

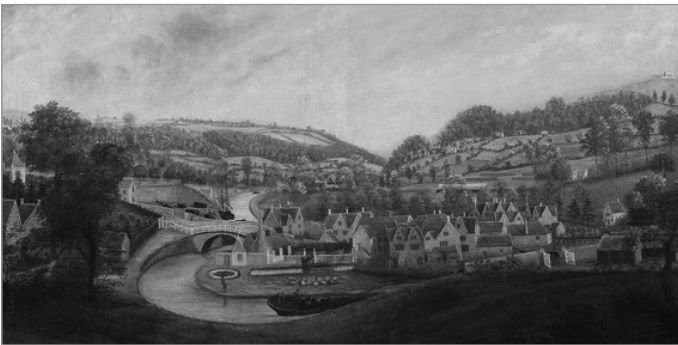
THE COMMONER

Views and News from Rodborough

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Winter 2013 • Issue 37

Rodborough Fields under threat



1870's painting of Wallbridge

Rodborough Fields and Frome Banks are woven into the historical, social, physical and emotional fabric, not only of Rodborough, but of Stroud and the Five Valleys. The plans for a new housing development on the fields below Arundel Drive threaten to tear through that fabric, destroying a site of significance for many people, important to them all for a number of different reasons.

The fields and banks are inseparable, both in their historical context, as a key wildlife site and as part of the green corridor through the town. As planning consultation meetings and planning applications loom, we ask you to consider and reflect on just what Rodborough Fields, Frome Banks and the green belts and spaces in and around Stroud mean to you.

Stroudwater Textile Trust give many talks about Stroud's textile history. One of the most important parts of those talks is Stroud's most famous painting. The artist is unknown, but the 1870's painting of Wallbridge is well known in these parts. In addition to showing us this historic part of Stroud, focussed around the canal, it also shows the rows of scarlet and white cloth drying on Rodborough Fields in the background of the painting.

This was celebrated a few years ago in the 'On Tenterhooks' project. Waves of red fabric were carried by local school children over Rodborough Common and down to the fields recreating the link between the sheep cropped grasslands of the common, the tenterhook racking fields themselves and the Capel Mill dye works below.

The walk formed the basis of a wonderful sound and light show presented at Rodborough Community Hall. As part of the same project, local children and residents were given guided walks along Frome Banks to celebrate its historical heritage, its unique atmosphere and its biodiversity. Local poets and historians write of the field's medieval ridge and furrow patterns, visible after a heavy frost, a sprinkling of snow or in the low sun.

Regional and local wildlife and conservation bodies and wildlife enthusiasts identify and record the fields' flora and fauna. Photographers capture the colour of the wild flowers and the insects they attract. The fields are a fine example of a wildflower meadow with ox eye daisies, clover, buttercups and knapweed.

Frome Banks was until very recently a Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve. The Trust, recognised its importance as a key wildlife site, so close to the town centre and managed it for over twenty years. It is the haunt of species like otter, kingfisher, dipper and a number of bat species.

Those who live on the other side of the valley have a wonderful view. They can see from the valley floor to the crown of the commons. The view is one of fields, hedgerows, woodland and high grasslands, broken only by small clusters of Cotswold stone cottages. Rodborough fields and the adjoining fields are a significant part of this quintessential Stroud Valleys view. They will also see the walkers moving up and down the valley slopes on the footpaths that link the town with Rodborough Common. Of these the one from Capel Mill across Rodborough Fields to Rodborough Community Hall is the most significant. The housing developers in question will argue that they are concerned (at present) with the area of fields directly below Arundel Drive, around 8 acres of land covered with 100 houses, not those directly to the east contained within the Cotswold AONB. Yet, there can be little doubt that this might be the beginning of the end for the entire area of Rodborough Fields and beyond, as far as Butterow Hill. In addition, there will be considerable impact on Frome Banks Nature Reserve. The intended access road will cut through this wonderful green corridor over a new bridge. Previous public meetings have shown how much concern and opposition there is to the proposed development. The Rodborough Fields Preservation Group has been set up to coordinate an organised response to the threat. It is an independent campaign group to raise awareness of these plans and to co-ordinate the opposition against this development. It is looking at all of the issues, drawing on support from a number of other organisations, groups and individuals to help it do so.

Large numbers of people from all over Stroud have already signed petitions against the development. There is now an online petition on the Rodborough Fields web site www.rodboroughfields.org.uk. A Facebook page has also been set up.

Continued on Page 7 ►

To renew or not to renew, that is the question



Renewable Energy Clean and Green!

We've all heard the cry at ever increasing volume this past 10 years but what do these words mean? They say Renewable Energy never runs out. It's always there to reuse over and over again. But...

Take Solar Energy: The sun will shine quite reliably for 4bn years ± a bit. But your 'solar panel' has a probable lifespan of 20-30 years and it needs a lot more than solar energy to build a new one, a fully developed industrial society and minerals that are a finite resource. In some cases, these rare earth metals are not common at all existing only in thinly distributed zones that cost prodigious amounts of material and power to extract in usable pure amounts.

