

# East Boldre and beyond e-newsletter

13 March 2021

Hello Everyone

This newsletter contains a link to the latest update of the East Boldre Emergency Plan, news from the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Assembly, and some Neighbourhood Watch information. It seems that catalytic converters are being stolen locally again. Please don't forget to send in your notices and advertise your events in this free newsletter. And please tell your friends about it or forward a copy to them. They can request a copy on the village website using the link above.

## The East Boldre Emergency Plan

The East Boldre Emergency Plan has been updated and the new copy can be [downloaded from the village website here](#).

## Messages from the East Boldre Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting was held on Tuesday 9 March and was followed by the Annual Parish Assembly.



### Parish Council Meeting

- Cllr Gabzdyl told the council that Hampshire County Council has not received a formal request from Network Rail to close the pedestrian rail crossing at Wood Fiddley Cottages. Informal conversations are taking place and if permission is sought, a clear consultation period will be instated where residents will be given a chance to comment on the plans.
- County Councillor - Cllr Mans confirmed that Covid 19 cases in the New Forest have dropped to less than 30 per 100,000 in the past week. The levels are consistently coming down. He warned that we must remain cautious as there are still a large number of Covid patients in hospital.
- The vaccination program is successfully being rolled out across the county.
- The return of children to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March is going well.
- The council is now working on a recovery program and two new grant schemes are available (further details are available on Hampshire County Council website)
  1. Community renewal fund.
  2. Community ownership fund.

### Annual Parish Assembly

Peter Dewbery, Census Engagement Manager for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) gave a fascinating presentation. He included some very interesting facts on when and why the census was established. Further information about filling out your census form will be available in the village shop:

- The Census is a National survey which helps to establish how services are run.
- Census data is used by hospitals, the police, schools and councils.
- Personal data submitted in the census is protected for 100 years.
- Information you supply on your census form will remain confidential.
- It is a legal requirement to fill in your census form and failing to do so could result in a £1000 fine.
- The first National UK census was held in 1801
- It takes place every 10 years and offers a snapshot of life in UK on that day.
- Census day is on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March.
- Although the information you supply must relate to 21<sup>st</sup> March, you can fill out your form early.
- The Census form should be filled in by one person in each household.
- It is a digital first census, ONS would like to encourage people to fill out their form online.
- Joining information will be sent to each household by post, this will include instructions on filling out the form and a unique access code.

- If you cannot fill in your census form online, you can request a paper copy of the form:
- The National Support line for help filling out the census form is 0800 141 2021
- Foreign language support is available on 0800 587 1387
- Local support is available on 0300 555 1387
- Official Field Staff will be out in the community, wearing ID badges and PPE. They will offer assistance in filling out the census form.

### **Grants and Funding Opportunities**

A list of grants and funding opportunities has been listed on [the Parish Council Website](#).

### **New members invited to join the New Forest Access Forum**

The New Forest Access Forum is recruiting new members and is inviting applications from people who are passionate about public access.

The forum is an independent group of volunteers who advise New Forest organisations about improving access and accessibility. It's looking for people to represent the following topics: walking, dog walking, cycling, equestrians, disabled access, health & wellbeing, access to water, tourism, local businesses, youth & education, commoning, landowning and volunteering.

It's especially welcoming applications from under-represented groups who can connect to new audiences from different communities, ages, backgrounds, experiences and identities.

Members of the New Forest Access Forum serve a three-year term, representing a particular topic and bringing their personal experience to advise New Forest organisations how best to improve public access within the National Park and the wider New Forest District Council area.

The forum is an independent advisory body, operating on a statutory basis. Its appointing authorities are Hampshire County Council and the New Forest National Park Authority

Members meet four times a year, often out on site in the New Forest. All travel expenses are covered as are any for childcare or care of dependents. If you have additional needs the forum will be pleased to accommodate them.

Adam Vasey, who co-ordinates the forum for the joint appointing authorities of the New Forest National Park Authority and Hampshire County Council said: 'Being a member of the Access Forum is a fantastic opportunity to learn about the New Forest and share your knowledge and experience. We look forward to hearing from existing members as well as potential new ones. It's a great opportunity to inject some fresh perspectives into the New Forest Access Forum.'

To apply please download the application form available from [www.newforestaccessforum.org.uk](http://www.newforestaccessforum.org.uk) and email to [access.forum@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:access.forum@newforestnpa.gov.uk) by 30 April 2021. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online/phone interview.

For questions about membership of the forum and its role, please contact Adam Vasey, National Park Access Ranger, at [adam.vasey@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:adam.vasey@newforestnpa.gov.uk) or call 07384 517633 for an informal chat.

### **About the New Forest National Park Authority**

#### **Protect - Enjoy - Prosper**

The New Forest National Park Authority's statutory purposes are to:

- Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park - **Protect**.
- Promote opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities – **Enjoy**.

We also have a duty to:

- Seek to foster the social and economic well-being of local communities within the Park – **Prosper**.

The New Forest National Park was designated in March 2005. Its unique landscape has been shaped over the centuries by grazing ponies, cattle and pigs which roam free. Majestic woodlands, rare heathland and a spectacular coastline provide fabulous opportunities for quiet recreation, enjoyment and discovery.

Visit [www.newforestnpa.gov.uk](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk) to find out more.



Cyclists riding on designated cycle paths through the New Forest National Park

### **Chairman Councillor Holmes' report to the Parish Electors.**

Last year when I read out the Annual Assembly Report, I don't think any of us would have imagined the year we have just had and are still going through. The words COVID, social distancing and furlough were not in our vocabulary. It was also the last time the parish council would all be together in the village hall. Never-the-less the parish council have met every month, although virtually. And have continued to represent the residents of East Boldre.

