



NIGHTINGALE TIMES

The On-line Newsletter for Wellow Parish Council

website: www.wellowparish.org.uk

Have you visited our website? Information on everything we do, including Councillors' details, dates of meetings, agendas, minutes, finance, Parish Council policies, Burial Ground, local organisations' details, current events and more are available.

Wellow Parish Council elections on 7th May 2015.

Only 5 candidates applied for the 11 places on Wellow Parish Council. Therefore their nominations were uncontested and they are currently the only members of the Council. They are:

Alan	CLARK	39, Brookfields, West Wellow. SO51 6GS asc@csapp.co.uk Tel: 01794 323024
Mike	JONES	The Firs, Gazing Lane, West Wellow. SO51 6BS mike.jones@carnivalshipbuilding.com Tel: 01794 322079
Angela	RATCLIFFE	CHAIRMAN - Amberwood, Crawley Hill, West Wellow. SO51 6AP angelaratcliffe065@gmail.com Tel: 01794 322365
John	SAUNDERS	VICE-CHAIRMAN - 6 Barnes Close, West Wellow. SO51 6ET jfsaunders@btinternet.com Tel: 01794 322103

At the Parish Council Annual General Meeting held on 18th May 2015, Angela Ratcliffe was voted as Chairman and John Saunders was voted as Vice-Chairman. Angela and John will remain in post until the next Parish Council Annual General Meeting in May 2016.

Your Parish Council needs you!!

Applications are now being invited for the remaining 6 places on the Parish Council which will be filled by co-option. Becoming a Parish Councillor is one way of helping your local community. You need to be on the Register of Electors and over 18, but don't need any special qualifications, just an interest in the Parish of Wellow, its facilities and its local inhabitants. Applications must be made in writing, with details of why you would want to become a Parish Councillor. Please send applications to the Clerk by email or address below.

Annual Parish Meeting, Wednesday, 22nd April 2015. Wellow Village Hall.

This meeting was attended by approximately 100 parishioners. We were very pleased with the turn out, and would emphasise that this meeting is designed for residents to learn more about the Parish Council and its activities, as well as meeting other groups in the community. Details of the Council's report are available on our website.

Parish Council Finances 2014/2015

Wellow PC has total Assets, less Current Liabilities, of £184,035. This total includes a General Reserve of £42,318, which is in line with the Audit Commission's recommendation that General Reserves should be approximately 2/3 of the Precept. WPC's Precept for 2014/2015 was £55,000 so the General Reserve should be in the region of £36,667. A copy of the Balance sheet are available on the website.

WPC are able to make small Grants to local organisations. This year the Parish Council has awarded £1,200 in Grants: £500.00 to Wellow Scouts; £500.00 to St Margaret's Church; £100.00 to Victim Support and £100.00 to Test Valley Citizens Advice Bureau. Do not be afraid to approach your Parish Council if you need help with something that will benefit the Parish.

Wellow V.E. Day 70th Celebrations



Eric Kemish and Frank Moody



Villagers at the Wellow War Memorial

A service of remembrance was held at the Wellow War Memorial, Romsey Road on Friday 8th May 2015 to remember those who lost their lives in World War Two.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Chris Pettet and attended by over twenty villagers including two veterans of the Second World War Eric Kemish 89 (left) and Frank Moody 90 (Right) who saw active service in Holland and Italy respectively.

St Margaret's 800th Anniversary

St Margaret's is celebrating 800 years in 2015 and there will be a number of events taking place to mark this important milestone. Anyone interested in being involved in supporting these events, please contact Jane Stephens on 01794 323156. Your help will be much appreciated.

Fun Run, Sunday 21st June 2015

To finish at the opening of the Midsummer Fayre

Midsummer Fayre, Sunday, 21st June 2015, from 11.00am

The initial preparations for this event on the Recreation Ground, Lower Common Road are well underway. Anyone wishing to assist in this event or run a stall, please contact Jane Stephens (Tel: 01794 323156).

Other events planned:

15th July - Summer lecture at Wellow Village Hall; 19th July - 800th Anniversary Service with the Bishop of Winchester at St Margaret's Church; 3rd October - Medieval-Style harvest supper at Wellow Village Hall; 16th October - Evening Concert at St Margaret's Church; 29th November - Advent Service of Light with the Bishop of Southampton marking the end of the celebrations and dedication to a special tree.

Cricket Club

The Cricket Club now has a new Committee working hard to keep cricket alive in the Village. Members have given the pavilion a facelift for the new season and painted the roundabout in the Recreation Ground ready for St Margaret's Summer Fayre. However, the Club is in urgent need of additional members and new players for all levels in children's and men's teams, friendly matches on a Sunday afternoon, and perhaps a women's team! Regrettably, without the input of new players and your support, the Cricket Club may be forced to close at the end of this season as they need an adult team to make the club viable in the future. The earliest report that cricket has been played in Wellow was in the Hampshire Advertiser on August 7th 1838 against Bramshaw, which Wellow won by 22 runs! Closure of the club would be very sad for Wellow. If you would like to learn how to play, or have played and want to return, please contact Mike Jones on 01794 322079 or Sean Oliver on 07973797090.

