

Grants from Tidenham Parish Council and the Mopla Cottages Committee

Both the Parish Council and the Mopla Cottages Committee can provide grants to charities and groups within the Parish. There are legal issues that have to be considered but put briefly any group serving the community may ask for a grant. To give you an indication the Clerk can tell you that so far this year the Council has made grants to large organisations such as Severn Area Rescue Association, smaller organisations like the Brownies and Rainbows and also to perhaps a lesser known charity that of First Responders. Do you feel that your group needs funds to help with their work? If you do please telephone the Clerk to talk it through – she will advise you and, if necessary, help you with an application. However Council rules preclude giving grants to individuals.



new Councillor. Co-option to the Council means that Gareth is now a Parish Councillor and ready to help in any way he can within the Parish. Living in Woodcroft with his family Gareth knows the area well and was a Councillor in the past. He has been a co-opted member of the Amenities Committee for the last three years with a special interest in play facilities for the youngsters of the Parish. Gareth can be contacted on 01291 624114 or through the Clerk. So welcome to you Gareth from the Councillors and the Clerk.

Tidenham Parish Council welcomes a new Councillor

Following the resignation of one Councillor in the early summer Tidenham Parish Council is pleased to announce the co-option of Mr Gareth Birt as a

List of Councillors

Cllr John Powell
Chairman
Tel: 01291 624901

Cllr Bernard Bowshall
Tel: 01291 624152

Cllr Lance Allan
Tel: 01291 628867

Cllr Carole Dawson
Vice Chairman
Tel: 01291 680032

Cllr Roy Birch
Tel: 01291 624326

Cllr Steve Ford
Tel: 07908 634570

Cllr Gareth Birt
Tel: 01291 624114

Cllr Andy Hossack
Tel: 01291 630615

Cllr Gerald Blunt
Tel: 01291 689424

Cllr Sue Hutchings
Tel: 01291 626536

Cllr Sheila Bollen
Tel: 01291 620812

Cllr Gabriella Kirkpatrick
Tel: 01291 629394

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

TIDENHAM NEWS

THE PARISH NEWSPAPER FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

AUTUMN 2010

Excitement and bravery at the National Diving and Activity Centre

Abseiling

On Sunday 5th September 37 brave souls took part in a charity abseil to raise funds for SARA, in particular for replacing the SARA 3 lifeboat which, after 15 years of lifesaving service on the Severn, Wye and Usk, needs to be replaced. The funds raised were just under £9,000 which will go a long way towards the £25,000 cost of a replacement boat.

The abseil was staged by the National Diving and



Activity Centre in Tidenham and featured a 200 ft abseil down into the quarry and onto a floating pontoon. For many it was their first experience and, to add to the excitement, heavy rain made the surfaces slippery and more awkward. There was a great mix of people present including the general public, local business owners, the Mayor of Chepstow. They were joined by two 17 year olds who, instead of asking for sponsorship actually worked to pay for it.

Dave Thompson from SARA tells Council "it was a great to see so many people helping SARA and knowing that every penny raised will go towards saving lives for the next 15 years". Dave, who provided the photos, has



even managed to convince the Clerk that she will join in the next time the event is held!! If anyone wishes to support the fund raising appeal please send a cheque, payable to SARA to the SARA 3 Replacement Project, The Lifeboat Station, Beachley, NP16 7HH

Bungee Jumping

This is where the organisers put you into a metal basket, (Picture 1) winch you up to the top of a 300ft crane which is 100ft above the quarry (picture 2) so a frightening 400 ft into the air. Finally you jump out of the metal basket tied to a piece of elastic! Well that is the view of the Clerk (who is a total coward) – but many congratulations to those people who completed



the bungee jump at the National Dive and Activity Centre recently. For those of you who would like to have a go the event is taking place again in October so go on to the NDAC web site

www.ndac.co.uk



Thank you to Mr Darren Bryce, owner of the centre, for the photos of the bungee jump.

