

# **Tarvin Parish Council**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**Year to**

**31 March 2013**

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

(by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor David H Cotgreave)

This was the second year for the Council that was elected in May 2011. Sadly in January Mr Jonathan Kirby had to resign owing to a long term business commitment in another part of the country. Also during the last few days we have received the resignation of Peter Maiden. Both members have given great service to the Council over many years. We thank them for all that they have done and wish the well for the future.

During this year the Parish Council has been involved in developing its relationship with various departments of the Borough Council (Cheshire West and Chester Council) as that body has been introducing new working practices which can have considerable effect on Parish Council affairs.

The Borough Council proposed to rapidly convert the Planning Consultations to "on line" working but this daunting task has proved very difficult to fully implement. However the Parish Council has made great progress with its IT presentation and is waiting for the Borough to complete its changes. In this field we considered some 57 Planning Applications and passed on our views. The details of the larger applications from the previous year have now been completed and the developments are in progress.

The Parish Council is following the progress of Future Development and Land use in the rural villages. The Council considered the merits of the Neighbourhood Plan Scheme but in July decided not to undertake such a Plan at the present time. The Borough Council has accelerated its programme for producing the Cheshire West Development Plan.

A large amount of work has been generated by the problems in Highways matters in the broadest sense. Thus we have pressed for action on overgrown hedges and especially encroachment of growth across footways and weed control on roads and paths which in fact had failed extensively during the wet summer. Related to this has been the great increase in roadside litter deposits, this being generated by material thrown from through traffic, some from careless disposal in the central areas and some from a failure of the sorting processes practised in the new Refuse Collection System. This latter is now being cleared in some places by a team of "follow up" collectors. Also a new division of responsibilities between Street Scene and Highways will hopefully reduce this problem.

Street Scene collection and cleaning has shown considerable variation in efficiency and the Parish Council and a Councillors' working party are constantly monitoring this work.

Road surface problems include pot holes, this situation is reducing as the resurfacing programme progresses but cuts in funding may delay completion of this.

A useful meeting with United Utilities was held when they explained their programme for local flood control. A surprising finding was that they are not Statutory Consultees for Planning Applications and that Developers are not required to make any contribution to sewage infrastructure improvements necessary following even major developments.

Village Parking is being given high priority and following a pilot survey an in depth survey over a planned number of days will shortly be carried out. The Borough Council are conducting a Community Governance Review over all rural parishes. A first round of consultation has been carried out and in January the Parish Council considered all the comments received locally and published a response in an extra Tarvin Times sheet. A second consultation will follow soon.

The PC has also considered a paper on Community Engagement exploring more ways to involve residents in local affairs.

The Parish Council has reviewed its Standing Orders and Financial Controls to take on board new regulations. A Councillor now has sight of all financial papers on a rota basis every three months. In future Grants to local organisations will be made following the inclusion of an agreed sum in the main Budget. This will enable applications from all bodies within the Parish to have equitable consideration. Changes to the Council Tax Benefit Scheme had led to fears that the Parish Council would suffer financially but this has been resolved by a Borough Council scheme to pay a grant to Parish Councils to offset this.

The Duckers Well project has now been completed and a grant of £1,600 from the Borough Councillors' Funds has been given for an Interpretation Panel.

The Parish Council has assisted the Field Management Committee by setting up a fund for a Planned Replacement Programme for Play Equipment and in negotiating with the Borough Council to release Section 106 money to fund a major drainage scheme on the Field.

During January a first meeting of the six Parish Councils in the Tarvin/ Kelsall Ward was held together with the two Borough Councillors and Officers from the Borough Council, the Officers gave various presentations on matters of mutual interest and answered questions. The format worked well and further such meetings will be held on a regular basis.

The Council are grateful to Peter Crabbe who continues his excellent care of the Recreation Field and the Millennium Garden.

On behalf of the Parish Council I thank our Clerk Mike Hassall for all his excellent work in the wise and diligent conduct of our business.

I thank all members of the Council for their support to me as Chairman over the past year.

## **KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

(by the Chairman of the Management Committee Councillor Peter Maiden)

I visited the Field on the evening of Tuesday 16th April and counted in excess of 200 people. The majority were children as Tarvin Athletic FC had a training session, but there were also people on the tennis courts and Bowling Green enjoying the facilities. The play equipment was also in full use. The car park was full with cars blocked in and Meadow Close and the turning circle were packed with cars. This proves what a marvellous well used facility we have and also underlines the need for more recreational areas in Tarvin. Most of the Tarvin Athletic teams have to play their home games away from the village due to the lack of recreational area.