Take Wind Power: Each turbine takes around 8 miles of steel bar and a million cubic foot of concrete. Which again takes the fully developed industrial society and minerals that are a finite resource. Also each magnet that is driven by the blades uses tens of kilos of rare earth metals to get the high output to make them appear viable. And if a high pressure system settles over the North Sea and the wind dies down they don't work anyway!

Take Tidal Power: This is the same as wind power but the environment they must work in is about the most hostile on the planet, so reliability and longevity is a problem, as is maintenance and estuary barrages play havoc with wildlife.

Take Hydro Power: this almost invariably needs a dam to get any worthwhile amount of power. These require large amounts of concrete and there is a shortage of suitable locations. Also they tend to silt up quite quickly once running, with 50-70 years being a 'good lifespan'.

Take Biomass (Trees to you and I): But expanding energy crops means less food producing area, and in many areas where this has been tried the results always seem to include de-forestation and air pollution. I don't have the answer - no one does. Thorium breeder reactors and Helium fusion plants can be but they are a long way down the path we've barely started down yet so 20 years plus at least. What I do know is that the high speed whine of the green brigades is not the answer. All of the present "renewable" energy sources are short term and need a major industrial society to get any length of service. They are all secondary sources - i.e. they need a primary source like gas, coal or nuclear to back them up when they fail to deliver.

Fired Up

THE
COMMONER

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 May Theme: Transport
 If you would like to provide an article for this issue
 please contact the Editor.

Help keep Beresford House Open

Beresford House is the women's refuge in Stroud. Domestic violence is an abomination and is far too common in England, and Beresford House does sterling work helping women, and, of course their children, at a time of great stress for them and helps them to start a new life. Children sadly, often suffer more than we realise when they see or hear their mother being abused by their father - or, of course, vice versa.

However, the grant that Beresford House has received from the county has been taken away and they either have to close or get funding from another source.

We have decided to keep going because the need for our help is ever-present and we are starting on a fundraising campaign to ensure that Stroud keeps its excellent refuge and this is how you can help:

As chair of the Friends of Beresford Fundraising committee, I am appealing to the people of Rodborough to support our campaign to get as many people to sign up as friends of Beresford House as possible. The cost is only £2.00 a month for individuals and £10.00 a month for a corporate friendship. Corporate includes any organisation, which in Rodborough can include our pubs, our schools, our churches, our parish council and any businesses in the area. All you get for your donation is a newsheet and the sure and certain knowledge that you have helped very vulnerable people at a time of crisis in their lives - some of them, of course living within the parish.

If you feel you can join could you please let me know by emailing me on **oost@btopenworld.com**, phoning me on **872446** or writing to me at Copperfields, The Street, Kingscourt, Stroud GL5 5DL

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I work here - TANYA WHITE



Following the departure of PCSO Garcia-Cote, myself and PC Beth Coles have taken on the responsibility of the Rodborough area, with PCSO Rollings now covering the Dudbridge side.

I Joined Gloucestershire Constabulary as a Police Community Support Officer in November 2006 and have been based

in the Stroud Local Policing area from the start. I initially covered the Cashes Green and Rodborough area where I worked from Rodborough Police station before its closure. In 2009 my area changed to Minchinhampton and although I am now back in the Rodborough area I still continue to cover the Minchinhampton parish as well. My main responsibilities are engaging with the local

residents and vulnerable members of the community, working with schools giving advice on issues such as road safety and stranger details, dealing with low level crime and anti-social behaviour, and being a visible presence and a point of contact for residents.

I work closely with the other agencies such as the neighbourhood wardens from Stroud District Council, who assist me with jobs such as fly tipping and anti-social behaviour.

Should you wish to discuss any issues or concerns you have you can contact your local officer on the details below.

The contact details for local officers for Rodborough are:-

PC Beth Coles Elizabeth.coles@gloucestershire.police.uk

PCSO Tanya White Tanya.white@gloucestershire.police.uk

For Dudbridge:-

PCSO Ben Rollings Benjamin.rollings@gloucestershire.police.uk

Tanya White



Wedding Wear



Joanna Masson nee Francis. Wedding 1991

Queen Victoria paved the way for the modern white wedding and the notion that a wedding dress is worn only once; but a white wedding was only for the wealthy until well into the twentieth century. During WW1 wedding dresses disappeared for a while and women often marrying in travelling suits. By the 1920s many brides had copied the styles of royal bridesmaids; dresses had

hemlines from just above the ankle to mid-calf. Peach, pink and blue were popular colours; 'Married in blue, you'll always be true'. Dresses had tabards, tunics and overskirts, and cloche hats were worn. Middle class and working men wore lounge suits and carried trilbys. In the 1930s weddings were influenced by Hollywood and Art Deco styles. Rayon replaced silk and tulle was a substitute for lace. WW2 brought challenges; weddings were often at short notice and brides borrowed and

altered dresses. Sometimes family and friends would pool clothing coupons to buy a dress or fabric. Net curtain and lace were available without coupons as was parachute silk. Many brides wore a neat utility suit with a corsage of flowers on the lapel, with a small hat and white gloves, while service personnel wore uniform.

