



## Welcome to the Spring 2017 edition of our Newsletter.

### Parish Council Chairman – Mr John Powell

Since our last newsletter our Chairman Steve Ford died sadly and unexpectedly in September 2016. Steve had been a Councillor since 1999 when first elected, and had been chair of the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall management committee since 2007; during that period he had overseen a major refurbishment to the Hall. He will be sadly missed. As a token of appreciation of his work on the Council a memorial bench in his memory has been installed at the front of the Hall.

The Parish Council has co-opted Councillor Nick Evans, however, we are still three short of a full council. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor and helping with the management of the many and varied tasks that we are responsible for please contact the clerk Carol Hinton on 01594 530779 [clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk) or go to the council website [www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk) for further information. The job of a Councillor is not too onerous and is often rewarding and fulfilling and full training will be given.

We have endeavoured to keep the increase in the Parish Council precept element of the Council Tax to a minimum, and are hopeful that next year we may be able to do the same, despite the Council Tax Support Grant being no longer available.

Disturbingly, the contractor who empties the dog waste bins, has reported that some individuals are leaving supermarket type plastic bags full of dog waste beside a dog bin rather than depositing individual poo bags into the bins. This has occurred at more than one bin. This is both unfriendly and illegal, and we would encourage dog owners to act responsibly and place the dog waste bags directly into the bins. (see also article on Walking your Dog)

It is reassuring to note that the exercise equipment sited alongside Wyebank Road is used regularly and being enjoyed by people of all ages.

There have been reports that a couple of young individuals are using unregistered motor bikes and riding them on the skate park field. They are also endangering pedestrians by riding their bikes on the pavements. This must stop and parishioners are asked to report these thoughtless individuals to the Police or to a Councillor - the police tell us if a crime is not reported it hasn't happened!

The Parish Council welcomes comments and suggestions so please get in touch if you wish to discuss anything.

### New Councillor co-opted to the council

In September last year, the Parish council agreed to co-opt Nick Evans as a new councillor, and we wanted to take this opportunity to introduce him to you.

In Nick's own words:

It was two years ago that my wife and I were looking to move out of London and back 'home' closer to family; we came across Tutshill almost by chance and fell in love with the area and its people instantly.

Since moving to the village, I have become ever more interested in the local community and saw becoming a Parish Councillor as an opportunity to make a difference to the Parish and work to improve it for everyone.

This drive began soon after moving to Tutshill when I became involved in the Tutshill and Tidenham Action Group that was opposed to the development of 100 houses adjacent to Elm Road. That campaign helped me see that a small group of committed individuals could have a real impact on the local area.

Since joining the Parish Council, I've secured agreement from the Council for us to try and improve roads in the Parish and make them safer. After suggesting the Parish Council

considered installing life-saving defibrillators in the Parish, I am delighted that these have now been purchased with the aid of a grant from Forest of Dean District Council.

In the coming years, I want the Council to work on ways in which we can bring the whole parish together around specific events and make sure that we're focusing on the things that matter to you, so if you have any ideas or issues, then please do get in touch. As a former Police Special Constable, I also have a strong interest in public safety and crime prevention and want to make sure we're getting the right sort of response from our local police.

If you'd like to keep up to date with the work I'm doing on the Council or get in touch, please do follow my twitter and Facebook feeds at @nick4Tidenham or get in touch with me in person on 07375 610982

If you would also like to have a direct role in deciding how the Parish is run, you too could be co-opted to join the council. For more information, contact Carol Hinton, the Parish Clerk on 01594 563151 or [clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@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.

## 'Sedbury Space', 11 King Alfred's Rd, Sedbury

Following the 'Celebrate Sedbury' consultation, a group of residents carried out a feasibility study into developing the premises of the Gaff Youth Project (GYP) for wider community use. It was agreed that there was indeed a place for this facility in the parish and that with its distinctive attributes it would complement the current provision of the Village Hall and other venues.

A small management committee of local residents has been set up, including representatives from the Parish Council and Two Rivers. We have agreed on a name for the premises, 'Sedbury Space', written a constitution with project aims, set up a bank account and taken out insurance in preparation for taking on a ten year lease from the Housing Association.

We want to provide an attractive and welcoming space to draw people together as well as a valuable resource right in the centre of the community where people can access services, support and advice on their doorstep.

