

THE PUMP & POUND

The Newsletter of Parrett & Axe Parish Council

Issue 16

February/March 2014

Welcome to the sixteenth edition of The Pump & Pound. We hope that the items included are informative, relevant and of interest to our readers. We are always pleased to receive feedback and suggestions.

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of two village stalwarts; they both formed part of my childhood memories and they will be greatly missed by all.

Michael Johnson, Chairman

Ben Daw (12th June 1918 – 14th January 2014)

Alfred Charles Daw, known to everyone as Ben, sadly passed away at home on 14th January 2014. Ben was born in South Perrott where he lived all his life. He was much loved and our well-known oldest resident.

Alec Eglon (11th October 1929 – 18th January 2014)

Another local resident sadly died the same week as Ben. Alec lived in the village for most of his life and he attended the old Village School in South Perrott.

South Perrott is Safe from the worst floods!

The photo on the right shows the amount of water that would have deluged the village had it not been for the Environment Agency's Flood Relief Scheme. The dam and subsequent improvements have ensured that the volume of water released into the River Parrett is controlled thus preventing the major flooding of homes that occurred prior to its installation.

The extreme weather that is currently being experienced throughout the country has resulted in the saturation of the land and a rise in the water table. At the last Parish Council meeting, Martyn Gillingham volunteered to be River Warden for South Perrott and was duly appointed. Martyn will regularly check the River Parrett and tributaries to ensure that they are free of obstructions and will liaise with the Environment Agency as necessary. He can be contacted on 891931.



We still need to be vigilant as blocked drains and gullies can cause localised flooding. Please take action either by clearing these yourself or if this is not possible by contacting a neighbour or Martyn. We must all take responsibility for our property and our village.

Reporting Highway Problems including Potholes

DCC's highways maintenance team received over 1000 reports of cracks and potholes in road surfaces throughout the county during the first two weeks of January. In our area numerous potholes have opened up on the A356. On the section between the 30mph sign and the Somerset border these are deep and recurrent. The maintenance team provides a good response; however often the same potholes reappear and with heavy rainfall sometimes within a week. The Parish Council will continue to notify all known road hazards. DCC is urging people to report highways issues by visiting www.dorsetforyou.com and following the links. The phone lines for emergency highways issues are 01305 221020 during office hours and 0845 0678 999 at all other times.

DCC aim to repair potholes, that present an immediate hazard to road users, within 32 hours and to repair all other defects within 28 days. DCC staff are doing their best to keep to this commitment and the latest technology is enabling a more targeted response to road issues identified.

Charity Skittles Night

A skittles evening including a hot buffet supper is being held at the Coach & Horses Inn on Saturday 22nd February. All proceeds raised will go towards the upkeep of South Perrott and Chedington's Millennium Green. Come and have fun and you could be this year's winner of the Millennium Green Skittles trophy! Tickets are £5 each. A family ticket for 2 adults and 2 or more children is £17.50. Further details are given in "What's On" on the back page.

Chedington Street Fair

The Street Fair for 2014 will be on Saturday 26th July. As well as the usual lunches, teas and cakes there will be a number of new features this year. These include lots of new games, a bouncy castle and skittles. There will be some new stalls. Entry will be £1 per adult which includes a prize draw for a hot air balloon ride leaving from Winyards Gap that evening. For more information contact Henry on 01935 891567 or see

the Street Fair website www.chedingtonstreetfair.co.uk. The Street Fair raises funds for the Chedington and South Perrott Village Halls.

News from the Village Pubs

Both the village pubs will be offering special Valentine's Day menus on Friday 14th February. The Coach and Horses menu will also be available on Saturday 15th. Normal menus will be available on both days.

Chedington and South Perrott Gardening Club

2013 ended with a very pleasant and fascinating talk by Terry Heard. So good to know that traditional wood crafts have not yet been consigned to history! The no-waste policy of coppicing benefits the woodland. The 'waste' is used to make a myriad of useful things such as thumb and walking sticks, Harry Potter type wands and besoms (a handy means of transport for witches and wizards). Even flowers from the shavings!

We had a good start to the New Year with a talk from Neil Lovesey of Picket Lane Nursery. He is very generous with his professional know how; members benefit greatly from his knowledge. It is well known that there are 4 seasons in the UK. But apparently there are 10 for plants! Like us, plants do not always get the full complement. That is why some plants do well in some years and not others. True to his word Neil showed us, with the help of slides that cheered up a cold damp evening, that by using secateurs and delaying planting we can get colour in the garden all year.

What next? On February 12th Phil Gamble will be speaking about the National Trust gardens in the South West. On March 12th The Castle Gardens Group will provide a speaker on "top fruit and soft fruit", something that can be looked forward to for the summer.

Parrett & Axe Parish Council

Below is a summary of some of the topics discussed at the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9th January 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 Cllr. Janet Page. Apologies were received from District Cllr. Caroline Payne and PCSO Alex Bishop.

