

# WHITSBURY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Issue No 7 Autumn 2023



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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the autumn edition of the village newsletter. We have interesting news and articles we hope you will enjoy reading regarding our village community. Some great news on the improvements to the village broadband speeds as Wessex Internet will be installing fibre connections around the village in the next few months. This will allow up to 1 Giga Bit connectivity which is amazing. See the detailed article in the newsletter.

## VILLAGE NEWS

### Whitsbury Village Plan (By Steve Husher)

In this issue of the newsletter, we have tried to address some of the feedback and actions from the Village Plan that we published last December. Some of the higher profile village issues were, speeding in the village for which you will see an article on actions your Parish Council is taking to improve matters. Village broadband and digital connectivity was another area of concern in this issue you will find an article on the new Gigabit broadband that will be coming to the village soon. Looking at the feedback we also thought it was worth getting some feedback from the local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Steve May. We will address other areas of the village plan in subsequent newsletter issues.

## Wessex Internet – Broadband that works - Whitsbury Introduction (By Josh Goodchild)

What does rural living entail? Sleepy villages with quiet lanes, a community centred around a Church, a pub and a shop (if you are lucky enough to have all three). The ability to access beautiful walks from your doorstep. The annual village fete or the weekly event such as a coffee morning in the church or a cricket match hosted at the village field. Quite idyllic really, isn't it? Growing up in the Hampshire countryside I came to appreciate how lucky I was to live in such communities, much like Whitsbury; it is almost like a place that time left alone. There are of course, many advantages to this, such as un-spoilt scenery and an unshakeable community spirit that can only exist in this environment.

However, there are two sides of this coin. Potholes, a distinct lack of buses and finally, the one I am writing to you about, poor rural broadband connectivity. For too long rural communities have been left behind in terms of their broadband. Slow speeds and unreliability; the usual order of the day. A community with poor broadband connectivity suffers on many fronts. It may struggle to keep or attract young families. People, and families require brilliant broadband for tasks such as working from home, homework, gaming, social media etc. Small businesses may feel that the broadband in a community does not suit their needs and therefore, may look to move their premises elsewhere. In addition to this, for those of you who are mad enough to even contemplate leaving Whitsbury; a poor broadband connection can seriously jeopardise your house sale and make it less desirable to potential buyers. Unbelievable in a location such as Whitsbury, but please, ask your estate agent!

For these reasons (and many others) the Government under the guise of Building Digital United Kingdom (BDUK), has been funding the roll out of gigabit capable broadband to rural areas. This is where Wessex Internet intercedes. We work with BDUK and local communities to deliver full fibre connections direct to homes and businesses. This is done via the Project Gigabit New Forest contract, where Wessex Internet is contracted to build a full fibre network to provision the properties in a community. Wessex Internet's community champions (Steve Husher and Geoff Dominey) have said that there is a need for this improved connectivity in the village, and Wessex Internet aided by BDUK will deliver this much needed investment into Whitsbury's telecoms infrastructure. We are currently in the planning stage of the project and our rural planning team have been out and about surveying and finding the best routes to build our network.

I am hosting a community event on **Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of October** at 6:30pm at Whitsbury Village Hall to explain further about the benefits of full fibre to residents and to answer any questions you may have, and of course there will be drinks and refreshments available. Please keep an eye out for me delivering invites in the village and feel free to stop me for a chat.

I look forward to getting out into the community of Whitsbury and working closely with you all. If you have any further questions or would like to register for updates, please email [communityengagement@wessexinternet.com](mailto:communityengagement@wessexinternet.com) or contact our office on 0333 240 7997.

Joshua Goodchild Community Engagement Manager – Wessex Internet.

## Local Police (By PCSO Steve May)

Your local police team is based out of Fordingbridge police office, and is currently made up of two PCs and one PCSO who, cover a wide geographical area made up of three wards, eleven parishes, and the town centre. This includes Fordingbridge, Breamore, Woodgreen, Hale, Damerham, Martin, Rockbourne, Harbridge, Whitsbury, Godshill, Hyde, Ibsley and Ellingham.

Your local point of contact with the police is PCSO 16170 Steve May, who covers all of the above areas. He has been in post for almost eight years and is particularly passionate about rural policing.

As a team, we are responsible for a number of day-to-day things such as carrying out high-visibility patrols, especially in areas where we have had a number of recent reports of crime or anti-social behaviour. We will review overnight reports and following up with victims where required, obtaining and reviewing crucial evidence such as witness statements, CCTV, or forensic potential. A large part of our role is engaging with the community by hosting 'Beat Surgeries', attending local meetings and events and working with the local schools and groups.

