



Your Community Alerts is Gloucestershire Constabulary's new, free messaging system that enables residents, businesses and community groups to participate in a two-way exchange of information about what is happening throughout the county. Whether you live in Gloucester, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, Stroud, the Forest of Dean or the Cotswolds you can receive up-to-date messaging about incidents that may affect you.

Don't worry, we won't bombard you with every incident. You can choose exactly the type of alert you wish to receive. For example, you can help tackle crime by registering for witness appeals or keep ahead of those traffic jams by registering for road closure alerts. The aim is to send relevant information which is chosen by you and together we can make a greater impact on the prevention and detection of crime and anti-social behaviour in our communities.

The service is entirely free and you can receive the messages in a way that suits you. You may subscribe to alerts via text, an alert through the mobile app, a text or a voicemail. The choice is your hands.

To download the app visit the Apple store or Google Play store and search 'Neighbourhood Alerts'

For more information, please visit the below web address and register your interest. [www.yourcommunityalerts.co.uk](http://www.yourcommunityalerts.co.uk)

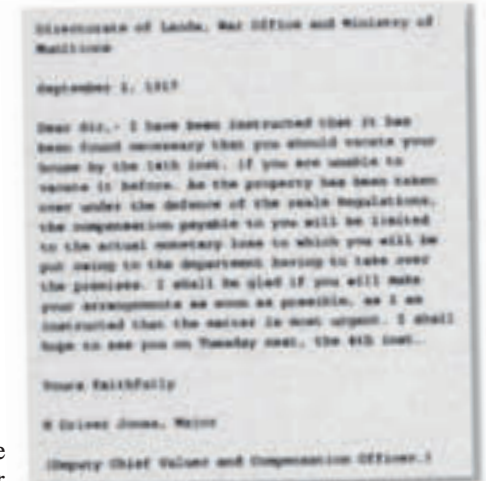
Natalie Lang 249206, Police Community Support Officer, Forest Local Policing Area Gloucestershire Constabulary.



## Welcome to the Spring 2018 Tidenham Parish Council Newsletter

Thank you to everybody who has contributed articles to this newsletter. If you would like to provide an article for a future issue or for further information please contact the Clerk.

## Sedbury Centenary



On Sunday morning, 17th September 2017 at 8.30 a full-sized railway engine arrived at Beachley and was parked near to the platform at the end of the Beachley Line which ran from the main GWR line at Snipe Hill. This unusual site marked the beginning of a day organised by Tidenham Historical Group and hosted by No 1 Rifles which commemorated the 100 year anniversary of the closure of the Beachley peninsula, the evacuation of the residents to make way for the building of a World War One shipyard, and the arrival of the Army. A large crowd heard the Commanding officer welcome them and then they were entertained by the Fijian Community Choir before enjoying delicious refreshments and exploring the various stalls and exhibitions. Tidenham Historical Group launched their latest book at the event, which describes in detail the impact on the community and the huge changes which came about. The book may be purchased from the Chepstow Book Shop or please contact Carol Clammer on 01291 623737 or 07970 016649



Pre-war Beachley was described in one newspaper account from a visitor to the area as "this pretty and not much frequented place. It is in my opinion a very haven of rest to the tired and weary, the overworked, the ailing, or sorrowing.. The country around is exceedingly pretty, in fact, lovers of nature would call it beautiful. And it is so peaceful too." People came to Beachley to camp on the beach, swim and enjoy the refreshments provided by the local public houses and

tea gardens. There was a popular local annual sailing regatta. Then, suddenly, on 3rd September, the residents of this village received a letter under the Defence of the Realm Act instructing them to leave their homes within 11 days. Fishermen, farmers, inn keepers and even the local land owners in the "big house" at Beachley Lodge were equally affected, the school and church were closed, and by 14th September the peninsula had been evacuated and closed to civilians.

