



STEDHAM WITH IPING PARISH COUNCIL

Spring Newsletter



Issue no.11 March 2024



Parish Council updates

Hello and welcome to the 11th edition of the Parish Council's Newsletter.

The Annual Budget for 2024-2025 has been completed and a Precept of £25,000, the same as last year, was requested. A copy of the budget can be found on the

Council's website. About 18% of the budget has been allocated to parish improvement and it's hoped to be used amongst other projects to complete the refurbishment of the Iping telephone box, ready to have a Defibrillator installed.

The Council has been awarded a SDNPA grant of £11,000 which will fund the installation of an accessible roundabout in Common View play area. Submissions for next year's grants must be in by 12th April and The Council is considering building a wildlife environment but need to identify a suitable location in the Parish, so please let us know if you'd like to help or have any suggestions or ideas for new projects – that will need funding!

The council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7pm at the Memorial Hall and is open to all members of the public.

Please join us for the next Litter Pick on Sunday March 17. Meet on the green at 10am, refreshments will be provided in the Memorial Hall afterwards. Come and be a Litter Hero and keep our Parish clean and safe for Wildlife.

#Litter
HERO

BIRD-BOX COMPETITION, SEE PAGE 9!



Remember hedges can't be cut while birds are nesting typically between March and August.

It is an offence to harm nesting birds or their eggs, under section 1 of the wildlife and countryside act of 1981.



The Council has re-purposed the old Climbing frame on the Common View Playground and planted willow whips around it to make a little green living playhouse.

Please encourage your children not to pull these out as we are waiting for them to take root. With the current never-ending rain that shouldn't be too long!



We did our post-Christmas, Christmas tree chipping in the New Year, a big thank you to everyone who brought their tree down to the Rec for the team to chip. With your generous donations, we have raised £255 for Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance. The Parish Council would like to say a very big thank you to JR Tree care for providing the chipper, and to the members of the Council who assisted.

The Parish Council is still looking for new councillors to join us! If you'd like a say in how the Council runs, then join up! We meet once a month at 7pm for a couple of hours. Then out of that time you can do as much or as little as you want each month, it's very flexible.

We'd particularly like someone to represent Iping but would like to hear from anyone who's keen!

BT COPPER WIRE CHANGEOVER TO FIBREOPTIC

You may have heard in the news about the BT copper wire switch off and wondered "how will it affect me?" BT are changing cables to make them more efficient.

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

There will be changes to the way some equipment works with the new technology. If you use devices that are connected to your home phone line such as telecare alarms, emergency pendants, dialysis machines and telemetry devices, contact the provider who will help you make sure they are updated and compatible. BT will offer additional support to you.

BT are hoping to finalise the changeover by 2025, but for our area it looks like it will be spring 2024. BT typically informs its customers about any significant changes to its service, so look out in the press for any communication from BT regarding network changes or call **0330 1234 150**.



JOHN HILLS 1936-2023

Photographed on the Bench he presented to the
Parish at the VE77 celebrations.

Our community lost a very special and much-loved resident in December. John Hills worked tirelessly all of his life for his country and for the charities he loved and was a true pillar of the community. He was a long-standing Stedham resident and loved to see his fellow parishioners having fun and looking after each other. If there was a community event, he'd be right in the middle of it!

He attended school in Stedham during the Second World War and left aged 15. He then went on to work as a Cowman at Woodgate Farm in the village for Commander Holbrook, whom he had a great respect for, and he thoroughly enjoyed his job. At 18, he was called up to complete his National Service which he did at the Royal Artillery in Hong Kong in the mid-1950s.

After several jobs in the early 1960s, John secured the job of gardener at Fitzhall, and he stayed there for 34 years until eventually retiring in 2001. After retiring he continued his energy and spirit by keeping his garden pristine, as President of the local bowls club, and as a committee member of The Royal British Legion, collecting rain or shine for veterans who weren't as fortunate as him. He was also a strong supporter of Project 71, a charity helping World War Two veterans on the South Coast.

He had a twinkle in his eye, a kind heart, and endless stories and memories. He was a true gentleman and will be greatly missed by all of us.



