

# Shotteswell Parish Council



## Report from the Chairman

Spring 2015

Members of the Parish Council are: Les Faulkner, Jan Burgess,

George Nell, Michael Pearson and Val Ingram

## A Year in Review and News:-

On behalf of the Parish Council may I wish a warm welcome to all new residents and thank existing residents for their continued support in keeping Shotteswell a nice place to live.

### Refuse:

Stratford District Council is amongst the top ten in the country (247 councils) for recycling rates, I am sure you will agree this is an admirable achievement.

Set out below for your convenience is the refuse collection dates calendar for the year. You will note that the calendar only goes up to October as there may be a change of collection days and or zones which have yet to be decided upon. When this has been agreed we will post a note to the noticeboard and to the web site: [www.shotteswell.village.co.uk](http://www.shotteswell.village.co.uk) as we did last year. (N.B Due to monochrome print, grey collections begin 4th March)

### Bin Collections for Shotteswell (zone 2)

In Shotteswell we collect bins every Wednesday but the type of bin we collect alternates each week as shown below.

Please ensure your bins are available from 6.00am on the morning of your collection.

Your bins will be **collected as normal over bank holidays** (with the exception of Christmas & New Year).

☐ Rubbish Collected (Grey Bin) ☒ Recycling & Green Waste Collected (Blue Lid & Green Bin)

March 2015	April 2015	May 2015	June 2015	July 2015
M T W Th F	M T W Th F	M T W Th F	M T W Th F	M T W Th F
2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
9 10 11 12 13	6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12	8 9 10 11 12	6 7 8 9 10
16 17 18 19 20	13 14 15 16 17	11 12 13 14 15	15 16 17 18 19	13 14 15 16 17
23 24 25 26 27	20 21 22 23 24	18 19 20 21 22	22 23 24 25 26	20 21 22 23 24
30 31	27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29	29 30	27 28 29 30 31

August 2015	September 2015	October 2015
M T W Th F	M T W Th F	M T W Th F
3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4	1 2
10 11 12 13 14	7 8 9 10 11	5 6 7 8 9
17 18 19 20 21	14 15 16 17 18	12 13 14 15 16
24 25 26 27 28	21 22 23 24 25	19 20 21 22 23
31	28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30

Incidents of fly tipping continue. We have had car bumpers, fridges and a variety of other items. These have been reported by the Parish Council and have been collected promptly by Stratford District Council.





### **Superfast Broadband News:**

The great news is that we are on the Wroxton St Mary exchange meaning that we will be receiving superfast broadband more quickly than some of our neighbouring parishes. Broadband speeds are notoriously slow, currently only 2meg but this is all set to change according to a BT engineer speeds of up to 40meg will be received at the cabinet.



We are delighted to report that the planning application for the new cabinet has been received. A new green cabinet has to be installed alongside the existing one which is by the Playing Field on the Second Turn. The new cabinet is reliant on an electrical supply so some ducting will be required to achieve the link up between the two cabinets. The build is due to commence March/ April with an expected completion date of June/July 2015.

Once the cabinet is installed you will have to contact your Internet provider, as the switch over is not automatically done. A new socket in your property is a likelihood which will look like the one below. BT will have to come to install these on behalf of your provider.



### **Defibrillator AED:**

We were very pleased to have at last come up with a solution to bringing the defib into service, a scheme where anyone could access the unit. With the help of a grant from the Big Lottery we were at last able to install the cabinet to house the AED. Kindly donated by Rosemarie Higham Stevens. The Parish Council covered the cost of the installation and also provided the hall with a welcome light, serving two useful functions. The light will enable patrons to lock and unlock the hall more easily as it is a sensor light and will enable easy access should the defibrillator be required. The defibrillator was checked before going into service at no cost to the



parish and new gel pads were purchased. The cabinet has a small electrical heater, which activates if the temperature drops below freezing to avoid the gel pads freezing. The cabinet is checked on a fortnightly basis and is registered with the ambulance service. True to our word, the Parish council arranged two sessions for people to come and familiarise themselves with using a defib and basic CPR. There may be a further opportunity if there is sufficient interest to run another session. All of the residents that attended found this to be extremely beneficial and we are indebted to the ambulance service for coming along to show us how to save a life. We are exploring the possibility of having several people who may be willing to help in an emergency so that if you are alone someone else might fetch the defib for you in the event of an emergency. Laminated instruction sheets were distributed to every household and are also available to download on the web site, where there is also a wealth of information on emergency care.

