

# WHITSBURY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Issue No 4 Summer 2021



## LOCKDOWN EXIT

As we get vaccinated and resume unrestricted living there may be some that still need help or assistance. If you do please still use the Whitsbury Helpers we are happy to help as best we can!

Village Information Sources

[www.whitsbury.com](http://www.whitsbury.com)

Whitsbury Facebook Page

Village Whatsapp Groups

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the summer edition of the village newsletter. We have interesting news and articles we hope you will enjoy reading. This month we have even more articles and it is great to find out what is going on in the village, on the farm, at the stables and the stud and see the energy and activity going into local improvements and initiatives.

## VILLAGE NEWS

### Village Show

We took the very difficult decision of cancelling this years village show following a review of the covid situation. Although restrictions had been lifted the case numbers continued to rise and we certainly did not want to be a cause of a local community infection hot spot. We are planning to reschedule to next year, a date will follow shortly.

### Wild Flower Verge

We are continuing to manage the short section (fenced off until the latest cut) as an experimental area. After the July cut we raked off all of the cuttings in an attempt to reduce the fertility of the grasses, whose growth inhibits many wildflowers. Don't expect great things too soon! As we say, this is an experiment and may take a few seasons to show any big changes. Do watch this space though.

### Racing Stables (By Tori Haworth)



Spring and summer are the busiest time of the year in a flat racing yard and with approximately 50 horses in work it has been all systems go at Marcus Tregoning Racing. The flat turf racing season began on March 27<sup>th</sup> and although the cold spring was not particularly helpful in allowing the horses to thrive in the early part of the season Marcus has had many runners and the horses have been

running well with plenty of exciting winners since then. The highlight of the year so far has been the brilliant Perotto who was victorious in one of the most competitive races of the season, The Britannia Handicap at Royal Ascot. It was hugely exciting for his owners, Halcyon Thoroughbreds, and a well deserved success for the whole team. A fantastic celebratory lunch was kindly hosted by Halcyon Thoroughbreds at The Cartwheel for all of the staff members at the yard and fun time was had by all. Some other exciting successes have been 2yo winners Rawyaan and Ribhi, whilst Zuhair is two wins from two runs so far this season and Power Of Darkness has been running consistently well in competitive races and has recently won at Newmarket.

To give you a brief insight into a normal working day at the yard, the staff arrive at the yard at 6am when the horses are mucked out and first lot pulls out at 7am. There are usually 4 lots ridden out throughout the day with the final lot finishing around 1pm. After a rest for all, evening stables begin at 4pm and finish around 5.30. With racing happening everyday up and down the country there are often long days for the staff with late nights and early mornings but a love of the horses and the sport make it all worthwhile.

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September Marcus and Arabella, in support of National Racehorse Week, are welcoming members of the public into the yard for a morning to see the horses and learn more about how a racing yard operates and to see the wonderful care that is given to the horses. Most of the places have been booked already but if anybody is interested in attending, please contact Arabella or Tori in the office at [info@marcustregoningracing.co.uk](mailto:info@marcustregoningracing.co.uk).

### Whitsbury Stud (By Phil Haworth)

2021 proved to be a very productive breeding season on the stud. 68 foals were safely delivered at the Clocktower Yard between January and early May. Once born the foals were moved to the Lower Stud at 48hrs old, where I am sure many of you have seen them galloping around the paddocks when walking through.

The stallions were very busy covering over 550 mares between them. Sergei Prokofiev was our new stallion recruit for 2021 – a very fast and imposing son of Scat Daddy, adapting to his new life very quickly. He proved very popular covering over 150 mares. Showcasing, the star stallion continues to lead the roster. We are lucky to have him!



The stud team have enjoyed a well deserved holiday period, and the focus has now shifted to the forthcoming yearling sales season where we will be offering 35 for public auction between now and middle of October. All yearlings are prepared for the sales at the Private Yard, each horse undergoes an 8 week programme. We send the first 6 up to Doncaster at end of August for the Goffs UK Premier and Silver Sale – extra pressure this year as we are selling the first crop of our young and exciting stallion Havana Grey. They certainly look fast, so there is plenty to look forward to next year's flat racing season. I am sure they will be well received by the market.

