

*Stottesdon and Sidbury  
Parish Council*



Clerk Mrs Freda Morris and Cllr Rosemary  
Abbiss receiving the Jan Snell Award  
from SALC President Pauline Dee

*Newsletter  
January 2009*

*Happy New Year to all our readers*

## **Jan Snell Award**

As you can see from the photograph on the front of this newsletter the Parish Council won the 'Jan Snell Achievement Award' and the Clerk and Vice-Chairman Rosemary Abbiss was presented with this at the AGM of Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) in November.

Jan Snell was assistant secretary at SALC for many years before she passed away suddenly 3 years ago and was instrumental in training Freda when she took over as Clerk in 1986.

To be considered for this award the Parish Council had to demonstrate that they had achieved 'something special' in the previous year. We had numerous achievements which included the Clerk gaining her CiLCA qualification, the Parish council being awarded Quality Council status, partnership working with the County Council in providing the new parking area in the village and also the 'temporary' bridge at Winterburn Bridge being constructed to enable the road to be re-opened, the building commencing of the 6 affordable housing in Chorley to name but a few of our achievements.

The Clerk commented at the AGM that 'the award was special to her as Jan had helped her a great deal when she first took over as Clerk and it was an honour to receive the award in memory of Jan'.

## **Stottesdon Primary School**

We are very fortunate to have this "outstanding" school within our parish. The present number of pupils is 63 and rising. Two full-time teachers and two part-time teachers support 3 classes. There is one Higher Level Teaching Assistant and two teaching assistants plus all the support staff that help this vibrant school.

For a small school there are many extra curricular activities including Golf club, Netball club, Dance club, Hockey club, Gardening club and lessons on playing the Guitar, Flute, Clarinet and Violin. All of these activities are very well subscribed. The school operates an open door policy which in essence means that anyone is welcome to see the achievements of the pupils. Throughout the year there are many plays, fete's etc that everyone is welcome to attend.

## **Parish Watch**

There has been a marked increase in rural burglaries in the Bridgnorth area in the run up to Christmas - only 1 in this parish. It may be linked to economics and could get worse. Please be very vigilant and report anything suspicious - the system is confidential and anonymous. This does involve everyone and if you need a yellow number card or a window sticker please contact Brian Hamilton-Russell - 718577.

## **Nightingale Nursing Fund**

Sincere thanks go to the Cleobury Mortimer Players who allowed the NNF members to hold a raffle on their final night of their recent production. A wonderful £93 was raised for this the local peoples nursing fund.

On 3rd December Diane Newsham was responsible for organising another festive shop at the Fighting Cocks with the kind permission of Sandra Jefferies. This saw another £132 come to the fund with the same amount going to the friends of Stottesdon School. This was a superb evening with much Christmas shopping done from the quality stalls which were there.

11th December saw us joining with Cleobury Mortimer Senior Citizens Christmas Fund for an evening of Bingo. This was held at the Sports and Social Club, Cleobury Mortimer, with both funds receiving yet another £93 each. Thanks must go to the organisers of all these events. This truly local fund helps provide nursing care locally at times of crisis and is accessible through your District Nurses.

Burwarton Show Young Farmers committee donated £500 of their profit from the after show dance to the Nightingale Nursing Fund

## **Glebe Drive Improvements**

The Parish Council are delighted that the bus lay-by and the extra car parking project for the village has now been completed.

The land for both sites has been donated by Bridgnorth District Council and the work on the bus lay-by was done and funded by Shropshire County Council Highways Dept.

The extra car parking was completed by the County Highways dept and paid for by Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council through a Public Works Loan. The Car parking is now owned by the Parish Council for the Parishes use.

The Parish Council has written to the Bus Company requesting that the bus turns in Glebe Drive instead of the Burnt Pitt corner, which was considered dangerous, but although this has not yet happened we are monitoring the situation.

Many thanks to everyone who lives on and in the Glebe Drive area for their co-operation and patience during the work and an especially big thank you to the work gang for their efficient and prompt work and the officers who went out of their way to assist the Parish Council with this project.

## **New Parish Councillor**

Mrs Rae Griffiths was co-opted onto the Parish Council in November following the resignation of Mary Meddings.

Rae lives in Stottesdon and has worked in Local Government for many years, which will be a great asset to the Parish Council.

