



STEDHAM WITH IPING PARISH COUNCIL

Autumn Newsletter



Issue no.10
November 2023



Hello and welcome to the 10th edition of the Parish Council's Newsletter, which was started 3 years ago in November 2020.

The Parish Council generally takes a break from meetings in August but had to convene a special meeting to finalise the Council's comment on the planning request for the proposed development at St Cuthman's on Tote Lane. Concern had been raised by several parishioners about the scale of the development. The Council recorded "*a strong objection to the proposed development on the basis of its scale and the consequent adverse impact on the local infrastructure and rural tranquillity.*" Full details can be found on SDNPA's website as follows: <https://planningpublicaccess.southdowns.gov.uk> SDNPA's Planning Committee is due to review the applications on 9th November.

Thank you to the Parishioners who provided information on the state of local Public Rights of Way which were forwarded to the Access Ranger as requested by WSCC Highways prior to their annual inspections due to be completed in October.



Harvest at St James

The annual accounts for the Council for the year ending 31st March 2023 were completed and the report and certificate from the external auditor published on 28th September. Total income was about £33k against a total spend of about £46k, the biggest single expenditure being the new play equipment for Common View and The Recreation Ground. Just to clarify, the Council started the year with a bank balance of £33k which included grants received from CDC and SDNPA in 2021-22 of about £13k. Detailed accounts can be found on the website.

The Parish Council have updated the playing field on Common View with some great new additions: a new section to the Play Park, made with sustainable wood, and 2 big picnic benches. Grown-ups can have a coffee and a sandwich on a bench while the kids run wild. It's a lovely play park and now really well kitted out!



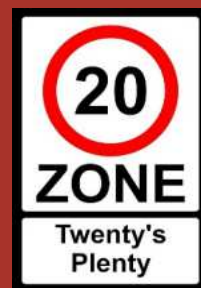
The Parish Council is in the process of applying for a Community Highways Scheme as available through West Sussex County Council ([WSCC Community Highways Scheme](#))

The first requirement is to identify the routes within the Parish where the Council would like to see speeds reduced. The current priorities are routes within and through the two villages of Stedham and Iping.

The aim is to reduce the current speed limit inside the main Stedham settlement from **30mph to 20mph**.

Iping Lane is currently at the national speed limit of 60mph. The lane is narrow, has no pavements and is used by vehicular traffic, equestrians, cyclists and pedestrians. The aim here will be to reduce the speed limit to **at least 30mph**.

A third traffic issue, nothing to do with speed, is to try and address the problematic issue of parking in Common View, as was also suggested in one of our suggestion boxes.



These initiatives will be undertaken by the Parish Council but will need support from volunteers from within the parish – so please get in touch with Councillor Terry Stevens terry.stevens@stedhamwithiping-pc.gov.uk



Tea club would like to thank all who came to this wonderful afternoon of delicious Tillys cakes, bottomless cups of tea and getting to know new people from our villages. Around 40 of you lovely Parishioners came, and it felt like a really warm and welcoming community event.

A huge thanks from the PC to Lyn who did the work of 3 people..

The next will be a Christmas tea club on 11 December at 3pm and will be free of charge again.

Phone or text Ziggy on 07931625571 to book your place. Don't miss out on more Tillys of Midhurst amazing cakes and some Christmas spirit!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

THE NEXT LITTER PICK WILL BE ON SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER AT 9.30 AM, MEETING AT THE TELEPHONE BOX ON THE STREET.

LITTER PICKING KITS PROVIDED, AS WELL AS REFRESHMENTS IN THE MEMORIAL HALL AT 10.30AM.



Can you create an amazing Christmas scene?

The Christmas Advent windows returns for its 3rd year!

To enter, email hannah.burton@stedhamwithipping-pc.gov.uk or call Hannah on 07766964776 to register your window and to get your switch on date.

No prizes, just a bit of Christmassy fun for the Parish.

Dates will be announced on November 27th.
<The Old Post House window 2021

A BIG THANK YOU to all the quiz participants who enjoyed another successful Stedham Primary School QUIZ NIGHT at The Hamilton and to the Super wonderful staff serving a tasty Thai supper for us all...and winning The Wooden Spoon!

The Money raised for our local primary school needs was in the region of £250!!

Watch out for the next quiz night!