OPEN GARDENS 2024

**IN MEMORY OF JOHN HILLS,
WHO LOVED HIS GARDEN**

**SUNDAY JUNE 9TH
2PM-6PM**

**£5 PER GARDEN ENTRY,
WITH ALL PROCEEDS
GOING TO THE BRITISH
LEGION- JOHN'S CHOSEN
CHARITY**

**DONATIONS WELCOME
FROM VISITORS ON THE
DAY, WITH A FREE GLASS
OF BUBBLY FOR ALL AT
THE OLD POST HOUSE**

**PLEASE JOIN IN AND
PHONE ZIGGY ON
07931 625571 TODAY!**

**LAST ENTRIES
BY MAY 1**

Christmas Tea Club was a roaring success! We'll let the feedback speak for itself...



Lovely food. Lovely people. Lovely time. Can't wait for the next one.

It was a great afternoon, thank you.!

I'm glad I came along! Thank you.

The next will be Easter Tea club on 25 March at The Sports Pavilion, £5 a ticket. Please ring Ziggy on 07931 625571 to book.

Thoroughly enjoyed myself and met some more people that I didn't know - amazing food on offer too.

A real treat - a delicious afternoon tea coupled with friends - what's not to enjoy. Thanks to you all.

Lovely . Thank you to everyone who organised this xx

With delicious food from
Tillys Tea Room

Such a good afternoon and what a choice. Thank you so much!

It was lovely thank you.

Was a lovely afternoon great to catch up with some old friends and meet new people. Thank you very much will definitely come again.

With Gluten and dairy free choices



On the 28th of March, **The Horticultural Society** will be having a talk at on Dahlias by Richard Ramsey, who writes a popular blog about gardening. Doors open at 7pm at the Memorial Hall. Then, on the 25th of April, Tom Wilkes-Rios, Stedham's own professional garden designer, will tell us about his experiences exhibiting at Chelsea Flower Show, also at 7pm also at the Memorial Hall. In May, look out for our posters advertising our annual Plant Bring and Buy Sale.

Further Hort Soc dates for your diary:

Saturday 18th May 2pm Plant sale at the Village Hall

Sunday 30th June Garden visit TBA

Saturday 27th July 3pm Summer Flower and Produce Show

Thursday 26th September 7.30pm Talk on "The Worshipful Company of London Gardeners" by Jeremy Herrtage

Annual subscription for a family is £8.00. For further details, please contact Fiona Askew at fiona_askew@btinternet.com



STEDHAM AND IPING CHURCHES SERVICES in 2024

St Mary, Iping Communion at 9.30 am on Sundays 3 March, 7 April and 5 May

St James, Stedham Children's Services at 11 am on Sundays 10 March (Mothering Sunday), 14 April and 12 May

Communion at 9.30 am on Sundays 17 March, 21 April and 19 May

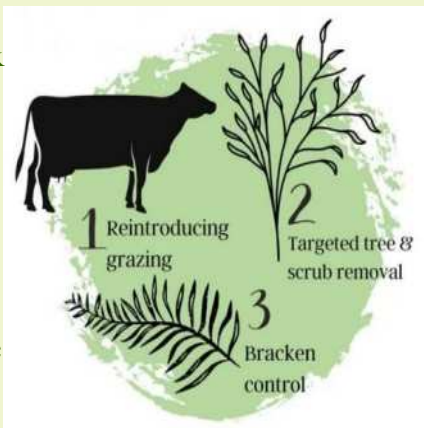
Easter Day Communion at 9.30 am on Sunday 31 March

Date for your Diary This year is the 25th anniversary of our current Church choir and we are inviting all to a celebration Songs of Praise to be followed by a glass of wine on Sunday 7 July 2024 at 6 pm.

COMMONS UPDATE

GRAZING IS AMAZING!

We are hoping to have moved cattle onto the Common by the time this Newsletter is out, so look out for them. Grazing is a key management tool with the cattle helping to graze strands of purple moor grass, reducing its dominance, to browse trees and scrub and to lightly poach the soil, in the process creating germination niches for scarce plants such as Marsh club moss. The livestock of course also leave dung, which is great for invertebrates, birds and fungi. The cattle we use are traditional Sussex cattle as there's nothing better suited or hardier to graze the Sussex landscape.



