

# NIGHTINGALE TIMES

The On-line Newsletter for Wellow Parish Council

December 2016

[www.wellowparish.org.uk](http://www.wellowparish.org.uk)

## Meetings

All meetings of Wellow Parish Council are open to the public.

Time is provided at each Full Council meeting for public participation where residents can raise any concern or matter relating to the Parish.

### Parish Planning & General Purposes Meeting

6:45 pm

Wellow Village Hall



### Parish Council Meeting

7:15 pm

Wellow Village Hall



**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**  
*Members of the public are invited to ask questions or make statements at all Parish Planning and General Purposes Committee meetings and Full Parish Council meetings.*



**Wellow**  
Parish Council

*Your Council website provides information on everything we do, including Councillor details, dates of meetings, agendas, minutes, finance, Parish Council policies, Burial Ground, local organisations' details, current events and much more. In printed form this Newsletter is intended to complement the website.*

## Greetings from the new Chair - Councillor Gaye Chesterton-Kay

As the recently elected Chair of Wellow Parish Council I would like to say how much I am enjoying working with the other Council members on behalf of the residents of Wellow. There are, without doubt, challenges ahead, particularly with housing development issues, lack of infrastructure and limited resources, but also some exciting new projects to look forward to, not least the new Cricket Pavilion on the Recreation Ground which we plan to start at the end of the 2017 cricket season. The Council really welcomes and appreciates your views as residents and I look forward to meeting many of you at events taking place throughout the year.

## Updates in the Parish Office

As many of you will be aware, our Parish Clerk, Lorraine Wheeler, left recently to move on to new challenges. We are delighted to announce our new part-time Parish Clerk, Sharon Whitehouse, who has worked extremely hard in taking on her new role and keeping us Councillors in order! Sharon has recently been joined by a part-time Admin Assistant, Karen Miles. Together they are already proving to be a formidable team! Please feel free to pop into the Parish Office to introduce yourselves, say hello and bring any concerns you may have to their attention.

## Speeding in Wellow

Speeding in the village and surrounding areas is becoming a real problem, sometimes by residents driving too fast but more because Maurys Lane, Romsey Road, Whinwhistle, Lower Common Road and Canada are becoming 'rat runs' for vehicles and delivery drivers trying to access or bypass parts of the A36 and other main routes. The Council is in the process of looking at options to help combat this problem such as more use of flashing 30 mph speed signs. We currently share a sign with several other villages which means that Wellow only has limited periods of use.

What do you think about the issue of speeding in Wellow? Have you had any dangerous driver experiences?

Would you support the introduction of some 20mph zones? Let us know - [wellowparish@btconnect.com](mailto:wellowparish@btconnect.com)

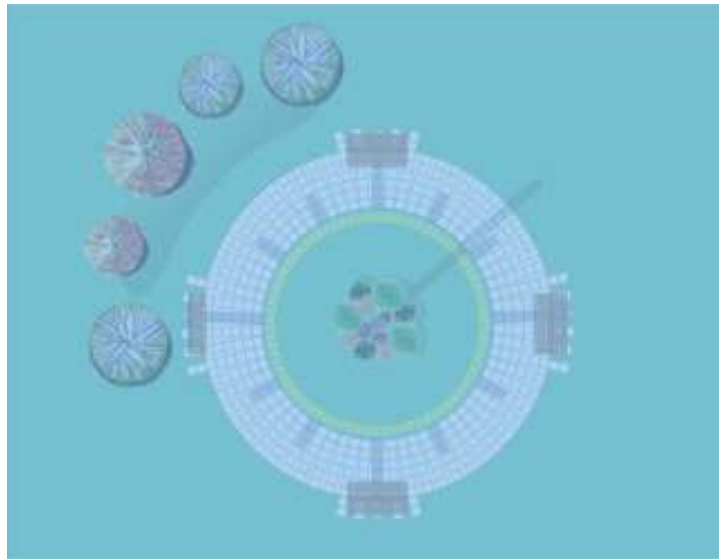
## Emergency Packs for vulnerable residents

In the unlikely event of a long term power cut of up to 72 hours affecting vulnerable residents in the village, the Parish Council has been given a number of Emergency Packs to help during this time. If a long term power cut does happen, and you know of a vulnerable person living near you, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01794 323275 and a pack will be issued.

## Proposed Community Garden – we need your input

The Council is looking at creating a Community Garden area to the left of the current Cricket Pavilion at the Recreation Ground in Wellow. This is currently a very scruffy rough bank. The plan is to start as soon as funding for the project is secured. There is currently very little seating in the Recreation Ground for residents and visitors to watch the cricket, sit whilst their children use the play and games areas or simply take a break when walking the dog!

As shown in the graphic the idea is to install a circular path approximately 10 metres in diameter with seating areas placed at North, South, East and West and a central planted area. Some of the seats would be back to back enabling a view of either the garden or the cricket/play areas. A flagpole would be placed in the centre which would create a sun dial effect with de-marked lines in the paving delineating hours of the day. The idea is to use planting that requires very little maintenance but with year round effect.



If you agree that this project is a good idea and would benefit residents and visitors to the village, please send a short e-mail or letter of support to the Parish Council. This support will help considerably as we are currently trying to secure grant funding and proof of support from residents is essential in this process.

## Sad news

Alec Daniel Elliott passed away on Saturday 8th October 2016. As a member of Hampshire Scout Expeditions' original leader team, he enthused numerous Wellow teenagers to join him in challenging community projects around the world including Sri Lanka, Belize, Romania and the Gambia. The Funeral service took place at St. Margaret's 24th October to the accompaniment of a steel band, probably a first for St. Margaret's.