You can pass information and report a crime or anti-social behaviour to the police by phoning 101 or by visiting the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary website and using the 'report a crime function'. We are, however, often told that there are significant delays in getting through to a call handler on 101 due to the high levels of demand on this service, so we would recommend that you report online if you are able.

Often you may receive an email stating that police will take no further action, however your local police team will always review these reports and will make contact if we feel there may be able to explore investigative opportunities, ask for further information where necessary or to share crime prevention advice. These reports also form an important part of how the team decide where they need to patrol at certain times of the day, where they might need to go to gather further intelligence, and asking for assistance from additional officers and specialist units such as Roads Policing officers, drone operators, and officers with search dogs.



*PCSO Steve May*

### Whitsbury Emergency Helpers (By Chris Cobb-Smith)

A 'Village Emergency Committee' has been established for anyone who may require assistance or have an issue that is not Police or Medical related; this may be practical help or just advice.

The committee comprises the following village residents:

Geoff Dominey 07831 583637

Chris Cobb-Smith 07818 400894

Andy Foreman 07725 909662

Jon Dare 07790 267112

Please remember that for emergencies that require immediate Police or Ambulance response still call 999, for less urgent issues it is 101 for the Police and 111 for NHS medical enquiries.

### Village Speed Limits (By Geoff Dominey)

For some time Whitsbury Parish Council has been considering measures that may assist in reducing the speed of traffic passing through the village. Options looked at have included flashing speed indicator signs, an increase in the number of static post mounted signs and road markings. Certain of these options were deemed inappropriate for the village due to practicality, cost, management of equipment or appearance. Throughout its considerations the Council has maintained contact with and has liaised with Hampshire County Council.

The Village Plan that was published in December 2022 had specific questions that related to traffic management in the village environment and the replies to the questions have also informed the Councils approach to this issue. Needless to say there was a broad spectrum of suggestions from villagers when asked about how traffic management could be improved but a majority of respondents did feel that speeding was an issue and that there should be some form of traffic calming.

Having taken everything into account the Parish Council has now submitted a plan to Hampshire County Council that should help to achieve the goal of reducing the speed of traffic passing through the village. The plan involves:-

1. Moving the two Whitsbury village signs further out of the village to give an earlier indication you are driving through/approaching a settlement.
2. Placing white line carriageway edging at the two bends in proximity to The Manor and Plain Cottage and, additionally, at the bend south of Lower Farm. The effect of this is to visually narrow the road and may also assist pedestrians.
3. 'SLOW' road markings facing vehicles travelling north (prior to road bends) in the vicinity of New Cottages, The Close and between Mulberry House and Manor House
4. 'SLOW' road marking facing vehicles travelling south in the vicinity of Manor Farm House, just prior to the bend.

5. The addition of a 'pedestrians in the road sign' to be placed on the existing 'accompanied horse' warning sign post by New Cottages and facing traffic travelling north.

We are now awaiting the County Councils response re approval, costings and time scale.

The Parish Council is also maintaining an awareness of what other villages in our area are doing to combat traffic related matters which seems to be a common theme, especially with the number of housing developments taking place locally. At our next Parish Council meeting on 30th October at 7 pm Mr Mike Richards from Sandleheath is giving a presentation of initiatives they are considering, please attend if you are interested.

Should you have any comments to make please email them to Geoff Dominey at [wtmp@btinternet.com](mailto:wtmp@btinternet.com) and/or come to the next Parish Council meeting.

### Do you use What3Words (W3W)? (By Geoff Dominey)

Living in a rural community, street addresses and post codes are not always accurate enough to identify specific locations such as building entrances or describing exactly where help may be needed in an emergency. W3W, if you do not know it, is a system where the world has been divided into 3 metre squares and each square has a unique combination of three words giving an easy way to find and share exact locations.

The system is now used by millions of people around the world. An increasing number of companies also use W3W (AO.com, Mercedes Benz, Lonely Planet, Ford, Network Rail, DHL and Boohoo) and it is backed by amongst others ITV, Subaru, Channel 4, and Intel. It is also used by Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire Police, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue and a number of ambulance services.

You can download it at the Appstore or get it on Google Play. It may just be useful!

### Cartwheel Update – (By Annette and Paul)

As you all know it has been a strange year with soaring food and energy prices. It has been a constant battle to try and keep price rises to a minimum. We seem to have reached a plateau and food prices seem to have stabilised, while we managed to secure a good energy rate just before all this madness started.

Annette and I would like to thank the village for entrusting us to help you all celebrate the Kings Coronation in May. It was fantastic to see so many old and new faces come to celebrate such an auspicious event.

We have had a good season with many positive reviews from local and visitors alike. It is a never-ending process to keep pushing and developing the business to take it forward ensuring that the Village keeps such a valuable asset for the future. As you have all seen building work to convert rooms into letting B&B is on going and hope to have this up and running soon.

