Defibrillator Training

There are now three defibrillators in the village, at the Rugby Club, the Old School House by the War Memorial and the Village Hall – but they're not much use if no-one knows how to use them!

The Parish Council and Village Hall Committee are hoping to provide some training for those who are interested in both CPR and use of a defibrillator as and when Covid restrictions permit.. However, in the meantime, there are some very good training videos available on line for anyone who wants to find out more now.

The British Heart Foundation's video on CPR can be accessed at:-

https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/how-to-do-cpr/cpr-training-videos

or on Youtube at:-

with a short video on defibrilator use at:-

Everyone will benefit from Census 2021

Households across Stroud will be asked to take part in Census 2021 this spring. Census 2021 will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets but there are also paper forms available for those who need them. The

letters, with your unique access codes, have all gone out and responses are already coming in.

Operating in line with the Government's latest Covid-19 guidance, field officers will be deployed across the country to contact those who have not responded. They will offer help and advice to those who need it. They will also remind people that their census response is required by law

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. Understanding the needs of the nation helps everyone from central government to organisations, such as councils and health authorities, plan and fund public services across England and Wales. Census outputs inform where billions of pounds of public funding is spent on services like transport, education and health – on cycle routes, schools and dental surgeries.

Information from the census is also important in helping lots of other people and organisations do their work. Charities and voluntary organisations often use it as evidence to get funding. It helps businesses to understand their customers and, for example, decide where to open new shops. Plus, those doing research, like university students and people looking into their family history, use census data. It provides important information on population diversity, allowing organisations to know whether they are meeting their responsibilities and triggering action where necessary.

"The census provides a unique snapshot of our communities," Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at Office for National Statistics, said. "It benefits everyone. Based on the information you give, it ensures millions of pounds are invested in emergency services, mental health care, school places, hospital beds, houses, roads, GP's and dentist's services. "No-one should miss out. Everyone can complete online with a new search-as-you-type ability and paper forms

for those who need them.”

This census is the most inclusive yet. Everyone can identify as they wish using search as you type online and write-in options on paper if they need it. The questionnaire includes questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

Fake Text Messages

Warning over Royal Mail text message scam

People are being warned to watch out for a new text message scam in which criminals pose as Royal Mail in an attempt to steal personal and financial details.

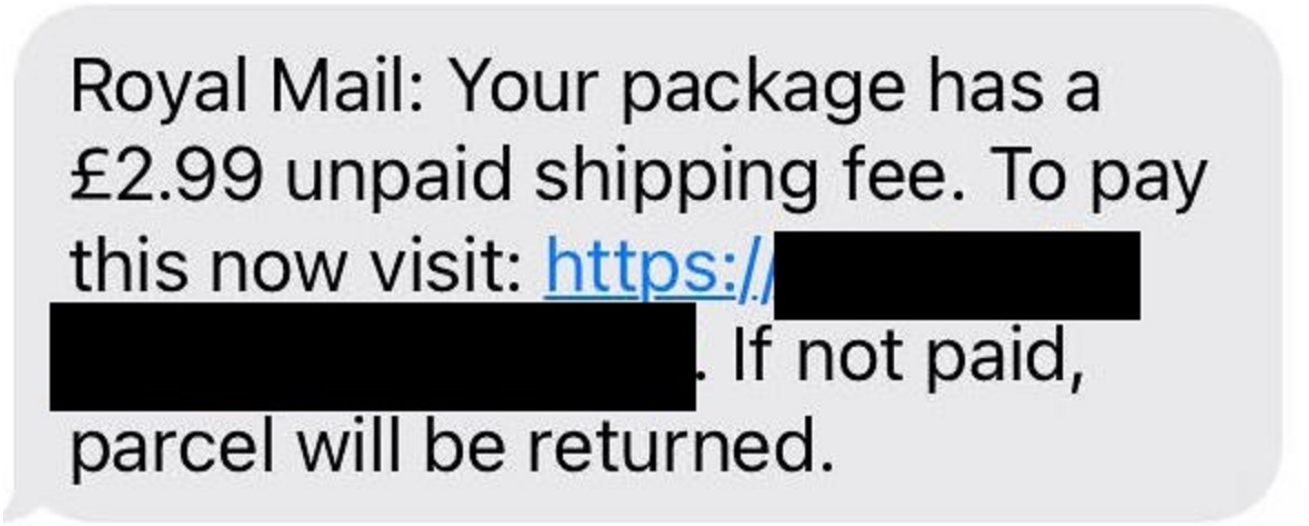
The ***Chartered Trading Standards Institute*** (CTSI) said it has received evidence of the scam, which uses a text message to claim a parcel is awaiting delivery but a “settlement” must first be paid.

