

The Dangers of Ragwort

Common Ragwort is usually considered to be a biennial, over-wintering either as seeds or as rosettes. It is also capable of becoming a short-lived perennial if the flower stem is cut (e.g. in the lawn), but usually it dies after producing seeds. The leaves are light to dark green and deeply lobed. The lower leaves form a rosette which is present from autumn to late June and dies back when the main stem develops before flowering starts in late summer of the second year. It grows 30-100 cm high with woody stems which are red at the base. The upper part of the stem is branched and bears yellow flower-heads in large dense flat-topped terminal clusters, nearly always rayed, and daisy-like. A single plant can produce over 150,000 white downy seeds, which are carried away by the wind, and which can remain viable in the soil for up to 15 years.



All parts of the plant contain alkaloids that are toxic to cattle, deer, pigs, horses and goats, causing liver damage, and death is slow often occurring months after ingestion. Sheep are less affected, but should not consume the weed as the liver damage can be cumulative. The foliage has a distinctive unpleasant odour when crushed so poisoning by grazing is rare as it is instinctively avoided. If the plants are carelessly cut and left around to wilt, they become palatable and the alkaloids are still potent, so grazing animals can be poisoned.

may want to let me know too so I can chase it up. You can look at maps of the network on the HCC website.

To complain about potholes or ragwort on highway verges ring **0845 603 5633**

I often get complaints about diminishing pavements as hedges grow over them - it would be really helpful if you could keep an eye on domestic hedges too, especially your own. Often the last hedge we walk past (and thus notice) is the one outside our own front door!

Jackie Porter,

County Councillor, Itchen Valley Division

Tel/text 07973 696 085,

email downhouse.porter@btinternet.com

The Down House, Itchen Abbas, Winchester
SO21 1AX

County Councillor's Report

Following continued pressure from councillors and public, the County has relaxed the rule on trailers to the recycling centres. Now, larger trailers can be used, but via the permit system.

I would still like to see a relaxation of the current ban of the use of commercial cars (i.e.: work vehicles when also used as the family car) to take waste to the centres - it has led to some ridiculous situations in this division.

Footpaths: the growing season is upon us. Please act quickly if you see a footpath which is becoming overgrown, or blocked in any way. Telephone the contact centre: **0845 603 5636**, and you



Headbourne Worthy Village News

Summer 2008

News and Information from your local Parish Council

Website 'Goes Live'

The long anticipated Worthy's Village Website will be 'going live' by the middle of August. Website co-ordinator for Headbourne Worthy and Kings Worthy, Dennis Curling, is delighted that after many months of planning and the collation of information from across the area, this unique collaboration between two neighbouring parishes will show fruit in the new website.

All the information you ever wanted to know about both villages and their parish councils is now available at the touch of a computer button. To check whether your parish organisation or interest is on the website, visit www.theworthys.org.uk



and follow the links. Please do let us know if you notice any omissions or errors, as the website will be updated regularly. Also let us know about any forthcoming events, meetings etc. which you would like to publicise, and we will do our best to include them on the diary pages.

Village Litter Pick

Twenty three willing volunteers collected twenty one black bin liners full of rubbish from the verges around the village back in May. This didn't include the assorted car parts, old TVs and other large items which were also found! Many thanks from all at HWPC, including Chairman Rosemary Stephens (shown in the centre of those gathered) to you all for helping to tidy up our village for another year.



Neighbourhood Watch

Although Headbourne Worthy remains relatively crime free we must guard against complacency, as we do not exist in isolation. Here are a few items of interest.

Did you know that there is a national

confidential "Anti-Terrorism Hotline: 0800 789 321" to which **any** suspicions should be passed. Before you dismiss this as not being relevant to rural Hampshire were you surprised that two cannabis factories had been discovered in houses rented locally, as reported in the recent NW newsletter? We all need to be alert wherever we live.

Furthermore all of us are likely to be targets of various "scams" either by post, e-mail or phone - fake foreign lotteries, prize draw winners, get rich quick schemes. These should be avoided like the plague - if it sounds too good to be true, it is! Also beware of rogue traders, bogus callers and antique "knockers". It is sensible to use only reliable and approved tradesmen and not to deal with any cold caller. The H.C.C. Trading Standards have a "Buy with Confidence" scheme and maintain a register of approved local businesses. They can be contacted on 08454040506 for help, advice and a copy of their directory.

If your property is protected by an **audible only** alarm you need to register and update your key holders details with the police. Phone 02380 745381 (voicemail) or e-mail: keyholder.database@hampshire.pnn.police.uk Be aware that the police will not automatically attend these alarms unless there is suspicious activity.

Headbourne Worthy is policed by the Northgate Safer Neighbourhoods Team contactable on 0845 045 4545 or e-mail:

winchester.northgate.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk.

Headbourne Worthy is covered by an active Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Its network of street co-ordinators is available to offer help and advice. The scheme co-ordinator is Mrs Margaret Filley (882419).

Cllr. David Pearcey July 2008.

Springvale Road Development - Parish Council Objects

Following comments at the Annual Parish Meeting and the Emergency meeting called to discuss the planning application, Headbourne Worthy Parish Council has formally written to the planning authority objecting to the development, in minute detail. To read the full HWPC objection, please visit the website. The concluding paragraph sums up the case against the application:

HWPC objects to the granting of this application which would constitute an undesirable over-intensive use of the site and which would have an adverse effect on the amenities of the adjoining occupants. It would also be out of

keeping with the character and appearance of the surrounding area by reason of the proposed development, its size, layout and access and is therefore contrary to the Springvale Road Local Area Design Statement and Policy DP.3 of the adopted Winchester District Local Plan Review. The proposal also fails to make adequate provision for public recreational space to the required standard and would therefore be detrimental to the amenities of the area and is contrary to Police RT.3 (paragraph 9.18) of the Winchester District Local Plan Review.

Sheila Pearcey, Clerk to the HWPC.

Parish Council Report

As the wet weather and sunshine persist this is a timely reminder for householders to remember they are responsible for making sure their hedges and shrubs do not extend over the pavements, paths and roads and to ensure they are cut back regularly.

The bus shelter on Worthy Lane (pictured right) and the three benches belonging to the Parish Council have all recently been refurbished to a good standard.

We were delighted to see so many parishioners at May's annual parish meeting, but rather embarrassed by the fact that too small a room had been booked! Please accept our apologies - we will do better next year and hope that you found the meeting interesting, informative and not too intimate! All your comments have been taken on board and you can see from the various articles in this newsletter action is being taken on most issues raised.

We have asked for 'No left turn' and 'No right turn' notices to be placed at the end of School Lane and on London Road



as part of the 'Village 30' scheme which is being rolled out in September.

The filling of pot holes is a top priority of the new HCC roads maintenance contract. If you notice any outstanding pot holes, please let the Parish Clerk know and she will pass on the information. The Nun's Walk has recently been cut back - again please let the parish Clerk know of any overgrown footpaths which need attention.

The next meeting of the Headbourne Worthy Parish Council is on 14th October at 7.15pm at the Church Hall, Fraser Road, Springvale in Kings Worthy. All members of the public are welcome to attend and we welcome comments and questions from the public at the start of every meeting.

Members of the Parish Council pictured (left to right)) are:

David Pearcey, Sheila Pearcey (Clerk), David Spurling, Jane Rutter, Dennis Curling and (seated) Chairman of the Parish Council Rosemary Stephens.

