



Whitchurch Update

August 2007

Town Centre Improvements

What's happening?

What is happening to the £240,000 that Basingstoke and Deane and Hampshire County Councils and the South East England Development Agency have put aside for work to improve the centre of Whitchurch?

Details inside

Pubs' Festival Returns

The weekend of 26-8 October will see the Whitchurch Pubs' Festival again after a long absence. This time there are a couple of new innovations.

Working 4 Whitchurch is working with the Town's pubs to offer beer from the dozen or so Hampshire breweries that produce real ale. To add to the local "flavour", locally produced sausages and Whitchurch grown potatoes (from the Whitchurch Potato Day) will feature on the pubs' menus to help the beer go down even better.

Film Shows in Whitchurch

Whilst Andover is still working on its cinema, Whitchurch will have 2 venues showing films in the Autumn.

Family film evenings will continue in the Baptist Church Hall on the last Friday in the month and the Thursday before that there will be *Film Thursday*, box office offerings at the Gill Nethercott Community Hall arranged by W4W with the GNCH committee:

- 20 Sep - Becoming Jane - *Gala Opening*
- 28 Sep - Family Film Evening
- 18 Oct - Last King of Scotland
- 26 Oct - Family Film Evening
- 22 Nov - Grow your own
- 30 Nov - Family Film Evening

Christmas (in Whitchurch) is coming

W4W is already working on the plans for this year's Christmas activities. There'll be full details in the next Update.



Tour of Britain visits the Town

On 10th September the Tour of Britain will pass through the Town. The Tour organisers are putting the final touches to the route for Stage 1 from Reading to Southampton. Working for Whitchurch has plans to make the centre of Whitchurch the place to be around 11.30am to see and enjoy the cyclists as they pass along the B3400 towards Hurstbourne Priors.

Hampshire Cycle Training is planning some cycling events for the 9th and 10th, see www.hampshire-cycletraining.org.uk for more details.

Details on back page

Whitchurch Update

This is the first issue of the Update, it is published by Working 4 Whitchurch to bring you up to date with what is happening in the Town.

The banner picture is temporary - can you design a better one? There is a prize of £25 for the best design which will then be used in future quarterly editions. e-mail your contribution to update@the-whitchurchweb.org or post it in the Town Hall letterbox.

Gill Nethercott Community Centre

A grant application has been made for money to fund the post of a community development worker who would act as the centre manager. This role includes responsibility for caretaking and bookings.

B&DBC are in the final stages of arranging for Gill Nethercott Community Centre signage to be placed on the building and a notice board for the outside of the building to be used by the centre and the library.

Plans are being developed for the area around the building to be landscaped with suitable aquatic planting for the river environment.

A Community Arts Grant has been made available to produce a scheme of decorative art for the Centre. The project will be led by local artist Penny Pepper, and groups will work with her to create a number of felt hangings celebrating Whitchurch. Work starts September 17th and will last 2 weeks, there will be no charge for participating.

The aim is to produce Felt Wall Hangings which celebrate work, life and play in Whitchurch. They will hang permanently in the Nethercott Hall. Felting is an ancient but easy, hands-on craft.

Local groups, schools and play-groups will be asked to 'book' a weekday time slot. The weekend of the 22nd and 23rd will be 'an open weekend'.

To book the Hall for any event (discounts are available to affiliated groups and members of the Association) please contact:

Jean Watts Tel: 896969
jean@putitright.plus.com



Style for you
GLADSTONES

Handbags, Shoes, Accessories

100's Of Beautiful Bags Always In Stock

Order on line from our new website
www.gladstoneshandbags.co.uk



5 Church Street
Whitchurch
01256 893500

Working 4 Whitchurch (W4W)

W4W is a group of Towns and business folk who are working to improve the environment in Whitchurch. This is why it is involved in the Town Centre Improvement Projects (see opposite). This is its newsletter.

But more than this it actively organises events such as the Whitchurch Beer Festival (see front page) and is leading the decoration of the Town for the Tour of Britain's visit to the Town (see back page).

Its main claim to fame is Christmas in Whitchurch which is planned to be bigger and better this year, starting with a Craft Market, on 1 December, plus late night shopping evenings; the next edition of the this newsletter will bring full details.

