

SECURITY AT HOME

Any security measure is designed to make access into your property difficult for any intruder and there are various ways this can be achieved.

The obvious deterrent is a burglar alarm and nowadays simple cable less systems are available, not too expensive and can be installed without the need for a specialist installer. Movement sensor lighting, clearly visible to any one approaching your property, will also assist in warning you and your neighbours something may be amiss especially if you are not at home.

People going on holiday should make sure daily deliveries, like newspapers, milk, should be cancelled. Relatives, friends and neighbours can also assist by making sure anything posted through your letter box is pushed right through, weekly papers left protruding are the best give away the property is unmanned. If anything posted through your door is visible through a glass panel in your door then it is advisable to cover this panel. For a small fee Royal Mail will hold all post for the period you are away and deliver it on your return.

It is always a good thing to have lights coming on and going off at different times and time switches for this are now very cheap to purchase and easy to install. Somebody closing and opening your curtains is a good thing. Intruders usually "case the area" a number of times so be alert to strangers continually walking around your area and if in doubt talk to the police.

Always keep front, back and any other external doors locked and when opening the door a safety chain in place is an added security. Never let any unknown caller into your house.

Important telephone numbers:

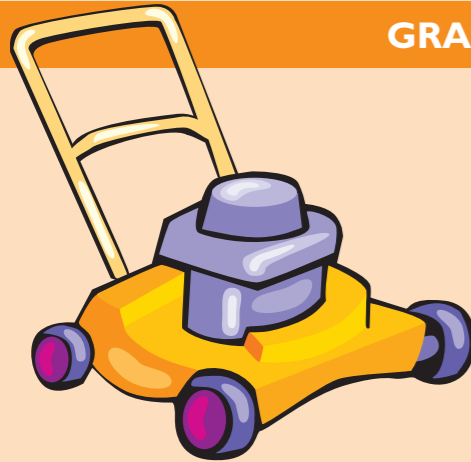
Police: Emergency **999**, Non Emergency: **08450901234**

Crime reduction officer: **01452 335 569**

Bogus Caller Helpline: **0808 1000 777**



GRASS CUTTING IN THE PARISH



Doubtless all parishioners will have noticed that this summer has not provided us with wall to wall sunshine and, whilst this spoils the holiday season for many people, it brings special problems to the firms who cut the grass within the parish. The periods of heavy rain coupled with relatively high temperatures caused the grass to grow strongly but leave it too wet to cut properly as all of with lawns will understand.

This has led to our contractors having problems getting on to the grass to cut it without leaving their machine tracks everywhere and, when it has been cut, the large clumps of wet grass fail to disintegrate and disappear as they would do under better conditions. After two indifferent summers let us all hope for a glorious summer in 2009!

