

THE PUMP & POUND

The Newsletter of Parrett & Axe Parish Council

Issue 4

February/March 2012

Welcome to the fourth issue of The Pump & Pound. The findings of the A356 Safety Audit that was carried out in autumn 2011 have been released and, as promised, are detailed inside. It was conducted by an independent body and highlighted some of the concerns held by the community. I was saddened to hear of the death of Amy Lilwall at the grand old age of 106. I can only imagine the changes she must have seen during her long life! Please remember that if anyone would like something considered for future editions of the Pump & Pound they can contact any Parish Councillor, the Parish Clerk or Dave McSkelly.

Mike Johnson - Chairman

News from Winyards Gap

A very happy new year from Toby, Michele and the team at Winyards Gap.

During a hectic Christmas the raffle raised £178.00 for the Air Ambulance, so a big thank you to everybody who bought tickets for such a good cause. We are very optimistic for 2012 despite all the gloom and doom in the press; there are our Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the Olympic Games to look forward to, plus of course our own cider festival. The digging is finished, the utilities have been upgraded and so spring should see the return of a lovely 'green' garden again!

The Magic of the Millennium Green *by Jill Knights*

*Whenever my grandchildren visit they are so keen
to walk through the river to the Millennium Green.*

*Wearing Wellington boots we splash about in the river,
no crocodiles or creatures that make one shiver.
None live here I assure them to quiet
their childhood imaginations from running riot.*

*We reach the bridge where the river forms a pool;
play pooh sticks - only two leaves each is the rule.
You can walk under the bridge if you would but dare
who knows what creepy crawlies lurk under there.*

*We change our Wellington boots for shoes and so.....
up the incline to the Millennium Green we go.
One granddaughter gasps "This is a magical place"
seeing the willow arbor, a look of wonder on her face.*

*The Green has many benches where one can sit
after climbing and running, to rest for a bit.
Homeward bound we splash through the river
where no crocodiles or creatures live to make us shiver.*

*With promises to return once more to play
This exciting place is free - there's no fee to pay.*



No crocodiles here



The willow arbor

The Millennium Green can be enjoyed by everyone whatever age and in any season. When did you last visit?

Chedington and South Perrott Gardening Club

As mentioned in the last issue of the Pump & Pound, we are looking forward to a full and interesting year for the club. It got off to an excellent start with a talk and singing from Bonnie Sartin of the Yetties. The subject of the talk, The Labourers' Lot, was very well researched and extremely interesting. He was in good voice too!

Parrett & Axe Parish Council

Below is a summary of some of the topics discussed at the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12th January 2012. 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, County Councillor Rebecca Knox and District Councillor Caroline Payne were also in attendance.

A356 Safety Audit – Main Findings

Andrew Bradley, Management Engineer, DCC Highways attended the meeting to present and discuss the findings from the Stage 3 Road Safety Audit which had been carried out along the route of the A356. The audit highlighted the following points: -

- There is inconsistent signage along the route and in parts cat's eyes are missing and signs are obscured by vegetation. County Highways will review the signage and cat's eyes and ensure maintenance of the vegetation.
- Narrow section at Swing Gate Cottage. There is insufficient space for two vehicles to pass even if using the footway. It was observed that there was speeding through this section, particularly at night, which could increase the risk of vehicular collisions and danger to pedestrians. The audit recommended signage to slow down drivers and to alert them to traffic approaching in the middle of the road. "Road narrows" signs have already been erected to warn drivers. DCC Highways will monitor the situation over the next 8 to 12 months and then review it. Andrew Bradley explained that it would be difficult to site 'priority' signs at this point.
- Hill Farm bend, South Perrott – the provision of the footway on the bend has created a pinch point leading to poor inter-visibility between opposing traffic. Speeding traffic particularly from the Crewkerne direction could increase the likelihood of collisions as well as potentially increasing the danger to pedestrians. The audit recommended speed reduction measures to encourage drivers to slow down or, alternatively, to remove the footway. After discussion the favoured option was to request that DCC Highways remove the footway, thereby reinstating the full width of the road. In addition a request was made for the introduction of speed reduction signage.

Furthermore some drivers are not aware that it is permissible to drive on the footway. Although some pedestrians feel safer walking through the village, there is still potential for conflict between these two types of road users.

A 20mph speed limit through the village was discussed; however this would not be enforceable.

Andrew said that all the suggestions for improvements were subject to resources and funding being available. In the meantime he offered to arrange for speed monitoring to take place in the village.

Other Business

- ❖ **School Buses** – All primary school buses in Dorset will be fitted with seat belts by the end of January 2012. This is as a result of campaigning undertaken by Parrett & Axe and Salway Ash Primary Schools. Well done!
- ❖ **Lecher Lane/A3066 Junction** - Concerns were reiterated about the dangerous junction at Lecher Lane. Work is due to begin on resurfacing the A3066, north of Mosterton, in June and any new signage at the Lecher Lane junction will be put in then. Prior to the full resurfacing the road will be patched where necessary.
- ❖ **A3066 Misterton Crossroads** - a request was made to realign Misterton crossroads to prevent accidents caused by vehicles driving straight across. Somerset County Council will be approached.
- ❖ **HGVs on A356** - The Clerk reported that statistics taken from the Department for Transport website showed that the number of HGVs travelling along the A356 had decreased from a daily average of 150 in 2000 to 78 in 2010. However, of these HGVs there was an increase in the number of 6-axle vehicles. The overall number of vehicles on the road had remained fairly constant at approximately 2200 per day.
- ❖ **Gypsy & Traveller Consultation** - Dorset-wide Gypsy and Traveller Site consultation is running until 10th February 2012. Four sites had been identified in West Dorset, the nearest being at Shady Side, Axnoller Lane, Beaminster, which has been previously used as a traveller site.