#### **Allotments**

The allotments are now amalgamated into the one site and Forestry England will be taking back allotment site 2 at the end of this month. The allotments also proved therapeutic for those who needed to escape the anxiety caused by the coronavirus lockdown.

#### **Planning applications**

Planning applications are an important part of the parish council agenda. Even with the strange year we have had the parish council considered many planning applications from small outbuildings to large structures.

#### **Broadband**

Cllr Michael Husband has still been pushing the various stake holders for updates on broadband in the village.

#### **Matthews Lane**

Cllr Rebecca has spent the whole year trying to sort out visibility issues brought up by a resident when exiting Matthews Lane. And has spoken to just about every stakeholder involved.

#### **Hatchet Pond**

Cllr Lynn Clark is still in contact Forestry England regarding the changes to car parking and signage at Hatchet Pond.

#### **External meetings**

Parish councillors have still attended external meetings (although virtually) on behalf of residents, always bringing any issues that may affect East Boldre back to the parish council.

The year also saw:

1. Replacement signs being installed for East Boldre/East End. These were part funded by the New Forest National Park Authority.
2. The parish council's website was made accessible in line with government legislation.
3. Listening stations for East Boldre Oral History were installed in venues around the village.
4. Two further defibrillators were installed in the village BT kiosks.
5. The village emergency plan came into action during lockdown. Mike Upton has done a fantastic job with this.

I would like to thank all our councillors, on behalf of East Boldre residents, for their hard work and commitment, which is done on a voluntary basis.

Cllr Holmes.

Nicola Curzon  
Parish Clerk  
East Boldre Parish Council  
PO BOX 389  
SO41 1BG  
07562 985631

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

### **Local Crime**

**Burglaries:** Ashurst has been targeted by thieves on two separate nights this month with five garages and sheds on Foxhills Close and Knellers Lane broken into between 7:00 and 8:00 am on Sunday 21st February. The good news is that someone was arrested at the time of these burglaries and an investigation is well underway.

Earlier in the month, again in Ashurst, two sheds were broken into. Other outbuildings broken into this month were in Minstead, Lyndhurst, Brook, Bramshaw and Brockenhurst

**Vehicle Crime:** In Ashurst, on the same night as the two sheds were broken, ten vehicles were targeted, although it is believed that most if not all of the cars had been left unlocked on their owners' driveways. From the CCTV we have viewed from many of the residential cameras in Ashurst, it seems that the thieves have simply walked up and down several roads in the village trying car door handles and have stolen loose change and other small items from the ones they found unlocked.

A van parked on a driveway on Peterscroft Avenue in Ashurst was also broken into and thousands of pounds worth of tools taken. Vans parked in Cadnam and Ower were also targeted and again tools were stolen.

Three vehicles have also been stolen in February, one from Brockenhurst and the other two from Ashurst. All three have been recovered. One person has been arrested for one of the thefts and investigations into who stole the other two are ongoing.

### **Catalytic Converter Theft**

Message from Wes Hutchins (Police, Corporate Communications Officer, Hampshire):

We would like to issue specific advice to residents across the New Forest following an increase in catalytic converter thefts from vehicles across the whole district since the beginning of the year.

During this time, we have recorded catalytic converter thefts in the Hythe, Blackfield, Totton, Ashurst, Ringwood and Lyminster areas.

Catalytic converters can be stolen within a few minutes by using just a few basic tools, but there are ways you can protect your vehicle if, like many people, you don't have access to a garage:

- Find out where your catalytic converter is located on your car; if it is at the front of your car, park with the bonnet towards a wall if possible. If it is at the back, park it with your exhaust to the wall.
- If parking in a public car park, consider parking alongside other cars or against a wall.
- Avoid parking your vehicle half on the pavement and half on the road, as this may make it easier for get under your car.
- If your catalytic converter is bolted on, you can ask for your local garage to weld the bolts to make it more difficult to remove.
- Alternatively, you can also etch a serial number on the converter so that if it is stolen and then recovered, we can get your car converter back to you.
- You can even purchase a 'cage clamp' which is a cage device that locks in around the converter to make it more difficult to remove.
- Speak to your dealership or garage about the possibility of adding a tilt sensor that will activate the alarm should any thief try to jack the vehicle up to steal the converter.
- If you see someone acting suspiciously under a vehicle, report it. Obtain as much information as possible, including any vehicle registrations.
- In the event your cat converter is stolen, please report online via our website (<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>) and include any markings so that we can identify your converter if it's recovered.

Our local neighbourhood policing teams in the New Forest are continuing to monitor reports and would like to ask local residents to report any suspicious activity to us directly by calling 101, or by reporting it to us via our online reporting tool on the Hampshire Constabulary website.

As always, if a crime is in progress, please dial 999.

Your local Police Officers are:

Jason Eastwood - [jason.eastwood@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:jason.eastwood@hampshire.pnn.police.uk) 07979 707939

Vicki Pressey - [vicki.pressey@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:vicki.pressey@hampshire.pnn.police.uk) 07785 500952

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If you have not received this newsletter before and you think that it contains helpful information, please forward it to your friends. The more people who use it and contribute to it, the better it will be. By subscribing to this free community newsletter, you will always know what's going on in the village and you will receive important Neighbourhood Watch information without delay.

Use the links below to subscribe or unsubscribe from this newsletter.

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