

the front and backat £378 all based on the exiting 1800 copies

The choice is yours, parishioners appear to want a newsletter, so we need your feedback and maybe articles for inclusion. These articles need to be about parish and what affects all of us as parishioners.

## DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR VILLAGE HALL?

A great deal of work has been undertaken recently to make the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall more comfortable and more secure. Work has been done on the roof, fascias and guttering and new fencing secures the rear of the car park area. Future projects are likely to include flooring upgrades to improve access for disabled people, carpeting and kitchen improvements. The biggest improvement from a visitor's perspective however is the new heating system which has made the hall warmer and more welcoming.

Our regular bookings now include:

### Flower Arranging

Tuesday mornings 10am to 12.30pm

### Baby Massaging

Wednesday mornings 9.45am to 11.45am

### Stay & Play Toddlers

Wednesday afternoons 1pm to 3pm

**Bingo** – Friday evenings 7.30pm to 9pm

### Tidenham Historical Group

meeting on the last Tuesday of the month

If you would like to join one of these regular group events please contact Mrs Sheila Bollen on 01291 623311 (daytime) or 01291 620812 (evenings) who will put you in touch with the organiser who will then welcome new members to the group.

A new venture is planned, for one day a week or month (depending upon support and probably on a Monday morning) for a "Get to know your neighbours" coffee and social morning. This will be an opportunity for newcomers to the area, those who perhaps do not know many people locally or those who just want a morning away from their home to socialise – all will be welcome. Books will be for sale and Tidenham Historical Group will bring along articles about the area in years gone by. Please ask Sheila for more details or to offer your support for the new social morning.

The Hall is available for parties at the weekends – please contact Sheila for booking information. If you would like to start a new group again Sheila would love to hear from you.

Finally a most sincere thank you to all who supported the May Spring Fete held on Sunday 1st May, this event was a great success raising nearly £600. The Committee would also like to thank the many people who helped on the day in various ways, those who made and donated the delicious cakes and those who donated raffle prizes; your help was invaluable.

## 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 Alastair Fraser*  
Tel: 01291 621593

*Cllr Gerald Blunt*  
Tel: 01291 689424

*Cllr Andy Hossack*  
Tel: 07719949927

*Cllr Sheila Bollen*  
Tel: 01291 623311

*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

SUMMER 2011

## New Fruit Trees planted on Wyebank Road



Transition Chepstow, with the support from Tidenham Parish Council, is delighted to announce the planting of six fruit trees on the north end of Wyebank Road amenity grass area.

This planting is part of a project to help restore our areas fruit tree heritage, provide free food for future generations and support local wildlife. If you have any queries or suggestions please contact Marcus via; [food@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:food@transitionchepstow.org.uk) or 07944468052.

For more information about Transition Chepstow's aims and projects visit [www.transitionchepstow.org.uk](http://www.transitionchepstow.org.uk)

### The Youth Shelter on Buttington Road Football and Skate Park Field – Bernard Bowshall

The shelter at the Skate Park was provided, by the Parish Council, for young people to have a place to sit and talk, especially when it was raining. It was requested by a group of youngsters who were involved in discussions as to what could be provided for them. The half pipe was one item and the shelter the other.

Sadly, over the time that the shelter has been in situ, it has suffered from continuous vandalism of one sort or another. The Parish Council tried to eradicate graffiti by painting the shelter with special paint. During this painting time the security fencing, which was to prevent anyone from getting the paint on themselves before it was dry, itself was vandalised, costing the Parish Council extra money. But after this effort, which had included

some young people, it resulted in someone deciding to try to scratch the new paint off.

Unfortunately, the shelter has become the centre of very anti-social behaviour; with regular gatherings of young people drinking, smashing bottles and throwing empty beer cans around. This activity accompanied with loud noise into the early hours of the morning, especially at weekends. In addition a number of cars have been driven to the shelter and loud music from these has caused major disruption to those Parishioners who live in the area. Although the Police have attended on occasion, this behaviour continues.

