

Parish Council, New Beaconsfield Hall, Station Rd, Shipton-u-Wychwood, OX7 6BQ.
Contact the parish clerk:
clerk@shiptonunderwychood.org



Shipton-u-Wychwood Newsletter Issue 26 Winter 2021

Welcome from the Chair

Now that our clocks have gone back and the days are short, I think of Christmas ahead and wonder how it will be this year with Covid always in the background. However, preparations are under way for carols round the tree on Christmas Eve, where we usually have a very good turnout. The charity we will be collecting for is The Lawrence Home Nursing Team; come along and have a good sing! (Covid dependent) When our Chairman, Brian Rigby, left the village in August there was an immediate vacancy on the Council for a Parish Councillor, which I'm delighted to say has now been filled and we welcome Jackie Loring to our team.

It will again be a harsh winter for some people in our villages with a rise in the cost of heating fuel for homes and some will not have enough to eat. Please use our village shop and drop food items into the Food Bank Collection Bin on your way out - for many this is a lifeline. **Happy Christmas everyone.**

Adopt-a-tree

The UK needs millions more trees to reach its 2050 carbon net-zero target. The Wildlife Trust is providing trees and we have applied for 30. If you would like one for your garden (for free), then please contact the clerk. The choice is between a **silver birch, rowan or wild cherry**. First come first served! See below for more details.



Carols around the Tree

It's back this Christmas!!



**Come along for a sing-along with the band!!
7pm at the Village Green on Christmas Eve**

High Tea (and Tea Dance) in the park



Plans are under way to organise an event for the Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5th June 2022 at New Beaconsfield Hall. Bring along your own High Tea and your dancing shoes and celebrate the Jubilee with other families. Tea, cake and hopefully Pimms will be provided!

UPDATES ON PARISH COUNCIL WORK

Environment

It's very pleasing to report that as part of our environmental programme 19 of the 20 trees planted in the village last autumn have survived. This is thanks to making the right choice of species (plaudits to Max Askew for his expert advice) and to all the 'sponsors' who kindly adopted a tree and for 'nursing' them through their first year. (https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1dH0Gg_Gb8Ay1VR7mMw7n5xaLaGrb7S1Q&usp=sharing)



To continue this initiative next year, we are participating in the Queen's Green Canopy Programme by inviting you to, 'plant a tree for the Jubilee' You can join in by applying for a sapling simply by contacting the clerk on clerk@shiptonunderwychwood.org. The trees will be available for collection from the allotments in March of next year.

We have also placed a mixture of 9 Swift and House Martin bird boxes. Expertly constructed by Jeremy Huntingford we still have a few left so if you would like to contact me on timyates57@gmail.com, I can arrange one to be delivered to you.

Finally, we are very pleased to be supporting the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in their Bug Hotel construction project. If you look carefully some of these are already visible in the allotments and The Wild Garden.

Allotments



The allotment field is looking good, and we have a few available for anyone interested in renting a plot. We have an excellent wildlife pond, new wildflower area coming by the spring, beehives and bug hotels and a place to sit and relax. Two new water troughs were installed this year and trees were planted as part of our 20 Trees for 2020, but unfortunately one died when the weather was very hot.

Donations to Community groups

You may not know that the Parish Council awards small grants/donations to local organisations in October each year. Recent beneficiaries include the Wychwood Brownies, Guides and Rainbows, Treemendously Wild and Witney Baby Bank. The PC hopes these donations will enable the groups to continue with their valuable work in making Shipton and the local area such a thriving place to live.

If you are interested in applying for a donation, please email your request to the clerk by September 2022. It must include the name of the organisation, role in the community and what the donation would specifically fund.

SHIPTON FAIR

Monday 29th August 2022 (August Bank Holiday Monday)

Come and see if chaos reigns at next year's Shipton Fair where we are hoping that the birds from the falconry display don't eat the competitors in the Ferret Racing!

Children sending you up the wall over the holidays? No problem. The Scouts are bringing their Climbing Wall and the Dog Show should get the kids practising with their pooches.

A more genteel approach can be had relaxing with a WI cup of tea and cake listening to the Witney Town Band, or for the more daring a G&T or Pimms.

Most of the games are returning with some new additions = Giant Buzz Wire, Neck Bagatelle, Mission Impossible Tent, and a Hopscotch meets Twister! Better not put that by the Beer Tent!