Litter in the Parish

At the present time the Forest of Dean District Council is responsible for litter picking in the Parish but, unfortunately for the Parish Council, due to the cuts in expenditure from April 2011 onwards this will change. The Parish Council will take over the responsibility and costs for picking up rubbish in certain areas such as the enclosed play areas of Danes Hill and Buttington Road/Wyebank Road, Woodcroft play area, the Tidenham Recreation Ground, the grass areas surrounding the Sedbury & Beachley Village Hall and the Football Field/Skate Park.

At current prices this will mean that the Parish Council has to find another £4,500 from its funds in order to maintain the standard of cleanliness in the Parish. Your Council would ask for the help of the Parishioners to keep all parts of the Parish as tidy as possible – use the bins provided, do not drop litter (it can cost you money now as the Street Wardens have the power to fine litter droppers) and if you see litter perhaps pick it up and drop it in the nearest bin.

The Football field and Skate Park area is of particular concern to the Parish Council due to the amount of broken glass (usually beer/lager bottles) which present a danger to every user of the area. Both adults and children playing on the field are in danger of severe and unpleasant cuts so please take care of the field and put your empty bottles in a bin or take them home with you.

Safety and Children's Play

A warning to all parents! During the summer a young child was hurt when it ran into a piece of play equipment within the Parish. The Council tries to keep play areas as safe as possible for children and all users but accidents can happen. Parents please keep your young children under supervision and warn them of the potential dangers – children do run about enjoying the fresh air and the play equipment but please do take care and be aware of the possible and inevitable risks.

NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT IN SEDBURY

By the time this Newsletter is delivered the Parish Council hopes that work will have commenced (and maybe even been completed) to provide Toddler's Play Equipment on the grass in front of the Sedbury & Beachley Village Hall. The funds for this have come from monies passed to the Parish by the builders of the Sedbury Court estate under what is called a Planning Obligation to provide play equipment within in the locality when there is not sufficient space on a development. Plans were well advanced to provide a proper goal mouth, incorporating a basketball net, at the Skate Park but a few problems have arisen with the Offa's Dyke Ancient Monument being so close so Council is still trying to sort this out. It is also planned to provide equipment for youngsters within the field at the rear of Sedbury & Beachley Village Hall, at least there are no Ancient Monuments to hinder the progress here!

Whilst Councillors hope that the new equipment will provide exercise and fun for all age groups of youngsters within the Parish please take care of both the new equipment

and the existing equipment. Repairs to vandalised play units cost money, sometimes a considerable amount of money and of course means equipment cannot be used until repaired. Vandalism of the Springy Horse within the Buttington Road/Wyebank Road play park has caused it to be "stabled" in the Village Hall for nearly three months whilst spare parts were obtained at a cost of nearly £400 and repairs completed – it is hoped that the Springy Horse will be out of the "stable" and available for rides shortly.

The Annual Report from Gloucestershire Constabulary - Cllr Roy Birch

District and Parish Councillor Roy Birch has been kind enough to review the annual report from Gloucestershire Constabulary and has kindly provided the following summary:

The Police Authority budget for 2009/10 was £102.2million, underspent by £1.9million which went to Reserves. The budget for 2010/11, set at £105.4million, represents a 2.9% increase in the police element of the council tax which is set by the police authority. They have to find savings this year of £2million but as they have transferred the £1.9million from last year there should not be a difficulty.

Of the 9 Councillor members of the Authority the member representing Forest South (which includes Tidenham) is Cllr Awford from Gloucester. Of the other 8 Independent members Cllr Andrew Read, who is Mayor of Stroud, represents Forest North. Given the geography and distances I wonder if either knows where Tidenham is.

The priorities the police work to are as follows: (1) strengthen the trust and confidence of all our communities (2) making our communities safer (3) provide an effective criminal justice response (4) tackle organised crime and (5) protect the county from terrorism and violent extremism.

By any standards the Police have a large and difficult duty and they are building their services around customer needs and expectations.

Wyedean School's Community



At Wyedean, we believe that our 'community' extends well beyond the boundaries of the school and should include active links with our local, national and international communities. As part of our drive to extend our links with the local community, we have begun a programme whereby students visit the local area every Thursday morning and engage in a variety of activities designed to help us to show how we value our environment and the people in it. These activities include litter picking, graffiti removal, gardening and the occasional invite for OAPs to visit the school for tea/coffee and a tour of the school.

