

WHITSBURY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Issue No 6 Spring 2023



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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. The Kings coronation celebration will be a particularly memorable occasion and will be celebrated around the village further details are included in the newsletter. Remember to request barbecue tickets for those in your household!

VILLAGE NEWS

Whitsbury Village Plan (By Graham Thompson)

Early in 2022 the Parish Council decided to commission a new Village Plan, something that was last done in 2006. A team was established under the leadership of Steve Husher and presented it's findings at a Council meeting in October. The results from the questionnaire and the recommendations that flow from it provide a very useful blueprint for the future work of the Parish Council and other village organisations such as the Village Hall Committee. We are indebted to Steve and his team for the hard work that went into producing the plan. Printed copies of the plan (the cost of which was kindly met by our District Councillor Edward Heron) are freely available to parishioners by contacting me on 518518 - I strongly commend it to all who are interested in the health and future of our village.

Racing Stables (Tori Haworth)

Winter is always a quieter time for a flat racing yard; the horses who have been racing during the summer are enjoying some quieter, easier work and some return to their owners for time in the fields. Yearlings purchased at the sales in the autumn are being broken in and are slowly being brought on and learning how to behave and gallop in preparation for their first races during the spring and summer months. The winter months are a good opportunity for owners to visit the yard and see their horses. We now have a number of syndicates giving people an opportunity to be involved in racehorse ownership with significantly less cost. It is also a great opportunity to meet up and socialise. A thoroughly enjoyable open day was held for owners in November when they visited the yard, watched their horses on the gallops and finished the morning off with a delicious lunch at The Cartwheel.



One of our senior staff members and a long term resident of Whitsbury had the honour of being selected for the finals of the prestigious Thoroughbred Industry Awards sponsored by Godolphin. David Crofts (known as Daigo) has lived in Whitsbury since 1985 and has worked previously for David Elsworth, Ralph Beckett and Dan Kubler. His experience in the care and riding of racehorses is extensive and it was hugely exciting that he was in the final selection of these awards. The awards were

held at York Racecourse in February, and it was a very enjoyable evening showcasing the remarkable dedication and commitment of those working at the grass roots of horse racing. He is a very important member of the team and it was fantastic that his skills and knowledge were celebrated in this way.

The yard has had a few runners on the all-weather over the winter but it has generally been very quiet and the staff have been able to take some well-deserved holiday. Dumfries, for the Whitsbury II Syndicate, had a lucrative trip to Southwell at the beginning of March with an exciting win in a very competitive race. Fortunately, many of the syndicate members were able to make it and had a thoroughly enjoyable day thanks to Dumfries and the Southwell hospitality. He will be a horse to follow throughout the season. Some other to note include Skysail, Secret Solace and any of our 2 yo's. The 2yo's are progressing well and the first of them should be hitting the track in the early summer.





Kings Coronation Celebration – Sunday 7th May (By Sara Locock)

In celebration of the King’s coronation the Parish Council and Village Hall Trustees are sponsoring a day of fun-filled events on Sunday the 7th of May, this is a must reserve in your diaries!



Timings and events for the day

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 11:00 | A church service will be held in St Leonards Church |
| 14:00 | <p><u>A Parade of Coronation Carriages</u> Children from the village are invited to design and create a “Coronation Carriage” which will be paraded through the village at 2pm. The parade will start at Well House Close and finish at The Cartwheel, where the “carriages” will be parked in the field for the judges to inspect. All types of carriages are encouraged – wheelbarrows, buggys, scooter, bikes – whatever you can think of and to be dressed and decorated so it is suitable for a King.</p> <p><u>Judging of Hats and Bow Ties</u> Ladies are invited to wear a coronation hat and men to wear a coronation bow tie.</p> |
| 15:00 | <p><u>Village Games</u> Traditional village games to be played in The Cartwheel field starting with tug of war followed by egg throwing, welly throwing, three-legged race, wheelbarrow race, egg and spoon, sack race....</p> |
| 15:00 to 16:00 | <p><u>Ice Creams</u> Ice creams to be served in the field</p> |
| 17:30 to 20:30 | <p><u>Barbeque</u> Annette and Paul have kindly agreed to entertain the village with a BBQ and live music on Sunday May 7 from 5.30 - 8.30pm The food is being sponsored by the trustees of the village hall for all residents of Whitsbury. If you would like a BBQ ticket then please email coronationbbq@btinternet.com by Monday 24 April. Leaving the names of those in your household who would like a ticket and your address. Alternatively leave a message on 518087. Non-residents are very welcome to attend. The BBQ ticket for non-residents is £15 adult and £10 child, payable on the day. Please advise how many friends and family you will be bringing.</p> |
| 18:00 | <u>The National Anthem and Cutting of a Coronation Cake</u> |
| 21:00 | Cartwheel Closes |
| 21:30 | <p><u>Bonfire and Fireworks</u> A bonfire and Fireworks will be displayed at the Gallops</p> |



