

A scenic view of a river flowing through a wooded area. In the foreground, there is a stone wall covered in moss. The river is surrounded by trees, some with bare branches and others with green leaves. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Stedham with Iping Parish Council

SPRING NEWSLETTER

**Issue Number 2
March 2021**



INTRODUCTION FROM THE CLERK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Hello, my name is Morag Birch and I would like to welcome you to the second edition of the Parish Council's Newsletter. Thank you to those who submitted entries to the competitions in the first edition and to those who sent in some kind comments. Apologies to all for printing the wrong email address! The correct one is on Page 6, with further details about the competitions. Thank you to David Burton of Rotherhill Nurseries and Glen and Chris Morgan for their invaluable help in supplying, erecting and removing the Christmas Tree. The Council plan to plant Christmas trees ready for December this year, if possible. Two locations are being considered, on Stedham Village Green and on the grass verge as you enter Common View. Please get in touch with any alternative locations, particularly if you are from outside Stedham

and could suggest a place where more of the Parish could enjoy a tree. We hope this will be the last issue distributed by post. The plan is to recruit volunteers to deliver future newsletters by hand, once the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.

Christmas Decorations

46 craft kits were collected by residents in December and a huge thank you to everyone who added their decoration to the Parish Tree!



Christmas Tree Chipping

Thank you to Josh from JR Tree Care, who with your donations, managed to raise £265.75 for Sussex, Surrey and Kent Air Ambulance. We hope to make this an annual event!



PARISH BUDGETS AND GRANTS

The preparation of an annual budget is one of the key statutory tasks undertaken by a Parish Council. It allows the Council to set the Precept (the Parish's share of the District Council Tax) and provides a basis for monitoring and controlling expenditure during the year. Stedham with Iping Parish Council (SIPC) completed its budget for the financial year 2021-2022 and submitted a request for a Precept of £25,000 to Chichester District Council in January. A copy of SIPC's budget can be found on the parish website.

This year about 10% has been allocated to a new item, the Parish Improvement Project, which aims to identify items within the Parish which need to be cared for and then set up a maintenance programme. Items identified so far include the two telephone boxes, the old Finger & Post Road signs and the Steppingstone at Stedham Mill. As you can see, the list

is rather Stedham centric, so please let the Council know of anything in your part of the Parish which may need attention.

The Council will be submitting requests for grants to try and get funding to continue the renewal of equipment in the playgrounds and to put towards the Parish Improvement Project.

Chichester District Council has recently launched a new tree planting pilot scheme and SIPC have registered an interest, so any suggestions for possible locations would be welcomed.

Next year's budget continues the Community Fund, introduced this year, to assist local organisations, clubs or societies in funding projects or activities intended to benefit either the Parish or its residents. So, if you have any ideas, please let us know.



THE CHURCH THROUGH COVID19

Stedham with Iping Churches joined Linch with Iping Marsh and Milland and Rake in May 2017. Joining congregations together isn't always easy, but with the arrival of COVID-19 the uniting of the churches brought some unexpected benefits. When church services restarted after the first lockdown, it was decided to have one service a week taking it in turns to use each church. The congregations from each church supported each service and Stedham and Iping have seen greater attendance than there has been for a long time. It has also enabled folk across the Parishes to get to know each other. Stedham with Iping voted to close for live services, during the third lockdown, as it was known that the new strain of virus was spreading around the local area. The Church is now using Zoom illustrating the fact that "Church" is not the building but the people who come together.

- Rev Trish Bancroft

ST JAMES CHURCHYARD - STEDHAM



We believe this Yew was part of a Millennium project! Can anyone tell us more?

- This yew tree is alleged to be over 2,500 years old. so, in today's modern times this would equate to be around 500 BC.
- It is said that the yew tree is mentioned in the Domesday survey.
- Yews are the oldest living things in Britain. The Woodland Trust reports that they are considered "ancient" after 900 years.

PLAY AREAS

We have almost completed the first phase of our plans to replace and refurbish play equipment in both recreation areas. On the village green the toddler swings have been replaced and a 'springer' installed. At Common View the obstacle course has been repaired and refurbished where required. The toddler swings have had new seats and chains. A new 'nest' swing



has been installed alongside a new single and rope swing (still awaiting delivery of this last item). In the future we hope to install an all-weather table tennis table on the village green and at Common View a zip wire and rope climbing pyramid. This pyramid will replace the old metal climbing dome. These 'hopes' rest very much on our ability to raise more grant money.

