ISSUE 3 September 2025

Welcome to our 3rd issue

Many thanks to our growing number of contributors. The Gazette is mainly YOU talking about YOU.

Enjoy and let all of your friends in the village know what you're up to!

Talking Points

Speed

The Parish Council (PC) and Godshill Matters see speed as a critical issue.

Caroline, our Ward Councillor, is now getting involved and we'll be co-operating with the other 3 parishes in Central Rural on reestablishing Speedwatch teams.

The big local event this Xmas is
GODSHILL CHRISTMAS CRACKER
run by Godshill Matters.
Bring all of your ideas to a meeting
in Godshill Primary School Hall
Wednesday 10th Sept. 6:30pm
Help light up our
VILLAGE OF STARS

Church Path & Village Green

Church Path is stalemate. IoW Council seem unable to process insurance claim to cover repairs. Island Roads don't seem prepared to issue a license to have scaffolding in place to safeguard pedestrians where the wall is missing/damaged. PC will continue to push.

Our village green, all few square yards of it, is still like a building site with its orange fencing. At least 3 or 4 vehicles have hit the low wall and destroyed it –too fast and too careless driving. Beware of dangerous bolts below one of the seats, Island Roads have failed to make it safe. Paving slabs are still a trip hazard despite work by Island Roads. PC will report this to Island Roads again.

Greening Central Rural

Your launch event - 25 September.



Are you concerned about the cost of energy?

Would you like to grow your own food but don't know how to get started?

Do you want to live a healthier life but don't know where to start?

Would you like to know how to create less waste and recycle more?

Would you like to make your local environment more wildlife-friendly?

The **GREENING CAMPAIGN**, can help you answer these and many more questions.

Get FREE expert help and, in some cases, specialist funding.

Don't miss the free GREENING CAMPAIGN information workshop at Rookley Village Hall on 25th September at 6:30pm.

FIND OUT MORE ON PAGE SIX

Godshill Matters!

Godshill Matters is the community association for the village. We've only been going for just over a year, but we've come a long way in a very short time.



From the outset we have been adding energy, sparkle and colour to the village from the very first Christmas Cracker (and the storms that accompanied it), through the highly successful family centred and pirate themed Easter Treasure Hunt and on to the Godshill Gallop Driveway Sale where people in the same street made new friends with each other and some walked the village end to end for the very first time.



Our next meeting is on Wednesday 10th September 6:30 - 8:00 in the school hall. The main item on the agenda will be this year's Christmas Cracker which is planned to be an all day outdoor and indoor event on Saturday 6th December.



We want **ABSOLUTELY EVERYONE** to be involved. That means as many individuals, organisations and businesses as possible willing to contribute in their own way, to a fantastic celebration for the village.



Ideas so far include a Christmas Fair, Christmas Market, Winter Wanderland (Yes, Wander), Village of Stars, Lantern Parade, the Godshill Guisers and much much more.

Our meetings are great fun (oodles more fun than a parish council meeting). Please come and join us at our next meeting if Godshill matters to you!

Once the meeting is over, we socialise in the Griffin giving everyone a chance to chat with everyone else! Non-alcoholic cold and hot drinks are available as some of our fun-loving friends will testify.

Want to know more, please get in touch via email alison@godshillmatters.uk or 07710 881714 .

All Saints Combined Service

In months where there is a 5th Sunday, our four churches worship together in just one place.



Sunday just passed, the 31st of August was the third 5th Sunday of the year. For some this might not mean a great deal. For me as priest in charge of four churches, it is quite important. For on the 5th Sunday we celebrate Mass in just one of my churches.

This allows people from all four churches to come together as one family, to sing hymns together, pray together and receive the Holy Sacrament together, and of course drink tea and eat delicious homemade cakes together.

Like coming together to eat a meal, we share in conversations about our week, in what we have done or haven't done. We find out lots about people we may have known for a long time and yet know very little about them.

Like a family, we discuss things, sometimes we disagree with each other and that's fine and healthy, but only as long as we leave church as friends, not enemies.

A Thought for the Day

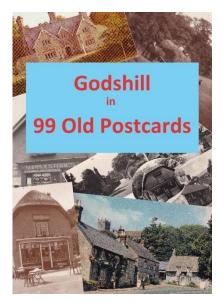
A very wise priest once said to me, "You're the shepherd, they're the sheep. You don't have to like them, you've just gotta love them!!!"

