

# NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024



*above:* **WINDY RIDGE** Abbotswell Road, Frogham

This is one of our historical encroachment cob cottages now being saved and renovated. The dangerous chimney has been taken down; the roof and some of the walls have collapsed and the building will be covered for a couple of years to allow it to dry out before further work can be done. The Witt family lived at Windy Ridge. They lost four sons in WW1, three of them in three months during the autumn of 1916. Younger brother Leonard (Len) Witt lived there all his life and was mentioned in 'Wanderers in the New Forest'. Len had a wicked sense of humour. When asked for directions by passing motorists would say 'I wouldn't start from here'. More historical information is on the Parish website. Frogham and Blissford belonged to Burgate Estate. This was open common land called a Purlieu, defined as an 'outlier of a place'. In the New Forest this is the Crownlands. In the late 1700's and through to the sale of the estate in August 1898 families moved onto the Purlieu. They fenced a piece of land and built a cottage. Rent for this land was agreed with the Estate. In time Frogham and Blissford were enclosed into fields, orchards and gardens.

*INSIDE: roads update - mast update - verges consultation - potholes - landline telephone digital switchover - ragwort pull - Bill Dow*

**ROADS UPDATE** At our Annual Parish Assembly our HCC Councillor Edward Heron replied to questions. HCC has £55 Million for maintaining the roads and footpaths. There are 5,800 miles of road and many more miles of byways open to all traffic, bridleways and footpaths. The weather this winter has been a disaster for the roads and at the moment only temporary patches are going in. Later in the Summer these patches should be redone with hot patching. There are places where the roads have become impassable (many of which were just gravel lanes with a covering of tarmac). The intention was to leave them at this time and do a 'proper' job before next winter. The most pressing problem is Hern Lane, where the ditch is full, the verge is an SSSI and under the verge is the broadband cable for Hyde.



**POTHoles** To report a pothole, phone 0300 555 1388 Mon-Fri 08.30 to 17.00. Outside hours phone 101 (in an emergency only). Or report online: [hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes](https://hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes) Alternatively, use the 'FixMyStreet' mobile app (<https://www.fixmystreet.com/>) that is available for both iOS (Apple) and Android devices. This doesn't enable the same level of feedback, as you will not receive the HCC tracking reference number, but as it utilises the mobile device's GPS and camera, it does make on-site reporting simple and quick.



**VERGES CONSULTATION** The Parish Council will be conducting a consultation on the verges on the Common between Hyde School and the Chapel to improve the condition, prevent further damage and slow the traffic. Residents can put their ideas to the PC at its stand at the Frogham Fair (29th June) where there will be more information.

**MAST UPDATE** No decision has yet been made on the appeal lodged last year regarding a further 18-months extension for the temporary mast on land at Hyde Garden Shop. Similarly, a decision is still awaited on the 2022 appeal against the NFNPA's refusal of permission in 2021 for a permanent mast in Harry's Field. Meanwhile, it is understood that agents for the telecommunications companies (EE and Three) are engaged in pre-application discussions regarding a permanent 20m mast on private land in Hyde. Their intention is to make an application for 'prior approval' (essentially, for planning permission) in due course. If granted, the temporary mast at Hyde Garden Shop could then be removed.

## LANDLINE TELEPHONE DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

Between now and 2025 all the old analogue telephone landlines will be changed to landline services using digital technology. For most people, this change will be straightforward.

But if you, a relative, or vulnerable neighbour use any of the following that rely on a telephone landline, contact the provider of the service for advice:

- Landline telephone for making calls.
- Telecare service such as a fall monitor, lifeline or personal alarm
- Fire alarm
- Burglar alarm

Otherwise, all you need to do is wait until your telephone provider contacts you, which is normally about four weeks before they plan to change you over.

If you already have an internet connection, it could be as simple as plugging your phone into your broadband router rather than the socket on the wall. If you want to retain a landline phone, but don't already have broadband, you might need to have a suitable broadband connection installed, even if you don't use broadband. Providers have a range of options, so you shouldn't be forced to take out a high-speed broadband package if you don't want to.

The old analogue phones carry on working during power cuts, but the new digital service won't. So, if you rely on your landline - e.g. you don't have a mobile phone, or a mobile signal inside your home - your provider must make sure you are able to contact the emergency services during a power cut. This could be in the form of battery back-up so your landline will continue to work, or by giving you a basic mobile phone to use in this situation.

Finally, be aware of scams. These could happen over the phone, via email, or in person on your doorstep. Remember the following scam advice when someone's contacting you about the switchover:

**STOP** - take a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or your personal information.

**CHALLENGE** - could it be fake? It's OK to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. You should never feel rushed or pressured into making a decision.

**PROTECT** - contact your bank immediately if you think you've been a victim of a scam and report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040.

Other unscrupulous people may also try to sell you equipment or get you to sign up to expensive contracts that you don't need. In these cases, it's important that you don't rush into making any decisions. You can always seek a second opinion and speak to your phone company – they should be able to advise you about what you need.

## BILL DOW

1939-2024



Bill was a true local man, as a child he lived with his family at the Royal Oak. Over the years his knowledge of the parish became extensive and his love and care for it were clear to all. He was a Hyde Parish Councillor for 30 years, he was Vice Chair for many years and Chair for 2 terms; he retired from the PC in 2015. Bill was very much missed but he continued to support us and help with advice when we asked. As well as giving his time, his experience of local governance and his invaluable good advice to the PC, Bill was the dedicated New Forest District Councillor for Forest Northwest. Bill was a mine of interesting information on local history and an expert on the WW2 Ibsley Airfield. Like many others we have happy memories of him at Frogham Fair wearing his bowler hat, waistcoat and bow tie in charge of the Terrier Racing. Those of us, past and present, who served on the parish council with Bill, will remember him with great respect and gratitude.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

*Hyde Parish Council meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7.00 pm at Hyde Memorial Hall.*

*The next meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> June, then 8<sup>th</sup> July, 12<sup>th</sup> August and 9<sup>th</sup> September.*

*Meetings are open to all.*

**RAGWORT** - This year we are again organising a ragwort-pull morning and encourage you to join us at 9.30am on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July outside Hyde School. Bring gloves, forks, bags or barrows. You can also help by clearing land near your property. Do as little or as much as you can manage but please make sure to take it away – the disposal site is located at the top of Buddle Hill in a compound marked RAGWORT ONLY. Please do not put bags in the

compound. We look forward to seeing you and please feel free to contact Tina Woodley 0774 7192349. Remember: ragwort is poisonous to livestock. It can cause painful death from liver damage.



### Your Parish Councillors:

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|----------------------|--------------|
| Giles Dolphin        | 01425 658027 |
| Andrew Harris        | 01425 656333 |
| Fiona Kosinski       | 07778 688470 |
| Maggie McKenzie      | 01425 839643 |
| Ann Sevier           | 01425 653157 |
| Bernie Tully (Chair) | 01425 652470 |
| Tina Woodley         | 07747 192349 |

### Your Parish Clerk:

Sue Thurston 07940 479641  
[parish.clerk@hyde-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@hyde-pc.gov.uk)

For more information about the parish, rules and regulations, current business, agendas and minutes, etc., see the website [www.hyde-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hyde-pc.gov.uk) or contact the Parish Clerk if you don't have internet access.