During the year the drainage work has been completed on the field and after a few very minor issues we now have an excellent playing surface that can be used all year round. A special mention must go to Mr John Sim without whose help this project would not have been completed.

Repairs and maintenance to the play area equipment are ongoing and this year has included a full hot wash to the play equipment and surfaces. The hedges have been cut including the overgrown hedge in the play area, this hedge is now struggling because of previous neglect and especially the ivy which is strangling new growth. The main gates to the Playing Field were painted this year.

The new long term Bowling Club Lease has been agreed and signed and finally congratulations to Tarvin Rex on achieving their 50th year as a local football club.

## **PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

**Planning Committee** . All Councillors.

### **The King George V Playing Field Management Committee**

Councillors P Maiden (Chairman), S Hardacre, R Hones, B Spruce, J W Shaw-Pollard, P Twigg, representatives of Tarvin Bowling Club, Tarvin Athletic Football Club, Tarvin Rex Football Club, Tarvin Tennis Club, Scout and Guide Management Committee

### **Finance Working Party**

Councillors D H Cotgreave, E Lush, J W Shaw-Pollard, B Spruce, R Williams

**Strategy Working Party** . All Councillors

### **Village Parking Working Party**

Councillors D H Cotgreave, S Hardacre, E Lush, J Kirby (resigned), B Spruce

### **Streetscene Working Party**

Councillors S Hardacre, R Hones, P Miles

### **Advisory Working Party**

(Working Party established to meet with the Clerk as and when called by the Clerk to examine issues that arise between meetings where the Clerk feels that support/back up would be helpful)

Councillors D Cotgreave, E Lush, R Hones

## **PARISH COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

### **Community Centre Management Committee**

Councillor E Lush

### **Tarvin Educational Trust**

Councillor D H Cotgreave.

### **Youth Club Committee**

Councillors J W Shaw-Pollard, P Twigg

### **Parish Plan Implementation Group**

Councillors S Hardacre, E Lush, P Miles

## **GENERAL MATTERS**

### **Financial Matters**

How We Spend Your Money . The Statement of Accounts

	Year to 31st March 2013 £	Year to 31st March 2012 £	See Note No
Balances brought forward	19,422	39,770	1
Plus Annual Precept	28,240	27,440	2
Plus Other Receipts	36,577	22,799	3
Less Staff Costs	12,555	10,714	4
Less Other Payments	48,690	59,873	5
Balances carried forward	22,994	19,422	6

### **Notes**

1. Balances brought forward means Cash in the Bank Accounts.
2. Precept is the money the Parish Council receives from the Council Tax to carry out its duties.
3. Other Receipts covers all other income received by the Council. It comprises of Section 106 money for Drainage Project on King George V Playing Field £25,545, grant from Cheshire West and Chester Council £2,285, Bank Interest £18, VAT refunded by H M Customs and Excise £8,729.
4. Staff Costs are the payroll costs of the employees of the Council. The reason for the increase is the increased contracted hours given to one member of staff (NB The Councillors are all volunteers and do not receive payment for their work)

5. Other Payments cover all other expenditure incurred by the Council. This includes the net cost of maintaining the King George V Playing Field, grass cutting, streetlighting, hedge works on the Playing Field, Christmas lights, insurance, hire of rooms for meetings, legal and professional Fees, training, printing, and grants given to the Community Centre, Woodland Trust, and Christmas Festival.
6. Balances carried forward means cash in the bank accounts. Parish Council Policy is to aim to hold between a minimum of three and a maximum of six months of the most recent precept plus an estimate of any known likely fluctuations. The restricted funds held in the bank account are not part of reserves. Of the £22,994 in the accounts at 31st March 2013 £8,160 is for New Play Equipment, £5,762 is restricted for youth work, and £2,585 has been designated to the Duckers Well Project. The most recent precept amounted to £28,240. Council consider that reserves of £6,487 are adequate and acceptable at the present time and in line with the approved policy.

### **Newsletter**

Our newsletter (Tarvin Times) is published four times a year . each February, May, August, and October. All Parish organisations are welcome to contribute to it. Contributions should be forwarded to the Clerk.

