

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:**

**CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Clerk can be contacted at all reasonable hours.

Mrs F Morris

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Stottesdon

Kidderminster

DY14 8UF

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**PARISH COUNCILLORS:**

Mrs R Abbiss	718210	Mr P Martin	718419/718714
Mr I Swain	718135	Mrs M Meddings	718065
Mrs J Davies	718093	Mrs D Newsham	718223
Mr J Griffiths	718198	Mrs M Shingleton	718427
Mr B Hamilton-Russell	718577	Mrs D Walsh	718527

**DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

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

Stottesdon School	718617
Playgroup (Jackie Bore)	07702839696
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

# *Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council*



Winterburn bridge - removed due to damage

*Newsletter  
Summer 2008*

### **Quality Council:**

We were very proud and delighted to hear that we had achieved Quality Council status as it was an ambition we have been working towards for some time. The timing was also perfect as the news arrived just in time for our Annual Parish Meeting. Great credit goes to our Clerk, Freda Morris, who not only passed her CiLCA qualification first time with flying colours but also gave an excellent presentation to the Assessment Panel. Several of our projects have come to fruition over the last year and we have more in the pipeline. We can now pursue these with high morale and pride in the display of the 'Q' logo on our stationery.

### **South Wheatlands Archive Group:**

The group are researching the possibility of a permanent memorial to locals killed in action during the Second World War that have no memorial at present. We only have the name of one brave soldier, and his family have been contacted, seeking permission to display his name (John 'Jack' Morris). If anyone knows of another soldier that lost his life fighting please let the group know via myself - Rosemary Abbiss 718210.

### **Road closures:**

Rays Farm Bridge is due to be closed from Tuesday 19th August for 6 weeks for bridge repair work to be carried out. Diversion signs will be set up. Can we please ask everyone to be patient during this time and drive carefully through the village, remembering that there are a lot of small children living in the village. Any problems please contact the Clerk or a Parish Councillor.

Winterburn bridge has been closed since last September due to flood damage caused to the bridge. As you can see from the photograph on the front cover the bridge had to be removed as it was dangerous. It is hopeful, subject to satisfactory ecologist reports, that work will begin around the 26th June to build a temporary bridge until funding is available and work commences next year on a permanent bridge.

Walton Bank, Stottesdon: It is proposed to close this road from 29th September for a 2 week period to allow for carriageway patching and drainage work. The closure will be for day time and week days only.

Can we once again ask for your patience whilst this much needed work is carried out. Any problems please contact Clerk or a Councillor.

### **Stottesdon and Chorley Youth Club:**

The youth club continues to meet every Tuesday during school term between 7pm and 9pm at Chorley Village Hall. For further information contact Selina Broome on 718444.

### **Glebe Drive parking:**

The project to alleviate parking problems is progressing. In the meantime can we please ask everyone **NOT** to park on the pavements outside the school and in Glebe Drive. The Police are monitoring the situation and have made it clear that they will book anyone causing an obstruction.

There is parking in Glebe Drive but **please** consider the residents by not parking on the narrow drive leading off the main road – please also remember that access is required for delivery vehicles, refuse collection lorries, emergency vehicles etc.

### **Chorley Recycling facilities:**

Please note that cans and bottles can no longer be recycled at The Duck Inn - please use the kerbside collection boxes.

### **Parish Watch:**

With current prices of commodities anything metal from a manhole cover to a mousetrap is likely to suddenly grow legs, We have suffered a plague of scrappies recently and two recent thefts are circumstantially linked to them. The police are very much on the case. Please report any scrap visitors with vehicle registration and description direct to Brian Hamilton-Russell (718577). If they are continually hassled they might get the message to go elsewhere. Some can get nasty so do not confront - just observe and report.

**FREE**

### **Safe & Wise Events Bridgnorth District**

An exciting opportunity for those of retirement age and over, to come along to a FREE, local Safe and Wise Event

To spend an enjoyable time finding out about important information which can help you keep safe and well in your home

There will be talks by West Mercia constabulary on home and personal safety. Shropshire Fire and Rescue on fire safety.

There will also be information and advice from experts and organisations exhibiting information relevant to you.

