

WHITSBURY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Issue No 5 Spring 2022



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the spring edition of the village newsletter. We have interesting news and articles we hope you will enjoy reading regarding our village community.

VILLAGE NEWS

Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration – 5th June 2022

Save the date of 5th June 2022 for a fun packed afternoon of Childrens games, grown-ups challenges, tea & cakes and rounded off with supper and a drink.

For more details, or any ideas you might have, please contact Marcus Locock (jubilee@whitsbury.com)

Village Show - 6th August 2022

We have now set a date for the Village Show which will be the 6th August 2022 in the village hall. A draft programme is available on the web site on the village show page. We are really hoping we can proceed this year, we will be undertaking a covid assessment closer to the time to make sure we keep everyone safe.

Whitsbury Village Plan (By Steve Husher)

The last Whitsbury village plan was issued in August 2006 so it was felt it was time to relook at villagers views and issue a new/updated plan. Every household should have received a questionnaire as part of this process, and we are looking for as much response as we can. Your views make a difference and will help shape and direct village initiatives in the coming years. We have already received about 30% returned, so very many thanks if you have taken the time to complete. There are quite a few questions but please take



the time to review and complete as it will help us understand everyone's views. Narrative comments are also very good as they can provide a deeper steer and we have had some great comments already. All results are being collated as we get returns and the timescale is to provide a full report in the autumn. Please take the time to complete the survey and use the return address that is nearest to you including the Village Hall postbox. Many thanks, all returns are greatly appreciated. We will be able to accept late submissions if you need more time so please get those responses in even if it is after the 28th February.

Racing Stables (By Tori Haworth)

With the UK flat racing season officially ending on the 6th November, the winter months are a quieter time for Marcus and his team. The open day held in September was a great success and it was wonderful to greet many visitors including some locals from the village. People who had not visited a racing yard before were fascinated at how the yard ran on a day-to-day basis and the incredible care and individual attention that each horse is given by the fantastic staff who look after them every day.



The autumn is a busy time for sales with some of the older horses being sold to new homes (often in national hunt racing or abroad) and Marcus busily attending the yearling sales that are held across the country to restock with younger horses for the coming season. Among some exciting stock purchased last October are two colts who were bought for our newly established syndicates called Whitsbury I and Whitsbury II. Syndicates are a great way to enjoy all the benefits of racehorse

ownership at an affordable price – the cost of joining Whitsbury I is £3,900 and Whitsbury II is £2,800. Both syndicates have a couple of shares still available (only 12 shares are being sold in each horse) so if anybody is interested, please do get in touch. Being local, there will be plenty of opportunities for you to come and see your horse! For more information, please contact Arabella or Tori (info@marcustregoningracing.co.uk or 01725 518889)



The yard has had a few runners on the all-weather over the winter but it has generally been much quieter and the staff have been able to take some well-deserved holiday. With the flat racing season starting at the end of March, there is plenty to look forward to for this coming season. Some horses to look forward to include the 2021 Royal Ascot winner Perotto, dual 2yo winner Ribhi looks to have an exciting future. Whilst 7yo Power Of Darkness is in great form and will hopefully be back to winning ways.

Whitsbury Stud (By Phil Haworth)

Following previous update in September, I am pleased to report that we managed to get through the sales season unscathed. Remarkably the domestic and global bloodstock industry displayed a fair amount of resilience despite the ongoing pressures applied by the Covid 19 Pandemic and the hangover of Brexit.

Overall, the yearling sales met expectations and importantly Havana Grey's first crop were very well received. His sales results reflected the demand and appeal of his stock. This momentum rolled over into the foal sales later in the year. He has plenty of ammunition to hit the track - they are in with good trainers so let's hope they do the business on the track this summer!



Showcasing's foals and yearlings sold very well again, his current crop of 2yo to run this summer were conceived at his highest fee of £55,000 so we are hoping he has a very strong year on the track.

The stud team enjoyed a well-deserved break over Christmas & New Year. The breeding season is now up and running. First foal of the year was born on 12th Jan - also being the first foal for newest stallion Sergei Prokofiev. We are expecting close to 80 foals to be born this season and are already well over a quarter of the way through. One of the more exciting foals we are expecting was born recently, a filly by super racehorse and sire Frankel, ex Heartwarming (a speedy daughter of Showcasing and 1/2 sister to our Royal Ascot winner Heartache).

The stallions have started covering and once again we expect 400+ mares to visit us this year. This is a very busy & exciting time of year on the stud. It is hard work for the team, but very rewarding with plenty to look forward to over the next few months.