Post-war, clothes were still rationed and though ready-to-wear dresses were available, home dress-making was popular. After wartime austerity, styles were feminine.

Dresses were slender or ballerina length with narrow waists and full skirts with bridal gloves. Then into the sixties an element of fancy dress was crept in. Dresses were copied from all historical periods, but empire lines were popular and Mary Quant style mini dresses and coats were an alternative.

The seventies saw a wider variety of styles, including floppy hats, Juliet caps, chokers, maxi skirts, crumpled cottons and Laura Ashley styles. The purchase of second hand wedding dresses became fashionable. In the 1980s styles included tiaras, taffeta and frills, followed by some simple and elegant styles in the 90s and more recently, a trend for strapless dresses and more use of colour.

We would love to share your stories, photos and memorabilia of Rodborough weddings old and new.

Contact us by email rememeberingrodbrough@gmail.com or ring **01453 752159**

References: Vintage Weddings, Marnie Fogg 2011.

Wedding fashions 1860-1980, Avril Lansdell 1997

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People, pooches and pets



Indie, looking forward to the fete

Please save the date for the Rodborough Community Fete on the theme of People, Pooches and Pets on Saturday 15th June 2013. As usual we expect to host

stalls from a large number of local voluntary groups. In addition we are hoping to attract a number of local businesses.

This year's Produce Competition will concentrate on the classes that will not be ruined by unseasonal weather! We hope that last year's successes will encourage even more of you to enter.

The competition categories are :

- Chocolate Cake
- Fruit or Vegetable Cake
- Victoria Sponge
- Men only : biscuits
- Jam
- 6 eggs
- Vegetable box (minimum of 5 vegetables)
- Herbs on a plate
- Children under 7 years : vegetable/fruit character
- Children under 11 years : miniature garden
- Children under 14 years : 4 small decorated cakes

There will also be a Photographic Competition, full details out soon but photographers may want to start "snapping on the themes of "Rodborough Life: People, Wildlife and Scenery. There will also be a class related to the Fete theme of pets: My Faithful Friend(s). The competition will have separate classes for children. There will also be a Dog Show, with a variety of fun classes. Full details will be available on the website soon and we hope to have a Dog Agility Demonstration... more details to follow.

If you are able to help at the fete, even if only for an hour please contact us as we need marshalls for various activities. Please contact the Parish Office or check the website for entry details and more information.

Sarah Zodiates, Chair of Fete Committee

Rodborough birds were remembered by Santa this Christmas



Resting after so much digging

Make a difference day (MADD) on Saturday 3rd November saw a small but enthusiastic gang of volunteers meet up at the Community Hall for tree planting and bird box construction. We planted assorted saplings on the field side of the playground to provide shelter for wildlife and kids alike. Look out for flowers and fruit in spring and autumn.

Special thanks goes to Ben Chudley for his mass production of bird boxes which will be situated around the parish.

Everyone worked up a good appetite and enjoyed the bread, soup and cake provided by Rodborough Parish Council.

At the next MADD it would be nice to have a few more people - it only takes a couple of hours and it gets the whole family out in the fresh air.

See you there,
Ansell Family

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Small 4.5 x 6.75cm	£36.45	£104.00

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Cash paid for a wide variety of secondhand books. If you are clearing the shelves or looking for an ideal gift

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Using the Localism Act to protect our community

Rodborough Parish Council is very concerned about the proposed housing development on Rodborough fields. The land in question is a crucial piece of land in maintaining the separation of Rodborough from Stroud Town. If the development was allowed it would be a tragic loss to the character from the whole area.

In October, Rodborough Parish Council supported keeping Rodborough Fields as an area of natural beauty, as a green lung for the local community and as a key wildlife corridor.

Coincidentally, but perhaps significantly, the new Localism Act gives us Community Rights which might have helped, but might still help other areas in Rodborough, including rights to bid, to challenge, to plan and to build.

The Community Right to Bid gives parish councils the right to draw up a list of community assets and register these with the local planning authority (in our case SDC). The land can be owned by anyone. If any of these properties then come up for sale the community can have 6 months to put together a bid for the property to go in with other bids.

Rodborough Parish Council is looking at applying to have the following land listed:

- Both allotments
- Both graveyards
- The Old Endowed Schools
- Tabernacle buildings
- Parish Church
- Scout field and adjacent fields between Walkley Hill and Gastrells School
- National Trust Common land
- Rodborough fields from land behind Rodborough Avenue to Butterrow Hill
- Cycle track both sections and their surrounds
- Stroud Rugby Club site
- Bownham Park School site

- Both current primary schools sites
- Clothiers Arms, Kings Head and Prince Albert
- All post boxes in the parish
- Fields alongside Butterrow Lane, Bagpath, Montserrat and Swells Hill from Butterrow Hill to the Brimscombe boundary from these road down to the canal.

