

South Mimms & Ridge Parish Council

Newsletter January 2025



www.southmimmsridge.org.uk

Email: clerk@SouthMimmsRidge.org.uk

For up-to-date news and planning notices follow our Facebook page: [South Mimms & Ridge Parish Council](#)

Happy New Year



We hope that you all had a great time over the festive period and managed to stay healthy and warm. The weather did its best to take down the South Mimms village Christmas Tree but thanks to The Tree Feller and our long serving SM Community Group (lead by Gill Wass) all was restored and continued to twinkle!

The 'Carols round the Christmas Tree' event at SM Village hall was a great success again this year and thanks again to Gill, Jane and music co-ordinator Tamsynne. Everyone enjoyed the soup and mince pies afterwards and having a smaller second tree at the hall worked really well. Thanks to everyone who attended.

South Mimms Village Hall

The South Mimms Community Group have stepped down from the day to day running of SM Village Hall (on top of the social events they will still run) for various personal reasons. The Parish Council has now stepped in and signed a new lease with Hertsmeire Borough Council as the old one had lapsed two years ago. This has meant that the Community Group can de-register as a charity and be relieved of the burdens that entailed. One of the previous Trustees of the charity, Dave Cockburn, continues to help with the hall and we hope that other members will too, when time and health permit. Please get in touch if you want to help too.

As many of you will be aware, the hall floor had structural issues, and we were forced to close for a few weeks whilst a whole new floor (this time with insulation!) was installed. The hall also now has all new double glazing, a dedicated storeroom for Play Group, an office for the Parish Council and Hertsmeire Councillors to use and new super strong free Wi-Fi. Additionally, the back room (that previously held the billiards table), is now a second space available for hire. The room has a wall mounted monitor ideal for presentations and has bi-fold doors that open up to provide direct access to the kitchen. **The hall now has an online booking system, and all requests should be made via**



www.hallbookingonline.com/southmimms where you can see availability, prices and terms and conditions. We have a new Mindful Pilates Class at 9.30am Saturday mornings starting from 8th February.

But wait... there is more! The next phase of the hall's revitalisation will be further storage and the reintroduction of film projection facilities that will allow us to run movie nights (for children and adults).

Ridge Village Hall continues to be run by an independent charity and is not part of these arrangements.

Planning Matters

The Hertsmere Local Plan is still under development and has not yet been submitted to the Government Inspector for approval. In the meantime, been pre-planning applications have been put forward for a small number of developments locally, but none have been approved yet. There are also a number of Planning Enforcement Cases currently under investigation where farmland and buildings are being used for more industrial purposes.

A planning application has been put in for the construction of a very large Data Centre behind South Mimms Services and if approved that will also fund The White Hart being gifted to Hertsmere Borough Council and turned into a Technology Training and Innovation Centre, which will serve local schools as well as helping to upskill adults and help senior residents access the internet safely and not become excluded from Public Services as they become ever more digital – this will be in a café setting so that a hospitality space is reintroduced after the loss of the pub. We hope to have confirmation of this soon.



Book Swap



Book Swap continues to run at South Mimms Village Hall in the smaller room at the back We are open **on the 3rd Friday of every month 2-4pm** (except August and December). The sessions provide a warm and friendly space to have a chat with others over a hot drink and cake, as well as grabbing a new book or puzzle. Everyone is welcome and you don't need to bring a book to swap.

Help Report Issues at www.Hertsmere.Gov.UK/ReportIt OR www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/

We are always happy to help report issues to either Hertsmere Bough Council or Hertfordshire County Council on your behalf, but it is often faster to report small issues yourself and then get updates emailed directly to you.

Save the Date: Council meetings resume 6th February (South Mimms) and then 6th March (Ridge).

Please check our Facebook page for all urgent notices and our website for meeting information.

Councillors: Cathy McCaffrey (Chairperson), Chris Myers (Deputy), Mark Hedison, Daniel Becker and Ralph Bania (Ridge Ward).

Staff: Natalie Curran (Clerk and Finance Officer)