Tanworth In Arden

PARISH ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 2nd April 2025
Earlswood Village Hall



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Tanworth In Arden Parish Council

Tanworth Ward	**Earslwood Ward**
Cllr Leila Chaudry (Chair)	Cllr Mark Franks
Cllr Mike Saunders (Vice Chair)	Cllr Ewen Cunningham
Cllr Tom Ross	Cllr Roy Willmott
Cllr John Brougham	Cllr James Lines
Cllr David Cowan	Cllr Sarah Ruddick
Cllr Oliver Muntz	Cllr Roy Eady

Clerk to the Parish Council	Mrs Hayli Jennings
Deputy Clerk to the Council	Mrs Sarah Barnes
Park Keepers	Mr John Moore Mr Neil Guest

Contact

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What is a Parish Council?

A parish council is a local authority established by legislation. A Parish Council has a range of specific statutory powers which it may exercise.

What does Tanworth in Arden do Parish Council do?

Services include -

Provision and maintenance of Earlswood Leisure Park, including play equipment

Provide comment on notified planning applications and local development

Liaison with community service officers

Provision and maintenance of Footpath Lighting around the parish

Provision of Grant Funding to applicable local projects

Maintenance of The Green within Tanworth in Arden and Bellfield (new for 2025)

Provision and maintenance of four community defibrillators located in the Parish

Provision of bench seating at various sites and dog bins

Provision of Allotments on The Common, in partnership with the Tanworth Inclosure 1857 Trust

Support for village businesses and community groups

Use, care and maintenance of two parish notice boards

Provision and maintenance of parish council website, including ASB report tool

Produce parish e-newsletter, issued monthly to subscribers

What can't Tanworth in Arden Parish Council do?

The Parish Council can only act as legislation requires or permits it to do.

Responsibility for the provision of Waste Collection, Planning decisions, Street Parking and Traffic Regulations, Licensing, Health and Housing are functions of the District Council, Education, Social Care, Highways, Potholes, Flooding, Drainage and Street Lighting are functions of the County Council.

Whilst the Parish Council do not have the powers available to discharge certain functions, it is committed to working with the relevant authorities to improve the services they provide within the Parish.

Who pays for the Parish Council?

The Council is empowered to incur expenditure in the execution of its statutory powers. The majority of its funds are obtained in the form of a 'precept'; an amount set by the Parish Council and collected by the billing authority Stratford District Council from the parish council tax payers as part of the annual council tax bill.

Who makes the decisions for the council?

Tanworth in Arden Parish Council is made up of 12 councillors, 6 representing the Tanworth Ward, 6 representing the Earlswood Ward. An individual councillor has no authority to make council decisions on their own, instead councillors participate in collective decision-making during public meetings. The Parish Council employs a Clerk, who is also the Responsible Finance Officer, and a Deputy Clerk who undertake the statutory obligations of the council.

Council Meetings

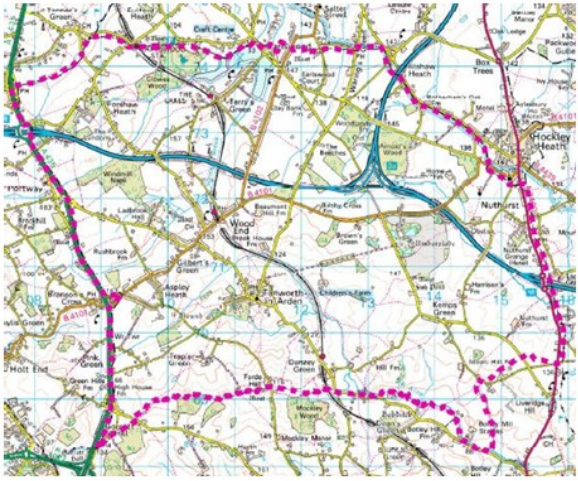
The Council sits once a month, usually on the 3rd Thursday of the month except in August and December. The meeting of the Full Council is a discussion of general matters affecting the Parish. The public are welcome at meetings and the public are encouraged to register with the Clerk if they would like to speak in the public forum. A member of the public can speak during the Public Forum on any subject for up to 3 minutes. Meetings start at 7.30pm and are held at Tanworth and Earlswood Village Halls on alternate months. Agendas and meeting dates can be found on the Parish Council website and are also displayed on noticeboards.

The Parish Council also has several Committees and Working Parties:

- Planning Committee
- Road Safety and Speeding Committee
- Anti-Social Behaviour Committee
- Staffing Committee
- Finance Committee
- Footpath Lghting Working Party

Agendas and minutes from Committee meetings can be found on the website.

Tanworth in Arden Parish Boundary



TANWORTH IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's Report

Welcome to the Parish Assembly

The Parish Council has welcomed two new councillors this year, Cllr Eady and Cllr Ruddick. I would like to thank all councillors who give up their time to represent the local community and work to improve quality of life in the parish.

It has been a very busy year for the council. In August the Parish Council launched it's new website - www.tanworth-pc.gov.uk. The primary goal of the new website was to create a more user centric resource across all platforms and to make it easier for residents to locate and search for information. Also the noticeboard on The Common has recently been replaced with a new one as the old one was in need significant maintenance and repair.

The monthly subscriptions to the newsletter continue to grow! To keep up to date with what is happening in the Parish please email the Clerk to be added to the mailing list. The Parish Council also has a Facebook page to highlight news, make announcements, engage with the community and share information. You can find us @TanworthPC.

Over the past year the Council have helped fund various projects around the Parish such as a contributions to Earlswood Sailing Club, Earlswood Museum, Hedgehog Highway project and supporting local community D Day events in 2024 and upcoming VE Day events.

In 2025 the Parish Council completed one of its biggest projects to date with the redevelopment of the play area in Earlswood Leisure Park. Parks and green spaces are hugely important to the development and wellbeing of children and young people, helping them connect with nature, increase physical activity, and build social networks. The Parish Council were committed to creating a welcoming and enriching environment for children and visitors, while focusing on maximizing play value, providing diverse experiences in a safe environment, and catering for community needs. CCTV has also been installed in the park.

The Parish Council have completed a number of projects around the Parish including painting the phone box on Malthouse Lane which houses one of the four defibrillators owned and maintained by the Parish Council, and painting the heritage footpath lampposts and bollards in Tanworth-in- Arden. The Parish Council have now taken ownership of the land at the centre of Bellfield and are currently investigating the possibility of installing dropped kerbs following requests from residents.

If you have any suggestions regarding work or maintenance around the parish, please contact the Parish Office.

The Parish Council has a Climate Action Plan which can be found on the website, in addition to working towards the short and long term objectives set out in the plan, the Parish Council have added a climate change article in the monthly newsletter which focuses on increasing household recycling rates, reducing waste and promoting biodiversity initiatives.

Over the next twelve months the council aims to continue to work with the local policing team and relevant authorities to deter ASB from our Parish, upgrade footpath lights with more energy efficient lamps, provide training and refreshers for councilors and Clerks and increase funds available for work around the Parish.