### Aims

1. To enhance community cohesion and inclusivity;
2. To encourage participation and volunteering;
3. To promote physical, mental and emotional well-being;
4. To provide improved access to services and advice within the local community;
5. To maximise the use of the premises as a local resource and safe environment for community activities for Sedbury and surrounding area;
6. To provide a valued community space that will complement other community venues and facilities

### Refurbishment & Remodelling the Space

After years of neglect and use as a youth club the premises are in need of significant refurbishment. Additionally, to be accessible to everyone in the community, the building needs to be remodelled

to include disabled facilities. Barnwood Trust has commissioned an architect to draw up preliminary plans for consultation - the plans are available to view in the window.

We expect the works to cost in the region of £50,000. At the end of January we received the exciting news that Barnwood have agreed in principle to invest £25,000 which will enable us to seek match funding and allow the project to go ahead. We are intending to launch a crowdfunding appeal with a target of £5000 to encourage local stakeholders and to develop a sense of community ownership. Watch this space!

### Community use

GYP are continuing to use the Space two evenings a week but now the premises are available for other community activities. We have started a Homework and Learning Support Club on Monday afternoons for primary aged children, supported by a grant from the Parish Council; there is a monthly advice drop-in on the first Tuesday afternoon of a month run by Green Square, a charity offering housing and benefits advice; and a team of volunteers offer refreshments to the Sedbury Health Walkers each Thursday morning.

Most recently we have launched a monthly Memory Café for those with age related memory loss or dementia and their carers, and anyone else who feels isolated and would like to meet with others. This is on the first Wednesday of a month and is held temporarily in the Village Hall until the remodelling of the Space. Another idea that has been suggested and we would like to explore further is a self-help group for those suffering anxiety or mental illness.

If you would like to get involved in this project through volunteering, on the committee (secretary required!) or in any of the activities above, or if you have an idea for a community activity that you think could work in Sedbury Space, please contact Janice Hamilton, Community Minister & Chair of the Management Committee. Tel 626158, mob: 07747 130323, e-mail: janice-hamilton@outlook.com

## Tidenham Historical Group

Some members of the Tidenham Historical Group have been working for the past few years on a project to draw people's attention to the impact of World War 1 on the parish of Tidenham. There are two aspects to their researches: firstly the details of the men in the parish who lost their lives in the War, their lives and military histories; and secondly information about the evacuation of the Beachley peninsula to build a shipyard. Many people over the past two years have kindly responded to the appeals made in the Link parish magazine and also at our monthly meetings. They have shared anecdotes, photographs, information about relatives and even objects such as a wooden WW1 hut window frame (still with its War Department inscription) and a length of railway line!

The Group aims to produce one book and two display boards during the coming year. The first book will be available in the autumn of this year to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the evacuation of the Beachley

Peninsula in September 1917 and will include previously unseen photographs of the vast changes to the landscape. The two display boards for the parish will show how the Sedbury and Beachley areas changed dramatically during the First War.

The second book should be produced by the autumn of 2018 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1. It will bring into focus the men in the parish who gave up their lives for their country - where they lived, who their families were, and where they were fighting. We remember them every year now as names read out as part of the Armistice Day service on the Recreation Field at Tutshill, every 11th November. Next year, all being well, we will be able to remember them a little better.

The Group has been actively seeking funds to enable this research to be made public and is very grateful to the Parish Council and the Mopla Cottages Trust for grants for the Sedbury display board. For more information about the Tidenham Historical Group please contact Liz on 01291 621694, Carol on 01291 623736 or e-mail info@tidenhamhistory.co.uk.

## Inconsiderate driving in the Parish

In recent weeks, the Parish Council has been contacted by a number of residents to complain about speeding motorists in the Parish and drivers causing danger to pedestrians and residents.

Residents have complained about cars speeding in Woodcroft and Tutshill and cars parking around Tutshill School, reducing visibility for both drivers and pedestrians.

This is something the Parish Council takes very seriously and we have written to both Gloucestershire Police and the County Council's Highways Department to try and find a solution to the problem. We're pleased to report that our local police officer has started adding speed reduction to his patrols. The County Council have also committed to putting rules in place around the school to control how vehicles use the area and running a speed survey in Tutshill which we have asked to be extended to Woodcroft. Based on the results of the survey, the Council will consider further action.

In the interim, we have also made the Gloucestershire Community speed reduction toolkit available to Tutshill school and will work with them on any solutions they would like to take forward.

The Council have also asked the Highways Department to look into the repair of roads throughout the Parish, which have been reported as being in poor condition.