Free refreshments

To book your **FREE** place  
Please ring

**01743 342161**

**Venues as follows:**

**10th July 2008 9.30am-1.30pm**  
Alveley Village Hall  
Daddlebrook Road  
Alveley  
Bridgnorth

**16th July 2008 9.30am-1.30pm**  
Cleobury North Village Hall  
Cleobury North  
Nr Bridgnorth

**29th July 2008 9.30am-1.30pm**  
Birchmeadow Centre  
Broseley  
Shropshire

**6th August 2008 9.30am-1.30pm**  
Worfield Recreation Room  
Worfield  
Bridgnorth

***Please note: Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council cannot in any circumstances accept responsibility for errors, omissions of advice given in this publication. The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council.***

## From the archives:

Letter from the Vicar - July 1939

“Good Hope”  
1 Morfa Road  
Llandudno

Dear Friends,

I am sure you will all be grieved to hear that the result of my serious accident last April means that I must resign the living of Stottesdon, and must take a complete rest for some time. The doctor says I may be able to do a little light work later on, but such severe internal injuries to a man of my age makes it unwise for me to think of taking on duties of a parish. I have made wonderful progress, but still feel weak.

Mrs. Burnham and I have taken a little house here, on the Great Orme's Road, where we think we may be able to settle happily. We have already found many kind friends here.

I cannot conclude without a few words of acknowledgement to the neighbouring clergy, who have kindly taken celebrations and other Sunday services since my accident and to Wardens and other Church Officers, who have had the struggle to keep up services without a Vicar to help them to pull things together. Mrs. Burnham and I have every hope that the Bishop may be able to get a man for Stottesdon, who will be able to reach that standard of efficiency in your parochial life which we have been striving for, and we will hope to some measure working towards.

We wish you all the best of everything in your individual, as well as your parochial life.

Yours very sincerely,

L. Burnham

Stottesdon School (extract January 1956)

For many years the Managers have been very concerned about the state of the school buildings, they have not been able to afford the heavy cost of keeping them in order, for their only income is from the rent of the School House. It is obvious to all that the roof needs immediate attention, the classroom used for the Infants is much too small, the cloak-rooms are inadequate and the lavatories are disgraceful, to mention but a few things. Naturally the Managers were anxious to do what they could, but to do even a little would cost more than they could afford. Water has been laid on to the School House and a new grate put in one of the rooms because the old one was dangerous to use, these things have been owed to Mr and Mrs Brown for their patient forbearance over many years.

The Vicar talked the whole position over with the Secretary for Education at Shrewsbury and ascertained that to bring the School up to the standard required by the Education Act would cost something between £5,000 and £6,000. The Diocese would have helped a little but even then the Managers would have to raise at least £3,000 and they therefore very rightly refused to burden this small parish, with 585 as population, with a debt of this magnitude. On the other hand they could not allow the buildings to deteriorate any further or the lavatories to remain so offensive any longer so they asked the Ministry of Education to grant the school “Controlled Status”. This has been done with the willing consent of the Diocese and the County Education Authority from December 13<sup>th</sup> 1955.

This means that the County Education Committee are now responsible for all costs of maintenance and repairs, as well as extensions and alterations. But in future those who use the School will have to pay a proper fee, fixed by the County Authority, but when this is compared with paying about £3,000, it is clear that the parish has the best of the bargain. There will only be two Foundation Managers instead of four, but the teaching and worship will not alter; both the head teacher and the assistant are entitled to give Church teaching if willing to do so and the Opening Worship is taken by the head or his deputy. The Vicar can still teach regularly. The School has not been “handed over”, but still belongs to the Church; the buildings are ours, but the maintenance of them is now the responsibility of the County Education Authority. The Managers have the right of using them on Saturdays and the two Foundation Managers on a Sunday.

## Forthcoming Events, Films and other activities at The Village Hall:

The Village Hall Supporters Group has a busy programme for the summer - and membership is great value which includes exclusive free admission to our popular monthly big-screen Film Nights. For membership details and more information on events, call Joe on 718693 or Clare on 718007.

Friday 4th July WINE TASTING 7.30pm - no airs and graces here, just *honest wines and ideas for everyday folk from Inspired Wines of Abberley*. Tickets £5 include locally sourced nibbles and snacks; call Clare, by Wednesday 2 July please, to book your ticket.