However to have these listed as community assets we have to state what we would plan to use these for ie retain as currently are for what reason or to provide a community facility.

If you have any ideas for these sites or there are any other areas that you think should be listed with the District Council, then please feel free to contact the Council. A precise description is needed, preferably with maps showing the extent of the land and the purpose to which the land or buildings could be used.

Phil Blomberg

Chair of Parish Council

We're here to listen

If you have a problem, you can always telephone or email your county and district councillors. They will be happy, too, to meet you to discuss issues that you feel they may be able to help you with. However, there can still be a place for the traditional councillor's surgery and we have now arranged a series of dates for this to take place.

On the last Wednesday in January (30th), February (27th), March (27th) and April (24th), one or more of your local councillors will be in Sainsbury's café between 7.30 and 8.30 p.m. Just drop in to talk to them. Although the café is upstairs, there is a lift so that it is accessible to all.

Brian Oosthuysen - County councillor (01453) 872 193

Nigel Prenter - District councillor (01453) 752 757

Stephen Moore - District councillor (01453) 758 138

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LAND USE



Rodborough Fields in Space and Time

I like the way the hidden springs gather force,
A wild winter rush down the meadow side,
The wind singing in the saplings' rigging
On the water's voyage to the treasured Frome,
Thence on to the Severn and the ocean.

One glance is enough to enhance our lives,
And to make us feel a part of it all,
Both spiritually and globally,
Impossible thoughts with pipes and culverts:
Diminished lives.

I like the way the path of a low winter sun
Highlights the shadow of ridge and furrow,
A medieval landscape's palimpsest;
I can see the ghost of Piers Plowman,
His footprints fresh in the frosted fields.

One glance is enough to enhance our lives,
And to make us feel a part of it all,
Spiritually and historically,
Impossible thoughts with bricks and mortar:
Diminished lives.

So why not build homes on brownfield sites,
So that these new families will also
Be able to feel a part of it all,
Walking the fields with undiminished lives,
Not listening to the car radio,
Joni Mitchell's "Big Yellow Taxi":
"Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone,
They paved Paradise and put up a parking lot."

Stuart Butler

www.radicalstroud.blogspot.co.uk



A Wardens Work is Never Done



The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens act as the volunteer arm of the Cotswolds Conservation Board and have for more than 40 years been giving their time and skills to help keep the Cotswolds special.

We have in place a network of "parish wardens" throughout the Cotswolds with the intention that these wardens patrol the footpaths of their parish and also maintain regular contact with parish councils and landowners.

Cotswold wardens can assist your council in the following ways:

- by patrolling footpaths and bridleways to identify overgrown areas and difficult stiles etc. and to advise the Public Rights of Way officers of problem areas. They may also identify local features in need of restoration. Cotswold wardens are used to working closely with all PROW teams.
- by mobilising work parties in order to clear blocked paths and repair gates, stiles and stone walls, in co-operation with landowners. Where required, wardens install new kissing gates, stiles, steps and footbridges.

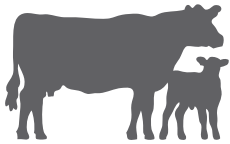
Work parties also undertake other appropriate community projects, such as hedge-laying and tree planting, the restoration, conservation and management of unimproved limestone grassland and of broadleaved woodlands.

Cotswold wardens also organise and lead a full programme of guided walks throughout the year (as published in the Cotswold Lion available at local Tourist Information Centres and libraries). These can benefit local businesses and services.

If you would like to find out more about our services please contact me at alan@bulley194.plus.com or John Graham, at jagchg@yahoo.co.uk. Further information on the Cotswolds AONB and Cotswold Voluntary Wardens can be found on www.cotswolds-aonb.org.uk

Alan Bulley

(Chairman, South District Cotswold Wardens)



LAND USE



Neighbourhood Nature



Gloucestershire

From Stroud Town looking towards Rodborough the green fields are vibrant carpets unrolled down the slope of the common, only stopped from slipping into the river by the fringe of trees at Frome Banks.

The fields form a green bond from the internationally important Rodborough Common down to the river, and almost into the heart of Stroud.

Laying in the grass you can gaze at flowers rejoicing in names such as hawkbit and ribwort plantain which linger between the stems of crested dog's tail grass. Meadow vetchling's vibrant yellow peaflowers twine through the summer sward.

Botanists categorise plants into communities - Rodborough Fields is classed as a crested dog's tail grass and common knapweed community. It tells botanists what other plant species they can expect there, such as bird's-foot trefoil, a vital caterpillar food plant for seven butterfly species. There are also common spotted orchids, and the less frequently seen fragrant orchid recorded in the fields.