- ❖ **Bus Service – 204 Thorncombe to Yeovil** – Following consultation as part of the review, from 6th April 2014 the 204 bus will continue to run on Fridays. The issue of rural transport is in the spotlight and the expansion of the Community Volunteer Service is going ahead with more community cars and minibuses. These can be used for non-emergency purposes as well as hospital appointments.
- ❖ **Mobile phone reception** - The BT team based at County Hall have advised that under the Government's Mobile Infrastructure Project mobile phone coverage will be extended to areas where no coverage is currently available. Various sites are under consideration, including one in this parish. The aim is for sites to be acquired and building to be completed by 2015.
- ❖ **Flooding in South Perrott.** - See article on front page. There has been some flooding in South Perrott, in the main confined to the roads. A particular concern during heavy rain was when water cascaded from the ditch at the back of the Village Hall in South Perrott, down Pipplepen Lane and into The Pound. It was agreed that a review of the drains is needed. Martyn Gillingham volunteered to be the River Warden and was duly appointed.
- ❖ **Road Issues:**
 - **Reporting Highway Problems including Potholes** – See article on the front page.
 - **Accidents** – Following a series of accidents on the A356 near the old Golf Club (now Holt Farm) a site meeting of parish councillors was held in December with a DCC highways engineer and County Councillor Rebecca Knox to discuss the possible causes. Resurfacing and patching is planned and hydro blasting has been done.
 - **A356 Resurfacing** – Resurfacing of the section of the A356 from Holt Farm to east of Sockety Farm is scheduled to commence 21st July 2014. At the same time patching will be done where necessary on the section from Holt Farm eastwards as far as the junction with Chedington Lane signposted to Mosterton. This section of the A356 will be closed to all traffic during the resurfacing period and diversions will be in place.
 - **Kerbstones** – 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 undertaken. We are awaiting confirmation of a date.

- **Flooding under the railway bridge on Pipplepen Lane –** There have been recent incidents of vehicles submerged under the bridge. A request has been made to Somerset County Council for a sign to be erected at the South Perrott end of Pipplepen Lane, similar to that at the North Perrott end warning that the road is closed beyond Pipplepen Farm. Hopefully this will prevent a recurrence of the situation shown in this photo!



- ❖ **Village & Parish Plans** –The parish consultation event planned for spring 2014 has now been deferred until the summer. Details of this event will appear in future issues of the Pump and Pound and via fliers delivered to each household in both villages. **Watch this space!**
- ❖ **Precept for 2014-15.** A precept of £3800 was approved for 2014-15. This is the same amount as the current (2013-14), year.
- ❖ **Budget** - It was agreed that it would be prudent to build up the Parish Council's contingency fund when next year's budget is considered in November 2014, to enable small projects to be undertaken.
- ❖ **Planning Applications**
 - One new application was received 1/D/13/001731 Winyards Gap Inn, Chedington – proposed outbuilding to contain biomass boiler installation.
 - WDDC notified the following decisions: Picket Farm, South Perrott. Demolish outbuilding for calf rearing and alter road access. Approved.
 - Bellamy Farm, South Perrott. Remove external walls to granny annexe. 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.freemove.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 13 th March 2014	South Perrott Village Hall
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?

February 2014		Time	Event	Venue	Contact
Saturday	1 st	11:00	Coffee Morning	Chedington Village Hall	Susan - 891035
		19:00	Burn's Night Supper	SP Village Hall	Michael - 891890
Sunday	2 nd	19:30	Quiz	Coach & Horses	Jane - 891270
Monday	3 rd	11:00	Coffee Club	Coach & Horses	Jane - 891270
Sunday	9 th	19:30	Bingo	Coach & Horses	Jane - 891270
Wednesday	12 th	19:30	Gardening Club with Phil Gamble	Chedington Village Hall	Sue - 891240
Wednesday	19 th	18:00	Family Bingo (eyes down 18:30)	SP Village Hall	Anne - 891224
Saturday	22 nd	19:00	Charity Skittles Night	Coach & Horses	Sue - 891019
					Martyn - 891931

March 2014		Time	Event	Venue	Contact
Saturday	1 st	11:00	Coffee Morning	Chedington Village Hall	Susan - 891035
Sunday	2 nd	19:30	Quiz	Coach & Horses	Jane - 891270
Monday	3 rd	11:00	Coffee Club	Coach & Horses	Jane - 891270
Sunday	9 th	19:30	Bingo	Coach & Horses	Jane - 891270
Wednesday	12 th	19:30	Gardening Club (speaker tba)	Chedington Village Hall	Sue - 891240
Thursday	13 th	19:30	Parish Council Meeting	SP Village Hall	Angela - 891931
Wednesday	19 th	12:00	Lent Lunch	Threshers Barn, SP	Wendy - 891890

Regular Events – Winter/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 Thursday	09:30	Yoga (resumes 13 th March)	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:

Lent Lunch – Thursday 3rd April 2014 at Sandy Knapp Chedington (contact Joy 891232)

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

South Perrott Village Hall:

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

Winyards Gap Toby/Michelle 01935 891244

Coach & Horses Jane 01935 891270

St Mary's Church:

Church Warden Peter Coles 01935 891232
Treasurer Wendy Stevenette 01935 891890

Millennium Green:

Secretary Martyn Gillingham 01935 891931