

A photograph of a forest path. The path is covered in brown pine needles and fallen leaves. On either side of the path are large, green ferns. In the background, there are many tall, thin trees with green foliage. The sky is visible through the canopy.

Stedham with Iping Parish Council

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

**Issue Number 7
November 2022**



PARISH UPDATE

Hello and welcome to the 7th edition of the Parish Council's newsletter.

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) was held on the 22nd September and the general consensus was that the new format was a success and should be continued. A number of local organisations set-up "show and tell stalls" including the WI, the Memorial Hall, Stedham Churchyard Survey and the Parish Council. Several other organisations were represented by members showing their organisation on a Name Badge.

There was a continuous buzz of conversation and exchange of views. A ready supply of tea, cake, wine and crisps certainly aided the convivial atmosphere. The number of attendees was a little disappointing but hopefully this will improve at the next APM.

The Parish Council canvassed views on what should be done with the £1182 generated by the Jubilee Fete, the opinion of the Parish with regard to the management of the Rother and where should we plant 1000 wild daffodils. The preferred view was the Council should retain £500 to fund an annual or, at least, a bi-annual fete and the remainder of the £1182 be divided equally between the parish groups. The front-runner for next year is a Coronation Fete! **It was agreed the Council needs to garner opinion from more people than attended the APM, hence inclusion of an opinion survey – so please have a look at it and let the Council know your views.** There were numerous suggestions for the daffodils and volunteers are needed to help with the planting.

The Council has received a further £9000 from the SDNPA to complete the upgrade of play equipment. Work has finished on the Recreation Ground but it is hoped to install a replacement climbing frame and possibly a see-saw to complete the plans for

Common View. Submissions for next year's grants have to be in by the end of January 2023 – so if you have any ideas what the Council should be pitching for, please let us know. Email the Clerk clerk@stedhamwithiping-pc.gov.uk

The Stedham Telephone Box has been fully refurbished and looks great. The next step is to install a cupboard to hold maps, pamphlets, walking routes and general information about the local area.



REWILDING & PLANTING UPDATE

We have been very pleased with our rewilding of the Stedham Graveyard.

The grass/flowers have now been cut and we hope that that they have dropped lots of seed so that next year should be even better. Further wildflower seeds will be sown this autumn along with the native wild daffodil.

We have purchased 1000 bulbs...not all of them will go into the Graveyard. They will be planted across both Stedham and Iping.

More seeds will also be planted around the Stedham Signpost. We have also bought 5 cherry trees for The Street. Due to be planted this Autumn.

WHY DO WE HAVE A PARISH COUNCIL!

Parish Councils are the first tier of Local Government and provide communities with a democratic voice and a structure for taking community action. The Local Government Act of 1894 laid the foundation for today's Parish Councils creating civil institutions and transferring the civil functions of the older parish authorities to the new bodies, thus excluding the church from formal participation in local government. Legislation has continued since then to amend the role and responsibilities of local councils.

Parish councils receive regular funding by levying a precept – this is included in your Council Tax Bill sent out by Chichester District Council. The precept is set at the beginning of each financial year by council members to cover the anticipated costs of the community. Other monies can be obtained by applying for various grants and by local fund raising.

A Parish Council must always act within the relevant legislation while endeavouring to represent the interests of the whole community.



Council activities fall into three main categories:

- Statutory obligations including: Consultee on planning applications, managing & maintaining open spaces & fulfilling responsibilities as charity trustees.
- Campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities
- Improving quality of life and community wellbeing.

A parish council is a corporate body made up of unpaid volunteers from within the parish. The Chairman is in charge during Council meetings and has to ensure meetings run smoothly and all business is properly considered. A minimum of three members must be present before a meeting can proceed. The Clerk (who is paid a monthly wage) provides advice, administrative support and takes action to implement Council decisions.

SIPC should have a complement of nine Councillors but currently has only seven. If there are so few councillors that a council cannot act, the district council may appoint persons to fill the vacancies, effectively removing local interest from Council proceedings. Parish council elections take place every four years, the current cycle ends in May 2023 when all existing Parish Councillors have to retire. They may then take part in the nomination and election process available to all. In general, electors over the age of 18 may become a local councillor. There is an urgent need for new councillors to come forward so please consider putting your name forward. Maybe come along to a meeting and see what happens. Although the Parish Council is a formal body the people involved are just your neighbours who have a real interest in the wellbeing of our community.



"I'm a little surprised you got planning permission."

CartoonStock.com

STEDHAM SCHOOL

Stedham Primary School had a real positive and enthusiastic start to the academic year. A forest school provision is being enjoyed, private music tuition is being offered and West Sussex Music plan to deliver specialist music sessions to each class.

