

Issue 19 Spring 2017

Shipton-under-Wychwood

WELCOME to our Spring Parish Newsletter

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Contact the parish clerk: [clerk@shiptonunderwychood.org](mailto:clerk@shiptonunderwychood.org)



*Welcome to the Spring edition of the Parish Newsletter. Since the last edition we have experienced some changes in the make-up of your council. Sarah Matthews left us before Christmas and Neil Jagger resigned this March after many years as both a councillor and Chairman. Neil has now moved to France on a permanent basis. Our thanks go to both Sarah and Neil for all their hard work during their terms of office. We are now joined by Rob Dyer as a co-opted member but are still one short on the council. If you feel public spirited and wish to be involved in the day to day activities of the village please contact our clerk for further details. With Neil's departure I have now taken over as Chairman with Bartha Pitman becoming Vice Chair.*

*The Newsletter is now being published both in hard copy and in electronic format. I hope you find it informative.*

**Brian Young, Chairman**

#### **Telephone Boxes**

The Parish Council was recently approached by BT and WODC with regard to the future of the two public telephone boxes in the village. The options given were; remain, removal, or adoption of the box. We suggested that the box on the High Street was little used and that we would not object to its removal. However, WODC disagreed and requested that it remain. We felt that the box on Fiddlers Hill was also little used, but interest has been expressed in the past for it to be used as a site for the installation of a defibrillator. We have now asked that the PC be allowed to adopt with a view to installing a defibrillator.

We have yet to hear formally that our request has been accepted though initial noises from BT are positive. As a result we have set the fund raising wheels in motion with a view to raising the money necessary for the installation. Thanks to the W.I. for raising some money towards this already. Providing that we use BT's approved charity for the installation and maintenance there would be no charge for the electricity supply for the first seven years. The cost for the equipment would be in the order of £1350 to £2000.

#### **Damage to Verges, Walls and Kerbs**

With an increasing number of contractors working in the village and large lorries frequently manoeuvring in restricted areas, we are seeing more damage to grass verges, walls and kerb stones which does nothing to improve the appearance of the village. If you are having work done on your property please ask your contractors to exercise care and where possible repair any damage caused. If you see any damage caused by third parties please pass on any information to the Parish Clerk.

#### **Milton Road Development**

The Uplands Planning Committee recently approved the building of 44 houses on the land between the school and the Business Centre. This is not a great surprise but we have negotiated a significant contribution of over £100,000 to support our village if this development goes ahead. The next step is detailed planning permission which determines the mix of housing and eligibility for low cost housing. Let us know what you think. How many young people in our village would like a starter home? We need a village response to have any influence at all.

#### **County Council Elections**

There are County Council elections in May. The County Council is responsible for many services you receive such as roads, education and social care. Do make sure you are registered to vote or better still register for a postal vote. If you don't vote, your views don't count!!

**Anyone interested in an extra weekday train from and to Shipton under Wychwood?**

Calling all villagers interested in persuading the GWR franchise to make an additional weekday stop at Shipton. The Cotswold Line Promotion Group (CLPG) has helpfully explained that if a sufficient number of villagers can be organised to use an existing weekday service, the GWR franchise service provider might be motivated to arrange an additional stop at Shipton. The CLPG has identified the 09:50 from Moreton that could additionally call at Shipton about 10.03 arriving Oxford at 10:30. The return from Oxford would depart 15:20 arriving at Shipton about 15.48. This would appear attractive for those wanting a reasonable duration in Oxford but avoiding the rush hours. The additional attraction would be to seek a Group Save Fare arrangement which would bring the return fare down to around £5.50 (normal off peak is £8.30 return).

For the idea to succeed we would need sufficient passengers and initial consensus on the particular weekday chosen. If a one-off trial proved viable, the next step would be to establish it as a weekly event. To start the process we need to gather a sufficient response from villagers but nothing is guaranteed. Interested? Please email Bartha on [pitman.home@gmail.com](mailto:pitman.home@gmail.com) or phone 830930. We will collate the response and liaise with CLPG on their approach to the GWR operators if they consider interest sufficient to convince GWR to run at least a trial.

**Pollarding – St Mary’s Church**

Pollarding is an ancient pruning technique that reduces the size of the crown of a tree. Pollarding should happen when the tree is dormant during the winter period after its leaves have fallen. This allows the tree surgeon to manoeuvre more easily around the tree and see the shape more clearly. It also causes fewer disturbances to resident wildlife and less stress to the tree as there is minimal loss of sap.

It became necessary to pollard the lime trees along Church Walk. The path was closed for the public’s safety during the pollarding and the Parish Council would like to apologise for any inconvenience that may have been caused.

**Shipton Volunteers**

Make a positive change in your community: join the Shipton Volunteers by contacting Carole Arnold on 07545475560, email ([carole@caa-accounting.co.uk](mailto:carole@caa-accounting.co.uk)) or visit the website.

**Speedwatch Programme**

Recently, the Neighbourhood Action Group borrowed a device from the Police to measure speeds travelled on Shipton roads. We now have greater access to one and training has commenced in Shipton and Milton. The Parish Council has identified several areas within Shipton where some vehicles are being driven too quickly such as Station Road, Swinbrook Road, Leafield Road and Milton Road. Training is being given by the Police and will continue for some time, however three more volunteers would be appreciated – if anyone is interested please contact Jill Mavin on 831091 or Ian Drainer on 832777.

**Thames Valley Police Alerts**

We have urged everyone to sign up for the Thames Valley Police Alerts system ([www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk))

Recently the Alerts have dealt with e-mail and phone fraud, thefts and other problems in local villages. The thefts fall into three categories - targeted crime to steal valuable pictures at one end of the scale or catalytic converters at the other, opportunistic theft from those who have left their homes too obviously empty, and theft from sheds and outbuildings.

All these have happened in Shipton in the recent past. You can help to reduce such crime by being on the lookout for suspicious behaviour. The number to report any of your concerns is 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

**Shipton fete**

After several years of organising the fete, with the help of a small team, Ray Derkacz has stepped down from the fete committee. The PC would like to thank him for all his hard work over the years. We are now looking for people to take on the job for the 2019 fete. If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk.

**Brand New Post Office**

Your new totally transformed shop and post office is now open –use it or lose it! It opens on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March for business and has a ceremonial opening on 29th April.

*And finally, the **Annual Village Meeting** will take place on 20 April 2017 at 7.30pm. Please come along and join us. Apart from a short report by the Parish Council, it is a chance to hear about other aspects of village life that you may not know about. Equally, it is your chance to raise your concerns with your PC, and County and District Councillors.*