List of Councillors

Cllr Lance Allan
Tel: 01291 628867

Cllr Steve Ford
Tel: 07971 499573

Cllr Roy Birch
Tel: 01291 624326

Cllr Ann Martin
Tel: 01291 626448

Cllr Gerald Blunt
Tel: 01291 689424

Cllr Andy Hossack
Tel: 01291 630615

Cllr Shelia Bollen
Tel: 01291 620812

Cllr Sue Hutchings
Tel: 01291 626536

Cllr Bernard Bowshall
Tel: 01291 624152

Cllr Gabriella Kirkpatrick
Tel: 01291 629394

Cllr Carole Dawson
Tel: 01291 600032

Cllr John Powell
Tel: 01291 624901

USEFUL NUMBERS

ALL EMERGENCIES: 999

Police (All non-urgent calls)
0845 090 1234

Crimestoppers: 0800 555111

Bogus Callers Helpline: 0800 100 0777

Doctors Surgery - Beachley Road
01291 626041

Doctors Surgery - Coleford Road
01291 637910

NHS Direct: 0845 4647

Sedbury Pharmacy: 01291 622532

Sedbury Post Office: 01291 629300

Sedbury & Beachley Village Hall
01291 624055

Tidenham War Memorial Hall
01291 624663

Chase School Room: 01291 689775

Rev Royston Grosvenor: 01291 622442

Pastor Chris Rees

Stroat Evangelical Church: 01594 529209

Chepstow Citizens Advice Bureau
01291 623437

SAMARITANS: 08457 909090

Gloucestershire County Council
Main Switchboard: 01452 425000

Streetlights (freephone) 08000 514514

Trading Standards Helpline
01452 426200

Education Helpline: 01452 425300

Environment Helpline: 01452 425500

Libraries Helpline: 01452 305420

Adult Helpdesk: 01452 426868

Children & Families Helpdesk
01452 426565

Forest of Dean District Council
Main Switchboard: 01594 810000

Bulky Items Collection: 01594 812444

Abandoned Vehicles: 01594 812264

Council Tax Helpline: 01594 812532

Dog Warden: 01594 812447

Noise & Pollution: 01594 812442

UTILITIES

Western Power Distribution

EMERGENCY: 0800 052 0400

GENERAL: 0845 6013341

GAS Tranco

EMERGENCY: 0800 11999

Water - Dwr Cymru

EMERGENCY: 0800 0520130

SEWERS & DRAINS EMERGENCY

0800 085 3968



The Councillors wish all parishioners a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

TIDENHAM NEWS



THE PARISH NEWSPAPER FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

WINTER 2008

DISCLAIMER

Some Parishioners did not receive their Newsletter in September and for this Council apologises. It is hoped that you will know the reasons why either from the notices on the Parish Notice Boards or you will have seen the article in the Forest & Wye Valley Review. Suffice it to say here it was an error on the part of our courier service and insufficient Newsletters arrived in Swindon at the Royal Mail sorting office. Copies are still available in Sheila's Shop in Sedbury, the Live and Let Live public house and Roser's Shop in Tutshill or from the Clerk. Please note that there is now a brand new Parish Notice Board in Sedbury on the wall near the cash point and Council's thanks are due to the owner of the wall for allowing the placement of the board in this space. Notices of all Council Meetings, plus other matters of interest, are now being placed on the new board.

The Parish Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2008

The accounts for the Parish are shown below with a comparison against the previous year and some explanation may be of help to parishioners. As explained in a previous Newsletter certain costs were higher last year than the previous year and the cost of Administration and Amenities particularly need clarification. The Administration figure of £47,491 includes items previously shown as the quarterly Newsletter and salaries (wages) - in addition for a large part of the year Council employed both a Clerk and an Administrative Assistant and, for a brief period, two Clerks when Mr Hooper retired and was kind enough to work for a short while to effect a smooth transfer to the then new Clerk Mrs Jayne Smailes.

Following Mrs Smailes departure in April 2008 Council is trying to reduce Administration costs by employing a Clerk and no Administrative Assistant. It is hoped that this will be ongoing but the employment situation will be reviewed regularly to ensure that all is working properly but with an eye on keeping administration costs as low as possible whilst retaining the efficiency of Council business.

The Parish is extremely fortunate to have the amount of grass and open space to enhance the area and provide recreational facilities but this comes with a high cost (see article on this subject elsewhere in the Newsletter). The accounts do not show grass cutting cost separately for year ended 31 March 2008 as they were included within general Amenities figure. Tree maintenance, playing field maintenance together with street cleaning are also shown under the Amenities heading. The effect of this change in how the accounts were prepared makes the amount spent on Amenities disproportionately high when compared with the previous year and as such deserves special explanation.

Council is now in process of preparing the budget requirements for the year 2009/10 and the figures will be published in the next Newsletter. It is clear that some costs will increase (your own costs of living will have increased so you will understand this point) but hopefully cost savings in areas such as salaries will help to compensate. If any parishioner has queries about the finances as shown please feel free to contact the Clerk or of course attend one of the Council Meetings.

Summary of Receipts & Payments - Year Ending 31st March 2008

Year Ending 31.03.07		Year Ending 31.03.08
	Receipts - £	
53,000	Precept	56,000
3,748.75	Agency - grass cutting	5,188
5,062.00	Agency - street cleaning	3,887.45
16.10	Wayleaves	16.55
715.24	Bank Interest	648.78
20,940.95	Grants	nil
8,768.02	VAT repayment	2,406.73
	Misc.	834.51
	Sec 106 payment	40,000 - See Note 1
92,251.06	Total	108,982.02
	Payments	
11,981.87	Wages	Note 2
10,314.50	Administration	47,491.84
2,670.93	Newsletters	Note 2
6,650.00	Grass cutting	Note 3
4,990.00	Street cleaning	Note 3
1,855.50	Sect 137 payments	16.50
100.00	s1976 payments	nil
450.00	Allotments	nil
4,954.05	Playing Fields	Note 3
1,464.00	Highways/Trees	214
7,298.19	Amenities	26,168.68
30,940.95	Capital Expenditure	nil
1,864.92	Sedbury & Beachley Village Hall	2,937.28
8,531.78	VAT on purchases	3,349.79
120.00	Training	610
	Street Wardens	500
	Election	2,902.45
	Contingency	3,069.24
	Grants	2,345.86
94186.69	Total	89,605.64

Note 1 This sum from a Section 106 Agreement and is ring fenced for recreational purposes within Sedbury.

