

THE PUMP & POUND

The Newsletter of Parrett & Axe Parish Council

Issue 17

April/May 2014

Welcome to the seventeenth edition of The Pump & Pound. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all parishioners to attend their respective Village Meetings, Wednesday 16th April in Chedington and Tuesday 6th May in South Perrott. These are good forums for people to discuss issues affecting their communities.

Michael Johnson, Chairman

A356 Update – Resurfacing

A site meeting was held with Adrian Norcombe, DCC Highway's Construction Group Manager, on 20th March 2014. Adrian advised that our section of the A356 is scheduled to be resurfaced in July 2014 – exact dates to be notified. The work will include:

- Patch Surfacing the section between Mosterton Junction (Penney's Hill) and Holt Farm (Chedington Golf Club).
- Resurfacing the carriageway between Holt Farm and Sockety Farm; and Hill Farm Bend westwards to the county boundary.

At the same time as this work is undertaken, remedial work to the kerbstones at the edge of the shared footway from Picket Lane to Swing Gate Cottage and outside the Bakers Arms will be carried out. During resurfacing road closures will be in place and diversion routes signposted. These closures will be daytime Mondays to Fridays only. The exact times and duration will be notified later.

The cat's eyes will be reinstated on the A356 on the sections which comply with the regulations i.e. where speed limits are in excess of 40mph and where there are no street lights.

Charity Skittles Night raises over £200!

A Skittles evening held in February at the Coach & Horses raised £203 towards the upkeep of South Perrott & Chedington Millennium Green. It was a fun evening with both children and adults competing for the trophy. Over 40 people enjoyed a hot buffet kindly provided by Jane. Jill Knights, who is now our established "raffle Queen", encouraged everyone to have a go and there were some excellent prizes to be won! The winner of the 2014 skittles trophy was Ben Bailey. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the evening such a success.



Ben with Seb and the trophy

Community Spirit Thrives!

Recently I attended a conference entitled "Vibrant Communities". The guest speaker was Town Cllr. Ron Ley, also Chairman of One Ilfracombe, a community partnership organisation. He described how since he and his fellow councillors were elected in 2003 they had managed to reinvigorate their town by consulting with their community which has a population of c.12,500. Their achievements were certainly impressive including successfully bidding for a number of regeneration grants and encouraging businesses to invest in the town; thereby changing Ilfracombe's image and raising the morale of its residents. This made me think of our own community - our achievements and potential.

Given the size of the parish - South Perrott has a population of 200 adults and approximately 30 children and Chedington has 84 residents on the electoral register with 20% of its properties in second home ownership – I believe we are already a vibrant community here!

We hold a number of fund raising events and social activities throughout the year, For example, in February a Burns Night was held in our village hall. This is a regular feature in South Perrott's social calendar and tickets are always sold out. At the end of February a skittles night was held in aid of the Millennium Green and this too is now an annual event. Looking ahead we have many more planned this year which are entertaining and raise funds for our villages' amenities. These include St George's Evening in April, Chedington Street Fair in July and South Perrott's Open Day in August. There are also many clubs – gardening, computer, book, short mat bowls and others - held regularly throughout the year.

This winter's extreme weather has presented our community with a number of problems and challenges. The gale force winds brought down telephone lines in October and South Perrott was without its telephone and internet for a week. Again in February and March storm force winds brought down power lines in Pipplepen and Bailey's Lanes. On both occasions neighbours helped each other and rallied round to avert any danger whilst getting the power restored as quickly as possible. We now have a River Warden who regularly checks the River Parrett, its tributary streams, drains and any potential water hazards. Other individuals have also taken on responsibilities such as footpaths and tree officers.

Our activities demonstrate the strength of community involvement we have here. However there is always room for further engagement. We do not need to do things on the same scale as Ilfracombe but we can give all our residents the opportunity to participate more fully. A consultation "drop in", with a complimentary continental breakfast is being held in South Perrott Village Hall, on Sunday 8th June 2014. This will provide a forum for residents of both villages, to tell us what is good and what could be improved in our communities. The results will be used to inform the Parish Council as well as other statutory bodies when making decisions that affect our community. All residents will receive an invitation nearer the time. Please keep this date free - We look forward to seeing you there.

Sue Coutanche

Dorset Country Car Scheme

The Country Car Scheme provides a vital transport service to people in rural areas who would otherwise have difficulty travelling to appointments or visiting friends. The County Council, which provides funding for the scheme, is bringing it to an end on 30th June this year. It is hoped that a new Neighbour Car Scheme can be set up to replace it but we are looking for a volunteer to run the new scheme in South Perrott and Chedington. Our thanks must go to Joyce Osborne who has been the organiser of the present scheme for 15 years. If anyone feels they could take on the responsibility or would like more information, please contact Joyce on 891625 or Angela Gillingham on 891931.

