

## Tidenham Parish Council Youth Project

Tidenham Youth Project is an initiative set up by Tidenham Parish Council to engage with young people and their families to assess what provision they would like to be made available to them. By working alongside young people to design services and allocate funding, the project hopes young people feel heard and can engage with their local communities, have more opportunities and a more positive outlook on their future.

The Project is now in its second year and is growing in success and becoming part of the local community thanks to the dedicated work of Youth Worker, Emily Timmins.

Summer Holiday Club - August 2022

Tidenham Parish Council and St Luke's Church put together a packed itinerary over the summer 2022 holidays.

Activities ranged from sports and games to mosaic making and rock climbing. A total of 80 young people attended at least one of the clubs throughout August, providing free activities at a time when many parents are faced with the extra financial pressures.

The team worked hard to plan a range of events for young people of all ages and different interests. Parents were invited to attend a free cinema trip with their children to spend quality time together as a family whilst also getting to know the new youth leaders and build trust.

Parents have thanked those involved: "The Cinema trip was fantastic and such a help to me as my car was broken all holidays! Thank you so much to everyone involved we loved it."

Another parent said: "The children enjoyed the opportunity to go

on a coach trip to the cinema and enjoyed being able to choose their drink and snack too."

The Summer Holiday Club was designed to engage with young people and their families with the new youth provision in Tidenham, whilst also supporting families during the school holidays by providing free events.

Sedbury Family Fete - August 2022

A group of local mums hosted a family fete at Sedbury Village Hall to raise funds for Tidenham Youth Project.

The event included face painting, bouncy castle, ice cream van, children's funfair, Name the Teddy, Hook a Duck, Tombola, Lucky Dip, Severn Area Rescue Association (SARA) and a very special visit from Snow White and Spiderman.

Sportily ran an old school sports day for children throughout the day, whilst volunteers from Sedbury Space served burgers and hotdogs from the BBQ.

The team raised a total of £332 for the project which will be used to fund fun days out for local families and their children.

Christmas Holiday Club - December 2022

A mosaic workshop and trips to Whirlikidz and ten pin bowling were all well attended during the school holiday period. These provided activities for local young people and parents. A Carol Service was hosted in conjunction with St Luke's Parish and a local parents' group, with Chepstow Musical Choir at the Royal British Legion, which raised money towards a bus trip for young people and their families in the summer.

## Useful Numbers

**Chepstow Citizens Advice Bureau** - 01291 623437

**Samaritans** - 116 123

**Gloucestershire County Council** - Main Switchboard - 01452 425000

**County Councillor** - Mr Chris McFarling 01594 531225

**Mark Harper, MP.** Tel: 01594 823482. Email: harperm@parliament.uk

**Streetlights** (Free-phone) - 08000 514514

**Police** (All non-emergency) - 101

**Crime stoppers** - 0800555111

**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** - 08082231133

**Education Helpline** 01452 425300

**Environmental Helpline** 01452 425500

**Forest of Dean District Council Main Switchboard** - 01594 810000

**Bulky Items Collection** 01594 810000

**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

## Chepstow Cat Sitting & Grooming Service

Available over Christmas and New Year Holidays

**Double award - winning cat care.**

Our service is flexible and tailored to suit your cat's needs, allowing them to remain in their own home reducing stress levels, our service is available 365 days a year, fully insured, qualified in all areas of cat care, can administer medication if required.

Please visit the website for full details and to see our testimonials from our clients.

www.chepstow-cat-sitting.co.uk  
Tel: 07713175481



## Save the dates!!

**TIDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HUB**

**Saturday 18th March 2023 11am - 3pm**

The Hub provides an opportunity to have your say on important matters that occur within our area. It is an opportunity to share ideas and discuss important topics and issues that shape and impact our community. By participating you can actively contribute to, and inform, local decision making, view projects and proposals, engage with community groups, explore volunteering opportunities and community activities.

There will be representatives from SARA, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and many more.

There will be free activities for children and refreshments served.

All welcome - Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, King Alfred's Road, Sedbury.

**Tidenham Annual Parish Meeting**

This is a meeting for all people in the Parish. Come along and find out what the Parish Council has been doing over the past year, meet other people from the community and meet your Parish Councillors.

Wednesday 5th April 7pm

Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall

All welcome - refreshments will be served from 6.30pm.

Mobile Visits available

**Foot Health Professional**  
Ceri Crossland. Dip MCFHP, MAFHP  
01291 627157 0774 8324416  
ceri.crossland@btinternet.com  
<https://foxglove-therapies.co.uk>

Routine nail care....Nail trimming & thickness reduction  
Corn & callous removal....Dry, cracked heels  
Fungal nails....Diabetic foot care



## Tidenham Parish Council Newsletter - Spring 2023

Whilst it has been a while since the last Parish Council newsletter, the Council has had another busy year.