Due to space, we are limiting the number of Craft Stalls to around 15, most of which have already been taken up. To ensure everyone has enough energy to fully participate there will be a Hog Roast, Vegan Stall (not together!), Crepe Van and Ice Cream Bar.

We are hoping to run a kids' area and a couple of 10-minute displays by any willing local groups. Please contact us if interested.

Of course, any plug for the Fair wouldn't be complete without a plea for helpers on the day to run stalls etc. Also, any loans of garden gazebos would be greatly appreciated.

Anyone/group interested in taking part/helping in any capacity please contact Tim Brunsden at tim.brunsdon@sky.com or on Facebook (Wychwood Post).

There will be a Fair Facebook page set up for the event in the New Year.



As Tony the Tiger says' It's going to be Grrrrrrreat!!

Shipton Volunteers

In the last couple of years, the Shipton Volunteers have not managed to do as much round the village, as they could pre-Covid times. However, the second half of this year has been better and has seen us get back to our normal two mornings a month.

My next task is to start planning dates and jobs for next year.

Jobs will be the usual mix of litter picking; keeping paths weed and leaf free; work in the Church grounds, work round New Beaconsfield Hall, varnishing village benches, sessions in the Wild Garden and anything else that crops up.

I'm always keen to expand our range of jobs. So, if you are aware of something that needs doing around the village, that is manageable for a group of volunteers, please feel free to email me.

And more importantly if you fancy joining us, please get in touch.

Email carole@caa-accounting.co.uk or keep an eye on <https://shiptonunderwychwood.org/shipton-volunteers/>

Section 106 Funding (monies provided by Deanfield Homes to support delivery of services & infrastructure following the building of the Oak Drive development)

Now that the Oak Drive development has been completed and the S106 funds released we would like to highlight how these funds have been distributed.

Firstly, under the terms of the deal, around £47,800 was earmarked for the playground which has been used to purchase a few new items for the younger children and to install a base around the wooden feet of the equipment to ensure more longevity for the current equipment. There is also some set aside for current and future maintenance.

The PC then distributed a sum of over £55,000 for capital items in the following way –

Wychwood Football Club £1950 for new storage facilities

Wychwood Wild Garden £4250 to purchase a new tractor

Shipton Cricket Club £21,900 to assist with the renovation of the clubhouse

New Beaconsfield Hall £27,554 for new lighting, staging, sound equipment, furniture and cloakroom refit.

Note that some of the amount credited to NBH were as a result of applications from other organisations like the Wychwood Players, Bumblefoot Rock Project and Wychwood BODS and Saplings.

Additionally, some money was set aside by WODC to purchase and install a piece of artwork. The Parish Council chose to commission local artist Christopher Townsend to produce a 'Wychwood Tree' which is now in place at the entrance to Oak Drive on the new development.

Slight rise in Precept

The PC has authorised a 3% rise in the precept for the next financial year. This is alongside using just under £10,000 of reserves to balance the budget. Planned expenditure next year includes continuing with the commitment to tree planting and maintenance, and consideration of the implementation of a reduction in the speed limit in parts of the village, as well as contributing to the running of the library and bus service. 3% equates to £1.62 per year for a Band D property so any rises in your Council Tax bill will be minimal.

AND OTHER NEWS:



Defibrillator training

Free training on how to use defibrillators is being run at New Beaconsfield Hall on Saturday 12th February at 9.30am by Dick Tracey. Book via the clerk.

Primary School

It has been a frustrating wait but the car park adjacent to the school is now open. The car park is part of the Oak Drive site and can be used by parents dropping off older children or parking for a short time to take small ones into their classrooms; a licence has been set up by Oxfordshire County Council and is held by the school and there are conditions to its use. It has been open for a few weeks and is working well so far.

And good-bye!!

I am sad to say that I have resigned as Parish Clerk and will be leaving in January. I have enjoyed every minute of the last 7 years (except for some stressful planning applications!!) and will miss all the very hard-working councillors that we are lucky to have in this village.

And finally, don't forget to ensure you are signed up to our Newsletter/Alert system—applications to the clerk at shiptonalerts1@gmail.com and the Thames Valley Police and WODC Alert system both designed to keep us up to date and safe. The links are <https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/> and <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/registering-on-our-website/>

Good wishes from your Parish Council-keep well, keep warm and let's look after each other.

