

Annual Parish Meeting

10th APRIL 2019 - 7pm Tutshill War Memorial Hall

All Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting, which must take place between 1st March and the 1st June (inclusive).

Purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting

The purpose of the meeting is so that the Parish Council can explain what it has been doing over the last year and it enables the electors to have their say on anything they consider is important to the people of the Parish.

Who can attend the meeting?

The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting of all the local government electors for the Parish. It is NOT a meeting of the Parish Council but rather a meeting in which the public may participate. Anyone may attend but only registered electors of Tidenham Parish may speak.

Will I be able to ask questions and make suggestions?

Yes, any registered elector may ask questions of the Council, which will usually be answered by the Chairperson, the Clerk to the Council, or a designated Councillor.

An elector may also make suggestions and comment on anything pertinent to the people of Tidenham. This will be welcomed and is the whole purpose of the meeting.

Who will chair the meeting?

The Chairperson of the Parish Council will chair the meeting. If the Chair is not able to attend, then the meeting will elect a chairperson from amongst those electors present.

Will Parish Councillors be there?

Usually they do attend and will speak if need be, but the purpose of the meeting is to enable the ordinary electors to have their say. Councillors will listen with interest and as electors themselves, also have the opportunity to raise questions and make comments if they wish.

Will notes be taken of the meeting?

Yes, a written record of the meeting will be taken and will be presented at a future meeting of Council for their consideration.

What else happens at the meeting?

In recent years we have invited voluntary organisations and when possible the local Police Officer from the Local Policing Team attends.

How long will the meeting last?

As long as need be within reason. It really depends on those present and the number of questions and the discussion that is raised. Generally, the meeting will last no longer than 2 hours.

We hope to see you at the meeting - more details will be published a week before the meeting on the Parish Council website and Noticeboards.

Scam Mail

Royal Mail has contacted the Parish Council for help in its bid to raise awareness of scam mail.

Royal Mail never knowingly delivers scam mail and understands the distress that it can cause when received. This type of mail is illegal and targets the most vulnerable in society. Typically, scam mail involves professional fraudsters sending convincing letters that are designed to trick people out of money or other valuables. Scam mail can include bogus competitions and fake prize draws. This mostly originates from overseas and is hard to detect.

Anyone can receive scam mail and even the most alert people can be taken in by these criminals.

Royal Mail is committed to doing all it can to protect its customers - the introduction of an industry wide code of practice, working with other postal operators and continuously working with postmen and women across the UK who are the eyes and ears in the local community.

Should you be concerned that someone you know is in receipt of scam mail please contact Royal Mail by:

- Writing to Royal Mail at FREEPOST SCAM MAIL, enclosing any items that are suspected of being scam mail;
- Calling the Royal Mail Scam Mail Helpline on 0800 0113 466; or
- Emailing: scam.mail@royalmail.com



Useful Numbers

Chepstow Citizens Advice Bureau -
01291 623437

Samaritans - 116 123

Gloucestershire County Council - Main
Switchboard - 01452 425000

County Councillor -w 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 -
03454 040506

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



Welcome to the Spring 2019 edition of our 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.



SHIRLEY'S GROVE

On 16th February the call for volunteers to help with some long overdue woodland management was answered by no less than 24 enthusiastic and willing helpers! Everyone worked hard and enjoyed themselves in the fresh air.

Thinning of the trees in Shirley's Grove will encourage the stumps to coppice and the woody shrub layer regrowth under the remaining trees, along with tall herbs, will make it very aesthetically pleasing and good for wildlife.

The Parish Council has a rolling programme of annual ground maintenance in the Grove where a proportion of brambles are left under trees as they harbour new tree seedlings and overwintering insects - which again puts more life into Shirley's Grove.

Many thanks to Richard Hawkrige and Kevin Caster from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust for their time organising the event and on the day. More to be done next winter so watch out for notices nearer the time!