Whitsbury Farm (By Jon Dare)

My last farm report was August 2021 so there's a lot for you all to catch up with.

On a farm like Whitsbury, with several enterprises involved, there isn't much quiet time. And by far the busiest and most weather dependant time is the harvest when, on the arable enterprise, all our efforts throughout the year to nurture a decent crop, rely on sunshine to ripen the plant. Bad weather in August can ruin our chances of a decent yield and can destroy crop quality and it is these two factors that determine the price we get for our products. Any profit we make relies on minimising costs of production and maximising the output, true for crops, and true for the beef and sheep enterprises as well.



Everything was harvested successfully last year; the wheat quality was good enough to send some for milling and some for animal feed, the malting barley was sold for making beer, the oilseed rape and the peas have only just left the farm to go into the food chain and the poppy seed we harvested is still in store, ready to adorn all those artisan breads and salad dressings.



We keep some of our own wheat and barley straw to use on the stud and the beef enterprises, and getting this baled in perfect conditions is always tricky, but thanks to our baling contractor Neil Corbin, and to the farm/stud team moving straw from field to barn, we have a stack of good clean bales ready for use. Any straw not required is chopped out of the back of the combine harvester to return organic matter back to the

fields.

Once harvest is over we start planting and preparing for the next year and so all of last year's manure is spread on the fields in front of the oilseed rape, planted in early September, and the wheat planted in October. This includes the compost that we make from the stud and racehorse yards.



You will see the neat windrows of fresh compost recently stacked beside the track beyond the gallops, and this will be turned and mixed over the coming months so we can use it next year to improve our soils. If you're out on a cold day you can see the steam rising from the warm compost as it decomposes. We also use treated human sewage cake (thanks everyone) and our own cattle farmyard manure to help get the crops off to a good start and to minimise our reliance on artificial fertilisers. And we plant cover crops straight after harvest, where fields are going into spring crops, to help reduce any leaching of nutrients over the winter and to add yet more organic matter.

The Wilton Sheep fair in September is when we sell all our sheep, before buying in 300 new ewe lambs from Bentham market in Lancashire. These invariably arrive at some unearthly hour of the night after a long road trip, but they very quickly settle down and get used to their new

surroundings. This year's flock look really well at the moment and are doing an excellent job of tidying up the grass under the roadside fence lines. The stubble turnips have grown well and the sheep are slowly getting through them. Their dung is really useful for the soil microorganisms and will help the following crop of poppies flourish this year I hope. When the turnips are finished the sheep can go back onto grass, to some new grass leys planted at the bottom of the village last autumn.



We had quite a lot of clearing up to do after the winds in November and thanks must go to Robert Heron and Rob Castell, two village residents and both self-employed tree surgeons, as well as Rob from the farm team, for helping to clear the village road one Sunday morning. All of the stud paddocks had tree damage and it has taken quite a while to get everything cleared up and the buildings that were damaged, repaired. The church path was shut for a while because of fallen trees but it has been re-opened and a new oak gate, hand made by Ben Smith, is now in place and looking really smart.

Without Ben, and Shaun Manston, who are the estate maintenance team, the farm and stud and all of the associated properties wouldn't look so tidy. From farm barns to domestic houses, fixing grain store walls to replacing kitchen taps, Ben and Shaun have the skills and ingenuity to carry out almost any task thrown at them.

So this time of year is definitely not quiet. With fertiliser to go on the winter crops, grass fields to roll before the new foals go out, fencing to maintain and replace, grain stores to empty, spring crops to prepare for and plant, cattle barns to muck out, rats and moles to contend with, septic tanks to replace, new gates to put up, gallops to mow and re turf, vehicles & machinery to maintain, budgets, paperwork and legislative inspections to go through, it will very soon be Easter! That's something to look forward to.

Ultra Fast Broadband In Whitsbury (By Geoff Dominey)

At the end of 2020 an approach was made to Openreach to explore the cost of upgrading village broadband to provide fibre to property connectivity. The objective being to achieve a faster more reliable service in an age when more and more is done over the internet. At the time of the approach to Openreach government funding and a top up from Hampshire Council made provision of £3,000 per residential property that was prepared to sign up to provision of the new service.

After canvassing the village just over 30 households expressed an interest and these details were forwarded to Openreach to start the costing process. The cost from Openreach came back at just

over £140,00 meaning we were in the region of £40 -50,000 adrift. Uncertainty over the continuity of the funding due to local elections led to a delay in the application process.