The heather cutting has also started within the areas marked with white stakes, and bare ground created in key areas for Heath Tiger beetle in particular, whose larva stage needs the bare ground.

I have met with a local man who has been cutting birch for horse jumps in Iping Common for years and have located an area near the second car park which we will be cutting for them to collect in a couple of weeks. The birch is recent regen that we would be looking to remove from the common, and it's great that it's going to be used as a product which is continuing the historical use of heathlands for multiple products, creating the habitats for many different species.

The bridleway on the western side of Iping that was being enclosed by Gorse has also been opened up again.

Sam Buckland
Site manager -west

FLY TIPPING



Let's **S.C.R.A.P.** fly tipping

westsussex.gov.uk/flytipping

There have been several fly-tipping incidents recently in Iping Common car parks, with a significant amount of bathroom related items.

If you need to report any of this illegal and anti-social behaviour, you need to call Chichester District Council on 01243 785166.

If it is blocking a highway, that is the responsibility of West Sussex County Council, phone 01243 642105.

THE TREE MYSTERY

If you did not already know, the oak tree on the Recreation ground has been vandalised. The top 5 feet [the leader] has been purposefully sawn off, and the perpetrator of this inexplicable act remains a mystery!

The tree was planted by Mr Martin Drury some 15 years ago and was a replacement for the Millennium *prunus* which had blown over. It was grown from an acorn from an Oak in Essex that was planted after the English defeated the Spanish armada in July – August 1588, so our oak had a prestigious pedigree. During the years the tree had produced a good crop of acorns and Mr Drury has planted the said acorns and now has grown several 4-foot-high whips. He has kindly agreed to re-plant one of the whips to replace the damaged tree.

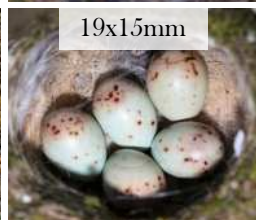
As you can see from the photograph, it has totally ruined the tree; as it will now not grow in the normal way.

Our local PCSO Nathan Ford was contacted, and he carried out some enquiries on the houses around the Recreation ground, but with no success.

If you have any information related to this act of vandalism, please contact the Parish Council in the first instance.

Martin has kindly offered a couple more of the whips to be planted around the Parish, so if you'd like to home one of these special trees, please email the clerk.





SPRING BIRD BOX COMPETITION!

On the opposite page, are some local songbirds and their eggs. The challenge is to match the bird to its eggs! We've given you a clue by the sizes, and matched the Wren and Long Tailed Tit for you...

Draw a line from bird to eggs, cut the page out, write your name and number in the middle, and post in one of our suggestion boxes or to The Old Post House on School Lane. The first 3 correct entries we pull out of the hat will receive a wooden bird box (Donated by www.facebook.com/meadowbankGS - pictured right) to put up in your garden.

Entries must be in by March 22nd. Good luck!



STEDHAM WI

Our winter season has flown by with a mixture of interesting and entertaining evenings. Jo Smith's talk about a collection of letters found in his family's attic gave us a tiny little window into life for those people who signed up to travel to and settle in Australia. His relatives talked of harsh living conditions and lots of children but also mentioned a successful hunt for gold. Sadly, Jo's family have no knowledge of what happened to the gold!

The committee ran a festive crafting session in November where members made themselves a Christmas candle jar and a little pompom hat tree decoration. These sessions are always filled with chatter and fun and everyone seems fairly pleased with the results.

In December we held a shared supper in The Memorial Hall. The committee set festive tables with crackers, and everyone bought a dish to add to the buffet. The result was a delicious spread which we all enjoyed whilst sharing each other's company. It was a lovely evening to round off the year.

We have started the new year off with an interesting talk from Alison Hoyland, an image consultant who explained and demonstrated how your choice of clothing colours can bring out the best in your complexion. She then went on to describe the various body shapes and how styling choices can improve how you look and feel. Members really engaged with her ideas, so we're looking forward to seeing everyone's new looks!

We are also looking forward to the spring season including a cooking demonstration, a Quiz night, and a talk about poison. If you would like to come and give us a try please have a look at our website, Stedham WI or contact us stedhamwi@gmail.com.