Its pressing task is to assess the need for the **e.office** facility. There is a questionnaire brochure in this **Update**, please complete it if you think you may use the facility or some of the services it will offer.

W4W a small but very active group which is, hopefully, improving the Town. If you want to help or have any ideas, e-mail w4w@thewhitchurchweb.org, drop a note to W4W in the Town Hall letterbox or use www.thewhitchurchweb.org's contact page.

Welcome Pack

W4W has put together large parts of theWhitchurchWeb in a 30 page book full of useful information for newcomers to the Town and those without ready access to the internet.

Copies are already held at the library and Town Hall but shortly Brockenhurst will be printing them to give to each of its customers and for those donating £2 to the Youth Project.

CLACY'S GARAGE

London Street, Whitchurch
01256 892099 or 892168

COURTESY
CARS
AVAILABLE

Service and
Repairs to All Cars
& Light
Commercials

CAR
AND
VAN HIRE

Diesel and Petrol

Welding & Bodywork



Air Conditioning Specialists

Steam Cleaning and
Valeting



MOT TESTING STATION

Cars, Light Commercials & Motorbikes
Diesels, Petrols & Catalysts Tested

Blue Ginger Finest Contemporary Bengali Cuisine

Restaurant and Take Away

12 noon - 11.30pm Sunday

12 noon - 2pm Weekdays

All day buffet - 20+ Dishes

Business Lunch - 3 Courses

Adults £7.95 Children £4.95

£7.95

Outside Catering - Please call for details

Open Mon - Sat 12 noon - 2pm and 6 - 11.30pm

Sundays 12 noon - 11.30pm

Bell Street, Whitchurch

Telephone 01256 895858

www.bluegingerwhitchurch.co.uk

Support Local Businesses

Small businesses form the core of our town. Between them they can meet almost all of your everyday requirements, just have a look at the Retail Businesses page at www.thewhitchurchweb.org or pick up a copy of the Welcome to Whitchurch booklet at Brockenhurst.

The businesses below are adding more to the Town by supporting Town Centre activities and events, please support them - or you may lose them!

Artsapes Garden Services
Beehive Farm Shop
The Bell
Blue Ginger Restaurant
Brockenhurst Estate Agents
Clacy's Garage
Dennett Butchers
G Dowling & Sons

Flower Power
Focus on Hair
Glass-Foolery
The Harvest Home
Gladstones Handbags
House 'n Home
Karen Jarmarkier

LloydspharmacyDavid Man-
ning & Co
Newbury Building Society
The Old Paper Shop
Serenity Health & Beauty
Taylor-Made Men's Grooming
The White Hart

Town Centre Improvements

Progress to date

The projects, to be complete by July 2009, are being funded from 2 sources, B&DBC and HCC have set aside £120,000 to cover refurbishment and improvements to the hard landscaping and SEEDA have matched the amount to cover soft landscaping and other activities that will improve and develop the Town.

The projects that will be funded by Councils are outlined below. The areas to be tackled have been approved by the Steering Group (see item on the right) and HCC Officers are working on more detailed plans and their costs for the next meeting in September (please note these are all subject to change when more detail is available and the full costs are determined):

Resurfacing the area outside the Town Hall to provide a safer environment with improvements such as new seating and a larger notice board.

Renovating the roundabout in the Square.

Tidying up the street furniture and planted areas in the Square, Great Lane and the Town centre ends of Bell Street and Church Street.

Resurfacing the Bell Street Car Park and improving the planted areas.

The SEEDA funds have been approved for the following projects:

Improvements to attract more visitors to the Town, such as brown tourist signs on the A34, a Heritage Trail Leaflet, visitor/local event information signs, historic building plaques/paving inserts and public art initiatives.

Improving the Town centre by matching money spent by landlords on shop front decoration.

Improved use of information technology by setting up a serviced local 'Community e-work centre' (see the insert in this Update). Providing support to small businesses to encourage increased business use of ICT and e-commerce. Enhancement of thewhitchurchweb.org to include online e-learning, survey and feedback facilities and secure e-commerce capabilities

Employing a Town Centre Improvement Manager (TCIM) for 2½ days a week to manage some of the above projects and help local businesses get the help which is now available from many government agencies. This role has proved invaluable in ensuring the success of similar sets of projects in other towns up and down the country. Full details of this post and an advertisement for applicants will appear in theWhitchurchWeb and Andover Advertiser in the very near future.

