

The Nightingale Times Summer/Autumn 2021 Edition



Parish Office, Village Hall, Buttons Lane West Wellow, SO51 6BR
<https://www.wellowparish.org.uk/>
clerk@wellowparish.org.uk
01794 323275

Wellow Tree Planting Scheme For Spring Blossom

I'm sure we would all agree that never have we appreciated the great outdoors as much as we have the last 18 months or so. Wellow is lucky enough to have numerous walks and open spaces where we can all enjoy the sights, sounds and colours of nature throughout the year, all of which has also helped benefit our mental well being during these recent challenging times.

One favourite time of year is Spring when everything starts bursting into life again, often with an amazing show of blossom, always a joy to see. The National Trust started Blossomwatch in 2020 followed by their Blossom Campaign in February 2021, by asking people to celebrate this wonderful yearly show of blossom and help create colourful spaces for all to enjoy, especially in urban areas.

Although Wellow is obviously much more rural and already has many beautiful green spaces, the importance of trees cannot be underestimated - besides being good to see, they also play a large part in encouraging biodiversity on many levels. We have recently lost several trees in the village due to disease and storm damage etc.

With all this in mind, the Parish Council are pleased to say we are joining in with the National Trust national campaign for Spring Blossom by planting a number of trees on land we own in the village - namely the Recreation Ground at Lower Common Road and Hatch-es Farm sports field.

These ornamental trees have been carefully chosen with our expert Tree warden, not only for their amazing show of Spring blossom but also for their equally attractive Autumn colour. The varieties we will be planting are three *Prunus* species, namely *Prunus Snow Goose*, *Prunus Hillieri Spire* & *Prunus Shirotae*.

We hope to complete the planting this coming Autumn and with any luck will have the beginnings of a fantastic display from next Spring, a splash of colour we can all enjoy. What's not to like?!

Further information about the campaign etc can be found at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/helping-communities-blossom>

Message From The Chair

It seems a long time since the last Newsletter but with all the doom and gloom surrounding covid, it's nice to finally be able to put together another Parish Newsletter.

Even with the restrictions, the Parish Council has been busy working on various projects including the planting of more trees in the village (please see separate article), and the really good news of a Mobile Post Office service which made its first visit on Friday, 23rd July. The Post Office van will be in the Wellow Village Hall car park every Friday morning from 8.45 am to 9.45 am but continuation of the service totally depends on support from residents – it really is a case of 'use it or lose it'! We are really grateful to the Post Office team for including Wellow in their schedule and would hate to lose this valuable service through lack of support.

The Neighbourhood Plan team have continued to work hard throughout lockdown and we will hopefully be in a position very soon to be able to offer residents the opportunity to give their opinions and to comment on the work to date – details to follow.

Unfortunately the Parish Office has had to be closed to the public during these challenging times but we are looking forward to hopefully returning to normal opening hours and service in the near future.

Don't let your hedge become a hazard

Overgrown hedges next to footpaths and roads pose a real hazard to people who are disabled or who are visually impaired, young children or other pedestrians who risk injury or damage to their faces or clothing from thorns and branches. If the pavement (footway) is narrow or the obstruction is excessive, they may be forced into the road. This is particularly dangerous for wheelchair users or for people pushing a pram or buggy.

On junctions and bends overgrown hedges may obstruct sight lines and the clear view of motorists. They may also obscure traffic signs or streetlights, increasing the risk of accidents.

What should I do?

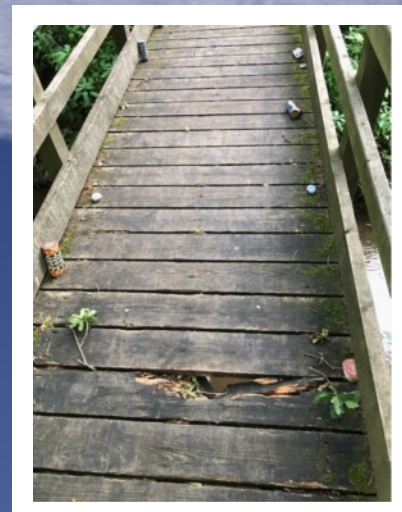
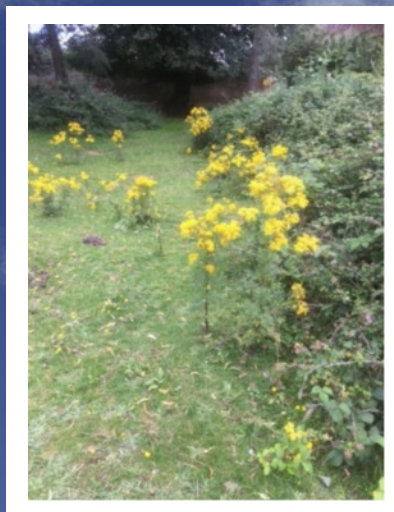
Check your own trees and hedges. Are they overhanging the footpath or boundary of your property? Are they affecting visibility for road users? If so, cut them back (or arrange to have them cut back) as soon as possible.

What will happen if I don't cut my hedge?

It is an offence under the Highways Act 1980 to allow trees, hedges, shrubs and so on to obstruct the highway.

The County Council may, after an initial informal request, serve a 21 Day Notice on you, the occupier, to cut back the offending vegetation.

If you do not comply with the Notice, the Council may carry out the work itself and recover its costs in doing so from you, through the courts if necessary.



