) in jpeg format from your camera (select the highest resolution setting your camera will allow when taking the shot).

Thank you

## **SUPPORT WANTED!**

We need a sports pavilion  
on our Recreation  
Ground and are seeking  
to raise £200,000

Can you help with ideas  
or make a contribution,  
large or small?



If so, please contact  
**Bryan Nanson,**  
Chairman of the Fund Raising  
Committee-  
[bryan\\_nanson@btinternet.com](mailto:bryan_nanson@btinternet.com)  
023 8026 7760



Let's replace that portacabin with a pavilion!



Cllr. HATLEY working on earth moving



Cllr. CLARK working on earth moving



## **The Ampfield Recreation Ground**

**The next challenge is to raise funds for the construction of a sports pavilion**

**T**he entrance to the Ground has been improved and made more secure with the installation of a height barrier, secure fencing and additional tarmac.

The new cricket square was used for the 2008 fixtures.

Unfortunately weather conditions did not help and several matches were rained off. Cricket Club and Parish Council representatives met regularly throughout the season.

The Parish Council identified the need to re-route the un-insulated overhead electric cables in the South Western corner of the Ground which were a potential danger to users. At the time of writing, work is underway to place the cables underground, nearer the perimeter. The Parish Council is grateful for the support and assistance provided by our neighbour in making this possible.

A football pitch will be marked out, and goalposts installed, when the cabling works are completed. The Parish Council has agreed that Ampfield Sports Club will play league football at the Ground.

The next challenge is to raise funds for the construction of a sports pavilion on the ground. The base is already installed. A fund raising sub-committee has been formed which includes representatives of Ampfield Cricket and Sports Clubs.

A sub-committee of the Parish Council Finance Committee, its role is to co-ordinate and oversee activities concerned with raising funds for the construction of a sports pavilion at Ampfield Recreation Ground. This will include defining the requirements for such a pavilion, and identifying the target amount to be raised – the initial estimate is about £200,000.



***Bryan Nanson***

## **Friends of Chapel Wood -Report 2009**

**A**n oasis of calm in an otherwise busy world, Chapel Wood is the area of woodland in which lies St. Mark's church. It provides a natural woodland environment for the benefit and enjoyment of the community of Ampfield and its surrounding area. The Friends of Chapel Wood, a volunteer conservation group, undertake the management of the woodland. Their principal job is to act as a sort of referee, balancing the needs of the various inhabitants and users of the woodland - two footed, four footed, winged and rooted; ensuring none can dominate to the detriment of others.



Probably the single most important event of the past year has been the change in the tenure of the wood. Traditionally, Ampfield Parish Council has held Chapel Wood by way of a long lease, so it is a great pleasure to report that, following a kind offer by The Hursley Estates, the opportunity was taken during 2008 to purchase the freehold of the wood for a nominal sum. As a result, this attractive example of Hampshire woodland can remain accessible to the local community for generations to come.

Otherwise, the business of encouraging biodiversity by maintaining as wide as possible range of habitats has continued unabated. Much effort has been put into controlling the spread of bracken and rhododendron, as both species can easily stifle the woodland if left to their own devices. Similarly, the annual coppice of holly has revealed the stems of substantial oak and beech trees as well as letting light into the woodland floor, thus encouraging the development of new plants.

One feature, worthy of particular comment, is that this spring should see the first good display of daffodils. Much effort has been spent over the past two years introducing a variety of spring flowering bulbs including daffodils, bluebells and snowdrops. Their bright colours will cheer up the woodland and attract fresh life into it.

With the emphasis being very much on friendly and relaxed enjoyment, the Friends meet on the second Saturday morning of each month, starting at 10.00am in the St. Mark's church car park. Very many thanks to all who have helped with this important project over the past year. New members are always very much welcomed and encouraged to join in.



*Graham Roads - Friends of Chapel Wood*

## **Footpaths**

**A**fter a wet start to this winter followed by snowfall, the last few dry weeks have enabled most of the parish footpaths to dry out considerably, although several of those through Ampfield Wood remain very muddy and water remains lying at the entrance to the copse on Footpath 6 and also on Bridleway 12 at the bottom of Wingham Lane. A request has been repeated to the Rights of Way Officer at Victoria Country Park for improvement to the Bridleway and we have received word that it has been put on the list for action as and when finance and manpower allow. After many requests for Footpath 14 to be cleared from Jermyns Lane through to the junction with Footpath 501, this has at last been done by the Forestry Commission workers and the County Council team - the footpath is now clear of the encroaching birch and Western Hemlock saplings as well as the gorse and brambles.



