



# Newsletter Spring 2015

Hello and welcome to this years news letter.

For the last two years I've reported on flooding issues, but this year I don't need to, as we have had a much drier winter. I have carried out lots of ditching work however to reduce the risk of flooding over the next few years.

The Sopley festival was a great success growing from strength to strength every year and very much looking forwards to another great festival this summer.

Anyone who would like to lend a hand for a few hours on the day helping at this event would be greatly appreciated.

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to welcome our new councillors, Cllr Hill from Ripley and Cllr Lakey from Sopley.

*Dan Shutler  
Sopley Parish Council Chairman*

## DAN SHUTLER

### Equestrian & Agricultural Services

- Fencing • Manège Construction • Groundwork • Muck Heap Removal
- Paddock Maintenance (Harrowing, Rolling, Fertilising, Spraying)
- Bailing, Hedge Cutting, Hay & Straw Suppliers



For more information call 07870 404513 or 01425 673113  
email [danshutler@aol.com](mailto:danshutler@aol.com)

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### *Dates for your Diary*

Parish Council  
Meetings are held on  
Thursdays every other  
month @ 7.30pm in  
the Parish Hall -  
Annual Assembly May  
14th @ 7.30pm,  
advertised in Parish  
Boards and on  
website.

[www.sopley.gov.uk](http://www.sopley.gov.uk)

•2014 Parish Hall  
Social Events see  
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# **SOPLEY VILLAGE FESTIVAL**

**July 18<sup>th</sup> 2015 – Bigger & Better than ever before!**

**Owl's Barn & The Old Vicarage, Derrit Lane, Sopley.**

**12.00-5pm**

**Two lawns and a field full of family fun!**

## **In the field**

**Fun Dog Show & Superb Gun Dog demonstration from Master Gun Dog trainer Howard Kirby from Mullenscote Gundogs – Terrier Racing, bring your racing dogs for The Sopley Grand National! – Have a go at Clay Pigeon Shooting with professional coach Ian Thew of New Forest Shooting & Fishing – Rifle Range – – Welly Throwing – Vintage Tractors & Classic Cars – Stalls – Bar & Burgers – and much more**

## **On the lawns**

**Plants & Flowers – Books – Cake Stall – Art & Crafts – Local Food Stalls – Live Entertainment from the Bluestockings and others – Local School Performances – Teas & Cakes**

## **And in the evening at Owls Barn**

**Hog Roast & Live entertainment 7.30 till late**

**For further details contact**

**Ann Ramm  
01425 674668**

**Owls Barn Farm Shop  
01425 672239**

## Parish Clerk's Report



I hope you are enjoying a lovely sunny start to Spring/Summer 2015.

Firstly I would like to thank all those that helped with the litter pick in March and again it was a fantastic turn out. I have pencilled in next year's date at this stage and hope you may be able to pop in your diaries for next year (2nd/3rd April 2016). This will be confirmed in the Parish Boards/ Websites nearer the time. As with all Events I am more than happy to print and advertise on the above too. Just drop me an email [parish.clerk@sopley.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@sopley.gov.uk). I also try to update events via the Facebook page - Sopley Village. [www.facebook.com/groups/278975035587289/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/278975035587289/).

We were fortunate to not have had such a terribly wet Winter as 2013. In preparation the ditch/drainage work was carried out by our Chairman Dan Shutler and his team. This was funded by the Lengthsman Scheme. I am pleased to say we have been awarded this funding again for the year 2015/16.

Being my second year as Parish Clerk things have been ticking along nicely. I have now taken over the Administration for Sopley Cemetery and also the Treasurer position for the Sopley Parish Hall Committee. Alongside this I have had a couple of meetings with Liz Bishop and Tony Partridge from St Michaels & All Angels Parish Church Sopley hoping that in the future we can all work together and keep the special Community Appeal that Sopley has.

Unfortunately tragedy did affect the community when the beautiful "Smugglers" cottage suffered a fire in February. My thoughts go out still to our lovely Cllr. Dee Dunn. The Sopley Community really rallied around at this time and showed how we all pull together in times of need.

So onward with 2015 and hope Sopley continues with the excellent Community spirit.

Fingers crossed for a lovely hot, sunny Summer!

Please find below my details if you need to contact me.

Email: [parish.clerk@sopley.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@sopley.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 01425 674833  
Mobile: 07935 448405

With kind regards, Katie

## Annual Sopley Spring Clean 2015

Many thanks to all of the parishioners who participated in the Annual Spring Clean over the weekend of

28th & 29th March 2015.

As was the case last year, it was encouraging to note a continuing reduction in instances of fly-tipping in the Parish over the past twelve months and most of the waste collected this year was in the form of smaller items of litter. 2015 also saw a record number of volunteers turning out to help - which greatly speeded up our progress.

My thanks go out to the volunteers who braved the cold and windy conditions to help clear the rubbish from Ripley and surrounding lanes on Saturday 28th.

Those villagers were Stella and Chris, Geoff and Gerald, Neil, Norman and Cynthia, Gwennie and friends, Willie and family, also the Sopley helpers, Cllr. Rawstron, Judy and Ian Pinder, Evan Powell, Baz Hughes, Maggie Laidlaw, Tanya & hubby and Kim Dear and anyone else who did not go to the Woolpack afterwards plus Janet, who with Richard helped to collect all the rubbish and take it to the main collection point.

If you enjoy living in our village, do come along next time to help, and share in the friendship of your community.

2016 Litter Pick date (pencil in your diaries 2nd & 3rd April 2016)

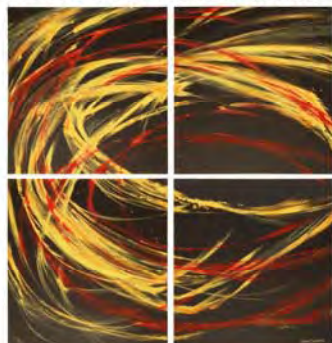
Confirmed dates are listed on the Parish Noticeboards.

## PEPPERCORNS art gallery

Opening times: 11am til 6.30pm. Wednesday closing at 3pm.  
Closed Sunday and Monday. Private viewings by appointment.