In the early months of 1917, when German U-Boats were sinking Allied merchant ships at a much faster rate than they could be replaced and Britain faced being starved into surrender, the Government decided to boost shipbuilding capacity by building three new National Shipyards, the largest of which, No. 2, was at Beachley. What followed was a massive industrial undertaking with the intention of building 18 slipways. In the place of the local residents, thousands of Royal Engineers and German Prisoners of War poured into the area to begin building a massive shipyard to boost Britain's output of new merchant ships. It transformed the village of Beachley, began Sedbury as we now know it and impacted right across the whole parish as far as Tidenham.

Tidenham Historical Group's new book BEACHLEY AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR is available from the Group at £25. email [info@tidenhamhistory.co.uk](mailto:info@tidenhamhistory.co.uk) or ring 01291623736. We are happy to deliver to any house in the Chepstow/Tidenham parish area, if requested. We can also post direct. P&P £4.

## Public Participation at Parish Council Meetings

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Parish Council and its Committees. All meeting dates are shown on the Parish noticeboards (Tidenham, Woodcroft, Tutshill Memorial Hall and by the chemist in Sedbury) and the website ([www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk)). Agendas for each meeting are published on the noticeboards and website on the Thursday or Friday before the meeting. Each agenda will have an item for Public Consultation. At this point on the agenda members of the public present will be invited to have their say. This may be a comment about a Council issue or a planning application for example. The Parish Council may only debate items that have previously been published on the agenda for that meeting so, although Councillors may wish to ask questions of the person speaking, they cannot answer questions asked of them. They may however decide to include a topic on a future agenda.

As for all other parish councils in the country a specific amount of time is allocated for the Public Consultation slot and this is clearly shown on the agendas. Time limitations must be adhered to to allow smooth running and to avoid lengthy meetings. If there are several people wishing to express the same view, a nominated spokesperson can avoid repetition and help keep to the time limit.

Members of the public may not enter into Councillors' debates or speak during any other item on the agenda, so it is important to use the Public Consultation part of the meeting effectively.

## Sedbury Rainbows

Sedbury Rainbows have been enjoying the outdoors this summer. We have been using a resource called Rustle, Bustle and Squeak and have had fun making bird boxes, butterfly feeders, stick men and planting herbs.

We learned about the butterfly lifecycle and made paint blob butterfly pictures. We also made spiders and spider webs. As part of our theme we went to Slimbridge where we fed the swans and ducks, saw the otters being fed and handled tree frogs.

This autumn term we have a science theme and have done some smelling and tasting experiments, made balloon powered racing cars and had paper aeroplane races too. We also made apple crumbles and will be making rockets, we'll be looking at the stars.

We took part in the flower festival and made items for our Christmas tree festival entry. Our entry for the Scarecrow trail was Alphablocks and we will soon be choosing what we would like to do for next year's trail.

Rainbows are aged five to seven years and if you would like to place your child on the waiting list go to [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) to find out how to register your daughter, if you have any problems please phone one of the numbers below. We are also looking for adults to volunteer in both Rainbows and Brownies to help keep girl guiding alive in our parish. Please phone 621694 or 625872 if you are interested, the rewards are in the enjoyment and friendship that guiding brings to the girls.

## 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

Rev'd 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)

## Parish Councillor Vacancy

Tidenham Parish Council currently has a vacancy for a parish councillor. If you are interested in being involved and making a difference in your community please contact the Clerk for more information. [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.



# Community Wellbeing Agents

The Forest of Dean Community Wellbeing Team is part of a County wide service, jointly commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group.

This new service brings together social prescribing and the village and community agent service, with our former Village Agents now being known as 'Community Wellbeing Agents'. The Community Wellbeing Agents will continue to work very much at community level whilst our Social Prescribing Facilitators remain working out of all our Forest GP surgeries. The service is available for everyone living in the district of the Forest of Dean or who are registered with a Forest GP surgery.

The new service not only supports individuals to self-care and self-manage to create independency and wellbeing but also supports our communities and our voluntary and community sector to build social and community networks by linking people and community services together as well as encouraging and supporting new community initiatives.

The Community Wellbeing team is part of the Forest of Dean District Council's Community Engagement Team and so benefits from a wealth of knowledge and understanding of community based provision throughout the area and is well placed to connect people to access a range of issues such as healthy living, social activity and making friends in the community, help caring for someone, supporting getting back into work, housing-related issues, mental health and wellbeing, bereavement support and much more.....