This programme has been created by our students however, we would value any input from local residents as to how we could develop these activities in the future. If you have any ideas, please let me know. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Robert Wagland
Assistant Headteacher for Partnership and Community, Wyedean school.

Planning application for a cycle path from the Parish to Tintern and Brockweir

As many of you will know Sustrans have applied for permission for a cycle/footpath which many believe starts at Chepstow. In reality the application site starts at the entrance to Wyedean School, with access points at Bishton and Netherhope lanes, and ends at both Tintern and Brockweir. They predict usage by 27,973 people per year with 375 per day at week-ends over a 28 week period. Though comparing it with the Peregrine path near Symonds Yat where 57% arrive by car they predict 33% by car for Sedbury. The scheme does not provide dedicated parking at any point within Tidenham Parish. Direct expressions of support have been received from two people who advise of further web-based support by others. Many expressions of opposition have been received from parishioners and affected landowners. Given the considerations raised T.P.C. have formally objected to the application for several reasons but primarily due to concerns about traffic, inappropriate access and lack of dedicated parking. If you wish to review any of the documents please either contact TPC Clerk, or, Forest Of Dean District Council web-site.

Steve Ford.

Poor's Allotment Trust

Poor's Allotment Trust is a small charity with limited funds. The Trustees apply the income of the Charity in relieving either generally or individually a person resident in the Parish of Tidenham who is in conditions of need, hardship, or distress.

The Trusts income may not be used in relief of rates, taxes or other public funds. The Trust supports the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), and therefore recommends that those seeking help visit the CAB, as they have advisers in many areas e.g. legal, financial etc.

To apply for assistance, please contact 01291 624901 for an application form.

Tidenham Fun Day 15th August

After a break of a number of years a family event returned to Tutshill Rec on a surprisingly sunny afternoon. Led by the Tidenham War Memorial Hal and Recreation Ground Trust and supported by Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall Management Committee the aim of the event was to provide much needed funds for the running of your two local village halls and their user groups. With worries about the weather it was great to see such a large number of locals enjoying the afternoon and before expenses nearly £2000 was raised to be split equally between the halls with all the user groups benefitting. Live music by local bands, a cricket competition, barbeque, bar, fairground rides, all complemented by small art and craft stalls and further attractions run by the halls user groups.

With participation from many local groups including the Scouts, Tutshill WI, Girl Guides, Tidenham Boys Football Club, Tutshill Preschool, Club 98 and the Chepstow Round Table. The intention from the start was to help these groups raise awareness in the area and support their own fund raising. It is hoped that is can



now become an annual event supporting local organizations and community. Thanks must go to a number of local businesses that gave raffle prizes, local residents, committee members, but especially to Principality Building Services Ltd of Tutshill, as without all of these peoples help this would not have happened – Thanks Again! Should you be a local community group or stall holder wishing to take part in next year's event please contact TWMH&RGT for further details.

Andy Hossack

TWMH&RGT Chairman

Hedges and Trees

All residents, including farmers, whose properties have hedges and trees adjacent to pavements and roads are reminded that they have a responsibility for ensuring that:

1. The hedges and trees do not cause obstructions to either pavements or roads
 2. Branches that overhang the above are pruned so as not to cause a nuisance to both pedestrians or vehicles alike
 3. When their hedges/trees drop their leaves that these leaves are removed so as not to become a hazard, especially when they are wet and slippery – this problem can easily lead to an accident
- There are many areas in the parish where shrubs/trees and hedges are encroaching on to the pavements and roads. Could all residents take a look at their front garden and, if necessary, trim back the offending garden plants. Perhaps the field owners could also inspect their hedges and trim those back where they impede progress of either people or traffic

Police Information Points or PIPs

Police Information Points are used throughout the county; they display details and contact information of local officers and local policing priorities. Your local police ask you to come along and meet them. As well as talking to them regarding any issues you have in your part of the community this is a great opportunity to get to know your local officers.

Dates for the next PIPs are: 23rd October, 20th November and 11th December at the Tutshill Police

Station and 11th October, 11th November and 9th December at Woodcroft Christian Centre