Peppercorns Art Gallery display a broad and contrasting selection of original work from exhibiting artists. Gallery owner and retired professional book cover artist David Dowland has many of his own diverse original pieces in the gallery. Also displayed are some of David's original paintings which adorned a huge volume of famous novels. His original painting and pencil draft for Barbara Taylor Bradford's multi-million best selling novel 'A Woman of Substance' is now up for sale.

David offers private one-to-one art and illustration tuition.



Peppercorns art gallery, Peppercorns, sopley, christchurch, dorset. BH23 7BB  
telephone: 01425 672237 david@peppercornsartgallery.co.uk www.peppercornsartgallery.co.uk



## SOPLEY VILLAGE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our super friendly group celebrated 2 years in January 2015, with 38 equally super friendly local ladies. We continue to meet each 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, at 7pm (for 2 hours) at the Sopley Village Hall, Priest Lane.

Our meetings are planned for the year ahead and will often have a recommended speaker, or perhaps we will have a go at a craft together. Meeting topics in 2014 included the history of Avon Tyrrell, in Braggers Lane and a wonderful Christmas party with tasty food and hilarious entertainment from our own Drama Group in December. In 2015, we will be learning about fly fishing and have a planned outing to Houghton Lodge in June as well as planning our craft entries for the New Forest Show – and we all look forward to getting together and chatting at our annual BBQ and garden party.

**++ DO PLEASE LOOK AT THE PARISH NOTICEBOARDS FOR  
OUR MEETING TOPICS ++**

If you would like more details, or just a chat about us, all local ladies are welcome to find out more and come along for a “taster” evening/£3.50 as a guest. Do please contact us:

Chairman, Charlotte Dunnill –  
01425 [673716/cmdunnill@hotmail.com](mailto:673716/cmdunnill@hotmail.com)  
Secretary, Anne Collins –

01425 [674204/anne@aerokites.com](mailto:674204/anne@aerokites.com)

Find out more about the Women's Institute here:  
[www.thewi.org.uk](http://www.thewi.org.uk)



## **Newly refurbished!**

**Fantastic range of quality, free range meats from our naturally reared Beef, Pork and Lamb.**

**Homemade sausages, burgers and faggots. Home cured bacon and gammons. Venison and game when in season. All available from our shop or wholesale.**

**We also have a great range of:**  
**Vegetables • Fresh Breads •**  
**Essentials Homemade Cakes and Bakes Takeaway Coffee, Tea, and Snacks Some Gluten Free Products • Locally Sourced Jams, Chutney, Cheeses Outside Catering Services**

**Derritt Lane, Sopley, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 7AZ**  
**Open Monday - Friday: 8am - 4.30pm**  
**Saturday: 9am - 5pm • Telephone: 01425 672239**

**Web: [www.owlsbarn.com](http://www.owlsbarn.com)**  
**Facebook: The Robin's Nest at Owls Barn Farm**  
**Shop Twitter: [@owlsbarnfarm](https://twitter.com/owlsbarnfarm)**

## Sopley Parish Hall Annual Report February 2015

We've had another busy and exciting year from the Parish Hall, with once again, an increase in Community usage over the last twelve months!



Looking back, we have had a year full of brilliant "good fun" activities and functions intended to reach all sections of our community. We have had the usual calendar favourites of Skittles, Car Treasure Hunt, Quiz Night, and the best ever Sopley Festival.

Again, we broke all the attendance records for both the Garden Party and Festival activities, and also at the Hog Roast later in the evening, when we were once again entertained by our local "house band" The Hall Raisers. Special thanks must go to Kate White and Ron and Lizzie Lakey for allowing us to use such

perfect neighbouring venues for this event. We must also thank Ron & Lizzy for donating the Hog, and Chris and his crew from the Fisherman's Haunt for roasting it! Thanks, too, to Keith Jarvis for providing the PA system for the event.

In March we celebrated St Patrick's Night with music and hot food hosted by the Hall Raisers. Thanks, again, to Lizzy and Caroline for providing food and drink for a really enjoyable evening.

Over the last few years we have become the regular meeting venue for several community groups including:

Stage Door Dance School, hosted by Julie Headford every Saturday.

Melanie Lovegrove has started an Adult Tap school.

Our own Community Coffee mornings are hosted on the first Friday of every month.

Sopley Village WI are now thriving and meet regularly on the third Tuesday of every month.

And most recently we have been so pleased to welcome the Stable Family Home Trust's Touching Base Club, who are organised by Mary Hindmarch and meet every Thursday.

It's hard to believe that only six years ago our Parish Hall was virtually dilapidated and unused.

On top of all that, the Hall has been used continuously throughout the year for a continuous stream of private parties, and even a Wedding reception, so if you have a need for a community function venue with kitchen facilities the ability to provide a licensed Bar, please get in touch – we're very reasonably priced and we'd be happy to help.



On the topic of corporate funding, once again it has been a frustrating year because of the current financial climate, and we find ourselves unable to locate further grant funding money to allow completion of the Parish Hall Refurbishment project we started five years ago. However, our Barry Hughes is still trawling through the grant funding web sites to try to seek out what little money is available to community groups such as ourselves. We WILL get to finish our refurbishment project; it's just taking a little longer than we initially planned.

And finally, we owe our gratitude to the Hall Management Committee, who have worked so hard throughout the year to provide a program of community events to enrich our spare time. During the year Caroline Paul handed financial control over to Katie Hughes, who has recently joined the committee. Caroline has looked after our finances since we refurbished the Hall five years ago, and has worked tirelessly on our behalf. Thankfully, she stays on the Committee with us and is, as always, our licensee for the Bar. Lizzy Lakey completes another year as our secretary, Ann Ram continues to look after the Hall bookings, and the ever present Phil Emmel gets heavily involved in practically everything we do, all aided and abetted by Andrew Rawstron, Ron Lakey, Dan Wellbury, Dan and Liz Shutler, Cynthia and Norman Hiscock, and a representative from Moorlands Bible College.



## The Woolpack Inn

Many thanks to you all for your continued support and for making this last year so successful. Mother Nature has been kind and the village has a fantastic community.

