



Stedham with Iping Parish Council

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 3
July 2021



MEET THE PARISH COUNCIL

Hello, in this edition we would like to introduce some of the Parish Councillors. We asked the following questions:

1. How long have you been a Parish Councillor?
2. Why did you join?
3. What do you enjoy?
4. Where is your favourite place in the Parish?

TERRY - Almost 2 years

2. I have seen many changes in the village over the 43 years, after retiring, I thought I could use my time to help maintain and improve our environment.
3. Enhance the heritage of the Parish. Coordinating the refurbishment of the notice boards and finger posts.
4. Walking on Public footpaths, especially along the river Rother and on the wooded paths.

AMANDA – Around 3 Years

2. Volunteering has always had a place in my consciousness. An opportunity to share, learn, borrow and pass on new skills and experiences.
3. Anything I am asked, especially when something really important becomes a joint team effort.
4. All of it, and beyond....

LUCA – March 2021

2. I was drawn to the Council out of a sense of commitment to our community
3. Engaging the parish in our new Social Media outlook and establishing public awareness.
4. Looking over to Iping Bridge and Mill Pond House's glorious garden.

RUTH – Just over 2 Years

2. Interested in the well-being of the village and its environment.
3. All things out of doors... trees, flowers, grass, the commons.
4. Anywhere along the river.



STEDHAM STEPPING STONES AND MILL

As you may know, the Environment Agency (EA) has dropped the level of the water between Stedham Mill and Iping Weir by raising the Old Mill Sluice at Stedham to reduce pressure on the old building which is suffering from age and a lack of repair.

On the 9th June there was a failure of the newer sluice at the weir, resulting in a significant drop in water level. The EA responded but were unable to fix the fault immediately, so the sluice was placed on manual control. This has seen EA staff at the site for some time and with the inclement weather they have struggled to balance the water levels. Many days has seen the level high enough to put water over the stepping stones and the ford. Reports on both issues are available on the Council Website.

The Council continues to engage with the EA and others over the long term position of the Mill sluices and our section of the Rother. The EA report on their vision for the Rother is needed before anyone can move forward.

The EA aim is for a lower, more natural, water level but how would you like to see this beautiful heritage location area left? Please let us know.

Speed Awareness and Traffic - Links can be found on the Parish website to documents with some useful advice on how to report antisocial driving or parking.



PHONE BOX

The new parts have arrived for the Stedham Telephone Box; new frames, glass, paint and signs. A new wooden cupboard will be installed on the back wall of the Box to hold maps, leaflets and



recommended local walks and places of interest, etc, etc. Neil Read, a member of the Parish Council, very kindly volunteered to make both cupboards, one for Stedham and one for Iping. He is hoping the one for Stedham will be ready within the next few weeks. All that is required now is a change in the weather and a voluntary labour force so that the Box can be cleaned up, repaired and repainted. Please contact the Clerk (Page 7) if you would like to be involved.

FINGER POSTS

Whilst travelling around the Parish you may have spotted the refurbishments being carried out on the 4 Finger Posts.

The process began by removing the arms and cleaning the posts down before applying a protective coat of red oxide paint. They have been given a fresh lick of paint and fitted back together, in some cases the finger boards and finials have been replaced like for like.



THE SERPENT TRAIL:

Take a walk-through habitat rarer than rainforest

If you hear the words ‘trail’ and South Downs, your first thought is probably of the world-famous South Downs Way. But there’s also a lesser-known trail that reveals some of the most beautiful and rare heathland found in Europe. A colourful habitat teeming with reptiles, amphibians, and rare birds.

Now the 65-mile long Serpent Trail, so-called because of its resemblance to a snake on a map, has been upgraded and given a new lease of life. It just so happens to lead right through Stedham and Iping commons.

As part of the update, sections have been re-routed off roads, such as where the trail now leads south out of Iping common to avoid walking on Terwick Lane. The trail is now colour coded by direction so that walkers can follow the route from the head or tail or start from any point.

