



Issue 17 March 2016

Shipton-under-Wychwood

WELCOME to our Spring Parish Newsletter

All residents of Shipton are invited to attend **the Annual Village Meeting** at New Beaconsfield Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 21st April. This is your chance to hear reports from your Parish, District and County Councillors and other community organisations. You can ask questions and it is our opportunity to hear your views. We look forward to seeing as many residents as possible.

The Parish Council, New Beaconsfield Hall, Station Road, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxon, OX7 6BQ
E-mail Lisa Wilkinson, parish clerk, on clerk@shiptonunderwychwood.org

Welcome to our latest newsletter

I hope you have found our newsletters of the past year to be informative of issues and events that have affected Shipton residents. Of course, the coming year will present further challenges as we eagerly await budget decisions by OCC and WODC and the impact on ourselves at the Parish level. Of particular concern, we have been asked what services we could, or importantly should, consider taking over from these two authorities. With very limited resources, we need feedback on what our residents would wish us to consider in coming months. To that end, the Annual Parish Meeting on 21 April in the Village Hall offers a timely opportunity to air your views. We look forward to your company.

Neil Jagger, Chairman

A Neighbourhood Plan for Shipton?

The PC regularly considers whether to embark on a Neighbourhood Plan. What is a Neighbourhood Plan? Come to our annual village meeting on 21st April to find out more or look at all the information available on line. It involves the community coming together to develop a shared vision, identifying where new houses, shops and offices should be built and protecting green spaces. It does not enable communities to demand that there should be less new houses but it does enable them to have a say in where they go. The preparation of a plan is hard work, time consuming and very reliant on local people getting involved. Let us know what you think

Buses

OCC are planning to remove all bus subsidies which could mean we will have no buses in the Wychwoods. The Pulhams service will run until July and The Villager until December, after which it will be up to the bus providers, the community and the parish to decide how important the service is to the community and how the shortfall in funding can be met in the long term. While some of the parish precept could be used to make up the shortfall we already support the library and the day centre and other groups within the community. Do we need a bus service? Can you find alternatives to the buses? Let us know your views via our clerk.

Her Majesty the Queens 90th Birthday Celebrations!

On 21st April Her Majesty the Queen will be 90 years old.
On Sunday 12th June the Royal Household is encouraging street parties to mark the occasion.
Why not take this as a good reason to get together with family, friends and neighbours.

Oxfordshire Together

Launched in September 2015 the aim is to find ways of delivering non-essential services which are to be cut by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). Communities are encouraged to find alternative ways, perhaps through fundraising and volunteers.

In Shipton we already arrange our own grass cutting of verges with the help of a small grant from OCC, the Shipton Volunteers do sterling working in our community and we wouldn't have a library without volunteers. However we will come under pressure to do even more.

One area where everyone can help is street inspection as there will be less personnel going round the county inspecting. Residents can report street problems e.g. potholes, fly tipping, street lighting and broken paving on www.fixmystreet.com. You can also access via www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/road/report-a-problem. So next time you bump over a pothole don't inwardly moan; instead report online.

A Good Investment

Last month a vehicle knocked down the large cricket board on the recreation field at the rear of the Village Hall. Fortunately there are CCTV cameras all around the Hall so the footage was passed to the police who were able to identify the driver from the registration number. The culprit made good the damage and gave a sincere apology.

Not all the cameras around the Hall are visible so the chance of wrong doers being caught is very high. Investment in the cameras has paid off!

Car Parking on the Village Green

We have had issues with cars causing damage to the village green by parking with their wheels on the edge of the green or in some cases actually parking the whole vehicle on the green itself. This particularly occurs when there is either a wedding or a funeral at the church. In an attempt to alleviate the problem the church has encouraged members of the congregation to park at the New Beaconsfield Hall and the PC respectfully reminds residents that the green is a village amenity and not an overspill carpark. Despite our efforts we have recently had another incident where several cars were parked on the green causing damage to the grass surface while the owners attended church. In addition we are seeing more cars parked as a matter of routine with their nearside wheels on the grass surface. Could we once again ask car owners to respect the green and please avoid causing further damage to the surface?

Pennies not this time from Heaven

To ensure local people are well supported in these days of cut backs and austerity the Parish Council has had success in obtaining grants. In the last few years we have had a grants of over £1200 for equipment for the Volunteers, £700 for a screen and projector for use in the NBH Committee room, over £2000 for a generator to keep the NBH going if the power fails (and the gin and tonic cool if all else fails). But more recently we have applied under the TESCO grant scheme to upgrade the allotments. This will involve providing raised beds for use by less abled residents, better access and pathways, secure storage and expansion of our popular community orchard. We have won £8000 to date and it could be £12000 if the voting in local stores has gone well. The project will start in the fine weather and we are delighted to say that Gordon Gillett will manage it for us. Watch this space!!"

Shipton Volunteers

The Shipton Volunteers continue to enhance the appearance of our village.

We meet once a month on a Friday and Saturday morning and are constantly on the lookout for new members. If you feel you have some time to spare and would like to join us on either day, you will be made most welcome.

Our tasks include annual litter picking, clearing fallen leaves from the pavements, weeding, and maintenance of trees, paths and vegetation, tidying the church grounds, trimming of the recreation field hedges, helping in the Wild Garden. The list goes on!!!

All the above could not be undertaken and achieved without the enthusiasm and support shown by the volunteers themselves.

If you would like more details on any of the above please contact Carole Arnold on 07545 475560, email carole@caa-accounting.co.uk or visit www.shiptonunderwychwood.org/about/volunteers.

A361/Upper End Traffic Calming

Over the last ten years there have been several accidents on the A361 in the vicinity of New Road and Upper End, usually in poor conditions with cars travelling too fast as they attempt to navigate the bend. Towards the end of last year there were two accidents in this vicinity, one of which involved a car demolishing the cottage boundary wall at the junction of Upper End and the A361. This was the school bus pick up site. The bus stop has now been moved at the instigation of the Parish Council.

In November representatives of the Parish Council met with Cllr Rose and a member of OCC Highways department to discuss what solutions were available to reduce the risk of accidents in this area. If necessary the council had been prepared to provide funding towards any safety measures, however OCC Highways department have now agreed, at their expense, to provide reflective bollards on the corners by Upper End in order to highlight the nature of this particular bend. OCC Highways department have also agreed to carry out a friction assessment of the road surface in this area.