Thank you to all who took part!

MAY 2ND 2019 ELECTION DAY

Elections for Parish and District Councillors will take place on Thursday 2nd May 2019.

The closing date for registering to vote in these elections is Friday 12th April. Please contact the Forest of Dean District Council 01594 810000 www.fdean.gov.uk for details of how to register.

Your vote does matter

Defibrillators

With the help of a grant from Forest of Dean District Council, the Parish Council installed 4 defibrillators throughout the Parish in 2017/2018. They are located:

Woodcroft - in the old telephone box

Tutshill - on the War Memorial Hall

Sedbury - next to the Chemist shop

Beachley - on the bus shelter

There are also defibrillators 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.

In an emergency dial 999 and you will be directed to the nearest available defibrillator.

Once at the defibrillator location follow the instructions on the cabinet. Dial 999 and you will be given clear and precise instructions including the access code. Do not attempt to force the cabinet - emergency support is essential.



Join the Tidenham Parish Council Facebook Group and keep up to date on what's happening in the Parish.

Tidenham Parish Council would like to thank Bobby and Bhayna Nakum of Lifestyle Express, Tutshill for once again sponsoring the delivery of this Newsletter. This has helped to save public money. Please contact the Clerk for further information.

Roy Birch



In November 2018 Tidenham Parish Councillor, Roy Birch retired after serving as a councillor for 33 years. During this time Roy served on all of the Council committees and was Council chairman. He worked alongside some 34 different councillors and with 6 different Clerks. Roy was also a County Councillor for 8 years and a District Councillor, where he served for 24 years. During his time at the Forest of Dean District Council he served on various committees and chaired the Audit Committee.

Roy was also formerly a board member of Two Rivers Housing and a member of the board of Governors of Offa's Mead Primary School in Sedbury for about 20 years.

Roy has been a very popular member of Tidenham Parish Council. He has been a stickler for protocol and acted as mentor and adviser to new councillors. Roy's support and dedication will be greatly missed.

At their December meeting, as a token of appreciation for his long service and dedication to the Parish, Tidenham Parish Council presented Roy with a presentation plate bearing the Council logo and a Tidenham Remembers book.

In further recognition of Roy's service to the community Tidenham Parish Council has agreed to confer on him the title of 'Honorary Freeman of the Parish'. This title will be marked with a special presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting, to be held on Wednesday 10th April 2019 at 7pm in Tutshill War Memorial Hall to which all members of the Parish are welcome.



DAA Dementia Action Alliance
FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT

Tidenham Parish Council continues to support the Dementia Action Alliance and we were delighted to welcome 12 people to our awareness session in November 2018.

There are lots of wonderful support groups & activities that happen across the Forest of Dean District for people living with dementia and family members, carers or friends. In Sedbury we have:

Sedbury Memory Cafe – 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month 2pm-3.30pm at Sedbury Space – themed activities, chat & refreshments.

Contact: T: 01291 626158 E: info@sedburyspace.org.uk

Sedbury Shared Reading Group – Last Wednesday of every month 2pm-3.30pm at Sedbury Space – reading or listening together with refreshments.

Contact: Pauline Morgan - paulinemorgan23@gmail.com 07724738848 or Jacqui Long 07818517357

For more information on District-wide activities and groups or to find out more about the Forest of Dean Dementia Action Alliance please contact:

Andy Morgan-Watts, Dementia Champion

T: 01594 529381

E: andrew.morgan-watts@live.co.uk

If you're worried about your memory, or someone else's, contact your GP or call the National Dementia Helpline: 0300 222 1122 or visit www.alzheimers.org.uk/memoryworry. The earlier you seek help, the sooner you can access information, support & advice.



Poor's Allotment Helen Molyneux (Hon Sec & Treasurer, Poor's Allotment Trust)

Very shortly we shall be experiencing some signs of spring weather, so perhaps now is the time to plan future expeditions. We are all asked to be mindful of the fragile state of our planet; climate change is already happening. Fortunately we here haven't experienced the dramatic events that other continents have suffered from which include wild fires, floods and extreme cold.