Works have recommenced in the wood this spring and it is hoped that there will be more consideration for the rights of way after so many previous complaints to the Forestry Commission.

Sadly Liz Giles is no longer responsible for our area and I have not yet received notification of her replacement. Grateful thanks have been sent to her for all the co-operation and hard work she has done on our behalf over the years.

Many thanks too are sent to Hannah and Sarah Boothman for having the plum tree overhanging the stile on Footpath 16 towards Lower Farm Lane safely felled and removed - it was becoming increasingly difficult to negotiate the stile and it is now clear again. Mr Harris has said that he will repair the nearby stile on the same footpath.

I am always glad to be told of obstructions to any footpath or bridleway in the parish as there is a limit to the number of times I can walk them all myself!

*Margaret Birtwistle 01794 368 340*





2103. We are sorry that lack of support and declining membership has led to the winding up, after 60 years, of the Ampfield W.I. We are immensely grateful to its members for the support they have given to the Village Hall and the Parish over the years, and are very glad that some (now ex-) members are still ready to help with our

## **Ampfield Village Hall**

**A**nyone who has recently been in the Village Hall will have noticed the major improvements that have been made in the last year. The hearing loop and a new sound system have been installed and are proving effective since the sound system is readily adaptable to the different functions that take place – speeches, musical events, parties etc.- that need quite distinct sound configurations. Our thanks go to the Parish Council for funding this for us.

The stage and hall curtains have been replaced with properly fire retardant material, and look very smart. The next major project is the upgrading of the present fire precaution systems to meet new standards.

The extension of the lease of the Hall from the W.I. to the Village Hall Committee (a registered charity) has been completed. The extended lease secures the hall for the Parish until

functions.

The Hall remains much in demand and the public events are very well supported. There were three main events, including the pantomime, in the last year and the 2010 pantomime is scheduled for 9 January. The Village Market too, under the guidance of Julie Trotter, continues apace and brings in a welcome supplement to the Hall's funds.

The Village Hall AGM will take place on 30 April. **Volunteers to serve on the Committee, alongside the new representatives, are much needed, particularly as a new Chairman must be elected this year.** Membership, generally speaking, is not onerous, but without the Committee and other helpers, the Hall could not continue to run the full programme it does at present. If you are interested please contact me or Martin Hatley.

*Margaret Rothwell (Chairman)*

## **Ampfield Pre School**

**A**mpfield pre-school had a successful year this year with places full. The group meets in the Village Hall and has been in existence for 19 years.

The number of children coming from Ampfield Village is small, but we do have a lot of children from the surrounding parishes. Fundraising is always a major headache to supply us with equipment and materials, but we had a very successful ladies fashion show in January and despite the weather we had a very good turn out. This raised a lot of money for the children. We would like to thank the community for the support that we receive in these events and with our summer fayre in July.

We have a number of vacant places for September which is unusual of late, so we are hoping to fill them up quickly. The Pre-school takes children on walks to the local woods and we visit the school, which is strengthening our links with them. If you see our little train of children walking up Knapp Lane, give us a wave, but please give us a wide berth. It is nice to get the children out and about, even though we do have outside space for the children to play. The care and education we offer has been recognised by a rewarding Ofsted and we have been an accredited Pre-school for a number of years, which proves that we offer quality for the children.

Hopefully the weather will be good to us this summer, If it does we will be having a Plant sale in June along with coffee for anyone that would like to come along. The date will be published later. We are also having an open morning on 31st March for anyone that would like to come along if they are looking for places for their children or even Grandchildren.

*Sandy Oliver 023 8090 6955*

### **Ampfield Community Pre-School**

#### **Summary:**

**WHEELCHAIR ACCESS :** Yes

**AVAILABILITY :** Monday: 9:15 am - 11:45

**AGES:** From 2 to 5

**CATER FOR OVER 8s :** No

**FACILITIES :** Climbing Frame, Computer, Garden, Home Corner, Kitchen, Messy play area, Music, Outdoor play, Sandpit, Singing, Visits and outings, Walks (local park, etc.)