On the morning of Friday 1st February, the children got an exciting visit from West Sussex Fire Service. Lots of smiles had by all the children and a valuable educational visit learning about fire safety.



Everyone is pleased to see the new addition to our woodland play area, the Mini Mount. If we are lucky, we hope to purchase further items to enhance our woodland play area. We have to carefully budget for all projects. With the help of FOSS, we hope that each school House Team (Bignor, Beacon, Trundle and Butser) can raise sponsorship by climbing to the summit of our hills!

Midhurst Writers Group is looking for new members.

If you like to write why not drop in for a visit?

We have authors of Thrillers, Poetry, Sci-fi, Local History, Autobiography and more! Everyone is welcome. You'll find us friendly and not at all pretentious! We meet each Monday evening at 7.30 in Stedham memorial Hall. Just call in or call our chairman on 01730 814005.

MIDHURST QUILTERS

We are a small happy group of patchwork quilters and sewers. We sometimes work on group charity projects, or sometimes on our own. New members would be very welcome! We meet at 9.30am to 12 noon on the 2nd Monday of every month at the Memorial Hall. If you are interested in what we do, you are very welcome to drop into one of our meetings, Or phone Margaret on 01730 813041.

Look out for Badgers and Deer crossing roads in Spring when we move around a lot, particularly at dawn and dusk.



We tend to follow well established routes; red warning signs show where these routes are.





STEDHAM

village hall

info@stedhamvillagehall.com

QUIZ NIGHT



Thanks to everyone for making The Memorial Hall Quiz Night a huge sell-out success. We had great fun organising the event and hope to make this a regular part of our calendar. We are very grateful for all the positive comments received.



YOUR OPINIONS NEEDED!

Especially if you have never (or rarely) gone to the village film screenings.

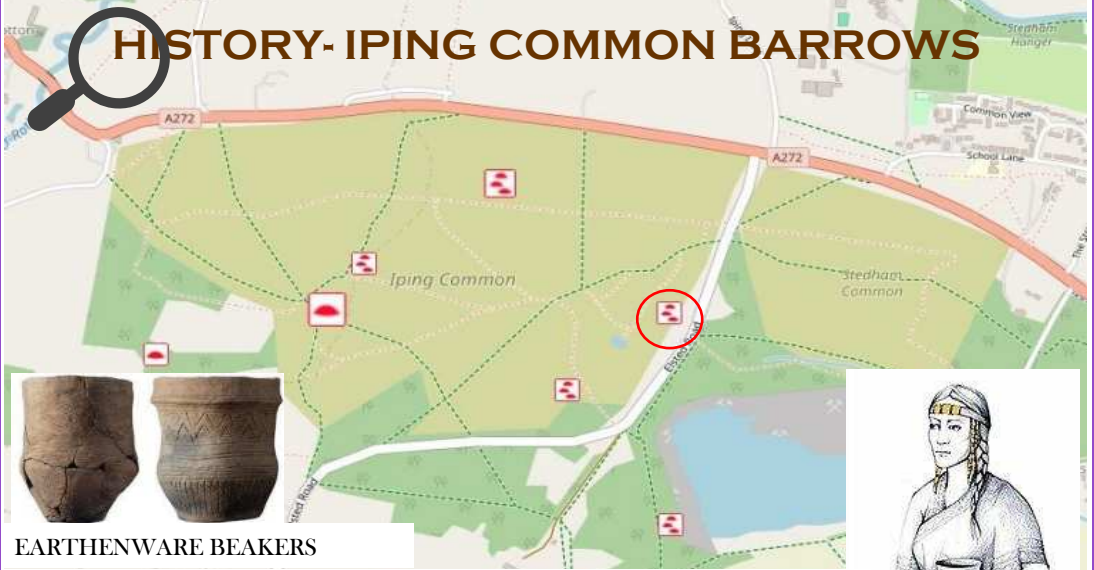
We'd really appreciate it if you could take a couple of minutes to answer a few quick questions about the film night & what we can do to improve it.

Type <https://forms.gle/QMggmQi6eYvb8GXg7> into your search bar. The answers are fully anonymous unless you decide to leave your email address in the last question. Should just take a minute or two!
Thanks!



