



## TIDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2015

Welcome to the first edition of our new look Newsletter.

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.

### CCTV

In October last year PC Assirati made us aware of a potential source of funds that could enable CCTV to be established in the Parish. After much liaison with Forest of Dean District Council a grant was awarded to purchase CCTV cameras for distribution throughout the Forest area, of which we have two. The cameras are now up and running and will be used in the Parish at a variety of locations. The cameras are not vehicle mounted but can be relocated so that they may be used in appropriate locations. The captured evidence of wrongdoing will be downloaded and may be used by the Police and others.

### PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

Often Councillors are asked "How much does the grass cutting cost?", "How much does it cost to dispose of the dog waste?" - just a couple of questions.

The Parish Council budgeted for the financial year 2015/2016 the sum of £96,723. The general headings being: 1. Dog waste - £4,600, - 2. Grass cutting - £15,500 3. Churchyard Maintenance - £3,000, - 4. Safety Inspections (play areas) £2,500, 5. Litter picking - £8,000, 6. Tree maintenance- £3,000, 7. Repairs and Play areas £1,000, 8. Shirley's Grove £2,500, 9. Miscellaneous £1,000. Other areas include Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall (which the Parish owns) £5,000. Newsletter, Insurances, Audit fees, Stationery, Office equipment, Training, come to in the region of £3,000. Some years ago, a resident said "It's very easy to spend someone else's money". That is exactly what we do, so we are careful to ensure that we only budget for what we need and strive to achieve value for money.

If you have any ideas on how the Council may reduce its budget in the future, please either email or write to the clerk with your suggestions. Some residents have suggested that to minimize the grass cutting budget, the Council may adopt the strategy of planting wild-flowers on the large grassed areas owned by the Parish, and asking the County Council Highways department to seed the road verges accordingly. Over the border in Wales some verges of the roads and roundabouts have been planted by county authorities with wild flowers. These provide colour and also habitat for a vast number of flora and fauna, not least butterflies, moths, bees, hoverflies and myriad other wild creatures.

## A HIDDEN GEM IN TIDENHAM PARISH

The Old School in Rosemary Lane closed in 1952. Subsequently it was purchased by Miss J Philips and others for the use of the Tidenham Community. It is now operated by a Charitable Trust run by 3 Trustees. All donations and funds raised through events are used to run the School as a community facility. Electricity was installed, replacing the old gas lamps, to comply with Health and Safety Rules. A new hall with toilets (including one with disabled access) was added in the late 1900s. More recently the kitchen was demolished and replaced with a new building and modern equipment. Functions at the school now include:

- Birthday Parties
- Whist Evening
- Art Club
- Weddings
- Gourmet Dinners
- W.I meetings
- Quiz Nights
- Scouts Nights
- Summer and Easter Shows
- Band practice evenings

For the Summer Show a marquee is erected in the grounds and many fund raising functions also take place under cover of a marquee. However, in all the fifty odd years the Summer Show has taken place, it has only been spoilt by rain on two occasions. Anyone who would like further information should contact Mrs J Maher - 01291 698693. The Old School is available for hire at a cost of £5.00 per hour (including all utilities). The School is run entirely by the community on a voluntary basis and welcomes new volunteers.

## CALLING ALL GARDENERS



The Friends of Tidenham Church (Registered Charity Number 1159658) are organising a TIDENHAM IN BLOOM competition to take place in the first week of July 2016. This will be open to the entire Parish - from Beachley to the Chase. The Competition will be for the "Prettiest Garden" and there will be a prize, it will only cost £1 to enter.

NOW is the time to start planning and ordering your seeds. It could be bedding plants, flowering shrubs, pots or hanging baskets. Let your imagination run wild!! If you want you could organise your own 'Open Garden' and invite people in to view all your hard work - maybe offer tea or coffee. Who knows, perhaps the councils will offer to plant some wild flowers in our green verges. If you want more information, please ring Anne Martin on 627800. Notices will be put up in the New Year. Let's Brighten Up Our Parish in 2016.

**Decorated Christmas Trees** - Please visit Tidenham Church between 14th December and the 6th January to look at and enjoy the decorated Christmas Trees. Many businesses, schools, WI's and Parish Groups have offered to decorate the trees with Christmas Carols as the theme. Refreshments will be available while you try to guess the name of the carol from the clues on the trees. The Church will be open from 4pm - 7pm on the days publicised.

Also see the work being carried out on the new Church Car Park at Tidenham

## SEDBURY AND BEACHLEY VILLAGE HALL

The Management Committee have recently secured grant funding which together with monies raised by the committee will enable them to undertake a £28,000 refurbishment project designed to increase usability and access to the Penguins, Committee and Store rooms including the provision of a disabled W.C.

To aid with this and the day to day running expenses, they are holding a fund raising event on Sunday November 29th 2015, between 1pm and 4pm. The usual fund raising activities include:

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## TIDENHAM HISTORICAL GROUP

Few people nowadays with our digital watches and mobile phones realise the historical significance and importance of a working church clock in the Parish. Without it people would have missed trains, failed to arrive at appointments at the required time, been late for school and work and failed to get to church on time on Sundays! Tuesday 28th April 2015 saw a welcome return to full chiming working order of the Parish church at Tidenham after a long period of silence.

The Historical Group recorded the return of the clock face to the church after refurbishment and its later hoisting up the outside of the tower prior to the delicate replacement of the gleaming hands by a small team of two abseilers and the clock specialist.



Tombola, Name the Doll, Guess the Weight of the Cake, a raffle, a Christmas decorations stall, and others.

The hall is used considerably by members of the community for a variety of events including as follows:

Tuesdays - sewing 7 - 9:30pm - Wednesday- Stay and Play; Sewing 7 - 9:30pm; Dog Training 6- 30 to 9 - 30pm - Thursday - Slimming World - Friday - Bingo 7:30 - 9:30pm - Saturdays and Sundays - are available for hire by private parties, weddings etc.

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## MACMILLAN APPEAL

Sheila Bollen thanks everyone who attended her Macmillan fund raising coffee morning and raffle at her shop. £570 was raised (the highest amount she has raised so far) for the charity. Thanks to all who donated cakes and raffle prizes towards the event.

## USEFUL NUMBERS

Chepstow Citizens Advice Bureaux - 01291 623437

Samaritans - 08457 909090

Gloucestershire County Council Main Switchboard -  
01452 425000

Streetlights (Free-phone) - 08000 514514

Police (All non-emergency) - 111

Crime stoppers – 0800 555111

Bogus Caller Helpline - 0800 100 0777

Doctors Surgery - Beachley Road Sedbury - 01291  
626041

Coleford Road Tutshill - 01291 637910

NHS Direct - 0845 4647

Sedbury Pharmacy - 01291 622532

Revd David Treharne, Tidenham Church – 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

## COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Are you interested in your local community and do you have an understanding of local affairs? Are you able and willing to represent the Parish Council and the Community? You may be what we're looking for!

For more information and all other enquiries 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) for details on Councillors, Policies, Meeting Agendas and Minutes and other information that may be of use.

**Where is the stile opposite situated ----->?**



Jubilee Stone Parson's Allotment

## CHASE GARDEN CLUB

If you love gardens/gardening, you might enjoy interesting talks, visits & outings with us. Come to our next meeting, nice people and a tasty supper before you go home! We meet in Chase School, Rosemary Lane on Tidenham Chase. New members welcome! Next meeting 7.30pm, Friday 20th November. Topic, "Fruit Bushes" with Mervin Reed.