Thursday 17th July FILM: *Stardust* [PG] 7.30pm

Sunday 17th August CHORLEY SHOW from 11am

Saturday 20th September DISCO 8pm

and a provisional Autumn date for your diary -  
APPLE DAYS (bring along your fruit for pressing) Sat/Sun 25th/26th October

### Local action and successes on the Climate Change campaign trail:

With fuel and energy costs at the top of the news, we can report progress on three initiatives which are positively reducing energy consumption and Carbon Footprints in Stottesdon and Chorley. If you'd like to know more, or to get involved, then call Chris & Clare 718007 or Richard & Joe on 718693:

+Community Plastic Bottle Recycling - 30,000 bottles (almost a tonne!) diverted from landfill to be re-used in drainage pipes and garden furniture in less than two years; saving 1½ tonnes of damaging CO2 Carbon emissions

+Village Hall Light Bulb Library - encouraging use of new Low Energy Bulbs with samples for everyone to try at home before buying, and discounts available on your first purchase. One business in the parish has already saved over £2,000 (and ½ tonne CO2!) by using similar bulbs as part of its energy reduction campaign.

+Chorley Show: Low Carbon Travel Plan - in 2007, almost all visitors came by car - so we hope to offer a carbon-friendly shuttle-bus this year *and* reduced admission prices for people who choose to leave the car at home.

### Chorley Show - a fun packed day out for family and friends:

New for this year's Show, *Pig racing* tops the bill in the main ring on Sunday 17th August - together with the return of the popular *Kingdom Horse* team ('Horse Whispering').

We will also be showcasing live music on stage, craft workshops - come and try your hand at throwing a pot with Wenlock Pottery - real ale beer tent, Craft and Produce Marquee, locally sourced BBQ and refreshments, traditional sideshows, composting and energy efficiency advice, Family Fun Dog Show, and loads more for everyone to see and do. See you there!

Full details of all these activities, and schedules for the Craft and Dog Shows, will be published on 1st July on the noticeboards - and on our new website: try visiting [www.chorleyshow.co.uk](http://www.chorleyshow.co.uk) (or if you don't use the internet, call us free on the Chorley Show Hotline 0700 598 0014).

As always, the Show is focused on raising funds for the Village Hall and other local good causes - this year we will be supporting the amazing work of Willowdene Farm in Chorley (who have always been among the Show's greatest supporters) and of The Rainbow Oncology Unit (which has provided specialist care and tremendous support to Harry, Karen and Mark)

## Guided walks with Stotty Strollers

With summer weather hopefully here to stay at last, we hope to resume our monthly programme of Guided Walks around the Parish Paths network from July. Details will be posted on the Strolls display boards and on the website [www.stottystrollers.org.uk](http://www.stottystrollers.org.uk).

Provisional dates are:

Saturday 26th July, Bank Holiday Sunday 24th August, Sunday 21st September

Looking ahead to the Autumn, we plan to run another thoroughly scary Halloween GHOST WALK around Chorley - on Saturday 1st November.

## Parish Paths - a seasonal reminder to landowners:

May we take this opportunity to remind landowners and others with responsibility for the footpaths and bridleways over their land that seasonal clearance work to ensure that the paths are accessible may now be overdue?

Please help to avoid unnecessary complaints by 'spraying out' crop obstructions, and trimming-back bridleway hedgerows. It would be helpful if particular attention could be paid to the promoted 'Stotty Stroll' paths since these are more likely to be used than some other routes. Thank you for your co operation

## Allotments:

The Parish Council has been approached regarding the possibility of providing allotments in the Parish. Does anyone have any 'spare' piece of land suitable for this use. If so please let either the Clerk or a Parish Councillor know.

## Parish problems:

If you are aware of any problems which need the attention of the Parish Council please let the Clerk or a Councillor know, or alternatively at each meeting Parishioners have the opportunity to bring up any problems etc at the beginning of each meeting.

We are well aware that the hedge at Walton Bank is in need of cutting - this is being dealt with by the County Council at the moment.