STEDHAM
Christmas Market
Saturday 2nd December
10-12 noon
Stedham Memorial Hall

Produce, Gifts, Treats & Refreshments from:

- Stedham Women's Institute
- Stedham & Iping Parish Council
- St James' Church
- Stedham Sports Association
- Stedham Horticultural Society
- Midhurst Quilters
- Stedham Memorial Hall Trust
- Stedham Church Flower Ladies



St James Church Ancient Yew



Past attempts have been made to hold the tree together with thick steel ropes

One of the most remarkable features in our Parish is the Yew tree (*Taxus Baccata*) in St James Church yard. Did you know it has been officially dated at over 2500 years old? To put that in context, it was a sapling in the year 487BCE, around halfway through the Iron Age, well over 1200 years before the original Church was built.

That's over 1280 years before the first Vikings arrived, 400 years before the Roman invasion of Britain, and 7 years before the Spartans fought at The Battle of Thermopylae in 480BCE. It pre-dates the first King of England and is classified as Pre-Historic!

Its latest trunk girth measurement was 9.17m, longer than 2 VW Beetles!

The yew was a sacred tree, and sites with ancient yews became places of Druidic or Celtic worship. Druids, the priests of the Celtic tribes, believed wands of yew would banish evil spirits.

When the pagan population was converted to Christianity from Roman times onward, the same sites continued to be considered sacred places. The Anglo-Saxons built churches near the old yews; later, the old churches were built over with new.





< Harvest Festival flowers at St James

We hope you will be able to come to some of these special services:

AT ST JAMES STEDHAM

Every 2nd Sunday at 11am we have a special (about 30 minutes) service for children at which all ages are welcome.

Sunday 12 November

10.50am National Service of Remembrance and wreath laying.

Sunday 17 December 4.30pm Carol Service

Monday 25 December

9.30am Christmas Communion

Sunday 7 January 2024

10.30am Epiphany Carol Service

AT ST MARY IPING

Sunday 12 November at

Noon Remembrance and wreath laying

Sunday 3 December 9.30am Advent Carol Service

Friday 22 December 6pm Carols and Wassail*

Sunday 24 December 9.30 said Holy Communion

*The annual Iping Carol Service and Wassail is the high spot of the Iping year. We have the normal service of Lessons and Carols, and this is followed by mulled wine and mincepies (The Wassail). It is always a good party, and everyone is welcome. Hope to see you there.

Vanessa – Iping Chapel~Warden



St James Church

All aboard,
mind the step!

THE LINE THAT NEVER WAS

The project was called the “Chichester to Midhurst railway extension, to London and South Western railway, near Haslemere”

This new rail link was proposed on the 5th of July 1865.

The proposed route out of Midhurst would have started north towards Stedham, through Iping then Redford and on to Fernhurst Parish, by Lower Lodge Farm to Shulbrede Priory, then by a tunnel (1,089 yards in length) under Marley Heights to arrive at Shottermill Ponds and then through to Kings Road and Haslemere Station.

But the project was later abandoned because of an Act of Parliament in 1865 that was never enacted. This was due in part to the sponsor of the London to Brighton South Coast Railroad Company, under the Chairmanship of one Leo Schuster, who got into financial difficulties by overspending £8m, (a lot of money in those days) on unauthorised rail-road extensions and part to the financial banking crisis in the summer of 1866, with the collapse of several banking houses causing general panic in the money markets, leading to limited investments. This financial crisis stopped all progress, and the project was duly abandoned in 1868.

If this rail link had been built it would have provided a direct link from Midhurst, via Stedham, north to Haslemere then onward to London, or south to Chichester.

Looking forward a hundred years, to the 1960's and the era of Dr Beaching (those of our older readers will remember him) who shut down all the local and non-profitable railway lines and consequently restructured the railways network, for it to become a viable and profitable run business organisation (!) resulting in Midhurst station closing down permanently in October 1964.

What's in our name? It was the Saxons that gave the two villages their names:
Stedham- “The watermeadow where stallions graze” from “Stedda” a steed, and “Hamm” a watermeadow. This inspired the signpost entering School Lane.
Iping- “The people of Ipa” (a Saxon Chief) or “Ipas land” from “ing” meaning a piece of land.



We finished off the summer season with a lively session guided by Heather Wylde, an illustrator, who showed us all how to be brave with our pencils and recreate an image of the face of a tiger. In July our members met up twice, firstly for a wonderful evening of croquet up at The Duncton Croquet Club followed by a shared supper bathed in warm sunshine, and the beautiful view up to the downs. Later in July we had our annual Garden Party in Joyce's garden in Harting. Everyone really went to town with their contributions, so we had a wonderful feast. It was a really fun evening filled with laughter and again we were spoiled with beautiful weather.