Thank you to the local organisations for submitting reports to the council, which you will find in this booklet. If you would like any more information on any issues mentioned, please contact the Clerk.

Leila Chaudry
Chair of the Council



Parish Council Financial Report

Audited Accounts 2023 - 2024

	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
Balances brought forward	95,901	133,933
(+) Precept or Rates and Levies	97,000	97,000
(+) Total other receipts	17,726	21,061
(-) Staff Costs	37,043	42,011
(-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0
(-) All other payments	39,650	39,436
(=) Balances carried forward	133,933	170,547
Total cash and investments	133,933	170,547
Total assets	166,557	167,623
Total borrowing	0	0

Finance Matters

- The audit for Tanworth Parish Council for the year ending 31st March 2024 was successfully completed earlier in the year. The full audit report is available on the Parish website for anyone who wishes to view it.
- The Parish Council budget for 2025/26 has been approved by the council and precept will be £100,000, a 3% increase on last years precept. Tanworth Parish precept is much lower than the average precept for the Stratford District and accounts for around 3% of the average households (Band D) council tax.

Statement of Expenditure

2023-2024

	April £	May £	June £	July £	Aug £	Sept £	Oct £	Nov £	Dec £	Jan £	Feb £	March £	Total £
Salaries, pension, PAYE & NI	3379.18	2198.9	3183.08	3349.82	2854.02	2774.63	3410.65	5837.84	3713.92	5353.87	2894.59	3084.50	**£42,035.00**
General Administration	499.07	1340.02	611.80	265.89	100.35	1742.68	2970.35	534.02	4139.66	353.51	1357.15	829.67	**£14,744.17**
Grounds Maintenance	96.18	91.58	714.04	1318.04	80.05	279.54	1235.05	1143.31	256.02	438.55	139.65	93.32	**£5,885.33**
Subscriptions	799.00	-	-	35.00	-	-	-	183.00	-	-	-	-	**£1,017.00**
Lighting	139.36	124.12	116.81	106.38	108.72	-	215.23	120.86	135.22	140.20	148.02	892.03	**£2,246.95**
Donations/ Grants	1475.00	1450.00	-	375.00	-	-	375.00	-	-	375.00	290.00	3200.00	**£7,540.00**
Defibrillators	-	-	-	1245.00	-	741.96	333.00	22.19	56.95	-	-	66.95	**£2,466.05**
Other	-	13.10	-	150.00	-	-	75.00	712.08	950.00	-	-	1210.00	**£3,110.18**
Total	**£ 6,387.79**	**£5,217.72**	**£4,625.73**	**£6,845.13**	**£3,143.14**	**£5,538.81**	**£8,614.28**	**£8,553.30**	**£9,251.77**	**£6,661.13**	**£4,829.41**	**£9,376.47**	**£79,044.68**

VAT	£2,402.55
TOTAL	£81,447.23

Tanworth-In-Arden Crime Summary 2024-2025

There have been 209 crime reports raised in the Tanworth-In-Arden Ward in the last 12 months since March 10th 2024, averaging 17.4 offences a month. Over the last 4 years, the number of crime reports for has ranged from 181 at the lowest to 218 at the highest, averaging at 201 a year. The largest proportion of criminal offences in the ward are in relation to theft, predominantly vehicle related. Crime in the ward is stable, although there are trends in the type of offences reported. Approximately 20% of crime classifications in the ward are so few they do not warrant review. The remaining 80% are broken down as follows.

Drugs - 4 crime reports (2%)

There were 4 persons dealt with for possession of cannabis. Note. An offence of possession of a controlled drug such as cannabis, is only raised when it is discovered by police. As a result, we are aware the use of cannabis and other drugs is reported to be common around Earlswood Lakes and the crime reports do not reflect this.

Wildlife offences- 15 crime reports (7%)

There were 4 instances of a dog being dangerously out of control and 11 reports involving fishing offences. When speaking to the angling community, there is a clear concern that the rules are being ignored and many are stealing fish to eat, as opposed to returning them to the water. This threatens the local ecosystem and the sustainability for future angling.

For this issue, Warwickshire Police has Operation Leviathan to patrol and challenge improper fishing activities and prevent such theft. This is primarily conducted by the Rural Crime Team, but also the Environmental Agency and supported by the SNT. This is in addition to the work already being conducted by the Water Bailiffs.

Violence/weapons - 54 crime reports (26%)

There have been 16 reports of s4a Public Order Act offences, persons reporting they have been sworn at or verbally abused. There have been 18 common assaults (leaving no injury) and 11 assaults occasioning actual bodily harm (causing some injury). Many of these will be contained to private residents. There were just 2 assaults causing grievous bodily harm (serious injury) and 2 robberies.

In terms of hate crime, there's been 3 reported racially aggravated assaults. Just 1 person was dealt with for possession of bladed article and 1 person for having an offensive weapon.

Theft Offences - 92 crimes total (44%)

Perhaps the most impactive and traumatic offences are burglaries to the home. Over the last year there were 12 residential burglaries, averaging one a month. This figure has been consistently decreasing over four years. One third of these were in order to steal cars. There were 3 residential burglaries of an unconnected building (such as an outbuilding) and 4 attempted residential burglaries. There were also 3 burglaries to businesses. *We recommend using and arming home alarm systems when out of the home, and ensuring you have anti-snap locking barrels in your doors.*

There was 1 attempted theft of motor vehicle, 5 theft of pedal cycles and 3 interferences with a motor vehicle. The two largest figures are theft from motor vehicles and theft of a motor vehicle itself (in equal quantity).

There were 23 thefts "from a motor vehicle." 8 of which were work vans targeted for their tools left inside. *We recommend residents make their tools readily identifiable using products such as Smart Water*. 9 others were theft of vehicle registration plates, which are used to conceal the true identities of other stolen cars. *All theft of registration plates should be reported urgently to assist police identify stolen vehicles on the move and apprehend offenders. We recommend securing your registration plates with capped screws.*

In 12 months, there have also been 23 crime reports of "theft of motor vehicle," nearly two a month on average. This is a rise of 5 on the previous year. This means there have been 23 residents who have had their motor vehicles stolen, without intrusion into their homes. NOTE This does not reflect the actual number of cars stolen as some victims had more than one car stolen. Evidently, this is the primary manner in which cars are stolen in the ward. Of these instances 61% were believed to be stolen by "relay theft." *Relay theft can be prevented by placing keys in a faraday pouch.*

ASB at Earlswood Lakes - OP Kaval

As we enter the warmer periods of the year, in anticipation of increasing reports of ASB, we are reintroducing Operation Kaval. We will be endeavouring to conduct high visibility patrols around the lakes to deter ASB through our presence, tackle ASB we encounter and reassure residents that Warwickshire Police take these matters seriously. These patrols will include checking road worthiness of vehicles, removing obstructions to the causeway and conducting stop searches for drugs and weapons were appropriate. These will be prioritised on weekday evenings and on weekends. We will also look to commit officers to complete these patrols around bank holiday periods, looking to extend duties beyond midnight. We will seek extra resourcing from the Rural Crime Time and are in the process of altering duties of officers to ensure that this happens. *To support police, we urge all residents to report ASB by calling 101 so we can best record and respond to any incidents.*