## Waterside Living

**- Do you have a river, stream, ditch or culvert running through, or alongside your property?**

If so you are probably responsible for its maintenance. For more information on your responsibilities and rights please contact Forest of Dean District Council 01594 810000 or the Environment Agency 03708 506506 [www.environment-agency.org.uk](http://www.environment-agency.org.uk)

## Walking Your Dog

**R**esearch has shown that walking for just 30 minutes every day gives you more energy, helps reduce stress, can lower blood pressure and helps keep your heart in good order.

What better way to enjoy the beautiful local countryside than a walk with your dog who will also enjoy the exercise? Gloucestershire Local Access Forum (GLAF), part of Gloucestershire Public Rights of Way, have re-issued their leaflet giving a few simple guidelines which will help keep you safe and make sure you enjoy walking your dog in the countryside. (For more information see <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/GLAF>)

They remind people that the countryside is a great place to exercise dogs, but it's every owner's duty to make sure their dog is not a danger or nuisance to farm animals, wildlife or other people. It is worth remembering that the countryside is working land and the place where farmers earn their living, sometimes by grazing cattle and sheep.

By law, you must control your dog so that it does not disturb or scare farm animals or wildlife.

Dog mess is an unavoidable issue where walking dogs are concerned. GLAF advice states that dog mess is unsightly and the parasites from unwormed dogs can harm farm animals and children. You must clear up after your dog where required to do so by law (parks, streets, playing fields etc) and please consider clearing up after your dog in the wider countryside, either by bagging it up and taking it home, or by flicking it into the hedgerow. Otherwise bag it up until you can deposit it away from livestock and rights of way. Please **DO NOT** throw the bag in the hedge or hang it on a tree. For your dog's good health, please remember to worm it regularly.

Tidenham Parish Council spends in the region of £4000 each year emptying their dog waste bins. These bins are **ONLY** for use by dog walkers who have bagged the waste and waste must be placed inside the bin and not on the ground. The bins are **NOT** for depositing dog (or cat) waste from your home or business. This has recently been a problem in several areas of the Parish. If you see this happening, please report it to the Clerk [clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk). Please also note that the Tutshill Recreation Ground is a dog free area and dog walking is not allowed on any part of the Ground.

## Neighbourhood Watch

**N**eighbourhood Watch is a National organisation and special signs are sighted in streets/areas where it is active.

The aim is to bring neighbours together to create strong, friendly and active communities where crime and anti-social behaviour is less likely to happen.

Neighbourhood Watch is about making sure no one feels afraid, vulnerable or isolated in the place where they live.

The country is split into regions with Tidenham being part of the West Gloucestershire Neighbourhood Watch Association. This is a particularly active Association with a small committee of volunteers who help and support the local field officer, Chrissie Parkes. The best evidence of activity is the twice yearly Newsletter. This is produced and delivered by Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators to

almost 10,000 homes in the Forest of Dean District Council area. The printing of the newsletter was, until recently funded by the Police. They have now discontinued this funding so, apart from a small profit made on selling Neighbourhood Watch street signs and crime prevention aids, the Association has no funds to continue with the Newsletter costs. Tidenham Parish Council has kindly awarded a grant to cover costs for the copies delivered in the Parish.

Tidenham is a fairly active Parish for Neighbourhood Watch with some 36 Coordinators covering about 950 houses between them. Nevertheless with 2800 houses in the Parish this still means that only a third of all houses have Neighbourhood Watch coverage. Should you wish to become involved with Neighbourhood Watch and perhaps become a Coordinator looking after a few houses in your area, please get in touch with Chrissie Parkes, Field Officer, based at Coleford Police Station Tel no. 01452 753784 email [Chrissie.Parkes@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Chrissie.Parkes@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk)

## 1st Sedbury & Tidenham Scout Group

**W**e think there has been a Scout group continually registered in Sedbury since 1923. Ninety five years of Scouting in our community!

Something everyone involved with the Group are very proud of. The face of Scouting has changed many times over the years but the core values of our movement remain the same. Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief and Co-operation. Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. We currently have young people ranging from six to sixteen years of age in our group. Beavers are 6 - 8, Cubs are 8 - 10ish, Scouts are 10ish - 14 and Explorers are 14 +. Our sections regularly take part in events and competitions with other Scouts in the area as well as having a busy programme of activities organised by the Leaders.