## HERITAGE EVENTS & ACTIVITIES Provisional PROGRAMME for JULY - DECEMBER 2008:

### Sunday 27th July

Hedgerow Survey and heritage walk High Green-Harcourt-Stottesdon: meet Chorley Chapel Car Park at 14.30

*(please note: this replaces activity originally planned for 26 June)*

### Sunday 17th August

Project Display at Chorley Show from 11.00

### October (dates to be confirmed)

Practical fieldwork and archaeological study of 'Fiddle' Bloomery site, to complement work already undertaken on 'Ned's Garden' (see report on next page).

### Saturday 8th November

Project will feature in the annual Shropshire Archaeology Day at The Shirehall, Shrewsbury. (Admission by Ticket only)

### Tuesday 11th November

Presentation: "LIDAR" laser surveying of Wyre Forest, Kinlet Village Hall 19.30.

### Thursday 4th December

Celebration event to mark the completion of our LHI funded project - full update on the pottery and other 'finds' from the archaeologists, screening of the completed project video record and seasonal refreshments.

## Report of the findings at 'Ned's garden:

The Ned's Garden complex includes two sites, one west of the Southall Bank Brook in Stottesdon and one east of the brook in Billingsley. These two have become known as Ned's Garden West and Ned's Garden East, although Ned's Garden itself appears to have been an early post-medieval smallholding on the west bank. Two trenches were dug in Ned's Garden West and four in Ned's Garden East. Ned's Garden West provided evidence for a medieval working floor and slag dump associated with bloomer iron smelting. Dating evidence provisionally suggests a 12th-13th century age for the onset of smelting. The upper part of the slag dump yields late 16th/early 17th century pottery, but it is not clear whether this indicates continued iron-making activity or simply later disturbance, perhaps associated with the early occupation of Building B.

A building ("Building B") was located in an area previously suspected of having building debris on the surface. The structure included a wall with one side of a doorway together with an internal flagstone floor or hearth. Dating evidence suggests that the structure was short-lived and of 17th century age. The orientation of the wall does not correspond to the existing geophysical evidence for a building, which may suggest that the geophysical survey identified a building associated with the earlier, medieval, use of the site. To the north of Building B, a continuation of the major slag dump yielded pottery provisionally dated as late 17th or more probably 18th century, possibly indicative of interest in slag as a resource for resmelting at this period.

On the east bank of the brook the earliest dating evidence was medieval pottery from the margins of a slag dump on the brook side of a ridge above the modern floodplain. This slag deposit is sealed by two layers of redeposited natural pale clay. Similar clay layers were located in two small trenches further east on the valley side, where they were overlain by deposits containing abundant 18th century pottery. On the terrace above the iron smelting remains, interpreted as an ore roasting area in the geophysical survey, a partially burnt clay surface was found immediately below topsoil.

The main trench on the east side of the valley located a substantial leat, with a base 2.35m below the present top of the adjacent ridge and only 0.90m above the summer brook level at the time of excavation (and only 0.5m above the winter brook level at the time of the geophysical survey). The leat contained about 0.65m of water-lain sediments, so would have required a weir to raise water level by about 1.5m to allow water to flow under normal conditions. The exposed side of the leat was also partially covered with a layer of redeposited natural clay. The leat yielded no dating evidence from its water-lain sediments (neither pottery nor usable charcoal), but the later sediments in the leat yielded 18th century pottery. The deposits between and above the various clay layers in the trenches in Ned's Garden East all yielded slag debris, but were clearly not primary slag dumps. It is therefore possible that the clay surfaces are associated with 17th-18th century re-use of the site, perhaps both as a slag quarry and as an area for roasting the ore being quarried in pits higher up on Southall Bank. The leat may be relatively early in this re-use of the site and is likely to have been associated with the waterwheel draining the coal mines situated some 250m downstream, although a stamp for crushing the reworked slag cannot be discounted.

In summary the site shows evidence for medieval iron smelting on both sides of the brook. The west side was utilised for a small building (house?) in the 17th century. In the 18th century a leat was dug through Ned's Garden East to provide power for mine drainage. The leat is accompanied by working surfaces, probably associated with ore roasting for local blast furnaces.

<p>Deadline for the next newsletter is <b>12 noon on Friday 19th September 2008</b>. If anyone would like any news item inserting in the next edition please forward this either via email or in writing to the Clerk.</p>
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