

## Tutshill Recreation Ground & Shirley's Grove (The Dog Field)

Problems again are occurring this year with broken bottles and litter being left on the Recreation Ground near the play equipment and in Shirley's Grove. Not only do these cause a hazard to users on the Rec, but also can be dangerous for the dogs being walked in Shirley's Grove. This is in conjunction with camping in Shirley's Grove, despite it being prohibited and the lighting of fires with potentially dangerous results in a wooded area.

Please if you see anti-social behavior reports it to the Police and help prevent this in the future. Tidenham War Memorial Hall & Recreation Ground Trust would like to thank all of the locals who take the time to help tackle this problem both by clearing up other peoples rubbish and alerting the Trust to problems on its land.

Andy Hossack - Chairman Tidenham War Memorial Hall & Recreation Ground Trust

## Broadband in the Forest of Dean

Make your views count in a major county-wide campaign to bring high-speed broadband to rural Gloucestershire!

With Government support, the Borders Broadband project is working to improve internet services in rural Gloucestershire. The process of finding a supplier is already underway - **but first we have to prove there is enough demand from local people, communities and businesses.**

This is where you come in. In the next few weeks, local Broadband Champions – volunteers from your community - will be out delivering questionnaires. Please take a little time to complete and return your questionnaire to the **Broadband Champion, a designated drop off point in your community or send it freepost to GRCC, FREEPOST SWC 0305, Community House, 15 College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2BR.**

To complete the survey online – or to find out more about the Borders Broadband campaign - visit the GFirst website [www.gfirst.co.uk/broadband](http://www.gfirst.co.uk/broadband). Borders Broadband is also conducting a separate online business survey, which is available at the same address. If you live in Gloucestershire and run a local business, you can complete both residential and business surveys.

If you are interested in volunteering as a Broadband Champion for your community, please contact Chris Cowcher at GRCC on 01452 528491.

## List of Councillors

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>Cllr John Powell</i><br>Chairman<br><b>Tel: 01291 624901</b> | <i>Cllr Bernard Bowshall</i><br><b>Tel: 01291 624152</b>               |
| <i>Cllr Lance Allan</i><br><b>Tel: 01291 628867</b>             | <i>Cllr Carole Dawson</i><br>Vice Chairman<br><b>Tel: 01291 680032</b> |
| <i>Cllr Roy Birch</i><br><b>Tel: 01291 624326</b>               | <i>Cllr Steve Ford</i><br><b>Tel: 07908 634570</b>                     |
| <i>Cllr Gareth Birt</i><br><b>Tel: 01291 624114</b>             | <i>Cllr Andy Hossack</i><br><b>Tel: 01291 630615</b>                   |
| <i>Cllr Gerald Blunt</i><br><b>Tel: 01291 689424</b>            | <i>Cllr Alastair Fraser</i><br><b>Tel: 01291 621593</b>                |
| <i>Cllr Sheila Bollen</i><br><b>Tel: 01291 620812</b>           | <i>Cllr Gabriella Kirkpatrick</i><br><b>Tel: 01291 629394</b>          |

## On the Buses

The future of local transport in the Forest of Dean, and within Tidenham Parish, is still under active consideration though the County Council has given indications of its thinking. I would emphasize that the following are the proposed changes to bus routes and are not yet confirmed. A committee from the District Council is working to consider the impact of this thinking and how it will affect the Parishes and the Forest of Dean. Route 755 Chepstow-Lydney – revised timetable with improved connections at Lydney with buses to and from Gloucester with an earlier journey to Chepstow and a later return journey.

Route 761 – buses currently run once per hour Monday to Friday and between 8.30am and 2pm on a Saturday, this to be replaced by a two hourly service. Journeys to work and school will be maintained. Route 23 (was the 73 and 721) Gloucester-Lydney-Coleford. This service was changed recently to support links with Bream and Sling. Revised quotations are being sought for a lower frequency service but to retain a Sunday service for workers. Any changes to these services, when agreed, may be expected in November 2011 or January 2012. It is understood that buses



running through our Parish which are funded by Monmouthshire County Council will not change their timetables in the foreseeable future i.e. the C1 service Sedbury- Chepstow-Thornwell and the 707 Clearwell-Coleford-Chepstow From District Councillor Roy Birch.

## Oldbury Power Station

Oldbury Power Station will continue to generate electricity into 2012. It is owned by the NDA and was originally intended to close at the end of 2008. Its operating life has been extended on two occasions and will now continue to produce electricity for a further final period. This means that Reactor 1 will continue to use up the available fuel produced for the site. Reactor 2 ceased generation on 30th June this year as was originally intended, this was after 43 years operation. The reactor first generated electricity in April 1968, powered a million homes for more than 10 years. This coinciding with the governments' confirmation that Oldbury is on their list of sites is good news for employment in the area.

