

# Pub roof damaged after lorry crash

THE landlords of a Fordingbridge pub had an unwelcome surprise after a lorry crashed into its roof.

The damage happened just after 10am on Friday (March 5) and led to the closure of Bridge Street.

Caroline Roylance, who runs the pub, said: "The other side of the road was closed by Hampshire Highways and it had to come onto our side of the road because the road was closed and then he hit us.

"It's just taken the roof, which has been damaged."

"The actual building doesn't seem to be affected but we'll need a structural engineer."

"I was asleep but James, my husband, heard it, and our neighbours Adrian Dowding were very helpful and came straight out and rang the police and helped with the road closure," she added.

Caroline said she feared the worst when she saw the damage. She also added no one had been hurt.

A spokesperson for Hampshire Constabulary said: "Both the lorry and the roof of the pub sustained minor damage in the incident. No-one was injured.

"The collision is being treated as an accident."



A lorry crashed into the roof of The George Pub in Fordingbridge



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Dog mess signs

NOTICES to try and curb Fordingbridge's dog fouling problems are being made available.

The signs can be collected from the information office in King's Yard for residents wishing to display them at their homes.

Fordingbridge town councillors flagged up concerns about dog fouling issues particularly in The Bartons and Green Lane area back in December.

And at February's general council meeting, they were told a dog warden had visited the area but there was nowhere to put any signs because they could only be put on lampposts not the telegraph poles that were in the area.

At the meeting last month deputy mayor, Councillor Anna Wilson, said the problem had "exploded again", adding: "It is absolutely everywhere. I can't even begin to start from where the problem is."

# 'Final push' to finish village hall

By Katy Griffin

A PROJECT to create a new community hub in Sandheath has received a major boost after being awarded a grant of £10,000.

The money was from the National Lottery Community Fund.

The village hall project has seen the former St Aldhelm's Church building undergo renovation works to create the new facility. The £144,000 necessary to renovate the kitchen/toilet block, re-lay and insulate the roof, and refurbish the exterior and interior of the main hall has already been raised.

The last element of the work, which includes new double-glazed windows and a new electrical system, was given a helping hand by a £5,000 grant from Hampshire County Council's Rural Communities Fund.

The final part, which the National Lottery grant will help underwrite, is to provide the fittings and equipment necessary to allow the hall to operate effectively, and the village hall trustees are fundraising towards this.



Sandleheath Village Hall

As well as curtains, tables and chairs, the hall needs presentation, catering and audio-visual equipment. The National Lottery donation is a major contribution towards getting these items.

Trustee Mike Richardson said: "Our village hall will provide a well-designed, well-equipped space where our residents can meet, make new friends and take part in a wide variety of social, educational and leisure activities.

"It will greatly enhance inclusion, combat loneliness and

enrich our village lives. We are all delighted at how our comprehensive refurbishment programme to achieve this is going.

"In two and a half years, we have converted St Aldhelm's into a contemporary amenity that will make a splendid community hub. In addition, we have preserved this historic landmark and significantly reduced its environmental footprint.

"As we seek to acquire the money necessary to finish off the job, this wonderful National Lottery Community Fund donation is a most generous and welcome addition."

Around £16,000 needs to be raised to complete the refurbishment project.

Mike added: "This is our final push in bringing St Aldhelm's back to life."

The trustees aim to finish their refurbishment programme by the end of May, in time to open the hall in June as Covid restrictions are eased.

For more information or to make a donation to the Village Hall Fundraising Appeal go to [sandleheathvillagehall.com](http://sandleheathvillagehall.com).



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