Blessings

Fr Tony.

Godshill in 99 Old Postcards

If you're ever wondered what Godshill looked like in years gone by look no further than this recent publication from Ventnor and District Local History Society.



Godshill in 99 Old Postcards offers a fascinating insight into the village from as far back as the early 1900's. Where was Daffodil Hill or The Old Bell Inn, for instance?

The book is divided into simple chapters showcasing places like All Saints Church, The Old Smithy, Pubs and much, much more. It's a real eye-opener into the history and heritage of our beautiful village.



The best place to pick up a copy (£6.50) is from the Ventnor Heritage Centre, Spring Hill, Ventnor. You can also order it online for £9.95 including p&p. Currently only 42 copies are still available.

https://www.ventnorheritage.org.uk/product/ godshill-in-99-old-postcards/

Review by Chris Slann

Godshill Gems

August was a month of learning, laughter and lots and lots of cake



We welcomed published Author, Mei Trow to our meeting on the 12th, who gave an amusing and entertaining talk and slide show on Hollywood versus History. Words like – "utter cods wallop; poppy cock; absolute balderdash; travesty;" and "down-right rubbish", gave us all the sense of how much artistic licence is adopted by the film industry to the detriment of a story. Many old block buster epics were discussed, as well as modern remakes, which saw a Caucasian, blue eyed Jesus and an Anne Boleyn of colour, both criticised for just being "wrong, wrong, wrong!"

The cake table groaned with mouth-watering treats including caraway seed cake, gooey chocolate and Victoria sandwich to name a few. Needless to say, not much was left. Our membership increased with 2 more ladies registering and during the meeting, 2 further pledges were made by guests eager to join by September.



7 of the 12 Book Club members met in the Griffin on the morning of the 13th, to set up the rules of the new book group. The when's, where's, how's and what's being debated over coffee andactually no cake – 10:30 was still a tad too early even for the most avid consumers of this confectionary

delight. Although, booking the group's Christmas lunch was high on the agenda and our first book was decided upon. A squishy hedgehog made an appearance and will be the honoured guest at each meeting. His (or should it be her?) role will enable the holder of the hedgehog to speak. As we all have a lot to say, we felt this crucial element of control is needed.



The afternoon of the 19th saw 17 Gems gathered in the paddock at the front of Northcourt Hall. We were treated to a guided talk and tour of the beautiful landscaped gardens of this majestic, privately owned Jacobean Manor, followed by free time to wander the multi-tiered terraces in the sultry sunshine and swing in the hammocks!

After an hour of admiring woodlands, bulging flower beds, the stream, sunken and walled gardens, huge vegetable area, green houses and fruit laden orchard, everyone met up on the patio, to be served tea and home baked cakes, scones and biscuits by the lady of the manor.

Figs from their own trees made an appearance, which were consumed with relish and appreciation; so much so, a few members gave themselves the nickname of "The Figgy Piggies".

With a fun packed and varied programme planned for the rest of the year, you are most welcome to join us at our next meeting to find out more.

Next meeting: 9th September. The Scouts Hall, May Close. Doors open at 1:40. £5.00 for guests.

For more information, contact Sandy - sandy2471@gmail.com

1st Godshill & Rookley Scout Group - Gold Hike

Earlier in the summer holidays, 5 of our Scouts, aged 12 and 13 planned and undertook a 2 day, 15 mile hike from Cowes to Blackgang viewpoint at Chale in order to complete their Chief Scout Gold Award Expedition.



On the first day they navigated their route from Cowes to Godshill, checking in with leaders at strategic points and completed 10 miles. They arrived at Rusty Meadows Pop Up Campsite in plenty of time to pitch their tents, cook their evening meal and relax around a fire.

The next morning, having packed their kit away, they continued their route to Chale via the Pepper Pot and completed a further 5 miles. Although this was a shorter route, the terrain was much more challenging and the map reading a lot more demanding.

They arrived at the view point car park tired, but in good spirits having thoroughly enjoyed their adventure.

As if completing the expedition wasn't enough, they also stepped in and put out a grass fire under a neighbouring campers barb-q on the Saturday evening and a very complimentary email was sent to our Scout County Lead Volunteer congratulating them on their achievement and how well they represented themselves and the Scout Association.