On behalf of the Safer Neighbourhood Team
Kind Regards - PC 1348 Lovatt

Warwickshire County Council

Wootton Wawen Ward District & Arden Division County Cllr. Ian Shenton



Mob: 07971 343074 E Mail: ianshenton@warwickshire.gov.uk

County Councillors report as of 19th March 2025 for the Tanworth in Arden Parish Assembly

I am available most days of the week and my day regularly starts at 8am and runs to 10pm some days. Contacting me by email is always best as I am often in meetings with residents, business owners, farmers, and officers. I spend many hours reading papers for and attending committees, with reports regularly being in excess of 200 pages. Local government seems to thrive on voluminous report. My last 12 months in Tanworth in Arden have been dominated, locally, by 3 issues

- Flooding
- Speeding
- Potholes

In addition to the above 4 themes, I have received 27 local requests on other issues ranging from railings and fencing to broken or additional signage, footpaths, double yellow lines, decaying wooden bridges, sewer connections, Flower Knot junction and fly tipping.

Similar to last year, **flooding** has been a big issue in part of the parish, and it has been a challenge to keep gullies/drains/ ditches and culverts clear of silt and debris. There are only 3 gulley cleaners to cover the whole of Warwickshire, so delays are commonplace. I arranged to hire a gulley cleaner for two weeks to deal with these issues across my division, which covers 8 parishes using my delegated budget to fund this. The cots of a gulley (drain) cleaner as around £1,000 per day plus an additional £500 per day for traffic management if it is needed.

Speeding, like flooding, is a common issue across my combined district ward and County division that covers 10 Parish Councils. Data from the various speed lines that I funded from my budget has been reviewed by your subcommittee. The problem is that whilst there are some local issues with speeding, Police resources are stretched so thinly that it is rare to see the camera teams in any location, although Claverdon is a popular stopping point for the camera team. Dropping the speed limit on its own will not change drivers habits because if they break the 40mph limit they will continue to do so if you reduce it to 30mph. Speed limits need to be self-enforcing by using structures such as speed cushions and humps, artificially narrowing roads using white gates (typically you see these at the entrances to villages) and white lines. Humps and cushions

need to have street lighting by them and can be noisy for residents who live by them. One final thought on these is that the speed limit has to be 30 mph or less and cannot be used on "A" roads. **Average speed cameras** have to meet certain criteria before they will be considered and a trial into their effectivenessis currently taking place at 3 or 4 locations across Warwickshire. **Flashing signs (VAS)** that show the speed you're travelling at can act as a challenge to some motorists who will compete with each other to get the highest reading.

Progress on the Causeway issue has remained slow (snail's pace) despite the intervention of the MP, the Police, Highways, the Parish Council, the District Councillor and me. Getting consensus and agreement has been difficult.

There are three other big issues currently with the biggest issue being the **South Warwickshire Local Plan** which your district councillor Lynda Organ will cover in her report.

The second big issue that concerns everyone across the County is the scrapping of the district, broughs and county council and the formation of a **new unitary council by 2027.** It will probably be 2028 at least before the new unitary council is in full operation and the options of a single unitary or two unitaries is being explored by the County and District Councils. You will be consulted on this as the Government have insisted that residents' views are considered so, please give your views on the proposals when they are published fully later this year.

The last big issue is the upcoming County elections on the 1st May where you will be choosing a new County Councillor as I have decided to step down after 3 years due to family reasons (I will remain as a District Councillor for the Wotton Wawen ward) I have enjoyed my time as your County Councillor over the last 3 years but I am looking forward to being able to spend more time with my family and getting out on my motorcycle a bit more often (whilst I can still get on it).

I'd like to thank the Parish Clerk and her Deputy, Councillors and residents for your help and comments over the last few years and wish you all the absolute best for the coming years.

CONTACT US

Warwickshire County Council

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District Council News

A Warwickshire Unitary Authority was not chosen by the government to go ahead at this time, therefore, Warwickshire County Council elections in May will proceed as normal.

The government has invited proposals to re-organise local government in Warwickshire with an expectation that it would happen in 2028. Public consultation on options will be Jan – Apr 2026 and the government will make the decision between May and August 2026.

If there is a unitary proposal for 2028, the District Council elections in 2027 will be cancelled and the existing District Councillors will serve until April 2028.

However, there will be elections in May 2027 for a shadow unitary to run alongside the District Councils during the run up to the new unitary going live.

If there is any delay, the 2027 District Council elections will proceed.

Estimated costs for the implementation are £15-£17m and savings are currently estimated to be £21m for a single Warwickshire unitary and £18m if Warwickshire has a North and a South. However, there would be additional costs for a North South split as WCC services would have to be disaggregated which would incur additional costs. A big caveat on these figures as they are not based on current data.

South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)

The Preferred Options eight-week consultation period has now ended.

The Preferred Options document identifies 24 potential Strategic Growth Locations and 12 potential New Settlement locations, which are an indication of where SDC considers large-scale strategic growth may be best be located. Overall, the growth locations identified would accommodate well more than South Warwickshire's housing and employment needs, and it is not expected that all these locations will be allocated in the SWLP.

The next stage is for more technical work that needs to be undertaken along with the analysis of both the Preferred Options consultation exercise and the further Call for Sites submissions. The draft plan will then be agreed by both

Warwick and Stratford District Councils and this will be followed by public consultation at the end of 2025. The plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State in July 2026 and examination of the plan will be Aug 26 – Mar 27 with a view to having the plan in place by December 2027.

Council Tax level for Stratford-on-Avon District

At the end of February, Stratford-on-Avon District Councillors set the district element of the Council Tax at a meeting of the Council.

The amount residents will be asked to pay for a Band D property is £169.12, an increase of £5. This is an increase of 3.1%, which for an average home represents just an additional 42p per month to the District Council next year.

This means that all the services provided by the District Council cost £3.25 a week for a Band D household. This contributes to meeting the cost of providing a wide range of services including recycling and waste collection, planning, street cleaning, housing, housing benefits, leisure services and children's play areas.

The Council Tax from Stratford-on-Avon District Council for residents for 2025/26 for each of the valuation bands is:

A - £112.75 C - £150.33 E - £206.70 G - £281.87

B - £131.54 D - £169.12 F - £244.28 H - £338.24

Although the District Council acts as the collecting agent for Council Tax, it only receives 7.1% of the Council Tax paid by residents. Warwickshire County Council receives the lion's share of 76.6%, the Police 12.8% and Towns/Parishes 3.5%. This means the District Council only retains 7.1p of every £1 paid in Council Tax to provide its range of services.

Stratford-on-Avon remains a low-taxing authority, 18th lowest out of 164 district councils across the country in 2024/25.

