

Shipton-u-Wychwood PC Newsletter

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Parish Council, New Beaconsfield
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Welcome from the Chairman

Dear Fellow resident

Please find enclosed a copy of our Annual report. In better times we would have presented this at our new format APM accompanied by wine and cheese but that is for next year. In many respects this is a difficult Newsletter to introduce as in common with the rest of the Country we have not been untouched by stress, sickness, and fatality. But while at present there is little cheer there is still much to be positive about and I hope the following articles 'accentuate the positive'

With good wishes

Brian Rigby CBE

COVID Volunteer Scheme

When it became apparent that the Covid pandemic was going to become a serious issue the parish council set about creating a support network for vulnerable people. With thanks to Milton PC for producing a set of leaflets, these were distributed to all households in the village. The leaflets contained contact numbers for those people requiring help and a window poster to display indicating a vulnerable resident. Shipton PC then set up a process to deal with requests for prescriptions and grocery shopping.

We have had numerous requests for assistance via this scheme and we anticipate we will continue to do so for some time. The feedback we have received from those using the service has been extremely positive. Many thanks to the 50+ people who volunteered their services to assist with the scheme. Even though many of you have not actually been called upon we are grateful and comforted that so many of you have put yourselves forward to help in these difficult times.

If you are now isolating and in need of assistance, please make contact using the numbers on the leaflet. Alternatively, you can email or phone the Clerk or any of the Councillors using their details as shown on the Shipton PC website.

Rob Dyer

Burial Ground

The PC has plans to tidy up the Burial Ground and make it a tranquil and contemplative place. A small budget has been set aside to plant bulbs, and shrubs to encourage butterflies and birds.



Lovethetree Sculpture

Current legislation ensures that when building development occurs a sum of money is set aside for local community projects and infrastructure, so called 'Section 106 money'. Within that, our District Council has stipulated that a certain amount needs to be spent on a work of art. With funding provided as a result of the Deanfield development the Parish Council have been looking at how best to spend this money in the most appropriate way.

We have sought to purchase something of high quality from a local craftsman that is worthy of placement within the village. After considering various possibilities it has been decided to use the funds for the purchase of a tree sculpture by Christopher Townsend. It will effectively be a 2-dimensional piece, standing about 8ft tall set against a gorgeous bronze coloured background. It will be placed on the grass verge on the entrance to the Deanfield development. It should be installed before the end of the year and we hope you like it as much as we do.

Rob Dyer



Allotment

In the past weeks we have allocated eight new allotments and extended one for an existing tenant so there are quite a few new faces on the allotments. Some are beginners and some more experienced and it's always nice to receive advice from allotmenters who have had their plots for years and know which plants grow well in the soil there.

There will be some heavy digging on the land immediately to the right of the gate (not by us I'm pleased to say) as we prepare the area for a wildlife pond. There will also be a bench and a picnic table for those sunny days. We will be on the lookout for some natural stone, largish pieces, to surround the pond so if anyone has some they would like to dispose of, please get in touch with our Clerk.

The beehives have been moved and I think the bees will soon be returned to them.

Jill Mavin

Challenges for the PC clerk during lockdown

So the world as we know it has stopped. From a small rural village point of view, we are remarkably lucky at this time, as everyone who lives in Shipton will be aware.

So how has the Parish Council carried on working?

It's had to pass emergency regulations; it's had to wait for the Government to bring in new laws as the antiquated system (from 1972) stated that meetings had to be held in person. It's had to wait patiently whilst the clerk got her head around Microsoft Teams and sent out no end of duff links. And it has even had to forgo the Annual Parish Meeting with the excitement of wine and cheese!

So the last couple of months has seen the clerk reading all sorts of legalese with exciting 'catchy' titles, bullying councillors into using video conferencing and closing the much loved playground whilst still getting on with her day job of audits, annual returns, risk management, website accessibility, bringing a new councillor up to speed and coping with the increasing flow of requests for allotment plots.

But she wouldn't have it any other way (apart from missing the wine and cheese!)

Lisa Wilkinson

20 Trees



for 2020

The PC has an exciting new initiative planned for this year and for the future; see the attached Annual Report for more details.

Residents urged not to light bonfires during Covid-19 pandemic

The PC has received complaints about regular bonfires being lit in the village. The District Council is calling on residents to be more considerate of those with respiratory conditions and those in self-isolation. Bonfires and drifting smoke are also a nuisance for neighbours wanting to spend time in their gardens or keep windows open. Please do not light them during the current pandemic.

Good-bye and Welcome

The Council would like to say thank you to Tom Etherington for all his hard work and enthusiasm. He is much missed as a councillor.

We welcome Matthew Colledge onto the team and look forward to working with him.



And Finally

We hope these thoughts have shed a constructive light on the forthcoming months. When the embargo on meeting is over, we intend to hold a Village meeting (with cheese and wine) –how is that for positive!