If you know of someone who would benefit from this service or indeed need support yourself then please do contact us in confidence on **01594 812447/812399/81000** or email us at **community.wellbeing@fdean.gov.uk** - we are here to help you.

*Richard Skinner, Community Wellbeing Agent*

## ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, - don't suffer in silence

**Antisocial behaviour (ASB) can make people feel alarmed, distressed or harassed. It can affect anyone in the community.**

Damage to property, street drinking, noise, graffiti, loitering outside shops or homes can all be reported as anti-social behaviour to the District Council, Police or housing providers.

There is now another source of help and information through Victim Support Gloucestershire.

Victim Support's Anti Social Behaviour service offers trained supporters and a specialist caseworker that work with individuals directly affected by ASB.

Victim Support provides emotional and practical support to victims of crime and ASB. All their services are free and confidential.

Victim Support is independent of the police and work closely with other organisations.

If you contact their team, they will make sure you get the information and support you need. This might be arranging a meeting for you to have some emotional support, helping you know your rights, or referring you to other specialist organisations that can also help.

To speak to one of the team about the ASB you are experiencing call free on **0808 281 0112**. More information on the organisation can be found at **www.victimsupport.org.uk**

If you are experiencing ASB they recommend:

- Lock all windows and doors when you are not around
- Call the police on 101 for non emergencies
- Call 999 in an emergency
- Log all ASB activity for evidence purposes
- Talk to someone you trust if you are feeling vulnerable or distressed
- Contact your local authority, housing provider and Victim Support if you need help.

## Forest Read Easy Deal – helping people learn to read and write

*Not being able to read can affect all aspects of life.*

**FRED** offers free, confidential, 1:1 support for adults over 18 living in the Forest of Dean district. Learners work at their own pace at a time and place to suit them. We now offer help in improving reading and writing.

Our biggest challenge is letting people who might like to improve their reading and writing skills know about us. We are keen for as many people as possible to spread the word.

If you would like to know more about learning through **FRED** or becoming a volunteer please contact us: **07746 371353**  
**info@forestreadeasydeal.org.uk**  
Read more about **FRED** and about some of our success stories at: **www.forestreadeasydeal.org.uk**



## Dog Mess

**In the interests of safety and hygiene dogs are not allowed on the Recreation Ground at Tutshill. Neither should they be allowed into the other play areas in the parish - Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, Buttington Road and Woodcroft. Complaints have been received about dog mess in all of these areas making it unsafe and unpleasant for all who use them. The Parish Council is looking into the introduction of Public Space Protection Orders on land it owns which, if introduced, would make it an offence to allow dogs onto these areas. PLEASE be a responsible dog owner and be respectful of others using parish facilities.**

## Scarecrows are coming .....

Easter 2018 will be the tenth anniversary of the Scarecrow trail around Tutshill. How did it all start? St Luke's roof appeal was supported by many events and so the now Reverend Janice Hamilton hit upon the idea of a scarecrow trail. It was so successful that makers and trailers asked for more, so we are now in the process of organising our eleventh trail and as we are looking back to ten years ago we decided to revisit our original theme of Heroes and Villains. Many new heroes and villains have appeared either on screen or in real life since then, but there are plenty to choose from in the past centuries.

The trail attracts people from far afield, last year we had entries from across South Wales, Bristol, the Forest and even London, all money raised goes into Church funds.

Our first trail included heroes such as Gandhi and Florence Nightingale and villains Voldemort and Darth Vader. If you would like to make and/or host a scarecrow please get in touch with us on **tutshillscarecrow@yahoo.com**.

## Green Energy Is Supporting Community Fund

**Tidenham Parish Council has created a Community Fund to spend on initiatives and activities benefitting the community in the Parish which otherwise would not have been possible from public funds.**

The Council is the beneficiary of a Development Contribution after the Forest of Dean District Council granted permission to establish Tump Solar Farm Park in the Parish.