What's next?

HCC officers will present their more detailed proposals to the Steering Group in mid-September.

The TCIM should be appointed by the end of September.

Further updates on progress will be in the Parish Magazine, future Updates and www.thewhitchurchweb.org.

If you have any comments e-mail update@thewhitchurchweb.org or drop a note through the Town Hall letterbox, marked Town Centre Improvements.

Managing the projects

The grants are public money and therefore the spending needs to be properly managed. A team has been put together to ensure that the money is spent in accordance with the rules and the wishes of the Townsfolk of Whitchurch.

A Steering Group made up of representatives of:

Whitchurch Town Council
Whitchurch Association
Working for Whitchurch

plus officers from:

Basingstoke & Deane BC
Hampshire CC

will monitor the progress of the work which will be project managed on a day to day basis by HCC and the Town Centre Improvements Manager.

Taylor-Made Men's Grooming

Professional Men's Trimming

Mon 10am - 4pm	Men's Cut £8.50
Tue 9.30am - 1pm	Boys' Cut £7
Wed 4pm - 8pm	Senior Citizens £5
Thu 9.30am - 5pm	Clipper All Over £7
Fri 9.30am - 6pm	Beard Trim £2
Sat 9.30am - 3pm	Cut Throat Shave £18

All staff qualified to a high standard

Free lollipop for children - Free beer for men

NEW! 5 London Street, Whitchurch
Tel 01256 892671

Prop: Mike Taylor, Senior Lecturer in barbering at BCOT

Support Whitchurch's Groups

Whitchurch, for its size has an amazing number of community groups which cater for the youngest to the oldest and for a wide range of interests. They all need members of which there are normally plenty, but they also need those willing to put a little more to help organise them.

There is a full list of those currently looking for this type of support at www.thewhitchurchweb.org, but prominent are:

Carers Together - Maggie 01256 357150

Kingfisher Day Centre - Julia 893333

Scouts - Steve 893664

Parish Hall - Gill 892025

Please support these groups, Whitchurch wouldn't be what it is without them!

The Harvest Home

Serving Traditional Cask Ales And Home Cooked Food

2 Course Sunday Roasts

Available for children and adults

Food served every Sunday from 12noon until 8pm

Book early to avoid disappointment!

Ruby Tuesday

Medium to hot spiced home-made curry with rice and a pint of your choice for £5

Midweek Mexican

Medium to hot spiced home-made chilli with rice and a pint of your choice for £5

Harvest Hear'Say

Our own in-house magazine, just ask for a copy

www.theharvesthome.me.uk

The Ultimate Steakout

Choose any TWO Steaks and receive a large bottle of house wine - for just £26 per couple

Pensioner Perks

2 course home-made lunch or dinner for only £5

Tuesday - Friday

Friday Happy Hour

All Pints Only £2.00 Across The Range

4pm - 6pm every Friday

Winchester Road, Whitchurch

01256 892217

Proprietors: Chris Benton and Jane Acott



www.thewhitchurchweb.org for the latest news and events

Tour of Britain

The first stage of Britain's premier road cycling event, the Tour of Britain, starts at Burghclere at 10.45am on Monday 10 September. By 11.15 the competitors will be at the top of White Hill, from there the route takes them to Overton then along the B3400 to Whitchurch. The cyclists are expected to pass through The Square at 11.30 en route for Hurstbourne Priors and then south to the New Forest.

Working 4 Whitchurch will be ensuring that the route through the centre of Town will be decorated with flags and bunting. Roads through the centre of Town will be closed so this will be the ideal place to watch the highly coloured procession as it travels at high speed, the organisers predict an average of 42kph!

Businesses along the route such as the White Hart and Clacy's are looking to organise special events, so watch the local press, www.thewhitchurchweb.org and the Parish Magazine for more information nearer the date.

BMX track

A meeting of potential users, some parents, Town and Borough Councillors and Community Police on 10 July looked at a B&DBC proposed plan for a BMX track. The meeting's comments on the design have been fed back to the Council.

There will be public consultation before any final decisions are made. The users' group is keen to make contact with everyone who would use the BMX track (or their parents). If this is you please contact David Ridley on 893073.