The Parish Council has been considering the best course of action to alleviate the situation. A petition has been received by the Parish Council regarding the shelter, and it is with great regret that the decision has been taken to remove the shelter. This action has been taken with the hope that this will remove the attraction of the area to those causing the nuisance

### Go Project – District Councillor Roy Birch

Over the past year the Forest of Dean District Council has been involved in a Project to share its services with other Councils with the intention of forming Centres of Excellence; by combining some of their functions with those of other Councils it is hoped that significant savings can be made.

At inception there were 7 Councils prepared to join forces but, for different reasons, 3 dropped out and the Project now comprises: Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council and the Forest of Dean.

The Project is continuing to assess which Council is most suitable for each discipline/service and, over the coming year, decisions will be made. It is understood that Cheltenham BC has already been awarded the responsibility for IT and, in the near future, Centres of Excellence for Human Resources/Payroll and Finance/Procurement will be formed with others to follow as necessary.

The time scale for these operations has been finalised and it is hoped that by April 2012 the arrangements will be complete and savings can be made in that year's budget.

As a matter of interest the Councils who declined to proceed were: Gloucester City, Stroud and Tewkesbury.

## Police Presence - Sedbury & Beachley Village Hall – Steve Ford

As many will be aware the police have decided to close Tutshill Police Station, within that decision organizing of police coverage in the parish reverts to a more central location which may, or may not, be Lydney. The Management Committee of the hall became aware of this likely outcome prior to it being confirmed and offered accommodation to the police in the village hall on an 'as required' basis.

Though detail arrangements remain to be finalized we are pleased to be able to confirm that they have accepted our offer and that we anticipate they will take up occupation of an office in the hall at some point in July this year.

We believe that this arrangement will be beneficial to both residents and police alike as we will continue to have a visible police force in the parish, at a venue that has suffered vandalism, and they will have a base with minimal cost. With this arrangement the hall will continue to be available for hire as usual and it is hoped the police use of the hall, on an unpredictable timetable, will deter those amongst us who have damaged the hall and attacked the new play equipment in particular.

We look forward to welcoming our new 'user group' and hope it will prove to be a successful and long standing arrangement.

## Beachley Slipway from District Councillor Roy Birch



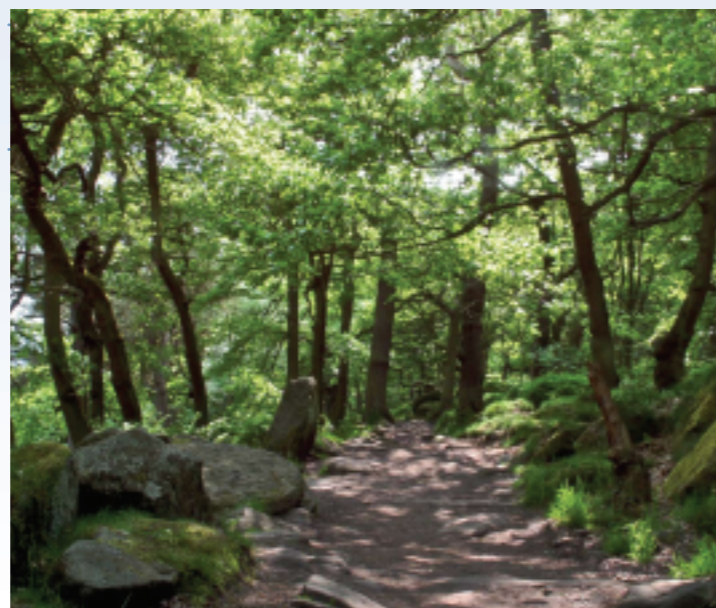
Beachley Slip way was acquired by the Forest of Dean District Council in 1995 for the sum of £1

and was in the Capital Programme in 2006/7 with a budget of £10,000 for repairs. The sum set aside was in fact not spent until, in the following year, £600 was spent on a structural condition survey.

Currently the slipway is a community asset at a nominal value of £1 as there have been discussions over a potential transfer of ownership.

It is now understood that discussions are taking place for a private buyer to take over the slipway but whatever the outcome the use of the slipway by SARA will not be endangered. SARA will continue to have use of the slipway for search and rescue and for training purposes.