The Defibrillator is located on the front of the Memorial Hall. We are hoping to have one installed in the Iping Telephone box as soon as possible.

HISTORY- IPING COMMON BARROWS



EARTHENWARE BEAKERS

Bowl Barrows, the most numerous forms of Barrow, are combined funerary monuments and sacred sites dating from the late Neolithic period to the Late Bronze Age, and Iping Common is littered with them. The easiest to find are circled on the map. There is evidence that the two here shared one ditch forming a figure of eight. They are now covered in Heather but easy to spot!

A BEAKER WOMAN

These types of burial mounds were thought to be built by the Beaker people, named because of the shape of the pottery vessels often found in these Barrow graves. The Beaker people were warriors, skilled in the bow, who tipped their arrows with barbed flint heads. They also seemed to be hearty drinkers! They are universally known as the first makers of metal in Britain, working first in Copper, and later in Bronze.



Round Barrows usually consist of a central burial, a mound, and an enclosing ditch. They were often clustered in groups which suggest family cemeteries.

The Beaker people buried their dead with personal possessions such as Jet buttons, bronze daggers and armlets, and of course earthenware beakers or ceremonial drinking vessels. Curiously many of the dead were carefully laid with the head to the South, men facing East and women facing west, we can only guess for them to see the sun at a particular time of the day. The mounds that we see in the landscape today represent the last stage in a Barrows long and varied life, with the earth sealing off the activity area or burial.



Is that call or Email saying it's your Bank, Amazon, Paypal, HMRC, Microsoft or any other company you have an account with, asking you to update your personal details as there is a problem? **STOP!** None of these companies will ever contact you to change details in this way.

The aim of a fraudulent message – whether it's sent by Text, WhatsApp, Email, or other messaging service – is usually to get you to click on a link. This link will take you to a fake website that can steal your data and money or infect your device with a virus.

What to do if you suspect fraud:

If you've seen or heard something that doesn't feel right, STOP!

Break the contact: don't reply, click on any links, call any phone numbers given or make any payments.

Check if it's genuine: contact the organisation directly using an Email address or phone number you know is correct e.g. From utility bills, via a Search Engine, on the back of your card or by **calling 159 for all Bank fraud**, they are very helpful.

Go to the website <https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk>



Contact a Family member or Friend who is Tech savvy and can help.

Never give out personal details on the phone, numbers can be faked to look like local numbers, caller ID can be faked to look like a trusted company, and some fraudulent callers will even warn you about fraud!

Personally I've had 3 recent incidents of fraud attempts, one WhatsApp message pretending to be my "favourite child" saying they'd lost their phone and needed me to forward money to their friend for them, one Email from Inland Revenue saying I was owed a tax rebate and one from 'Parcelforce' saying I needed to click on the link and pay for something they were holding (I hadn't ordered anything).

They are now much more advanced than the standard International Princes needing your financial help in exchange for marriage proposals!

Fraudsters are getting very sophisticated so the best thing to do is **STOP** and think before you do **ANYTHING**. **It's OK to hang up, or not reply.**



£5-Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start at the Memorial Hall.

Friday 9th February: 'Empire of Light'

Friday 8th March : 'Mission Impossible – Dead Reckoning Pt.1'

Friday 12th April : 'A man called Otto'



We've had some great suggestions in the boxes this month, including a fantastic map of suggested parking upgrades on Common View. The Council appreciates all of the time taken to make these suggestions and each are discussed at the meetings. Please keep them coming, you can put your name on if you'd like a response or stay anonymous.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 10th at 11am St James, Stedham Children's Service

March 17th at 10am Litter pick

March 22nd closing date for Birdbox competition entries

March 25th at 2.30pm TEA CLUB Book your place now!

March 28th 7pm Hort Soc Talk on Dahlias at The Memorial Hall

March 31st Easter day Communion St James church

June 9th 2pm Open Gardens **REGISTER NOW!**

If you have any local stories, history, or anything you think might be an interesting feature in the newsletter please contact: (Ziggy) jessica.simon@stedhamwithiping-pc.gov.uk

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

CLERK clerk@stedhamwithiping-pc.gov.uk