**Supervisor** Mrs Sandra Oliver

**Address:** The Village Hall, Winchester Rd, Ampfield, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 9BQ

**Telephone:** 023 8090 6955 / 07933 316 983

**More information:** Childcarelink

#### **Times:**

**Monday:** 9:15 am - 11:45 am

**Tuesday:** 9:15 am - 11:45 am

**Wednesday:** 9:15 am - 11:45 am

**Friday:** 9:15 am - 11:45 am

**Cost:** £8.00 (Per session)



## **Ampfield C of E Primary School**

**We are delighted to welcome the increasing number of new families who appreciate the very special family and Christian atmosphere and the high quality of education now provided.**

**A positive step in strengthening the depth of experience available to teach the children was the appointment of Mrs Nicola Peckham as Assistant Headteacher last September.**

**T**he government focus on the theme 'Every Child Matters' is taken very seriously and lived out at Ampfield. Each child is taught according to the needs of their stage of development rather than their age and in this way learning is truly personalised and the best possible progress is made.

**Opportunities for music, singing and instrumental teaching are provided by two music teachers each week.**

Use of the Village Hall for gymnastics and dance, the sports field for games and the strong links with The Romsey School Sports Partnership help to ensure children are fit and healthy through a programme of sports activities, including swimming at the Rapids.

We value our links with St Mark's Church and Rev. Peter Gilks who is

a regular visitor to the school, leading worship and supporting the school through his work as a Governor.



### **FRIENDS OF AMPFIELD SCHOOL**

The 'Friends' continue to provide valuable help to the school with many of their activities being supported by the Parish community. Of particular importance has been the purchase of netball posts, books and games and a camcorder to

record the many exciting events in which the children are involved. The Beaujolais Nouveau evening held on 22nd November 2008 was a great success making a profit of £579. **Your continued support for any open events is very much appreciated.**

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**'Every Child Matters' is taken very seriously and lived out at Ampfield. Each child is taught according to the needs of their stage of development**

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### **SCHOOL TRIPS**

Ten children from year 5/6 took part in a trip last October to Hampshire Mountain Centre in the Brecon Beacons.

Activities included swimming, a six mile hike, visiting a coal mine where the conditions in which children had to work could be seen and one of the highlights of the trip was going into a cave where the only light was from a lamp on their helmets. Other external activities included a visit to Keats Restaurant where the children saw how the restaurant was

organised and to the Living Rainforest at Andover where the hot and humid conditions of life in a rainforest were experienced. Later this year KS2 children are planning a trip to France in conjunction with Braishfield school.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

A new school uniform was introduced at the beginning of the school year. Children, parents and staff were all involved in selecting the colour which resulted in a resounding win for Royal Blue.

### **FUND RAISING**

Parents and governors were invited to a coffee and muffins afternoon in the school hall.

Buoyed by their experience at Keats Restaurant children waited at tables including the all important matter of ensuring that bills were duly paid.

The proceeds amounted to £61 and with other donations from children and parents a total of £117 was raised

for Children in Need.

Parents and the 'Friends' organised the collection of unwanted Yellow Pages winning second prize of £200 in a competition organised by Test Valley Borough Council.

### **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

The introduction of the 30 mph speed limit has been welcomed by parents especially those who walk their children to school along the A3090.

Our application for funding under the School Travel Plan is being re-submitted. As a result we do not know at this time of any funds available to assist in implementing actions to improve access to the school.