The woolpack has had many successful events over the past year and has given us the encouragement to continue to provide great food, drink and entertainment.

The new summer menu will be out in April with some seasonal delights. We have Matt Black a very talented Pianist playing here the last Thursday of the month starting at 8.30pm.

25<sup>th</sup> June 7pm we have an evening of mediumship with Dan Clarke tickets will be on sale at £10 each all proceeds will be going to Meningitis charity in memory of Lauren Downey.

11<sup>th</sup> July 8pm we have fire walking for little heroes charity (babies and small children with cancer) we are still looking for fire walkers any volunteers please come and pick up your sponsorship form with a £10 returnable deposit.

Also in the pipeline is a music event for August bank holiday weekend, Rocky horror Halloween and that amazing 80's band "You and me Both" back for New Year's Eve.

Please keep an eye out for future events.

Anyone wishing to hold an event at the pub, please pop in and discuss your ideas. Tel: 01425 672252

Email: [info@woolpackinnnsopley.co.uk](mailto:info@woolpackinnnsopley.co.uk)

# STEPPING STONES OF SOPLEY DAY NURSERY



*A happy and caring place to learn through play*

**NEW  
EXTENDED  
HOURS**

A lot has been happening here at Stepping Stones. We are pleased to announce that as from 1st March we are becoming a day nursery! We will be open from 8am until 6pm for 50 weeks of the year. This is for children aged 2-4 years at present, but we hope to add a baby unit in the future. There are options for children to attend term time only or full time, and we will also operate a holiday club. If you wish to have a look around, please do call us on the numbers below or have a look at our website:

**01425 673135 / 07867 521583**  
**[www.steppingstonesofsopley.co.uk](http://www.steppingstonesofsopley.co.uk)**

This year we are renovating our upstairs room. This will become a 'quiet room' so that our children who are starting school this year can have some focus time away from the younger children. Come and take a look! We have an amazing outside area, friendly supportive staff and a GOOD Ofstead report!



# WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are a charity and run by a committee of parents and staff. This year the committee are planning lots of fundraising events. We will be at the Sopley Fete as well as the Bransgore Fun Day.

We are also planning our own Easter Fun Day, with lots of fun activities and treats for all the family.

Please come along and see us.

If you are interested in getting involved, please speak to Caroline or get in touch via Facebook.



Stepping Stones currently has 40 different families using our setting, but we still have a few more spaces so please do get in touch.

Our staff are extremely creative and resourceful, so children are kept interested and absorbed in activities. They attend regular training courses throughout the year to inspire them and to keep up to date with current legislation and practices.

Find us on Facebook  
for regular updates



Location: Bransgore & Thorney Hill District Hall, Burnt House Lane,  
Bransgore, Christchurch, BH23 8DD

Contact: Caroline Paul (Manager)  
01425 673135 or caroline.paul1956@gmail.com



**Sopley Primary School**

WHERE INDIVIDUALS THRIVE

Sopley Primary School, South Ripley  
Bransgore, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 8ET  
Telephone and fax: 01425 672343  
Email: [admin@sopley.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@sopley.hants.sch.uk)

Website: [www.sopleyprimaryschool.org](http://www.sopleyprimaryschool.org)

Parish Newsletter Contribution 2015

Sopley School News

Although we are small school hidden away in Sopley, national events still influence what we do. Education is constantly in the news, with politicians telling us how things need to change. Despite this the daily work of Sopley School continues as it has for the past 140 years. We teach children how to read, write and understand numbers, about the world and its people, how to be decent, confident, healthy and responsible citizens. Although my predecessors from years ago would see very many changes, they would find much of their work continuing; the Nativity and the Christmas Service at Sopley Church would be very familiar. However, we no longer use the river at Sopley Mill to teach the children to swim!

Mr Gove has come and gone but his changes are still being implemented. We have made sense of the new primary curriculum, which is not so different from the old one. However the expectations of what will be achieved in English and Maths are more challenging. The children are enjoying the new computing lessons and are learning to write simple programs. I never cease to be amazed at how quickly the children learn to use modern technology!

We remain unclear about how we will be assessing it all; no clear way of replacing levels has been devised yet. Perhaps the next Secretary of State for Education will sort this one out! We know there will be plenty of tests, something young children never find easy.

The key to successful learning is to motivate and enthuse the children; we do this by combining subjects together, so that lessons are relevant and interesting. Visits are important as they provide a real context for learning. Recently our upper junior class spent a couple of hours at Sopley Church. Although they had been before for services, this was the first time they have had a real opportunity to explore it in detail - they were impressed. We are looking forward to visiting Stonehenge to learn about the Stone Age and will continue to go on many of our existing trips. Our curriculum remains broad and balanced. Despite the pressure we still find time for the arts and Music. Our choir is very successful and a joy to listen to.

Locally there seems to be an acute shortage of spaces for primary pupils; this may be solved in the next few years as several local schools expand or start from new. Although I am sure it would be easy to attract more pupils to Sopley School, space and traffic considerations make further expansion unlikely. We use every nook and cranny of our building.

I would like to thank everyone who supports us in different ways; we have several local governors and other helpers who come in to hear the children read or help with our garden. If you would like to be involved as a volunteer, perhaps sharing a hobby or interest, please get in touch; the children are delightful. One of the perks of my job is seeing all the smiles!

Our fete is 40 years old this summer and this year it is on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June. I hope to see many of you there.



This year I'm not going to ramble on about all the fabulous things Idelica has been up to, but I will let you know what some of our neighbours and couples that have got married in Sopley have said about us...