Congratulations to Laanii, Maizie, Freddie, Khaled and Ed from your very proud Scout Leader. If you are able to help the Scout Group in any way, whether as a leader, trustee, behind the scenes or by using the hall for events, please contact Mary Kershaw on 07407 370331 for further information.

FixMyStreet - Godshill

Island Roads use FixMyStreet to enable every one of us to report issues. It is important that residents report issues as the more reports received regarding an issue, the more likely action will result.



You can report issues yourselves by going to: https://fms.islandroads.com/

It appears that Island Roads and IoW Council cannot agree who is responsible for dealing with the hugely overgrown hedges around the free car park. The Parish Council are adamant that they should be reduced to about 5 foot in height and slimmed considerably.

Flooding – Parish Council looking into having a supply of sandbags in the village. We need residents to report, as soon as possible, any and all drains that are currently blocked. This should be done on FixMyStreet https://fms.islandroads.com/

Any road works planned for Godshill will be reported through **News** on the Parish Council website - https://godshill-iow-parish.gov.uk/community/godshill-parish-council-20899/news/

Let's see more issue icons on the Godshill map. We'll then get things done!

Greening Godshill – Your 1st Community Workshop

Bringing communities together for climate action and resilience.



The *Greening Godshill* campaign is pleased to announce its expansion to cover the **entire Central Rural Ward**, encompassing Godshill, Arreton, Rookley and Chillerton & Gatcombe. This marks a bold step forward in our collective journey towards a greener, healthier, and more resilient landscape. The campaign also signals the first of hopefully many projects where all the parishes in Central Rural work together.

To launch this expanded phase, we're hosting a **community workshop** on **Thursday**, **25th September at 6.30pm**, inviting residents from **all four parishes** to share their ideas, passions, and local knowledge about how we live with and care for our landscape.

Each parish has **20 places** available. If there's stronger demand, additional sessions will be arranged to ensure everyone who wants to can take part.

Our campaign stands on five core pillars—key areas we'll collaborate on to foster lasting, positive change:

 Space for Nature – creating habitats, enhancing biodiversity, and encouraging wildlife to thrive in our local landscapes.

- Health Impacts of Climate Change

 raising awareness and responding to how a changing climate affects our wellbeing, with tailored community support and resilience-building.
- 3. **Energy Efficient, Warmer Homes** galvanising households to make their homes kinder to the environment, more energy-efficient, and cosier.
- 4. **Waste Prevention** shifting behaviours and raising awareness to reduce, reuse, and prevent waste across our communities.
- Cycle of the Seed promoting food security, encouraging people to grow their own produce, and deepening connections with how food feeds both body and community.

This campaign is for **local people, shaped by local voices**, and rooted in our shared commitment to the land we live in.

Workshop Details

- When: 6:30pm Thurs 25th September
- Where: Rookley Village Hall
- Spaces: 20 per parish; a second workshop will be arranged if needed
- Reserve your place: On the PC
 website go to >Village Info >Greening
 (https://godshill-iow-parish.gov.uk/community/godshill-parish-council-20899/greening/)
- **Lifts:** When you reserve your place, you can request or offer lifts.

Any other questions? Phone the Parish Council Office on 07763 665812 or email greening@godshillmatters.uk

You can find more general information at https://greening-campaign.org/

Join us in co-creating a greener, healthier future for Godshill, one rooted in nature, community, and collective wisdom

Don't leave it to others – BOOK NOW for the 25th September and have your say!

7 (Godshill) Troop, Army Cadet Force Groups

The Summer Holidays are over and this week saw Godshill Army Cadets not only back to school, but back in uniform.



Following a successful week of Annual Camp in Okehampton, Devon (as reported in the last issue of The Gazette) with 2 promotions from Cadet to Lance Corporal, the Troop remained open throughout the holidays with a relaxed Summer of fun and games, including rock climbing at Sandown Rocks - but now the hard work starts again.



With 5 new Cadets receiving uniform this week, the start of their Recruit training begins which will include basic first aid, navigation, weapons handling and fieldcraft. The subject the parents are surprised at (and love the most) is us teaching them to iron their uniform and polish their boots – Turnout! This is especially important with Remembrance season not far away.

Over the next few months we will be working towards getting these 5 young people through their Basic Training in order to attend a day of skills testing and a Pass Out Parade in front of family and friends in December, where they will move from being a Recruit to a full Cadet – so watch this space!