The school community is benefitting from daily "Morning Before" school and "Sports and Games" after school club sessions. FOSS (Friends of Stedham School) are always

looking for different ways to raise money to help subsidise learning equipment costs, pupil days out and events. A monthly cake raffle has started, the school Christmas fair is being planned along with a session of Christmas wreath making. £133.38 was raised by the school for the recent Macmillan coffee morning. Thanks to you all for your continuing support.

For further Information, phone: 01730 813522 or email office@stedham.w-sussex.sch.uk

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PRoW)

The Parish is criss-crossed by numerous Public Rights of Way. A PRoW is a right by which the public can pass along a specified, linear route over land at all times even though the land may be owned by a private individual. There are several different types of PRoW:

Footpaths - foot traffic, mobility scooters:

Bridleways - foot traffic, horse riding, cycling and mobility scooters;

Restricted Byways – any transport without a motor and mobility scooters;

Byways open to all traffic – for any kind of transport, including cars, but they are mainly used by walkers, horse riders and cyclists.

Maintenance responsibilities are divided between West Sussex County Council and landowners.

WSCC is responsible for:

- Surface vegetation clearance
- Signposting and way marking
- Maintenance of structures, including simple bridges, board walks, steps and handrail.

Landowners are responsible for:

- Stiles, gates and some fencing
- Cutting back hedges, trees or shrubs overhanging a PRoW
- Crossfield paths may be ploughed or cropped as long as the path is reinstated within 14 days.

See WSCC website for more detail:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/public-paths-and-the-countryside/public-rights-of-way/>



Dave, the Postman, would like to thank the residents of Stedham, Minsted and surrounding areas for the generous gifts, presents & the wonderful party. It was very much appreciated.



STEDHAM CHURCHYARD SURVEY

Between May and September this year, the Stedham Churchyard Survey team surveyed and recorded all 476 memorials at St James's. Using the previous records from 2005 as a starting point, the 2022 survey team has recorded the memorials in greater detail using a standardised method of archaeological survey. This is just the beginning, though!



Using GPS coordinates, the survey team will now be creating an accurately measured site plan. A database will incorporate the data we have collected on each memorial including the location, style of headstone, material, dimensions, orientation, decoration and inscription. Alongside this, a scaled photographic record of each memorial is being created. Finally, genealogical research will continue to investigate the histories of past members of the local community, particularly in the 17th-19th centuries.

The findings will be written up in a detailed technical report and lodged with appropriate heritage bodies to enable further, future research. There will also be other outputs including a book of 'Stedham Stories', an information board (subject to funding), and outreach events, such as public talks, to share the findings.

Thank you, Dawn, for sharing these details and for further details: <https://stedhamchurchyardsurvey.wordpress.com/> Or to get involved, please email: stedhamchurchyardsurvey@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Next Parish Meeting

8th December in the Memorial Hall at 7pm

Kids Christmas Crafts

The Memorial Hall, free but donations welcome. Date: tbc

Christmas Windows

competition. Contact: hannah.burton8@icloud.com

Christmas Carols

17th December on the Green, Time: tbc

Afternoon Tea Club

Monthly get-together for pensioners who live or lived in the Parish. To celebrate the launch, the first Tea, on 12th January at 2.30-4pm in the Memorial Hall, will be free, thereafter it will be £3.00 per person.

Please come along and enjoy tea, sandwich and cake and a chat with old and new friends.

Stedham Movies at Stedham Memorial Hall

Friday 9th December: The Duke

Friday 13th January: West side Story (2021)

Friday 10th February: Belfast

Friday 10th March: Operation Mincemeat

Friday 14th April: Top Gun

GREYBEARDS TRAIL – HISTORIC EVENT

How many people in Stedham remember the Greybeards Trial? This was a motorbike trial event that took place in Stedham from 1959-2009. It was normally scheduled for the first Sunday in September and was centred on the Hamilton pub and regularly attracted 50 or so motorbikes. It was started by Journalist Ralph Venables and was originally only open to riders who had ridden pre WW2. It was later opened to any riders over the age of 40. The bikes would set off along local roads to various off road trial areas on the surrounding Commons and Woodlands. Spectators followed them around the 10 or so different locations. It was a 2-lap event with bikes returning to the pub for lunch before setting off again. Some riders arrived on Saturday and camped on the Common opposite the pub. 2009 was the last year that it came to Stedham as most trial bikes were no longer taxed for road use. The Greybeards trial is still held annually but on one area with no road use.

