



# The Nightingale Times Summer 2022 Edition

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## Wellow Men's Shed

The group have recently completed an application to TVBC for a grant which will help to pay for a Men's Shed in Wellow. If this is successful it will cover nearly 50% of the cost of the building. A second grant will then be needed to cover the remaining building costs and Further crowdfunding/fundraising will be necessary as the grants will not cover all of the costs.

A few local projects have been carried out by the Mens Shed recently including; Wellow School play area, replacement of the village notice board in Romsey Road, and several other repair projects within the Village Hall.

It is hoped to hold monthly Repair Shed open days at the Village Hall in the coming months, the first one is being held on Saturday 10th September, 10.00 to 12.00.

In the meantime, until their new shed is built in Wellow, they have the use of a barn in Nomansland which is currently being fitted out.

If anyone has any tools or benches to donate to the group, or interested in joining the Mens Shed, please contact Julian on (07971 129600).

## Message from the Chair - Councillor Mike Jones

It has been some time since our last Nightingale Times, so now seems to be a good time to bring you up to date as to what has been happening in the village during the summer break.

We have managed to put together several articles about the sports events that have been happening in Wellow as well as an article about the Men's Shed project and other future events, which hopefully you will find interesting reading.

One thing that has recently happened is the siting of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bench at Hatches Farm. The bench was purchased just in time to make an appearance at the Jubilee Picnic on the Recreation Ground but has now found its permanent home.

The bench was purchased by the Parish Council from the ASA Forces Charity and hopefully it can now be enjoyed by the residents of Wellow for many years to come.

As some of you may already know, our full time Parish Clerk has had to retire due to health problems.

Unfortunately, this means that until we find a replacement for the post (apparently Parish Clerks are rarer than hens teeth!) there will be a reduction in the number of hours the Parish Office is open.

Although our Acting Clerk Karen, is doing a thoroughly sterling job, she is unable to commit to the office any more than she currently is, due to other ongoing work.

Messages can always be left by phone or email of course but please bear with us if we take a little longer to get back to you.

Hopefully this will be an enjoyable Summer for everyone, and I look forward to giving you a further update in the Autumn.



## Wellow Common and Footpaths

South West Water have completed the renewal of the water main across the Common. In order to provide a constant water supply to their customers, SWW were forced to work at night installing the new pipe section by section.

The small fenced off areas are the sites of the access holes and are there to protect the ground from grazing stock to aid recovery. It is anticipated that the fencing will be taken away once the ground has fully recovered in about 12 months time.

Should you need to report any issues with any of the areas, each has its own what3words address attached and you should contact Hydrotech Water Services on 01823 444133. The route of the metal roadway has recovered very well already and it will not be long before it is completely back to normal.



**New pictorial signs have been erected at the Planation Road and Monkey Jump car parks replacing the outdated green signs. It is hoped that these new signs will have greater impact and encourage visitors to the Common to adhere to the “dos” and “don’ts” thereby helping to keep the Common the special place that it is. A new sign has also been erected adjacent to the Monkey Jump car park reminding everyone that vehicular access beyond the car park is not permitted.**

The bird nesting season is well under way and notices have been put up reminding us of the importance of keeping ourselves and our dogs to the main tracks until the end of August.

Groups from across the local community are supporting efforts to help ensure the survival of rare ground nesting birds in the New Forest this spring and summer. With growing public awareness of the plight of these vulnerable birds, it is hoped that many more people using the Forest will help them by taking a few simple measures.

The New Forest National Park, of which Wellow Common forms a part, is a Special Protection Area for Birds and an important breeding location for endangered ground nesting birds such as the lapwing, nightjar and curlew. Under pressure in many parts of the UK due to habitat loss and disturbance by people, helping them breed successfully in the New Forest is critical to their survival. So please keep to the main tracks and keep your dog under close control.



## Wellow Common and Footpaths

You will probably have seen in the media the tragic case of a New Forest farmer whose cows had aborted their calves. His vet said the cause was Neosporosis caused by ingestion of dog faeces while grazing in the open forest. There was no supporting fact.

Neosporosis is a horrid disease that affects all canids of which domestic dogs are one. It causes difficulty in breathing, muscle atrophy, paralysis and swallowing problems which in severe cases can be fatal. This incident has provoked the anti-dog lobby to demand that dogs must be kept on leads at all time. If dog owners want to ensure this does not become statutory, they must obey the notices and pick up every time on the Common. Dog waste bins are located at both the Plantation Road and Monkey Jump car parks so there is no excuse. You have been warned.



### Wellow Ways - Organised by Cllr Sue Jones

In the past, previous Parish Councils occasionally held a social event, which invited Wellow folk to walk some of our many footpaths whilst wielding a pair of secateurs to help trim back wayward growth. Called "Wellow Ways", it took place on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon with much welcomed light refreshments being offered afterwards at the Village Hall.

We actually had plans in place to resurrect this event in 2020 but Covid-19 struck so obviously it had to be put on hold. However, we're very pleased to say that we are aiming to at last hold this event mid-September, so we invite you to come along with your secateurs, choose a footpath to explore, and enjoy yourself whilst snipping away!

It will take place on Sunday the 18th of September from 2pm until 4.30pm, starting and finishing at the Village Hall. Light refreshments will be available to enjoy afterwards from 3.15pm to thank you for your valued efforts.

Meanwhile, enjoy the Summer and we look forward to seeing you there!



The Parish Council has continued to keep our network of footpaths throughout the parish maintained. Rotten slats on the boardwalk on footpath 22 have been replaced. A fallen tree on footpath 16, (a casualty of the storms) has been removed. The hedge bordering footpath 24 has been cut back by a local resident and a parish councillor. Footpath 18 has had its annual cut back and six sacks of leaves have been removed from footpath 17 and taken to Bunny Lane, or Casbrook as it is now known. A Councillor has cleared the fallen tree on footpath 22 and another councillor has cut back the summer growth.



## Wellow Jubilee Picnic



Wellow held a very successful Jubilee Picnic on Saturday 4th June. The event included live local musicians, artists, games and sideshows and was supported by many local groups such as the 9th Romsey West Wellow Scout Group, St Margaret's Church, Wellow Methodist Church, Wellow & Plaitford Cricket Club, Wellow Parish Council and the Wellow Youth Football Club.

Money was raised for the local churches and sports clubs as well as raising money for the Ukraine appeal.

The weather held out and the attendance was much larger than anticipated. Thank you to the people of Wellow who made the event so successful.

## Wellow & Plaitford Ladies Cricket

On Sunday 17th July 2022, Wellow & Plaitford Cricket Club hosted its first Ladies Softball Festival.

The club welcomed ladies cricket teams from Sway, Paultons and Totton & Eling for an afternoon of softball cricket and festivities. The day was a huge success with much fun had by all involved and also raised funds for the cricket club through the bar, barbecue, tombola and raffle. The club had received a grant from Hampshire Cricket Board to host the event, meaning that all the funds raised during the day will be put towards new equipment for the cricket club which will benefit all the adult and junior teams playing at the club. A huge thanks to the numerous people involved who helped make the day such a great success.

The ladies softball team welcomes girls (aged 12+) and ladies of all abilities with very few of the team ever having played cricket before. To find out more please email Rowena at [welfare@wellow-plaitfordcc.com](mailto:welfare@wellow-plaitfordcc.com)



## Contact Your Councillors

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