### **Parish Council Meetings**

- All Parish Council meetings are open meetings and members of the public are most welcome to attend and listen to the debates.
- If you want to come along to a meeting but don't want to stay until the end that is not a problem. Come and join us and then leave when you wish to do so. All we ask is that you come and go quietly.
- Meetings are normally held on the 4th Monday evening each month in the Edna Rose Room in the Community Centre.
- The first 15 minutes of each meeting is a public forum where anyone can have his or her say on any local matter. The allocated time may be increased under certain circumstances
- An agenda for each meeting is placed on the noticeboards by the Red Lion in Tarvin and by the Village Green in Oscroft.
- Informal notes of meetings are normally placed on the noticeboard by the Red Lion in Tarvin within seven days of the meeting being held
- The most recent set of approved minutes are placed on the noticeboard in the Community Centre
- All approved minutes can be found on the Parish Council website

### **TARVIN COMMUNITY WOODLAND TRUST**

(by Dr Stuart Exell, Chairman)

When, in January 2008 the group which had been developing the woodland became a Charitable Trust, the trust document stated that the trustees must apply its funds in furthering the following objects:

*“To conserve, restore and re-establish native trees, plants and all types of wildlife by provision of a community woodland area in Tarvin for the benefit of the public at large and with the view to improving the quality of life.”*

To this end the Trust has a plan to support, protect and celebrate the natural habitats in our local community. It will enable the already created area to be properly maintained and, more importantly, to be improved and developed further. Specific activities will be to:

- Improve the paths and drainage.
- Maintain the existing woodland / grassland natural habitat that has already attracted a cross-section of wildlife.
- Create new habitats for species that are becoming rare e.g. dormice, butterflies, insects and birds via nesting boxes. Wildflowers - a further meadow. Wetland - extension and more species.
- Improve fencing and the natural hedgerows using traditional hedge laying techniques via local volunteers.

TCWT manages four separate but overlapping responsibilities:

1. Maintenance of the woodland for sustainability at an affordable cost; this, as always, is on-going.
2. Fundraising for maintenance, developments and equipment replacement; last year's fundraising was again successful locally and once more we are grateful to the Community and the Parish Council for support. It is pleasing to report that our grant applications for pathway improvement have also been successful in raising the considerable sum needed for this major project. Tarvin Community Woodland Trust will be contributing some 15% of the cost from its own resources.
3. Development projects to protect, improve and extend the facility. More on this follows below.
4. To contribute as widely as possible within its remit to community village life.

The balance of effort invested varies from year to year. In 2012 woodland maintenance, defining developments and applying for the grant funding predominated. In 2013, while maintenance will always continue, several new projects will also come to fruition and will require much of the voluntary effort. These projects include:

- The new pathway through the woodland. We are grateful to both CWAC and WREN for their very generous financial support and to the Tarvin Community, whose generosity has meant the Trust will be able to top up the budget in order to complete the task. Hopefully work will start in June or July this year, when we hope for drier weather, and should take about two weeks. For reasons of safety it will be necessary to close access to the pathway and you will be asked to bear with us and use the bridleway during all closures.
- Our plans to extend the woodland from Broomheath Lane to Austin's Hill as part of the new housing development have been incorporated into the planning consents and we have had fruitful discussions with Taylor Wimpey on the implementation of the plans later this year. The Trust intends to play an active part in this and is considering its future role in the development and maintenance of the extension, once it is completed. However, the level of our ultimate involvement will depend on whether the interests of the Trust and the Community can be protected, from the points of view of both liability and on-going funding.

- After a year of monitoring the woodland water levels, we are close to deciding where to site our planned water features in the woodland. We intend to learn lessons from the new ponds being installed by Taylor Wimpey as part of the housing development. Our aim will be to increase the diversity and amount of wildlife in the woodland and to provide extra features of interest for the school and its students.
- We are soon to begin building a bird feeding and watching station behind the school, initially for woodland users but, with the school's agreement; it will also be extended to a hide in the school grounds.

All of these projects will improve and extend the woodland facility for the village. Delivering them means that the Trustees and the dedicated Volunteers will have a very busy year and therefore any offers of assistance will be gratefully accepted. In our latest version of 'News from the Woodland', which I commend to you, we point out that Volunteers, Friends and Trustees invested 1,280 hours of effort in 2012 - a figure for which the village should be hugely proud!

