

WHITSBURY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

November 2020



WHITSBURY HELPERS

In the first full lockdown the Whitsbury Helpers were able to help a number of people.

With another lockdown with us we are here to help. So if you need a prescription pickup, grocery collection or just need a chat and are vulnerable or self isolating please contact one of the Whitsbury Helpers and we will see how we can help or e-mail admin@whitsbury.com

See list of helpers on page 3

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2nd Whitsbury village newsletter created for the village on behalf of the Whitsbury Parish Council by the Whitsbury Helpers group of volunteers. We thought we would release a newsletter every 6 months to bring everyone up to date with news and other interesting items from village life. People consume news in different ways and we thought good old fashioned paper format as a supplement to the online information that is around is more 'all inclusive' to those who do not have the same level of digital connectivity. You can easily scan through this over a coffee as well!!

COVID 19 SUPPORT

We hope everyone is keeping themselves safe as the Corona virus continues to affect us on a daily basis. As we enter the second lockdown the Whitsbury Helpers remain on call for anyone who needs help whether that be prescriptions, shopping or other assistance. It is difficult to predict the impact on a week by week, month by month basis and people will feel the need to potentially isolate or shield. We want to make sure we draw together as a community and help each other as appropriate.

*IF YOU NEED HELP PLEASE PHONE A
WHITSBURY HELPER*

Whitsbury Village Show

As you know unfortunately we had to cancel the 2020 village show because of Covid 19 restrictions. We are delighted to be able to let you know that the new show date will be **Saturday 7th August 2021**. Hopefully we will be able to make appropriate arrangements and the Covid 19 situation will have receded. The 2020 programme will be used so that if anyone had prepared any items they will still fit in the same category. Watch out for more news in the coming months.



Village Web Site: www.whitsbury.com

Village Facebook Page : Whitsbury

VILLAGE NEWS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

Ecological Verge Management

Did you know 97% of natural wildflower meadows have been lost since the 2nd world war which has a significant knock on effect to wildlife particularly insects. We have set up a village group 'Whitsbury World' as a sub group of the Parish Council and that group has been looking at ways we can be more ecologically friendly and do our part in an increasingly fragile world. One of the areas we have been looking at is verge management and how we currently manage the verges particularly to the south side of the village from Whitsbury Cross through to the Whitsbury village sign. Verges can be more wildlife friendly and become corridors that can be used by wildlife, insects, birds, and wild flowers. The timing of cutting and the way we manage them can either encourage less wildlife friendly plants or promote wild flowers and a more natural environment, more friendly to insects, birds and mammals. This is primarily associated with moving cutting times and managing the cuttings and creating a strip that will promote wild flowers.

Footpath Management and Maintenance

Geoff Dominey and his wife, Liz, are two of a number of volunteer path wardens with Hampshire County Council for South West Hampshire. As such, if any footpath issues are reported to the Council, in appropriate circumstances, they are allocated to Geoff and Liz for assessment and possible action. This could include clearing vegetation, examining the condition and the status of the path itself, obstructions to paths, assessing the condition of bridges, boardwalks and steps, and the way marking of paths. This is all under the supervision of the team leader for the south west of the county. Some tasks are undertaken as part of a team others are just taken care of by Geoff and Liz. They have completed a variety of tasks in Martin, Rockbourne and Whitsbury.

If you are interested in becoming a warden please let Geoff know at Lushers Cottage. The council have agreed to run some training courses (max 5 per training session) which will include how to make assessments, how to waymark a path and risk assessments. Once trained you will be covered by the Council insurance policy and you get some kit to do the job (but not brush cutters, hedge trimmers or anything electrical!)

You can report any issues with footpaths and other rights of way to the Rights of Way Team at Hampshire County Council and it may well end up being allocated to Geoff and Liz.

Village Digital Connectivity (Low, Med and High Speed Broadband)

We are looking at various ways of improving Broadband speeds for village residents. Currently there are two broadband speeds available, a 'standard' speed link at 1 to 7MBits/Sec and a 'superfast' link of 30 to 50 MBits/sec. Most of the village are connected to the 'superfast' speed link with some on the 'standard' link. As technology improves and BT improves the infrastructure the next stage will be an 'ultrafast' link operating at 300MBits/sec and above.

We have two activities ongoing:

- The first is to look to see if those on the 'standard' bandwidth can have the infrastructure changed so that they could be upgraded to the 'superfast' speed.
- The second activity is to explore the potential of getting the whole village upgraded to the 'ultrafast' connection.

For the first activity we want to see if we can help those who are connected on the slower speed to be able to upgrade at a reasonable cost if they should so wish. If you are connected in on a slower link, either do a speed check to test your connection or try streaming video. If it is slow or the video buffers a lot then you are likely to be on the slower link. If you have the slower link please contact Steve Husher on 518372 or send an e-mail to admin@whitsbury.com if you would like to be part of an initiative to press BT for equal broadband for all within the village.



For the second activity Geoff Dominey is trying to put together a bid to get faster, more reliable, broadband to the village. At the present time fibre to cabinet (the green BT boxes) is available to many in the village which enables people to get 'superfast' broadband (which is defined as faster than 30Mbps). The bid Geoff is trying to put together is for 'ultrafast' which is defined as giving speeds over 300Mbps with a target of 1000Mbps. This is delivered by fibre to property. There is some funding available towards achieving this and the more people who express an interest in the scheme/bid the better the chance of achieving it. There is no cost to an individual to express an interest.

Points of contact and Help

Whitsbury Helpers

Juliette Knibbs 518838
Andy Foreman 518064
Steve Husher 518372
Charlotte Thompson 518518
Geoff Dominey 518087
Arabella Tregoning 518274
Gemma Hearsom 518270

Parish Council

Graham Thompson 518518
David Bellini 518885
Chris Harper
Hilary Sutton
Geoff Dominey 518087

Further Information

Village Web Site

www.whitsbury.com

Village Facebook Page

Whitsbury

Should you wish to discuss this further then please contact Geoff on geoff.dominey@btinternet.com Should you be happy to express an interest at this stage please provide Geoff with your full name, address, including postcode and landline number.

Village Web site, Social Media and Keeping Continuously Informed

We have various methods of communication for the village via social media. The web site www.whitsbury.com is updated regularly with news and events about the village. The Facebook page Whitsbury is also used to promulgate information and the two are now linked so if you like the Facebook page you will get notifications of web site updates. There are also various village WhatsApp groups. If you are having trouble connecting to WhatsApp groups, e-mails, the internet or connecting to web sites and would like some help or advice please call Steve Husher on 518372.

The Cartwheel will open as Take Away only during lockdown

The Cartwheel is being forced to close again on Wednesday 4th Nov and therefore will continue to provide takeaways for the local Community over the lockdown period on a Friday & Saturday evening 5-9pm and Sunday 12-3pm.

The Cartwheel Facebook Page and website, will be regularly updated. The Cartwheel will also be delivering menus by hand to villagers.

Did You Know?

It is still possible to get milk delivered to your doorstep from Milk & More they use recyclable glass for milk etc for re-use and recycling. They can deliver dairy, cheese, meat and pasta, bakery, fruit and veg and drinks including special dietary needs products. See www.milkandmore.co.uk

Additional Items

If you would like us to cover something specifically within the next newsletter please get in touch and let us know. Also if you have other ideas that the Parish Council should engage in to further support the Whitsbury village community please contact us.

We can be contacted via e-mail at admin@whitsbury.com, or please contact one of the Whitsbury Helpers.