

In this issue: A Message from the Parish Council; Annual Parish Meeting 2021; Iconic Bartley Village Sign; Action on Invasive Plant Species; Bartley Crossroads; A note from the Editor

The Parish Council Newsletter

Welcome to the May 2021 edition of the Parish Council Newsletter. This two page version of the Newsletter is available on the Council's website. **Printed copies** will be available from our usual outlets at Forest Pharmacy; Fourways Stores; Budgen and Woodington Feeds. We will be making regular Newsletter updates to be found on our **web site** and our **Facebook** pages – type in **Copythorne Parish Council** on Facebook to get to our pages.

Don't forget:

Local Elections are **Thursday 6th May 2021** for
Police and Crime Commissioner and Hampshire County Councillors



A Message from the Parish Council to all our Community

As ever, the Parish Council continues to send good wishes to all members of our community and express our sincerest wishes that all of you continue to **stay safe and well** while we remain under the remaining restrictions set out in the **'road map'** for the gradual removal of Lockdown arrangements. Let's hope that all goes well and we can look forward to **21st June** – some are calling it **'liberation day'** – when we can return to some semblance of normality!

The prize is there, but it's still all to play for! So please take extra care, everyone and remember to continue to keep an eye out for those **neighbours** who are **vulnerable and / or alone** who still need our help and care!

The next Parish Council meeting on **4th May 2021** (note the date as its one week earlier than usual) and will again be held **virtually via videoconferencing**. If you want to attend, please contact the Clerk for details. This is the **'Annual Parish Council Meeting'** where the new 'Council Year' begins. For this meeting, there will be no 'Items from the Public' section on the agenda.

21st June is within reach, so, let's all play our part and ...

Everyone: Please Continue to Be Careful! - Be Safe! - Be Well!

Copythorne Annual Parish Meeting – A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Parishioners will know that, at this time of year the Parish Council facilitates the **'Annual Parish Meeting'** (APM). Due to the Coronavirus restrictions and lockdown, the APM was cancelled last year. Readers will know that we've referred to a possible meeting for 2021 in earlier Newsletters. The law states that we should hold the APM between **1st March and 1st June every year**, but the rules regarding lockdown prevent an 'in person' gathering of larger numbers before **21st June!**

As a result, to avoid any regulatory issues the Parish Council has planned to hold a very brief **'virtual APM'** on **5th May 2021** and the only item on the agenda will to approve the minutes of the last APM on 26th March 2019. At a suitable point later this summer, we will then hold a full APM with the usual major agenda of speakers and items.

Details of the log in details for 'virtual APM' on 5th May will be posted with the agenda on **Parish noticeboards and the Parish Council Facebook pages and web site.**

It's Back!

The original 'iconic' Bartley Village sign is back in situ after its major overhaul, repair and repaint!! The sign had been painted several times and experienced various forms of damage over the years. It took about 100 hours to get to the finished item! However, it's now back and looks refreshed (**and yes**, those asked, agreed it should continue to be set at its original **'jaunty'** angle!!)

A short photographic **'Story of Bartley Village Sign Restoration'** will be posted to the Parish Council website in the near future.



It's That Time of Year Again – Look Out for Invasive Non-Native Plants!

Readers will know that we make references in various Newsletters throughout the year to the prevalence of **Invasive Non-Native Plant Species** in our area – in our case, this is mainly **Japanese Knotweed** and **Himalayan Balsam** (but there are others too!)

Himalayan Balsam can be controlled by hand pulling and allowed to rot down in situ. **Volunteer events** are organised by the **New Forest Non-Native Plants Project** to pull it in the summer.



Japanese Knotweed was introduced to the UK in the 19th century as an ornamental garden plant. It grows quickly and spreads rapidly by underground rhizomes, causing **environmental harm and structural damage to buildings**. Japanese Knotweed is listed in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside act 1981 which means it is **unlawful** to plant it in the wild or otherwise cause it to grow in the wild.

Japanese Knotweed has become **established along the bank of the Cadnam River** and when the river bank erodes, pieces of knotweed rhizome can break off and be carried downstream to form new colonies. Although it is the landowner's responsibility to stop Japanese Knotweed spreading into the wild, **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT)** recognised that landowners need advice and practical help to control the knotweed.

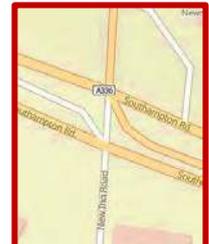
For a number of years, **The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project**, hosted by the Wildlife Trust, has arranged a co-ordinated programme of treatment work to control the Japanese Knotweed along the Cadnam River. Although funding could not be found to commission control work last year, **Catherine Chatters, the New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer**, is delighted to announce that funding has been secured for work in **2021**. The work, due to be undertaken on twenty properties during late summer or early autumn 2021, will be funded through a grant from the **Test and Itchen Catchment Partnership's Drought Resilience Fund**.

For further information about the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project, please contact Catherine.Chatters@hiwwt.org.uk.

New Inn Road / Southampton Road Crossroads

At its last meeting, the Parish Council received a report concerning the crossroads at the **A336 (Southampton Road) and New Inn / Winsor Roads**. Concerns have been expressed about safety at this crossing for some time and it has also been the location of several accidents, some involving serious injury, over the years.

The report initialised a debate about the options which may exist for making an **improvement to the crossroads and significantly improving safety**. One suggestion is for a roundabout rather than crossroads, but this would be a major change and could be an expensive solution. **We're keen to hear your views**.



We will include this as a possible agenda item for the upcoming full **Annual Parish Meeting** being planned for later this year (*see earlier item*) to assess what people think.

Finally, a note from the Editor: This will be my **74th issue** of the Parish Newsletter as writer and editor and it's time to let someone else have a go! I'll be handing over my quill pen and John Bull printing set to a new editor for the June 2021 edition. It's been a real pleasure producing your Parish Council Newsletter over the past 6 years! **Very best wishes**, Simon Lucas.

The next Parish Council Meetings are on **4th May 2021** (Note that 4th May is a week earlier than usual in the month and is the '**Annual Parish Council Meeting**' and there are no public items on the agenda. This meeting will be held by **Zoom Video Conferencing**) and **8th June 2021** (Note that we will provide advice on **how 8th June meeting will be held** in due course). Members of the public are very welcome at the meetings. Please let the Clerk know if you wish to attend.

The **Clerk to the Council, David Rigby**, can be contacted by post at: **9, The Cleaves, West Totton, Southampton, SO40 8WL** or by telephone: **02381120150** or by email at: parishclerk@copythorne.org.uk; website: www.copythorne.org.uk. Details of individual Parish Councillors, and information on District and County Councillors, can also be found on the Parish Council Website and on community notice boards.