When applying for the grants to improve the pathway, we had clearly to demonstrate the level of usage of the woodland and to obtain overt Community support for the project. This was overwhelming and took the form of over 50 letters of support from village organisations and individuals . a level of involvement that the grant providers found astonishing.

The main aim of TCWT is to continue to deliver an improving, growing and natural facility which is fit for purpose and to that end welcomes comment, suggestions and indeed involvement from you all.

## **TARVIN YOUTH CLUB ANNUAL REPORT**

(by the Chairperson Jackie Arnold)

Attendance has been consistently good with 56 members registered and between 15 and 30 young people have attended each session.

The club has continued to offer a safe and warm environment where young people of Tarvin and the surrounding area have been able to meet and improve their social skills. The club offers games such as pool, table tennis, board games and music. In the summer use is made of the field for football and silly games.

The Scout Hut venue has had internal improvements to the heating and electrics and the vermin problem has been dealt with. In addition investment in new cleaning equipment has resulted in the improved cleanliness of the hut for all users.

The behaviour of the young people attending each session is very good. Any incidents of inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated and individuals are dealt with immediately.

The club continues to be a success with all users enjoying the sessions run and external trips e.g.: PGL and laser quest.

It continues to be difficult to recruit new volunteer helpers. In addition the continuation of the club after July could be in doubt if new leaders cannot be found to take responsibility for the running of the club - as Jackie Arnold and Pet Twigg intend to step down after 7 years of running the club.

### **TARVIN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

(by the Parish Council representative Councillor David H Cotgreave)

The Tarvin Educational Foundation manages the endowments of the Tarvin Grammar School and is able to make grants towards secondary and further education to students residing in the area of the Ancient Parish of Tarvin. During the past year twenty four students have received awards to a total of £7,950. Most of the grants were to undergraduate students on University courses. Several students attending local colleges were also given travel assistance. One student was given support for an expedition to the Himalayas and two were assisted for an expedition to Uganda to take part in a Community Development Project.

The autumn meeting to consider grant applications will be held in mid September. Such applications for grants may be made to the Clerk, D. H. Cotgreave at Brown Heath Farm, Tarvin CH3 8NE

### **TARVIN COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

(by the Chairman of the Management Committee Mr A Wilkinson)

2012/13 has been a frustrating year of slow but steady progress. In April 2011 the Committee submitted a formal application to Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) for a new lease. Negotiations have been on-going from that date. An initial draft lease was received on 8th March 2013 but some aspects of this remained a cause for concern and an amended version has subsequently been received. The Committee will now obtain legal advice to ensure that the lease protects and satisfies its aspirations. That said, the new lease will provide the Community Centre with secure occupancy of the building at a peppercorn rent for a further 25 years with the day to day letting of the Centre being the responsibility of the Committee. The share of the running expenses, heating, lighting, water and grounds maintenance etc., is based on an analysis of the floor areas used by the CWaC Rural Office Hub, the Children's Centre and the Community Centre. This means that the costs will be split 54% CWaC and 46% Community Centre. The initial estimate of the Committee's share of the running costs, based on previous actual costs, is in excess of £22,000 per annum. This increased sum must be raised by either raising letting fees or increasing usage of the Centre, the latter being the preferred option. The Committee will also enter into a Licence agreement with the Library to protect their occupancy. The Committee has agreed that the annual running costs should if possible be met from lettings income and not financed by fund raising activities and donations, as these monies need to be accrued to carry out internal maintenance and improvements to the facilities. Until the lease is signed the Committee can not submit any applications for

grant funding towards the improvements which are planned, but an architect has been commissioned to draw up proposals for the improvement of the Centre which will provide for a new commercial standard kitchen, new lounge/bar area off the main hall, storage room and improvements to the stage area. The scheme is to be submitted to CWaC as landlords for their agreement, and an estimate will be obtained of the likely costs.

Only minor sums have been invested this year on repairs, maintenance and redecoration, as funds are being set aside for the proposed improvements. In any application for grants the applicant must be able to show that they have made an effort to match-fund the application.