"Thank you for the incredible paella you made for our wedding at Sopley Mill. Everyone commented on how great it was and we were so impressed as you were tackling rather 'breezy' conditions. It really was wonderful and added a little something to an already special and memorable day." Alex Gliddon, December 2014 (Sopley)

"Thank you for being so amazing on the day. Everyone is still commenting about your delicious paella! Cannot believe it's nearly 2 weeks since the big day, the wedding just flew by." Anastasia and James McLeod, October 2014 (Sopley)

"This is now the second time we've used Idelica and that's simply due to it being the best Paella catering business on the south coast. When you're hosting an event you need 100% confidence in your caterers – Idelica give you this, from the initial meeting to dishing up the food." Terry Porter, September 2014 (Burley)

"Firstly, just wanted to say we can't thank you enough for the work you put in to our day. You and your staff were all lovely under difficult circumstances. Obviously not forgetting the paella was delicious! I'll recommend you to anyone and everyone!" Josh Cockhill, August 2014 (Sopley)

"A huge thank you for being so amazing on my wedding day. Everyone LOVED your paella, so many people commented on how delicious it was. It was an absolute delight to have the gorgeous smells floating by in the sunshine and it's actually quite incredible how you are there one minute and gone without a trace the next! I did not have a single worry during any part of my day and I must thank you for that too - you are reliable, straight-forward, efficient and completely stress-free. Everyone knows where to find the paella van in Sopley - I hope you get lots of bookings!" Kaz Butler, June 2014 (Bisterne)

"Thanks you so much Emma for the fantastic feast, I had nothing but good comments on the paella! Had the leftovers yesterday evening with another 15 people at home... It was a great way for me to be able to relax with friends and not to have to do the cooking. It was great to have you on board!" Ben Charmoy, March 2014 (Christchurch)

Now with over fifty wedding and birthday party catering experiences under our belt and a whole lot more bookings for 2015, Idelica is struggling this year to find time to attend many of the food festivals. Here are the ones we are able to confirm:

Sun 24 May 2015 - Fleet Food Festival

Sat 1 & Sun 2 August 2015 - Dorset Chilli Festival, Wimborne St Giles

Fri 7, Sat 8 & Sun 9 August 2015 - Chilli Fiesta, West Dean College Gardens nr Chichester

To make an enquiry about hiring our services for your party, wedding or event, please contact me by phone or email:

Emma Lopez

Idelica Ltd

3 Sopley

BH23 7AZ

Tel: 01425 350350

Mob: 07932 677255

Email: [emma@idelica.com](mailto:emma@idelica.com)

Website: [www.idelica.com](http://www.idelica.com)

Facebook: idelica

Twitter: Emma\_Idelica



Don't forget that Owl's Barn keeps a stock of some of idelica's imported Spanish store cupboard ingredients, and for paella pans and kits, go to [www.idelica.com](http://www.idelica.com) or contact me to arrange a visit to the premises.



**idelica.com**  
**01425 350350**  
**emma@idelica.com**

**YOU WANT A DELICIOUS, VERSATILE AND  
SOCIABLE WAY TO FEED YOUR GUESTS?**

**Maybe you can hire our**  
**PAELLA CATERING**

Idelica will pop up, cook up, talk up and serve up delicious, nourishing and authentic Paellas for your guests, all from within our own smart serving tent. They'll love the spectacle and the aromas, they'll savour the moment when their paella of choice is ready, they'll feel free to come back for seconds and be satisfied when they've had their fill. When our job is done, we'll leave you happy and without a trace of mess or fuss.

For more elaborate catering needs, we can create a Spanish-styled and locally-sourced banquet to suit your party, wedding or event with our growing range of canapés, tapas, sides, desserts and wedding cheesecakes.



## PAELLA SAMPLE MENUS

- **Feed 100 people at £10.00 per head**  
Chicken, Pork & Chorizo Paella for 70  
Vegetarian Paella for 30

- **Feed 80 people at £12.00 per head**  
Mixed Meat & Seafood Paella for 80

- **Feed 40 people at £12.25 per head**  
Seafood Paella for 20  
Chicken & Chorizo Paella for 20

## BANQUET SAMPLE MENUS

- **Feed 150 people at £19 per head**  
Spanish 'Entremeses' Grand Starter Selection for 150  
Chicken, Pork & Chorizo Paella for 70  
Seafood Paella for 50  
Vegetarian Paella for 30

- **Feed 100 people at £24 per head**  
'Pinchos' Starter/Canapes (5) for 100  
Chicken & Chorizo Paella for 50  
Seafood Paella for 30  
Vegetarian Paella for 20  
Mixed Side Salads for 100  
'Postres Pequenos' Mini Desserts (3) for 100



The Sample Menus are a small selection of many variations of single and multi-course catering we can offer. Prices shown here are approximate and are subject to change. Please contact me for a written quotation for your requirements.

Prices are based on a supervised buffet-style service and include provision of our buffet platters and serving items. Plain disposable plates/bowls (biodegradable) and sporks are also offered free of charge if required. I can quote for other types of food service (e.g. platter service, table service, clearing) and item hire/purchase (e.g. china, cutlery, table service items, disposables upgrades).

Prices are based on our plentiful 'Feast' paella catering style of portioning. Fixed portion 'Fiesta' paella catering is also available for particular events starting at £8.75 per head.

Bookings require a minimum of 40 servings on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Bookings for events outside Hampshire and Dorset borders may require additional charges to cover travelling costs.

For more information on our catering please refer to the current menus at

[www.idelica.com/catering](http://www.idelica.com/catering)

**Idelica Ltd**  
**3 Sopley**  
**Christchurch**  
**Dorset**

**01425 350350**

**07932 677255**

**[emma@idelica.com](mailto:emma@idelica.com)**

## Meadowbrook Alpacas

Alex and Melanie Wiseman started out in 2009 as hobby alpaca farmers in Sopley. They now have a herd of eight huayaca alpacas and are starting to produce products for sale from the fleece - and they also sell Alpaca manure!

Alpacas are a species of the South American camelid originating from the Peruvian Andes. It is believed they were first domesticated by the Incas over 6000 years ago and developed primarily for their fleece. Alpacas are very gentle, intelligent and inquisitive. They are a herd animal and become very distressed if separated - so they are usually kept in groups of at least three. They will approach people and eat out of their hand once they have learned to trust them. In general, they don't like to be touched but, with patience, young animals can be trained to accept human contact. They will occasionally spit but usually only when afraid - or squabbling amongst themselves. Alpacas make excellent lawn mowers and as their feet are padded do not ruin the pasture. Their pellet type faeces act as an excellent organic manure that is great for the veggie patch and doesn't scorch plants.