With this in mind, why not plan to visit our local beauty spots, so that we can walk rather than drive?

We have a wonderful opportunity on our doorstep.

The Allotment is cared for on behalf of the Trustees of Poor's by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. They are experts in conservation and great strides have been made over the past years to return the Allotment to its original state. It was at one time the largest area of heathland in Gloucestershire and work is going on to make sure that it is returned to that condition.

A walk around the Allotment is a joy. The views across the Severn can be breathtaking. At the entrances, admire the beautifully carved gates. By following the waymarks anticlockwise the ponds can be visited. Rest your legs on the bench that was placed in memory of one of the past trustees and soak up the atmosphere. The bluebells and wild orchids are a sight for sore eyes.

The information panels that have been erected can point visitors in the direction of everything that can be seen. Unfortunately, some vandalism has taken place on the Allotment and last year dormouse nesting boxes were damaged. The dormouse is a protected species under the following legislation:

- England Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 2 Schedules 5 & 6
- CROW Act 2000
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
- Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations 2010

Please, if you see any evidence of this type of behaviour, report it to Gloucestershire Wildlife. We need to protect all wildlife.

Thanks are due from the Trustees to Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and in particular to Kevin Caster for all the hard work they have undertaken on our behalf. In spite of cuts and some insecurity about future funding, we know that the future of Poor's can be protected. We all need to play our part to make sure that future generations can enjoy what we are enjoying now.

The Trustees received this from Kevin last year:

"Panel is in, project complete and it looks great. The whole reserve has the feel and focus that I hoped we could deliver. Interpretation is pitched perfectly – I love it. Visitors won't realise how it is affecting them but I am very confident it emphasises the wildlife but also our conviction of the importance of the place for people to cherish too."

Thank you, Kevin.

VANDALISM COSTS MONEY!

Vandalism of Parish Council property during the past few months will have cost almost £1000 in repairs. This is money that could otherwise have been spent on improving or adding Parish facilities. Please report vandalism to the Police – we are all paying for it!

Tutshill Community Pre-School

Tutshill Community Pre-School has been at the heart of the Tutshill community for over 40 years. We are trying to become a completely child-led setting. Thanks to a recent grant from Tidenham Parish Council we have been able to purchase new furniture and equipment which will help make sure that we achieve our goal. The furniture and equipment is not only an upgrade to what we had before, but has also been designed and made specifically to support early years learning. It has been set up in a bespoke way unique to our setting so that the children can move around independently, choosing what activities they would like to do and accessing the resources with minimal assistance. Without this grant we would not have been able to provide such a high quality setting to the community from which many local children will benefit in the years to come. Thank you to Tidenham Parish Council for all their support in helping us to deliver this.



CAP was founded by one man in 1996, to help those who are struggling with debt.

In his home town of Bradford, John Kirkby believed God was calling him to sacrifice his career in finance and use his knowledge of the industry to help the poor.

Today CAP has expanded to over 300 debt centres across the UK, with over 8000 families being visited in their own homes by a debt coach.

Chepstow has had a CAP debt centre since 2014, covering all of the NP16 and NP26 postcodes. It has helped many families in the area become debt free. There are numerous ways that people get into debt, from ill health to relationship breakdown and, not restricted to one class or group, it can affect anybody.

If you are struggling with debt, then please call our help line 0800 328 0006, where an appointment with the Chepstow & District debt centre manager David Price will be booked. Our services are FREE, and open to everyone regardless of religious beliefs. David will then come and visit you in your home. After gathering all of your financial information our advisors at CAP HQ will recommend a route out of debt for you. David will then be able to support you along this journey to becoming debt free.

For more information about CAP then please visit our website www.capuk.org, or for debt help call us on 0800 328 006