Council Tax Resolution 2025/26 - Total Band D Council Tax	2024/25	2025/26	% Increase / (decrease)
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	**£164.12**	**£169.12**	**3.05%**
Warwickshire County Council	£1,736.19	£1,822.95	5.00%
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner	£289.71	£303.71	4.83%
Sub-total	**£2,190.02**	**£2,295.78**	**4.83%**
Town and Parish Councils (average)	£73.83	£84.13	13.95%
TOTAL	**£2,263.85**	**£2,379.91**	**5.13%**

WARWICKSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

THE WARWICKSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP WAS FORMED WITH THE AIM OF MAKING THE ROADS OF WARWICKSHIRE SAFER FOR ALL ROAD USERS. WE WORK WITH PARTNERS TO IMBED THE SAFE SYSTEM ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED IN COLLISIONS ON OUR COUNTY'S ROADS. WE ARE CURRENTLY AIMING FOR A 50% REDUCTION IN DEATH AND SERIOUS INJURY ON OUR ROADS BY 2030. WE AIM TO ACHIEVE THIS THROUGH EDUCATION, ENGINEERING AND ENFORCEMENT, WORKING ALONGSIDE OUR PARTNERS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

We use the social media platform, Facebook, to get daily messages and information out to our residents, on a variety of local and national topics to highlight the work we are conducting and supporting in the road safety arena. On occasions, we will post directly to relevant community groups to get a specific message across, this worked particularly well when we supported the British Horse Society in their 'Horse Slow' campaign, and we paid for boards that could be displayed near the roads to warn drivers of the change in law when overtaking horses. We now have over 4000 followers. You can find us on Facebook by searching Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership and requesting to follow us.

One issue that seems to affect our residents more than any other is speeding vehicles and the inconsistencies around investigating these concerns was frustrating for both residents, and Police, trying to respond to these concerns. In September 2023, Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership developed a central reporting system for speed concerns. The system allows for a consistent approach across the organisations. The system is evidence led using collision, casualty, and speed data to assess the concern. The results are posted on the partnership website to improve transparency of the process and in turn improve public confidence.

Residents can submit their concerns on the partnership website by agreeing to the terms and conditions and then filling out a simple form which includes details about the time of day, day of week and location. Residents will be signposted to this website, regardless of which organisation they approach, to ensure consistency. Intervention measures will only be considered if the evidence held supports the concern raised. This ensures targeted speed enforcement in the right places at the right times.

To report a speed concern please visit Enforcement and Community (warksroadsafety.org)

In May 2025 we are planning to launch our speeding 'Pledge' across Warwickshire, which will concentrate on both excessive speed and inappropriate speed for the conditions. The aim is to raise awareness at events and local markets of the dangers and consequences of inappropriate and excessive speed and get residents and companies to sign up to the Pledge to be more aware of their speed whilst driving or riding – we hope that this initiative will support our 50by30 vision. Further details and how to sign up and support the Pledge will appear on our website after the launch - https://warksroadsafety.org/

On the 3rd Sunday of November every year the Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership supports the National Day of Remembrance for road traffic victims by holding a memorial service in Old Shire Hall, Warwick. This is not a religious service, it's a service of remembrance for victims and families to ensure they are never forgotten. The service is free, and everyone is welcome to attend. We are always looking for people to support and take part in this service, if you would like to share or speak about an incident and how it affected you, please let us know. You can find more details on our website https://warksroadsafety.org/



Report to the 2025 Parish Assembly from

Tanworth Residents and Neighbourhood Watch Association

The Chairman Tom Ross writes:

2024 has been another quiet year for the Association.

The new **South Warwickshire Local Plan** that is designed to shape planning and other matters up to 2050, being prepared jointly by Stratford and Warwick District Councils, has just finished its latest Consultation stage.

Two sites for possible major new settlements have been identified in the Plan: One to the east of Wood End and the other to the south of Tanworth village. They remain matters of concern to residents as we move to the next stage of the process.

Cank Farm, or Harrington as we must now call it, is now complete. The six affordable homes are occupied. Stratford District Council is responsible for ensuring that the required "local connection" of the new owners has been verified or where details of the permanent discount (which will apply to future purchasers) have been recorded.

The new wooden stairs built in **Well Lane** still do not provide access to the public footpath through the churchyard and the Parish Council has still not been able to get the District Council to "remember" what was promised and enforce it.

Our Association remains committed to supporting residents on **Broad Lane** in their efforts to make the stopping places for school buses safer. and to slow down traffic in Tanworth generally. There have been major concerns expressed about the speed and volume of traffic at peak times for some time.

Parking near the school, in the Bellfield and speeding and congestion in the village centre remain problems which the Parish Council and County Councillor Ian Shenton are seeking to address.

Tanworth Residents Association thanks the **Parish Council** for its continuing help and support and looks forward to continued co-operation with it and neighbouring Residents Associations over planning matters and other issues of mutual concern.

2024 was the 13th year of our website at www.tanworthresidents.org.uk

In normal times our volunteers deliver at least one newsletter a year to 600 households in the part of the parish south of the M42. Despite only recently reinstating AGMs after Covid it is gratifying to note that a number of households have found ways to pay their annual £3 membership subscription.

Our next Annual General Meeting will be held in **Tanworth Village Hall** in November as usual at a date to be advised later.

Tom Ross

Tanworth Educational Foundation

The tanworth in Arden education fund (TEF) , has again helped the local community by way of providing support to the two local schools, Tanworth in Arden academy and St Patrick academy, both receiving £20,000 in an academic year, plus a further £3,000, to be given, to help with improving the children's development and educational needs, that are outside the remit of school's budgets, this is graciously received by both. This money has been raised by selling one of the TEF properties and investing wisely, the trustees of the TEF continue to support the continuous development of our charity to the best of our abilities and our community.

Valerie Hake
Chair of TEF

Earlswood & Forshaw Heath

Residents' Association

During the past year, the Committee has again seen some changes of personnel. The current Committee members, who are all voluntary, are: Ewen Cunningham, Sarah Adams, Cheryl Roberts, Lizzie Evans, Kate Clark, Roy Meacham and Jill Griffin. All the contact details are on the E&FHRA website https://earlswood-forshawheath.org.uk/ Members are welcome to contact any Committee member to discuss or report any local issues causing them concern and they can be of specific or general interest from affecting one member to affecting the whole community.

The RA Committee has been concerned for some time that there is little support for it within the community, hence it's post on the RA website at the beginning of February. The Committee was understaffed and the number of households who had paid the annual £5 subscription was below 20%, which wasn't enough to keep it in a sustainable financial position.

As a consequence of the two news posts that were circulated both on the RA website and other local social media outlets, we now have a few additional members, which means that we can cover our annual costs from the annual subs for the next financial year. Our thanks to those who subsequently renewed memberships or joined for the first time as a consequence of our appeal.

One of the questions that was asked as a consequence of the above is "What does the RA do?". In answer to that question, we copied out the answer from the document that we prepared for the 2024 Parish Assembly and posted it on the RA website too. The details are still extant and the news items are still available to view on the website.