The Parish Council gave the Community Centre a grant of £750 for the 2012/13 financial year. This grant came without strings, apart from the fact that the Committee must account for its use. In 2012/13 the money was used in two ways. First, the Committee initiated a monthly family film night as a way of bringing young children and their parents into the Community Centre. The Committee thought this would be successful but recognised that there was a risk; the grant therefore enabled the Committee to underwrite the initial risk. Now that the film nights are established they have proved popular and are paying their way. The remainder of the grant was used to help meet the charge from CWaC for the running costs of the building, which for 2012/13 is estimated at £10,200.

A shrub bed adjoining the existing car park has been identified as being surplus, and a contract to remove it and replace it with 5 disabled parking bays has been agreed and let. The work is due to start immediately after the window replacement contractor has left the site. This new car parking area is being part funded by a grant from our local councillors, for which we are most grateful. The Committee is also due to receive a grant of £1,000 from the Parish Council for 2013/14, and has already agreed to use the grant for this project. The Committee is extremely grateful to the Parish Council for its sustained support

The Committee continued to promote a wide range of events at the Centre. Ashton Hayes Theatre Club put on two productions, in November 2012 and March 2013. We are grateful to Cheshire Rural Touring Arts for their support for several events: *The Owl* and *The Pussycat* in April 2012, *Ummm* in October 2012 and *Carolling and Crumpets* with John Kirkpatrick in December 2012. Other events included a young people's disco, a Golden Eagles concert and the very popular *Handbag . The Musical*. The success event of the year is the monthly *Friday Family Film Night* aimed at children of all ages, with growing audiences at each performance.

The financial status of the Community Centre remains stable with lettings for 2012/13 being 34.5% above the previous year. The closing balance showed an improvement of £13,112 in the year and shows reserves of £32,405 these reserves will inevitably be reduced during the next year by professional fees in relation to the new lease and hopefully the commencement of the improvement works.

Works during the year by CWaC include zoning of the heating system and replacing the windows and doors with double glazed units (work on which is currently under way). Both improvements will result in major energy savings.

The support both personal and financial from the Parish Council and its members is very much appreciated and I hope this will continue into the future. 2013 will see major changes to the Centre both externally and internally. The availability of time slots within the calendar for new activities is increasingly limited with new events and activities being offered to the community. Among these new activities are Power Yoga, Rugbytots, a Sewing Club and Ash-worth Time Bank (replacing the former Silver Threads). The increased usage together with the planning of the improvements will place further pressure on members of the Committee. My personal time commitment to the Community Centre is not sustainable in the long term and new committee members must be encouraged and cajoled into taking on more responsibility for the running of the Centre for the benefit of the whole community. We do urgently need further active members of the Committee to help take on some of the many tasks involved.

Could I thank all Committee members and their respective partners and friends for their support during the last 12 months for without them the progress made would not have been achieved. I would particularly wish to express my sincere appreciation of the work undertaken by Ted and Jane Lush and Roy Brereton in connection with the new lease, and to Brian and Sue Hardacre for their success in promoting and encouraging attendance at our events and keeping Tarvin Community Centre at the forefront of Tarvin residents' minds.

Thank you all for your support and let's together progress Tarvin Community Centre into a facility that the Parish can be justly proud of.

## **TARVIN PARISH PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TEAM – TPPIT**

(by the Chairman Arnie Sheppard)

### **Background**

On the 19th January 2012 the Parish Plan Steering Group handed over to an Implementation Team delivery of the priority actions identified during the Community survey. These had been refined during the previous 2 years and summarised in the Tarvin Parish Plan. This Implementation team is formally structured using a constitution from Cheshire Community Action and reports back on progress at intervals to the Tarvin Parish Council. The team comprises Arnie Sheppard -Chair, Brian Hardacre- Treasurer, Joan Millar- Secretary and 5 other members including 3 current Tarvin Parish Councillors. Residual funds of £372 from the initial Parish Plan grant were transferred to the Implementation Team. At the outset working groups were established for actions within 3 sectors covering the Economy, the Environment and the Community. Disappointingly the Community team never got off the ground as the support promised by members of the Tarvin community at the Parish Plan

presentation never materialised. Subsequently actions within this area were re-distributed across the other 2 teams.

