

Welcome to the Summer 2016 edition of our Newsletter.

We must congratulate members of Tidenham Girlguiding who were selected from amongst the thousands of hopefuls around the country to attend the Patron's street party in the Mall in June to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday.

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in the recently modernised and decorated Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall this year. The face lift to the surroundings is light and airy, and the management committee must be congratulated for their efforts in achieving the excellent results.

There were the "usual suspects" in the public gallery for the meeting. As it was, there were only 12 parishioners in attendance plus PC Asseratti and PCSO Natalie Lang.

Chairman Steve Ford questioned whether the number of residents present reflected the Council's performance in any way. It is felt that within the parish there is a feeling of apathy amongst members of the public explaining why so few attend the annual meeting. Despite the Council consisting of only 8 councillors until recently, every scheduled meeting had been carried out, and all planned processes achieved. Nonetheless, it would be very encouraging if the now three vacant slots on the Council could be filled - many hands in this situation really would make the workload a bit easier.

If you feel you would like to become a councillor and have a say in what the Council does, then come along to one of the Council's meeting, meet the councillors, ask questions during the public consultation item and if you feel you may have something you can bring to the table, contact the Clerk on 01594 530779, e-mail: clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk

You may wish also to view to Council's website at www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk and look at the many and varied items including all the latest minutes of meetings, scheduled meetings and a whole variety of interesting information including Tidenham Parish history.

HM Queen 90th Birthday

Councillors decided that the occasion of the HM Queen's 90th birthday should not go unrecognised and were pleased to present medals to commemorate the occasion to pupils at Tutshill CofE Primary School and Offa's Mead Academy. Councillors Sheila Bollen and Helen Molyneux presented the medals to children at Offa's Mead Academy.

Children at Offa's Mead Academy show off their medals with Councillors Molyneux and Bollen

Photo courtesy Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Review



Poor's Allotment

Poor's Allotment is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), located adjacent to Rosemary Lane on the B4228, Coleford Road. As in the past, the Trustees have agreed that the returning of this rare example of heath land to its original condition should be managed by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) in conjunction with Natural England.

Since last year great strides have been made in the improvement of the site, due to the hard work of Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) working with Natural England.

The Trust receives regular reports and updates from Kevin Caster of GWT. GWT are anxious to include the public as much as possible in the ongoing work and will organise future events in which the members of the public can participate. Early last summer the members of the Trust were given a tour of the Allotment guided by Kevin Caster who explained the ongoing work and pointed out the progress that was being made.

On July 25th and 26th 2015 Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) held a Bio Blitz on Poor's Allotment and The Park on Tidenham Chase. Saturday 25th was a most glorious day; the sun shone and conditions were perfect. The occasion was very well attended by members of the public, all eager to help survey the plant and animal life on the sites and learn a great amount from the experts who were on hand. On both sites combined over 600 different species

were listed, from the smallest fungus to the largest mammal, the deer. Unfortunately, as is almost normal in England, one day of gorgeous weather is followed by one of rain, and Sunday was very wet indeed, so unsurprisingly, the number of visitors was down. Altogether the event was a great success. The main income for Poor's Allotment comes from Natural England in the form of a grant and from the rental income from adjoining lands.

Some of the income has to be used to maintain the site, but any surplus is used for the relief of need in the Parish of Tidenham. During the past year we have again donated to Citizens' Advice Bureau in Chepstow, having been assured that the money is used for the benefit of Tidenham parishioners.

We have made donations to residents who have approached the Trust directly. One of these was for help with the purchase of an orthopaedic bed for a disabled parishioner.

We were very sad to hear of the death of Mr Gerald Blunt, a longstanding member of the Poor's Allotment Trust and a very hard worker for the Parish. He will be greatly missed.

We have, together with the Parish Council, placed a bench inscribed with Mr Blunt's name on the Allotment. It has been placed in a beautiful and tranquil spot near the restored pond. The Trustees hope that it will be a fitting memorial to Mr Blunt.

Active Together Grant

Tidenham Parish Council made a successful grant application for funding under the Gloucestershire County Council Active Together Grant scheme, designed to encourage a more active lifestyle, for items of outdoor exercise equipment for adults. The cross country skier, air walker and arm and pedal bike (which is suitable for people who are less able) have been installed on land in Wyebank Road. For safety reasons the equipment has been installed away from children's play equipment and in the hope that it will encourage a wide range of more 'mature' people to enjoy some exercise in the fresh air and maybe help improve their general fitness. The Parish Council would like to thank Gloucestershire County Council, and in particular Councillor Patrick Molyneux, for their support.

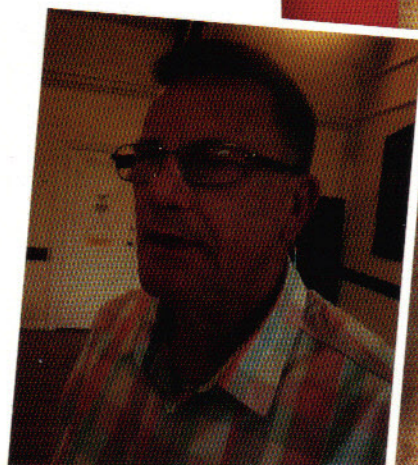
Tidenham Parish Council Welcomes New Councillor

Mr Robin Duff was co-opted to Tidenham Parish Council on 15th June 2016. Robin is originally from Fulham in London and moved to Sedbury where he has lived since 1982 whilst serving with the Royal Engineers. Robin, now retired, is keen to be involved in the local area in which he is interested. Robin is looking forward to be involved in the development of the area, with skills learned during his working life, which he feels has much to offer residents and visitors.