Note 2 Wages and Newsletter both incorporated into Administration for year ended 31 March 2008

Note 3 Playing fields and grass cutting incorporated into Amenities for year ending 31 March 2008



VITAL HOME SUPPORT WORKING WONDERS



Residents living in Sedbury and the surrounding areas have been benefitting from a Home Support scheme designed to offer friendly and effective support to individuals over the age of 60 years. The scheme aims to help individuals maintain their independence, both at home and within their local community. Clients can not only choose what support they would like, but also how much, whether it is a one-off visit or support spanning several weeks.

The type of support available varies depending on the client needs, but can be as little as sharing a cup of tea and a chat to help getting to doctors, cooking meals or filling out important paperwork.

Some of the people who have already received support include Mrs Fox and Mrs Page. "I'm overwhelmed by the service; I wish everybody in need could receive the help. I'm very grateful." Said Mrs Fox, whilst Mrs Page, added "It's wonderful, I had help with my cooking skills and now I cook for my friends and family every day."

The scheme also aims to help people 'get out and about' so that they do not feel isolated or alone in their own home. Mrs Pinney, another person to have benefitted from this service, said "I don't know what I'd do without the service, I have made new friends and become more socially active since I've been visiting the Buttington Road Centre, I wouldn't be able to even get there without the support I receive. I look forward to my weekly visits."

If you would like to find out more about the Home Support service, please contact Two Rivers Housing on 0800 316 0897 or email customerservices@2rh.org.uk.



VILLAGE AGENT - HERE TO HELP YOU



As your local Village Agent I am here to provide you with easier access to information & services locally

I can help with: security & safety, warmth in winter, contacts for benefits, arranging cleaning & shopping, contacting other agencies on your behalf

I can track down information for older people and their carers, and other people in the village

We are here to help anybody over 50 or who is disabled, and their carers and relatives

I cover the villages of Sedbury, Beachley, Tutshill, Woodcroft and the rest of Tidenham Parish, Woolaston, St Briavels, Brockweir & Hewelsfield

Please contact me on Tel. 07810 630 190 (or email RichardS@grcc.org.uk)

We are supported by:
Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust, Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council

Richard Skinner

THE BATTLE AGAINST THE BOGUS CALLER

There is a constant battle with both the bogus caller and the distraction burglary. For the past few years Neighbourhood watch have run campaigns to make people aware of the dangers but still the incidents keep happening.

The Water Board official is still the most commonly used claim, despite the fact that Water Companies do not have to enter anyone's home to test water.

The answer to this problem is if someone knocks at your door and you do not know him or her and are not expecting anyone do not let them in.

Ask them to leave and make an appointment for them to come back at a time when you can have somebody with you. In the meantime check they are who they claim to be by phoning the Company they claim to represent. Do this

using a number from the phone book rather than one they might give you as it could simply put you through to an accomplice. Always have a door chain fitted and always engage it before opening the door.

Do not keep large sums of money in the house because no matter where you hide it a thief will find it and will often try to trick you into leading them to it, perhaps by asking you if you could change a larger note.

The bogus caller helpline telephone number is 0808 1000777

CONSIDER YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

By the time that this Newsletter reaches you it will be OK to cut your hedges, shrubs and trees back, particularly where these over hang a footway or verge. It is very annoying for people who are walking past to be hit by errant foliage. Please consider your neighbours and others by ensuring that yours is kept under control.

Another very annoying thing is to step in dogs' poo; especially young children who then walk it in doors. There are still some very anti-social dog owners who allow their animals to foul the footways and verges, without clearing up after them. As a dog owner myself, I do not find it a problem to clean up after my dog, as I find that the bags that are sold for use with soiled nappies are an easy and convenient way of dealing with it. The Parish Council provides many Dog Poo bins around the Parish which are emptied on a regular basis. So come on you dog owners clean it up.

