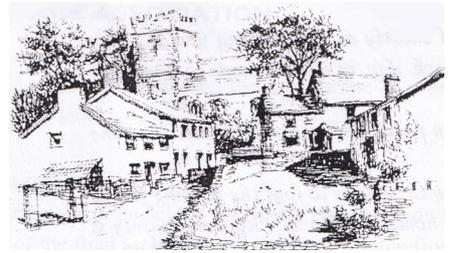


# Old St Mellons Community Council

## Newsletter

Spring 2018



We are delighted to congratulate our colleague, Cllr Dianne Rees, who was appointed The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of Cardiff in May 2018. Cllr Rees will remain in post until May 2019 and has been busy representing our City as its First Citizen. Cllr Rees is the first Lord Mayor from Pontprennau and Old St Mellons and has supported numerous local events in her new role, including opening the Village Fete. The Noah's Ark Children's Hospital is Cllr Rees' chosen charity and so far over £100,000 has been raised for this wonderful local charity.



### St. Edeyrn's Church

This Church which can be seen from the A48M is one of the oldest sites of Christian Worship in Wales, the 12th century Church is situated alongside the new St. Edeyrn' development. The graveyard is maintained and owned by Old St. Mellons Community Council. For any information with regards to the graveyard please call Cllr Rosemary James MBE on 02920 796845

### Old St. Mellons Village Hall

Situated just off the Newport Road and almost hidden from view, is the lively hub that is the Old St. Mellons Village Hall. For as little as £15 per hour our Village Hall can be hired for your venue, celebrate birthday parties, social events, meetings, art and dance classes etc., and even wedding receptions. If you are a local resident you can hire the hall for £10 per hour. Our main hall has a modern fully fitted kitchen along with plates, dishes, cups and cutlery. If required this can be opened up to provide a serving area ideal during a party. The Village Hall also has disabled access and toilet.

For booking enquiries please contact the Clerk: [clerk@oldstmellonscommunitycouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@oldstmellonscommunitycouncil.org.uk) or Telephone: 07543 791759

### Ty'r Winch Playing Field

The playing field is for the use and enjoyment of the community and this is owned by OMSCC, the field has a Fields in Trust status and have been awarded the Green Flag once again. Play equipment is for the children and the enclosed area is for toddlers and young children. Outdoor exercise equipment is available for anyone who likes to keep fit, along with tennis courts and boules courts. The extensive green field is suitable for ball games and family picnics etc. For this reason the Community Council imposes a ban on dogs to ensure that field users remain safe. The footpath around the perimeter of the field enables easy access for wheelchairs and pushchairs. The field is locked at night and opened each morning by volunteers to whom the Council is very grateful. If you are able to assist in this role – even on a relief basis – please contact the clerk. Your assistance would be gratefully received.

### 1<sup>st</sup> St Mellons Scouts 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Scouts, past and present, recently got together to spend an evening celebrating 40 years of Scouting in St Mellons! Neil Atherton, Simon Creed, Claire Mc Carthy and many others celebrate!



## OLD ST MELLONS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

“PROMOTING SPORTING AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY AMENITIES”

Welcome to 2019 and a Happy new Year to you all.

We started the year with a very successful Race Night on January 19th which was enjoyed by 80 plus people. It was good to see new faces and hope that you continue to support our future events which are listed below.

Spring Quiz Saturday 2nd March



Boules Saturday 8th June



Fete Saturday 13th July



Look out for further attractions in September and October which will be duly advertised.

We still really need new members who are willing to help arrange and promote our future events. For more information contact Hilary Williams 02920 778678 or Hilary Walkey Williams 02920 916699

Our AGM is on Thursday 28th March at the Village Hall, Newport Road at 7.30 pm and you would be most welcome to come along.

### Old St. Mellons Village Association

## 'The Entertainers'

*The Entertainers have been entertaining at Old St. Mellons Village Hall for over 30 years – plays, pantomimes, variety.*

*This year we are very pleased to welcome new members to our cast, alongside some familiar faces.*

*Our presentation takes place on **Friday 17th and Saturday 18th May**, and we are performing a two-act comedy play:*

### *Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders*

*Please do come along and support us on what promises to be an enjoyable evening.*

*Ticket price of £6 includes a light supper and a bar is available.*

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TICKETS/INFORMATION THEN PLEASE TELEPHONE:**

**Pam Jenkins 02920 404533**

**Derek Stroud 02920 259892**

**Congratulations** to the twelve St Mellons Scouts, a record number, who were invested as the Lord Mayor's Own. This is a troop who accompanies the Lord Mayor on civic occasions such as Remembrance Sunday. It is significant that so many members of the Group are eligible this year because the Rt Honourable Lord Mayor of Cardiff is Community Councillor Dianne Rees, a resident of Old St Mellons!