The message also includes a link which leads to a fraudulent website posing as a Royal Mail page and asks for personal and payment details, which could then be used by scammers for

further fraud.

It follows a similar scam taking place over email which was flagged by Royal Mail last month.

Concerns have been raised about an increase in online scams since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic as millions of people began spending more time online and there was a surge in online shopping.



The fraudulent message asks users to pay a settlement before their parcel can be delivered (CTSI/PA)

The CTSI warned that the rise in online shopping means more people are likely to be waiting for parcels and deliveries, making them more vulnerable to this kind of scam.

Lead officer Katherine Hart said: “This delivery scam is yet another example of fraudsters attempting to make money out of the unsuspecting public. Due to the lockdowns, many millions of people rely on product deliveries, so scammers have focused their efforts on this theme.

“Royal Mail will only ever contact you via text or email if a customs fee is due, not for domestic parcel delivery. If you have any suspicions, contact Royal Mail to verify before you click any links or share details.

“Also, the public must also be aware that these types of scams may come in many forms, and scammers do not only use Royal Mail branding.

“Indeed, in January, I commented on a similar scam that used DPD branding.

“These types of scams come in many forms, not just via text but also in emails and through the phone.”

People are encouraged to report scams to Action Fraud, or for email scams contact the National Cyber Security Centre by emailing report@phishing.gov.uk.

All about the Website

How it works

For those who perhaps have never had the time to explore the website, I thought that I would take a few minutes and explain about the content and how to navigate around it. You might not be aware of various aspects or how it all fits together.

Compliance

First of all, the whole site was re-written recently so that it complies with the WCAG guidelines wherever possible. The ***“Web Content Accessibility Guidelines”*** covers a wide range of recommendations for making Web content more accessible. It means that websites can be used by portable devices like phones, they can be listened to and they text can be easily changed to accommodate for blindness and low vision. For the

Stinchcombe Website, it meant scrapping over half the site and re-writing the other half. As you can imagine this took hours of work.



This icon on the site is used to change the text size, the contrast and the font. You will see this or something similar on many websites that comply with the guidelines.

On Microsoft Edge, the read aloud command is now built in as "**Ctrl+Shift+U**" on Google Chrome you still have to download the "Speech to Text" extension.

The Site

Posts

The site itself runs on ***WordPress*** which runs 40% of the worlds websites. It has two sides, One side is called a "Blog" and is for articles like this one. These are called "Posts". Every "Post" on our site comes under one of four sections with the headings:

- ***Latest from the Parish Council*** (news which is either from the Parish Council or Parish related)
- ***The Village Pump*** (General news, gossip, views and fun)
- ***St Cyrs News*** (News from the Church and the Friends)
- ***Latest on Covid-19*** (what is says on the tin)

They appear on the website in date order with the newest at the top of each section. At the bottom of each section is a link called "More Posts" which will pull up all posts under that heading.

Pages

The other side of the site are the pages. These are permanent like a book and a filed under structure the chapter headings are seen on the left of the front Page. For instance, “Our Virtual Village” now has twelve pages but only the chapter heading shows on the frontpage.

The Front Page

The Front Page of the site used to be called the Landing Page although this term seems to have changed to mean where a site collects information about you. However if you look at our Front Page you will see current information for the village.

Top Right are the ***Notices*** this is the Parish Council Notice Board. I will also post Parish Notices on the board from anyone who sends me one!

Under that are the ***Next Village Events***. Anything coming up in the village. When, Where and How Long. The Parish Council meeting shows a link to the latest minutes and agenda.

Next we have a list of the latest Post.

Then under “Full List of Pages” that we have a full list of **every PAGE on the site**.

Also on the front page at the very top we have a “Search This Site” box which works extremely well, a map of the surroundings, the local weather, your Parish Council and various other things.

Finally

I hope that this “tour” of the front page has helped you better understand why the site is at it is. Remember it’s not a professional site, it depends on people actively contributing ideas, photos, and especially articles. No matter

how small and insignificant a piece everyone has something to say. If you don't contribute to the village website then it will at some point die.

The A38 Canal Crossing

The start or the end?

I came back today from Stroud by bicycle and it game me a chance to get off and see the finished A38 roundabout complete with Canal. You may remember that I wrote a while back about the ***"Missing Mile"*** . So it's good to see the A38 Canal roundabout to nowhere finished.