Top Image: Stedham common: Credit Sam Moore/SDNPA

The patchwork of lowland heath sites along the Serpent Trail are a stronghold for all six of the UK’s native reptile species, including the elusive smooth snake and the striking sand lizard. In the spring, lizards can often be seen sunning themselves on south-facing spots at various heathland sites along the trail. Look out for the males that take on a bright green hue during mating season during late April and May!



Male Sand Lizard: Credit Derek Middleton

To download the new trail guide and to find out more visit the South Downs National Park Website and search for the Serpent Trail.

Article by Olivia French,
Heathlands Reunited
Communications and
Engagement Officer

STEDHAM BEES

Stedham Bees was started in 2019 by Vince at Mottistone Cottage in Stedham after joining the Chichester Beekeepers association and taking an apiary course. Shortly afterwards he took delivery of the 1st colony and in a short period of time had honey. Although very costly, beekeeping can be a fascinating hobby with plenty of challenges. Regular inspections during the season and careful swarm management ensure that they stay onsite. It's instinctive that bees want to swarm, it's their way of multiplying.

Now a familiar sight from St James's graveyard the apiary will be increasing this summer with 3 hives awaiting new occupants, Vince will also be commencing Colony and Queen rearing this Summer as well as holding apiary experience days.



Thank you, Vince, for sharing your story. If you live in the Parish and would like to share your story, please get in touch.

PENSIONER'S LUNCH CLUB

Sue Payne, after many years of generous service to the community organising the monthly lunches for local pensioners in the Stedham Memorial Hall, is retiring, The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity, having received many requests, to say a VERY BIG THANK YOU on behalf of the local community to Sue for all the hard work she has put in over the years. Another VERY BIG THANK YOU is also owed to Brian Allan, The Chef, also retiring. He was there even longer than Sue and cooked hundreds of excellent meals over the years.

Sue and Brian's departure leaves two big gaps in the organisation. Is there anyone out there who would be willing help to ensure the Lunch Club can continue? Please contact Sue on: susancarolpayne@btinternet.com 01730 815644

TREE PLANTING

First of all we aim to plant 2 'Christmas' trees. We had good feedback as a result of the Christmas tree on the Rec last year, so we will plant one this year rather than buying cut trees. We will also plant one in Common View, once we have the permissions sorted

We can obtain, free of charge, a selection of native trees from the Woodland Trust to create a small copse. If anyone could offer a suitable piece of land, we would love to hear from you. It needs to be about the size of a tennis court.

We would also like to plant a tree for the Queen's Green Canopy, to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee.

Trees need to be ordered as soon as possible so they can be planted between October and March.

If anyone would like to contribute in any way whether it be by offering a piece of land, by turning up with a spade or with any bright ideas please get in touch as soon as possible. Please contact the Clerk. We would like this to be a Parish project.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Subject to any restrictions which may still be in place because of COVID-19, the Parish Council are planning the following events:

AED Training

Who is interested? Let us know. Dates will be decided on, probably for late summer.

Horticulture Show

Saturday 31st July at 3pm
Stedham Memorial Hall

Summer Fete

Not possible this year, but we are looking for volunteers to join the planning group and contribute ideas. Contact the Clerk - details on page 7.

Litter Pick

Re-scheduled for Saturday
13th November 2021

CONGRATULATIONS

To our competition winners and thank you to all who entered and joined in.

Photo Competition was won by Martin Baker, his entry is our front cover. The runner-up was Tony Douglas with Autumn Leaves shown below followed by the other photographic entries. Tony's photograph will be the front cover for our Autumn edition.



From top left to bottom right: Tony Douglas, Chris Steibelt, Sam Sinclair Ford, Andy Cottrell, Caroline Douglas.

I-Spy Competition was won by Elsa and Lulu Nicholson for guessing it was a Fox on the door of The Bakehouse.

Newsletter Name – we've had a number of suggestions but haven't decided yet – so please keep the suggestions coming in.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. REALLY!

Website - <https://www.stedhamwithiping-pc.gov.uk/>

Clerk – clerk@stedhamwithiping-pc.gov.uk / 01730 814575

The Parish Council meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month

Contact the Clerk if you have any queries or comments.

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