

# FESTIVAL

## Winscombe and Sandford - Festival 2014

The festival will begin on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014, with most events taking place in the following two weeks. Several large events will take place particularly for the enjoyment of all age groups and all families. Many parish **clubs and societies** will take a very active part, as will our **local businesses**.

Keep your eye on the festival notice board on **Brown's Corner** for up-to-date information.

The Parish Council hopes that its '**Scarecrow Extravaganza**' will attract even more scarecrows than the two-hundred and fifty that enjoyed the last festival. So, put your thinking cap on and come up with something that will make us all smile yet again!



**The Occasional**  
Parish Council  
Newsletter Number 9  
March 2013



Hopefully this Newsletter will enable you:

- to find out what your Parish Council is doing and thinking of doing;
- to tell us what needs doing;

- to find information about the parish;

- to make contact with North Somerset District Council.

We like to hear of your concerns and of any issues that you wish to bring to our notice. You can do so using any of the following:

- calling at the Parish Office, Community Centre Building, BS25 1JA, (please check with the office for opening times: they are variable);
- telephoning, (01934 844257);

- Emailing, (winscombe@lineone.net);

- or writing to **Lynne Rampton**, our Parish Clerk.

### Improvement to pavements in Moorham Road

Work has recently been undertaken to complete a programme of improvements to the pavements around Winscombe Primary School. Last year some dropped kerbs and tactile paving crossing points were installed near the school. This year the work has been extended along Moorham Road to Sandford Road, with the old uneven surface being replaced completely with new tarmac. The total cost is £32 000 spread over two years and the total area of pavement being resurfaced is 1150m<sup>2</sup>.

### Drinks Retailing Award.

Early in February Kelli and Matthew of Winscombe's 'The Wine Shop', being placed in the top three for 'Best Newcomer 2014', attended a prestigious presentation at The Dorchester Hotel in London.



Congratulations to them! Aren't Winscombe and Sandford such good places to live and, especially, to shop! We say yet again, for all our shops and businesses 'use them or lose them'.

**Email version of your newsletter.** To email you a colour copy, the Parish Council must have your permission. To give this, use the panel on the bottom corner of the front page of the parish council website. [www.winscombeandsandfordpc.org.uk](http://www.winscombeandsandfordpc.org.uk)



**All information will be kept strictly confidential.**

### Parish Council Meetings

Sandford Village Hall 7.30pm.  
March 24th and April 28<sup>th</sup> 2014

### Annual Meeting of the Full Parish Council

Winscombe Community Centre 7.30pm 19th May



### This Year's Precept

One hundred years ago, thousands of young men and women gave their lives to preserve our freedom and democratic way of life. To honour their sacrifice we must continue to use the privileges so dearly bought. The functions of the Parish Council are some of those privileges, but of course there is an ongoing financial cost.

Starting in November, the Finance Committee looks at all the areas of responsibility: Memorial Ground, play areas, cemetery and allotments, environment and staff. The cost implications are collated and a preliminary budget put together. By January, other factors may have occurred and a meeting is held to consider all the figures and to set a Precept. This requires careful assessment. To all the essentials, such as street lighting, grass cutting, bin emptying and wages/salaries, have to be added capital projects, costs in taking over and administering the toilets, grants and any other possible eventualities.

A Precept figure is arrived at, balancing essentials against what it is reasonable to expect parishioners to contribute. This year, 2014/15, the proposed figure is £118,000. This gives a Local Council element of Headline Tax per D Band property of £62.55 compared

with £61.46 last year, an increase of 1.77%. Your Parish Council ratified this proposed Precept at their meeting on the on the 27<sup>th</sup> January.

You are welcome to inspect our approved accounts. Ring the Parish Clerk, as above, to arrange a time and place to do so.



### Dealing with the heavy rain and avoiding more floods.

Since mid-December the wet weather of 2012 has returned with a vengeance, with no sign of a let-up, but the flooding in our parish has been much less severe.

This seems to be because, during last year, North Somerset Council cleared many culverts and street drains (gullies). Also, some public-spirited residents have been keeping ditches open and removing debris from grids, thus avoiding a recurrence of the flooding, especially around Well Close and Moorham Road. Similar local action along Church Road and Winscombe Hill has reduced the chances of flooding near the junction with Barton Corner.

We need to continue with precautions for future flood management, which could include improved water-holding measures, such as creating new ponds and opening some culverts so that they can be checked and cleared more easily.

NSC has recently drafted a flood management plan for this area, identifying Winscombe as one of about five areas at highest risk.



### Neighbourhood Planning

This is a new way of helping members of a parish influence the planned development of the area in which they live and work. The scheme's aims include:

- developing a shared vision for our parish
- choosing where new homes and businesses should be built
- influencing the appearance of new buildings
- identifying and protecting important local green spaces.

Currently the Chairman of your Parish Council, the Chairman of Planning, and both the Parish Clerk and her Assistant are currently exploring the possible pros and cons of such a scheme.

A Neighbourhood Plan requires parishioners to be involved in formulating both its ground work and structure.

If the scheme appears to benefit the parish, would you like to help with its development? If so, ring your Parish Clerk, as we need your help!



### Reference: Campaign to Protect Rural England

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/housing-and-planning/planning/item/2689-how-to-shape-where-you-live-a-guide-to-neighbourhood-planning>.

[cpre.org.uk/resources/housing-and-planning/planning/item/2689-how-to-shape-where-you-live-a-guide-to-neighbourhood-planning](http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/housing-and-planning/planning/item/2689-how-to-shape-where-you-live-a-guide-to-neighbourhood-planning).

### Newly Elected Councillor.

At the January meeting of the parish council, Kevin Joyce was co-opted as a councillor.

Kevin writes: my wife and I have lived in the parish for twenty-eight years. We have a son who, with his family, live in the neighbouring parish at Cleeve; our daughter and her family live in this parish. We have five grandchildren growing up here.

I am very proud of the fact that Winscombe has recently been voted by Family Friendly Hotspots the third best village in Britain to bring up a family. I ran a business in Bristol for thirty-seven years but as I am now in semi retirement and am pleased to be offered the opportunity to serve as a parish councillor

I currently serve as a village representative on the War Memorial Committee and hold the post of press officer and committee member of the Winscombe and District R.N.L.I.



### Councillor Resignation

We are sad to announce the resignation of Dr Gavin Rider. At the January Parish Council meeting Gavin, who had been a Parish Councillor since 2010, resigned from his position on the Parish Council. In a prepared statement read to the meeting Gavin explained that this was in response to recent planning decisions, which, in his opinion, went against the majority view of the local community and the Parish Council Planning Committee. Gavin will be much missed.

As a result, there is a vacancy on our Council. However, at the time of going to print it has yet to be decided by parishioners whether the choice is to be made by election or by co-option. Whichever, we will shortly be looking for a new councillor! So, if you are interested please contact the parish office.

### Our Annual Parish Assembly – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm

Our annual Parish Assembly is a meeting of local government electors for the parish and is **NOT** a meeting of the Parish Council. However the Chairman of the Parish Council, if present, will preside. It is usual at this meeting for the Parish Council chairman and chairmen of council committees to present verbal annual reports of the activities of the council. Other local groups and organisations are also welcome to present a talk or issue a report on the work of their groups.

If you would like to be involved in this meeting, please contact Lynne at the parish office before 14<sup>th</sup> April to express your interest.

The agenda to the meeting will be on the Parish Council notice boards and website at least one week in advance of the meeting date. All parishioners are invited to attend.