For further information visit www.https://armycadets.com/find-a-detachment/ and enter PO38 1BA

Model Village - 21st Century

Visitors to Godshill Model Village have been able to see a new feature on a few of the tiny houses. Solar panels have been installed on some courtesy of home improvement retailer, Wickes.



Although the panels are purely decorative, they illustrate what they might look like on older buildings. Apparently, 20% of homes now generate their own electricity through solar panels, you can now see many real ones in Godshill at Lily Cross Farm.

Wickes also produced a video to go with the Model Village installation:

https://youtu.be/tRiP-NTZqSo?si=oLQGyUs8AfG9zPdL

Godshill Walking Group

Next walk is on Friday 19th September. Meet in Godshill car park, opposite The Griffin PH at 10:45am. This is a 10:54 bus ride and a 4.2 mile walk back, allow about 2.5 hours.



Our Godshill Walking Group were out again on 15th August, despite super high temperatures. Fortunately, there was plenty of shade on the route, which took us southwest from Godshill, via Roud, before winding our way back to Godshill. Fun as always and a fabulous group of people.



The next walk is on Friday 19th September, starting from the car park opposite The Griffin PH as usual. This will start with a short bus journey to Upper Ventnor, so meeting at 10.45am, in time to catch the No.3 bus at 10.54am.



The walk is 4.2 miles long and includes 3 stiles. The route will take us along Stenbury Down, so expect beautiful views along the way. There is a hill near the start of the walk, but reasonably flat along the top. We then walk down from the Worsley Monument and back to Godshill.



Plus, as usual, the opportunity to join us at The Griffin at the end of the walk for refreshments.

All welcome, including well-behaved dogs on leads. No need to book.

Contact Alison on alison@godhillmatters.uk for further details.

New Postbox Topper

Our postbox on Newport Road has just taken delivery of another amazing topper.



The message on the topper says "Welcome Bengie and Balu".

Well done, Godshill Girls!

The Bench is Back

Hot off the press, Dennis Owen phoned us on Wednesday to say the bench, missing from the Memorial Garden for a couple of months, has returned.



The family had removed it to have it renovated, but hadn't managed to let anyone know. It is now back in its old position and looking absolutely splendid.

Probably the happiest local to see its return is the gentleman who regularly stops in the Memorial Garden, favouring that bench as he walks between his home in Roud and the Village Shop.

The Parish Council and Godshill Matters have also rescued another bench from elsewhere on the island. It is hoped that it will be in place very soon on one of the vacant spaces, in time for the Remembrance Day Service.

Godshill Matters 100Club

Godshill Matters is run by volunteers but still needs to raise funds to pay for such things as insurance, printing, prizes, material costs to support its voluntary work, etc.

You can also support Godshill Matters by buying a 100 Club number – prizes to be won! You can find out more here:

https://godshillmatters.uk/100-club/

The next monthly draw is at their very friendly meeting in the School Hall on Wednesday 10th September starting at 6:30pm.

Central Mead & May Close

It's been a summer of fun in Central Mead and the Play Park has been well used.



There has been one visit from the suppliers and in addition to minor repairs, the zip wire was adjusted back to its correct height. Initially the zip wire seemed a bit high but it is now settling down to a better height.

Provided that everyone respects that the zip wire is ONLY FOR 5-12 YEAR OLDS, using it one at a time, the seat will remain at a safe height above the ground.

Six weeks ago, it seemed that rubbish might be a problem, but visitors have largely been very responsible, used the bins and taken rubbish home when the bins were full.

There is damage to one of the uprights to the low-level log walk but it is still useable.

The goal posts will probably be moved within the next month. A new, more central location has been agreed and the repositioning will be done by qualified equipment installers.

There are plans to begin regular safety inspections of both parks by qualified professional personnel. This will cover not only equipment but the whole play environment. The first and top priority is the renovation of the play equipment in May Close. It needs a major overhaul and needs to be brought up to the same standards as the play park in Central Mead.

Investigation into CCTV is still underway but the trustees of the Playground Charity are being strongly advised to go along with many others in the same situation and not install CCTV. In any case, there are no funds available to add to the balance of the money successfully raised by PlayFest to meet the estimated costs involved.