As we leave the summer season our thoughts turn to the festive season. Both of us have decided to have a full calendar of events this year. We have a party night on Saturday 23rd December with Live

Music, also we have Hogmanay with a disco from Colin Nutley. The best of all is we have secured Santa on Christmas Eve for a couple of hours, so bring your little ones along to meet him.

On a personal note, Annette and I have bought a house nearby which we will be moving into in January. Sadly, we will be leaving this beautiful village after what will be nearly 8 years. We however will be continuing to run The Cartwheel and support the local community as we feel that Whitsbury is our home. We hope to see you all every day.

### Reporting Highway Defects (By Steve Husher)

We've had some success with getting road defects addressed, defects that are reported do get fixed! The markings at the gallops road junction where old erroneous road markings were wearing through were reported and the correct markings have now been refreshed. Also the drains at the top of the village were reported as blocked and have been emptied so they actually work. So if you do see something whether within the Parish boundary or beyond report it on FixMyStreet or the HCC website and they will get fixed. Alternatively send a note to [admin@whitsbury.com](mailto:admin@whitsbury.com) and we'll get it reported.

### Welcome To Whitsbury Leaflet (By Steve Husher)

Anyone arriving new to the village should receive a welcome leaflet which provides information on local services. This fell into a bit of a hiatus but has now been kindly restarted by Nigel Cumming. We thought it might be useful to include a copy of the leaflet with this Newsletter. It may be useful to existing villagers or those who may have arrived in the last few years and never received a copy because of the hiatus. The last page of this newsletter can be removed and folded to give you a handy reminder.

### Green Bags to Green Bins for Green Waste (By Steve Husher)

Just in case you haven't seen any of the notifications from New Forest District Council we will be changing over from the green bag collection to wheely bins from April 2024 onwards. The following is taken direct from the NFDC website.

'We are introducing a new wheeled bin garden waste collection service from April 2024. The bins will have twice the capacity of the current garden waste bags. Collections will continue to be every 2 weeks. Garden waste collections will cost £65 per year, plus a one-off charge of £25 for the supply of the wheeled bin. Sign up in Autumn 2023 and don't pay £25 for the supply of the bin.

If you sign up to the new service in the Autumn this year, we can guarantee you will receive your bin and your service can start on time. We will then deliver the bins between January and March 2024.

Current customers please note: If you pay for this service now, including with a Direct Debit, you won't automatically be transferred to this new garden waste service.'

We understand that you will be able to obtain more than one wheely bin if required.

## Social Events (By Liz Dominey)

A few of us have formed a team to help organise village events - Sheree Cummings, Liz Dominey, Shirley Ellicott, Heather Stott and Charlotte Thompson. We always need ideas for events particularly those involving children and families, maybe in the school holidays, so please let one of us know your thoughts and if you are willing to help in any way, however small.

### Harvest Supper

Harvest Supper is 29 September at 7pm in the Village Hall. We are going to have a sing-a long after dinner, and unveil the embroidery sewn by Shirley Ellicott to celebrate the late Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, so it will be a very convivial evening. The cost is £10 payable in cash on the night. Please contact [liz.dominey@btinternet.com](mailto:liz.dominey@btinternet.com), or tel. 01725 518087 for tickets.

### Dates for Diary

Saturday October 14 - MacMillan Coffee Morning - please bring and buy a cake, or just stop by for a coffee and chat

Friday December 8th at 7.30pm, Christmas Quiz night where we will serve mince pies and tea and coffee, BYO nibbles and anything stronger!

Friday February 23 - Bingo evening

### Village Coffee Mornings

Village Coffee Mornings continue on the third Thursday of the month from 10.00 - 12.00am - all welcome - : Thursday September 21, Thursday 19 October, Thursday 16 November, Thursday 21 December.

### Knit and Natter

Shirley will welcome you at the Cartwheel to craft and chat on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm

Thursday 14 September, Thursday October 12, Thursday November 9, Thursday December 14.



## Pilates Classes

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

## Concluding

### 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](mailto: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 Josh, Steve May, Geoff and Liz, Chris, Paul and Annette.

### 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](mailto:admin@whitsbury.com).

## Pilates Classes



Lisa Harper  
Pilates

Whitsbury Village Hall  
Whitsbury

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.  
If you would like more info please contact me,  
[lisaharperpilates@outlook.com](mailto:lisaharperpilates@outlook.com)



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## INFORMATION SOURCES

Village Sharing Whatsapp Group

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

Village Facebook site:  
Whitsbury

Whitsbury Watch Whatsapp Group

Nextdoor.com



## *Fordingbridge*

A small New Forest market town (though the market is long gone) is well served with good butchers, bakers (and candlestick makers?). Good for everyday needs otherwise visit Salisbury or Ringwood. There is a library in the centre of town (please check opening times) next to the large car park—ticket or parking clock required. Annual parking clocks for Fordingbridge and NFDC area can be obtained from the Visitor Information Centre next to the museum in Fordingbridge.