The Youth Project run by Youth Worker Emily Timmins, goes from strength to strength and has been able to engage with young people throughout the Parish offering activities and support for them and their parents. I am pleased to announce that a Youth Club will be starting in the next month or so and all will be welcome - details will be published locally.

The Council has continued with its busy workload. The Speedwatch initiative has been very successful and thanks to persistent pressure from the Parish Council some progress has been made on the introduction of speeding measures in the Parish. (See newsletter article.) The Council is also a stakeholder in the Chepstow Transport Study.

Since Tidenham Parish Council resolved to support the District's Climate Emergency Declaration, three Parish Councillors have been appointed to the Forest Climate Network. This brings together parties from all of the Forest of Dean and aims to suggest and initiate practical solutions for reducing CO2 in the Forest and Parish as a whole.

The Planning Committee has considered a total of 50 + planning applications as consultee to the District Council and has contributed to the consultation on the District Preferred Local Plan. It is also working with Gloucestershire Rural Community Council following the results of the Local Housing Needs Survey carried out during 2022.

The Amenities Committee of the Council has continued to maintain the 6 play areas for which it is responsible along with the grass cutting, dog waste and litter collection throughout the Parish.

The community garden planned for an area next to the allotments in Buttington Road now has planning permission and any groups or individuals wishing to be a part of this exciting new initiative should contact the Clerk.

Recognising the need for an update to the kitchen facilities at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall, the Council was able to secure grant funding to enable the installation of a fully equipped kitchen. This allows volunteers the facilities to provide much needed meals for those struggling in the current financial situation as well as upgrading the hall for future hire.

In collaboration with other community groups, the Parish Council has introduced regular Community Hub events. The next is on 18th March at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall from 11am to 3pm - more details later in the newsletter. Please come along and find out what is happening in your community.

I would like to thank Councillors, the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for all of their hard work over the past year.

All information on council meetings can be found on the website [www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk)

I hope you find the newsletter interesting and please contact the Clerk if you require any further information or wish to add an article to a future edition.

**Jan Koning** - Parish Council Chairman

## Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Gloucestershire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/glos> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Gloucestershire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

**John Harris**

[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk) john@walkinginengland.co.uk

## Tidenham Parish Council residents need photo ID to vote at elections on 4th May 2023

For the first time, residents in Tidenham Parish will need to show photographic ID to vote at this year's local elections. Residents are being urged to make sure they are ready to vote in May by checking they have an accepted form of ID.

Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK or EEA drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID online at [voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk/](http://voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk/) or by completing a paper form.

The full list of accepted ID is available on the Electoral Commission's website, along with more information about the new requirement and details of how to apply for the free ID, at [electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](http://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID).

Anyone who wants to have their say in the elections this May must also be registered to vote. It only takes five minutes to register online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). Voters wishing to apply to their council for free ID should first make sure they are registered to vote.

The requirement to show photo ID at the polling station, is a new requirement, introduced by the UK Government's Elections Act which was passed last year and comes into effect for the first time this May.

To apply for the Voter Authority Certificate, voters will need to provide a photo, full name, date of birth, the address at which they are registered to vote and their National Insurance number.

If you need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate and would like help doing so please contact the Parish Clerk, Carol Hinton [clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk) 01594 530779.



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

# The Rising Sun Community Pub - Woodcroft

## The Sun Rises Again

On October the 29th the Rising Sun Woodcroft community pub was officially opened after being closed for over 11 years.

This was a really historic day which showed the strength of community after a struggle for a decade to retain a much needed community asset. The opening was attended by over a hundred locals and the Community pub and everyone seems delighted with the feeling of a community coming together and a sense of warmth in the pub.

The campaign started back in 2013 when locals discovered that the recently sold pub was not to be opened as a Freehouse pub as the community had been led to believe, but bought to be developed into housing.

A public meeting was held to look at the community buying the pub and the 'Save Our Sun' committee was formed. The owners were approached with an offer but this was refused. 'SOS' then nominated the pub under the localism act as an Asset of Community Value in Dec 2013, this was then challenged by the owners and upheld by the Forest of Dean District Council, the owners then took this listing to First Tier Tribunal (only the 7th in the country at the time). In 2014 the owners, Worthy Developments, applied for planning to turn the pub into two four-bedroom houses. 'SOS' co-ordinated a huge objection to this planning application as it would result in us losing the last community facility and planning was refused. We also won the first tier tribunal and the building was ACV listed, (meaning that it could only be used for community use. Any change of use would require planning permission and any sale would need to be notified to the council to allow a community group to have a chance to bid). Worthy Developments submitted a planning appeal and the inspectorate came and, with help from Pete Tyler, the SOS committee won the appeal.

