



Stedham with Iping Parish Council

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 4
November 2021



MEET THE PARISH COUNCIL

Hello, in this edition we would like to introduce some of the Parish Councillors. We asked the following questions:

1. How long have you been a Parish Councillor?
2. Why did you join?
3. What do you enjoy?
4. Where is your favourite place in the Parish?

SIMON – since August 2018, .

2. The Council was under-resourced I thought some fresh eyes and another pair of hands may help.
3. Doing the little things that keep the Parish ticking over and having the opportunity to shape our future.
4. I love water. You'll find me by the Rother somewhere.

NEIL – Since April 2019

2. The south side of the parish did not have very much representation, so want to put this right
3. The practical things, hands on organisation.

4. Walking or cycling the paths and bridleway around the parish, we have some wonderful countryside.

MADDI – 1 Year

2. To play an active role to increase interest and participation with and for the community. Also, to assist the Parish to be heard and feel ownership and pride of where they live.
3. I enjoy contributing ideas on how we can bring the local community together.
4. Walks over at the Common and experiencing it in different seasons.

HANNAH – Just joined

2. To get involved with coordinating parish events – particularly among the new/younger people of the parish
3. I love doing things with my children – we enjoy working in our vegetable plot together
4. I love the sports field and pavilion and the wonderful views across the polo fields.

STEDHAM STEPPING STONES AND MILL

The Parish Council Meeting of the 9th September hosted the Environment Agency(EA) and the Arun & Rother Rivers Trust (ARRT) who came along to explain what was happening with the levels of River Rother and what the solutions may be. Any solutions must be effective across the whole catchment area not just at individual stretches. The Rother with weirs along nearly its entire length restricts the movement of fish and causes significant build-up of silt.

About 45 parishioners attended the meeting. Feedback forms were provided; please complete your form and return it to the EA. A main concern of those present was that the Parish should not lose a popular and well-loved beauty spot including the old sluice and that remedial works at Stedham Mill should be defined and agreed before work started. EA/ARRT have not yet defined specific objectives but they are identifying the issues. How should the sediment build-up be controlled in the future? Is an automatic weir a sustainable solution? What is required to improve the health and habitat of the river? How will it be funded?

The aims of the various stakeholders, including the local community, landowners, SDNPA, farmers, Angling Clubs as well as the EA and ARRT need to be defined before objectives can be set. The EA is responsible for stakeholder engagement, a key element being to identify the “right” people to be representatives.

The Parish Council cannot manage this engagement alone. A Working Group is needed with members from the community, to shape the aims and objectives of the Parish. Without this the Parish Council will not have the resources to give the Rother the priority it needs.

Contact clerk@stedhamwithipping-pc.gov.uk to be a part of this project.



H.G. WELLS – THE INVISIBLE MAN

A mysterious man, referred to as 'the stranger', arrives at the local inn in the English village of Iping, in West Sussex. His face is hidden entirely by bandages except for a prosthetic nose.

This is the opening to the 1897 novel “The Invisible Man” written by, Herbert George Wells, better known as H G Wells. He was a prolific writer, and wrote dozens of novels, with a penchant for science fiction, his novels included The Time Machine and War Of The Worlds.

He was born on the 21st September 1866 in Bromley Kent. His mother became the housekeeper at Uppark House in 1880 and this allowed the young Wells to make good use of its magnificent library and perhaps lay the foundation for his future literary triumphs.

In 1881 at the age of 15 H G Wells worked in a chemist shop in Midhurst. On the wall outside of the chemist shop, now a dentist is a blue “H G Wells Society” plaque. He left the Chemist shop at age 17 and became a pupil-teacher at the Midhurst Grammar School lodging above what is now the Olive & Vine in North St. There are also blue “H G Wells Society” plaques on the wall at Capron House and the Olive & Vine. He eventually moved away from the Midhurst area. In 1887, he finished his schooling and won a scholarship to the Royal College of Science South Kensington, now Imperial College.

The Poppy Appeal 2021

It is the 100th Anniversary of the Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal. This year there will be no door-to-door collections for the appeal, but Poppies will be available from Rotherhill Nurseries and The Hamilton Arms.

Please make the effort to support this worthwhile cause.