Apart from that, things have generally been relatively quiet for the RA recently. The major items that we have been looking at are local planning applications and "The South Warwickshire Local Plan 2025 (Preferred Options) – Consultation". We have gone through the documentation for the SWLP and made our submission to Stratford District Council at the end of February. Our submission is available to view through the news item posted on the RA website. There is ever increasing pressure on our Green Belt countryside and it is probable that we will become part of the main

Birmingham/Solihull conurbation in the future but we are doing our best to keep our own integrity separate from that.
If you would like to become a member of E&FHRA, please do. The cost is £5 per household per year and all the details are on the website (see link above). If there's something that we've covered here, or on the website news pages, that attracts your interest and you would like to become active, we'd be delighted to have more members on the committee. Do please contact any of us. And…If you think that you would like to become a member but that the £5 per year doesn't represent good value for money, do let us know why and what we can to remedy that. A very big "thank you" to all the members who do support us from year to year. Without your support, there wouldn't be a Residents' Association.

Ewen Cunningham,
Chair, Earlswood and Forshaw Heath Residents' Association
chair@earlswood-forshawheath.org.uk

Earlswood Village Hall



Earlswood Village Hall 2024 Annual Report

Registered Charity No: 236945

Chairperson: Shannon Moore

Treasurer: Fiona Burgess

Bookings: Jackie Young

Secretary: Lyn O'Carroll

Our twelve active committee members give freely of their time, skills, and energy so that our Village Hall continues to thrive. We were sorry to lose Natalie Youdon from the committee and thank her for her support. We were pleased to welcome Sarah Barnes and Derek Greene as new committee members. We are sad that during this year, a key former committee member, Joan Rogers, died. We acknowledge her dedicated support over the years, including the establishment of the Lunch Club which is still flourishing and her organisation of many drama productions.

There are now sixteen regular local groups using the Village Hall and local associations hold their committee meetings in our Hall.

'Flicks in the Sticks' is now in its ninth season showing films on the third Friday of each month from October to April. This year we installed a larger screen. A core group of local people regularly attend, building their friendships and welcoming new film goers, having tea or coffee, a soft drink, or something stronger from the bar, a hotdog, and an ice cream. We still end the evening, standing for the National Anthem, following this long-established tradition.

Our other fund-raising events this year have included a quiz night, a panto, the ever popular, sell-out 'Burns Night' Supper and Ceilidh and another sell-out evening with the musical talent of Keith Slater. A highlight of 2024 was the 1944 'Operation Overlord' Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, with food, drink, singing and entertainment. We thank Tanworth-in Arden Parish Council and Earlswood and Forshaw Heath Residents' Association for their grants towards our costs. Money raised through book sales of a local

author, was donated to support Fisher House, a facility for families of injured military personnel receiving treatment at the University Hospitals.

A member of our local community, nominated Earlswood Village Hall for a Community Project Prize, due to the impact of our work locally. We were delighted to win, receiving a light-up golden reindeer statue from Studley Garden Centre, to complement our festive Christmas decorations!

With the help of a Warwickshire Community Energy Grant, we purchased and installed an additional battery to store energy from our solar panels to help to reduce our electricity bills. We continue to maintain and upgrade our facilities with the income that our first-class Hall generates for the local community.

We are very thankful for the continued support and help from our team of dedicated committee members, who run EVH for the benefit of our community. In this year's Trustees' Report it is mentioned that these volunteers receive no remuneration 'not because they are worthless but because they are priceless.'

Our Facebook page 'Earlswood Village Hall' and our website: www.earlswoodvillagehall.org.uk have been created and updated by Sarah and can be used to keep in touch with what is happening at our Hall.

Tanworth in Arden Village Hall Trust

&

Muntz Hall & Recreation Ground Trust

Village Hall

I see that my last report from these two trusts which for decades have been managed by a single management team (albeit that over the years the members change) was two years ago for the 2023 Parish assembly, so my apologies for missing last year.

Two years ago I mentioned that we had hopes for the rejuvenation of the village hall with the start of regular live music evenings, and I'm pleased to report that these have been a life saver for the village hall, generating in excess of £1700 last year. A few days after I write this up-date the hall will be hosting 'Juniper', a folk group comprising musicians from the Birmingham conservatoire who are currently on a UK tour. The Trust thanks Terry Bridgewater for making these evenings happen. In my previous report I mentioned that several Trustees had retired after many years, and I now add Alan Wilding to those long serving trustees who have worked hard over many years and now deserve their retirement.

During this time there have been a number of new residents to the village and one, Ray Knowles, arrived not only as the front man of the Chiltern Hillbillies but Ray has a keen interest in amateur dramatics. He has been instrumental in launching TanDram, which last April put on two short plays over three nights, and had planned the murder mystery 'Who Killed Santa?' and this was scheduled for early December. However, storm Darrah put paid to that production as the village lost all electricity! Ray was not put off and on Burns Night rescheduled the one night performance into 'Who killed Robbie?' We are very imaginative and between them Terry and Ray have produced some very worthwhile income, whilst at the same time having a great deal of fun and bringing new residents to the hall. I wish them well and trust that the village hall will host their endeavours for many years to come.

Tanworth in Arden Village Hall Trust

&

Muntz Hall & Recreation Ground Trust

Muntz Hall & Recreation Ground Trust.

Two years ago we were busy planning for a Coronation Party and were planning to hold this at the Muntz Sports Ground but ticket sales escalated beyond our expectations and we needed to change the venue to Umberslade. Here Ollie Muntz hosted the party with all profits going to the Muntz Hall as had been planned. The day itself was somewhat damp with the Chiltern Hillbillies the last group to take the stage but also as the rain started to turn heavy. All in all it was a great afternoon of entertainment.

Two years ago we had hoped that cricket would return to the Muntz but our attempt failed and after losing a year of income a football team hired the ground but have again departed. The good news however is that the Tanworth in Arden Cricket Club and the Earlswood Football Club are to share the ground and contractors are currently preparing the ground for the return of cricket. We hope these two local clubs will continue to prosper and that the Muntz will be recognised as the home of their youth teams. The one part of the Muntz which never folded but did go through a rough patch was the tennis club. As many residents will know this has been re-launched, mostly since the pandemic and in December a crowd funding cash raise was launched and our residents once again came forward and the target, to raise sufficient to resurface two the three tennis courts, was well exceeded enabling the contractor to resurface all three courts. The Tennis club are holding an open day shortly for all to see and try the new surface.

The two trusts hold a joint AGM, this year it will be on Wednesday April 16th at 7.30pm.

Tony Dixon

Chairman of Tanworth in Arden Village Hall Trust

Chairman of Muntz Hall & Recreation Ground Trust.

Earlswood Historical Society

We have again had a range of talks over the past year, from Going Supersonic on Land in January 2024, followed by Skulduggery in Soho, a wonderful history of Boulton & Watt and their dishonest Chief Cashier, his trial and subsequent passage to New South Wales with his family following a short time later. A story which would have been forgotten but for the records that have been kept about the company. This was followed in May by a talk about Cannock Chase War Cemetery and in July Earlswood Lakes Wildlife. Following our AGM and Harvest Supper in September we had a talk on names given to steam engines by our Treasurer Glynne Bowsher.