Coronation Embroidery

Shirley Ellicott is making a Coronation Embroidery to be displayed in the village hall. She would like the names of all residents of Whitsbury to be sewn on the embroidery. This includes first names and surnames of all adults and children living in the village now. If you think she may not have your name then please let her know on 518265, as she would love it to be a complete and accurate record of the village in 2023. Shirley is sure she does not have a complete list, particularly of those at the stables end of the village - so please check.

Manor Farm Whitsbury (By Jon Dare)

This year seems to be racing by and despite the wet and cool weather more recently, the farm is looking well. But it is quite sticky underfoot so there is a risk we could get behind on fieldwork. No doubt the sun will come out at some point and we'll be able to get back on track.

Last summer seems a long way off. Harvest was finished in near record time for us with temperatures in the high 30 s, but that brought about its own troubles. Several farms in the area had their combine harvesters go up in flames so we had a water bowser standing by and an old cultivator on a tractor ready to go if a field fire started. Bob kept the engine cleaned and dust free each morning and he didn't pick up a flint, so we were lucky. On some of the hottest days we were combining early in the morning and finishing at midday as the crop was just too dry. The hot summer meant we didn't have to use expensive diesel to run the grain dryer, however, it meant that we did have trouble keeping our stored grains cool, which is essential to stop any bugs from growing inside the store and causing a lorry to be rejected at the point of delivery, be that the docks or a feed mill, if the sample is contaminated.



We started a new Countryside Stewardship agreement last year, a form of government subsidised wildlife enhancement, so we had all sorts of grass & wildflower margins & plots to plant. Then we had 7500 hedge plants to put in later in the year, which those of you walking around the gallops may have seen, wrapped in their rabbit proof guards. These guards are all made from plant-based materials and are biodegradable and compostable. In several years' time these new plants will be a great enhancement to the current hedgerows,

providing extra habitat for wild birds and insects. Part of our stewardship agreement involves planting some small areas to winter bird food – kale, quinoa, mustard, phacelia, etc. – but we are also asked to keep feeding the songbirds throughout the winter months, when these wild food plots have been exhausted by the birds, using a small seed mix of wheat, millet, canary seed and sunflowers. So far, I've spread nearly a tonne of this on various sites around the farm and it seems

to be working with fieldfares, goldfinches, greenfinches, sparrows and all sorts using the feeding areas.



We know Autumn is here on the farm when Rob gets a brief respite from sheep. We sell all of ours at the Wilton Sheep Fair in early September and then we buy a new mob from Bentham Market in Lancashire about 3 days later! As I said, a brief respite. The new arrivals all need to be checked and counted (400) and given any medication/wormer required, and then split into groups for grazing some late grass. They have spent all winter on stubble turnips that Bob planted on 15 August last year and have only just moved on to graze the gallops, and the new pastures at the bottom of the village. Shearing time will soon come around again, and for those of you interested in seeing how it's done, I'll notify the village WhatsApp group(s).