Most months we camp and take part in adventurous activity as well as working for activity badges and playing games in the hut. Our numbers are only really limited by the amount of adult help we have and we are currently looking for Leaders

and helpers in all sections. The Scout Association have a comprehensive training programme which takes prior learning into consideration and provides excellent ongoing support to all its members. Our groups work closely with each other and have developed a great friendship both in and out of Scouts.

If you feel you would like to join us delivering Scouting to our ever growing group please contact me on 07792684812 or email [lin.jane1961@gmail.com](mailto:lin.jane1961@gmail.com) and I will be happy to talk you through the process and what it entails. All appointments are subject to a successful DBS check to ensure the safety of our members. I can assure you that regardless of your experience you will be welcomed and well supported. As well as uniformed leaders we need support on our committee, help with fundraising and repairs and maintenance of our hut.

***We look forward to hearing from you!***

Yours in Scouting,

Linda Sandison

Group Scout Leader

1st Sedbury & Tidenham Scout Group

# Your Community Needs You!

The Parish Council needs three more councillors. If you care about your community and are interested in the many and varied tasks the Parish Council is required to undertake, please consider putting your name forward. More information can be obtained from the Clerk, Carol Hinton 01594 530779 or [clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk).

The Parish Council website gives a lot of information on all matters to do with the Parish. Agendas for each meeting of the Council and its Committees are published in advance and are also shown on the four noticeboards throughout the Parish (Sedbury, Tidenham, Tutshill War Memorial Hall, and Woodcroft). Members of the public who live in the Parish are welcome to each meeting. If there is a particular agenda item that interests you the meeting is your chance to have your say – please come along.

## 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 - **0800 555111**

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**

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](mailto:clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk)  
or visit our website:  
[www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk)

## Life-saving equipment to be installed in the Parish

The Parish council has recently purchased life-saving public access defibrillators to be installed in several locations around the Parish over the coming weeks.

The devices are very easy to use, as they give verbal commands on how to use them, and can make a vital difference in the event of a cardiac arrest.

New automated external defibrillators (AEDs) will be placed in Tutshill, Beachley, Sedbury and Woodcroft over the coming weeks at locations that are easy for people to access in the event of an emergency. The location of the AEDs will be placed based on advice provided by South West Ambulance Service.

Councillor Nick Evans said:

“Early defibrillation can be life-saving in the event of a cardiac arrest. Public Access Defibrillators are easy to use and by placing the devices in locations around the Parish we can help make sure that local people, old or young, are close to life-saving help if they ever need it.”

Public access defibrillators are now found in most public spaces and in villages where emergency response times can be longer than in built up areas. Those in Tidenham are being part paid for thanks to a £1000 grant from the Forest of Dean District Council.

The new defibrillators will complement the one that is already installed on the old warden's block on Buttington Road in Sedbury and those located at Wydean School which can be accessed when the School is open, and mean that more people can access devices closer to their homes in the event of an emergency.

South West Ambulance Service will be providing training sessions in the Parish on how to use the defibrillators. Everyone who lives and works in the Parish is welcome to attend the training, which is aimed at giving people confidence in both basic life-support and following the instructions provided by the defibrillator.

The training sessions will be held on:

**Wednesday 31st May 2017 at 7pm in the Tutshill War Memorial Hall**

**Thursday 15th June 2017 at 7pm in the Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall**

Please make a note in your diaries and come along!!

## Sedbury Rainbows and Sedbury Brownies

We had a very exciting time last year when we had won tickets to take part in the Queen's Patron's Lunch in the Mall, in June. We organised a trip up to London for the ticket winners and others of us who then had a great time in St James Park, despite some heavy rain in the morning, joining in the fun, waving our flags etc. and watching on a big screen.

Sedbury Rainbows and Sedbury Brownies have been long established in our Parish (Brownies started in 1964), but unless we find some new volunteers very soon, to gradually train and help take our units forward, both are facing a very uncertain future. We have already lost Tidenham (Tutshill) Brownies in the last eighteen months but the remaining Guiders do not want the same fate for their units.

**BUT WE DO NEED HELP!** All leaders are volunteers but the rewards come from seeing the girls in our care having fun, developing a variety of skills for themselves, in the community and in the world whilst always growing in confidence. Do have a look on: [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) our Girlguiding website for information on our Guiding ethos, programme and all about the different age groups in Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

Please do consider helping. For more information on our Units please phone either Liz on 01291 621694 or Hazel our District Commissioner on 01291 625872