This year's crop of foals are shaping up well and the majority have now been weaned (around 5 months old). We will be selling close to 30 of these foals towards the end of the year. The dream is alive with these youngsters and I am sure there are plenty of future winners amongst them.

Whitsbury bred horses have been winning plenty of races on the track this season, especially amongst the 2yo crop. It is always very satisfying for the team on the stud to follow the foals through to racing and be able to watch them reach their potential on the track.

A few exciting Whitsbury bred horses to follow for the remainder of this season listed below:

CAPTAIN'S BAR – EHRAZ - GET AHEAD - DILIGENT HARRY - PROJECT DANTE - SAM MAXIMUS

### Whitsbury Farm (By Jon Dare)

Farming throughout the world revolves around the weather and we've had all sorts here at Whitsbury since my last update in the spring. From late frosts and a dry April, through May and early June to a wet first half of July and the recent hot dry spell, our animals, crops and staff have had to make the most of it. Once the spring crops got established and had some rain, they took off and those of you who are regulars at the gallops will have seen the peas and poppies race through their growth stages, as did the wheat, and the oilseed rape down at the bottom of the village.



The poppies are a showy crop and when in flower are quite an impressive sight. The poppy seed grown here at Whitsbury this year will be sold into the catering trade for toppings on bakery products like bread, or use in salad dressings, for example. Our peas, which seemed to grow taller each time I saw them, are looking a bit shabby now as they are starting to ripen off. In fact we're waiting for all the crops to be fit for harvest. The oilseed rape will be first, then the milling wheat and the spring malting barley with peas and poppies in between

somewhere. It's a busy time for all of us on the farm during August; not only will Bob, our tractor/combine driver, be harvesting (whilst the rest of the team will be baling and moving straw into barns before it gets wet), he'll be trying to get cover crops established as well as planting next year's oilseed rape crop and planting new grass paddocks too. And all of it with a careful eye on the weather, trying not to miss an opportunity to get the harvest in when it's ripe and whilst it's dry.



Grass growth this year has been phenomenal since the rain and warmer nights came in May. Before that there was very little grass around and I was wondering how we were going feed the breeding mares and the beef cattle this coming winter. In fact we sold some of our sheep early this year as there was so little grass, but it hasn't stopped growing since then and we're about to take a second cut of haylage on some fields so there will be plenty of winter fodder.



Our sheep do a great job of keeping paddocks tidy. They need attention though. Their feet needed careful trimming after the winter; they all needed shearing in May; and we have to keep the flies off them throughout the summer, so by the time they go up for sale at the Wilton Sheep Fair in early September they should be looking at their best. Then we have about a week off before the new batch of lambs arrive from 'up north'. We have some Aberdeen Angus store cattle too and they're looking well with plenty of grass in front of them. All of them are a real credit to our stockman, Rob, who looks after them.



Regrettably because of Covid, we had to cancel a planned talk in the village hall about the local farmer cluster conservation group which facilitates environmental projects on farms in and around Martin Down and Rockbourne, including here at Whitsbury Farm & Stud. Hopefully it will be back on the agenda in the not too distant future. We'll look forward to seeing you all there.

In the meantime let's hope harvest goes smoothly and safely, and that our grain store is full by time we finish. Enjoy the summer.

### Whitsbury Village Plan (By Steve Husher)

The last Whitsbury village plan was issued in August 2006. The village plan at that time had observations and recommendations which were acted on. Some of the fundamental points raised resonate today such as the timeless charm with a strong sense of community and mutual respect between residents. So why update now, well it is 15 years since that last plan was generated and there has been significant change in village residents over that time and issues will likely have changed within the local political, environmental, social and technological spheres.

The Whitsbury Parish Council has endorsed the development of a revised Village Plan. The objective is to create a plan that expresses the views of the current community to help guide community development and issues that the residents of Whitsbury wish the appropriate bodies to take action on. This gives an opportunity for villagers to influence the local appropriate bodies such as the Parish Council.

A Village Plan committee is being assembled made up of village residents. This group will co-ordinate the activities required to generate and circulate a questionnaire, review and analyse the questionnaire data and present those findings in a final report. A proposed timeline for the village plan shows a completion date of Autumn 2022.