## Comment on Woodlands in Tidenham District Councillor Gabriella Kirkpatrick



Perhaps it is only when we feel that a part of the environment in which we live is threatened, such as our forests and woodlands, that we realise how important they are to us and we come together to stand up for what we believe. The strength of public opinion was made apparent in the recent successful mobilisation of opposition to the privatisation of our forests, which included presentations from our District Council to members of the House of Lords to exempt the Forest of Dean from the Public Bodies Bill, and led to the government's withdrawal of the consultation on the future of the Public Forest Estate, removal of the forestry clauses from the Public Bodies Bill and decision to set up of a panel of independent experts to look into the matter in depth and advise the government on the future of forestry and woodland policy; we shall wait and see what proposals will be put forward in future.

Some may ask, why the concern? Well, we all live within the Forest of Dean District; the Forest of Dean itself covers some 35 sq. miles, is a working timber producing forest and one of the oldest community forests in the country. It is a place where all residents and visitors have free access and are welcome to explore the kilometres of forest tracks and unfenced woodland; a forest rich in history with unique privileges worthy of safeguarding. There are, however, many woods in the District, which are not included in the statutory forest, so any governmental exemption and/or protection that is granted to the Forest of Dean would not cover all the woodland in our district.

One such area that would fall into this category is the woods in Tidenham, which are managed by the Forestry Commission. Another area that would also be subject to review is the heathland at the Park, Tidenham Chase. This heathland has flourished as the result of a recent restoration project wherein 12 hectares of conifers were cleared to let the original flora and fauna grow once more and, consequently, birds such as the nightjar, stonechat and dartford warbler have returned to the area.

It is worth noting that in addition to the large portion of the woodlands in Tidenham which are managed by the Forestry Commission, there are also woodlands that are managed by charitable trusts, which would not be affected by government forestry policy, such as at Ban-y-Gor Nature Reserve and Lancaut SSSI and the heathland at Poor's Allotment (SSSI), which, when considered together with that at the Park, makes up the largest area of heathland in Gloucestershire. We are so fortunate to have these ancient woodlands and areas of outstanding natural beauty on our doorstep; and the freedom to wander throughout and enjoy through all seasons.

So, although recent attention locally has been focused on protecting the Forest of Dean, it is important to realise that all woodland areas managed and maintained by the Forestry Commission would be affected by changes in government forestry policy. The review of the Public Forest Estate is an ongoing process and it will be up to us all to ensure that the woods we love and enjoy are maintained for the enjoyment and benefit of all for generations to come.

## ADDENDUM

Since writing the above article in early March an Independent Panel on Forestry has been appointed by the Government to review the future direction of forestry and woodland policy. Their final report is due in April 2012. If you are interested in expressing your views on the forests and woods in England you can respond to the Panel's 'Call for Views' by visiting their website at [www.defra.gov.uk/rural/forestry/panel](http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/forestry/panel) and following the relevant link. Responses are requested by 31st July 2011.

## Parish Newsletter Update – Andy Hossack

Following the request in the last issue for parishioners' to give the council feedback the vast majority of those how expressed a preference were positive about the current newsletter format, however some suggestions have been made regarding costs.

As from this issue onwards, the council have decided that the newsletter should only be produced on a 4 monthly basis rather than the existing quarterly system. This in the current format will save £575, based on 1800 copies being delivered by placement in the Review newspaper and by collection from Rosers in Tutshill, Best One Shop in Tutshill, Sheila's Shop . The Army distribute within the camp themselves. This system should ensure that a minimum of 59% of Tidenham Parish receive the newsletter via their Review with residents who don't receive it having the further option to collect a copy themselves. These bulk drop areas could be increased to include areas such as the Beachley Loop Road bus shelter and the Severn Bridge Park Homes Estate which both sometimes do not currently get a copy.

One suggestion was that the Council revert to sending out newsletters using Royal Mail which it has one in the past. The cost for this would be £1420 per newsletter edition to deliver to all houses in the parish, unless they have specifically asked the Post Office not to receive 'unsolicited mail'. This obviously would a three fold increase. Another suggestion was that the paper quality was reduced, on investigation from the printers this would only produce a saving of £15. However the biggest savings would be gained from producing an A4 newsletter as now, totally in black and white at £275 or with only colour on