Volunteers and Nightingale Times Deliverers!!

The Parish Council is always in need of volunteers to support the many varied tasks each year. We are also looking for help to deliver this newsletter - Nightingale Times - on a quarterly basis. Please let the Clerk know if you are interested in delivering to your road or close.

Wellow Common SSSI status

SSSI stand for Sites of Special Scientific Interest of which Wellow Common is one. England's first sites of SSSI were established in 1949, with a purpose to protect the best of England's natural habitats, wildlife and geological heritage for the benefit of present and future generations. One of Natural England's primary roles, as adviser to the Government for nature conservation, is to support the improvement of SSSI's. They do this through a network of Land Management Advisers who undertake site assessments, provide owners and occupiers with advice on management practices and sources of funding, and apply a range of legislative measures designed to prevent damage to sites. Their responsibilities in relation to SSSI's are set out in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by subsequent legislation. This legislation also sets out the responsibilities of owners and occupiers of SSSI's and the procedures to follow concerning operations that may damage sites. Natural England provides Wellow Parish Council with funding in the region of £17,800 per annum under the current 10 year Higher Level Stewardship Management Scheme. We work closely together with Natural England to maintain the Common. West Wellow Common, Unit 164 of the New Forest SSSI was visited by Natural England Land Management Advisers in June 2013 and met the required criteria for Favourable Condition.

Ticks and Lyme Disease

There has been much publicity about this in the press recently. Ticks can transmit bacteria that cause diseases such as Lyme disease. Avoid tick bites and take action if you or your family get bitten. Lyme disease is treatable with antibiotics if it's diagnosed early. But neurological

problems and joint pain can develop months or years later if it's left untreated. In the worst cases, it can be fatal.

The most common symptom is a pink or red circular "bull's-eye" rash that develops around the area of the bite, but it doesn't appear in everyone. Flu-like symptoms and fatigue are other noticeable signs of infection.

[Public Health England](#) says the best way for walkers to avoid getting bitten is to use repellent, wear light coloured clothes so that ticks can easily be seen and walk on paths and avoid long grass or verges. Dog walkers and cat owners are also advised to check their pets as ticks spread other diseases as well as Lyme disease to animals as well.

For those worried about their gardens, keeping lawns short, raking up leaf litter and creating a buffer zone between habitats ticks tend to like and lawn-paving, wood chips and gravel can help.

The River Blackwater

The Blackwater runs west to east through the centre of Wellow. There are 5 Kilometres of river and 9 kilometres of tributaries, all of which provide vital wildlife corridors. Several ponds and lakes, including fishing lakes and ditches are associated with the Blackwater providing a valuable freshwater resource, capable of supporting diverse birds, fish, dragonflies and wetland plants. Did you know that in our village there are otters/ kingfishers and native crayfish? The River Blackwater occupies a lateral valley of the watershed of the River Test. There are calcareous soils along parts of the northern margins, while at the southern and western sides of the catchment there is heathland and woodland leading up to the eastern slopes of the New Forest with more acidic soils and streams. The major part of the run- off is acidic and the water tends to be dark - hence the name **River Blackwater**.

The smaller streams entering the Blackwater appear to be clean, although output from treatment works is of unknown quality. The surface run off from local farms (pesticides) and roads are presenting problems which may result in a lack of plant life and affect local wildlife.

A major conservation problem is the presence in some areas of abundant Himalayan balsam, where this grows it shades out other plants, resulting in bare soils along the river banks in winter with consequent damaging erosion. There are periodic requests for volunteers to help pull the balsam. Please let us know if you would be interested.

What a shame some people dump beds/ovens/boats and tyres in this, our local river. This is your river, a sensitive environment, important for Wildlife, so let's work together to protect it.

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.

Meetings Dates (held in Wellow Village Hall):

Monday, 6th July 2015 - Planning and General Purposes Committee 6.45 pm, Full Council 7.15 pm

Monday, 3rd August 2015 - Planning and General Purposes Committee 6.45 pm ONLY.

Monday, 7nd September 2015 - Planning and General Purposes Committee 6.45 pm, Full Council 7.15 pm

If you would like to comment on and/or contribute to the newsletter, please let the Clerk, Mrs Lorraine Wheeler, know. You can contact her at the office (10am to 12.00pm Tues, Weds, Thurs), through the website, email or telephone (details below).

Provide the Clerk with your email address and receive the newsletters by email!!

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