**Knit, Stitch and Natter Group** still meets 1:30 each Wednesday in the small hall in the village hall and have an enjoyable time.

## 'A Shared Community'

### Charter between Cardiff Council and the six Community Councils in Cardiff

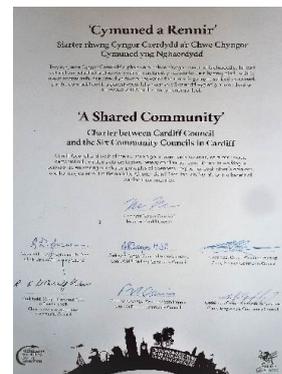
'The six Community Councils of Lisvane, Old St Mellons, Pentyrch, Radyr & Morganstown, St Fagans and Tongwynlais and the County Council of the City & County of Cardiff have agreed to publish a Charter which sets out how we aim to work together for the benefit of local communities whilst recognising our respective responsibilities as autonomous, democratically elected statutory bodies'.

The Charter is designed to build on existing good practice and embrace the shared principles of openness, respect for each other's opinions, honesty and our common priority of putting citizens at the centre. The Charter is based on equality of partnership and is not a top-down arrangement'.



### Signing of Charter 14th January 2019

By Huw Thomas, Leader of Cardiff County Council and Rosemary James MBE Chair of Old St Mellons Community Council



## Dog Poop – Protecting Children and Play Areas

Your Community Council puts considerable effort into making Old St Mellons Community Park & Playing Field in Ty'r Winch Road a safe & secure place for children to play and for people to come to exercise, relax & enjoy themselves. One of the ways that we endeavour to achieve this is to ban dogs from the park & playing field areas.

While it is recognised that the great majority of dog owners are responsible, clean up after their dogs and keep them under control there are unfortunately some who do not. It is those few irresponsible dog owners who show every contempt for the park environment and other users of the park's facilities who are the root cause of the problem.

Regrettably however, despite there being clear 'No Dogs' signage at the entrance to the park there are certain individuals who seem to think that this doesn't apply to their dogs. And simply being oblivious to the No Dogs signage, or pretending that you are, is not an excuse.

### WHY DOGS ARE BANNED FROM THE PARK AREA – Health Risks

Dogs are banned in the park & playing field because dog mess (poo) is of significant concern for your Community Council since it is socially unacceptable, spoils the park environment for other users, is an eyesore and importantly is a health hazard. Furthermore:

Dog poo is unsightly, unpleasant & can lead to serious illness in humans if accidentally ingested. It can contain millions of bacteria, which are known to cause cramps, diarrhoea, intestinal illness, and serious kidney disorders.

The greatest risk to public health is toxocariasis. Toxocariasis is an infection of the roundworm, which can be spread by dog poo. Humans can catch it from handling soil, sand or grass contaminated with infected animal faeces (poo). Children are perhaps most at risk because their play habits make them more likely to come into contact with contaminated soil or grass when they play and put their hands in their mouths.

Roundworm infection can lead to blindness, epilepsy, asthma and eye infections. The worm eggs which become infectious after about three weeks can remain so for several months and can survive in the soil even after it's rained.

There is also ringworm, which is not a worm but a fungus. It is highly contagious and can spread from dogs to humans.

### Other reasons:

Dogs taken into the park may become aggressive if startled.

Some children may also be frightened of dogs.

Your community council strives to eliminate these risks so please comply with the 'No Dogs' signage.

### Further Background:

Your Community Councillors have also had to deal with professional dog walkers using the park by threatening legal action and drawing their activities to the attention of the dog warden. Moreover, some of your community councillors have had to contend with abusive responses and behaviour when reasonably bringing to the attention of a few dog owners that dogs are not allowed in the park & playing field area. This is not only unreasonable but outrageous & further instances will involve the police.

### To conclude on a humorous note:

In a small town in Spain, volunteers were enlisted to look out for irresponsible owners. Many were identified from the town hall pet database and the excrement returned as "Lost Property" in a box bearing the town's insignia. A massive drop in the amount of dog mess found on the streets was reported. While perhaps an extreme measure it is in many ways an understandable reaction to an unsocial and unhealthy problem.