<http://shotteswellvillage.co.uk/stop-press-stop-press-latest-bulletins/defibrillator-aed/>



We were delighted that Mollington Parish Council approached us after reading of our success in installing the defib, asking for contact details and how to apply for grants etc. We sent Mollington a comprehensive list and they are shortly to install their own defibrillator. Due to our links with other villages we are pleased to have helped both Mollington and Croughton, it is good to know that we are leading the way in community safety.

### Road Works

These have been pretty extensive this past year with numerous road closure notices, a further road closure is planned





for the 28<sup>th</sup> March which will be from the Mollington Road to the B4100 for approximately two days.

The closure notices have been for a variety of reasons; updating fire hydrants, patching of roads in readiness for the resurfacing which will also be taking place shortly.

But perhaps the most major closures have been down to the terrible experience with getting the Mollington Road Bakehouse Lane junction sorted with the water leak. This took many months and numerous telephone calls, e-mails etc and negotiations it was down to the tenacity of the Parish Council that the leak eventually got fixed. For many months it was argued that this was a spring and not a leak. We are delighted that at long last this has been fixed despite the red herring of another leak further up the road the workmen from Severn Trent arrived. In the course of their repairs a land drain was damaged which necessitated Warwickshire County Council having to come and make a repair, resulting in another hole in the road and damage to the fire hydrant. Thankfully the road is now dry and will eventually settle down becoming less muddy and safer.



#### **Patching and Passing Bays:**

#### **HGV sign on Mollington Road, motorway junction:**

We were disappointed that despite securing permission from the Highways to erect the “unsuitable for HGV” sign, in order to prevent damage being sustained to verges and property, that the sign was removed unnecessarily. The HGV lorries were largely responsible for the condition of

the Mollington Road verges and consequently the mud on the road.

In February 2013, we approached Oxfordshire County Council Highways to ask if they would be willing to help prevent damage to Shotteswell village by authorising a sign on the March Road/ M40 overbridge junction at Mollington, stating that the road leading to Shotteswell was unsuitable for HGVs. The Mollington road into Shotteswell both narrows and has a pinch point, which large HGVs simply cannot pass. The Parish Council paid for the sign and with the permission of Oxfordshire County Council the sign was erected on the M40 Overbridge in June 2013. Shortly after the sign was removed at the request of Warwickshire County Councillor Chris Williams, (September 2013) without any consultation with the Parish Council.



With the support of Oxfordshire County Councillor George Reynolds the sign has been reinstated and we are very grateful for his help. This has taken a considerable amount of council time, both at parish and county levels to resolve. In the meantime much damage has been caused to the roadside verges on the Mollington Road. With the sign back in place we could begin pursuing reinstating the verges and proceeding with the passing places, to enable safer passage to road users and to help reduce deterioration of the highway.

The passing bays had been in the offing for some time but clearly there was little point pursuing this until we could stop the HGV's passing through. The Parish Council paid for the bays to be installed and later we asked that reflective marker posts be added to help aid navigation at night. The bays are being used more as people become accustomed to them and WCC have agreed to reinstate the verges when the weather improves.



### **Rural Watch:**

The Parish Council set about promoting the Rural Watch over the past year, which is a two way process. Residents can pass on any information that you may be concerned about and in turn the Police will keep you fully informed of criminal activity in the area and tips on how to protect your home and family.



The Parish Council worked hard to enhance better communications with the police in an effort to keep the community fully aware of any criminal activity in the area. We also



wanted to provide you with a means to communicate with the police promptly if you have any concerns.

