

PUXTON AND HEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

Life At the Heart of the North Somerset Levels

Spring 2019

BROADBAND

Gigaclear, contractors to Connecting Devon and Somerset to supply our fast broadband, are experiencing delays. Post the collapse of main sub-contractor Carillion, we have no firm revised timetable for them supplying our Parish.

Truespeed offer an alternative, and potentially the most hassle-free way to get what we want - fast and reliable broadband.

Vitality, supply via Truespeed depends on how many of us sign up for the service. We need around 30% of our homes to sign up before Truespeed can commit to bringing in their service which, uniquely, offers fibre to the home via leases on Western Power and BT poles rather than via underground excavation. There is no up front cost. Consumer commitment is to a £120 one-off installation fee (**with the first essential 30% of registrants getting this free!**) and an 18 month fixed price contract at £47.50 per month, which includes broadband at a full 200mb/s, up and down (potential for 1000mb/s), and a telephone line, which can carry the customer's existing telephone number. The school and Village Hall are provided with a free service.



In signing up, you commit to taking the Truespeed service, only so long as they provide that service within 6 months of your sign up. We need as many sign-ups as possible to get us on the Truespeed work schedule. Near neighbours, Kenn, went through this process and are now likely to 'go live' with Truespeed within the year - so the more people who sign up, the sooner we can expect to receive a genuinely fast broadband service. **See the video at <https://www.truespeed.com/>**

To sign up, visit <https://www.truespeed.com>, type in your post code, follow the online instructions, allow 2 minutes! For queries contact Truespeed's **Andy Moore, Community Engagement Manager**. Email: amoore@truespeed.com. Mobile: 07548 239261. *TrueSpeed Communications Ltd, Milands House, 4 Rock Road, Keynsham BS31 1BL. Website: <https://www.truespeed.com>*

**Andy will be holding a Truespeed Presentation with Question and Answer session
at Hewish & Puxton Village Hall, Maysgreen Lane, on Thursday, 28th at 7pm**

Do come along to this presentation - direct contact with the provider can answer all those 'little' queries!!

BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR VILLAGE HALL



Last Autumn we purchased the freehold of our Hall. To enable this, the old Management committee was re-configured as Hewish and Puxton Village Hall Ltd - a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee. We also said that we had three further hurdles to cross! **1.** To get members; **2.** to achieve our fundraising target and **3.** To re-establish a Social Committee from among the Membership to focus on a programme of worthwhile and fun Community events that will, in a 21st century way, revive the social energy that gave birth to the hall in the first place.

The development of a solid base of Members will be vital to the future dynamic of the Hall and its management. Future trustees/Directors will be elected by Members at each AGM, the 'social' thrust of local hall events will hopefully come from an active membership base. The ethos of 'community' that a lively membership can engender, will be a huge incentive to younger Members - and in the future, hopefully 'Junior Members' - to be involved and ensure a good generational mix in the membership and management profile of the Hall.

To find out more about becoming a Member, visit our Management and Membership page at www.hewishandpuxtonvillagehall.org.uk, where you will also find **an application form**.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY THURSDAY MAY 2nd 2019

Election Day, when we will be voting for our choices to represent us on North Somerset Council and on Puxton Parish Council.



There are some 9,000 civil parishes served by parish councils run by elected, unpaid councillors. They were established by the Local Government Act 1894, and modified principally by the Local Government Act 1972 and the Localism Act 2011. As the first tier of local government they provide a wide range of services from allotments to tourism. The National Association of Local Councils describes Parish Council activities as representing the local community, delivering services to meet local needs, and improving the quality of life and community well-being. Fulfilment of these activities flows from Parish Council meetings, of which there must be at least four a year, including an annual meeting in the spring. Our Council can have seven members, one of whom acts as Chair. Meetings are open to the public and agendas and minutes are published on the Council website. There is a part time Parish Clerk who, as the servant of the Council, is paid to keep the wheels turning and make sure projects, communications, and administration are kept on the boil. The Council currently meets on the first Thursday of each month except August. In May there is an Annual Parish Meeting: this is a meeting of residents, not a Parish Council meeting.

Meeting agendas can be very busy and sometimes fairly thin, but there are always a range of issues that relate to, and command the concerns and ambitions of, the Parish. Parishes are funded via a "precept" (collected with the council tax). Traditionally precepts have to cover staff costs, maintenance or replacement of assets such as seats and noticeboards and the funding of elections. These days Parish Councils are increasingly expected to fund projects for which they must make long term provision; not easy when government is also putting pressure on them to limit the sizes of their precepts.

Hewish & Puxton Village Hall Ltd

Maysgreen Lane Hewish BS24 6TR

A PARTY

*To Celebrate our Purchase of the Hall
With live music by Niteshift*

Dance the Night Away!!!

7.30pm Saturday March 30th 2019

at
Hewish & Puxton Village Hall

Tickets £15.00 to include a hot supper

*No bar... but Bring-Your-Own
and some money for the raffle*

Tickets from

Lynda Redding on 01934 832171
treasurer@hewishandpuxtonvillagehall.org.uk

Numbers are limited to 100, so get your tickets early

Much goes on day-to-day behind the scenes, with most people being blissfully unaware of it. Whether it's potholes, speed limits, drainage schemes, verge maintenance, bus services, waste collection, parish signage, planning enforcement, police liaison, public rights of way or whatever, the Parish Council quietly and efficiently ensures that our needs remain a priority and that they are delivered in a form most appropriate for those needs. Parish councillors are volunteers who perform vital, if unsung, work to maintain and to improve the community in which we live - getting the best they can from a severely under-funded system. It certainly can be frustrating, but it is also worthwhile and enjoyable work!

To find out more about our Parish Council visit www.puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk

To put yourself forward for election to the Parish Council, visit the election pages of North Somerset Council at

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-council/voting/standing-for-election/about-standing-for-election/

This link will point you in the right direction to follow your interest in becoming either a North Somerset Councillor or a Parish Councillor.

Puxton Parish Council - Clerk: Don Hill

18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Road, Yatton BS49 4JG

Tel: 01935 835578, **Mobile:** 07774 125578, **e-mail:** clerk@puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Website: puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk