

**Autumn
2015**



Hawkwell Voice

From Your Hawkwell Residents Association

Established 1994

Cake Moments

We now have a new shop in Hawkwell called Cake Moments next to the Shadhona Indian Restaurant in Main Road. We are pleased to see that this shop is now being used again as it has been empty for a number of years. It was last used as a printers but in the past it has been a wool shop and a general store according to local historian Margaret Chambers. The new owners produce cakes for all occasions and we are informed they may add a cake cafe facility. We wish them well with their new venture.

Belchamps

Belchamps Scout Activity Centre has 30 acres of fantastic camping fields set in our beautiful Essex countryside. There are five high quality indoor facilities and a large range of activities for young people. There is something for all ages and abilities and no one is left out of the fun. For full details please see the Belchamps website: belchamps.org.uk

Serving Hawkwell Residents for Twenty One Years

Barclays Bank Closure

As you are probably aware the last bank in Hockley the Spa Road branch of Barclays Bank is closing on the 9 October 2015. They say It's because the number of customers has fallen by 51 percent in seven years mainly due to the increasing use of online banking. Unfortunately a number of people do not wish to use online banking or ATMs. It also means that shopkeepers in Hockley will need to travel to Rayleigh or Rochford to bank their takings. It appears that banks are now concentrating on

larger towns like Southend, Rayleigh and Basildon. This means that Rochford Town which is really no bigger than Hockley is at risk of losing its banks. Out of the two banks in Rochford, Barclays are now only open 4 day a week, closing Thursdays and weekends. You cannot reverse the internet so unfortunately things can only get worse. We have written to Barclays Bank and our MP Mark Francois with our concerns and have received replies but at the

time of writing the closure is still going ahead. The only good news is you will be able to pay in cash and cheques to your personal Barclays account at the Spa Road Post Office and of course get money out of other four existing ATMs in Hockley. Regrettably people who do not wish to or are unable to bank online, use ATMs or get to Rayleigh or Rochford will now be left in the unsatisfactory position of finding someone they can trust to help them.

Auto-Plas and Benchmark Doors

Plans have now been approved to demolish Auto-Plas and Benchmark Doors at 90 Main Road Hawkwell and replace them with 36 homes. We objected, as although we welcome the 27 hopefully affordable terraced houses, we also believe losing this service and light industrial site is a loss of potential jobs in Hawkwell. It could also be the thin end of the wedge by turning the adjacent service and light industrial sites Stonebridge House, Rawal Pindi Nursery and possibly the adjacent homes on large plots, into more housing and with a further loss of job opportunities. Although it's a good thing that brown field sites and not green belt are used, we believe that this site has been deliberately allowed to run down for financial gain. The 37 homes are in addition to the 176 homes now being built on the Clements Gate Estate in the agreed Rochford District Council's long term plans for Hawkwell and the district.

Clements Hall Shelter

A few years ago Hawkwell Parish Council had a shelter built in Clements Hall Sports Grounds near the skateboard ramps. Unfortunately they have now virtually been destroyed. To see before and now photos please see the home page of our website: hawkwell.org

Please visit our website: **hawkwell.org**

Low Membership

We are experiencing very low membership at the moment and this may have been caused by our spring newsletter clashing with the general election leaflets. We have been serving Hawkwell for 21 years now helping with issues such as street lights and signs, bus stops, overgrown bushes, crossings and parking. If you have not already paid your subscriptions for this year, please send it to: Hawkwell Residents Association at 2 Englefield Close, Hawkwell, SS5 4LE or 25B Belchamps Way, Hawkwell, SS5 4NT. We would also like to thank our volunteer folders, distributors and deliverers who make our newsletter possible and affordable. If you are not already a deliverer or folder and can spare an hour every 6 months we would be very grateful. We are

still looking for new members to join our committee. If you are interested, reside in Hawkwell and are over 18 years of age please contact us at the addresses above or through the contact page on our website at: hawkwell.org
Let us know your phone number and email address especially if you have an issue in Hawkwell that you would like us to address or help you with and we will try our best to resolve them. Unfortunately cost now prevents us from contacting you by post. In addition to our twice yearly newsletter, together with the Hockley Residents Association we have a short monthly article in Hockley Living that we believe most of Hawkwell receives through the door.

Coach Trips

The Hockley Residents Association social secretary organises great value coach trips including pick-up points in Hawkwell:

- Friday 4th September – Day at the Races, Ascot.
- Friday 16th October to Tuesday 20th October – North Yorkshire.
- Friday 27th November – Christmas in Faversham & Canterbury.

For further details please visit the Local Events page on the Hockley or Hawkwell RA websites or phone Brian O’Shea on 01702 204334.

Please Join Us - Help Us to Help You

Broadband

We have received a number of complaints about the speed of broadband connections in Hawkwell and Hockley. There are a number of online speed checks that can be used to measure download and upload speeds but we would not recommend that you use one that needs to be installed as they may come with unwanted extras. Unfortunately the results are not very reliable as they vary from company to company and on the time of day the test is carried out. We believe it is safe to say that connections in our area are poor. Before we take any action we would be interested to hear your experiences and if any of our readers / members could advise us if anything could be done to improve this situation.

Parking On Corners

We have received a number of complaints about vehicles parking on or close to street corners restricting the vision of oncoming traffic when exiting side turnings. The Highway Code states: do not stop or park opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space. We have brought this issue up with our local police but as we all know they are being stretched to the limit and are therefore unable to act. Offenders could be subject to traffic police but due to cutbacks we don’t see much of them in our area these days. We believe at the end of the day it should just be down to drivers thinking and acting sensibly. The other issue we get complaints about is vehicles parking over pavements. The main thing is that you leave sufficient space for prams, wheelchairs and mobility scooters to pass through and not be forced to go in the road. The Highway Code is available online at: gov.uk/highway-code

If you would like to join us and you have not already paid your subscriptions for this year, please send it to: Hawkwell Residents Association, 2 Englefield Close, Hawkwell, SS5 4LE or 25B Belchamps Way, Hawkwell, SS5 4NT.
No cash by post please, however 1st and 2nd class stamps only or cheques payable to Hawkwell Residents Association are fine.
I enclose £..... being my / our subscription for this year (£1 per person per calendar year) together with any additional voluntary donation. In order to reduce costs a receipt will not be issued unless a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed.
If you are not already a deliverer, would you deliver the Hawkwell Residents Association Newsletter in your road or another road? (please circle) **YES / NO**. I am Interested in joining the committee (please circle) **YES / NO**. Is there an issue in Hawkwell that you would like us to address or help you with?
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Name(s).....Address.....
Phone Number.....Email Address.....

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