We are now into our 2024-2025 season and have had talks on The Sweet Life of Bournville and Henley-in-Arden Heritage Centre and Museum.

Talks for the rest of the year include Crash and Smash given by Geoff Owen who was in the RAF aircraft crash team, Your Local Cheese, a talk by David Fowler on his family history of cheese making – he has kindly donated his cheese making equipment to our museum and our final talk in July will be 1951 – The Festival of Britain.

We have been delighted to welcome more members over the past months together with several visitors at each talk.

Everyone is welcome to attend our talks at a charge of £4 per visit for visitors or join us as a full member for £20 per year.

Jeanne Moss
Earlswood Historical Society

Earlswood Village Museum

Earlswood Village Museum is situated in Earlswood Village Hall on Shutt Lane and seems to be one of Earlswood's best kept secrets if the number of local visitors who exclaim 'I never knew this was here!' are to be believed.

The Museum was founded in 1977 by a group of volunteers from the Earlswood Historical Society and in the early years was opened occasionally on bank holiday weekends for public viewing. More recently the opening days have been more formalised as: 2.30 – 4.30pm on the first Saturday of each month from March to October.

For many years the museum was run by Val Tonks, as curator, and a team of volunteers who assisted on open days, but sadly in 2020 Val became too ill to continue. As this coincided with Covid restrictions, the museum was closed for a period of time but once we were allowed to socialise again the volunteers came together to reorganise the Museum displays. This was required to comply with social distancing regulations in any case and forced us to rethink the layout and how we could display the artefacts we have. The museum reopened in 2022 and the changes have been very well received by our visitors.

The aims of the museum are to preserve the local history of the area and to provide the opportunity for young and old to learn about their heritage. We have many historic photographs, maps and items from the local area available for visitors to look at and, together with permanent displays showcasing items from the German Heinkel Bomber that crashed in the area in WW11, a cooking range from Poplar Tea Gardens in the early 1900's, Fowlers of Earlswood historic cheese making items and historical items found in the local area, we also have changing displays each year. These have included: THE RESERVOIR HOTEL: 150 Years of History as seen through the Newspapers, CHARLES MOSS: Reservoir Hotel Publican & Olympic Champion. In 2024 our displays were - ST PATRICKS SCHOOL: Old Photographs and Information, ELIZABETH PODMORE: A letter from a local schoolgirl in 1831 and VICTORIAN WASH DAY. Information from previous displays are retained in the museum so if you missed them you can still see the items that were displayed, and we are always interested in memories of the past in Earlswood and the surrounding area.
In 2025 our temporary displays will show old handicraft items e.g. knitting and sewing and, as it is the 80th anniversary of VE Day, there will be a display of historical information relating to this.

In addition we have increased the number of days we are open and now open not just once per month but have added extra dates during the school summer holidays, we are also available to open for groups at other times subject to volunteer availability and agreement with Earlswood Village Hall.

For more information on our displays and opening dates and times please see our website https://earlswoodvillagemuseumorg.wordpress.com/ or contact us at evmuseum2021@gmail.com

Cheryl Roberts
Volunteer Curator



Earlswood Wildlife Partnership Report 2024

The Earlswood Wildlife Partnership (EWP) is a partnership between local residents, Canal and River Trust, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, local authorities and other interested groups. The aim of the partnership is to enhance the biodiversity of Earlswood for the benefit of its wildlife, now and in the future, and to raise awareness in the local and wider community of the wildlife around them.

In 2024 we started the year continuing our habitat enhancement work alongside Canal and River Trust on Windmill Pool, 4 work party days were held in January and February to continue clearing an area ready to plant reeds later in the year.

April brought our annual Birding for Beginners Course, this is always very well supported. This year was no exception and 12 novice birdwatchers spent 2 hours in our company being shown the best equipment and how to use it, where best to watch birds and how to do this safely and without scaring them away. Also in April we ran a Wildlife Walk for Tanworth in Arden Squirrel Scouts. These are the very youngest of the scouting groups at only 4 or 5 years old but were very enthusiastic about the wildlife they could see around the lakes and taking part in a matching game we had devised where they had to match local wildlife to their homes and food. In May we held our Woodland Walk in Clowes Woods. This was again lead by Bob Roberts, our chair and Clowes Woods Volunteer, and Clowes Woods Volunteer Team Leader, Simon King. Again 12 members of the public joined us for a walk where they learned about the history and management of Clowes Woods and more about the flora and fauna of the area.

A Moth Night was held in Clowes Woods in June with David Brown, Warwickshire macro moth recorder, and members of the Warwickshire Moth Group. Despite wet weather 26 macro species were recorded including one of the target species - the Beautiful Snout. However, numbers of moths and species were much lower than would be expected, this seems to confirm a trend seen across the country in 2024 of lower numbers of moths and other pollinators than usual, possibly the result of the peculiar spring weather.

In August we held a public Bat Walk at Earlswood Lakes. Paul Wilkinson of Canal and River Trust lead this, the weather for once was in our favour and the bats came out in their numbers. EWP have 12 bat detectors which the attendees can use so that, as well as seeing the bats, these allow people to hear the different bat calls.

In September we completed our year with two events. Firstly continuing the Habitat Enhancement work with reed planting – this was the final stage of trying to create a reed bed in the top corner of Windmill Pool where we had previously cleared vegetation, mainly willow, and involved planting over 1,000 plug plants. We now need to see if the plants take root and create a small reed bed. If so this will create a new type of habitat around the lakes and if it works we can expand the reed bed further along the shore in future years. The second was a bat survey again lead by Paul Wilkinson. Due to lack of volunteer numbers and the fact of Paul having hurt his back this was a visual survey only (if we have enough volunteers and licensed bat handlers we are able to inspect the bat boxes more fully) however the results were broadly in line with previous surveys. 25 boxes were inspected 6 of which contained live bats.

Similar to many local groups we are always looking for new committee members and people to get involved with our surveys and events. We publish a newsletter for our members 3 or 4 times a year, copies of these can be seen on Earlswood and Forshaw Heath Residents Association website at: https://earlswood-forshawheath.org.uk/earlswood-wildlife-partnership/ . Membership of Earlswood Wildlife Partnership is currently free, anyone is able to join and receive our newsletters with updates of our events and local wildlife news by contacting us at ewp2010@btinternet.com

Cheryl Roberts (Secretary)

Allotment Association

Chairman's Report
March 2025

The 2024 growing season got off to a very slow start with a very wet and cold spring which led to late sowing of seeds and in some cases second and third sowings to replace those that didn't germinate. We then had a difficult summer of weather with some very hot days in June and July followed by a cool and wet August. Despite the setbacks there was still a good amount of produce harvested.

In early March the committee took advantage of a short dry spell to clear out and tidy the communal shed to make easier access to the mowers and strimmer. The surrounding area was also cleared and the bottom plot covered in black plastic. The owners of Hickory's Smokehouse were approached regarding the large branches overhanging from the trees on the carpark which had become a safety issue. They arranged for the trees to be trimmed.