Alpaca fleece provides a luxurious fibre. It has a soft silky feel to it. It is warm yet lightweight, strong and durable and in South America, Alpaca garments have traditionally been passed down through generations. A real advantage over other wools is that it washes well without shrinkage. It doesn't tend to itch or prickle. It is hypoallergenic due to its lack of lanolin so is ideal for those with sensitive skins or allergies.

Alpacas are sheared once a year. The blanket fleece which consists of the area that covers the back and body of the alpaca consists of the longer fibres which will be processed at the mill into knitting yarn. The leg fibre is scoured and carded (washed and combed) at the mill into 'Tops' which are suitable for felting or hand spinning. Some mills will blend alpaca fibre with sheep but at Meadowbrook Alpacas the fibre is kept as 100% alpaca. The fibre has been spun into a DK 2 fold or knitters 4ply either washed or oiled onto cones. The oiled on cone version is preferable for machine knitting and the water soluble oil easily washed out of the final garment.



**For more information or to purchase alpaca products please visit**

**[www.meadowbrookalpacas.co.uk](http://www.meadowbrookalpacas.co.uk)**

**Tel: 01425 673003**



# Sopley School FETE

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> June, 12-4pm

SOUTH RIPLEY, BRANSGORE, CHRISTCHURCH. BH23 8ET

## Stalls

**BOOKS** for all ages

**Toys**

**CAKES** - delicious delights  
to take home

**Plants**

**Food & Drink**

**BBQ**

**Tea, Coffee & Cakes**  
**Freshly prepared**  
**filled rolls**  
**Strawberries & Cream**  
**Ice Creams**

## What's on

**School Performances**

**Sopley School Choir**

**Band of the Royal  
British Legion**

**Birds of Prey Display**

**Tug-O-War**

## Fun

**BOUNCY CASTLE**

**Merlin -**  
**Children's Entertainer**

**Face Painting**

**Beat the Goalie**

## Win

**Grand Prize Draw**

**Tombola**

**GAMES** and even more  
prizes to win



**So come along and join us on our fantastic day. All money raised goes to School funds**  
**For performance times please see the programme available on the day**

**Sorry but no dogs allowed on the School field other than assistance dogs**

[www.sopleyprimaryschool.org](http://www.sopleyprimaryschool.org)

**SOPLEY  
PARISH  
COUNCIL  
ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING &  
ANNUAL  
ASSEMBLY 2015**



**THURSDAY 14th May at 7.30pm in the PARISH HALL**

After the conclusion of a brief session of formal business, the Annual Assembly provides an opportunity for Parishioners to raise for general discussion, any matters or suggestions that may be of concern or interest to the wider community. The meeting will then be addressed by our guest speaker, Cllr, Ron Lakey who will be giving a talk on the local area.

Light refreshments will be available after the presentation.

## **ST MICHAELS AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH, SOPLEY**

The church extends a warm welcome to all and serves the Parish of Sopley, which includes the villages of Sopley, Avon, Hurn, Ripley and Shirley.

Our weekly services are as follows:

1st Sunday 8am Holy Communion (BCP)

11am Matins

2nd Sunday 11am Sung Eucharist

3rd Sunday 11am Family Eucharist

4th Sunday 11am Sung Eucharist

St Michaels & All Angels is a beautiful medieval church which offers a peaceful atmosphere for quiet contemplation. We would also invite you to enjoy the peel of our bells on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month.





## The Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy

Avon Tyrrell

Open Day on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Since the last Sopley Newsletter, the Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy (FCRT) has had a very eventful year: Martin Clunes, our patron, has visited with his lovely wife and wonderful Clydesdales, the FCRT 'Shop and Drop' facility at the New Forest Show continues to be in demand and we have all had to keep up to date with the ever changing Legislation.

However, one of the most poignant events for all of us at FCRT was the death of Mrs Yvonne Nelson on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015, a few days before her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Mrs Nelson has always written the Sopley Newsletter Report and it is with humility that I now put fingers to keyboard.

"Mrs.N." as she was known to many, was diagnosed with cancer a few years ago, the increasing effects of which did not diminish her passion for teaching or her enthusiasm for - and involvement with - the work of the Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy. Messages and memories flooded in from all over the world following news of her death. Mrs Nelson's characteristic strength and determination were moulded by her teenage years spent in London during the Second World War and they strengthened throughout life by her love of family and her work; she continued her work until a few days before her death.

It was the work of the FCRT that she brought into being with a small group of others (including the late Jenny Baillie, who died in January 2014) in 1976; work she saw grow and develop over the years, never losing her commitment to improving the skills of young people with special educational needs through their motivation to be with horses. Her approach to teaching through horses has been a part of building the growing understanding and use of Equine Facilitated Education and Therapy (EFET) worldwide. A student who was at the FCRT wrote, "Mrs. Nelson was always very kind to me, as she believed in me and helped me to believe in myself". Her tireless and specialist work for disadvantaged young people through the FCRT was recognised in 2003, when Mrs. Nelson was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire.

Mrs Nelson's work continues through those involved in the FCRT and it was Mrs Nelson who created and produced The Fortune of Christmas each year, for so many their start to Christmas! The Fortune of Christmas will be on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December this year and you are all welcome to come and join in the celebration.

Telephone: 01425 673297

[www.fortunecentre.org](http://www.fortunecentre.org)

[enquiries@fcrt.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@fcrt.ac.uk)

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- \*References available

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01425 672520.

Email: [avon-power@sendemailhere.co.uk](mailto:avon-power@sendemailhere.co.uk)



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To enquire about The Bluestockings, or make a booking

Email [info@thebluestockings.co.uk](mailto:info@thebluestockings.co.uk)

Or call 07502 142346



## Avon Tyrrell Estate

The major work in progress this year has been the completion of the irrigation reservoir and the restoration of the surrounding field.

The latter involved the spreading of the topsoil which had been stored in the bund for many years. In order to restore its fertility, we have planted lucerne. This has a deep root and will probably be there for two or three years before we can use the restored field for normal agricultural purposes. The water in the reservoir remains on the acidic side and we are looking at ways to address that before it can be safely used for irrigation purposes.