The first stage is to ask residents of any issues they believe should be included in the questionnaire. This will help guide the questionnaire development and make sure that the appropriate questions are asked and responses gathered. This will help make sure your issues get covered adequately remembering that your issue may not be shared by everyone but we can gather the overall community view by asking the right questions.

If you have specific issues you would like to have included within the questionnaire there are two ways of providing your ideas as follows:

1. Complete the blank form at the rear of this newsletter and place in the Village Hall post box.
2. Send an e-mail to [villageplan@whitsbury.com](mailto:villageplan@whitsbury.com) with your ideas.

## Ultra Fast Broadband In Whitsbury (By Geoff Dominey and Steve Husher)

Since 2020 we have been collecting names of local people who may be interested in improving the internet speed and quality covering Whitsbury. Some may say my internet is fine and I don't need more speed, which is fine but we live in a community and many others in our community are getting very poor speeds in their connection. May we ask you to think of the community as a whole and also think of the businesses in our area who may be struggling.

In recent years green boxes have appeared in villages, we have a couple serving the village the main one is opposite the Cartwheel. Some of these are equipped with Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC). With these BT Openreach (BTO) have run fibre from the exchange to the cabinet and then copper from thereon. Copper cables are fine for telephone conversations but the data signal down copper drops off significantly with distance from the exchange. Speeds are measured in MB/sec (the speed per second you can send data) and with copper, in general people get 0.05 to 80 MB/sec.

To deliver ultrafast broadband within Whitsbury would necessitate bringing Fibre To The Premises (FTTP) where fibre is taken from the green cabinet to your premises, in to your home, and to your BT socket. With FTTP speeds of up to 1,000 MB/sec are theoretically achievable. Certainly speeds faster than anything a copper cable can provide would be deliverable. BT call this Full Fibre broadband.

The depressing news is that, even if we are successful with a bid for funding, it can take 2 years+ to get this installed. That's better than doing nothing and waiting 5+ years if we solely rely on the national role out plan.

### **What will it Cost**

Lets divide the costs into installation and monthly contract.

#### **Installation Costs**

There are grant vouchers per household and business available for BTO to claim and if we get enough people who are willing to put their name forward then economy of scale should mean that the grants should cover the cost of installation off full fibre broadband. In the end it will be up to each individual to decide. This has been done in many other areas and with your help we are aiming to get free installation to our homes, by claiming enough vouchers to cover the installation costs.

The initial quote we have received from Openreach is in the region of £130-140,000 for the whole village infrastructure and grants are available from central government for £1500 per domestic property with an additional £1500 per property from a fund established by Hampshire County Council (the latter being £1 million on a first come first served basis). Businesses (SME) are eligible for £3500 from Central Government. It is about covering this cost from vouchers available from the government and Hampshire County Council to effectively get the service infrastructure provided free to the village. So you can see we need in the order of 50 properties to sign up to get enough vouchers.

#### **Monthly contracts.**

We pay this already to our local internet service provider. Some ISPs may not be able to provide ultrafast so you may have to change ISPs but many are now offering this service. Information on the costs of this are limited as it is not on offer until you actually have a full fibre connection. We can only look at the costs for other areas who do have full fibre connections to the home. There is a

requirement to take up a full fibre broadband contract for at least 12 months following initial installation. Such a contract would need to be for a download speed of 50 MB/sec or double your existing speed, whichever is higher through a full fibre capable connection. It is feasible to remain with your current provider as long as you take up the higher speed connection. It is likely that a move to an full fibre contract may lead to an increase in cost but the benefits to users are likely to be considerable. The cost of any package can also vary depending on the type of benefits you might want, some typical costs are shown below (Full Fibre broadband costs for 24 month contract).

BT Fibre 100	BT Fibre 300	BT Fibre 900
145 MB/Sec Average Speed	300 MB/Sec Average Speed	900 MB/Sec Average Speed
£39.99/mth	£45.99/mth	£55.99/mth

If you need to test your present broadband speed try <https://www.speedtest.net/>

We found the following article gives even more detail and information and can be read at <https://kenstechtips.com/index.php/bt-full-fibre-broadband>.

