

In this issue: 'Stanley's Own' – Fund Raising for the Building Refurbishment and Development Project; Upcoming Forestry Operations on Bramshaw Commons by the National Trust and Planned Road Closure at Shepherds Road.

The Parish Council Newsletter

Welcome to the September 2017 edition Parish Council Newsletter. An enlarged version of the Newsletter will also be available on the Council's website early in September. In addition, paper copies will be available from the Bartley Post Office, Mace Store at Cadnam and the Courtesy Filling Station shop, Romsey Road.

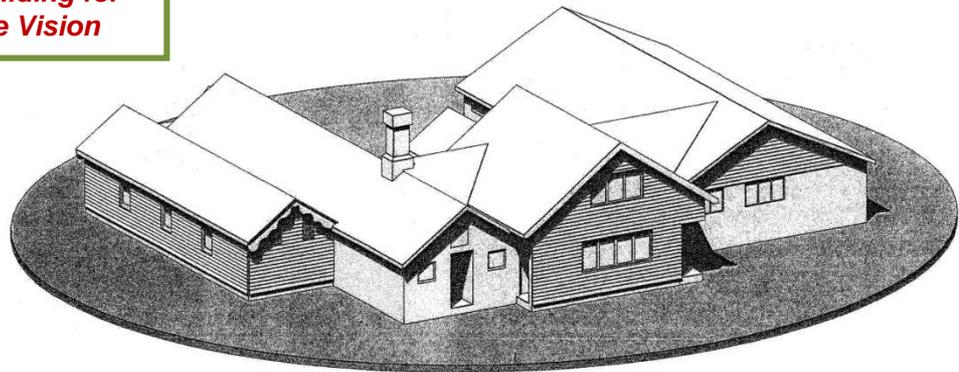
'Stanley's Own' - Building for the Next Century: The Fund Raising is Under Way

At the meeting of the Parish Council on 25th July, members of the leadership team from Stanley's Own Scouting and Guiding Group gave a presentation to Parish Councillors on their major plans for refurbishment and improvement to their Copythorne headquarters buildings.

The objective is to provide a significant improvement to the facilities in the buildings and ensure their continued life and maximised use into the next century. The original main building is 107 years old and was originally built for the sole purpose of providing a base for the scout group and is listed as a Heritage Asset. This means that, for the Group, any work undertaken must be sympathetic to the original design and secure its future within the context of that status while at the same time bringing the building up to date in terms of facilities and services. In turn, this means that some of the projects to be undertaken, will require certain levels of expenditure dedicated to that heritage preservation.

This ambitious and exciting project project, called **Copythorne Scouts: Building for the Next Century**, is estimated to cost, overall, £340,000.00. That's a lot of money to both raise and manage. The Group have applied for grants from a number of bodies, but as yet they have not heard whether they have been successful.

'Stanley's Own' – Building for the Next Century: the Vision



The works are planned in 4 phases (and Scout leaders stressed that each phase won't be started until the money for it has been raised):

1. Toilet block refurbishment – this has already been completed and paid for!
2. Kitchen and Loft Room – estimated to cost £150,000.00. This includes building a new kitchen in the link room in between the two halls and a loft room to be used for Executive meetings and other group discussion gatherings etc. This will enable the two halls to be used at once with a communal kitchen. The build will also include another toilet stall for the Ladies making three in all.
3. Development of the existing Trek Cart store and installation of three wet rooms which can be used from the field. This will enable access by visiting camps and caravan rallies and thus increase letting possibilities.

4. Lastly, both halls are to be refurbished and efficient heating and insulation installed. This is a challenging project but the Group firmly believes that, by making these improvements now, the premises will be fit to serve not only the 200 Scouts and Guides who use it every week during term time but also make it more attractive to the many organisations and the public who hire the Scout HQ for weddings and private parties. The hope is to ensure that it can be used for the next 100 years but without this ambitious programme to maintain and improve the premises future generations of scouts and guides will not have the best facilities possible. Parish Councillors recognised the importance of this project within our community and gave it their full support.

Fund raising is under way now. If you want to know more or help in any way with fund raising, please call **023 8081 4102**.

Upcoming Forestry Operations on Bramshaw Commons

Also at the meeting on 25th July, Parish Councillors received a presentation by the National Trust New Forest Rangers regarding planned forestry works on the Bramshaw Commons: Half Moon, Furzley, Blackhill and Cadnam. The works will involve thinning and removal of trees in these areas – notably species of pine, turkey oak and some birch.

The New Forest Northern Commons are designated as Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI), and are fantastic examples of outstanding lowland heathland and mire habitats which support some of Europe's rarest wildlife. The commons are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and the National Trusts has to undertake the work to comply with its duty to maintain the commons under 'favourable status' as part of the SSSI stewardship agreement. And, of course, as a result we **all** benefit from this in our use and enjoyment of these commons.

The works, which are designed to reduce the density of the seed bearing trees, the saplings of which threaten the fragile heathland, to allow regrowth of grasses and scrub are due to take place in the Autumn and Winter months of 2017-18. In the long term, these works will generate benefits for insect, bird and reptile life as well as increased grazing potential for years to come.

While the commons will remain open to all throughout the works period, it is possible that when the contractors are at work, there may be restrictions in place in certain areas where heavy machinery is being used. Of course, appropriate signage will be put up to inform the community of when this is likely to happen.

If you have any queries or concerns, please email info.newforest@nationaltrust.org.uk or telephone: **014 2565 0035**

Notice of Planned Road Closure – Shepherds Road

Parishioners are advised that approval has been given for the closure of Shepherds Road for up to 11 weeks from Monday 18th September so that gas main works can be undertaken

Date of Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on **12th September 2017** at 7.00 pm in the Parish Hall Annexe

The **Clerk to the Council, Susan Brayley**, can be contacted by email at clerk@copythorne.org.uk or by post at: Spinaway, Wootton Road, Tiptoe, Lymington, SO41 6FU, Please also note we now have a new telephone number - **01590 681228**. Website: www.copythorne.org.uk. Details of individual Parish Councillors, and information on District and County Councillors, can also be found on the Parish Website and on community notice boards.