Part of the reason for the variety is that traditionally Rodborough fields have been managed as hay meadow. Since the Second World War the use of ryegrass and artificial fertilizer for silage has made traditional hay meadows a rare thing, disappearing fast under intensive agriculture or concrete.

Many different food plants, as you would imagine, means a wide variety of invertebrates - small blue, meadow brown and small tortoiseshell butterflies are all recorded here, along with many species of moth, bee, bug and beetle. They are all trying to make a living among the stems, without getting eaten by the many bird and bat predators that flit and swoop around the meadows, and along Frome Banks.

Down on the riverbank, otters have been recorded, and the pair of dippers are just delightful to watch, like aquatic robins in and out of the swirling water hunting for insects. The occasional kingfisher can still be seen here as an azure mini-missile along the watercourse.

Rodborough Fields and Frome Banks are Key Wildlife Sites, designated as being of local importance to wildlife, but this does not prevent development. The current proposal of 100 houses threatening the site would lose all of us and our children the things the fields provide. Not only do they produce food; clean air and water from the filtering effect of the plants and soil, and help absorb heavy rain so reducing flooding - but also the effect on our wellbeing of gazing, walking, smelling and enjoying the unique relationship we have with our neighbourhood nature.

Ellen Winter

Rodborough: 2 Minchinhampton: 7



Mooving target

These are not the footy scores, this is the number of cattle killed on the commons in 2012.

This is higher than usual. All the cattle killed were black and killed at night but in good weather conditions.

Please be aware the cattle still mooove around when it is dark, they do not sleep at night like us. A black cow in the dark is hard to see, but speed is also a factor. Please be careful and drive slower so that you have more time to stop. It must be very upsetting for the drivers and passengers if they do hit cattle, as well as being detrimental to the health of the cow!

It's great to have the livestock roaming free on the commons. So let's try for a lower score next year.

Jane Ansell

Rodborough Fields under threat

Continued from Page 1

If you are able to you might like to donate a sum (no donation too small) to: **Rodborough Fields Pres Fund;** Sort Code: 07-00-93 Acct No: 0421/701856287
If you have any memories, observations, old photos, etc relating to Rodborough Fields and Frome Banks, please get in touch with the Group.

If these fields go, it will set a precedent for developers to build on other key wildlife sites, Conservation Areas and even the AONB elsewhere in Gloucestershire. There are still many brown field sites available in the district.



The largest AONB

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), along with National Parks, are considered to be the most special landscapes in the country and belong to an international family of protected areas. There are 38 AONBs in England and Wales, all of which are regarded as Britain's finest countryside, with landscapes of particularly distinctive character, remarkable natural beauty and high ecological value.

The statutory purpose of the AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area, now and for future generations. The Cotswolds was designated an AONB in 1966 and, following a boundary extension in 1990, it is the largest AONB in the country. The Cotswolds AONB has many special and distinctive qualities including its internationally important flower-rich limestone grasslands such as Rodborough Common, which is home to a large number of rare plants including many species of orchid. The Cotswolds is a living and working landscape and must remain so, with appropriate management ensuring that the correct balance is maintained, conserving those things which make this a distinctive and special countryside whilst not stifling economic activity.

Whilst the Cotswolds Conservation Board works closely with local authorities to ensure that any new development and land management proposals are undertaken sensitively and without any adverse effect on landscape character, so the same applies regarding the setting. The setting of the AONB doesn't have any defined geographical border, but the location, scale, materials and design of a proposed development will determine whether it has an effect on the natural beauty of the AONB. Examples of an adverse impact could include the blocking or interference of views out of the AONB from a public viewpoint; visual intrusion caused by the introduction of new roads; or change of land use that could potentially cause harm to the landscape character.

However, while a development may have an adverse impact, there are circumstances where changes in land use could enhance the AONB eg by removing unsightly structures or by tree planting.

There are many strategic guidance documents and position statements available from the Conservation Board that can provide more information about development within the AONB and within the setting of the AONB.

Visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk.

Nicola Greaves

Information & Interpretation Officer - Cotswolds Conservation Board

A Hair-raising Tale



AFTER



Hello! My name is Isabelle Parnham-Cope. I am 13 years old and live in Rodborough. Throughout my life people have always commented on my thick, long hair, which I have been growing for 4 years and which came down to my waist. However there were downfalls of having very long hair – it was really hard to compete in sports, it made it almost difficult to swim, not to mention taking an hour to brush once I had gotten out of the pool. In October 2012 I decided that I had had enough of my hair, and I wanted somebody else to enjoy it like I had for many years. I researched charities that make wigs, and decided to donate my hair to The Little Princess Trust, a British charity that makes wigs for young girls who have lost their hair after receiving treatment for cancer.

I used Facebook to publicise my campaign, so as well as donating the hair, people could sponsor me and I could raise money for the hair to be turned into a wig.

On the 17th of October I went to Summerbees hairdressers in Stroud, and cut off 50cm of hair, then had the remaining hair styled. It was quite a scary experience, hearing the scissors chop my plait off and the thud of the plait falling to the ground. So far I have raised £96.20.