On the buildings front 83 Bennetts Lane nears completion.

By the time this article appears in print I hope to have carried out some tree felling work in some of the woods. Some will be thinned and in others areas will be clear felled. We will, of course, be replanting. Many of you will have been saddened, as I was, by the loss of the magnificent beech tree opposite Wiseman's farm.

Unfortunately a tree surgeon diagnosed that it was likely to be blown over in the next big gale leaving this with no option but to cut it down.

My notes would not be complete without some reference to the weather. At the time of writing we have had a relatively dry winter.

With the help of Mrs Hill and the Parish Council a relief ditch has been dug in Thatchers Lane and this seems to have helped the flooding on the road there. We are waiting for Hampshire County Council to put in a new pipe under the road to take the overflow from the spill pond by the entrance to Martins and the sawmill.

Willie Manners



## ***Friends of Sopley Church***

**The Friends have had a good year with fundraising from holding social events which as always were well supported, we are now hopeful that we can move forward with our plans to restore the Mural above the chancel arch which is looking very tired, it has been a long time in the planning stage and there have been a few problems along the way but we remain positive and are making progress.**

**After a long search and much advertising I am pleased to say that we now have a new Treasurer, we welcomed Steve Mitchell onto the committee and he has been doing an excellent job so we are very thankful.**

**We have arranged the following events for the coming year:-**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 12 noon Summer Lunch at Thorney Hill Community Centre.**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 7pm Quiz night at Sopley Village Hall.**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December Ham Sherry & Mince Pies at The Old Vicarage Sopley.**

**Everyone is welcome at these events they are always advertised on the Parish notice boards prior to the event so keep a look out.**

**If anyone would like to become a member of the Friends then please contact Steve on 01425 540026 for further details it costs £5 per year and it all helps in our efforts to keep our lovely old church in good order.**

**Jackie Gibson (Secretary)**

## Sopley Village Hall Events 2015



May 24th—Treasure Hunt

July 18th—SOPLEY FESTIVAL

More events to follow please see Parish Boards, website [www.sopley.gov.uk](http://www.sopley.gov.uk) and facebook for updates.

**Polite request for information from one of our lovely Parishioners, Cynthia Hiscock.**

Cynthia is looking for any old photos of Ripley Village, particularly the ford in Fish Street or the old thatched barn parallel with the road at Farmer Hunts in Middle Ripley.

Please send any of these items to [candn.ripley@btinternet.com](mailto:candn.ripley@btinternet.com)

Or telephone Cynthia on 01425 674206 or to her at 26 Ripley.

*Thanks in anticipation of any help you are able to give Cynthia..*

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### Sopley Farm Pick Your Own

Open between May and October, and with fruit and vegetable fields in both Derritt Lane, Sopley and on the A35 near the Cat and Fiddle Inn at Hinton, Sopley Farm supplies a wide range of delicious local PYO and ready-picked soft fruit and in-season vegetables including their prized Sopley asparagus - the 2012 harvesting of which will shortly be underway!

Sopley Farm PYO  
Derritt Lane, Sopley  
BH23 7AZ  
Phone 01425 672451



\*\*\*\*\*

### Sopley Salads

Dennis and Zhivka Tanner grow a wide variety of seasonal vegetables and salad crops on their farm in Priest's Lane, Sopley. They sell their produce direct to the public through the local farmers markets network - including Christchurch Market on Mondays and Wimborne Market every Friday.

Sopley Salads  
Badgers Farm, Priests Lane, Sopley  
Phone 01425 674150 Email: [sopleysalads@btinternet.com](mailto:sopleysalads@btinternet.com)



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### The Woolpack Inn.

Occupying a landmark thatched cottage situated at the heart of Sopley village, the Woolpack is a cosy 17th Century Inn steeped in fascinating history. At the Woolpack you will find a welcoming atmosphere, with friendly staff serving generous portions of home-made food from an innovative and varied blackboard menu with daily specials. Inside are two beamed bar areas and a light and airy conservatory dining area overlooking the stream. Outside is a delightful terrace garden, just perfect for lazy summer days.

Contact The Woolpack Inn  
Sopley  
Hampshire BH23 7AX

Phone 01425 672 252  
Email: [info@woolpacksopley.co.uk](mailto:info@woolpacksopley.co.uk)  
Website: [www.woolpackinnsopley.co.uk](http://www.woolpackinnsopley.co.uk)



\*\*\*\*\*

### Tyrrells Ford Country Inn & Hotel

A very warm welcome awaits visitors to this lovely 18th Century Manor House Hotel set in 8 acres of beautifully peaceful grounds in the Avon Valley. In addition to the popular public bar, patio and restaurant areas, the Tyrrells Ford also boasts a magnificent minstrels gallery lounge which is licensed for Civil Weddings.

The fourteen en-suite bedrooms are individually furnished and many have views over the surrounding lawns. The bar and restaurant serves both snacks and main meals daily and the hotel facilities are also available for conferences and banqueting.

Contact Tyrrells Ford Hotel  
Avon  
Hampshire BH23 7BH  
Phone 01425 672646 Website: [www.tyrellsford.co.uk](http://www.tyrellsford.co.uk)



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Dorset 01425 674206



\*\*\*\*\*



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Email: [Sopley.garage@btconnect.com](mailto:Sopley.garage@btconnect.com)

[www.sopleygarage.co.uk](http://www.sopleygarage.co.uk)

## **D. SHUTLER**

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**Square bailing / wrapping (Small and Large)**

**Tel: 01425 673113 Mob: 07870404513**



## ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

Mill Lane

Sopley

Christchurch, BH23 7AU



*A church, a pub and an old mill by the stream. Sopley has all three.  
And although modern towns have emerged nearby, the beauty and charm of  
this old world village remain largely unspoiled.*



## Who we are and what we do.

We are unpaid volunteers from the village of Bransgore, trained and despatched by the local ambulance service to attend serious medical emergencies in this area where a life may be at risk.

We provide basic life support care until the arrival of the ambulance service response.

