



Stedham with Iping Parish Council

SPRING NEWSLETTER

**Issue Number 5
March 2022**



PARISH UPDATE

Hello, and welcome to the 5th edition of the Parish Council's Newsletter.

It was with great pleasure that the Council was, at last, able to organise an Annual Parish meeting in November last year, the previous one was in April 2019. There was an excellent turnout and some very interesting presentations from various local organisations relating how they had fared during the Covid lockdown – hopefully now a thing of the past! There was a call at the meeting for the Parish to put on a significant celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June this year. A Jubilee Planning Group is now up and running and looking for volunteers.

Grants have recently been received from both SDNPA and Chichester District Council totalling £13,355 which will allow continued improvement of the children's play areas.

It is hoped to complete the installation of a Zip-wire in Common View and a Basket Swing on the Recreation Ground before the end of this year. The plan for next year, assuming further grants can be obtained, is to replace the climbing frame, now over 30years old, in Common View and possibly install a see-saw.

As you probably noticed there were two Christmas Trees this year. The Council planted an Abies Koreana on the Recreation Ground – rather small at the moment - it will grow but not too quickly. A cut tree was erected in Common View and, depending on the feedback from residents, the plan is to plant a permanent tree in the same place so please get in touch with any alternative locations.

Thanks to JR Tree Care for providing the tree chipping. £123 was raised for Sussex, Surrey & Kent Air Ambulance.

The Council budget for 2022-2023 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.

Again, about 10% of the budget has been allocated to the Parish Improvement Project, work was completed last year on the Finger & Post Road signs but it has not been possible to make much progress on the Telephone Boxes – it's hoped they will be completed this year. Completion will include provision maps with details of local paths and trails, places of interest, places to eat and details of local events. *What other information would you like to be included?*

Below is a picture of the gates at Stedham Graveyard – in a sorry state as you can see. They are on the list for improvement, but the Parish Council needs more help, it is still short of two members – so please get in touch if you are at all interested in joining or just come along to a few meetings to see how it works.



REWILDING OF STEDHAM GRAVEYARD

This year we plan to cease mowing the Stedham graveyard during the summer months. We will mow an access path through the graveyard to the graves that are regularly attended. We hope that by leaving the grass and any wildflowers to flourish we will improve the natural environment. At the end of summer we will cut the grass and allow the seeds to drop before clearing it. In the autumn/spring we will aim to plant additional wildflowers.



RIVER ROTHER & STEDHAM MILL

The new Working Group had its first meeting in December 2021. Its role is to establish a set of aims and objectives with regard to the future of the River Rother and its environs. The Parish Council is responsible for ensuring the recommendations represent the desire of the Parish, are equitable, sustainable, mindful of the natural environment and do not create an unmanageable financial burden for the Parish.

There are nine members in the group Charles Godden, Neil Read, Chris Morgan, Hannah Burton, Ian Hughes, Martin Drury, Simon Barnard, William Hunter and Morag Birch, mainly from Stedham but also from Ingrams Green and Iping. The Group will meet in Stedham Memorial Hall and all are welcome to come and listen to the discussions. Details of the group's agendas & activities will be published on the Council website.

BURIALS SURVEY

For a few weeks this year, you may notice 2 or 3 people in the churchyard of St James in Stedham with tape measures and clipboards conducting a burials survey. The project, supported by Historic England, will be recording data to produce a detailed analysis of the burials for further research building on previous surveys in 1969 & 2005. The survey will record details of individual memorials and, in the case of some older memorials, genealogical research will be carried out to discover the histories of these previous members of the local community. **Note:** all burials dated less than 100 years ago and any reference to living relatives will be anonymised. If you would like to find out more and/or get involved, please contact Dawn Cansfield, a resident of Stedham, via: dawn.cansfield@hotmail.co.uk / 07868 103099 or the project website: <https://stedhamchurchyardsurvey.wordpress.com/>

BEATING THE BOUNDS

Beating the bounds is a centuries-old tradition, aimed at reminding everyone (especially children) of the boundaries that are important in their lives. During Rogationtide (a religious festival held between the Monday and Wednesday before Ascension Day) the villagers together with the rector and other local dignitaries would walk the parish bounds. Knowing the boundaries of the parish was central to a community's identity and the resident's responsibilities.

The ancient tradition was to walk along the boundaries, beating the path with sticks or branches usually of willow. In some parts of the country this tradition is still practised and communities walk around their boundaries, albeit not with sticks and branches.

The parish boundary "path" consists of streams, footpaths and bridleways and goes across privately owned land and fields and through woods and copses, but this needn't stop anyone from walking along the boundary paths where access is allowed.

Today if we wanted to "Beat the Bounds" of our parish it would probably take the best part of half a day! The total distance around our parish is approximately 11 miles with an area of approximately 4 square miles. Of course, now it seems the boundaries, which can be easily viewed using modern day O/S maps or GPS devices, are not so important to our daily lives. But maybe they are? There could be encroachment on our commons and greens, so perhaps we should still beat the bounds and make sure we don't lose common land or greens or public footpaths.

Anyone interested in organising a Boundary Walk?



BECOMING A FLOWER FARMER

In the quiet 'lockdown' summer of 2020, while still working as an Assistant Head Gardener, I began to develop my ambition to grow seasonal cut flowers, without the use of chemicals or single-use plastics, to benefit nature and sell to the local community.

I was very fortunate to be given the opportunity to rent some land on a friend's farm in Midhurst, starting with $\frac{1}{3}$ of an acre so I could help grow the local ecosystem as well as the flowers.

Imported flowers are often treated with harsh chemicals to eradicate insects/diseases and prolong shelf life, sometimes travelling thousands of miles by air, kept in large refrigerators to preserve them, before reaching the UK wholesaler days or weeks later.



My 'locally grown' flowers are fed using organic mulch, home-made nettle or comfrey tea. I only use peat-free compost, along with crop rotation and 'no dig' methods whenever possible.

By not using any chemicals I am supplying the insects with clean nutritious food. They in turn maintain a balanced ecosystem, pollinate crops and look after the soil, while the plants help to clean the air.

I never cease to be inspired by nature. Hopefully my growing techniques and flower arrangements reflect this too.

Follow my journey:
Instagram or Facebook:
[@midhurstflowerfarm](#)
Website: midhurstflowerfarm.com



PAST EVENTS

A note from Hannah Burton.

I would like to thank all the families who took part in last years' Advent Calendar Windows. There was a fantastic array of designs which together with the village Christmas trees, lights and carol services gave the village a delightfully Christmassy feel.

Looking to the future I will be running an Easter scavenger hunt. Throughout the week leading up to Easter there will be maps and questions available in both Stedham's

and Iping's Telephone boxes and downloadable versions on the village Facebook page to help you find all the bunnies hidden about the parish. As usual this will be run just for fun and there will be no prizes.

Also, thank you to the Parish Council for including this message in the Newsletter

Please note the Parish Council would be pleased to include similar articles from any Parish organisation – just send an email to the Clerk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Litter Pick

Saturday 26th March 2022

Look out for Posters.

VE75+2 Day

Sunday 8th May 2022

A short ceremony to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of the 2nd World War generation. Details to follow.

Queen's Jubilee Beacon Lighting

Thursday 2nd June 2022

At the Sports Pavilion – details to be confirmed

The Queens Jubilee Fete

Sunday 5th June 2022

On the Recreation Ground – see enclosed leaflet for further details.

I- SPY

Where in and around the Parish can you spot these?



A free copy of either “Stedham with Iping Remembered” or “Cecil’s Stedham” for the first correct answer.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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.