The annual Development Contribution to the Parish Council is £5000 and runs from 2017 till 2041.

The Parish Council would like to involve residents in suggesting ideas for the allocation of the annual funds to community relevant causes that will develop our community. We would like to invite you to come up with ideas we could work on and to help us to make a final decision on how and where to spend the money for 2017/18.

The aim is to spend monies from the Community Fund on small and medium sized (new) projects or one-off expenditure with an obvious relevant impact for the community. It is not to be used to make up budget shortfalls on any existing project or activity.

"The sky is the limit" in terms of ideas and we hope that residents in the parish will come up with innovative ideas to make this Community Fund a success and benefit the community for years to come.

If you as an individual or as a group would like to suggest an exciting idea please outline your plan on one A4 page and email this to **clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk** or post to the Clerk (Wood Cottage, Clanna, Alvington, Glos, GL15 6AJ) by 31st March 2018.

## Defibrillators

**Two** of the four defibrillators that were bought by the Parish Council with the help of a grant from the District Council have now been installed. One is outside of the Chemist in Sedbury and the other on the wall of the Tidenham War Memorial Hall. Finding a suitable location for the other two has been challenging. The third defibrillator will shortly be installed on the bus shelter at the junction of Loop Road and Beachley Road in Beachley. This unit will be powered by solar panels. As far as we are aware this technology has not previously been used for this purpose and the Parish Council is pleased to be introducing an innovative solution that allows for the use of defibrillators in more isolated places. The Parish Council is hoping to adopt the telephone box in Woodcroft for the fourth defibrillator.

## Tidenham is on a Pothole Hunt

**Potholes have plagued the UK's roads for a long time. Tidenham Parish is not exempt from the decline of our local road network because of the intensity of the traffic, in particular HGV vehicles.**

Potholes are a general traffic hazard and can have devastating effects on the safety of your car and damage your tyres. Our part of the world is also a cyclist's paradise and potholes are an additional hazard for these road users.

Tidenham Parish council is not responsible for the maintenance of our roads; this responsibility lies with Gloucestershire County Council.

Members of the public can however report potholes they are aware of by:

a. Calling 0800 0 514 514 and the operator will log your report. They will ask you for the precise location e.g. on Coleford Road in Tutshill between lamppost 23 and 24 and how large and deep the pothole is. At the end of the call make a note of the reference number and the date of your reporting to be able to follow the progress of the repair online.

b. Visit **www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways** and follow 'Report It' link. This link is relatively easy to use. It takes you through 4 steps to identify where the pothole might be and to what extent it represents a hazard. You will receive an automatic confirmation email with all details in order to follow the progress of the repair online.

In both cases the County Council will decide whether or not a pothole requires urgent repair.

In order for the Parish Council to keep an eye on the progress of the repair of your reported potholes, it would be helpful if you could email the unique reference number (8 digits) as well as the date of reporting to: **clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk**.

If you find it difficult to use the phone or the web- link the Parish Council is happy to do the reporting on your behalf. You can email the location of the pothole of your concern to **clerk@tidenhamparish.co.uk** and the pothole location will be entered on the site for you.

Only if local residents in Tidenham join in the fight against potholes in our parish can we improve the quality and safety of our roads.

Many thanks in advance for your participation in the pothole hunt.

## Fancy owning part of a pub?

**The 'Save Our Sun' committee have been working hard to save The Rising Sun Pub in Woodcroft. After 4 years of pressure, the owners have put the pub on the market. As a community enterprise we have until April to put in a bid for the pub which is a huge opportunity and possibly our last chance to save it.**

We would like as many people from the community to be a part of this and if possible invest in the pub through community shares to raise the money to buy it and restore a much needed community facility and keep it safe for the future. Financial support from businesses or any other parties is also very welcome.

Our vision is to make it a real community hub that is a pub, a place to drop in, a small shop and a place for community groups to meet, reducing isolation and enriching the community.

Community pubs have been very successful in the UK with 100% remaining open and re-invigorating communities. If you are interested in knowing more please email **savetherisingsunpubwoodcroft@gmail.com**