The grain store is nearly empty now, with just a couple of lorry loads of wheat still to collect. We can store everything we grow at the farm, selling it through a local farmers' marketing group (Salisbury Cereals Ltd.) when the market is high hopefully, and moving it out over the winter months when we have more time and less field work going on. Early April is ideal for planting spring peas, and we have poppies to plant too, when the weather is right. Both these crops, and winter oilseed rape, which you may have noticed is just starting to produce a few early flowers, are excellent breaks from growing wheat, the main earner on our arable enterprise. I try to make sure that we have a good crop rotation in place for our fields to stop disease overtaking the crop or soil, and combined with the compost that we produce and the treated sewage cake we apply, that our soils remain productive and healthy. All this extra organic matter that we add back into the soil, along with the green manure crops we plant in the autumn ahead of our spring crops, means we are less reliant on artificial fertilisers than we used to be, but we couldn't feed the world without them. The war in Ukraine was a catalyst for a threefold increase in fertiliser prices, and combined with the higher chemical, fuel and electricity costs last year means the amount we must invest in a growing crop has risen dramatically. Since the highs of last year world wheat prices have now fallen back by almost £100/tonne.

Spring malting barley, which was planted on 28th February, way back when it was dry, is now up and in the row looking good. I'm hoping for a decent yield as 1 tonne barley will produce around 41 1/2 barrels of beer (163.5 litres(36.3 gallons)/barrel). So, the barley field down beyond the gallops should produce around 1.45 million litres of beer! But can anyone guess how many loaves of bread (standard large loaf weighing 800g) you could make from 1 hectare of milling wheat produced at Manor Farm Whitsbury then?



We recently had our Red Tractor Assurance inspection on the farm to make sure we are complying with all the rules and regulations associated with producing beef, sheep and crops. After a morning showing the inspector around and going through the office paper trails she wanted to see (medicine records, cattle passports, integrated pest management reports, vermin control records, granary temperature records, agrochemical & fertiliser application reports, staff training files, emergency procedure reports, etc., etc) she was happy and gave us a pass certificate for another 12 months. I do so look forward to the annual inspection! But it does prove

that British farmers are some of the best in the world, that their produce is top quality and that the consumer can feel safe in the knowledge that their food is produced to very high standards.

Answer: using a standard large loaf of 800g, 1 hectare (2.47 acres) of wheat, grown here at Manor Farm Whitsbury, will help produce 16 363 loaves of bread!

Ultra Fast Broadband In Whitsbury

Ultra Fast Broadband is being contracted out for all rural and harder to reach areas by Hampshire County Council. We are tracking its progress and currently it looks like a contractor will be appointed in the second quarter of 2023. We may then get a better idea of where Whitsbury falls in terms of installation priority.

Village Speed Limits

The Parish Council are reviewing options for various different schemes but no final decisions have been made. We will keep you posted on this important village issue as decisions on options are finalized and presented.

Reporting Highway Defects

We all want to keep the village as a safe pleasant environment for us all to live in. Unfortunately, as things age, they can sometimes degrade or fail and maintenance is required to keep them in good condition. When we see that something has an issue it is not always easy to find out:

- Whom to tell
- How to tell someone
- Know if it has already been reported

Cllr Edward Heron has informed us that:

‘The County Council has been allocated an additional £5.95m for the repair of potholes and other road defects. From April the Council will be deploying additional resource to utilise this funding and the money should allow the Council to fix an additional 40,000 potholes than funding previously allowed for. It is therefore more important than ever that potholes and other road defects are reported, preferably online at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance>. As an alternative, potholes can be reported using the ‘FixMyStreet’ mobile app (<https://www.fixmystreet.com/>) that is available for both iOS (Apple) and Android devices. Using the ‘FixMyStreet’ app doesn’t enable the same level of feedback as you will not receive the HCC tracking reference number, but as it utilises the mobile device’s GPS and camera, it does make on-site reporting simple and quick. It would be preferable for reports to be made using the Council’s website, but better defects are reported than not and the simplicity and immediacy of the app may encourage more reports.’



We have also updated the Village website www.whitsbury.com a new page ‘Report a Whitsbury Problem’ has been added that details how to report problems to a variety of areas from roads to footpaths, salt bins, fly-tipping etc. We want to report the issues we see and make it easy to do so either by raising an issue yourselves or sending a note to admin@whitsbury.com and we will make sure something gets raised. The website also shows what has been reported locally and what the Parish Council is tracking. Reporting issues is the only way of getting them fixed and your Parish Council can also check progress with the County Council.

Cartwheel Update – (Annette and Paul)

As the warmer weather approaches we have yet again been spending our time outside with our gardeners getting ready for the coming season. We must again thank you all for your continued support through another tough period for us all. This is greatly appreciated. We are working along with the village to provide a fantastic event for the King’s Coronation on Sunday 7th May.

