

Jackie's County Corner for November

The Alresford Fireworks Event is on the 1st November this year, so by the time you read this, your Firework night may be over! (Please note: other exciting Firework events in most villages are available!)

There were **magnificent fireworks** at the Worthys Festival this year: in fact the whole Festival was a testament to everyone who volunteered to provide free events not only during that week in the Worthys, but right across the area this summer.

Even volunteer run events can cost money. You can apply for a County Councillor grant online at www.hants.gov.uk, search 'grants' for the terms and conditions of a wide range of options, including the County Councillor grant, which runs until the middle of February 2020.

October's Rural Policing Event at Sparsholt College was well attended, and very good. Inspector Korine Bishop, lead on Rural Crime, gave an excellent talk, and the Crown Prosecution Service explained what evidence from a 'good witness' looked like. Discussions included marking all goods of value, and I raised the legal use of CCTV to protect communities: I'll be feeding this back to villages determined to beat the current flood of car thieves. Most importantly, please report crime first to the Police, not just on facebook!

Hampshire County Council talked about fly-tipping. Whilst there, I met Michael Montague who has set up www.ClearWaste.com. He started the site (there is an app too) as a way to combat the non-reporting of fly-tipping, and the difficulty of identifying the exact location in rural areas. It's especially useful in rural areas: you can snap it, then report it (but please don't touch it) and Clear Waste will refer the case of fly-tipping to the correct authority to deal with it. You can check waste-carrier licences too.

Another way to find your location for any purpose is to use **#What3Words**. It is really useful for rural incidents of all kinds, and a valuable way of identifying your location to the Police.

Climate Change is on everyone's lips now: public opinion has changed hugely even this year, and I was really pleased to hear that more and more people are cycling, by pedal power or on electric bikes. The County has declared a Climate Change Emergency too, but the County Council's Highways mending criteria of 'Tennis-Ball-deep and Car-Wheel-wide' means that many holes do not get repaired, even if requested. Local cyclist and resident Steve Cramoysan is helping to compile a list of places which need repair for better cycling.

If this affects you, please let us know: we need practical examples from *right across the area* to illustrate the point. Why not try #What3Words to check the location?

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