### Next Steps

If you would be interested in supporting this initiative please forward your details by either sending an e-mail to [broadband@whitsbury.com](mailto:broadband@whitsbury.com) or by completing the form on the back page of this newsletter and post it in the Village Hall letterbox. If you would like to discuss the matter in greater detail please contact Geoff Dominey or Steve Husher via [broadband@whitsbury.com](mailto:broadband@whitsbury.com). If you did express an interest previously could you confirm again as we realise individual circumstances may have changed.

### **The details you provide MUST include your name (first name and surname), full address including post code and your landline telephone number**

An expression of interest does not commit you to any financial outlay but will enable us to ascertain if we are likely to be able to cover the costs under the voucher scheme.

The above information is given with the best intention for the community as a whole and whilst we try to give correct information you may also wish to check the information for yourselves as at this point we would throw in the standard disclaimer and indicate that any inaccuracies are somebody else's fault.

### **New Mini Library (By Charlotte Thompson)**

Keep your eyes peeled for the new mini library which should arrive outside the pub in a few weeks' time. Paul and Annette have kindly offered to host this new venture. Its byline is TOLO 'take one, leave one'; although you will be very welcome to take one without leaving one as well. We hope it will complement the sharing box opposite.

### **Village Hall WI-Fi**

Wi-Fi is now installed in the village hall, this allows general internet access and wi-fi calling. Village hall users can access the service via the BT\_Guest\_Net connection. No passcode is needed.



#### *Points of contact and Help*

#### **Whitsbury Helpers**

**Andy Foreman 518064**

**Steve Husher 518372**

**Charlotte Thompson 518518**

**Geoff Dominey 518087**

**Arabella Tregoning 518274**

**Juliette Knibbs 518838**

#### **Parish Council**

**Graham Thompson 518518**

**David Bellini 518885**

**Chris Harper**

**Hilary Sutton**

**Geoff Dominey 518087**

#### **Litter Pick**

Now Covid restrictions have lifted we will determine a date for a litter pick. Watch out for dates.

#### **Village Hall Entertainment Committee**

The village hall entertainment committee are looking for volunteers to sit on the committee to help plan events and also volunteers who are willing to set up and pack up after events. If you are interested in getting involved and helping with these community events please contact Hilary Sutton or e-mail [admin@whitsbury.com](mailto:admin@whitsbury.com)

#### **Dates For Your Diary**

The following events will be running at the Village Hall

16<sup>th</sup> Oct 10 till 12 Macmillan Coffee Morning

12<sup>th</sup> Nov Bingo Night

3<sup>rd</sup> Dec Christmas Concert Sandleheath Band

Tickets for the Bingo night and the Christmas concert can be obtained from Hillary Sutton. More details to follow.

#### **Ideas for future Articles**

If you would like to see something in the newsletter, an observation or query please contact [admin@whitsbury.com](mailto:admin@whitsbury.com) or call Steve Husher on 518372.

#### **Thank Yous**

Many thanks to all contributors Tori, Phil, Jon, Geoff, Charlotte, Hilary and Daphne for all the printing.

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#### **INFORMATION SOURCES**

Village Whatsapp Group

[www.whitsbury.com](http://www.whitsbury.com)

Village Facebook site:  
Whitsbury

## WHITSBURY VILLAGE PLAN

Please consider the following points for the questionnaire:

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....

Name (Optional).....

If you leave your name it helps if we need to clarify your point when determining the questionnaire list.

Please return this either by e-mail to [villageplan@whitsbury.com](mailto:villageplan@whitsbury.com) or by dropping the form into the village hall postbox which is located to the left of the main entry doors.

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## WHITSBURY VILLAGE BROADBAND

I am interested in being included in improving my broadband speed by upgrading to a fibre to property connection, with a connection speed of up to 900 Mbps.

First Name: .....

Surname:.....

Full Address:.....

Post Code:.....

Landline No 01725 .....

Do you run a registered business from this address    Yes / No

If the answer to the above is yes do you have a separate business telephone    Yes / No

Business Telephone No.....

Please return this either by e-mail to [broadband@whitsbury.com](mailto:broadband@whitsbury.com) or by dropping the form into the village hall postbox which is located to the left of the main entry doors.