When funding was confirmed an item was placed in the summer village newsletter to try and increase the number of people interested and this led to a small increase but nowhere near enough to reach the quoted cost.

The situation now is that Hampshire Council has been successful in securing significant government funding from the national Project Gigabit Scheme which could see between £148 and £251 million spent on improving services to in excess of 150,00 uncommercial (for service providers to install) or difficult to reach premises in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Hampshire has been identified as being in Phase 1 of the procurement process. The installation will be subject to a procurement process which will start in February – April 2022 and end in September with a contract commencement date of early 2023. While this procurement process takes place there will be a moratorium on some of the initial grant funding This makes any separate approach to installation by the village unfeasible. In order to further speed up the process of UK wide connectivity the Building Digital UK unit with the Department of Culture, Media and Sports will become a Government Executive Agency in April 2022 to enhance the rollout of digital support and expand its operations.

With this in mind we will have to see what the results of the procurement process are. It is my understanding that our area falls within the ‘difficult to reach or uncommercial category’.

Any further update will be placed on the village website.

Village Speed Limits

The Whitsbury Parish Council have passed a motion supporting the 20’s Plenty for Hampshire campaign and calls on Hampshire County Council to implement a 20mph speed limit in Whitsbury.

Cartwheel Update – (Annette and Paul)

We are re-open after completing building works and all rested after our break and raring to go. We raised over £200 for the church with our Christmas hamper raffle. It is now 2 years since Paul and I took over the Cartwheel and we would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

A few dates for the diary.

Mothers day - 2/3 course special with glass of pink prosecco for all mother's.

Easter Sunday - We are having an Easter egg hunt for the children during the day and between 5.30 -7.30 we will have live music,(Phil Short)BBQ and Pizza night. Bar will be open until 8.30 everyone welcome.



Points of contact and Help

Whitsbury Helpers

Andy Foreman
Steve Husher
Charlotte Thompson
Geoff Dominey
Arabella Tregoning
Juliette Knibbs

Parish Council

Graham Thompson
David Bellini
Chris Harper
Hilary Sutton
Geoff Dominey

Church Electoral Roll

St Leonards is reviewing its register of electors and you will receive explanatory information and an electoral roll application form, which is being provided to all parish homes. The electoral roll is refreshed on a 6 year cycle and is due this year. Please review the information and support the church if you can.

Village Hall Coffee Mornings

Regular coffee mornings are taking place usually the third Thursday in the month in the Village Hall. Watch out for signs outside the Village Hall, come along for a chat, coffee and cake, everyone welcome.

Little Free Library (By Charlotte Thompson)

I hope that most of you will by now have seen the little library box on the wall of the pub garden, beautifully painted by Janey Inman and kindly hosted by Paul and Annette; perhaps you've even taken or left a book. We hope that pub visitors will use it too as the weather gets warmer. Please feel free to take or drop off a book - there's no need to return it if you love it and want to keep it but you can put it back in if it doesn't float your boat. At the end of the day it works better the more people who use it and the more the books come and go. I will keep an eye on it anyway and ring the changes if books get stuck there for too long.

Litter Pick

The provisional date for the next village litter pick is 12th March at 10:30. Watch out on the usual communication channels for final details.

Wildflower Verges

By the time the newsletter goes out the posts and notices should be back out, marking out the verge area. This is our second year and we aren't expecting miracles but maybe there will be some small changes and possibly some different things will appear - who knows! By raking up the grass every time the verge is cut and keeping those cuts to a minimum, we are hoping to decrease the fertility of that piece of ground, which will benefit wildflowers rather than too much strong-growing grass. We're grateful to Chris Harper for his help in this. Keeping the combined forces of HCC and NFDC off our small patch is rather more of a challenge. For safety, a mower's width along the edge will still be cut.

Ideas for future Articles

If you would like to see something in the newsletter, an observation or query please contact admin@whitsbury.com or call Steve Husher on 372.

Sustainable Newsletter

If you would prefer only to receive an electronic newsletter and not the paper version please send an e-mail to admin@whitsbury.com and we'll stop delivering a paper copy and e-mail you a copy instead.

Thank Yous

Many thanks to all contributors Tori, Phil, Jon, Geoff, Charlotte, Paul and Annette.

INFORMATION SOURCES

Village Sharing Whatsapp
Group

www.whitsbury.com

Village Facebook site:
Whitsbury

Whitsbury Watch Whatsapp
Group

Nextdoor.com