**We now have 52 children in school and the on-going development is only possible due to the commitment of all involved, parents, staff, governors, the 'Friends', neighbours and many more.**

*Edward Butcher - Community Governor*



## **Speed Controls and Road Safety**

**A**bbots Wood Development: Although outside the Parish, the development of 800 houses will have an impact on the Parish through increased traffic along the A3090 and Jermyns Lane. Representations have been made to Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) Highway Engineers which it is hoped will enable the Jermyns Lane and A3090 junction to be re-designed including moving the bus stop west by about 50 metres to allow buses to stop in the entrance of the old "slip" road. Although this halt is only infrequently used, if buses are required to stop, they currently block the main road and obscure the junction. West-bound vehicles will also benefit from an improved "under-run" lane which will allow them to pass stationary vehicles turning right into Jermyns Lane. A pedestrian refuge will also be provided which should improve traffic quietening, separation and pedestrian safety. The Parish Council is continuing to press both TVBC and Hampshire County Council (HCC) to extend the footpath westwards along from Ampfield Hill to join the southern service road of the Straight Mile. The aim is to provide a continuous footpath westwards from the Village to Crampmoor and beyond.

### **SPEED LIMITS**

Although not completely universally welcomed, **the introduction of the Village 30 speed limit in the Village**

**(A3090), in Hursley and Hook Roads has brought benefits in terms of safety, reduction of traffic noise and the ability of residents in these roads to enter and exit their properties without risking life and limb.** The Parish Council considers the speed limit reduction to be a success and it is, therefore, our intention to continue to seek the rationalisation of the speed limit on the A3090, including reductions along the Straight Mile to Ampfield Hill and to press for extensions to the reductions in Hook Road.



### **SPEED LIMIT REMINDER SIGN**

In conjunction with Braishfield PC a portable electronic speed limit reminder sign has been purchased. The sign is being positioned, two weeks at a time, a week in each direction, on roads throughout the Parish, including Baddesley and Hook Roads, three sites on the A3090 plus Jermyns Lane. As the equipment is shared with Braishfield on a 50/50 basis the sign will be positioned at each of our locations roughly twice per annum. Installation, sign rotation and maintenance have been organised through TVBC Highways Engineers. The sign, which your Parish Council hopes will encourage drivers to be aware of their speed and to keep within the statutory limit, was purchased last December to the Hampshire CC specification. As a bonus, if required, it can be set to record the number of times it is triggered.

## **Transport and Concessionary Travel**

### **BUS SERVICES:**

**I**t is disappointing to report for the third year running, residents at the eastern end of the Parish are unable to travel by bus into Romsey without an unacceptably long wait at the Potters Heron interchange between the X66 and No 46 services. This is especially so in that service 46, which is a HCC subsidised route, was re-tendered towards the end of 2008. Ampfield Parish Council made representations to HCC to use the re-tendering process as an opportunity to improve the scheduling of the No 46 service so that it connected with the X66 in both directions. Unfortunately, these representations were either ignored or thought of insufficient substance to be pursued. The fight will continue! Bus services in general are continuing to come under pressure as HCC budgets are squeezed, operators' revenues are reduced and with costs escalating, services will more than likely continue to diminish. The loss of the Rail Link service from Romsey to Winchester is a typical example. If the impact of these pressures is to be minimised HCC must approach the problem of transport costs in a more innovative manner. In these difficult and demanding times, we will continue to apply whatever influence we have with HCC to encourage them to explore more effective transport solutions.



### **CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL**

As detailed in last year's Newsletter, there is a National Bus Pass Scheme which allows qualifying residents i.e., age 60 or over plus others, to free bus travel, off peak, 09.30 to 23.00, anywhere in England. (Not Wales or Scotland). The National Bus Pass cannot be used on National Express Coaches, but will be accepted on Dial-a-Ride, providing the entitlement to ride criteria are met. As an alternative, TVBC residents may continue to opt for a Senior Railcard in lieu of the National Bus Pass. Contact TVBC Offices at Duttons Road to exercise this option or to renew your existing bus pass. For those applying for the first time, proof of identity, driving licence, utility bill with address etc will be needed to complete the initial application.

**Important: Please note a change in TVBC policy regarding renewals: NO REMINDER NOTICES OR AUTOMATIC RENEWALS ARE NOW BEING SENT.**

Thus it is incumbent on all concessionary bus pass or railcard holders to contact Customer Services at TVBC Duttons Road for renewal paperwork to be issued. Please ensure you allow sufficient time, say 10 days, before your old pass/card expires. It also goes without saying that passes/cards which have expired will not be accepted by bus or rail staff and in such cases free travel or reduced fares will be refused.

