

Arreton Parish Council Newsletter

November 2022

Newsletter time again and autumn has arrived, although many of the leaves on the trees are still quite green and the temperatures quite mild. Christmas is almost upon us if the shops are to be believed but December is soon enough for that!

Parish Council news

Over the summer, two members of the Parish Council resigned – Martin Kimber and Heather Calloway. Martin has moved to the mainland and Heather left for personal reasons. As Martin was the Chairman, Cllr Nicholas Gurney-Champion has volunteered to Chair the Parish Council until at least May next year, when a Chairman has to be elected for the coming year at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. We are now looking for two new councillors which, when a councillor leaves mid-term, is known as a casual vacancy. The first step is to ask the residents of the Parish if anyone feels the need for an election, which requires at least ten residents to sign up. Details of how to request an election, should you wish to do so, can be found on our website - <https://www.arreton.org.uk/category/notice-board/> If there is an election, then the Parish Council will be looking for residents to put themselves forward (for which there is yet another official process) but if an election is not held or only one person is nominated, the members of the Parish Council will be looking to co-opt one or two willing residents.

There was an interesting Parish Council meeting in September when Inspector Matt Gooding from Hampshire Police attended the monthly session to talk about traffic issues in general and speeding in particular. He announced that a new traffic unit for the Island was being set up and, amongst other things, would target particular areas on a regular basis. Given the reports that have been seen in the last month or so, the members of the unit have been extremely pro-active and are making a thorough nuisance of themselves amongst the less law-abiding drivers on the Island. However, the Police cannot be everywhere at once and so members of the public are encouraged to report incidents of speeding and dangerous driving themselves. The Police need to know the time of the incident in question (very important) plus details of the vehicle and the offence. Information can be passed on by ringing 101, via the Police website – www.hampshire.police.uk – or at the monthly beat surgeries.



Our IW Council Ward Councillor, Suzie Ellis, has been unwell recently. She is now returning to her Council work but is not yet as visible as usual. However, if you have any Council issues then please either e-mail or phone her – suzie.ellis@iow.gov.uk / 07943 963175.

Flooding

The flooding in parts of Arreton in August was on a biblical scale. There is a history of flooding in the area in question but nothing like the events then. It was caused by a combination of the extremely dry weather baking the soil, the recent harvest that left the fields bare and an epic cloudburst. Further problems were caused by some drivers who persisted in driving along the flooded road at an excessive speed, thereby creating a tidal wave that further inundated the affected properties.

The members of the Parish Council have recently held a meeting with representatives of the IW Council from various departments and including the newly-appointed Drainage and Flood Risk Management Officer. There were discussions on the duties and powers of the IW Council as the Local Flood Authority (LFA), which do not include responsibility for main rivers such as the Eastern Yar which comes under the authority of the Environment Agency. Interestingly, the Arreton Stream, which runs behind the houses in the affected area is apparently deemed to be a main river as it is a tributary of the Yar.

There was also a discussion on the responsibilities of landowners under the Land Drainage Act 1991. It is also this Act that requires a report if more than five properties are inundated and such a report has been prepared on this occasion. There has been some comment on the news that the results of a report on flooding in the Bembridge and Ryde area were released fairly recently. It should be noted that this happened in 2021 and therefore does not cover the events of this year.

The last part of the meeting covered the work being undertaken, particularly with local landowners, to alleviate some of the problems that caused this year's flood. This includes measures such as ploughing parallel to the road rather than at an angle and the building of bunds in strategic locations. These will be inspected to make sure that they are substantial enough to hold the water back. There are also several culverts under the main road from the fields in the vicinity of the Community Centre but these inevitably get blocked with silt just when they are needed. Work is being done to find ways of preventing this and allowing the culverts to do their job.

It is intended to hold a public meeting in the New Year to follow up on these points and any other work that is being undertaken.