Whitchurch Youth Project

The project's meetings 3 times a week, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays are still proving ever popular and more helpers are always needed.

Contact Denyse Coles on 893010.

New Specialist Estate Agency Services in Whitchurch

The emerging success of Brockenhurst Estate Agents, having opened a tiny office three years ago, shows how this independent company has gone from strength to strength. They now control the majority of the market in Whitchurch, and therefore could be called the 'local leaders'.

Since opening the London Street office, Vicky Goss and David Griffiths have moved on to kill two birds with one stone. They have visibly improved the look of the centre of the Town and moved the business across the road whilst retaining and refurbishing the old office to house a new venture for the company. The original office is being utilised as the Lettings headquarters and the Lettings team, including Vicky Redden as Manager and Wendy Senior as Lettings Consultant, are off to a flying start.

Estate Agents and Letting Agents seem to be much of a much-ness these days, with all of them wearing cheap suits and having a 'blimey governor' attitude.

The one thing that really sets Brockenhurst apart from the rest is their customer service. You'll find that you are welcomed with a smile and a truly professional approach whichever office you enter. What has a relatively small footprint in Whitchurch has a huge marketing structure, including wide-spread press adverting, using more websites than any other local Agents. However, these are merely bonuses when you know that you are getting the best service for the same fee you would pay another Agent.

Brockenhurst supports W4W and with it all the Town centre activities and the Welcome Pack (see inside for details), they are worth supporting.

Annual Produce Show

This year's show will be held in the Baptist Church Hall on Saturday 18th August, doors will be open for viewing from 2.30pm onwards.

As usual there will be classes for all, flower arranging, flowers, pot plants, vegetables, novelty veg, fruit, wine, beer, handicrafts, photography and a special section for children (who can enter all the other classes as well).

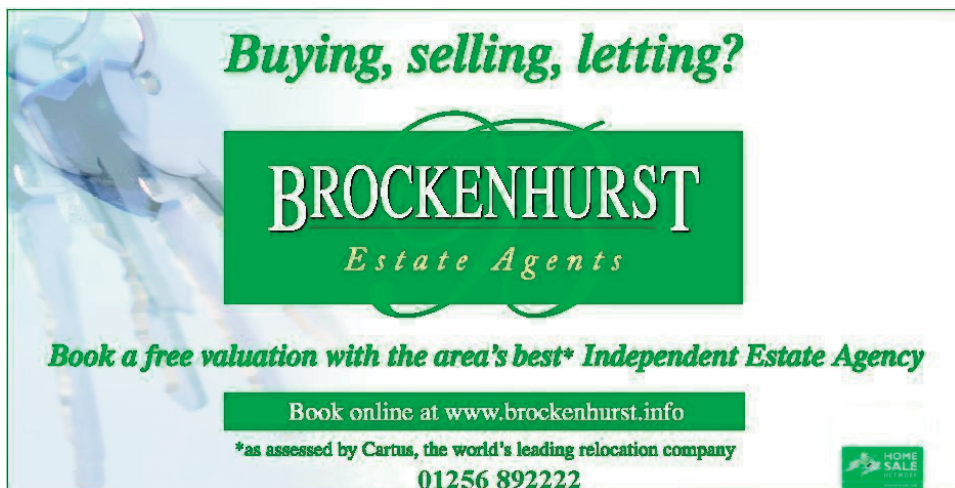
More importantly for those showing, entries need to be in by Wednesday 15th August. Entry forms and full details of all the classes are at The Old Paper Shop, House 'n Home, Flower Power and www.theWhitchurchWeb.org.

Whitchurch's Pubs

John Buckley, of jpbdesign.net, with CAMRA has just produced an updated brochure appropriately entitled The Pubs of Whitchurch.

It contains details of the Town's remaining 8 pubs and their offerings for Townsfolk and visitors alike.

You can pick one up in any pub and enjoy the atmosphere, good food and drink or call John on 892650.



Buying, selling, letting?


BROCKENHURST
Estate Agents

Book a free valuation with the area's best* Independent Estate Agency

Book online at www.brockenhurst.info

*as assessed by Cartus, the world's leading relocation company

01256 892222



Whitchurch Update is produced and published by Working 4 Whitchurch
Phil Cooper 893264
update@thewhitchurchweb.org

www.thewhitchurchweb.org for the latest news and events