## **Annual Parish Precept**

Each year we all receive the dreaded 'council tax' demand from Shropshire and Bridgnorth, and sigh at quite how much money 'they' want from us this time! Included in the bill is the precept from your Parish Council which, although by far the smallest part of the bill (at just under £24 per head in this parish), is we feel worthy of an explanation from your Parish Council members.

Our precept pays for the running and administration of this parish; costs such as maintenance of parish-owned land and property, insurance, audit fees, and printing of this newsletter. In addition our precept is covering repayments of the loan which we took out to provide the much needed new parking spaces in the centre of the village and also Solicitors fees for the land transfer from Bridgnorth District Council.

It also pays for the salary of our Parish Clerk who carries out a great deal of work in public and behind the scenes to keep our wheels running smoothly (in the case of the road repairs, quite literally!). This year we have been hit by a new adjustment from Inland Revenue in the way they require us to manage our Clerk's salary which has generated an increase of over 50% in the salary burden.

Despite these significant increases to our costs, our overall precept has risen only by 11% on last year. This cost management is due to our zero-based accounting policy (or bottom-up budgeting) which ensures that we only precept for unavoidable parish costs. This has enabled us to generate savings in other areas thus keeping the precept at what we consider to be acceptable levels. As always, any member of the Parish Council will be pleased to answer any questions on the precept or any other part of the Parish Council activities (our numbers are listed at the back of this newsletter), or we would welcome you to our monthly meetings.

## **Recycling**

The Parish Council are aware that there are properties in the Parish who have not yet been provided with either the recycling boxes or black and green wheelie bins. Can we please ask you to notify the Clerk or a Parish Councillor as soon as possible if you have not received your bins and boxes - we will then pass this information on to Veolia.

If you have experienced problems with your collections can you please let the Parish Council have this information as soon as possible.

## **District Councillors Surgery**

District Councillor Madge Shinton will be holding an advice surgery in the functions room at the Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon on Tuesday February 10th from 7pm to 9pm.

## Forthcoming events at the Village Hall at Chorley

### January

**Film Night** on Thursday 29th January presenting 'For your consideration'

### February

**Film Night** on Wednesday 25th February presenting 'No Country for Old Men'

**Puddings, Poems and Punch Evening** on Saturday 21st February from 7.30pm onwards. For tickets contact Clare Tibbits on 718007 or Joe Bubb on 718693

### March

**Film Night** on Thursday 19th March presenting 'Ghost Town'

### April

**Film Night** on Thursday 30th April presenting 'The Duchess'

**Belgian Beer Night** at the Village Hall – date to be confirmed

### May

**Film Night** on Wednesday 13th May presenting 'Easy Virtue'

Evening of music at the Village Hall with **Whalebone**

### *Proposed Social events over the rest of 2009 include:*

**Disco** at the end of June

**Wine Tasting evening** – to be re-run following the success of last years event

**Bingo or Race night** in July

**Taste of Shropshire Evening** in September

**Apple Day** in October

The Village Hall committee is looking to run a '**Quite Interesting**' Evening to start in March with guest speakers on interesting topics and hobbies. So if you've ever wanted to know about the local history of the Parish, would like a taster course in painting, some tips on identifying and buying antiques, or how to read the stars - we want to hear from residents on what they would like to find out about and whether there are any local experts willing to speak on a topic or their hobby? Contact Joe to find out more.

Membership for the Village Hall Supporters Group runs from May to April and includes updates on forthcoming events and **free entry** to all the regular film events. Membership is £5 per adult or family membership for £12 (2 adults and 2 children). For information on the above events, contact Joe Bubb on 718693.

## **Chorley & Stottesdon Youth Group**

Sadly we have not been able to find anyone to take over the running of the Youth Group based in Chorley Village Hall.

There are a number of proposals for the dispersal of the Clubs assets:-

- To divide the assets between Highley, Ditton Priors, and Cleobury Mortimer Youth Groups.
- To approach neighbouring parishes to see if they have any interest.

As the equipment was bought with grants from various bodies including local council it therefore must be dispersed to similar groups.

We would be grateful for any comments/opinions - please contact Madge Shineton or Rosemary Abbiss.

## **Brooksmeeing Bridge**

The Clerk received notification on Wednesday 14th January that the Brooksmeeing Bridge in the Chorley Woods was having to be closed with effect from January 15th for several months. This closure has been implemented on an emergency basis after Shropshire County Council were informed that following a recent underwater inspection of the bridge it was found that both of the bridge's abutments have been substantially undercut by the river.