I hope that other people will get inspired and if they are having a big haircut, will send it to a charity. At the end of the day, it is really a very small sacrifice to make life that bit easier for those unfortunate enough to have lost their hair fighting cancer.

Isabelle Parnham Cope

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COUNCILLOR PROFILE

ALICK MISKIN

Alick Miskin is a Councillor for Butterow Ward



I have lived in the same house in Butterow since 1987. I moved here from Dorset to work for the Meningitis Trust and liked the area so much, I stayed, despite since changing jobs several times, including one that required a London commute. My current

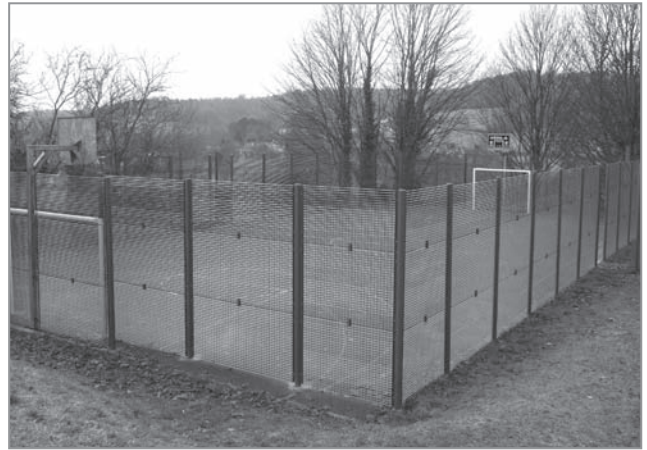
job is as Diversity Services Director with a UK business services company based in Hertfordshire, but I work from home some days most weeks.

I'm married to Sara who is Head of Maths at a Gloucester school and my two children have lived here forever - going to Stroud Valleys Primary school, then Deer Park and then back to Downfield. One is now at university and the other has just graduated and is starting work in London.

I use a car quite a lot (regrettably), but am strongly inclined to the belief that drivers should not terrorise other road users. Around here that means walkers, children out playing, cyclists, riders and the odd dog (including mine). In 1988 I designed and organised the Meningitis Trust's first 5 Valleys Walk, admittedly to raise both money and the charity's profile but also to make people aware of how beautiful the Valleys are when you walk around them. After the Stroud bypass was built I was involved with getting the Pelican crossing installed opposite Waitrose so my children and others could continue to walk to school safely. In 2007-2009 I was one of the initiators of the Quiet Lane and 20MPH scheme and was part of the Working Group that pushed this through, against sometimes determined opposition.

I became a Councillor last year after Christine Headley convinced me that I ought to be part of the Parish Council where my appetite for promoting roads as safe and enjoyable public spaces could find continued expression.

Have you tried out our new MUGA?



The parish council has recently invested in replacing the fencing around the basketball court at Kingscourt play area. The old chain link fencing had become unsafe due to vandalism. It had been repeatedly damaged, in some cases within days of repair.

The new green MUGA fencing provides safe play area for football and basketball and other activities requiring a flat surface. The existing basketball nets have been retained and football goals have been added to increase the play value of the area.

One of the main problems with the old fencing was the position of the gateways - some people thought it was easier to cut the netting and climb through when a ball went over the top rather than walk round to retrieve it! The new MUGA has un-gated entrances which makes access much easier. Also, it is more resistant to damage and should last at least 20 years without needing any major repairs.