Litter Picks

We had planned a further litter pick in March but cancelled it for two reasons. The first is that there wasn’t much litter around due to very pro-active efforts by village members to go out and pick up litter regularly, many thanks for your efforts! The second is that we needed to review our insurance coverage for any formally arranged and conducted events. We will do this and report back in the next newsletter. In the meantime if you see litter around please take the time to pick it up and dispose of it.



Wildflower Verges

The posts, tape and signs are back up on the verge and we are hoping for some new additions this year. We have planted some seeds from Yellow Rattle which, if it takes, will predate the grass and thin it out a bit, allowing more wildflowers to get a foothold. The celandines are beautiful along the length of the road at the moment, providing an invaluable source of nectar for insects. Keeping the bracken in check is always a challenge as it tends to outcompete other things.

Free Book Share

For those of you who haven't see this, it is by the wall in the pub garden. Please do feel that you can just take a book if you would like; there is no need to do a swap. There are usually new books to take a look at and if things have been hanging around in there too long, they usually get taken down to the Co-op where there is a book exchange, so they don't get thrown away.

Village Hall Events

The Bingo Evening on 17th March was a big success with over 50 people attending and we were able to share the £231 raised on the raffle between Cancer Research and Crisis. We will aim to do another one in November.

Coffee and cake will continue in the Village Hall on the third Thursday of each month between 10.30 and 12 noon. Pop in for 5 minutes if you're passing or stay for the whole thing. Everyone is welcome.

The winter soup lunches are finished now until the autumn but we look forward to seeing them back then. Many thanks to Juliette and her team for all their hard work this winter. Juliette will host the first of the new season (October) but if you could host one of the others (November, December, January, February or March) please get in touch with her. They are fully funded and if you don't want to make soup, you can make it any sort of lunch you would like.

Harvest Supper – Friday 29th September

Further ahead is the Harvest Supper on Friday 29th September; a date for your diary but details will follow nearer the time. [Liz Dominey and Sheree are organising this so perhaps just check details with them]

Knit and Natter Evenings - Cartwheel

Knit and Natter evenings are being held in the Cartwheel Inn at 7 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Come along with something to knit or sew or paint on 13 April, 11 May, 8 June and continuing. All welcome

Jim Dyer Bequest

Jim Dyer lived in Well House Close for many years and sadly passed away in 2019, Jim's widow very kindly left a bequest of £20,000 to the village. Whitsbury Parish Council would like to hold an open meeting in the Village Hall on the **12th June 2023 at 19:00** to discuss how this money should be wisely spent for community benefit. If you have ideas and suggestions please pass them on to a Parish Councillor or better still come along to the meeting and give your opinion. Please do come along - Thank You.

Pilates Classes

Pilates classes are being held regularly in the Village Hall twice a week to suit your availability. All abilities are welcome.

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 You

Many thanks to all contributors Graham, Tori, Jon, Geoff, Charlotte, Shirley, Hilary, Paul and Annette.

And Finally....

Please remember to apply for your King's coronation barbeque tickets before 24th April as detailed within the newsletter. Also get the children building coronation carriages, ladies make your coronation hats and gents your coronation bow ties!

Publication and Future Articles

This newsletter is produced by Whitsbury Parish Council. Anyone wishing to submit articles please contact the Editor - Steve Husher on 518372 or via admin@whitsbury.com.



The poster features a green gradient header with the text "Pilates Classes" in a white cursive font. Below the header is a white circle containing a green silhouette of a person in a Pilates pose, with the text "Lisa Harper Pilates" written in a cursive font below it. To the right of the circle is a green box with the text "Whitsbury Village Hall" and "Whitsbury" in white. Below these elements is a grey box with the following text: "Tuesday 6.30pm - 7.30pm", "Wednesday 9.30am - 10.30am", "Pilates aims to promote balance, strength, posture and flexibility.", "Great for body and mind.", "All abilities welcome.", and "If you would like more info please contact me, lisaharperpilates@outlook.com".



INFORMATION SOURCES

Village Sharing Whatsapp Group

www.whitsbury.com

Village Facebook site: Whitsbury

Whitsbury Watch Whatsapp Group

Nextdoor.com