Planters

Back in 2000, ten concrete troughs were purchased by the Parish Council and placed in various locations around the Parish, mostly in Arreton village. These were four at the bus stops at Arreton Barns, one at the Community Centre, one at the Post Office, two on the grass at Hazely Combe, one on the opposite side of the road and one at the bus stop outside Dovecotes in Merstone. Sadly, one of the four at the Arreton Barns' bus stops fell victim (as did the bus shelter) to a car that slid down the bank from the Barns' car park. It was replaced by taking the planter from opposite Hazely Combe so we are down to nine. Over the years, the troughs have been maintained by various residents, for which the members of the Parish Council are very grateful but there is no record of who these community-minded individuals are. However, the contents of some of the troughs are now looking a little sorry for themselves and are in need of a spot of titivation. The members of the Parish Council do not want to tread on anyone's toes and so, first of all, would like to find out which troughs are still being maintained and by whom. Therefore, if you maintain a trough or know someone who does, please let the Clerk know on either arretonpc@outlook.com or 07587 008183.

Events

Remembrance Sunday – this year's Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday, November 13th at 11am in St George's Churchyard.

Community Lunch - the monthly Community Lunch is held in the Community Hall on the third Thursday of the month. Anyone who wants a two-course meal out with wine or soft drink (for a suggested donation of £5) then just come along to Community Hall at 12 30ish. This month's lunch will be on Thursday, November 17th.

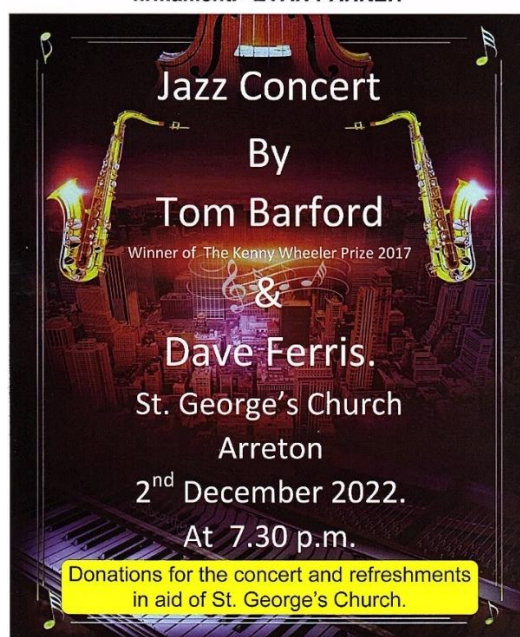


Jazz at St George's – a Jazz Concert will be held in St George's Church on Friday, December 2nd at 7.30pm - please note the change of date. Donations on the door and you will be listening to Tom Barford and Dave Ferris.

"Tom was the Winner of the 2017 "Kenny Wheeler Prize". He started the saxophone at the age of nine but it wasn't until a few years later that Will Osborne's inspiring lessons led Tom to a specific interest in jazz.

"Previous performances have included Ronnie Scott's, The Royal Albert Hall, (BBC Proms, Ronnie Scott's 60th Anniversary concert) and Turner Sims Concert Hall and jazz festivals across the globe. "Session work includes: *LEGO Marvel Superheroes 2* and *LEGO DC Villains* - game soundtracks for acclaimed composer Ian Livingstone plus a TV appearance with Tom Fletcher (Blue Peter) and a live performance with The Four Tops."

"A strikingly large new British jazz talent arrives with saxophonist Tom Barford" WRITTEN IN MUSIC
"We are witnessing the birth of a new star in the jazz firmament." EVAN PARKER



Rights of Way

Our previous Chairman, Martin Kimber, was in the habit of regularly walking the footpaths and bridleways in the Parish and reporting any issues he found to the Parish Council. We have now lost this valuable service, so if any residents wish to help with this, the members of the Parish



Council would be very grateful. It is not expected that someone will necessarily take on monitoring the entire Parish but if someone offered to keep an eye on a particular area, that would be very helpful. Equally, reporting any problems when out and about would also be useful. Some of you may already be in the habit of reporting problems directly to Rights of Way, so if you do so, would you be kind enough to let us know. All this can be done through the Clerk – arretonpc@outlook.com or 07587 008183.

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman: Cllr Nicholas Gurney-Champion – ngcapc@outlook.com

Clerk: Mrs Sheila Caws - arretonpc@outlook.com 07587 008183