Remembering Rodborough

Remembering Rodborough

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EVENTS DIARY

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
Monday 4th February	18:30	Planning and Transport Committee	Community Hall	Parish Council 762686
	20:00	Amenities and General Purposes	Community Hall	Parish Council 762686
Friday 15th February	19:00	Valentine's Meal	Rodborough Tabernacle	Diana Davis 762373
Saturday 16th February	13:30	Lent Lunches	Rodborough Tabernacle	Tabernacle or Parish Church
Monday 18th February	19:00	Parish Council meeting	Community hall	Parish Council 762686
Wednesday 20th February	14:30	Wednesday Fellowship: Ex-Chief Supt Stan Gudge	Rodborough Tabernacle	Dorothy Ede 765978
Saturday 23rd February	13:30	Lent Lunches	Parish Church	Tabernacle or Parish Church
Wednesday 27th February	19:30-20:30	Councillors' Surgeries	Sainsburys' Café	Stephen Moore 758138
Saturday 2nd March	13:30	Lent Lunches	Rodborough Tabernacle	Tabernacle or Parish Church
Monday 4th March	16:30	Commoner Editorial Group	Community Hall	Parish Council 762686
	19:00	Planning & Transport Committee	Community Hall	Parish Council 762686
	20:00	Amenities & General Purposes Cmmt	Community Hall	Parish Council 762686
Saturday 9th March	13:30	Lent Lunches	Parish Church	Tabernacle or Parish Church
Sunday 10th March	10:30	Children's Mothering Sunday Messy Church	Rodborough Tabernacle	Rodborough Tabernacle
Monday 11th March	19:30	Road Safety Working Group	Community Hall	Parish Council 762686
Wednesday 13th March	19:00	Remembering Rodborough meet	Community Hall	Remembering Rodborough
Friday 15th March	19:00	Quiz and 2 course meal	Minchinhampton Old Course Club House	Agnes Arkell 873072
Saturday 16th March Church	13:30	Lent Lunches	Rodborough Tabernacle	Tabernacle or Parish
Monday 18th March	19:00	Parish Council meeting	Community Hall	Parish Council 762686
Wednesday 20th March	14:30	Wednesday Fellowship: Mrs. Grace	Rodborough Tabernacle	Dorothy Ede 765978
Sunday 24th March	10:30	Palm Sunday All Age Worship	Rodborough Tabernacle	Rodborough Tabernacle
Wednesday 27th March	19.30-20.30	Councillors' Surgeries	Sainsburys' Café	Stephen Moore 758138
Thursday 28th March	19:00	Maundy Thursday 'The Last Supper'	Rodborough Tabernacle	Rodborough Tabernacle
Friday 29th March	10:00	Good Friday 'The Crucifixion'	Rodborough Tabernacle	Rodborough Tabernacle
Sunday 31st March	10:30	Easter Sunday Worship	Rodborough Tabernacle	Rodborough Tabernacle
Monday 8th April	18:00	Finance Committee meeting	Community Hall	Parish Council 762686
	18:30	Planning and Transport	Community Hall	Parish Council 762686
	20:00	Amenities & General Purposes Cmmt	Community Hall	Parish Council 762686
Monday 15th April	18:00	Annual Parish meeting	Community Hall	Parish Council 762686
Wednesday 17th April	14:30	Wednesday Fellowship: Air Ambulance	Rodborough Tabernacle	Dorothy Ede 765978

COUNCILLORS

RODBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Cllr Philip Blomberg , 151 Bath Road, Stroud, GL5 3LL	Phil.Blomberg@integral.co.uk	07767834248	W
Vice Chair: Cllr Joanna Bird , 68A Kingscourt Lane, Rodborough GL5 3PX	chapman.joanna@sky.com	765461	W
Cllr Stephen Moore , Conegar, Rodborough Hill, GL5 3SS	sfd.moore@zen.co.uk	758138	N
Cllr Pamela Quick , Lark Rise, The Hithe, Rodborough Common GL5 5BN		872941	S
Cllr Roy Derbyshire , 42 Chandos Road, Rodborough, GL5 3QZ	royd@uwclub.net	750377	W
Cllr Christian Guarino , 2 Dudbridge Hill, Rodborough, GL5 3HW		753920	N
Cllr Anna Karmilavicius-Guarino , 2 Dudbridge Hill, Rodborough, GL5 3HW		753920	N
Cllr Jane Ansell , Please contact the Parish Office	janeandmartin1@sky.com	07847391172	W
Cllr Charles Pedrick , 2-3 High View Cottages, Rodborough Lane, GL5 2LH	charles.pedrick@ccc4business.co.uk	07879428000	B
Cllr Alick Miskin , Laurel House, Butterrow Lane, GL5 2LX	alick.miskin@grg.com	753024	B
Cllr Christine Headley* , 2 Montserrat Cottages, Butterrow GL5 2NJ	christine@chps.co.uk	756771	W
Cllr John Bloxsom* , 6 Rodborough Avenue, Rodborough GL5 3RS	john.bloxsom@btinternet.com	766529	N

W = West Ward – 5 Councillors

S = South Ward – 1 Councillor

N = North Ward – 4 Councillors

B = Butterrow Ward – 2 Councillors

* co-option

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Martin Whiteside , Hillside, Claypits Lane, Lypiatt, Stoud GL6 7LU	cldr.martin.whiteside@stroud.gov.uk	757874
Cllr Nigel Prenter , 2 Church Place, Rodborough, GL5 3NF	cldr.nigel.prenter@stroud.gov.uk	752757
Cllr Stephen Moore , Conegar, Rodborough Hill, Rodborough GL5 3SS	cldr.stephen.moore@stroud.gov.uk	758138

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Chas Fellows , 3 Anthony Court, Randalls Green, Chalford Hill GL6 8NG	chas.fellows@gloucestershire.gov.uk	731296
Cllr Brian Oosthuysen , Copperfields, The Street, Kingscourt, Stroud GL5 5DL	brian.oosthuysen@gloucestershire.gov.uk	872446