We carry oxygen and a defibrillator as well as other medical equipment and pain release gas. Being local we can be with a patient very quickly to provide emergency care in the critical time before the ambulance arrives. We try to provide a 24/7 response.

Types of calls a Community First Responder might attend:

- Cardiac arrest
- Strokes
- Diabetic emergencies
- Traumatic emergencies (but not road traffic collisions)
- Heart attack
- Choking
- Unconscious patients
- Paediatric emergency.
- Chest Pains
- Patients suffering from seizures
- Breathing difficulties

In case of cardiac arrest, for every minute that passes without cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation, a patient's chances of survival decreases by up to 14%. Community First Responders answer calls in their neighbourhood, therefore, the potential for them to arrive on scene before an ambulance, especially in rural areas, is vital in providing immediate life-saving treatment. These extra minutes do help to save lives.

From Bransgore we normally cover Burley, Neacroft, Holmsley, Sopley, Avon, Bisterne, and parts of New Milton but we will go further afield if requested.

Responder groups in Hampshire receive no direct funding from the NHS or government.

Responders usually use their own cars, no blue lights- no sirens, but being local can be on scene with a patient in just a few minutes and provide vital support until the arrival of the ambulance. Our group are fortunate in having secured grants and support which enable us to operate two vehicles.

We are always seeking volunteers especially in the outlying areas such as Sopley, as adverse weather and fallen trees can delay the ambulance service and community responder attendance time- time which is critical. If you are over 18, of good character with use of a car and fit enough to carry the equipment and conduct CPR if required and want to know more about this voluntary work, please call us on 0844 500 9699.

If you wish to learn how to conduct CPR which may save a life also call 0844 500 9699 and we will get back to you.

If you are interested in the provision of public access defibrillators in rural areas we can help you. Again call 0844 500 9699

Our website is [www.bransgorecommunityresponders.org.uk](http://www.bransgorecommunityresponders.org.uk)



We are on Facebook - Bransgore Community First Responders

E Mail [enquiries@bransgorecommunityresponders.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bransgorecommunityresponders.org.uk)

**Our admin contact number is 0844 500 9699**

## Hello from Avon Tyrrell

The last year has been pretty great here at Avon Tyrrell, UK Youth Outdoor Activity Centre with lots of exciting changes and new facilities, thanks to a large number of volunteers. As we move in to another year, we continue to make improvements to ensure we deliver the best service we can, providing everyone with the same opportunities to **Experience, Learn and Develop**.

We have hosted many of our local schools and are really pleased that we can provide young people with a real adventure; it is always a privilege to see just how much the groups grow and develop whilst they are with us.

Our carbon neutral **Boathouse** is now complete and provides electric and hot water to new toilet and shower facilities for our campers. It really is a stunning building so feel free to stop by to have a look.

We have **adapted our bike trails** for inclusion bikes and have been given funding towards new kayaking and canoeing equipment to support those with additional needs to ensure the centre is **accessible by all**.

**BikeRide** continues to offer bike hire, repairs and services as well as memberships for our bike tracks including our Pump and Gravity and North Shore Park elements. **Come and check us out and get your bike back on track.**

Our **apprentices** continue to go from strength to strength, and we now have 13 with us working hard to learn and gain qualifications, whilst they get hands on experience.

*du*

David Watts  
Director of Avon Tyrrell

## Whats NEW?

- Boathouse is now complete
- Improved washing facilities for campers
- Bike Shed to store our bikes
- Lodges repainted
- Revamped Environmental area.
- Improved BBQ shelter
- Redecorated bedrooms
- Reception makeover
- NEW kayaks, Canoes & lake equipment
- NEW BikeRide website
- NEW Apprentices
- NEW Family Events Calendar
- NEW CEO
- NEW Blog
- NEW Inclusion bikes

We are social...



## Open Sessions & Bike Tracks

Zip wire across the lake, shoot arrows at a target, climb up the tower, kayak on open water, build a fire ore more...you can do it all in our **90 minute Drop In Adventure Activity Sessions** for both kids and adults, at **£10 per person**. Make a day of it and **hire a bike from BikeRide so you can hit the tracks.**



Contact BikeRide  
01425 615960  
bikeride@ukyouth.org  
www.bikeride.pro

*"It's a place where my kids can be themselves, achieve goals and build self esteem, and i get to join them"*

*"The children had a great time and learned so much about their environment and each other. Thank you for your hard work, enthusiasm and encouragement"*



## Family Events

Easter Egg Hunt Activity Challenge - Sun 5th April

Teddy Bears Picnic & Tea Party - Sun 19th April

Inclusion Adventure Activity Day - Tue 8th April

Avon Tyrrell Treasure Hunt Challenge - Wed 27th May

Cycling Adventure Weekend - Sat 27th June

BikeRide Open Day - Mon 27th July

Avon Tyrrell Summer Campout - Fri 14th August

Avon Tyrrell Summer Pool Party - Sat 15th August

Avon Tyrrell Autumn Adventure Trail - Sat 19th September

Spooky Halloween Night Walk and Disco - Sat 31st October

Halloween Adventure Trail Challenge - Sat 24th & Sat 31st October

Bonfire Night and Campfire - Sat 7th November

Santa's Christmas Adventure Trail - Sat 12th December



UK Youth has grown from humble beginnings as The National Organisation of Girls Clubs based at 118 Great Titchfield Street in 1911, to the UK wide charity we are part of today. But some things haven't changed – back then our role was to support clubs that gave young people a 'place to sit in, where they can meet their friends, or play games, or listen to music and today the same description could be applied to many of the youth groups we support and the warm reception young people get at Avon Tyrrell.

Sustaining the charity over the past hundred years has been a continual struggle; we've sold buildings, lost valuable staff and changed our name countless times. But the charity has always come through and survived to help the next generation of young people. The world is constantly changing and we need to keep changing with it.

Over the last year UK Youth has undergone some major restructuring to ensure that we are effectively reaching the young people in new and innovative ways, and with the lead of our new CEO Anne Smee, we predict that UK Youth has a very bright future ahead.