- ❖ **Jubilee Celebrations** - WDDC has invited parish councils to apply for a grant towards the cost of any Diamond Jubilee celebrations being arranged in the parish. Applications for a maximum grant of £250 must be submitted by 1st March. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with celebration organisers in both villages and apply for a £250 grant.
- ❖ **Planning** – Picket Farm slurry compound approved by DCC. Three new applications considered: – Pipplepen Farm, Somerset for soil infill and restoration of pasture land; Buckham Mill Farm for demolition of roof and walls; Rose Cottage for works to existing retaining wall.
- ❖ **Broadband/ Mobile Phones** - WDDC has put in a bid for Government funding for faster broadband in rural areas and has allocated £1.3m in matched funding. The lack of a mobile phone signal in the two villages was raised and Cllr Payne offered to investigate the possibility of a booster mast.
- ❖ **Chemical (Rat) Poison** – Following an incident with a proprietary rat poison, users are reminded that it is a legal requirement when using pest control methods to ensure that these baits cannot be accessed by pets or livestock.

Be vigilant!

Planted stone tubs have recently been stolen from outside cottages in South Perrott. Please advise the police if you see any suspicious activity in your neighbourhood.

How Safe Is Your House?

In 2011, Dorset Fire and Rescue Service (DFRS) attended 439 accidental fires in the home. These could have been avoided if people were more aware of basic fire safety in their homes. Your home is full of potential fire risks; if you are aware of them you can ensure that you reduce the chances of a fire starting in your home. Knowing the dangers and taking precautionary measures could help to save the lives of you and your family.

As part of their commitment to reduce deaths and injuries caused by accidental fires in the home, Dorset Fire and Rescue Service provide free Home Safety advice. If appropriate a DFRS Home Safety Advisor, Rebecca Siebenthal in this area, will visit your home and ensure that you have the correct number of working smoke alarms, fitting or replacing them free of charge if needed, pointing out any potential risks and offering advice as to how they can be minimised. Each home is different in content and layout so visits are tailored to the person, their home and their own unique circumstances. If you would like a Free Home Safety Check, contact DFRS (details below). Alternatively, if you know of someone who may be vulnerable and would benefit from a visit, please get their permission and then contact DFRS on their behalf to arrange an appointment.

Following a spate of serious thatch fires in the county, Dorset Fire and Rescue Service will visit every thatched property to conduct the Home Safety Check, no questions asked! DFRS can be contacted on 0800 038 2323 or the form found at www.dorsetfire.gov.uk can be used.

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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Next Parish Council Meeting Dates:

Thursday 8th March 2012 South Perrott Village Hall
 Thursday 10th May 2012 (includes AGM) Chedington Village Hall

What's On in South Perrott and Chedington?

		Time	Event	Venue	Contact
February 2012					
Friday	3 rd	20:30	Live Music with "Dead To Rights"	Coach & Horses	Gary/Gill - 891270
Sunday	5 th	19:00	Quiz	Coach & Horses	Gary/Gill - 891270
Monday	6 th	11:00	Coffee Club	Coach & Horses	Gary/Gill - 891270
Wednesday	8 th	19:30	Gardening Club	Chedington Village Hall	Sue - 891240
Sunday	12 th	19:00	Bingo	Coach & Horses	Gary/Gill - 891270
Tuesday	14 th	18:00	Valentine's Menu (available 10 th to 14 th)	Winyards Gap	Toby/Michele - 891224
Friday	17 th	18:30	Family Bingo (eyes down 18:30)	SP Village Hall	Ann - 891224
Sunday	19 th	19:00	Music Quiz	Coach & Horses	Gary/Gill - 891270
March 2012					
Friday	2 nd	20:30	Live Music with "The Picture"	Coach & Horses	Gary/Gill - 891270
Sunday	4 th	19:00	Quiz	Coach & Horses	Gary/Gill - 891270
Monday	5 th	11:00	Coffee Club	Coach & Horses	Gary/Gill - 891270
Wednesday	7 th	19:30	Gardening Club	Chedington Village Hall	Sue - 891240
Thursday	8 th	19:30	Parish Council Meeting	SP Village Hall	
Sunday	11 th	19:00	Bingo	Coach & Horses	Gary/Gill - 891270
Sunday	18 th	12:00	Mother's Day Lunch (booking essential)	Winyards Gap	Toby/Michele - 891224
Sunday	18 th	19:00	Music Quiz	Coach & Horses	Gary/Gill - 891270

Regular Events – Spring 2012

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 Tuesday	18:30	Aerobics with Gemma	SP Village Hall	Gemma – 07767 083780
Every Thursday	09:30	Yoga	SP Village Hall	Ann - 891224
Every Friday	10:00	Upholstery	SP Village Hall	Helen – 01460 62621

Diamond Jubilee Celebration - Sunday 3rd June 2012

If you want to join in South Perrott's communal celebrations please contact Dave McSkelly or Vicky Reed (details below). Chedington are looking for ideas and their Parish Councillors would welcome suggestions to make it a memorable occasion.

South Perrott Open Day 2012

Please note that the dates for the Flower Festival and Village Open Day this year are Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th August.

Chedington Street Fair 2012

The street fair this year will be on Saturday 21st July.

Other Contacts

Chedington Village Hall:

Chairman Joy Coles 01935 891232
Bookings Ivan Williams 01935 891059
Winyards Gap Toby/Michele 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 Gary and Gill 01935 891270

Millennium Green

Secretary Martyn Gillingham 01935 891931