### And finally:

We hope this article will help explain that why for the health and safety reasons your Community Council's has, in the circumstances, long adopted the ultimate solution of simply banning dogs from Old St Mellons Community Park & Playing Field.

Moreover, while your Community Council can take legal action against those who flout the 'No Dogs' rule under a Public Service Protection Order it would be clearly preferable if dog owners recognise the reasons for the ban and comply with the 'No Dogs' signage.

## Easter Services in the Village

St Mellons Baptist Church 21st April 10:30

Bethesda 21st April

St Mellons Parish Church

Palm Sunday 14th April 8.30 – Holy Eucharist, Blessing and Distribution of Palms  
11.00 – Sung Eucharist, Blessing and Distribution of Palms, Procession around the church yard

Easter Day 21st April 8.30 – Holy Eucharist  
11.00 – Sung Family Eucharist

(at these services Vicar will give away small Easter Eggs as a symbol of new life)

## OSMCC 2018/19 Finance Report

The Old St Mellons Community Council work throughout the year trying to maintain and improve the quality of the surroundings in the Village, particularly the three main assets of the Council namely the Village Hall, the Tyr Winch Playing Fields and the St Edeyrn's Burial Grounds. It is important that we maintain each to the highest possible standards, add improvements subject to funding and ensure that the facilities are safe and comply with the latest Health & Safety standards.

All expenditure is carefully budgeted and approved and in the current year the total expenditure will be £50 k including the new Boules courts in the Playing Fields and the new Notice Board for St Edeyrns. The breakdown includes running costs of £20k for the Village Hall made up of Rates, hall maintenance, electric, gas, water, annual inspection certificates compliances and the part time caretaker and cleaner wages among the costs. Administration costs of £14k include the part time salary shared between the Clerk and Finance Officer, P & EL insurances on Hall /Pavilion, training/membership fees, newsletters, phones, WIFI, postage and audit fees for both the Wales Audit Office and Internal Auditor. The running and maintenance costs of both the playing fields and St Edeyrns burial grounds will be £13k, but this year include the boules courts (£4.5k) and new notice board (£1.5k). The bulk of the balance is made up of the annual grass cutting contract costing £6k for the three sites and considerable tree work costing £3k on both sites. The remaining £3k is vat paid on expenditure throughout the year but recoverable in the new financial year.

The above is funded by income from the hire of the Village Hall by regular local bodies shown on the website and from private hirers for parties etc. The other main source of income is the sale of burial plots at St Edeyrns Church. This source of income is not guaranteed and can fluctuate, although our budgeted figure of £11k is on target for the year. Last year's VAT reclaim of £3k was also included in calculations and it was agreed that the contribution from Cardiff Council on behalf of Precept payers would be £29,900. The resulting shortfall of income to expenditure to be funded from our Capital bank balance. Each year, we occasionally receive donations or grants from other groups and individuals, such as the OSM Village Association, who run social functions throughout the year.

Next year, the Council are pleased that Section 106 monies are being made available to enable an upgrade of the Village Hall. It has been decided that the Hall roof should be totally renovated and this work will be carried out in April/May 2019. This will enable other upgrades to be carried out in due course. No plans have currently been finalised regarding the Pavilion upgrade and the Council will welcome suggestions.

## Autumn & Winter Leaves

### The negative

The advent of leaf blowers made it far easier to remove unwanted fallen leaves from gardens and driveways and this can lead to some into taking the simple solution of blowing leaves out on to the roads & pavements.

The problem with this is that leaves may well start to accumulate and cover road and pavement surfaces. They can then become wet, form a slippery surface and give rise to the possibility of people slipping and road vehicles skidding and possibly losing control. Motorcyclists can be particularly at risk.

Leaves also make it difficult to see potholes and block drains resulting in drainage overflow and flooding. If you simply blow or sweep leaves off your property it may also irritate your neighbours as any leaves put out onto the road or pavement may just blow around to settle on their property.

### The positive

On the positive side leaves are good for the garden, rotting down to form leaf mold. This can be dug or tilled into garden beds to improve soil structure and water retention. It can also be used as mulch in perennial beds or vegetable gardens. And it's also good in containers due to its water retaining abilities.

Leaf mold is also good for wildlife, particularly if making a simple chicken wire cage to retain the leaves. This will allow worms, beetles and other invertebrates access. But be sure to leave a gap at the bottom to enable hedgehogs, small mammals and amphibians such as frogs, toads and newts to come and go.

In light of this the gathering of leaves to then place into a wheelie-bin for removal by the council also seems such waste, particularly when come Spring many of us will go and buy compost.