

Headbourne Worthy Village News

Spring 2014

News and Information from your local Parish Council

Flooding Inundates Headbourne Worthy

Dramatic pictures give an idea of the quantity of water that we have had to cope with this February. Read Cllr Harry Whorwood's account of the residents'



fight against the floods inside. Pictured left is the new lake formerly known as the watercress beds, and above the junction of Down Farm Lane with Wellhouse Lane - which became a fast flowing river.

Village 'Litter Pick' 22nd March

Join us at Marlands on London Road opposite Bedfield Lane on Saturday 22nd March from 10am for a coffee and then help Spring Clean our village. Hi-vis jackets, gloves and rubbish bags will be there for all helpers. Just half an hour of collecting litter from the verges can transform the look of a road. Families with children welcome - children must be under close adult supervision. For more details contact David Pearcey on 880063. Thanks to Chris and Bevis Clarke-Smith for their hospitality.

Parish Precept Frozen

Headbourne Worthy Parish Council has voted to freeze the Parish Precept at the current level for the coming financial year.

To contact your Parish Council, visit www.theworthys.org.uk

or contact the Parish Clerk, Hilary Graham, on 883797. clerk.headbourneworthy@parish.hants.gov.uk

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Fighting the Floods - Harry's Story

Apparently, the expression "Dunkirk Spirit" has not translated into modern usage and its meaning is not understood. However, it was apparent in spades (and shovels and sweat) recently when the flood took over the village and we now fully understand the derivation of the village name – therein lies the clue. How did it start? When did it start? Seems an age ago, but the winterbourne running under the Down Farm/Springvale junction saw a gradual build up in the week ending Saturday the 8th.

As it overflowed across the road, and as the older cottages came under threat, sandbags were provided to help protect them. Rude, insensitive, incompetent and arrogant drivers were creating bow waves, so people power closed the road to single track; a step which Highways formalised by installing traffic lights.

On the Saturday, as the waters deepened, the situation worsened, so



with feelings of helplessness, impatience, anxiety about properties and rising anger meant that Residents closed the road completely; again a move later endorsed by Highways. The 6.00am sit rep meetings, which became a feature of those days, saw a motley collection of residents sharing concerns and enjoying in a British

way a good Irish craic which helped alleviate tensions.

Over the weekend we monitored the



Photo: Graham (Cress Cottage), Giles (Watercress Cottage), Andrew and Bob (Firemen) battle with the river removing debris to increase water flow.

New Parish Clerk Needed

The Parish Clerk, Hilary Graham, is moving to The New Forest and will be resigning in June.

This will create a vacancy for a new clerk, starting in May, which will give an overlap training period.

The position is for 3 hours a week, worked from home, at the rate of £10.04 an hour, with four weeks paid leave. In addition an allowance of £20 a month is paid towards expenses.

The work involves attending 7 meetings a year, arranging the room hire and attendees and producing minutes. In between these times the Clerk is responsible for running the finances of the Council, keeping simple accounts, writing and responding to e-mails about ongoing local issues and being the public face of the Parish Council. The clerk also has to develop a knowledge of, and keep abreast with, legislation affecting the Council.

Apart from direct training from Hilary, the successful applicant would be expected to attend appropriate training courses that are provided by the Hampshire Association of Local Councils, and maintain a liaison role with them

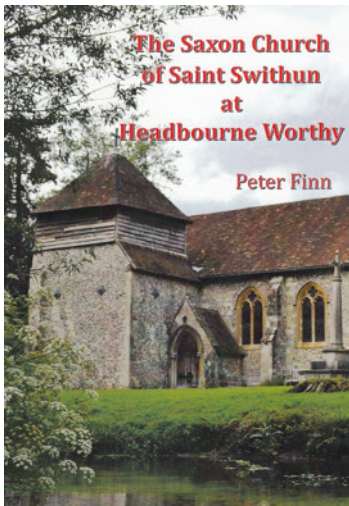
If you are interested please contact Hilary Graham on 07766741327 or at clerk.headbourneworthy@parish.hants.gov.uk before 22nd March 2014.

rising tide, and Tuesday dawned amidst heavy rain. The six o'clock briefing revealed that "The Paddock" properties were under threat which we hadn't fully appreciated. Then the 5th Cavalry arrived complete with mobiles and absolute power to make things happen; they formulated a plan. Within 90 minutes, 750 sandbags were delivered, and five fire engines carrying hunky, chunky muscle arrived from as far away as Havant. Barrows were requisitioned, spades and shovels were begged, grown men lied about their ages, and abilities, enlisted and were carried away to war.

The women folk cried for lost lovers, and the men needed support so the Land Army were also mobilised to carry more sandbags. Further military supplies were ordered and another 500+ sandbags arrived. It was plain that the war could not be won with muscle alone, so The Good Life WRVS reservists came to the fore, serving hot drinks continually and enough bread rolls to feed a watercress bed full of ducks to an army of 60+ tired and wet troops. Finally at around three in the afternoon the enemy was contained with the loss of one abode (Manor House stable conversion), but no casualties sustained.

It has been touch and go since then, but gradually the water level has diminished, although not in

Continued on back page...



The Worthys Local History Group has recently published **The Saxon Church of Saint Swithun at Headbourne**

New History Book

Worthy, a history of nearly a thousand years from the original Saxon foundation to the present time. The evolution of the church is described from its early development, through periods of embellishment, iconoclasm, and decay to a resurgence in the 1860s that continues to the present day. We learn why it was built on a marshy site, how it was built to float on its foundations, why it was dedicated to St Swithun, how it came into the hands of the royal family, and how it was rescued from ruination. There are comprehensive descriptions of the building, its furnishings, stained glass and memorials; and a complete list of the rectors and patrons from 1285.

The book costs £10, and is available from Jean Merrikin (881917), Derek Brockway (881749), Peter Finn (885266), and at Worthys Local History Group meetings. Or google 'worthy history group' and go to Mail Form to order through the website.

Play and Sports facilities

When developers build a property in Headbourne Worthy funds are deposited with Winchester City Council towards play and sports facilities. The current scheme is coming to an end in March and the funds held on account have to be utilised or lost. As Headbourne Worthy has no open space of its own the money has been accumulating.

After approaches from various organisations and Councils the Parish Council has given funding to four schemes. £10,000 has been given towards a skate park in North Walls in Winchester, £1000 has been given towards a car park at Littleton Village Hall, £15081 promised to Kings Worthy towards a play facility at Church Green and £9380 promised to Kings Worthy towards resurfacing the car park at Eversley Park. *Hilary Graham*

Flooding Report Cont..

the sewers which may well come back to bite us on the bum if backflow occurs. Heroes of the hour?; the Fire Service and the City Emergency Team; but "Mainly Yourselves!" (as they used to say in Leeds City Varieties) - ordinary neighbours doing extra-ordinary things. Well done everyone, we can all take a pat on the back.

Lessons learned? There are a few and the PC agenda will feature discussions on the flood, and it may well feature in our Annual meeting in May; of which more. In the meantime, if you have any thoughts or views on prevention, or what the Parish could have done better, please let Hilary (our Parish Clerk) know. *Harry Whorwood*