In late April we had a very successful work party with a good turnout. The main task needing urgent attention was the difficult repair to the large gate following the collapse of the main gatepost.

The roadstone which was purchased with a grant from the Parish Council was laid to repair and strengthen the paths and the fencing in the bottom left corner was improved providing further security. There was also lots of mowing strimming and a general tidy up of the whole site. A number of self-seeded rowan saplings growing around the site were removed.

At the AGM in October John Byron resigned as secretary and in the absence of any nominations Sadie Allen volunteered to take on the role on a temporary basis. Anne Barley has since taken over the role and is now dealing with all secretarial matters.

A small number of plots were vacated at the end of 2024 growing season and all have since been taken on.

1st Tanworth in Arden Scout group is based at The Scout Hut, The Muntz Field, Bates Lane, Tanworth in Arden and has been running for over 60 years.

We provide young people with opportunities to develop character, leadership skills, and a sense of responsibility through outdoor activities, community service projects, and teamwork. We also provide training programs for adult volunteers who want to help with the scout group's activities.

We run 4 sections:

Squirrels (Ages 4-6 years)

Beavers (Ages 6-8 years)

Cubs (Ages 8-10½ years)

Scouts (Ages 10½ - 14 years)

After 14, our young people can move on to district run 'Explorer' and 'Network' sections. At the same time, they can volunteer as a 'Young Leader' in our younger sections.

We also have a team of trustees who oversee the running of the group, it's finances, and manage the Scout Hut premises.

Our leaders and trustees are all volunteers and work in a team-based approach to deliver a wide-ranging program for our young people.

Currently we are full in all our sections and are running waiting list. Priority off that waiting list is given to those that have a family member who volunteer as a leader in one of our sections, those who live in the village, and those who attend Tanworth in Arden School.

Our numbers in some sections are limited by the fact that we are short of volunteers. If you, or anyone you know of, might be interested to know more about volunteering in our Scout Group, please email me using the contact below.

Rachel Evans
Group Lead Volunteer
1st Tanworth in Arden Scout Group
glv@tanworthscouts.org.uk

TANWORTH AND CAMP HILL

CRICKET CLUB

The most exciting thing that has happened over the winter is that the cricket club is growing at a rapid rate following a sustained period of strong junior cricket, with over 100 children regularly attending training evenings, on Friday's during the summer at the club.

Following this growth, there is a need for a 3rd Saturday League team to represent the club and cater for the membership we have with a focus on progressing young players into senior cricket. Having a 3rd XI required another ground to play at. We are delighted to say that following an application process and meetings with the trustees of the Muntz Field, that we have been successful in acquiring a lease to use Muntz Field for cricket, in partnership with Earlswood Town FC, who will play junior football on the same venue in the winter. We are using 2025 to restore the old cricket pitch (home of Tanworth-in-Arden CC from 1951-1974) for use from 2026 onwards for overflow junior cricket and our 3rd XI Saturday team.

This is an excellent sign of progress from the club and increases the amount of sport played in the parish, by local sports clubs from within the parish.

EARLSWOOD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB:

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

ABOUT

Earlswood Town Football Club was founded in 1968 and has been based at The Pavilions on Malt House Lane since 1970. The club is affiliated with the Birmingham County Football Association and is England Football Accredited. We currently operate one adult men's team in Midland Football League Division Two at step seven of the English football non-league system. In addition, the club has seven junior sides from U7 through to U10 level competing within the Central Warwickshire Youth Football League.

EXPANSION WITHIN THE PARISH

Earlswood Town F.C have secured a tenancy agreement at Muntz Hall and Sports Field in Tanworth-in Arden. The Earls will primarily utilise the site on Bates Lane as a secondary match and training home for the club's ever-expanding junior section. The facility will be shared with Tanworth & Camp Hill Cricket Club in what is hoped will be the start of a fruitful partnership. Chairman Andy Walker said: "As our junior section continues to blossom, we have been eager to secure a secondary match and training location, particularly for the need for next year's U11s to play on a 9v9 pitch. "Our priority has always been to ensure that Earlswood Town remains in our local parish to continue our mission to become a bona fide community club so we were delighted that the trust of the Muntz Hall & Sports Field shared our vision. "We are also enthused by the possibility of working hand in hand with Tanworth & Camp Hill Cricket Club to mutually benefit both parties." The Earls' first team will also look to use the pitch as a dry weather training location to help ease the wear on the club's home pitch at The Pavilions on Malt House Lane.

EARLS VOLUNTARY ACTION GROUP The club are redefining our approach to recruiting volunteers with the formation of the Earls Voluntary Action Group. This will be a call for ad-hoc volunteers through regular sign-up sheets that will come with zero expectation of commitment (as we all live busy lives). Whether it's making teas and coffees on a matchday or a bit of garden maintenance on a sunny afternoon, even if you can just give an hour of your time across the course of the year, it all massively helps our amateur football club. To join the Earls Voluntary Action Group on WhatsApp, scan the below QR code, or email: ETFC1986@hotmail.com.

Earlswood Lakes Sailing Club

Earlswood Lakes Sailing Club Report for Parish Annual Assembly 2nd April

Hello from Earlswood Lakes Sailing Club, here's a round up of our last season on the water and of the season ahead. We're a small and friendly club of around 130 members and no paid staff. If you would like to volunteer at the club to help in the Race officers hut recording results, being a trolley helper or at our galley serving drinks then please come and see us, we welcome social members and volunteers.

We sail Saturday afternoons, Sunday Mornings and Wednesday evening when it's light enough. From November to March we have been sailing only Sundays, but as winters are milder than previously we are experimenting with Saturday sailing in the winter.

We have had a good season on the water in 2024 and have increased our membership from 2023 following Covid and the Lake Dam repairs which hit us hard as we couldn't sail for a considerable period and many members drifted off into other activities. Our recovery continues. Our season opening "Grand Splash" is on Sunday March 23rd and we usually get a decent turn out for the opening event of the season. At this years Grand Splash we will honour Bob Lewis, one of the founding members of the club back in 1961 and who died recently at the age of 101. Bob sailed with us on the lake in his hundredth year and was our Honorary President.

We will mark his passing at the Grand Splash by launching our **Boats for Bob** event where we launch biodegradable boats, laced with wild flower seeds with messages on them between races and unveiling a new foundation plaque at the club entrance.

Our Training programme is open to all comers and we run three **Start Sailing** courses a year. We have spaces as below so tell your friends, and it's never too late to start sailing. Sailing Courses can be bought on a voucher for partners, children or grandchildren!

February First Aid Training course successfully conducted with 9 attendees – this includes defibrillator training as we have a **defibrillator waterside next to the jetty**. This is funded by ELSC.

April Level 1 Course

9 Adults and 2 Juniors registered. All have paid course fees.
1 Adult and 4 Junior places remain to be filled.

May Level 1 Course

5 Adults and 2 Juniors registered. 2 Adults and 2 Juniors (1 family) currently unpaid.

5 Adult and 4 Junior places remain to be filled.

June Level 1 Course

2 Adults and 1 Junior registered. 1 Adult currently unpaid.

8 Adult and 5 Junior places remain to be filled.

We have regular working parties to keep the grounds tidy and cut hedges etc, and we've just had to have our front fence repaired as Storm Darragh managed to bring it down across the towpath!

