

# The Source

## The Parrett and Axe Parish Council Newsletter

August 2010

### Summer Fun!

**The traditional summer activities in Chedington and South Perrott took place again this year, raising much needed funds for the village halls and the church.**

The Chedington Street Fare was held on the 31st July. It was a great success, despite the somewhat overcast weather, and raised £4,844 for the halls in both villages.

The South Perrott celebrations experienced contrasting weather conditions. Heavy rain on the day of the flower show undoubtedly put some people off and caused the cream teas to be moved inside the church. Nothing could detract from the displays, however, which were as beautiful and creative as ever.

Sunday started rather overcast and windy, but steadily improved and was hot and sunny by its end. The music, clog dancing and other activities in the *Coach and Horses*, the car park and the Pound provided both entertainment and focal points, while the llamas and bouncy castle attracted plenty of

interest. An innovation this year was parachuting teddy bears. It was great fun to see children trying to catch the bears as they descended from the church roof. The day raised a record amount. See page three for details.

On Wednesday 18th August a group of villagers was treated to a historic tour of South Perrott. The tour started at the village hall and moved on to the old smithy. From there the site of Mohun House and the church graveyard were visited. Finally, after stopping in Church Hill, the group made its way back to the hall where a fantastic display of photographs and old tools had been assembled. A 'ploughman's supper', washed down with tea, coffee or wine completed a fascinating, absorbing and compelling experience.

That all these activities were arranged and run by a small group of organisers and their helpers is a tremendous tribute to the community spirit that exists in the villages. *More photos can be seen at <http://www.parrettandaxe.org.uk/>*

### Welcome...

Welcome to the second edition of *The Source*. I was delighted by the positive response to the first one and I hope that such approval continues.

This time the newsletter offers an eclectic mix, from the front page report on fundraising activities, to serious issues such as the A356 and the perhaps less critical, but nonetheless important ones centering on litter and the maintenance of the River Parrett as it flows through South Perrott. We hear from newcomers to the village and offer a timetable of events in the village hall and our two pubs.

We also have an article from the Chair of the Millennium Green Committee that merits close attention. Richard Coutanche points out that It is now ten years since the Millennium Green was established. In that time it has provided a great deal of pleasure to a large number of people. More recently, however, longer term worries have begun to emerge. These were brought into sharp focus with the handing over of the flood relief barrier to the Environment Agency, when access was initially denied and then provided, but only under certain conditions.

Access is but one of the problems with the Millennium Green. Its location is far from ideal. It is too distant from Chedington and even from South Perrott parents are understandably

reluctant to allow young children to play unaccompanied. Added to this is the deteriorating state of the play area and some of the trees. Finally, the original trustees are now showing a marked reluctance to continue with their work. It may be time for the two communities to take stock and decide what exactly they want from it in the future.

There is potentially sad news (for some of us at least), which is that the company that owns Chedington Court Golf Course has gone into administration. Not only does the course provide an attractive local amenity, it also gives employment to eight local people. We can only hope the administrator finds a buyer who is willing to take it on.

Finally, the Parish Council has been asked to draw your attention to two things: (1) Dorset's first ever Fingerpost Spotting Competition, which involves recording and photographing all fingerposts in the county (contact Katherine Wright on [k.wright@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:k.wright@dorsetcc.gov.uk) for more details) and (2) the telephone number for highway enquiries has changed to 01305 221020.

The next issue of *The Source* will be in December. If you have anything that you would like to be considered for publication please forward it electronically to [drlines@msn.com](mailto:drlines@msn.com) in good time.

David Lines. Editor

### A Note from the Chair of the Parish Council...

"Throwaway Britain in the grip of a litter epidemic", read a recent national newspaper headline. Fortunately that is not a scenario familiar to residents in our villages, though it would be wrong to be complacent - we have all seen those discarded cigarette packets, drinks cans and plastic on our roads, paths and verges.

We are fortunate to live in an exceptionally beautiful area. Let's keep it that way by:

- Picking up any litter when we see it, and of course not causing litter ourselves.
- Making sure that we clean up after our dogs in public places.

- For those living next to the Parrett, ensuring that the banks are not overgrown. The district council has responsibilities for the ones adjacent to the public highway and I am assured that these will be cleared in September.

Thank you for your help and continuing efforts.

Anthony de la Poer  
Chair, Parrett and Axe Parish Council

### and from the chair of the open Day Committee...

The 2010 Village Open Day was the most successful to date, with a profit of £3,209, which goes towards the running and upkeep of our lovely church.

It was nice to see the village a hive of activity. Thank you all for the time you gave manning the stalls,

offering refreshments etc., and also donating things to sell.

There will be a debriefing meeting at South Perrott Hall on Wednesday 22nd September. Do come along.