Details of the other Parish Councillors may be found on the Tidenham Parish Council website

www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk

If you would like to get involved please contact the Clerk for more information.



Sedbury Rainbows

We have had a lovely year at Rainbows with eighteen girls at present and a very long waiting list. We have two new leaders in training, Mel and Vicky, and eighteen Rainbows, plus Liz the leader, Elin our young leader and Carole, Emma and Gemma who help us when needed.

Last Easter we won the Tutshill Scarecrow trail with our Aliens love Underpants and at Christmas we won the best children's Christmas tree in Tidenham Church. We have an entry in this year's Scarecrow trail and have enjoyed making colourful fish as part of our display. We have had lots of lovely meetings, making soup, picking up litter, going on a scavenger hunt, making Stickmen, decorating biscuits, pyjama parties and lots more. When we asked the Rainbows what they would like to do next term they asked to 'go to Spain', have a picnic, do some baking and have a sleepover and a pyjama party.

We also had a sponsored event for Children in Need and we made a card for the Queen when she became the longest reigning monarch in the autumn and were thrilled to have a reply from one of her Ladies in Waiting, and had decided to make one for her 90th Birthday when we received some very exciting news.

Tidenham District Girl-guiding won a Ballot organised by our SW Region for their 10 tickets for the Queen's Patron's Lunch seated in The Mall. The tickets were for 2 each of Guiders, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section.

On June 12th thirty members and a few parents made an early start to London where ten of the group were ticket holders for the event in The Mall to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th Birthday.

Two Rainbows, Niamh and Layla, two Brownies, Emily and Isla, two Guides Leah and Carrie, two Young Leaders, Georgia and Amy plus two adult leaders Karen and Liz were dropped off outside Girlguiding headquarters in Buckingham Palace Road where we met up with the other District teams representing the other Regions. We were there as representatives of South West England an area which encompasses all counties from Berkshire to Cornwall and also includes the Channel Islands.

After photographs and snacks we joined a procession to the Mall where we joined a very long queue. The drizzle that had started as we set off soon turned to a downpour

and we were glad to be given our ponchos. After a slight hiccup at the ID verification, the discovery of a ring which our little Rainbow finder handed over to security we were in.

We collected our hampers and found our table which was just about 100 yards down from the Victoria Memorial (is that real gold on top asked the Rainbows) and we settled down for a wet picnic lunch. Spirits were not too high at this point but then the first parade came and the rain eased slightly. The Guides and Young Leaders made their Promise in the Mall to our new Chief Guide who was on the next table and to whom we had been chatting in HQ.

Then it stopped raining and out came the Royal Family. We waved our flags, spoke to Prince Andrew and then waved even more when we saw the Queen and Prince Philip who drove past us three times.

The second parade came through, this time with more performers and no ponchos, the girls all loved the silly animals on bikes, the giant children and all of the bands and dancers.

We sang Happy Birthday to our Queen and Patron then went to find the rest of our group who had enjoyed the festivities in St James' Park.

They had found a good position about 30m from the Big Screen. Flags and crowns abounded. Even with macs, ponchos and brollies those in the Park had been soaked, some even drenched, during the day but they had laughed it off, waved their flags and some had danced, with true Girlguiding and British Spirit, as they watched the parade on the screen. It had dried up about 12.45, had been warm and the sun had come out, macs and ponchos had been discarded and everybody dried out. They had enjoyed their own picnic hampers and a few had included some M&S Patrons Lunch Food, bought in the local M&S or in the Park. Some Brownies had gathered up some flags to adorn themselves and did their own parade.

We all arrived home very tired but aware that we had been part of something special, which I am sure all of our young members will remember all their lives - as will we the leaders. We would like to thank Tidenham Parish Council for their support in helping us with the cost of this trip, our badge for the event and for the party we held for all of those who were unable to join us in London.



Useful Numbers

Chepstow Citizens Advice Bureau - 01291 623437

Samaritans - 116 123

Gloucestershire County Council - Main Switchboard - 01452 425000

County Councillor - Mr Patrick Molyneux 01594 529174

Streetlights (Free-phone) - 08000 514514

Police (All non-emergency) - 101

Crime stoppers - 0800555111

Bogus Caller Helpline - 0800 100 0777

Doctors Surgery - Beachley Road Sedbury 01291 626041

-Coleford Road Tutshill 01291 637910

NHS (Non emergency) - 111

Sedbury Pharmacy - 01291 622532

Revd David Treharne - 01291 760034

Pastor Chris Reese - Stroat Evangelical Church 01594 529209

Trading Standards Helpline 01452 426200

Education Helpline 01452 425300

Environmental helpline 01452 425500

Forest of Dean District Council Main Switchboard - 01594 810000

Bulky Items Collection 01594 812444

Tidenham Parish Council

Contact the Clerk, Mrs. Carol Hinton on 01594 530779:

Email: clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk or visit our website: www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk

The Parish Council welcomes contributions to the Newsletter from individuals and organisations which may be published subject to necessary editing. The information published does not necessarily reflect the views of the Council or individual Councillors, but will hopefully provide topics for discussion.