The Common and Footpaths

Time marches on and the summer is drawing to a close. The ground bird nesting season came to an end in late July. Ground nesting birds such as the lapwing, nightjar and curlew are at risk of completely disappearing from the UK as their numbers dwindle due to loss of habitat and disturbance. The New Forest is one of the last places in the UK where these birds can still be found and helping them to breed successfully is now critical to their survival in the UK. This is one of the reasons why the New Forest National Park is a Special Protection Area for birds. Keeping to the main tracks, with dogs under close control or on a lead is necessary, during the nesting season is vitally important to reduce the likelihood of birds abandoning nests and exposing chicks to predators. So a big thank you to all who adhered to the signs which we placed at the car parks and entrances to the Common.

Ragwort, which is poisonous to horses and donkeys if eaten, has not been a major problem on the Common this year which is very surprising as the yellow flowers are very prolific at the moment and can be seen on the road verges and in the fields everywhere. However a weekly search is being undertaken and any plants found are pulled up and taken away.

Despite the short lived heat wave at the beginning of July the Council did not receive any reports of barbeques or fires on the Common. The New Forest National Park Rangers now include the Common within their patrols which should help reduce the risk of fire. Thankfully there has only been one reported dog incident in recent months.

The pothole at the entrance to the Monkey Jump car park has been filled and new tarmac applied. Thanks go to Councillor Mike Simpson for giving up his time and energy to do such a good job.

Following a report by a local resident of a rotten board on the footbridge over the River Blackwater on footpath 13, the matter was referred to Hampshire County Council which effected a repair within a matter of days.

Armed with his brush cutter a Councillor went to cut back the summer growth on footpath 22 only to find that a start had already been made. A further length was cut until the petrol ran out and on returning a couple of days later to complete the project it had already been done. So thank you to whoever was responsible. Thanks also go to Phil Stenner for strimming footpath 17 with his electric strimmer, a far greener option.

Wellow Tennis Club

Regular readers of the Romsey Advertiser will have seen reports on the activities of Wellow Tennis Club since we resumed some activities following the enforced lockdown. Those reports focused on the club's competitive activities in various leagues throughout Hampshire and Wiltshire – partly because until very recently the usual social activities and internal club competitions have been suspended.

For a village club we have a long history of punching well above our weight in terms of both team numbers and top performances. Our goal is to offer as much opportunity as possible to those wanting to test themselves competitively in the various local leagues. We have a range of teams, from those catering for our best players in or close to the top divisions of those leagues, to teams in lower divisions that have a larger squad which enables more members to take part.

The summer league season is not quite finished but the club achieved a spectacular result in the Sarum League with the A team winning the Division 1 title with a 100% record – only the fourth time the club has won this league since it entered the Sarum league for the first time in 1989. This is a hugely impressive performance as the club was up against several much larger clubs. Our mixed team playing in the Southampton & District Apsley league has only lost one match so far and is hunting promotion to the Premier Division. Our Ladies team tops Division 2 in the Hants & IoW league, our Sarum Men's team is top of its division and our men's over 45 team are undefeated.

But it is not all about league tennis. There are numerous social tennis sessions for club members during the week and the club has teamed up with Premier Tennis Hampshire who provide coaching facilities for all ages including juniors. Their cardio tennis sessions on a Monday and Friday morning have proved extremely popular as has the back to tennis session on a Friday for those who have not played for a while.

Through Premier Tennis the club has forged new links with Wellow Primary School. Prior to the summer holidays they ran some free taster sessions which were a great hit. In September they will be running two Breakfast tennis clubs on the school site on a Monday and Wednesday morning. They will also be running new coaching programmes for juniors from September.

Last winter we benefited enormously from the added hours of play that our new floodlights provided and we expect floodlit tennis – which is available to club members and non-members- to be in demand again this winter. Despite the pandemic the club has seen a steady growth in its membership this summer and the club's new chair Colin Jager is very hopeful that this will continue.

The club is always looking for new members and we cater for all abilities and all ages. The club also manages the courts that are open to non-members via the club's website. Our website – <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/WellowTennisClub> provides more information on all the above including contact and court booking details. Do come and join us.

Contact your Councillors

Gaye Chesterton-Kay (Chair to the Council), 01794 323737, cllrgchesterton@wellowparish.org.uk

Ed Chesterton-Kay, 01794 323737, cllrechesterton@wellowparish.org.uk

Christopher Craig, 07788 113 544, cllrccraig@wellowparish.org.uk

Mike Jones (Vice Chair), 01794 322079, cllrmjones@wellowparish.org.uk

Sue Jones, 01794 322079, cllrsjones@wellowparish.org.uk

Richard Light, 07968 623 040, cllrrlight@wellowparish.org.uk

Rich Millard, 01794 323635, cllrrmillard@wellowparish.org.uk

Charles Payne, 07504 573 803, cllrpayne@wellowparish.org.uk

Mike Simpson, 01794 324107, cllrmsimpson@wellowparish.org.uk

Philip Stehr, 07801 284 565, cllrpstehr@wellowparish.org.uk

Genni Tuson, 07557 104 131, cllrgtuson@wellowparish.org.uk



WPCC Ladies 311 vs Paultons CC 252

The Wellow & Plaitford Cricket Club ladies softball team had a really fun match against Paultons on Sunday 5th September. A great game played in a really great spirit with lots of cheering on from both sides.

The ladies squad face Totton next for a Prosecco Friday match! To find out more about playing ladies softball cricket please email welfare@wellow-plaitfordcc.com Ladies and girls aged 12+ all very welcome and no experience necessary.