COMMUNITY GROUPS IN RODBOROUGH

<i>Activity and Organisation Name</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Activity and Organisation Name</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Phone</i>
1st Rodborough Guides	charly.boileau@gmail.com		South Cotswold Ramblers	Richard Davis	762373
3rd Rodborough Brownies	Jane Ansell	07847391172	St.John's Ambulance		01452 858220
Art Class (Endowed School)	Cyril Corio	765649	Stroud Ramblers	Ann Copeland	752654
Art Class (Community Hall)	Steve Smith	752159	Stroud Rugby Club	Gordon McDowell	765695 or 07766763476
Astrology Classes	Polly Wallace	753017	Stroud Sea Cadets	Paul White	755141
Buqi Treatments	Poh-Eng	836425	Tabernacle - Bookings	Ron Cook	763026
Cappella Singers	Ken Lawrence	823643	Tabernacle Choir	Di Davis	762373
Commoner - Parish Magazine		762686	Tabernacle Lunch Club	Barbara Cook	763026
Community Hall - Bookings	Joy Jackson	762686	Toddler Group (Endowed School)	Louise Ratcliffe	752265
Croc N Roll	Stephanie	07957235413	Transition Stroud	Seb Buckton	07557 508025
Croquet Club	Rosemary Danby	872456	Upholstery Class (Community Hall)	Daphne Hook	883404
Fitness Class (Rodborough School)	Julie McNally	750628	Wednesday Fellowship (Tabernacle)	Dorothy Ede	765978
Five Valleys Bridge Club	Vesta Rock	886404	Womens' Institute (Rodborough)	Diane Cooper	764871
Friends of Gastrells School	Simon Collingridge	765959	Yoga Class (Community Hall)	Amanda Sultan-Black	755635
Friends of Rodborough School	Deborah Evans	762050	Yoga Class (Rodborough School)	Karen Saunders	07773215870
Gastrells Primary School Governors	Amanda Baker-Dibley	765959			
Gastrells Primary School Headteacher	Kate Merriman	765959			
Glebe Allotment Association	Bob Tiley	765842			
Hayward for the Commons	Mark Dawkins	762054			
Jolly Stompers Line Dancing (Gastrells)	Julie Cole	752480			
Kingscourt Educational Trust	Bob Tiley	765842			
Lightpill Allotment Association	Ernie Majors	765815			
Mid-Cotswold Tracks and Trails Group	Pat Harris	823841			
Model Engineers (Secretary)	W.P. Phillips	883438			
National Trust (Common Ranger)	Richard Evans	01452 810056			
Old Endowed School - bookings	Doreen Evans	753172			
Parish Church Newsletter	Pam Sparrow	759540			
Parish Church Vicar	Peggy Ludlow	752659			
Rainbows	Debbie Wood	840006			
Remembering Rodborough	rememberingrodborough@gmail.com				
Rodborough Beaver Scouts	Mary Jones	766745			
Rodborough and Bownham Commoners	Bill Powell	885507			
Rodborough Cub Scouts	James Lynn	753864			
Rodborough Fields Preservation Group	www.rodboroughfields.org.uk				
Rodborough Friendly Circle	Olive Heskins	765379			
Rodborough Old Boys FC	Stuart Thompson	07800589173			
Rodborough Playgroup	Nicola Hurford	07759099360			
Rodborough Poultry Club	Kirsty Tallon	07751181076			
Rodborough Primary School	Mrs M Halsey	763159			
Rodborough Scout Troop	Theresa Mansbridge	762686			
Rodborough Tabernacle Events	Carole Oosthuysen	872446			
Rodborough Tabernacle News	Brian Oosthuysen	872446			
Rodborough Tabernacle Secretary	Glenis Massey	766389			
Rodborough Tabernacle URC Minister	Eric Massey	766389			
Rodborough Youth Football Club	Neil Cuddihy	07508117230			
Rodborough Youth Project	Val Saunders	759296			
Rugby Rascals Toddler Group	Sandra Ashenford	750124			



Rodborough Parish Council

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**We are open 9am to 12 noon Monday to
Friday, excluding Bank Holidays.**

Only one sticker per household.

Footie for the old boys



The resurrection of R.O.B.F.C was the idea of a group of football coaches at the highly successful Rodborough Youth Football Club, during the winter of 2010.

It had been clear that it was a massive shame that such great grass-roots football development work, at junior level, ended when the

players exited the club after their Under 16 season.

The idea for a Rodborough senior FC grew, and we then realised that a club had existed before in Stroud and

Northern Senior leagues, but had been defunct since the mid 50's. It was then that the club was reformed, and we played our first game in Stroud League 8 in August 2011. We now have 1st and 2nd elevens, and boast a number of 16/17 year olds on our playing staff, who developed through the RYFC ranks.

The Old Boys and Youth football clubs have now formally affiliated their activities together, and the club as a whole is hoping to find a permanent home in the near future to cement its position as the most important grass-roots football provider in the community.

The Youth Football section currently has over 220 boys and girls, as well as 30+ active, qualified coaches, as part of its commitment to the FA Charter standards.

New players are welcome at senior and junior level. For info please contact:

**RYFC Chairman Warren Hearsam – 07804 094046 or
ROBFC Chairman Stuart Thompson – 07800 589173**

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