### **Medical**

*NHS Doctors, surgery and dispensary Barton Road Fordingbridge*  
via the central car park. Large medical practice with nursing staff.  
☎ 01425 653430

Out of hours and non emergency 111.

*A & E Salisbury District Hospital, Odstock.* ☎ 01722 336262

### *Fordingbridge Pharmacy*

1 Salisbury Street ☎ 01425 652300

### *Fordingbridge NHS Community Hospital*

In patient care in Ford Ward ☎ 01425 651414

### *Arch Clinic*

There is an excellent large NHS dental practice on the same site as the surgery and in the same building private treatment of physiotherapy and chiropody.  
☎ 01425 650071

### **Police**

Dial 101 for minor emergencies and general enquiries  
*Whitsbury Watch* (neighbourhood watch scheme)  
Village co-ordinator Chris Cobb-Smith ☎ 518313

*If further help is needed, please contact Sara Looock ☎ 518352,  
Sheree Cumming ☎ 518248 or Graham Thompson ☎ 518518*

# Welcome to Whitsbury



*A warm welcome to  
the lovely downland village  
of Whitsbury.*

*Whitsbury is one of the four parishes of the Western Downland  
which includes Damerham, Rockbourne and Martin.  
It is celebrated for its racing stables and thoroughbred stud.*

### **Whitsbury Parish Council**

The Council meets quarterly in the village hall.

*Chairman* Graham Thompson ☎ 518518

*Clerk* Edward Hale

### **Village website**

whitsbury.com Enquiries [admin@whitsbury.com](mailto:admin@whitsbury.com)

### **Local Authorities**

*New Forest District Council*

[customer.services@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@nfdc.gov.uk)

☎ 023 8028 5000

*Hampshire County Council*

[hants.gov.uk](http://hants.gov.uk)

*Councillor* Edward Heron [edwardheron@hants.gov.uk](mailto:edwardheron@hants.gov.uk)

### **Collections**

*Dustbins* Thursday or Friday depending on location

*Garden rubbish* Monthly collections; currently under review

*Glass* Tuesday every 4th week, box provided by NFFDC

*Somerset Recycling Centre*

The Somerset recycling centre now requires pre-booking. A time slot can be booked at [hants.gov.uk](http://hants.gov.uk)

### **Deliveries**

*Newspapers etc* The Alcove, 12 Salisbury Street, Forthingbridge

☎ 01425 653083

*Milk and food* Milk and More ☎ 0345 606 3606

### **Church**

*St Leonard's Parish Church in the Church of England Benefice of Western Downland*

This delightful small 13th century church is situated above the village and overlooks splendid views of rolling farmland with the New Forest in the distance.

Walk up the path past the Old Post Office or drive to the top of the hill and follow the sign to the stud farm and then turn right down a track at the bend of the road along the edge of the paddocks. The benefice newsletter *The Courier* gives up to date details of services and is delivered to every household in the village.

*Rector* Les Player ☎ 518642 *Churchwardens* Chris Harper ☎ 518324

Chris Cobb-Smith ☎ 518313

### **Fordingbridge Churches**

*Our Lady of Sorrows and St Mary and St Philip RC Church*

15 Salisbury Road, Fordingbridge

*United Reform Church* 41 Salisbury Street, Fordingbridge

*Methodist Church* West Street off Church Street, Fordingbridge

### **Village Hall**

A centre for many village activities and meetings such as the annual horticultural and village show, harvest suppers and charity events.

*Contact* Juliette Knibbs ☎ 518838

### **The Cartwheel Pub**

Paul and Annette will welcome you to this free house with excellent food and drink and a friendly atmosphere. ☎ 518362

### **Post Office**

The Fordingbridge Post Office ☎ 01425 653126 is located in Salisbury Street.

The entrance to the Royal Mail Sorting Office is next door for delivery enquiries.

### **Schools**

*Western Downland C of E Primary School*

Headteacher Alice Tibbs ☎ 518233

*Little Foresters Nursery and Infants* Mill Lane, Danerham

*Juniors* Rockbourne

*Forres Sandle Manor School and FSM Nursery*

Co-ed 2-13

Headteacher and enquiries ☎ 01425 653181

*The Burygate School and Sixth Form*

11-18 academy school Burygate, Fordingbridge ☎ 01425 652039

### **Transport**

A bus leaves Lower Grove for Salisbury at 9.45 am every Tuesday and returns to Lower Grove by 2.20 pm.