From District Councillor Roy Birch

## Tutshill School

Wide ranging changes in education policy have recently been announced which will have a big impact on the way all schools operate. At Tutshill we are viewing these changes as an opportunity to support our already well developed School Improvement Work. We already work closely with a range of other schools and organisations and will seek to develop this further in the future. We were extremely pleased this year to receive a grading of Good with some Outstanding features for our provision this year and will now focus on moving the school on further. Next year, we will have a particular focus on writing building on the good work this year. During the summer term, we staged a highly successful 'Writing for Real' experience in which a number of mysterious large eggs were discovered in a nest in the school garden. This presented an excellent opportunity for children to use and develop a wide range of literacy skills including writing, speaking and listening. It also proved to be highly engaging and a real talking point for the school community. The event was supported by the local community and we were very grateful to our local Police Community Support Officers who attended the scene and added a very real dimension for the children, our thanks also go to Mr Richards who took part as a local Scientist charged with identifying the eggs. The fantastic

*Continued over*

## USEFUL NUMBERS

### ALL EMERGENCIES: 999

Police (All non-urgent calls) 0845 090 1234	Trading Standards Helpline 01452 426200
Crimestoppers: 0800 555111	Education Helpline: 01452 425300
Bogus Callers Helpline: 0800 100 0777	Environment Helpline: 01452 425500
Doctors Surgery - Beachley Road 01291 626041	Libraries Helpline: 01452 305420
Doctors Surgery - Coleford Road 01291 637910	Adult Helpdesk: 01452 426868
NHS Direct: 0845 4647	Children & Families Helpdesk 01452 426565
Sedbury Pharmacy: 01291 622532	Forest of Dean District Council Main Switchboard: 01594 810000
Sedbury Post Office: 01291 629300	Bulky Items Collection: 01594 812444
Sedbury & Beachley Village Hall 01291 624055	Abandoned Vehicles: 01594 812264
Tidenham War Memorial Hall 01291 624663	Council Tax Helpline: 01594 812532
Chase School Room: 01291 689775	Dog Warden: 01594 812447
Rev Royston Grosvenor: 01291 622442	Noise & Pollution: 01594 812442
Pastor Chris Rees Stroat Evangelical Church: 01594 529209	<b>UTILITIES</b> Western Power Distribution EMERGENCY: 0800 052 0400 GENERAL: 0845 6013341
Chepstow Citizens Advice Bureau 01291 623437	GAS Tranco EMERGENCY: 0800 11999
SAMARITANS: 08457 909090	Water - Dwr Cymru EMERGENCY: 0800 0520130
Gloucestershire County Council Main Switchboard: 01452 425000	SEWERS & DRAINS EMERGENCY 0800 085 3968
Streetlights (freephone) 08000 514514	

success of this event had a great impact on children's writing and I'm sure there will be other events in the future as part of our on-going work to improve children's writing skills.

Curriculum development will be a clear focus for the school in the next few years; we will be trying to enrich children's learning by developing as many approaches as possible which have a practical aspect. We want our curriculum to reflect children's interests and needs which will require our teaching staff to be creative and adaptable in designing these schemes of work.

We currently have a vacancy for a Community Governor at the school and again would encourage anyone interested to contact us for more information. From **Richard Phillips** – Headteacher Tutshill School

### A plea to all motorists – John Powell

Over the past year or so, it seems to have become the norm for some motorists to park/abandon their cars half on the pavement, half on the road; in the process, causing an obstruction to pedestrians. It may not seem to be a problem to those who miss-park. But consider if you will, the inconvenience caused to those wishing to use the pavement,

- (a) A mother with a child in a pram or pushchair, often with another small child as well.
  - (b) An elderly pedestrian who needs to use a walking stick.
  - (c) A person with poor eyesight, possibly nearly blind, using a white stick, and tapping it against the kerb edge to help navigate.
  - (d) Someone using an electrically motorised invalid vehicle.
- This list is not exhaustive.

Recently I was driving up the Beachley Road towards Tutshill, about half way between the Tubular Bridge and Rock Villa, there was a car miss-parked on the pavement. A young mother pushing a pushchair with one hand, and holding the hand of her other small child had to move into the road to pass the car – in the process the three were at risk. It would be appreciated if all motorists (and their visitors) parked either on the road, or better still on their drives where appropriate, so as not to require pedestrians to put themselves at risk.

I am sure you would not wish to be the driver who when miss-parking causes someone else to be involved in an accident. So please think of others, before you park inappropriately.