Ann Studley

### South Perrott & Chedington Millennium Green

South Perrott & Chedington Millennium Green was established in 1998 when a Trust operating as a registered charity was set up. The landlord of the 999 year lease is now the Environment Agency (previously it was West Dorset District Council). The Millennium Green is an open space designed to provide recreation and 'a natural breathing space' for residents and visitors to South Perrott and Chedington.

As many of you will know, in Summer 2009 the Environment Agency (EA) undertook extensive renovation work to the flood alleviation system, adjacent to the Millennium Green. As a result, access was restricted to pedestrians, as locked gates were installed. I am pleased to report that the EA has now issued a key to enable access for mowing and general maintenance and for events such as the Summer Picnic, which require vehicular access. The work to maintain the Green and meet the Trust's obligations requires regular expenditure. For example, ROSPA inspect the site each year and provide a report that requires action to be taken. In the last couple of weeks a bench and a couple of dead trees had to be removed, a fallen tree had to be restored, whilst play equipment and a gate will be repaired imminently. It is therefore necessary to undertake fund raising activities.



I am delighted to report that a quiz & supper night held at the *Coach & Horses* last November raised £500 and we plan to hold a similar evening at the end of January/early February 2011. Other fund raising activities, often shared with other village events, have included jumble sales, bingo nights and garage sales.

South Perrott & Chedington Millennium Green is managed by Trustees and co-opted members. Some of these Trustees have served since the Trust was established in 1998 and have now expressed their intention to resign. We therefore urgently need replacement Trustees to carry on the good work and also committee members to help them.

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee or a member please contact either the Secretary, Sue Coutanche or myself (email: [sue.coutanche@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.coutanche@btinternet.com) or phone 01935 891019).

Richard Coutanche  
Chair - South Perrott & Chedington Millennium Green



### The A356 Road Scheme Proposal: Latest News

Concern has been expressed that either government cuts will result in the A356 road scheme for South Perrott being shelved, or the demands of other villages along the road will eat up the majority of the budget at our expense. Jody Foy, the officer at Dorset County Council in charge of the project writes:

"The project is progressing well. After the last parish meeting I met with the design team and instructed them to continue with the detailed design.

The preliminary designs have now been independently safety audited and an in depth report produced. This will assist with further detailed design.

All elements that were presented at the public consultation will be developed further to detailed design, which also includes detailed cost estimates.

The overall budget for the project is to be split along the whole route and it is not a case of who shouts loudest. Once there is a better understanding of the cost implications there may be a need to review and prioritise elements, but at this stage I am hopeful to be able to deliver the majority of the proposals.

I will attend a parish council meeting with the detailed design once it has been completed."

On a related matter, readers may have noted the number of accidents that have occurred on the A356 just outside the golf course. These have mainly been single vehicle incidents involving loss of control. The county is aware of the problem and one of the elements within the road scheme is the laying of high friction surfacing on the road at the bend, designed to prevent skidding.

### First Impressions: a view from village newcomers

We arrived at Bridge Farmhouse in South Perrott on a dark, wintery evening last February, to begin our new life in Dorset following retirement from work in Chelmsford, Essex.

Martyn was born in Sherborne and Angela in Exeter, so we like to think that we have returned to our roots.

Our first impressions were formed by the sound of the babbling stream running alongside the house and the church bells; both epitomising an quintessential English village. Our next impression was of the friendliness of the village, as neighbours knocked on our door to welcome us into the community. And what a community spirit the village has! We have been struck by the dedication of a band of stalwarts who tirelessly work towards one fundraising project after another, whether it be the village open day, or the street fair in nearby Chedington. We soon learned that the *Coach and Horses* is the centre of the social life in the village, particularly on a Friday night, and that a torch is an essential item of equipment for the homeward journey!

Bridge Farmhouse is a wonderful old house, dating back to the mid-17th century. We

understand that it was run as a working farm until 1970 when the land was sold off. The house has so much history that we feel more like custodians than owners, because it will still be standing long after we have gone.

Coming from a large town, we are enjoying the more gentle pace of life here and find that people we meet have time to stop for a chat. Since our arrival, we have been made to feel very welcome and we look forward to a long and happy stay in South Perrott.

Martyn and Angela Gillingham



### Dates for your diary

	Village Hall	Coach & Horses	Winyards Gap
September	Saturday 4th Flower Show Saturday 11th Jumble Sale	Friday 10th 9.30pm A/C Beebies Sat 11th Curry Night Sat 18th 9pm Bad Taste	
October	Saturday 2nd 50/50 Auction Sunday 17th Harvest Lunch Saturday 23rd Table Top & Car Boot Sale Saturday 29th Halloween Family Disco	Friday 1st 6-9pm Curry Night	Sat 30th Stompn' Dave plus Halloween fancy dress (with prizes)
November	Saturday 13th Autumn Bazaar Saturday 20th Ceilidh/Barn Dance		

Please remember that Parish Council meetings take place at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of every other month. The next meeting is on the 10th September at Chedington village hall. The meetings are open to the public.