

## KING'S STANLEY PARISH COUNCIL

On holiday last deadline, sorry! KSPC has cut the number of grants issued in recent years where financial support was not deemed essential. It no longer funds entertainment-based groups but it has awarded grants to organisations that it believes serve the community's interests well. St George's 400, All Saints Selsley 400, Baptist Church Middleyard 200 - towards churchyard maintenance. This does not cover actual costs which must be raised locally but many people visit churchyards nationwide & consider that they are an important part of a good community and expect them to be well-kept. Other donations: Citizens Advice Bureau 200, this grant-dependant charity gives crucial help, KS Brownies 100 for action-packed girl support, Alzheimer's Society 100 supporting sufferers & families, Selsley Scout Group 100 towards disabled access toilet in vital community facility, & Selsley Cricket Club 100 towards maintaining an inclusive thriving community there - not just cricket! Treasurers of organizations needing help who think they may have been overlooked should apply stating their needs clearly.

KSPC promised £100 towards improving the Public ROW (narrow gully in very poor state for both horses & walkers) inside Stanley Woods from Gypsy Lane provided Mid Cotswold Tracks & Trails Group raises £4,000 enabling GCC to undertake works.

KSPC subscribes to Woodland Trust, Glos Wildlife Trust, Open Spaces Society, Glos Playing Fields Association, Glos Rural Community Council & Cotswold Canals Trust, thereby supporting organisations which are of particular community benefit.

An online survey for Glos Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust which runs Glos Royal & Cheltenham General wants your views on how it could improve services & whether it is getting things right for local people. Certainly room for improvement on nursing & cleaning fronts from what I heard recently! [www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk)

After recent driver behaviour publicity and the need to make Selsley Hill safer for pedestrians, no surprise that residents along Selsley West - Middleyard - KS road also want improvements! The problem is not necessarily speeding but BAD DRIVING. More parents want their children to walk to & from school BUT it will not happen until DRIVERS are more considerate. THINK WHAT IS IT LIKE to ride a bike, push a buggy, walk with a child when YOU skim past walkers & cyclists in your comfortable vehicle; they need more room - and they have an equal right to road-space. In a hurry? Speed limits are NOT achievement goals! Teach your lucky teenage car driver that THEIRS is a dangerous weapon. Have YOU become so accustomed to local roads you barely pay attention? Drive YOUR child to school? Check YOUR speed. DO NOT use mobiles - yes you do! Don't park near schools & obstruct the road. GIVE WAY to vehicles - and people. Don't expect others to give way to YOU. SLOW DOWN, IMPROVE YOUR DRIVING! Expect more local action on this front.

Last year BT advised that they would convert Middleyard kiosk to cashless operation. KSPC stressed then that BT should retain a public landline in each locality. Recently BT asked if KSPC wanted to adopt Middleyard and KS kiosks as too little use is made of either & there is full mobile coverage. Clearly the world prefers mobiles. Adoption means owning kiosk minus telephony. KSPC felt it was pointless owning a non-working kiosk and paying for lighting or to remove cabling for such suggested uses as a mini art gallery, meeting/information point. So, like old Police boxes, these red icons will eventually disappear, except where designated as listed heritage structures!

KSPC has a new improved website, hosted by SDC, going live soon; Cllrs hope you agree. [www.kspc.org.uk](http://www.kspc.org.uk) should still find it.

Much ongoing publicity about digital switchover, starting here **24 March 2010**, little advising that you do not have to ditch your existing TV. You only need a set-top box & some re-tuning. However, many

people are buying flat screens anyway, your choice. Digital UK is the main independent body leading switchover; contact them on [digitaluk.co.uk](http://digitaluk.co.uk) or 08456 50 50 50. For free information packs call 08453 653 809.

Simple changes can reduce your fuel bills. Severn Wye Energy Agency can advise you. Call Kaye Welfare at SWEA 01452 835060 or [kaye@swea.co.uk](mailto:kaye@swea.co.uk) [www.swea.co.uk](http://www.swea.co.uk)

Gleanings: A major drainage issue is pouring oils, fat & grease down drains & sinks. Don't pass on problems, or block your sink, take it to the tip in containers. Solidified fat feeds winter birds.

Under common law a person is the RIPARIAN OWNER of any watercourse within or adjacent to their property boundaries. Where a watercourse is situated between 2 or more boundaries each owner may be equally responsible. Responsibilities include maintaining banks & beds of their section to avoid obstruction or overflow. Landowners should be aware of the effect of patio rubbish entering streams & should create soakaways for water outflows. Enforcing laws is tricky as there is a burden of proof but no-one living near a stream wants to get flooded themselves!

If you have been, thanks for reading – a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year. Clerk 825660