*Allan Clark,  
Transport and Highways Representative:*

## **Information about your Parish and its Councillors**

**U**nder the Freedom of Information Act a new publication scheme was introduced from 1st January 2009. This new scheme is intended to make it easier for members of the public to identify and access specific information.

A template was designed for use by Parish Councils and this can be seen on the Parish website at [www.ampfield.org.uk](http://www.ampfield.org.uk) .

If you would like to know more about the Parish and how the Council works, the template will tell you where this information is kept and how you can get hold of it. We are still developing the template but information is currently available about a range of subjects including financial data, committee structures and how the Burial Ground is managed.

Anything accessed from the website is, of course, free but paper copies will be subject to a modest charge.

If you are unable to access the website and wish to know about the data available please contact Doreen Matthews, Clerk to Ampfield Parish Council.

*Doreen Matthews*  
*01794 368 437.*

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**A**nother busy year for the Planning Committee. Between April 2008 and mid March 2009 the Committee met 18 times and submitted comments to **Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)** in response to 81 planning applications. Objections were raised to 10 applications and comments made on many others.

Comments were made on consultation documents such as

- South East Plan Gypsy & traveller Accommodation Needs
- TVBC Draft Cycle Strategy & Network Supplementary Planning Document
- Hampshire County Council proposals for the a pedestrian and cycle bridge over the railway at Baddesley Road. (Strongly supported!)
- The proposed Abbotswood development; a continuing dialogue maintained regarding Parish Council proposals for improvements at the Jermyns Lane and A3090 junction. This matter is explained in more detail in the Speed Controls and Road Safety report.

*Bryan Nanson*



A summer guided walk is planned which is going to start in Otterbourne and go along the River Itchen. This is one of the most popular sections of The Keble Way. Details will be announced on Parish Notice Boards, the Ampfield Website and in the Ampfield Messenger.

All 3,000 copies of the Keble Way have now been sold and the feasibility of a revised reprint is being undertaken. Any offers of assistance would be gratefully received!

## **Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area** *Making the most of your countryside.*

**T**he *Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area (ACHA)* was designated in 1991 by HCC. It is an area of unspoiled countryside which encompasses most of Ampfield and spreads into the parishes of Hursley, Otterbourne, North Baddesley and Romsey Extra. Many of the field patterns on the 1588 Hursley Map are still identifiable on the ground today. The ACHA Group has met regularly since 1991 and its aim is to encourage greater understanding of the landscape and promote schemes of ecological and landscape enhancement. It does this by co-ordination and encouraging others to look after their environment. It achieves this by a number of methods including regular free Heritage talks, tree planting, guided walks and the production of the Keble Way Walk Booklet.

The next series of Heritage Talks will commence in the autumn. All are welcome to join us.

### **Is there a willing local historian?**

***For a number of years, local historian, Liz Hallett, has represented Ampfield at meetings of the Test Valley Record Society, which has representatives from all the various Test Valley Villages and communities. Now Liz has moved into Romsey she would very much like to know if anyone in Ampfield is interested in taking up the mantle. If so please contact me.***

*Martin Hatley, Chairman*  
*E-mail: [martin.hatley@btconnect.com](mailto:martin.hatley@btconnect.com)*



## **Your Parish Council**

**Chairman:** Miss M.I. Rothwell C.M.G.

**Vice-Chairman:** Mr. B.W. Nanson

Mr. E.H. Butcher, Mr. A Clark, Mr.G.J.Choules, Mr. D.J.E.Gilks,  
Mr. M.D. Hatley, Mr. J.A. Jones, Mr. G.C.A. Roads, Mr.D.Stevens.

**Clerk to the Council:** Mrs D.A. Matthews,  
Blue Haze, Ampfield, Romsey SO51 9BD  
Tel: 01794 368437; e-mail: clerk@ampfield.org.uk

**Parish Website: [www.ampfield.org.uk](http://www.ampfield.org.uk)**

The Parish has a number of committees and sub-committees  
including:

**Planning, Finance and Woodland.**

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

The Parish Council has representatives on  
**The Hampshire Association of Local Councils**  
**The Test Valley Association of Parish Councils**  
**Test Valley Community Services**  
**The Ampfield Village Hall Committee**  
**The Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area Group**  
**Ampfield Primary School Board of Governors**  
**The Transport Liaison Committee**

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