



Headbourne Worthy Village News

Spring 2015

News and Information from your local Parish Council

Village Clean Up!



This year's village clean-up is on Saturday 21st March.

Join fellow local residents at 10am for a reviving coffee and biscuit before striding out with bag, gloves and high-vis waistcoat to clear the verges of our lovely village of all the unsightly litter that people throw out of their cars.

We meet at Marlands on London Road, courtesy of Chris and Bevis Clarke-Smith, and roads are allocated on a 'first come, first chosen' basis. Children are welcomed, but must be under close adult supervision at all times. A great village tradition and a good way to show your support for keeping Headbourne Worthy tidy.

Spring Flowers

Huge thanks to the Worthys Conservation Volunteers for their work last Autumn planting spring bulbs around the village. These crocuses are just starting to flower at Taylor's Corner, and the snowdrops have been delightful.

Annual Meeting 27th April

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be on Monday 27th April from 7pm in the Church Rooms, behind St Mary's Church on London Road, Kings Worthy.

Please join your parish councillors for a glass of wine and an informal chat from 7pm, with the meeting proper starting at 7.30pm.

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

or contact the Parish Clerk, Adrian Reeves. clerk.headbourneworthy@parish.hants.gov.uk

Edited and Produced by Cllr Jane Rutter, tel: 01962 884981

Flooding Update

The Environment Agency (EA) has just issued the latest update on flooding for Hampshire which says: "Unsettled weather is forecast until early next week and then dry conditions return. In areas where the groundwater is high, initially, slight increases in water level may be experienced. Groundwater now enters its natural, seasonal decline. With dry weather forecast next week, levels should start to fall even in locations where the level is currently high. Given the current weather forecast, groundwater flooding is not currently expected.". The EA borehole at Harestock Corner currently shows a level of groundwater that is 54m above AOD. As a guide, at its height 12 months ago it was 66m and the lowest in the last 18 months was 50m. The level has fallen 0.5m over the last two weeks and is described as "not being of current concern" 16th Feb.

Over the last twelve months the PC and the Flood Action Group (FLAG) have been trying to understand where the water comes from,

and what indicators exist, or occur, which forecast trouble ahead. More inspections of gullies, drains and ditches have revealed that some are cracked and blocked, and a major gully needs moving and refurbishing to be more effective. Some major water course digging out still needs to be done and this work is being actively pursued.

We should remember that the 2014 event was only the second major event in the last 13 years or so, and that this village is essentially a dry one with the majority of residents being above any water danger. We should also remember that a valley runs through the village, and like many similar valleys in the area, it is populated with winterbournes and underground streams, which will pop up and say hello after prolonged, usually autumnal, rainfall. Since 2001, approximately 99.4% of the time the village is dry. We may not be able to entirely eliminate the risk of inundation, but the PC and the Flood Action Group will actively pursue all measures that we can to keep as many feet dry as possible.

Harry Whorwood, Chairman, HWPC.

Down Farm Lane Bridge Protest

Parish Councillors Jane Rutter and Claire Duncan, and County Councillor Jackie Porter, joined other local residents last month to protest against Network Rail's plans to raise the height of the bridge at Down Farm Lane. Whilst fully accepting the need to make the bridge safe for rail traffic, we are concerned that raising the height of the bridge will allow larger and heavier vehicles access to the lane, further eroding verges and endangering other traffic.

There was a good turnout at Network Rail's 'drop-in' session on 20th February which



Photo courtesy of the Hampshire Chronicle

explained what works are required. They are going to look again at the proposed height, and see if the current height of the bridge can be retained. They have already made some concessions in agreeing to clad the facade with red brick, to closer match the original Victorian structure.

New Parish Councillor

Only six people were nominated for the seven places on Headbourne Worthy Parish Council last summer. Following a call for more volunteers, David Barrow of Down Farm Lane has been co-opted to join Harry Whorwood, Chair, Claire Welland, Lengthsman co-ordinator, Claire Duncan, Tom Crutchfield, Christine Clarke-Smith, Vice-Chair, and Jane Rutter, Newsletter Editor, on the Parish Council. Details of how to contact any of us are on the village website: www.theworthys.org.uk, or call the Parish Clerk, Adrian Reeves, on 881839.

Boundary Commission Proposals Published

The Government's Boundary Commission has published its initial proposals for the new City Council ward boundaries. Headbourne Worthy is proposed to be in a new three-member ward, consisting of Headbourne Worthy, Kings Worthy, Abbots Worthy, Worthy Down and eventually the new homes on Barton Farm - which the developer is currently calling King's Barton!

We would welcome your thoughts on suggestions for a name for this new community; what about Barton Worthy? Or Winterbourne Worthy? I will be proposing that the new City Council ward should be called The Worthys ward, rather than Kings Worthy, which I think would be a more inclusive name for the ward. You can look at the proposal in map form by clicking the link from the City Council's website.

Jane Rutter, HWPC and City Councillor for Kings Worthy.

Parish Precept

A Parish Council gets its funding by receiving a small amount of the local Council Tax, which is referred to as The Parish Precept. It is the time of year that we need to plan and budget for the amount we need to fund the Parish Council for the forthcoming financial year starting on 1st April. The requested amount of precept is then calculated for an average Band D property within the Parish, with properties in other bands being charged higher or lower amounts in proportion.

The Parish Council is governed by law, and the Responsible Finance Officer has to advise and regulate the finances as well as to fulfil his function as Parish Clerk; and thanks to Adrian Reeves for taking on that role. He has looked at our current and planned expenditure and warned us that we should increase the Precept.

We looked at the length of time since we last had an increase (some years ago), and took into account how running costs have increased over that time. We trimmed back our plans and reduced some of the long standing commitments placed on us. After a long discussion it was agreed to ask Winchester City Council for a precept of £22.67 for an average band D property for 2015-6.

Harry Whorwood, Chair, HHWPC.



Worthys Festival 2015

Saturday 19th - Sunday 27th September



Music Festival to include the Military Wives' Choir and jazz and soloists in the afternoon during the Arts & Crafts Fair, Open

The Worthys Festival will soon be upon us and it's time to start preparing your entries for this year's newest



event - the Flower and Produce show! There will be twenty classes to enter, with some exclusively for children under 12. These are An animal made from fruit and vegetables, A miniature garden, and 4 decorated cup cakes. They may of course also enter the other classes, which range from cakes like Victoria Sponge to cheese scones, and fruit like cooking apples, and flowers like seed heads and autumn flowers.

We will of course be having all our favourite events from previous shows: The Dog Show, a fun run organised by the Worthy Runners, a

Gardens, Street Parties, Local History events, and many other events. These all lead up to the traditional climax with the rock and pop band of the Adjutant General's Corps, this year joined by our



own local Ukelele Band, at the King Charles Pub, and all topped off with fantastic Fireworks.

If you want to know more, or help, see the Festival website: www.2015festival.org.uk, or call Festival Steering Group Chair, Jane Rutter, on Winchester 884981.