## A focus on golf

Congratulations to teams at Wellow Golf Club in their 25th Anniversary Year. The junior section grows from strength to strength and this year reached the final of the Royal British Legion Poppy Golf Matchplay Tournament, just losing out to a Rotherham team that included two England players. The senior team won their first ever Monty League title in beating the favourites, Bramshaw Golf Club, This was followed by a strong runners-up performance against Romsey Golf Club in the Swann Trophy.

## Wellow from the past!

The Council was recently approached by the Red Rover Public House who, when clearing out part of their premises, had found a quantity of old paintings and photographs of Wellow, its residents and other local areas, some dating back to the late 1800s. These were collected by a member of the Council and passed to the Wellow History Society. Our thanks go to the Red Rover for passing these valuable items on.

## Remembrance Sunday 13th November 2016



Really super turnout led by veterans and young people from the village for this year's Remembrance Day service at the Wellow Memorial. The Service was conducted by Rev. Chris Pettet. The parade this year included two horses from the Equestrian Centre in Wellow. The use of horses

during WWI is well documented and presented the opportunity to not only commemorate and honour the human sacrifices of War but also other contributors such as the 1.3 million horses and mules who were involved in the conflict of WWI. One hundred and ten thousand of these 1.3 million horses passed through a giant military depot at Pauncefoot Hill where they and their handlers were trained before being shipped to War. The 500 acre site housed 2,000 staff who prepared tens of thousands of horses from all over the world between 1915 and 1919. Approximately 1 in 10 ten horses survived the War. A statue in their memory was unveiled by the Princess Royal in Romsey's Memorial Park on the 3rd July 2015.

After the parade, refreshments provided by Parish Councillors were served at Wellow Village Hall. Thanks to all in the village who helped to make this a memorable occasion.

## Wellow and housing in the New Forest

We should all remember and value that we live alongside the New Forest National Park (NFNP) one of Europe's most sensitive ecological areas. The Blackwater Wildlife Corridor has an immense amount of wildlife with otters, crayfish, kingfishers and bats. It is within the Mottisfont Bat Protection Zone and supports a hugely varied and vitally important insect life. Starting in the NFNP the River Blackwater flows in to the Test, a world famous trout/salmon river. Leakage from any local new housing site, flooding and sewage overflow could easily threaten or destroy such a sensitive environment.

Whilst New Forest District Council latest proposals for significant new housing do not directly affect Wellow, the environmental, traffic and other impacts would be enormous to the whole area and seriously to the detriment of the NFNP and Wellow. We want you be aware this is happening on our doorstep and to encourage you to make your views known directly to the planning authorities or through us at the Wellow Parish Council.

## Neighbourhood Plan Update

Wellow Village Hall was buzzing on Saturday Night 12th November. The Neighbourhood Plan Committee had arranged a debate titled "Question Time" modeled on the BBC Question Time programme. Around 70 people attended and were invited to ask questions and contribute ideas about the needs and future of the village.

Areas of concern included residential development, traffic management, congestion around the shops and access to the shops by older residents. Neighbourhood Planning engagement with young people and parents of school age children was also raised.

The Neighbourhood Plan is your plan and it was great that eleven meeting participants expressed an interest in joining the committee. Within the Parish Website there is a link to the Neighbourhood Plan website where residents can find updates regarding activities, progress, meetings and contact details for committee members.

## Tree update

The condemned oak tree along Lower Common Road was felled early in October. However, rather than lose such a very old tree completely, the Council, after consultation, have decided to have the tree stump adapted to form a bench. This will be carved (by a professional wood carver) with a 'woodland scene'. A match funded grant of £300 has very kindly been given by Cllrs Gordon Bailey and Nick Adams-King from their TVBC grant fund and a resident of the village, Ms Babna Mehta-Athwal has very kindly offered to donate the remaining £300 to enable the work to go ahead. Our thanks go to them for their generosity. This extra seating will not only be a practical addition but also, we believe, an attractive feature in the Recreation Ground.

## Flood prevention, hedges and keeping the footpaths clear

Wow, what an Autumn we had! But now the leaves continue to fall down upon us filling up ditches and blocking drains. Please help keep the ditches, drains and footpaths clear, trim boundary hedges and let the Council know if there are any particular problems that may need to be addressed. We think our footpaths are an important feature of and asset to Wellow. Maintaining them is a challenge. Any ideas you may have would be appreciated.

## Grants made in the year

Over the last year grants have been given to:

Wellow Help Group

Romsey Community Services

New Forest Land Advisory Service (Blackwater Conservation Group)

Victim Support

Wellow Pre School

Would your community group benefit from a grant from the Parish Council? The Grants Policy and Application forms can be downloaded from the Parish Website.

## St Margaret's Church Christmas Services

13th December 3.30pm – Wellow Churches Service at Wellow Village Hall

Christmas Eve 4.00pm – Come to the Manger Children's Service

11.30pm – Midnight Service – Holy Communion

Christmas Day 8.15am – Holy Communion

9.15am – Family Service

## Newsletter

If you would like to comment on and/or contribute to the newsletter, please let the Clerk, Mrs Sharon Whitehouse know. You can contact her at the office (10am to 12.00pm Tues, Weds, Thurs), through the website, email or telephone (details below). Let the Clerk have your email address and receive the newsletters by email!!

## And finally,

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and Happy New Year.

**Wellow Parish Council, Parish Office, Village Hall, Buttons Lane**

**West Wellow, Hants SO51 6BR**

**Tel: 01794 323275 • Email: [wellowparish@btconnect.com](mailto:wellowparish@btconnect.com)**