Bernard Bowshall - Chairman Amenities Committee

Adult Community
Learning @
Wydean School
Spring Term
2009



Tel: 01291 625822/
625340 / 625346
Wydean School
Beachley Road
Sedbury
Chepstow
MON NP16 7AA

Arts + Crafts

Let's Get Knitting and Crocheting

Tues 13 Jan 7-9 x 5 wks *

Painting + Drawing
For Pleasure

Wed 14 Jan 7-9 x 9 wks
£45 (concs: £27)

Simple Printmaking

Tues 13 Jan 7-9 x 5 wks
£26 (concs: £16)

More Printmaking

Tues 24 Feb 7-9 x 5 wks
£26 (concs: £16)

Computing and Digital Photography

Internet and Email**

Wed 14 Jan 7-9 x 8 wks *

Computers for the 50+

Tues 13 Jan 7-9 x 9 wks *

Computers for the Petrified

Wed 14 Jan 4.30-6.30 x 9 wks *

Computing First Steps

Wed 14 Jan 7-9 x 9 wks *

Computers - Moving On**

Tues 13 Jan 7-9 x 9 wks *

Photography and Digital Photography (Intro)

Wed 14 Jan 7-9 (or 24 Feb)

X 5 wks £26 (concs: £16)

Digital Image Editing Techniques using Photoshop**

Tues 13 Jan 7-9 (or 25 Feb)

X 5 wks £26 (concs: £16)

Web Page Design (Intro)**

Tues 13 Jan 4.30-6.30 x 5 wks*

Web Page Design (Next Steps)**

Tues 24 Feb 4.30-6.30

x 5 wks £26 (concs: £16)

** (Note: previous computing skills needed for these courses)

Dance

Ballroom & Latin American Dancing

Mon 19 Jan 7.30-9 x 9 wks

£34 (concs: £24)

Venue: Leisure Centre, adjacent to Wydean School

Health + Fitness

Chi Gung

Wed 14 Jan 6-7 x 10 wks

£26 (concs: £16)

Golf (Beginners)

Tues 3rd March 6-7 x 6 wks £40

Golf (Intermediate)

Tues 28th April 6-7 x 6 wks £40

Venue: St Pierre Golf Academy, Chepstow

(includes use of all equipment and golf balls)

Legs, Bums, Tums - Keep Fit!

Mon 19 Jan 4-5pm x 8 wks

£22

Venue: The Old School

Rosemary Lane, Tidenham Chase,

Pilates (Beginners)

Tues 13 Jan 6-7 x 10 wks

£26

Pilates (Intermediate)

Wed 14 Jan 7-8 x 10 wks

£26

Tai Chi

Wed 14 Jan 7.15-8.45 x 10 wks

£38 (concs: £25)

Yoga for Everyone

Tues 13 Jan 7.30-9 x 10 wks

£38 (concs: £25)

Holistic + Personal Development

Life Coaching

Tues 13 Jan 7-9 x 6 wks *

Reiki (Beginners)

Tues 13 Jan 4.30-6.30

x 10 wks *

Reiki (Level II)

Tues 13 Jan 7-9 x 10 wks

£50 (concs: £30)

Helping the kids

Positive Parenting

Tues 20 Jan 7-9 x 6 wks *

Languages

Fun French

Tues 13 Jan 7-9 x 8 wks

£40 (concs: £26)

Japanese language & Culture (Beginners)

Tues 13 Jan 4.30-6.30 x 9 wks

£45 (concs: £27)

Japanese language & Culture (Term 2)

Wed 14 Jan 6.30-8.30 x 9 wks

£45 (concs: £27)

Spanish (Refreshers)

Tues 13 Jan 7-9 x 10 wks

£50 (concs: £30)

World Religions

World Religions (Part 2)

Wed 24 Sep 7-9 x 9 wks

£45

European Computer Driving Licence

Preparing to take the ECDL

Wed 14 Jan 7-8 x 6 wks

£30 (concs: £20)

The course will cover:

Module 1 (Concepts of Information Technology) &

Module 2 (Using the computer and managing files).

Gain an internationally recognised qualification after 6 weeks.

(Note: there will be a small charge for the log book and the test/s)

* Free courses

Note - there may be an extra charge for materials