



What's On

Tiverton Village Society Village Day – Hockey Club, Saturday 1 st July. (Jean Toyn 730739)
Tiverton Village Society Evening Event (details yet to be decided) -Village Hall, 21 st October (Jean)
Tiverton Village Society Christmas Party – Village Hall, Saturday 17 th December from 6.30 pm. (Jean)
Tiverton Village Society Evening Event (details yet to be decided) -Village Hall, 17 th March 2018 (Jean)

Chairman's Notes

First, let me introduce myself: I am Ray Mould, newly-elected Chairman of your Parish Council.

Every year, on the second Tuesday of May, the Parish Council holds three meetings one after the other. Firstly, there is the Annual Parish Meeting where the Chairman's Annual Report – a summary of last year's significant events – gets presented. This year we had an additional item on agenda – a presentation from Connecting Cheshire on future Broadband connectivity. Secondly there is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council where the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council are appointed for the following year. Finally,

there is the regular bi-monthly Parish Council Meeting. Prior to the meeting Cllr. Gordon Ibbotson let it be known that he would like to step down after 8 years of service as the Parish Council Chairman. As a result I was nominated by the Parish Council to become Chairman and Gordon kindly agreed to be Vice-Chairman. I would therefore like to thank Gordon for all his efforts as Chairman over these past years, not to mention his work on the Planning Committee which I am pleased to say that he will continue with. Gordon will also continue to edit and produce this quarterly Parish Council Newsletter.

For those who do not yet know me, I live at Ivy Cottage on Huxley Lane (just near the village green). I have been married to Pauline for 40 years, have 3 married children and 3 grandchildren. I am however a relative newcomer to the area, only having moved into Tiverton about 5 years ago and served on the Parish Council since November 2013. In no way do I claim to know all the ins and outs of the Parish or the rich history behind it, so I will be relying heavily on my fellow councillors for support and would welcome input from the broader community.

Neighbourhood Plan

The "Publicity Period" for the Beeston, Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan concluded without any issues. The Plan then went forward to an independent examiner, a process that was concluded on the 12th June when we received notification from CWAC that subject to some minor modifications set out in the Examiner's report, the Plan meets the Basic Conditions and should proceed to Referendum. Indeed, the Examiner gave very positive feedback in their report and commended Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall for their efforts not only in producing the Plan but also, through the activities of the Working Groups, in obtaining involvement and support from the community as a whole.

The next step is for the Plan to go to local referendum. This is the final step in the process of getting the Plan adopted by CWAC and requires the residents of Beeston, Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall to formally approve the Plan.

Broadband Connectivity

The presentation from Connecting Cheshire on future Broadband connectivity, at the Annual Parish Meeting, reviewed the recent and impending improvements in the service for most of the Parish, which we appreciate, though speeds are very variable depending on proximity to the Red Fox box. The notable exception, however, is Brassey Green where download speeds of 1

mbps, with frequent interruptions to the service, are the norm. A large, angry contingent of residents from Brassey Green made their views felt in no uncertain terms, but the reality is that there is still very little prospect of any improvement for them in the near-to-medium term.

Homewatch

Ash Sharma is taking over the role of Tiverton Homewatch Coordinator. He can be contacted via email: homewatch@tiverton-cheshire.org.uk or on 730135. Ray Mould will support Ash in this role until all the necessary introductions have been made. It is important that any suspicious activity in the area is reported directly to the police on the non-urgent police phone number: 101. It is also worthwhile making Ash aware of the issue so that we can, if necessary, alert people in the Homewatch area to a potential threat or concern.

Support our Local Bus Services

Some of you will be aware that Cheshire East is carrying out a review of their supported bus services. This has a direct impact on Tiverton in that the current proposal are that the twice weekly service from Tiverton to Nantwich (No.56) and the weekly service from Tiverton to Chester (No. 83) are to be withdrawn from Spring 2018. There is currently a consultation period (to 26th July 2017) and I would encourage all of you to make your views known to Cheshire East prior to the end of the consultation period.

It will be a sad day if these services are withdrawn, as I know they are valued by people who use them, not just as a means of transport but also from a social perspective for many of our older residents. We are seeing a continual erosion of public transport in the rural community which is making it increasingly difficult for people without their own transport to continue to live in these villages.

We are working with Bunbury Parish Council on this and also encouraging our own Cheshire West and Chester Council to be more active in defending these services, but please make your views known to Cheshire East by writing or e-mailing bus.review@cheshireeast.gov.uk, and also completing and submitting a questionnaire, available on-line at:

<http://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/BusServiceReviewQuestionnaire/>

There are links at this site to all the proposed changes to the supported bus services. Alternatively, paper copies of the questionnaire and the review can be obtained from Ray Mould, Ivy Cottage, Huxley Lane, Tiverton. 733508.

Walking the Parish (anon).

Since the early summer of 2014 I have been walking the footpaths in the parish (and beyond) and what a delight it has been. Stroll but a few hundred yards away from our busy, noisy roads and you can be in a different world of peace and quiet. Some of the paths are very popular and well-trodden, like the Sandstone Trail, others seem to be hardly walked at all. Sadly, the walkers on the Sandstone Trail seem to be the worst litter louts – apparently they can carry a full water bottle but not an empty one!

Water increases the attractions of any rural scene: the quiet River Gowy and the nearby busy canal have featured frequently in my circular routes. The tow-path cuts a peaceful corridor through our parish, with the locks providing an excuse for taking a breather to watch the action (usually the men in their boating caps at the wheel while the women do the hard work) and, thankfully, a few flat miles. And everywhere you are likely to stumble on ponds of all shapes and sizes, havens for all kinds of birdlife and wildlife.

I have been alternatively scorched, soaked and chilled as well as frequently, at the end of a long walk, made weary of climbing stiles. On indistinct paths through old pasture, spotting the yellow Cheshire County Council footpath arrows in distant hedgerows is a key skill (binoculars sometimes needed). In the height of summer brambles and nettles range from nuisance to serious obstacle – Steve Armitage advises me to carry pruning shears at all times. On some of the more remote paths even a bow saw might come in handy but, by-and-large, our farmers do a good job keeping the footpaths accessible and free of aggressive bovines. If not, let your Councillors know.

My favourite memories are: walking through a 10-foot high maize canyon with Beeston castle in the distance: a slow return stroll by the peaceful canal near Beeston Brook: looking down on Tilstone Lock from the path along Tilstone Bank: and exploring the maze of footpaths, beloved of our local dog walkers, between the village, Crib Lane, Pudding Lane, Birch Heath and the A49.

Keep walking – for the sake of preserving our footpath heritage and for your own health and enjoyment!

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