

VILLAGE NEWS

AUTUMN 2006



On the wild side

Reactions to our first attempt at a wildflower meadow on The Green by the Parish Office have been interesting. Some people thought it was just poor grass sowing and cutting but there were more positive comments when lots of poppies and other wildflowers began to appear.

You can rest assured that this isn't a cunning way for the Parish Council to save money on grass cutting and the area will be managed with a cut at the right time of year to allow plants to seed.

So, why are we doing this? Apart from the pleasure of seeing the flowers we are hoping that, for example, butterflies will be attracted to the area and we shall be doing our bit to replace some of the habitat which has been lost over the years.

There may be other parts of the village where this might work, for example, the steep slope at the lower end of Broadview has been suggested.

What do you think about this approach in general and have you any specific suggestions? Please let us know (as ever, all the contact details are on the back page).



Thanks to Jackie Porter, our Hampshire County Councillor, for this photo!

FOR REFERENCE ONLY...

At the Parish Office we have several things to interest you if you would like to find out more about the village, for example:

A very detailed, illustrated, hedgerow survey first undertaken in 2000 and recently updated – the work of a local enthusiast Michael Edwards;

All the “Worthy History” leaflets produced by the Worthys Local History Group;

Various albums of photographs of village events;

An album detailing the Mosaic project;

Copies of planning applications made in recent years (these are also available on the Winchester City Council web site).

You would be very welcome to consult any of these documents but it is a good idea to phone first as the office may be closed when the clerks are on site visits.

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FloodZone

No – not Springvale Road for once! This was the name given to Kings Worthy's first ever Holiday Club (we think). Over 30 children joined in the activities throughout a week during August in St. Mary's Chapel Hall, Springvale. Each morning was filled with activities including decorating team t-shirts; learning memory verses; making and painting salt dough; playing newspaper hockey; singing songs and helping Professor Puddle with some very unsuccessful water experiments.

The children were divided into four competitive teams – Creepy Crawlies, Mighty Mammals, Bold Birds and Funky Fish with the Creepy Crawlies taking overall victory at the end of the week. Teams could win points by learning their memory verses, good behaviour, winning team games, answering Bible quiz questions and decorating their team area. The Bible story of Noah's Ark was the theme for the week and was told by a number of eccentric characters, namely Kit and Granny Gomer, with help from Eddie the sports enthusiast, Kate the gardener and Claude the French artist!

If you missed this, don't despair, there will be a Children's Club starting monthly for children aged 6-11 years.

Autumn dates: October 28 and December 2.

Venue: St. Mary's Chapel Hall 10.00 – 11.30.

All children are welcome for art and craft, cooking, drama, singing, team games and much more!



To find out more please contact Esther Grabham, St.Mary's/YMCA Children's Community Worker, on 07854 459696 or email esther.winchester.ymca@btconnect.com

Is t h i s t h e s c h o o l , m a t e ?

A question frequently asked of James Pearce, Unit Manager of the Grove. The Grove occupies the building in front of the school and in its time has been a Day Centre and Parish Office. It is now the home of a day service for adults with a learning disability, providing new opportunities and help to learn new skills. James explained that most users of the service come as a result of referral by Social Services who have usually supported them for some years, although a few have recently relocated to Hampshire.

Each person has an individual programme designed to reflect their individual needs with the overall aim to improve their quality of life, find gainful employment and be as independent as possible.

Around 60 people use the service, doing a variety of art/craft activities and taking advantage of social and recreational opportunities. This all helps with a sense of community and improves communication skills. Just imagine the frustration of not being able to express your feelings, so it's easy to see the need for relaxation groups and a sensory room.

We asked what we could do to support The Grove – this is not a matter of fund raising to improve facilities but more of enabling service users to feel part of our Kings Worthy community. Perhaps we could do this by understanding their special problems and inviting them to appropriate activities, for example St. Mary's Church invited them to a Christmas Service last year.

If you have ideas or would like to find out more about The Grove please phone (01962) 886764 or email james.pearce@hants.gov.uk

They should do something about it!

Speeding traffic; cars parked on the pavement; children crossing the road; more car parking spaces; cyclists riding without lights or bells; drivers using mobile phones – the list of traffic related issues seems endless and daunting.

First of all, who are these **they** that should do something about it? Most traffic regulation is a matter for Hampshire County Council (HCC) who work with the police and enforcement of traffic laws is, of course, a matter for the police. ***Your parish council has little influence apart from lobbying other agencies for a particular course of action.***

Most traffic speed concerns seem to be related to Lovedon Lane, Springvale Road and the B3047 in Kings Worthy and Abbots Worthy. Maybe other roads appear to have more obstacles/ fewer straight sections to tempt those in a hurry. Springvale Road may be seen as a greater priority as more pedestrians have reason to cross it on the way to school or to the shop. The situation on London Road/ Abbots Worthy is already being addressed by a working party.