Looking from the field into the new canal cutting through the roundabout

Nowhere to go?

Scrambling down from the road to the new canal there is no sign of where it will go across the field instead there is only a nice new fence blocking it off. Obviously the new canal is going to be some time a-coming….

At the other end, one can see the old overgrown canal asleep and waiting to be cleared.



Looking from the new canal cutting into the old overgrown canal
YouTube Video by Gloucestershire Highways

About the scheme

The scheme delivers the construction of the canal through the A38 Whitminster Roundabout. It includes the construction of two new bridges, a canal channel within the roundabout and a towpath under the bridge.

Delivered by GCC as the highways authority through contractors, Alun Griffiths, working closely with Cotswold Canals Trust, Highways England and Stroud District Council.

The canal at this location was originally crossed by the Bristol Road (now A38) on a stone arched bridge. The lock and the bridge were both destroyed at the time the A419 link road was built in conjunction with the building of the M5 in or around 1969. The entire canal from the point where the surviving canal approaches the A38 Whitminster roundabout to Westfield Lock was obliterated – a distance of about a mile, the so called 'missing mile'.

More information: ***Cotswold Canals***

- The Missing Mile
- 100,000 tests per day
- Toad Patrol – End of Season
- End of Lockdown – Should we be worried?
- Coronavirus my personal thoughts

Stinchcombe Village Hall Lottery Fundraising

Stroud District Council Lucky Severn Lottery

Stinchcombe Village Hall is raising money to support ongoing projects and general upkeep in these difficult and challenging times. We have joined the Stroud District Council ***Lucky Severn Lottery***.

Lucky Severn Lottery was created in 2021 by Stroud District Council. It is set up to support community projects in the local area. Lucky Severn Lottery operates on the principle of

raising money within the community for the community. To empower local good causes to raise money in a fun and effective way. In a time of shrinking budgets and increased community need, Lucky Severn Lottery enables people to support the causes they care most about, helping good causes to connect with their supporters.

How to purchase tickets

- For the Lottery simply follow the link Lucky Severn Lottery.
- Select “play the lottery”
- Search for “Stinchcombe Village Hall”
- Buy tickets

Or just press here!

How it works

- Tickets cost £1 per ticket
- 50p in every pound raised goes directly to the village hall.
- 10p in every pound goes to local good causes
- Every ticket has a 1 in 50 chance of winning every week
- Odds are better than the National Lottery and Health Lottery
- Once you have an account at ***Lucky Severn Lottery*** you can buy further tickets supporting other local causes or charities or check up on your winnings. All online.

Currently at the Hall

We have a few small projects to complete, such as CCTV, lower car park security barriers and lighting, plus the everyday costs associated in running and maintaining this much-loved village asset, such as repairing and decorating the stage

area.

1. Following on from our very successful Christmas fare, that saw the new overflow car park almost full for most of the day, we are looking to install the new low-level lighting and CCTV ahead of what we hope to be a busy 2021.
2. For additional security we are also looking to ensure the overflow is more secure by installing two new barriers when not in use.
3. In the Spring, when lockdown permits, we are looking to repair, clean and decorate the stage area.

Anyone interested in helping regarding the painting or more information on the Lottery, please contact David by phone on 07539 286978 or by ***email***

David.

Friends of St Cyr AGM 2021

What are "The Friends"?

It would seem to me that anyone moving into the Village would hear "The Friends of St Cyr" would think that it's some sort of secret sect or an order of medieval knights building a pyramid under the foundations of the church.! Perhaps it's a small clique of gymslip teenagers.

Actually the ***Friends of St Cyr*** is neither of those. It's just a group that started out in 2006 to raise money for the Fabric of the church. Half the "Friends" are not regular church goers, they just want to see our church buildings preserved

and looked after.

However, like many societies which start out with one single mission, the “Friends” has evolved over the years and partly because of it’s fundraising needs also does much to bring the village together both in spirit and a corporeal way.

Time will eventuate

The Friends has now been in existence for 15 years and time will eventuate that new “Friends” are needed to step up as old “Friends” step back. So, are you able to answer yes to any of these questions?

- Able to bring any expertise to the group?
- Want our village to keep our church?
- Able to give time for the village?
- Want to help keep the village together socially?
- Able to work on small committees?

The AGM

This years AGM is on Tuesday 23rd March and anyone is invited to join. Especially if you would like to join the committee. If you are, please feel free to contact our Chairman ***Russell Legg*** or Secretary **Jill Holloway**.

- Friends of St Cyrs
- St Cyrs Church
- Open to All
- St Cyrs
- Open to All