Alongside these battles, fundraisers and community consultations were being held. We had a memorable film night and quiz night at the Drill Hall. We became a legal entity, a Community Benefit Society - The Rising Sun Woodcroft Community Pub Ltd in November 2018.

Unfortunately, Worthy Developments remained entrenched in their view of wanting to turn the pub into residential accommodation and did not want to negotiate. In the meantime the pub was deteriorating and becoming an eyesore as no maintenance was being carried out. By this time it was 2018, the years rolled around as we approached the Forest of Dean council about what could be done to help.

After another massive community consultation we were pledged over £200,000 in community shares and we approached the council about obtaining a Compulsory Purchase Order to buy the pub on behalf of the community and in Nov 2019 this made history by being served, only the second pub ever to have this power used on it in this country. Unfortunately, Worthy Developments objected to the CPO and submitted another planning application, which was refused. By then the Covid 19 pandemic was in full flow and Worthy Developments took the planning decision to appeal. Sadly, the FOD council dropped the CPO because of staff pressures due to Covid 19 and so the future of the whole project came down to the planning appeal. We had already renewed the ACV listing until 2024.

Just before Christmas 2020 we found that we had won the planning appeal. This was amazing news. However, FOD council said that they would not renew the CPO and so there was a stalemate. Worthy Developments had a building that they could not use as anything other than a pub at least until 2024 and we could not force them to sell. So, we negotiated again and happily in Spring 2021 we reached an agreement that Worthy Developments would sell to us.

With help from the Plunkett foundation, we launched a massive community consultation, leafleted houses, held public meetings and developed our share prospectus. In July 2021 we applied for grant funding from the Community Ownership Fund, a new government fund to fund projects just like ours, but competition was stiff. We launched our share offer in Sept 2021 and managed to raise an amazing £350,000 in just over 4 weeks from 240 shareholders.

In November 2021 we learned the fantastic news that we were one of only two successful pub recipients of the Community ownership fund in the whole of England which meant that we would have money to complete the pub refurbishment.

We had the amazing good fortune to have Mr Richard Antrum to volunteer to be our project manager and, whilst the conveyancing was ongoing, he did a sterling job of organizing quotes and tradespeople and seeing the project through.

The pub was in an incredibly sorry state when we finally bought it on the 3rd of March 2022. That weekend 30 volunteers from the community emptied the pub and filled 2 skips, pulling down ceilings and bringing out the bar. The roofers came in within two weeks of purchase to make the pub watertight and we were on our way. All of our tradespeople were fantastic. Soaring costs of materials and CPI made things difficult but the generosity of local businesses and our volunteer army saved the day. We have had at least one hundred volunteers through the door and the pub has been sanded, fenced, painted and mended by the skill and love of the volunteers.

The pub, as well as being a great place to eat and drink, will be a community hub where groups can meet and we also have a private upstairs community room for about 12 people that can be hired for various uses, all enquiries via the managers and we are very grateful to the Mopla Cottages fund for their grant towards equipping this. There will be volunteer activities taking place at the pub to help the wider community such as coffee mornings for the isolated, parent and toddler groups etc. and please contact [admin@therisingsunwoodcroft.co.uk](mailto:admin@therisingsunwoodcroft.co.uk) if you are interested in helping with these.

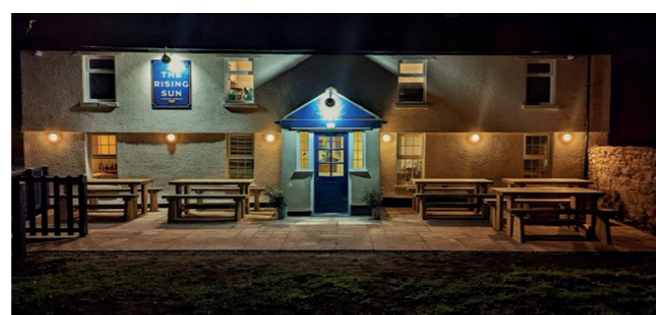
The soft opening two weeks were magical with the community really coming together and the committee's vision and hope is for a thriving, well supported community hub that welcomes all and goes from strength to strength.

It's been a long journey, but it has been worth it.

Thanks for all the support

### The Rising Sun Committee

Michelle Hayes, Steve Hebborn, Gerald Archer, Neil Bedford, Lynne Fletcher, Ged Weir & Richard Hodge



## Castleford House Nursing Home

Congratulations to the team at Castleford House for their success at last year's Care and Support West Awards. The following from their manager, Ben Miller:

No strangers to winning awards, Castleford House went to Ashton Gate Stadium, Bristol, on Saturday 8th August 2022 to the Care and Support West Awards for an incredible night.

The awards celebrate the hard work and dedication of care professionals in the West, representing care across Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, covering approximately 500 care providers.