So, what can be done? The current speed limit in most of the village is 40mph - a 30mph limit has been suggested as a way forward. Is it likely that those who currently exceed 40mph will comply with a 30mph limit? Possibly, if it is rigorously enforced but would there be sufficient police officers to do so? If this were so, our first reaction would probably be to suggest that their time would be better spent catching real criminals. There is also an argument that reduced speeds might encourage more kerbside parking which in turn may reduce speeds further but increase the hazard of pedestrians trying to cross between parked vehicles. Maybe traffic-calming measures like pinch points or humps could be considered but these have negative aspects for buses and emergency vehicles in a hurry to get to us.

For those who feel vulnerable crossing the road, for example, children walking to school (clearly we ought to be encouraging this as it may reduce “school run” traffic), a pedestrian refuge or a “lollipop” person at a strategic point/ time may help. They’re not easy to recruit and can suffer abuse from drivers.

“I’m only popping into Tesco for a few minutes” – so cars are parked at the bus stop, on the white lines and partly on the pavement. This causes problems for pedestrians and bus drivers as well as damaging kerbs and pavements which are not designed for vehicles. OK, sometimes the car park is full, but honestly, how often do we see cars parked in the road when the car park is empty?!

Who are these people who are so inconsiderate and drive at dangerous speeds – where do they live? You may already have worked this one out...

Do people travel miles to visit a convenience store? Research shows that most mishaps occur near home so the chances are that drivers who go too fast in Kings Worthy also live here.

Maybe if **we** did something about it **they** would not have to do so!

This is not meant to be an “in depth” article – more of an attempt to raise issues. If you have views on this we would like to hear from you (see back page for contact details).

Eye-opener s...

...is the title of an informative and illustrated guide to public art, crafts and galleries in and around Winchester. Why do we tell you this?

Well, Kings Worthy is in it with a picture and description of our Millennium Mosaic. Could this be the first time that the village has appeared in such a brochure?

If you would like a copy there are some in the Parish Office or you can pick one up at the tourist office at Winchester Guildhall – they’re free!



PROJECT UPDATES

Fryers Close – local residents have been asked to comment on possible ways of improving the area between the Close and the Post Office. Others not immediately beside the area may also like to comment before the end of October and are welcome to view the plan at the Parish Office (number below).

Bus Shelters – we are responsible for the upkeep of the green shelters and our handyman will be undertaking a programme of cleaning and repainting them. This will take a while to complete but meanwhile, if you see problems of an urgent nature please contact the Parish Office. We plan to replace the bus shelter in Abbots Worthy and are exploring funding possibilities and designs appropriate for this conservation area.

Church Green a.k.a. Peeks Field – solicitors are working on the details prior to the hand over of the area to the Parish Council. Any legal expenses are to be paid for by the developers.

Notice Boards – we have a new one at Abbots Worthy, made by a local resident at minimal cost to the Parish Council. The old, mainly rotten, wooden boards will be gradually replaced with virtually maintenance-free boards.

Tesco parking – there has been a site meeting between Tesco and their landlord. As a result of this there is optimism that the car park can be enlarged and white lined. There is also the possibility of replacing and re-siting the notice board as part of a Tesco community programme.

Parish Councillors – our thanks to former councillors Martin Read, Angus McQueen, Ann Jones and Graham Hutton who did not stand for re-election this time. Ann had been a long serving parish councillor and Graham was both Parish and City Councillor for many years until ill health led him to resign. Thanks also to any former councillors whose leaving went unrecorded. ***This leaves us with vacancies – so if you are interested in becoming a parish councillor please contact the Parish Office.***

Ever sley Par k Pavilion

At the September meeting, the Parish Council reluctantly decided that the vandalised remains of the pavilion should be dismantled.

It is sad that the actions of a few has spoiled the enjoyment of the majority.

The structure was insured by the Parish Council and any excess insurance money will be used towards alternative open space facilities.

If anyone has any information about the perpetrators of the vandalism, we would encourage them to contact the police.

DIARY

Meetings are held in the Council room at the Kings Worthy Community Centre. There is a public question time at every meeting - everyone in the village is invited to attend.

2006/2007 MEETINGS

Full Parish Council (Mondays 7.30 p.m.)

November 20, no December meeting, January 15

Committees:

Recreation & Amenities (Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.)

November 8, no December meeting, January 10

Planning (Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.)

November 29, no December meeting, January 31

Finance (Wednesdays 9.30 a.m.)

November 15, December 18, January 10

N.B. Please check the notice boards or contact the Parish Office as sometimes meetings have to be rescheduled.

KINGS WORTHY PARISH COUNCIL

Kings Worthy Community Centre, Fraser Road, Kings Worthy SO23 7PJ

Chairman: Robert Johnston

Clerks: Barbara Fairbrother & Colin Arnett

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