After the summer break we reconvened in the Memorial Hall for our September meeting where our member Rachel introduced us to the members and work of The Midhurst Quilters. They showed us their fabulous work and told us all about The Linus Foundation which they contribute to - a charity that gives quilts to people in hospital or care.



In October we will hear from Jo Smith who will be reading letters home from the Australian Goldfield in the 1850s and there will be a Christmas crafting session in November.

Please contact us if you would like to come along and give WI a try. We are a very friendly crowd and always welcome new members! More details are available on our website, and you can contact us

at stedhamwi@gmail.com



Fungi like the damp conditions among the fallen leaves, which create a wonderful rich earthy smell in the forest. Remember they don't all look like mushrooms and they don't all grow on the ground – some grow on tree trunks or fallen branches. Fungi are essential to where they are found. They rot and recycle leaf litter, provide food for small animals and are great to admire. Remember to never pick and eat wild mushrooms unless they've been identified by an expert as they can be highly poisonous!

Did you know that trees and plants talk to each other through mushrooms? Most of a mushroom's body is made up of thin threads underground. It's recently been discovered that these threads link up, acting as a kind of underground internet, linking the roots of the trees and plants nearby and allowing them to share nutrients.

All the photos of Fungi in this Newsletter were taken in the Parish, now is the time to hunt for them!

Miles without Stiles

are routes that are suitable for people with limited mobility. Wheelchair users, families with pushchairs dog walkers and less agile walkers can choose from a list of routes from across the south downs. Visit www.southdowns.gov.uk for the route on Iping Common.



Disabled Ramblers is a small charity which was set up around 20 years ago to encourage disabled people to access the countryside on their mobility scooters. There are routes across Iping Common, Visit disabledramblers.co.uk for more information.



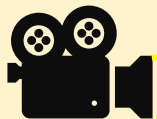
Not imminently, but over the next six months we will be cutting the fire breaks, creating areas of bare ground through turf stripping, heather cutting and reducing the amount of Birch. Once there are further details on this I will circulate.

- We had confirmed breeding of Field Cricket on Iping this year – the grazing in an integral part of the management on the Common to ensure the vegetation structure remains and improves to ensure a resilient population of the species.
- Cattle are planned to come onto Stedham Common from mid Oct.
- Repair to the height barrier of the main Iping car park.
- Survey of Marsh Clubmoss on Stedham has recorded seven plants within a single area of bare ground. We are secured funding with the Species Recovery Trust to undertake works on Stedham to remove Silver Birch around the population of the Marsh Clubmoss which is restricted to a small damp scrape. The work will see the removal of a buffer Birch around the current population through pulling them up. The reason for this is that research has suggested that the mycorrhizal fungi associated with the Silver Birch is detrimental to the Clubmoss, as well as cause reduction in the wetness through water uptake etc. The work will be undertaken by a digger and we aim to create disturbance of the ground around and that is clear to create bare ground that we hope will be colonised by the Marsh Clubmoss, Sundews and White Beak-sedge.

Sam Buckland
Site Manager



The Horticultural Society will be holding an afternoon meeting on 30th November at 2.00pm, when we will be having a talk entitled 'History of Flowers in Art', and our regular Flower of the Month competition, plus a display of wonderful autumn foliage.



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

Friday 10th November: **‘Where the Crawdads Sing’**

Friday 8th December: **‘Mrs Harris goes to Paris’**

Friday 12th January: **‘The unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry’**

Friday 9th February: **‘Empire of Light’**

Dates for your Diary

19th November 9.30 am litter pick

30th November 2 pm Hort Soc Meeting

2nd December 10 am Stedham Christmas Market

9th December 4pm Family Yuletide Party at the Memorial Hall

11th December 3pm Christmas Tea Club



THE
DEFIBRILLATOR
IS LOCATED ON
THE
FRONT OF THE
MEMORIAL HALL

PLEASE KEEP
ALL YOUR
BRILLIANT
SUGGESTIONS
COMING!



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

Clerk- clerk@stedhamwithiping-pc.gov.uk/

Newsletter (Ziggy)- jessica.simon@stedhamwithiping-pc.gov.uk

**THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETS ON THE 2ND THURSDAY OF
EACH MONTH AT 7PM IN THE MEMORIAL HALL AND IS
OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**