**BOOK ONLINE**  
**avontyrrell.cinolla.com**

## Outdoor Adventure Courses

**5 week courses - £30, 2 Day Intensives - £35**

### Archery

Wed 22nd April - 20th May  
or  
Sun 26th April - 24th May

Wed 3rd June - 9th July  
or  
Sun 7th June - 5th July

### Paddle Power

Sat 25th April - 23rd May  
or  
Sun 26th April - 24th May

Sat 6th June - 4th July  
or  
Sun 7th June - 5th July

### Climbing

Sat 25th April - 23rd May  
or  
Sun 26th April - 24th May

Sun 6th June - 4th July  
or  
Sun 7th June - 5th July

### Climbing Intensive

Mon 13th & Tue 14th April or Thur 9th & Fri 10th April  
Thur 28th & Fri 29th May  
Thur 13th & Fri 14th August or Thur 20th & Fri 21st August

### Paddle Power Intensive

Tue 7th & Wed 8th April or Thur 16th & Fri 17th April  
Mon 25th & Tue 26th May  
Mon 10th & Tue 11th August or Mon 17th & Tue 18th August



## Bookings and Enquiries

**Avon Tyrrell, UK Youth Outdoor Activity Centre**  
**Bransgore, Hampshire, BH23 8EE**

**01425 672347 info@ukyouth.org www.avontyrrell.org.uk**

Spring never fails to bring an array of wonder to our campus, and this year there are a few extra sites and sounds making an impression on us. It seems that every day new life is added to the construction of our new buildings that will transform College life for the next 40 to 50 years.

These buildings will replace the slowly tiring 'temporary' 1970's building used as a kitchen, dining hall and chapel. It is now demolished and the foundations for our Community Hub are in place. The new Auditorium has already been fitted with its new roof sloping upwards from the College to the large windows that will look north to the New Forrest and the outskirts of stunning Sopley. You can see updates of our building project at [www.moorlands.ac.uk/news/building-work-updates](http://www.moorlands.ac.uk/news/building-work-updates)

We hope that these buildings will not only serve our growing student population for years to come but will also serve the local community of Sopley and beyond. From October it will be possible to arrange bookings to use the facilities, including the 300-seat Auditorium.

The College doesn't aim just to fill these seats with students, but to produce graduates with all the necessary tools to make a godly impact in the church and the world. For that reason we ensure that each of our students are applying the knowledge of their programmes in placements throughout the Conurbation, the New Forrest and beyond. Like a small army, our students go out to their placements to make a difference to others and to glorify God. They serve in a wide range of denominations and organisations, from Anglican, Baptist, and Methodist churches, to new expressions of local church, prison and hospital chaplaincy and street evangelism.

We are very grateful that we are able to expand the current campus in Sopley. It is such a wonderful part of the world and we are very thankful for our welcoming and hospitable neighbours. One way that we have tried to convey something of our thanks is in the Student Council run Sopley Clean Up. Every autumn our students offer practical services, such as litter picking the river bank and cutting back overgrown shrubs and trees. If this could be helpful to you or a neighbour of yours this September please do get in touch by telephone on 01425 674500.

Lastly, we'd like to take this opportunity to reiterate that there is always a standing invitation to you, our neighbours, to come into College to look around and hear a bit more about what we do. If you call ahead and ask for the Public Relations department they will ensure that somebody can be ready to make you feel very welcome.

If we don't see you before, we look forward to seeing you all at the Sopley Fair in June.

Iain Kennedy

Public Relations & Promotions Manager

@MoorlandsCTT

[moorlands.ac.uk](http://moorlands.ac.uk)

Moorlands College, Christchurch, BH23 7AT

(+44) (0)1425 674500

Book onto one of our Open Days:

[moorlands.ac.uk/admissions/open-days/](http://moorlands.ac.uk/admissions/open-days/)

# USEFUL NUMBERS, CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

## **Parish Councillors**

### **Chairman\***

Cllr Daniel Shutler  
64 Fish St, Ripley, Bransgore  
Christchurch, BH23 8EU  
01425 673973

### **Vice Chairman\***

Cllr Cllr Dee Dunn  
Smugglers, 8 Sopley,  
Christchurch, BH23 7AY  
01425 672709

Cllr Andrew Rawstron  
17 Sopley, Christchurch,  
Sopley, BH23 7AX  
01425 672033

Cllr. Anj Hill  
Fist St, Ripley, Bransgore  
BH23 8EU

Cllr. Ron Lakey  
Owls Barn Farm  
Derritt Lane, Sopley  
BH23 7AZ

Cllr. Carole Smedley  
Brook Cottage, Ripley  
BH23 8EU  
07813 625611

\* The Offices of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the coming year, together with the composition of the various Council Committees, are decided by Council vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Council—which will be held on May 14th 2015, immediately preceding the Annual Parish Assembly.

**Website: [www.sopley.gov.uk](http://www.sopley.gov.uk)**

Parish Clerk  
Mrs Katie Hughes  
is available on  
[Parish.clerk@sopley.gov.uk](mailto:Parish.clerk@sopley.gov.uk)  
01425 674833  
07935 448405

## **Sopley Parish Hall (Bookings)**

Ann Ramm 01425 674668

## **Sopley School**

01425 672343

## **Stepping Stones—Pre-School**

Caroline Paul 07867 521583

## **St Michaels & All Angels Parish Church**

Liz Bishop 01425 672628

## **Your Hampshire County Council**

### **Representative is:**

### **Hampshire County Council**

Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine 01425 477131  
Email [steve.rippon-swaine@hants.gov.uk](mailto:steve.rippon-swaine@hants.gov.uk)

### **Where can you find out more about the Parish Council?**

Parish Noticeboards are located in Sopley Village at the Parish Hall and in the layby adjacent to Sopley Forge, in Ripley next to the phone box/post box, in Avon by the old forge at the entrance to London Lane and in Ringwood Rd, Shirley next to Letterbox Cottage.

Parish Council Meetings are held every 2 months - usually on the third Thursday of the month - and are open to all Parishioners and interested parties. Meeting dates, venues and agenda details are posted on the notice boards and the parish website ([www.sopley.gov.uk](http://www.sopley.gov.uk)). The website also contains lots of useful local links to businesses, local authorities and community groups and organisations.