### **Community & Environment Team (leader Jo Richards)**

This team of 5 has met 3 times throughout the year and worked with a number of other groups and agencies including The Woodland Trust, Tarvin Environment Group, Chester District Scouts, St Andrews and Tarvin Methodist churches. In some aspects the actions identified in the Parish Plan are already being tackled by other groups. For example raising awareness of footpaths and maintaining /improving green spaces are central to the Woodland Trust's work. Similarly encouraging everyone to reduce demand for fossil fuels and taking responsibility to protect the environment are priorities of the existing Tarvin Environment Group (TEG). Progress has been made on tackling the dog litter problem . a concern to many through consultation with the dog warden about installing more notices and bins. Existing positions have been marked up on a Tarvin map for future publicity purposes. Discussions have started with the Red Lion and George & Dragon pubs about providing disabled parking spaces which could be used both by their patrons as well as local shoppers. Home watch co-ordinator meetings have been attended and home watch areas referenced on a Tarvin map.

In the sports and social area several initiatives have been successfully launched. Engaging with young people in the Community and their interests has been tackled through the establishment of two after school clubs for St. Peter's and Tarvin Primary school pupils. These are both well attended. A regular group attend the Hot Chocolate Club serving free hot chocolate and biscuits for secondary pupils getting off the school bus in Tarvin. Scouting has re-started in Tarvin and there is now a thriving Beaver Colony which is operating to capacity and has a waiting list. Funds have been raised to re-decorate/repair the Scout Headquarters. A Community choir has been established meeting on Wednesdays at 5.30pm.

The team has recently encountered resource issues as Jo Richards is now the only active member. The way forward will be discussed at the next Implementation team meeting and will clearly affect next year's targets.

### **Economy Team (leader Arnie Sheppard)**

Very quickly it became apparent that the Tarvin community needed a free to use, dynamic, up to date and multi faceted Community Website to the same high quality as we have seen elsewhere in Cheshire. This would be the ideal platform to address many of the actions in the Parish Plan. The Economy team of 7 has worked almost exclusively over the last 12 months to make this a reality. Our clear objective has been to develop %tarvinonline+into the parish focal point and up to date information hub and website of choice for everyone to find out what is going on. A questionnaire circulated by the team in the Parish had over 400 households identifying what our community wanted. The questionnaire also provided to Connecting Cheshire ample support and solid data for bringing Superfast Broadband to Tarvin by 2015. We will have links to other specific village organisations & society websites for more in depth information in some instances. We anticipate that in time some organizations will migrate to %tarvinonline+completely in preference to finding the effort to maintain their own websites. Tarvin Parish Council could consider following other local councils and lead the way here! In contrast to other

Tarvin websites a range of current articles of local interest will be a key feature as Community websites are fast becoming tomorrow's local newspapers. We are confident that we will find within the parish a number of residents who are able to provide sufficient regular copy to a good journalistic standard. We intend to link in to younger people by automated links from our website to social media, such as Facebook and Twitter.

After a prolonged search for suitable funding we successfully obtained a £2000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund to create the website. This is based on the proven website used by Audlem village and we anticipate going live early this summer. Communications with all Parish groups, organisations, societies and businesses regarding the website has just started. By the end of 2013 it will be prudent to explore with the Parish Council options for ongoing funding of the server support costs by our community.

For potential newcomers to the parish, both families and businesses as well as existing residents delivery of the key actions in the Parish Plan over the next 12 months will showcase what Tarvin Parish has to offer as a vibrant and hopefully growing economy and community. TPPIT members remain enthusiastic and committed.

#### **TARVIN ENVIRONMENT GROUP**

Tarvin Environment Group (TEG) has continued our activities throughout 2012 / 2013 to encourage sustainable living and energy efficiency of the Tarvin Parish community. While we have a small active membership, we have been able to meet on a bi-monthly basis to discuss topical issues and to plan, promote and deliver 6 static presentations at the regular Saturday Methodist Chapel Coffee Mornings with expert information on a range of sustainability subjects.

~ **Parish plan:** While TEG exists, we will be partners with the parish plan implementation team for putting 2 of the plans points into action, namely;  
~ Action ref 11; Encourage everyone to take responsibility to reduce demand for fossil fuels by raising awareness of impact of carbon emissions and energy saving measures.

~ Action ref 12; Encourage everyone to take responsibility to protect the environment by continuing to develop ways to engage the community in protecting the environment.

~ The **Coffee Mornings** have been our vehicle for doing just this:

#### ~ **16th June 2012: Insulation and Water Meters / Saving.**

We shared information on the free insulation Cheshire Warm Zone Initiative and free installation of water meters. Information regarding savings was given on Water meters (Such as a typical Household saving more than £1000 in just 3 years)!