Also there will be traffic lights operating on the Priors Moor bridge near to Rays Farm bridge on the main road as there is also similar problem.

It is very much appreciated that this will cause inconvenience to many parishioners, visitors, delivery drivers etc. Complaints have been received that the diversion signs are not very clear, but as you can appreciate this road was closed in an emergency and signs have to be made.

Can we please ask that the diversion routes are adhered to and that everyone drives carefully.

Friends of Stottesdon School

**Valentine's Day Ball**

**Chorley Village Hall**

Saturday 14th February 8pm-12.30am

Complimentary drink, light refreshments and canapés

Tickets include photographic memento and a chance to win a case of bubbly

Bar and disco

Dress to impress

£10 per ticket available from:

Sarah 718788

Miranda 718105

Sally 718126

Jenny 718437

Karen 718700

All proceeds to Stottesdon School



## What's On in January 2009 at the Severn centre, Highley: Tele: 01746860000

Saturday 31st – Highley Community Oscars – Do you have a talent? Can you perform in front of an audience? Tickets on sale soon – for more information please call 07727675629

### Coming In February

Digital Camera Club – from Monday 2nd 7pm – every Monday

Saturday 7th - Dad's Day – Free Activity - 10am – 11.30am

Saturday 7th – Film Club – 3pm start – Free Admission

Thursday 12th – Blood Service will be at the Centre

Friday 20th – Friends & Users Quiz Night - 10 per team of 4 to include light refreshments – 7.30pm

Friday 27th – Film Club – 7.30pm start – Free Admission

[We have some limited places for your birthday party bookings – please book early to avoid disappointment](#)

### Severn Hospice - A serious side to fun!

Regulars at the "Fighting Cocks" in Stottesdon get together every so often for a great Quiz Night and Raffle. Sandra and Malcolm, from the pub, also annually host the "Stottesdon Spectacular" Fireworks Display, Beer Festival and Pig Roast. All this community centred fun has a serious fundraising side – so £1,000 that was raised during 2008 was presented at the Christmas Quiz evening to Rosemary Abbiss of our local Severn Hospice Support Group.

The Christmas Quiz was also a tremendous success raising another £400 for Charity. Thanks must go to all those who made this possible. For details of how to join in the fun call the Fighting Cocks on 01746 718210.

During this successful evening the local Stottesdon and Cleobury Mortimer Support Group handed over a cheque for £3,000 to the Severn Hospice which was a result of many activities held during the year. The support group wishes to thank sponsors of events and to the public for the support at functions and hope that we shall receive the continued support for a successful 2009.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:****CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Clerk can be contacted at all reasonable hours.

Mrs F Morris

18 Glebe Drive

Stottesdon

Kidderminster

DY14 8UF

Telephone number: 718453 (answerphone available)

Email - stottesdonpc@btinternet.com

Website: [www.shrop.net/stottesdonandsidburypc](http://www.shrop.net/stottesdonandsidburypc)

**PARISH COUNCILLORS:**

Mrs R Abbiss	718210	Mr B Hamilton-Russell	718577
Mr I Swain	718135	Mr P Martin	718419/718714
Mrs J Davies	718093	Mrs D Newsham	718223
Mr J Griffiths	718198	Mrs M Shineton	718427
Mrs R Griffiths	718256	Mrs D Walsh	718527

**DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

District Councillor Madge Shineton	718427
County Councillor Peter Martin	718419/718714

Stottesdon School	718617
Chorley Family Playgroup	718769
Stottesdon/Sidbury Church	01746 862426 Rev Colin Resch
Chorley Village Hall	718593 (Mike Mooney - bookings)
Doctors	712672
District Nurses	711963
Bridgnorth District Council	713100
Shropshire County Council	08456 789018
Lacon Childe School	01299 270312
Bridgnorth Endowed School	762103
Social Car (Jenny Howes)	718675
WI (Jenny Everingham)	718219
Power Loss Helpline	08457 331331
Mobile Library	01584 813600
Crimestoppers	0900 555111
Rural Stress Network	024 7641 2916
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Shropshire Rural Housing	01743 874848
Severn Trent Water (Emergencies)	0800 7834444
Duck Inn	718267
Fighting Cocks	718270
Shropshire Registration Service	0845 6789016
Police	08457 444888

**Tree Wardens:**

Wade Muggleton (Stottesdon)	718753
Nathan Home (Chorley)	07966365157