The Castleford House team was shortlisted for four awards at this event:

Frontline Nurse of the year: Julie Norton  
Activities Coordinator of the year: Amelia Pace  
Manager of the year: Ben Miller  
Care Home of the year: Castleford House

The team took a lot of support, with thirteen team members representing all the departments dressed up and looking fabulous. It was great to see such unity and support in the team and more would have gone had the date not changed at short notice. Those who went were Rosie Bethell,

Megan Barrett, Racheal Houlding, Ann Jones, Cheryl Jones, Chris Jones, Sarah Jones, Katherine King, Anna Mason, Jade Mason, Ben Miller, Julie Norton and Amelia Pace.

Our first winner of the night was nurse Julie Norton, whose nomination noted that she led the home through a severe COVID-19 outbreak, supports people and their families during the end of their life and has supported several colleagues to progress and learn.

Secondly came Amelia Pace, described as "an exceptional activities coordinator", offering an extensive range of imaginative activities, inspiring a renewed sense of purpose for people.

Then home manager Ben Miller, "clearly passionate about his role", focussing on creating a happy, healthy workplace, leading by example and sharing his skills and practice widely within the social care sector.

Finally came the big one, winning Care Home of the year. Castleford House has an excellent record of recruitment and retention and an innovative culture. The team's commitment and dedication was highlighted during the pandemic, especially a COVID-19 outbreak, with no use of agency or external staffing and minimal disruption thanks to an amazing and supportive team.



To be shortlisted for four awards was amazing, to win just one would have been incredible so to come home with a clean sweep of all four awards was sensational!

These awards mean so much to a team that invests so much energy, time, passion, care and effort into what they do. Every single one of the team deserves credit and congratulations for winning.

The winners were automatically nominated for their respective categories at the "Great British Care Awards" regionals and I am pleased to report that Amelia Pace won "Activities Coordinator of the Year" at the Southwest Regionals of the Great British Care Awards on Saturday 26th November. She now goes through to the national finals on Friday 17th March 2023 in Birmingham to determine who will be crowned best activities coordinator in the country!

## Community Speed Watch

A big 'thank you' to all who took part in the seven speed check sessions in July and October 2022. These took place on the B4228 Coleford Road on the approach to and from Woodcroft to Tutshill, near Bishton Lane and on Gloucester Road, near Elm Road. The speeds of 693 vehicles were checked in these sessions and of these 121 vehicles were doing 35mph or more, 18% of vehicles were speeding. Details of speeding vehicles are forwarded to the Police. The Community Speedwatch team plan on running more sessions in the New Year. If interested in joining please get in touch.

Thanks to persistent campaigning by the Parish Council over the past few years, Gloucestershire County Council Highways Department have agreed to the installation of road surface markings indicating the speed limit roundel on a red background. These have been, or will be, installed on entering Gloucester Road and Beachley Road from the A48 and on the Coleford Road approaching Woodcroft.

The Parish Council has obtained signs indicating that '20 is plenty' that are to be displayed around the Parish, along with similar wheelie bin stickers for people living on busy roads. It has also successfully bid for a community speed awareness camera to be installed shortly in the Parish.

## Tidenham Community Awards Scheme

Do you know of somebody who contributes to the community of Tidenham Parish who you feel should be recognised for their work?

A new Community Awards Scheme is due to be launched shortly and nominations will be sought for those who make a difference to the area. This may be as a volunteer, organiser or someone who goes above and beyond in their job role or as a business.

Further details will be launched shortly through Facebook, the Parish Council website and noticeboards and local shops and businesses. Meanwhile, have a think about who you think deserves an award.

## New Kitchen

In response to the cost of living crisis, and to ensure the future of the village hall, Tidenham Parish Council agreed to upgrade the kitchen facilities at Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall. This involved the fitting of a new kitchen in one of the original disabled toilets. The work was supported by local county councillor Chris McFarling through the authority's Build Back Better Fund and by the Mopla Cottages Charity. Local builder Josh Barker, of Atlas Renovations, was able to carry out the work at short notice and, in order to support the community in which he lives and works, did it at cost price. Howdens of Chepstow gave a discount on the kitchen units. Mr Barker joined Parish Council Chairman, Jan Koning and councillor Michael Swambo to show Councillor McFarling the new kitchen who remarked that it was an excellent example of the community helping the community.

(Photo courtesy Forest Review)



The Parish Council thanks the Hall Committee for their support with the project which will shortly be finished with the re-instatement of the disabled toilet nearby.

The new kitchen was first put to use to bring some festive cheer when the Sedbury Space community team hosted 50 people for Christmas Day lunch in the hall as well as distributing 35 meals in the area.

The new facilities will help provide a wide range of benefits, including fostering a stronger sense of community and belonging, and playing an important role in building a more resilient community that helps to look after the isolated and lonely.