Superfast Broadband

Dougal Lockhart, DCC's Project Leader, provided an update on progress and confirmed that Chedington and South Perrott will have access to Superfast Broadband by summer 2016. Superfast Broadband will benefit all users. Please sign up to the Broadband newsletter on www.dorsetforyou.com.

Village Hall Annual General Meetings

The Chedington Village Hall AGM will be held immediately after the Annual Village Meeting on Wednesday 16th April.

The South Perrott Village Hall AGM will be on Tuesday 20th May at 19:00 after which refreshments will be provided.

Your attendance at these meetings is most welcome and will provide you with the opportunity to discuss the activities and functions that you would like in the halls.

Dave McSkelly, Chairman, SP Village Hall Management Committee

Chedington and South Perrott Gardening Club

February 12th meeting, like so much else this winter, had to be cancelled due to the atrocious weather. After such a devastating winter, let's celebrate; celebrate spring! The profusion of flowers in the hedgerows is an absolute delight.

March 12th brought very different weather, and Malcolm from Castle Gardens spoke about fruit trees and also soft fruits. He covered the subject well - fungus, codling moth, die back and bleeding, so no excuse for poor crops! Invaluable information was provided on pruning too, a subject that is always a mystery! The root stock advice that was given sounded like a motorway map, all those M numbers, but very good to know, so that trees are not too tall to harvest.

Begonias are the plant of choice this year for the growing competition.

For the April 9th meeting, Carol Snook will be speaking about her time in film and television. May 22nd is the evening visit to Castle Gardens in Sherborne. Members and guests are welcome. Please make your own way there.

Parrett & Axe Parish Council

Below is a summary of some of the topics discussed at the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13th March 2014. A full set of the agreed minutes will be available on the Parish website (www.parrettandaxe.org.uk) or from the clerk when accepted at the next meeting. In addition to the Parish Councillors and Clerk, also in attendance were County Cllr. Rebecca Knox and District Cllrs. Janet Page and Caroline Payne. Apologies were received from Cllr. Liz Fray and PCSO Alex Bishop.

❖ Road Issues:

- The Highway teams now carry GPS equipment and can fill other potholes when they see them during the course of their work. These are only temporary fillings and a new system is to be introduced whereby a road will be closed in order for the road surface to be repaired properly.
- Shot-blasting had taken place on the A356 from the Mosterton junction down to Winyards Gap. The procedure has left a very rough road surface which may be dangerous to motor cyclists.
- **A356 Resurfacing** – The current status and schedule for the resurfacing was discussed. In view of concerns, especially as a result of the recent extreme weather, a meeting was arranged for 20th March 2014 with Adrian Norcombe, DCC Highway's Construction Group Manager, to discuss the issues and DCC's plans for our section of the A356. (*See separate article – "A356 Update"*)

- Please continue to report all road defects as soon as they occur via www.dorsetforyou.com.
- ❖ **Vibrant Communities, Parish Consultation and Sunday Drop-In Breakfast** – Cllr Sue Coutanche reported on the DAPTC Annual Conference which she had attended. See item “Community Spirit Thrives”.
- ❖ **Council Tax** – West Dorset District Council has approved a budget which will raise their share of the council tax by 1.99% in 2014/15.
- ❖ **Refuse Collection** - The new waste and recycling arrangements are gradually being implemented across the county. This area is in tranche 5, which is due to begin in September 2015.
- ❖ **Dorset Country Cars Scheme** - See separate article.
- ❖ **Power Cuts in South Perrott.** – There were two recent power cuts in the village. The gales on 14th February brought down a tree, power and telephone lines in Pipplepen Lane. The police attended the scene from 4.00pm until 2.00am the following morning. The second incident occurred in Baileys Lane and Western Power had attended within an hour. It was suggested that these agencies are thanked on behalf of the residents as on both occasions power was restored promptly and danger was averted.
- ❖ **River Warden’s Report** – Martyn Gillingham, our River Warden, reported that following the storms he had retrieved a fence panel from the River Parrett and had placed sandbags to protect a property from the force of the river. Following a request from the Environment Agency, he and Peter Hinton had moved the tree donated by “Trees for Dorset”, from the spillway to another position on the Millennium Green. Unfortunately the commemorative brass plaque has disappeared.
- ❖ **Planning Applications** –
 - WDDC notified the following decision: 1/D/13/001731 Winyards Gap Inn, Chedington – proposed outbuilding to contain biomass boiler installation. Approved.
 - Applications pending and decisions notified can be viewed on www.dorsetforyou.com.