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

As I write there is a distinct chill to the air. The best of the heather flowering is over, and what a sight it was. Autumn almost seems like an anti-climax, however, this is when the heathlands can still be really rewarding. Every hue of green, yellow and brown are everywhere you look. Fungi spring up almost overnight and a plethora of webs sparkle with dew.

This is the time of year when work can proceed without the fear of disturbing the scarce birds, such as woodlark, Dartford Warbler and Nightjar, which reside and breed over the summer months. Volunteer work parties are already out reducing the dominance of the ever-encroaching birch trees. Bracken that was treated in August will be dying back, hopefully not to reappear over the heather areas next year. New cattle have been purchased and are happily grazing Iping, with the possibility of more joining them over the autumn.

Some access improvements have already been carried out with more to follow, including a small footbridge over the wettest area of one of the main tracks across Iping. This is being funded by the South Downs National Park Authority under their “Miles without Stiles” initiative, encouraging the less mobile to explore the countryside around them.

I hope to see some of you out on the heath at this magical time of year.



Steve Webster – Sussex Wildlife Trust Reserve Manager for Stedham & Iping Commons

MILESTONE

Removed in the Second World War, a historic Stedham Milestone now resides in the grooms' yard at Petworth House.

Plans are afoot to reclaim this heritage asset and relocate it back in the village for all to enjoy.

Where would you like to see it located?



FIBRE BROADBAND UPDATE

Would you like better broadband?

With fibre to the cabinet in the village, most of the parish (assuming you pay for a suitable package) gets a reasonable speed on their Broadband. But with more services moving on line, such as Sky Glass, working from home, the kids game consoles, etc. how long will it be before the 20-40Mb and old copper cables into the house no longer cut it?

There is a scheme being sponsored by the Department for Digital, Media, Culture and Sport to upgrade this network to bring fibre optic cables into the home, enabling Gigabit broadband to remove this bottleneck.

The Gigabit Broadband Vouchers Scheme working with the likes of Openreach's Community Fibre Partnerships can deliver this for no cost to the home owner, as long as enough people commit to subscribing to the service when it is available.

The way the current BT network is distributed we won't be able to cover all of Stedham and Iping in one go; probably taking 4 or 5 separate projects over a few years. However the first project is now underway in Minsted and the Parish council are actively involved in its delivery as Project Sponsors.

If you would like to be able to upgrade to Gigabit, get in touch with your address and we'll see how we can all benefit from this scheme.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Parish Events - www.stedhamwithiping-pc.gov.uk

13th November 9.00am-12.00 Noon - Parish Litter Picking. Meet at the Phone Box on The Street.

23rd November 7.00pm - Annual Parish Meeting at the Memorial Hall

Horticultural Society

25th November 2.30pm - Autumn Show at the Memorial Hall. All Welcome.

27th January 7.30pm – AGM at the Memorial Hall

Contact Hannah16stanley@gmail.com 01730 816373

At the Memorial Hall - www.stedhamvillagehall.com

11th November 10.50am - Act of Remembrance

20th November 10am – Coffee Morning in aid of St James Church

18th December 4.30pm – Christmas Carols on the Green

Stedham Movies

Friday 12th November 7.00pm - MINARI (12)

Friday 10th December 7.00pm - Downton Abbey (PG)

Friday 14th January 7.00pm - Official Secrets (15)

Tickets @ £5 each from Bill Crawshaw 01730 814342, from 2 weeks before the showing.

Women's Institute - www.stedhamwi.com

Meet on the third Thursday of the Month at the Memorial Hall

Contact stedhamwi@gmail.com

18th November - AGM

16th December - Christmas Party

20th January - Quiz Night

Spring Fete & VE Celebration

We are looking for volunteers to join the planning group and contribute ideas.

Contact the Clerk - details on page 7.

WHERE IS THIS?



Send your answers to the Clerk for a chance to win this edition's prize, a copy of the new book Cecil's Stedham.

Why not send in your "Where is This?" pictures to be included in future newsletters.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

This year there will be two Christmas trees in Stedham. We will plant one on the Recreation Ground and have a cut one in Common View. Lights will be turned on Saturday 4th December. Why not find an interesting pine cone, decorate it and hang it on one of the trees.



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.