Issues

People **using the Sailing club as a shortcut** to Malthouse Lane from Windmill Lake are being actively reminded that there is no right of way either way through the sailing club, but this is difficult to police.

Fishing and antisocial behaviour on the jetty is something we do our best to deter and we do have CCTV on site but we often get people wandering along the jetty. We have anti climb paint on the boat house roof to deter people climbing on this, and we've had several run ins with fishermen using the grass outside the club to put up tents etc. Fishing is only allowed at marked pegs and not on the sailing club side of the lake.

Paddleboarding and Canoes etc

We are regularly asked by passers by if they can use their paddleboards or other inflatables on the Lakes and the response we give is always a firm no based on ELSC owning the Sailing rights only on Windmill Lake. However, it's difficult

to police when people see activities on the water. ELSC will always decline these activities as if we are seen to do it then people will assume it's ok to do it at any time. We remind people that a licence needs to be obtained to paddleboard on canals

Wild swimming

Following on from an approach by the Canals and River trust regarding wild swimming, we will not be supporting this at ELSC. Basically, they wanted to use our clubhouse as a base and showers etc, but again, this is not an easy ask as sailing and swimming would not work and the water is not really very clean.

If you have any questions or would like to pop in a see what we do, please pop in while the club is open and speak to us.

Steve Boot, Commodore ELSC

Canal & River Trust
Making life better by water

Hi, I am Andy Keast, the new Area Operations Manager based at Tardebigge, having taken over from Gemma in January this year.

A majority of the previous projects that have been reported on have been a result of the great work one of our ecologists, Paul, had been doing to create better wildlife habitats and biodiversity across our region. Paul left the Trust last year to take up fresh challenges and we still awaiting his replacement. Whilst some projects didn't come to fruition, for example the shingle island for Ringed Plovers couldn't be created due to reservoir water levels, lots of them will continue to provide a lasting legacy for the wide variety of wildlife that live and visit these spaces
There is, however, a volunteer 'Earlswood Taskforce', run by my Volunteer Team Leader Dafydd Jones, which are out every week tackling the wide variety of challenges that maintaining the lakes for wildlife, residents and visitors brings. There is always more work than volunteers and funding allows, and we have to prioritise what we do. If anyone wishes to join the volunteer group and help out, however infrequently, then please head over to Volunteer with us | Canal & River Trust and sign up! It would be great to see you 😊

As usual, our annual grass cutting program will soon get underway and includes reservoir embankments, this sometimes leads to disappointment when wildflowers are removed. Just as a reminder, the Trust has a legal responsibility for maintaining these reservoirs in a safe condition to protect the public and ensure they remain functional and able to supply the canal network. The ability to be able to conduct a visual inspection of a dam, and its surrounding area, is critical, as a change to the appearance of the face of the dam can be one of the earliest and most important indicators of a impending reservoir failure. It is really important therefore we keep the surface grass short, so our asset inspectors are able to readily identify any change to the reservoir face as early as possible. Keeping the grass short also encourages grass with a dense root system, rather than broad leaf plants which create shade and bare patches. A good grass system helps reinforce the embankment surface, reducing risk of surface slips and erosion of the dam face.

Please be aware, new 'Simpler Recycling' legislation is being introduced in England to increase recycling rates of wastes generated by businesses. From 31 March 2025, most businesses and workplaces in England that generate waste similar in nature to household waste, will be required to separate that waste for collection. Due to these legal changes, we would need to change the type and number of bins (internal and external) at all Trust locations, where we have bins, to allow for separation into food/mixed recycling/general waste. Local Authorities have an exemption from this requirement, however, DEFRA have confirmed that this doesn't extend to the Trust for its public facing bins. It is clearly not practical, or cost efficient for the Trust, as a charity, to try and replace and then manage three separate bins at every location where we have a general waste litter bin. It is therefore very likely that we will soon be having to remove public litter bins (this doesn't include dog waste bins) from across our network.

Hopefully I will be able to provide you with details of new projects happening in your area at the next update.

Prince Albert Angling Society (PAAS) acquired the fishing rights at these three 20-acre reservoirs in July 2024 so we are getting close to our first anniversary in charge of the fishing. An update of activity over the last few months is set out below.

Police Activity

During the winter months it has been generally quiet as expected so there has been little requirement for police assistance. That said we have reported the two thefts of decking from Terry's pool to the police and have crime numbers. They are actively investigating these thefts.

Our Agreement with CRT

As expected from 1 January there has been a sharp upturn in the purchase of annual permits (mainly by local anglers) for Windmill pool and Engine pool for those who regularly fish there rather than purchasing day tickets. Sales of day tickets continue both on line and through Wave café.

Windmill and Engine pool

We have stocked over the winter months two small batches of bream into Windmill pool together with a handful of carp. The regular matches on a Thursday have continued all winter and catches have been quite good despite the weather. Attendance at these matches is gradually increasing. Thanks to Charlie for organising these.

Terry's Pool

As many of you have noticed we have built 6 stages where the bank pegs used to be. There has always been fishing at these 6 locations and the stages do no more than make it more comfortable and move anglers a few feet further away from the footpath which must be a safer environment for all.

We are not doing any day tickets or annual permits at Terry's Pool, all anglers will be full members of PAAS. Therefore we have all the contact information for each and every member who fishes Terrys, and they have to book prior to fishing so we know who is expected on any given day

Those that have fished Terrys pool since 1 January report no issues and I have had no complaints from anyone else either. They have provided some useful information about comings and goings at the water. I would expect more anglers as the weather improves. It would be great if anglers were on each of the 6 pegs most of the time as this would be a massive deterrent to those individuals that no-one wants to be there. The parking is however poor so this will undoubtedly deter some members.

Parking will be in the Wood Lane car park with no access or egress at unreasonable hours, day anglers can of course park in Malt House Lane. Anglers are used to fishing at locations that do not have toilet facilities and will have their own facility within their bivvy as do many thousands of anglers across the country.

Bailiff Patrols

We have around 10 bailiffs who patrol the water, and another 2 local guys have also joined the group in the last few days. Various others, including committee members also visit on a regular basis. The Angling Trust VBS guys also visit from time to time.

Many of the local residents are engaged with these bailiffs and report issues directly to them – whether that be fishing related or anything else. Thanks to all the local residents who are making us feel welcome and as always I will take this opportunity to ask that if anyone sees any unlawful activity of any sort please report it to the police – such reports really do help in getting police assistance.

To re-iterate night fishing is allowed on Terrys pool now maximum of 6 anglers who must have booked on in advance and must be members of the society. Absolutely no-one has permission to be fishing Windmill or Engine pools at night – anyone so doing is fishing illegally.



Thank you for attending the Parish Assembly

If you have any questions about the work your Parish Council do, please come in and ask!

Please join us for light refreshments

TANWORTH IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL