SEDGEBERROW COMMUNITY NEWS

February 2024



Happy new year. Gosh it's February with spring around the corner, I hope so, certainly daylight hours are increasing. It seems a long time ago now but what did you think of the Village Christmas lights. Wow, they were fabulous. Once again I climbed into the attic to fetch our lights. Got them out plugged them in for a trial just to be sure they still worked . Yep they'll do, they can go on the tree in the front garden like last year. But then when I looked at the dim glow from these ancient 20 year old bulbs I thought I can't do this. Just look at all these LED's, flashing and cascading down from roof top to ground and tree to tree. Father Christmas's and snowmen swaying in the wind. Even nodding donkeys and camels. Shame some snowmen had given up, pancaked on the lawn or was that a thorn in the wrong place !!
What a show, brilliant.

You will have noticed the VAS unit on Winchcombe Road. (Vehicle Activated Sign) and the unit on the north side of the village in the 40mph limit. This 40mph unit does not work, its old and needs replacing. Residents are concerned about speeding, particularly on the approaches to the village so the Parish Council have bought a new modern unit with its own solar panel power source. This will be installed as soon as W.C.C install the new pole. An extra pole will also be installed in Main Street at the junction with Churchill Road within the 30mph zone. The VAS unit will be switched between the two locations. They will not record number plates but do record traffic speeds in both directions. It will store the information and download the data with date and time. This will be useful as evidence, should more stringent anti speed measures be required.

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You might qualify for free government funding to make your home warmer and more energy efficient.

*All available measures are subject to a fully funded retrofit assessment. Initial application approval does not guarantee that the work will go ahead.

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Sedgeberrow Parish Council

clerk@sedgeberrowpc.org.uk

The parish council currently has 5 members – Bob Howe-Double, Richard Hunt, Clive Jackson, Sue Morris (Vice chair), Jem Williamson (chair) and our clerk Nikki Nicholson. We currently have 2 vacancies so if interested in joining the parish council, please contact the clerk or a member below.

Recent activity to report include:

- Resisting development on land within the flood zone near the River Isbourne.

- Secured funding from the Police & Crime Commissioner and WCC (with thanks to Cllr Liz Eyre) plus some parish funds to acquire a new solar powered vehicle activation system, to replace the one that has failed in the 40mph zone at the Hollows on Cheltenham Road. The new system will require a new pole and again our thanks to WCC who are supplying a pole at the Hollows and an additional one on Main Street so that the units can be deployed in different locations.

- PC and Village Hall Committee looking to support a Petanque Piste on Glebe Meadow.

- Liaising with Ashton-Under-Hill parish council regarding a proposal to build a major (78,000 square foot) distribution centre behind the Bredon Country store on the A46 between Sedgeberrow and Ashton-Under-Hill. A strong objection has been submitted by the parish council.

- We understand that negotiations are continuing regarding the proposed development of housing at Springfield Lane. Once the picture crystallises, it will allow the potential for a new community hall – please see elsewhere in this newsletter for the opportunity to express your views on the proposal for a new hall, which has already secured a £250,000 legacy grant from Wychavon District Council.

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Neighbourhood Plan.

Early last year (2023), the Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) was adopted by Wychavon District council as part of the South Worcestershire Development Plan to ensure that the villagers have some influence on future developments within the village. As an update, recent legislation (Dec 2023 National Planning
Policy Framework update) has strengthened the power of the Neighbourhood Plan as an influence on local planning, so that is positive for Sedgeberrow.

One of the policies within the adopted plan was a housing development on the disused Springfield nursery site with a proposal to build a new Community Hall
facility on land donated for such a purpose. On the basis of this, the village has secured a grant of £250,000 from the Wychavon Legacy Grant Fund specifically towards construction of a new community venue. We understand that negotiations are continuing regarding the proposed wider housing development at Springfield nursery.

Given these factors, now is the time to advance the project and the Parish Council is working towards conducting a survey to get opinions on the functions and expectations for the new Community (Village) hall. We are fully aware that further funds will be necessary and that a host of factors such as a long term business plan will be critical to the success of any proposal.

Consequently, we are keen to reach out to the community to identify the necessary skill sets to help us succeed. These include but are not limited to Quantity Surveying, Environmental, Financial, Fund Raising, Planning, Legal, Construction, Logistics, Business and Event Planning etc.

If you have any skills which you feel may help, please contact Clive Jackson on clive@sedgeberrow.org.uk with your skill and availability.
Please make every effort to complete the survey as your opinion and or help really does count for the future of our community.

An example of a successful community development supported by Wychavon is the Honeybourne Village Hall and further information can be found here

http://www.honeybournevillagehall.org

.**Snowball Community App.**

Simon Sansome of "Snowball Community" has contacted us asking for our help.

What is Snowball?
Well, Snowball is a free review platform, think TripAdviser for the disabled community but also things like, days out, holidays, staycation, pubs, restaurants, town halls, blue badge car parking bays, accessibility toilets, churches and more.

What they do is collect a massive amount of data so that they can advise councils where access can be improved in their community and how to help business and matters like housing, planning and other council services.

Snowball had an excellent response from the Church of England when they appeared on BBC Radio 4 Yours and Yours a few months back with hundreds of churches being reviewed. They also featured on Steph's Packed Lunch a few weeks later.

What they are asking us is that we download the Snowball App from either **Apple Store** or **Google Play** and add a place and leave a review, take a picture, give some brief details, just a few sentences, such as are there automatic doors, a disabled accessible toilet, ramp access etc. Give it ago.

Remember it's the ***Snowball Community App***

Sedgeberrow Oil Buying Club.

A message from Manager Mike: It's time for me to roll out the barrel, a chance for you to give it a push.

"The current Club has operated since 2014, with new software recommended by Wychavon District Council. We now have 319 club members ordering for Sedgeberrow, and 11 other nearby villages. I have run the club throughout this time. Now age dictates it needs another Sedgeberrowite to take it forward. It will mean I can focus my time a bit longer on renewable energy projects. I am seeking new volunteers to run the OBClub.
"With immediately post the May order as my final deadline you will have a good time to learn the ropes with me. So this is my message – come and roll the barrel"

"Management is quite straightforward."

- The Club operates a system that is provided and supported by an external business.
- We have an established group of suppliers who know the club and its members.
- Raising and placing an order for club members is mainly automated and takes just a few minutes each month.
- Any system / admin queries are handled by the external software team and I generally just handle delivery questions. As we only use reliable partners these are fairly infrequent.

Managing the day to day operation of the club takes just a few minutes – maybe an hour each month, making a really valuable contribution to the community. The community also gains a small commission based on a villages orders placed and our members gain from lower prices. We gave out £1,430 of commission last year. I help some of our elderly residents by placing orders for them when they tell me they need oil.

The club grows mainly through word of mouth – I have advertised in the past but talking to friends and neighbours seems to be the best way. I still put up posters, about 4 times a year in most participating villages.
The club is well supported by suppliers and the software team – taking it on means simply committing to an hour or so a month, with more at annual commission time. It doesn't require any specific computer or financial skills.
It's a very rewarding – as the Manager I get to meet and talk with people in our local communities whilst helping with lower oil prices, less pollution and safer roads.

If you are interested or know someone who might be, just email me on energy@sesame.me.uk
Or ring 07949200207. It's important to find someone to take the club on and continue to support our community.

The Betteridge Room @ The Village Hall



The Betteridge Room is perfect for smaller gatherings and is home to Sedgeberrow WI and Sedgeberrow Cof E Preschool.

This space can be hired in evenings and weekends from £10 per hour and comes with use of the full kitchen, its own separate entrance (stepped and ramp), tables, and chairs.
There is also an internal door linking it through to the village hall if you choose to hire all spaces together.

The Betteridge Room has been fitted with a brand new, anti-slip flooring in summer 2023, along with the new fitted kitchen in spring 2023.

You can find all details on how to book, hire rates and what's on in The Betteridge Room @ The Village Hall at our website:
www.sedgeberrowvillagehalll.co.uk

Alternatively, you can contact our Bookings Secretary, Kate Gibbons, direct:
Email: enquiries@sedgeberrowvillagehall.co.uk
Telephone: 07711 220 189

UK transition from analogue to digital landlines

I understand there is concern in the village so I thought some explanation of this transition would help.

Details

In November 2017, the telecoms industry announced its intention to retire analogue telephone networks such as the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) by the end of **2025**. The industry will upgrade landline services to new digital technology using an internet connection, such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), Digital Voice or All-IP telephony.
For the vast majority of consumers and businesses, this change will be straightforward. Nobody will have to lose their landline service because of this change, as there will still be the option for a 'landline only' service should a customer not wish to purchase a general internet connection. Telecoms companies will continue to be bound by the same regulatory obligations as they are today.
The upgrade of the UK's telephone lines is not a government program and does not result from a government decision or policy, and therefore specific questions about how the upgrade program might affect you should be directed to your service provider.

Why the old network is being replaced

Analogue networks have been in operation for decades and have reached the end of their serviceable life. The telecoms industry is finding it difficult to source the parts required to maintain or repair connections as suppliers are no longer manufacturing them.
New digital phone lines will allow communications providers to offer consumers and businesses clearer and better quality phone calls, as well as new features such as anonymous caller rejection or three-way calling.

What the change means in practice, and how you can prepare

For most consumers, this change will be straightforward, although the exact migration process will depend on your communications provider and the equipment they use. If you already have an internet connection, the change may be as simple as plugging your phone into your broadband router rather than the socket on the wall.
Telecoms companies will contact their customers ahead of the migration taking place, so you do not need to take any action until your provider contacts you directly. You should look out for communications material from them and be careful not to confuse this with marketing material.

Vulnerable customers

Ofcom, the independent telecoms regulator, has published a guide on treating vulnerable customers fairly and expectations on telecoms providers to ensure they support vulnerable or at-risk customers throughout the upgrade process to digital phone lines. Ofcom states that providers should take steps to identify at-risk customers and engage in effective communications to ensure all eligible customers are protected throughout the upgrade process.

If you believe you or one of your relatives is a vulnerable consumer or depends on a landline, you should notify your provider so that they can advise on how the migration could affect you.

It is the responsibility of the provider to ensure those who depend on a landline are provided a resilient solution that will allow customers to make calls to the emergency services in the event of a power outage and the government is working with Ofcom to ensure this is the case.

Because of the imminent changeover many Internet Service Providers (ISP) will be looking for new customers.

Be careful and don't be spooked into signing without first looking at other ISP providers. You will not lose your landline number.

Devices connected to your phone line

If you have other devices connected to your phone line, such as alarm systems, telecare devices or fax machines, you should take steps to ensure they will continue to function correctly following the migration to a digital phone line. You might need to upgrade your device to make sure it is compatible, check if it needs to have its own battery and network back-up, or purchase an adaptor to ensure it continues to function correctly.

If you are buying a new alarm or device, you should check with the provider of that equipment that it is compatible with digital phone lines and will continue to run.

If you are unsure about how a device in your home or business might be affected, contact the equipment supplier or device manufacturer to find out whether it will remain functional on a digital phone line. If you are buying a new alarm or device, you should check it is compatible with VoIP services.

Power cuts

The analogue landline carries a low voltage power connection directly from the telephone exchange, which is sufficient to power some basic corded handsets without needing to plug them into the wall. This means that in the event of a local power cut, these corded handsets will continue to function as long as the telephone exchange still has power.
Digital landlines cannot carry a power connection, which means handsets and routers must be powered from your home power supply, and they will not function in a power cut unless you have a backup power system such as a battery or generator.

Telecoms companies are required by Ofcom to take all necessary measures to ensure uninterrupted access to emergency organisations for their customers, including in the event of a power cut.

This has turned out to be a lengthy explanation but trust this is of some help.

Editor

County Mobile Library

10.30 to 10.45	19th February	- Sedgeberrow School
10.30 to 10.45	18th March	- Sedgeberrow School
10.30 to 10.45	15th April	- Sedgeberrow School
10.30 to 10.45	17th June	- Sedgeberrow School

Enquiries about this service should be made by contacting:-

TEL: 01905 822722 or emailing
mobilelibraries@worcestershire.gov.uk



St Mary the Virgin
Sedgeberrow

Calendar of events

All Services at 10 am

Sunday 4 February	-	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 February	-	Morning Worship
Sunday 18 February	-	Holy Communion
Thursday 22 February	-	Coffee Morning
Sunday 25 February	-	Morning Praise
Sunday 3 March	-	Holy Communion
Sunday 10 March	-	Morning Worship
Sunday 17 March	-	Holy Communion
Sunday 24 March	-	Morning Praise—Palm Sunday
" " " 15.00	-	Baptism - Alithia Danby
Thursday 28 March	-	Coffee Morning
Friday 29 March	-	Good Friday Liturgy
Sunday 31 March	-	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 April	-	Morning Worship
Sunday 21 April	-	Holy Communion
Wednesday 24 April	-	Wedding—Lovatt and Rhocks
Thursday 25 April	-	Coffee Morning
Sunday 28 April	-	Morning Praise
Sunday 5 May	-	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 May	-	Morning Worship
Sunday 19 May	-	Holy Communion
Thursday 23 May	-	Coffee Morning

Revd. Mark Binney will be retiring in May

We meet on the third Tuesday of every month
in the Village Hall, Sedgeberrow WR11 7UF
We welcome new members

Contact: Angela Bravington, Secretary
07967 116833

Next Meetings:

Tuesday 20th February - 7.30pm John Butterworth "Overland to Nepal"

Tuesday 19 March - 7.30pm Chris Evans, The Butterfly Garden

Tuesday 16 April - 7.30pm Sally Church, The Painswick Beekeeper,

Tuesday 21 May - 7.30pm Social Evening

Programme for all 2024 now available

Book Exchange

Old Telephone Box in
Main Street
Please place new books in plastic box outside. These will be sorted and placed in position later

No tatty books please.

Advertisers Required

Should you wish to advertise in the Sedgeberrow Community News then we can offer single, double or even third size spaces. For further information and prices please contact the editor at bob@sedgeberrowpc.org.uk

Content

I'm looking for interesting articles for the next publication.
How about some local history, gardening tips, wild life, there must be some Ornithologists out there who have spotted something unusual.

You may think the Parish Council can do more for you? Let's talk.

Remember most highways issues such as potholes and damaged signs and much more can be reported directly to Worcestershire County Council via their HUB
www.worcestershire.gov.uk

For bins, litter and street cleansing contact Wychavon District Council, their telephone number is: 01386 565000 or you can report via their website: www.wychavon.gov.uk

N.B: Not picking up after your dog is a crime and punishable with a hefty fine!

Please report dog fouling to: www.wychavon.gov.uk/dog-fouling-removal

Public Footpaths are maintained by WCC via the Countryside Centre and issues should be reported to the WCC Hub at www.worcestershire.gov.uk

Contact me at bob@sedgeberrowpc.org.uk

cut off date for next edition
Articles and Adverts 20th April

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the committee, nor can the committee be held responsible for the accuracy of any advertisement or article. The editor reserves the right to edit or précis articles submitted. E&OE.



Be careful, watch out for the bus at school leaving time!!!!

WYCHAVON PARISH GAMES 2024

Sedgeberrow will be participating in this year's tournament.
We hope to enter as many of the events as possible including:-
Outdoor games eg: Rounders, Cross Country, 5 Aside football, bowls, Pétanque etc,
Pub games eg: crib, darts, dominoes, pool,
Water sports eg: bell boating, angling
Plus Table tennis.
Our motto in Sedgeberrow is to enjoy and have fun at these events which run throughout the year.
If any parishioners would like to join in please come along to the Queens Head on Wednesday 7th February between 7 and 9pm to register .
Village coordinators are Rick Hartwell and Sue Morris (07896160453).

Sedgeberrow CofE First School

Together We Shine Brighter

Sedgeberrow School Village Magazine Newsletter

Happy New Year!

As we step into the New Year, we want to extend warm wishes for a year filled with joy, learning, and safety for all our students and their families. It seems like a long time ago since our delightful Christmas shows, and we couldn't be prouder of all the children who performed, showcasing their talent in singing popular tunes. It was truly heartwarming to see the preschool children joining in with all the Christmas activities, adding to the festive cheer.

Speaking of our preschool, we're thrilled to see it developing so nicely, with 18 children on roll. The curriculum is proving to be fantastic, and it's wonderful to see the children making use of our outdoor space and forest school area. We are so pleased with the progress of the preschool since opening in September.

The success of our school continues, with numbers remaining consistently high. To accommodate our growth, we have added three more teaching assistants to our team. This will ensure that all our students continue to receive the support and attention they deserve as the school expands.

This year has seen many successes in sports, with both boys and girls floorball teams making it through to the knockout stages. The level of sports participation at the school is at an all-time high, especially among the girls. Additionally, our students have excelled in philosophy competitions at all levels.

Looking ahead, we have much to be excited about. The Year 4 and Year 5 residential trips are on the horizon, as well as a variety of sporting events including multi-skills, rugby, handball, and netball competitions. It's worth mentioning that swimming lessons are ongoing for every year group at Sedgeberrow, of which we are particularly proud. Furthermore, our school continues to offer guitar and ukulele lessons, enriching the musical education of our students.

We also have some fantastic educational experiences lined up, including a Roman workshop for Year 3 and a trip to Bishops Wood for Year 3 and 4. Overall, the children at Sedgeberrow School come to school with a smile and go home happy, which is a testament to the dedication of our staff. Our primary goal to support, protect, and love the children is truly happening daily here at Sedgeberrow School.

We look forward to a wonderful year ahead, filled with growth, learning, and memorable experiences for all.
Best regards,

Mr Croke

Shukur's AT THE QUEEN'S HEAD

The Queens Head – award winning food in Shukur's restaurant and fantastic family takeaways as well. Great real ales, beers, wines & cocktails. The village meeting place for one and all

Spring Diary

Sunday , January 28th – Monthly Quiz.
7.30pm for 8pm start. Everyone welcome.

Wednesday , January 31st. 'Dine in Happy Wednesday'. A special evening menu at £18.95 per person

Wednesday, February 14th – Valentines Special Dinner.
A bespoke menu for a special evening at £36.95 per person including fizz & chocolates. One sitting only so places are limited. See website for full menu.

Sunday, February 25th - Monthly Quiz
7.30pm for 8pm start. Everyone welcome.

Wednesday , February 28th. 'Dine in Happy Wednesday'. A special evening menu at £18.95 per person

Sunday, March 10th – Mother's Day
Join us for a special meal on Mum's special day. We are open from 12 noon to late. Our full a La Carte menu is available all day .Children are half price and Mum eats free on tables of 4 or more !

Sunday, March 24th - Monthly Quiz
7.30pm for 8pm start. Everyone welcome

Wednesday , March 27th 'Dine in Happy Wednesday'. A special evening menu at £18.95 per person

Every Thursday is "Thirsty Thursday"
Join us every Thursday for special drinks prices including £1 off beers & shorts.£3 off selected bottles of wine and cocktails at 3 for 2 !

Telephone 01386 882828 or visit us at shukursindianrestaurant.co.uk or at www.facebook.com/shukursatqueenshead