Parish Councillors

Councillor	Address	Telephone No.	e-mail Address
Michael Johnson (<i>Chairman</i>)	Chedington	01935 891347 or 07813210266	mikej.chedington@btinternet.com
Peter Simmons	Chedington	07971007551	peterjsimmonsuk@btinternet.com
Liz Fray	Chedington	01935 891941	lizfray@btinternet.com
Kate Organ (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)	South Perrott	01935 891391	
Sue Coutanche	South Perrott	01935 891019	sue.coutanche@btinternet.com
Anita Legg	South Perrott	01935 891666	

Clerk to the Parish Council

Angela Gillingham	Bridge Farmhouse	01935 891931	clerk@parrettandaxe.org.uk
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County Councillor for Beaminster Electoral Division

Rebecca Knox	01308 863365 or 07831168173	r.knox@dorsetcc.gov.uk
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District Councillors

Caroline Payne	01308 863690	Caroline.payne@onetel.com
Janet Page	01308 862422	member@hand-n-head.freeserve.co.uk

Editors – Pump and Pound

Dave McSkelly	01935 891891	davemskelly@aol.com
Sue Coutanche	01935 891019	sue.coutanche@btinternet.com

Parish Council Meetings for 2014:

Thurs 8 th May 2014 (incl. AGM)	Chedington Village Hall
Thurs 10 th July 2014	South Perrott Village Hall
Thurs 11 th September 2014	Chedington Village Hall
Thurs 13 th November 2014	South Perrott Village Hall

What's On in South Perrott and Chedington?

April 2014		Time	Event	Venue	Contact
Tuesday	1 st	19:00	South Perrott Open Day Meeting	SP Village Hall	Ann - 891224
Thursday	3 rd	12:30	Lent Lunch	Sandy Knapp, Chedington	Peter - 891232
Saturday	5 th	11:00	Coffee Morning	Chedington Village Hall	Susan - 891035
Sunday	6 th	19:30	Quiz	Coach & Horses	Jane - 891270
Monday	7 th	11:00	Coffee Club	Coach & Horses	Jane - 891270
Wednesday	9 th	19:30	Gardening Club with Carol Snook	Chedington Village Hall	Sue - 891240
Sunday	13 th	19:30	Bingo	Coach & Horses	Jane - 891270
Wednesday	16 th	19:00	Chedington Village Meeting Chedington Village Hall AGM	Chedington Village Hall	Mike - 891347 Ivan - 891059
Saturday	26 th	19:00	St George's Supper	SP Village Hall	Michael - 891890

May 2014		Time	Event	Venue	Contact
Saturday	3 rd	11:00	Coffee Morning	Chedington Village Hall	Susan - 891035
Sunday	4 th	19:30	Quiz	Coach & Horses	Jane - 891270
Monday	5 th	11:00	Coffee Club	Coach & Horses	Jane - 891270
Tuesday	6 th	19:00	SP Village Meeting	SP Village Hall	Angela - 891931
Thursday	8 th	19:30	Parish Council Meeting (including AGM)	Chedington Village Hall	Angela - 891931
Sunday	11 th	19:30	Bingo	Coach & Horses	Jane - 891270
Friday	16 th	15:00	Oliver Letwin, MP, surgery	SP Village Hall	Angela - 01308 Charles 456891
Tuesday	20 th	19:00	SP Village Hall AGM	SP Village Hall	Michael - 891890
Thursday	22 nd	18:45	Gardening Club visit	Castle Gardens, Sherborne	Sue - 891240

Regular Events – Spring 2014

Day	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
Every Monday	19:30	Short Mat Bowls	SP Village Hall	Bob - 891404
Every Tuesday	10:00	Mosterton and District Over 50s Computer Club	Coach & Horses	Ella - 01308 868834 Barbara - 01308 867891 Martyn - 891931
Every Tuesday	14:00	Short Mat Bowls	SP Village Hall	Bob - 891404
Every Wednesday	10:45	Zumba	SP Village Hall	Ali - 01460 74546/ 07753533727
Every Thursday	09:30	Yoga	SP Village Hall	Ann - 891224
	18:30	Pilates	SP Village Hall	Ali - 01460 74546/ 07753533727
Every Friday	10:00	Upholstery	SP Village Hall	Helen 01460 626211

Future Events:

Drop – In Breakfast Consultation – Sunday 8th June 2014
 Chedington Street Fair - Saturday 26th July 2014
 South Perrott Village Open Day - Sunday 10th August 2014

Local Contacts:

Chedington Village Hall:

Chairman Vacant
 Bookings Ivan Williams 01935 891059

Winyards Gap Toby/Michelle 01935 891244

St Mary's Church:

Church Warden Peter Coles 01935 891232
 Treasurer Wendy Stevenette 01935 891890

South Perrott Village Hall:

Chairman Dave McSkelly 01935 891891
 Secretary Michael Stevenette 01935 891890
 Bookings Vicky Reed 01935 891654

Coach & Horses Jane 01935 891270

Millennium Green:

Secretary Martyn Gillingham 01935 891931