Village Store & Post Office

Your council taxes help keep the shop open. You, through the Parish Council, support it to the tune of £7,000 per year.



1 - Full Postal Service including parcels

The latest news is that business is holding up and it looks like the level of support needed is not likely to increase next year. Residents are not the only ones contributing, Community Action chips in as well.

Do we have to support the PO and shop. The simple answer is NO. But what sort of a community would we be if we didn't have it?



2 - Good selection of cards and wrapping

Use it more and the need for support funding will go down!

Our post office has several other post offices underneath it, also supported by their parish councils and Community Action. Should Godshill close, then they would all have to close.



3 - Everyday items (spirits behind the counter)

If we didn't have the PO/Store, what would appear in its place?



4 - Chill & Freezer cabinets (5* Food Safety Rating)

You can let us know your thoughts & ideas by using the contact form on the new website.

https://godshill-iowparish.gov.uk/community/godshill-parishcouncil-20899/contact/

We'll let you know what people think in next month's Godshill Gazette.

Shanklin and Godshill CC

In their penultimate league game of the season, the Club's first team secured promotion to Division 2B of the Hampshire County Cricket League.



It came in a thrilling victory over the then league leaders, Locks Heath. S&G chased down a total of 207, winning with just three balls to spare.

The winning shot was a 'hundreds-style' six hit by Tommy Quaife, sparking celebrations at the club's home ground, Westhill.

This achievement marks a significant step for the club, following a successful season under the captaincy of Ben White.

It was fortunate that promotion was gained with a game to spare as the following weekend saw the team decimated as not only was Nathan Moore absent (it was his wedding!) but half the team were there to support him.

The icing on the cake was the fact that all league games were abandoned and, as a result, the team hung on to top spot in the league.

Looking at the league tables, it seems the 1st XI will be joining Ventnor 2nd XI in division 2B, replacing Ryde 1st XI who were relegated.

The club's awards evening looks like it will be a great celebration. It is on Friday 19 Sept. at 6:30pm.

For more information:

https://shanklingodshillcc.co.uk/home

Godshill Walking Group



Enjoy a walk in the countryside? Like to meet new people?

Godshill Walking Group

We are a friendly, fun and welcoming group which meets every 3rd Friday of the Month

Varied scenic routes, around 4 to 5 miles long.

Each walk starts Godshill Old Smithy Car Park, 11am. Finishes outside Griffin PH. 1.30 pm approx.

FREE! All Island walkers and visitors welcomed (including dogs—on leads please)

Contact: alison@godshillmatters.uk 07710 881714 www. godshillmatters.uk



Summer Cup Winner

Lacey played in the Graeme Bast memorial football tournament at The Bay.



A 3-1 win in the final saw Lacey and her teammates win the tournament and lift the trophy!! What a superb achievement for all the girls.

Public Conveniences

The Parish Council shared interesting information at their meeting on Monday.



In July and August, the two busiest months in Godshill, the total amount collected was only £585. The monthly cleaning cost is £465, meaning £930 for those two months. It was mentioned that many users don't actually pay as the previous user holds the door open for them. Does this mean they are effectively stealing from Godshill's ratepayers?

Andy has a New Home!

You didn't think it would be long before he was back running his famous charity Quiz Nights.



We have just heard that the Griffin will host his guizzes in future on Wednesday evenings.

The first quiz will be on October 1st. You'll be able to check other dates on the <u>Village</u> Calendar.

Working Groups

The latest news from the new Parish Council Working Groups.



The Parish Council is in the process of setting up its Working Groups. We currently have seven working groups:

Communications

Emergency & Resilience

Environment & Green Spaces

Finance & General Purposes

Planning, Roads & Byways

Recreation & Amenities

Strategy & Parish Plan

If you would like to find out more about any or all of the working groups and how you might be able to get involved, then email:

clerk@godshill-iow-parish.gov.uk

Zelie's Beauty Shortlisted

UK Hair & Beauty Awards finalist in the Beauty Therapist category.



Congratulations!

The October issue

It will be published on October 11th.

The Parish Council has a meeting planned mid September on site with Captiva. We'll bring you the latest news.

Also, news and photos from the Greening Workshop and news from the crafts people who meet in the Methodist Chapel.

With the school term in full swing, we'll bring you our school's highlights from the past month.

We also look forward to seeing the Hive up and running, so news from them as well.