### An update on the Finances of your Parish Council

In the winter edition of the Newsletter I predicted that the spending for 2010/2011 would be slightly down on the predicted figure and this turned out to be correct. It is impossible to be totally accurate when budgeting due to, for example, weather conditions (and we all remember last winter!) when some work had to be delayed. At the end of the year some unspent capital was therefore put into a special "earmarked pot" to pay for work ordered but not completed, some earmarked for specific expenditure in the 2011/2012 year with any remaining money going to general reserves.

The budget for 2011/2012 has three main areas of change from the previous year: the first is that less is allocated to Capital expenditure as reserves are healthy in this "budget pot" meaning that overall expenditure can remain at roughly the same level as last year.

The second change is a fairly substantial increase in the budget for emptying dog foul bins. The cost of this has increased per bin and two further bins have been installed. Parishioners have asked for more bins but Council has to be aware not only of the cost of installation of new bins (around £250 per bin) but also the weekly emptying of each one – currently £262.08 per bin per year.

The final major change this year is the higher cost of litter picking of areas in the Parish as there is no longer any financial contribution or assistance from the District Council. It was anticipated that £3,750 would be the annual cost but sadly this is proving to be insufficient with the full year cost now looking to be nearer £5,500. This is mainly because of additional litter picking costs due to vandalism, antisocial behaviour and fly tipping.

Council had planned to complete the spending of the Section 106 monies held for play areas in Sedbury during 2010/2011. This proved to be impractical due to weather conditions and also Council needing to take extra time to select the play items which would be popular with the users, fit the space appropriately and be right for area. After much deliberation the final equipment will be installed in September this year thus completing the expenditure of the monies held.

As always should you have any queries about Council finances, and these are open to public sight at any time by prior arrangement with the Clerk, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Jan Cordon CiLCA**

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Parish Council

### Tutshill Family Fun Day

With worries about the severe weather the 2nd Annual Tutshill Family Fun Day nearly didn't happen!

However, the opinion of all involved in the organization was that it should take place whatever the weather could throw at it. Unfortunately several stalls and attractions failed to turn up due to the prospect of heavy rain and the cricket competition had to be cancelled, but overall there was increase in stalls from last year. Led by the Tidenham War Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Trust with Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall the aim is to provide an annual community event that helps raise funds whilst also helping local groups with their fund raising and ensuring that people are made aware of their existence.

Games like 'Welly Wanging' (TWMH&RGT) and 'Fastest Football Shot' (Garden City JFC) amongst other games bought out the competitive streak in people and proved popular throughout the day with the 'Coconut Shy (Scouts) also doing a good trade. Teas and cakes (Tutshill PTA) provided a covered area to get dry and warm with a chance to chat whilst the cake and raffle stall (Sedbury and Beachley Hall) sold out of both cakes and raffle tickets. The 'Bottle Stall' (Tutshill Preschool) with commercial stalls selling chutney's, toys, gifts, wooden objects, potato chips to preschools helping the success of the event. St Lukes Church, SARA, Tutshill WI, Club 98 also had stalls.

Four bands played throughout the day on a new for this year stage built over the weekend by local builders Breese. Fortunately it was covered which enabled the bands to carry on regardless with Owen Stark running the PA. A wide variety of music was played from mellow, Sian and the Sugardaddies, heavy rock, Iridium, classic, Simon Blight to finally rock from The Renegades. All of the bands gave their time for free where much appreciated by a small but enthusiastic crowd.

In spite of the rainy conditions hot food was available all day at 'Bernard's Burgers' with his enthusiastic helpers serving up freshly cooked hot dogs and burgers to hungry Fayre customers. Thanks must go to the volunteers, who gave up their time to help make this happen which at times

goes unrecognized. Special mention to Principality Building and the Live and Let Live Public House for the loan of toilets, barbecues and donation respectively once again. Overall the Fayre raised approx £750 for each village hall with all the user groups reporting a successful day. Well done all!!

Anyone wishing to be involved with next year's event please contact TWMH&RGT at: secretary@tidenham-memorial-hall-trust.co.uk or Gina: 01291 624663



Well Done All – from Andy Hossack Chairman Tidenham War Memorial Hall Trust

### A new Police Point in the Parish

The Management Committee of the Sedbury & Beachley Village Hall is very pleased to have been able to offer accommodation within the Hall to the local police team following the closure of the Tutshill Police Station earlier this year. The police hope to open the office to visitors daily between 2 and 3pm but this is totally dependent upon duty rotas and of course urgent calls.

To make an appointment to meet the police in the Hall please contact Gloucestershire Constabulary on 0845 090 1234 or call in when you see their notice board up in front of the Hall – please note that neither the Parish Clerk nor the Hall Committee members can arrange appointments, this must be done through the Police.

From **Steve Ford** – Sedbury & Beachley Village Hall Committee Chairman.