HEDGE AND TREE MAINTENANCE

Over the next couple of months, we aim to sort out the western boundary of the Stedham graveyard. These hedges/trees fall under the care of the Parish Council but have not been attended to for some years. We await planning permission to reduce and reshape the mixed hedging and crown lift the yew. We will also crown lift the Hornbeam/Beech in the south east corner.

We met with the owner of Viola House to assess the trees that had fallen onto the Common View allotments and playing field. His future plans are to manage and regenerate that piece of woodland by removing the mature conifers (these are the ones that are in danger of falling during high winds) and replant with substantial native trees. His team removed the fallen trees and assessed any others that needed to be felled. We would like to thank the owner for their quick response.

SOLENT WOODEN BOATS

My name is David Edmondson and I live in Sandy Lane in Stedham. For all of my working life I was an airline pilot, but on retiring in early 2015 I wanted to do something different and retrained as a traditional boat builder. I set up Solent Wooden Boats with a friend and we build and repair small wooden boats in the Historic England site of Fort Cumberland in Southsea. Our workshop is in an old 'casemate'; a tunnel-like structure that would originally have housed cannon, but which was later adapted into living quarters.



Attached are photos of the workshop in its original condition and of our latest project, a 2 part "nesting tender". A small boat made in 2 parts that fit (nest) together so that it can be kept on deck of a larger yacht - you can see the join in the photo! There are more photos on the website: solentwoodenboats.co.uk

CYCLING

One of our Councillors recently became the representative to Midhurst Area Cycling group (MAC) who's aim is to promote safe cycle routes in and around Midhurst. It's run by volunteers from Midhurst and its surrounding parishes. It is directly involved in the planning of new safe cycle routes for all, lobbying both the County Council and the South Downs National Park. The group also liaises with other cycle groups to identify new routes, link up existing local routes and, where possible, connect to the National Cycle Network. If you want to know more or would like to volunteer, then get in touch with the MAC secretary or check out the MAC Facebook page. MAC@minsted.myzen.co.uk

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:

Litter Pick
Saturday 20th March 2021
9.30am start

VE75 +1 Day
Saturday 8th May 2021
Stedham Village Green

Summer Fete
August (Date TBC) 2021

Please contact the Clerk if you would like to volunteer for the Litter Pick or have ideas for the listed events.

CENSUS

The next Census for England & Wales will take place on 21st March. This will be the first one to be carried out primarily online. Further information can be found via the Stedham with Iping Parish Council Website.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It looks as if the local elections will go ahead on Thursday 6th of May and will include all the polls postponed from last year, one of which was the referendum on the Stedham with Iping Neighbourhood Plan. Please keep an eye on the Notice Boards and the Council's website to get the latest information.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

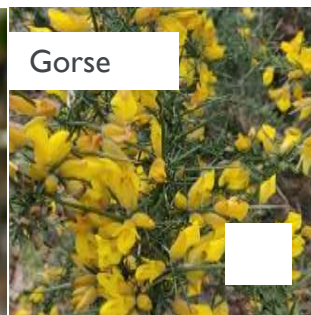
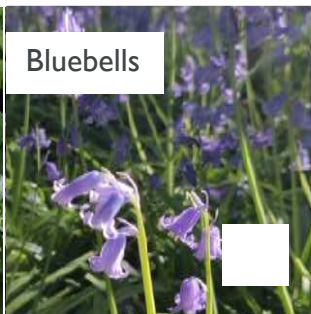
Website - <https://www.stedhamwithiping-pc.gov.uk/>

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

The Parish Council meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month,
Contact the Clerk for details.

First Newsletter competitions deadline extended to 31st March.
Get your entries in! There's a copy of the first Newsletter on the website if you need to check the competition details.

FLOWER SNAP How many can you find? Photograph your favourite flower and share it with us.



HEATHLANDS REUNITED - Dragonflies Rest



Has anyone had the opportunity to have a look at the sandstone sculpture on Stedham Common? This is one of seven on the South Downs Heathland Reunited Sculpture Trail. It is the work of sculptor Graeme Mitcheson and is a 'bench' made of sandstone. It represents the wings of a Dragonfly, because there are several species of dragonfly that only live on the heathland and at Iping and Stedham Common we have all 5! There are 7 sculptures in total on the heathlands within the South Downs National Park. More Information can be found here: www.southdowns.gov.uk