~ One of our members also assisted residents to register for the Mailing and Telephone preference service+MPS / TPS which should reduce junk mail and annoying promotional phone calls to those residents.

#### ~ **22 September 2012: Solar Photovoltaic Energy Generation (Solar PV Panels)**

Information on the Governments Feed in Tariff scheme was given. Data from existing owners of Solar PV Panels gave ideas of savings, The Greener

Group supported this meeting with a professional display and guidance and information on these systems.

Since this meeting at least 3 Tarvin residents have had Solar PV installed and others have considered it.

~ **17th November 2012: Wood Burning Stoves** . Cost, sizing requirements (kw rating for a given space). Chimney cleaning, seasoning wood, best logs and logs to avoid. Cost savings relating to gas use if connected to central heating.

Supported by Geoff Royle from The Stove Yard, Holmes Chapel. Geoff is a keen environmentalist and provided his time free of charge and imparted much knowledge. Everyone who spoke with him was very complimentary of the help he was able to offer.

• **26th January 2013: LED lighting to improve energy efficiency**

Information and cost saving data was provided on LED (Light Emitting Diode) bulb technology which has recently become more affordable. LED Bulbs are now available in all fitting styles and can help a home to reduce their energy use, especially if replacing halogen or incandescent bulbs as they use far less energy. Tom Williams of SLS Lighting supported this event. He gave a free LED fitting to the Chapel and has since helped several Tarvin residents and a business to identify their LED requirements and has kindly fitted some the bulbs free of charge.

~ **16th March 2013: The Green Deal**

TEG attempted to introduce and explain The Green Deal which is the latest government initiative to make Energy efficiency measures more affordable - in fact under the green deal, a home can effectively get energy efficiency measures such as Insulation, A new boiler, double glazing or even solar panels for free. As long as the savings made by the efficiency measure outweigh the likely repayments on the special Green Deal Loan, a household can have the measure installed. The loan is against the bill payer. The home owner leaves the loan with the property when they move. Though it's better if you can afford the measures yourself. This brings Energy efficiency improvements within the reach of ordinary householders who do not happen to have a few thousand lying around!

~ **11th May 2013: Fuel Efficient Transportation** . especially availability of eco cars, (e.g. blue motion) as well as bus routes and cycle information.

**Thermal Imaging**

As a result of the thermal imaging Survey, the Methodist Chapel are installing additional Double glazing and several Tarvin residents have increased the Loft insulation in their home

**Allotment group**

This part of the group has continued to be successful; some allotments have been taken over by new incumbents. Most of the allotments are well kept and are producing good yields.

**Plans for 2013:**

~ Continue our programme of Coffee Mornings if we can come up with viable subject matter. It may be possible to do a review of some of the subjects we have covered so far.

~ Activities involving the School / Pre-School / Nurseries in Tarvin - Possibly another

Toy Swap or other School based event,

- ~ Possible lectures or speakers and visits to Eco or green sites.
- ~ TEG are considering whether another Eco Fair may be possible in either 2013 or 2014
- ~ Search for Eco message film with a positive twist
- ~ Continue working with parish plan implementation team to action points 11 and 12.
- ~ Our AGM is on 23rd May at 7.30pm at the Methodist Chapel: all are welcome to attend and suggest ideas for future activities.
- ~ Visit our website at [tarvinenvironment.wordpress.com](http://tarvinenvironment.wordpress.com)
- ~ Enquiries: [enquiries@tarvinenvironment.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@tarvinenvironment.org.uk)

#### **Parish Councillors and their Contact Details (at 31st March 2013)**

Tarvin Parish Council is comprised of the following 10 Councillors . their contact telephone numbers, all dial code 01829, are in brackets

Cllr David Cotgreave (Chairman) (740231)

Cllr Edward Lush (Vice Chairman) (741468)

Cllr Susan Hardacre (741962), Cllr Roger Hones (741580),

Cllr Peter Maiden (741078), Cllr Phillip Miles (741207),

Cllr Andy Shaw-Pollard (740180), Cllr Brian Spruce (740393),

Cllr Pet Twigg (740509), Cllr Ray Williams (740486)

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Published by Tarvin Parish Council June 2013