DON'T FORGET – we also have latest news items on the website. So, if you have anything you'd like to share straight away, email it to:

comms@godshill-iow-parish.gov.uk

If you know of a group that has not yet appeared in the Gazette, please let us know and we will get them in the next issue.

PLEASE don't wait to be asked, get writing or ringing and let us know what you want to share with the rest of the village.

Email us at: comms@godshill-iow-parish.gov.uk

Have Your Say!

Simply email what you want to say, ideally including an appropriate photo and we will do our best to include it. It can be anonymous if you wish.

Godshill Gazette is for everyone in our community.

If there's something that matters to you, it probably matters to others. Let us share that for you.

If technology scares the living daylights out of you (it does for very many of us!) get in touch by phoning the Parish Clerk (07763 665812) – you may need to leave a message - and we'll come and have a chat about what you'd like to say.

Email your submissions to:

comms@godshill-iow-parish.gov.uk

Be a Godshill Parish Councillor

Godshill Parish Council has a vacant position and will therefore be co-opting somebody to fill the role and serve on the Council.

Would you or do you know anyone who might be interested in joining the team of Colin, Carl, Leigh, Keith and Russell.

We are looking for someone who will bring an additional dimension to the team, someone who wants to actively improve our community.

The person needs to live in Godshill or within 3 miles of the parish boundaries.

Anyone interested should initially contact the Parish Council by email: clerk@godshill-iow-parish.gov.uk or phone 07763 665812

Godshill Parish Council needs a new Parish Clerk

Are you organised? Want to work from home?

We're looking for a **Parish Clerk**, **Responsible Financial Officer and Registrar of Burials** to support the Council's work and keep things running smoothly in our vibrant parish.

10 hours per week | Work from home | Monthly evening meetings required Start date: TBC | Salary: £15.84–£17.29/hr (SCP 18–23, NJC scale)

This is a rewarding and varied role at the heart of local government. In this role you'll provide administrative and financial support to the Council, help deliver key services, and ensure legal and procedural duties are met.

Main responsibilities will include:

- Responsibility for agendas and minutes for Council meetings
- Proactively managing council finances
- Effective Communication with councillors, residents, and local authorities

- Ensuring that the website and noticeboard are kept up to date
- Helping the council to stay efficient and responsive

We are looking for:

- An experienced and enthusiastic individual
- Excellent organisational and financial skills
- A confident communicator with a proactive approach
- Ideally, you'll hold the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA), or be prepared to train for it or maybe CIPFA/ACCA or equivalent

The role would suit an experienced Clerk looking for a new challenge or adding a further council to their portfolio, or somebody with public sector experience, downsizing and looking for a new challenge. You'll need to be self-motivated, detail-oriented, and genuinely interested in supporting our parish and residents.

Interested? For further information, and application form please contact:

colin.mansell@godshill-iow-parish.gov.uk
Closing date: Tuesday 30th September 2025

Interviews will be in the following fortnight.

Sharing Your Gazette

If you're reading an electronic copy, why not forward a copy to friends and family, even to those over on north island.

Also:

Print a copy for your neighbours

We hope, with the help of volunteers, to be able to distribute a number of copies free to those who do not use the internet or prefer a printed version.

To print or not to print

Yes, that is the question. In order to have the Godshill Gazette available in print on a large scale requires funds.

A number of businesses have already told us that they are willing to advertise with us.

If we can put together the necessary advertising revenue stream, then we can produce printed copies. These would go out initially to those in the parish who do not use the internet or perhaps prefer or find it easier to have a paper version.

If you'd like to help support the availability of printed copies of the Godshill Gazette by placing adverts, please contact us at comms@godshill-iow-parish.gov.uk

PLEASE NOTE

Contacting the Parish Council.

You can now contact the Parish Council at: clerk@godshill-iow-parish.gov.uk

Phone: 07763 665812

This number will probably be answered by the clerk or one of the Parish Councillors during our office hours:

> Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 1pm

At other times the phone will be monitored but calls are likely to go to answer phone.

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Disclaimer: Letters, articles and adverts are received in good faith. We cannot take any responsibility for any legal queries resulting from the inclusion of these. We reserve the right to edit or refuse to include submitted letters, articles, or adverts. Letters and articles in the Godshill Gazette do not necessarily reflect the views of Godshill Parish Council.