We stressed at the time that we were not taking over the day to day running of the Neighbour Hood Watch (NHW). Rural Watch is an enhancement to the NHW scheme. We have worked with the police to adapt the scheme to fit in with all residents in rural areas and not as previously with solely farmers or rural businesses. With the approval of the police we modified the application form to these ends. We also made the suggestion of creating a telephone tree to make it possible for those in the parish that are not web enabled, to receive alerts by these means. For anyone who may have misplaced their original application form, copies can be obtained from the clerk and the form is available as a download on the web page:

<http://shotteswellvillage.co.uk/news/police/police-rural-watch-scheme/>

Please be assured that the police securely holds all contact details and these are not shared with anyone.

We are aware that owing to Shotteswell being so close to the Oxfordshire borders that criminal activity across the border may also be of interest/concern. We are currently working with Thames Valley Police to organise a similar alert scheme, which will be available to Shotteswell, application details to join this scheme will shortly be available on the web site to download.

Further information is available on the web page for residents to read more on this topic and we are continually updating this information. We are encouraged residents to consider a further crime deterrent product called Cremark. This product is used for marking tools, bikes, saddles, garden and farm machinery. We managed to set up a Cremark property marking session and are happy to repeat this exercise. We had bikes, carriage clocks, tools, and the police were even good enough to attend some residents homes to mark up bulky items such as cement mixers, saddles and farm equipment.

A gentle reminder about charity clothing bags, please do not put these out until the morning of collection. We have again discovered bags that have been removed from outside homes and dumped along the Mollington Road in gateways. We are aware this is distressing for residents.



The Police also brought along UV markers for marking up laptops, game stations etc. The session was very worthwhile and at no cost to residents no matter how many items were to be marked. If you would be interested in coming along to another session please let us know. Our thanks to Warwickshire Police and the



Police & Crime Coordinator, Lucy for coming to Shotteswell. As a result of our initiative, Ratley Parish Council are following the "Shotteswell Model" and arranging a similar event.

**Post Box:** The Parish Council contacted Royal Mail and requested that they repaint our post box, which is now a bright and shiny red. Our thanks to Royal Mail for prompt service.

**Proposed Wind Turbine at Mollington:**

Application reference  
14/00011/F.

The application to build a 77metre high wind turbine near the motorway bridge, leading to Mollington, was lodged with Cherwell District Council early in 2014. Comments lodged can be viewed on the Cherwell Web Site. The Parish Council responded with an objection to this application and was joined by no less than seven other Parish Councils, our Ward Member Cllr Jackson (SDC), MP Jeremy Wright and many residents from this and surrounding parishes made responses. As you may imagine this took a considerable amount of Parish Council time formulating the responses.

The application was refused at Cherwell District Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014 web cast available here: <http://shotteswellvillage.co.uk/home-2/history-2/wind-turbine-application-for-mollingtonshotteswell/>. We all breathed a sigh of relief only to find that an appeal was lodged on the 21st August. The Parish Council then had to make a response to the appeal. I would like to express my gratitude to Cllr Ingram and Cllr Burgess for all of their hard work on this application. As yet no date has been set for the appeal to be decided.

**Poppy Wreath:** The Parish Council again donated the Poppy Wreath to be laid at the War Memorial in the church. 2014 being a centenary of the First World War a wreath reflecting the anniversary was purchased and laid by Eileen Spencer on behalf of the Parish.



We are grateful to Mr Curtis who has kindly donated one of the Tower of London commemorative ceramic poppies to the parish. This is to be given to the church in remembrance of the war dead of this parish. This years Poppycollection raised £225.45 Thanks to all villagers who supported the door-to-door poppy collection.



### Commemorative Bench:

The Mollington Road replacement bench was purchased and the dedication plaque was paid for by the Spencer family to remember the late Bill Spencer one of the parishes much loved characters.



### Library Dates for 2015

*Van arrives at 11.20am at the Bus Shelter departs at 11.45am*

March 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 24th	April 14th
May 5 <sup>th</sup> & 26th	June 16th
July 7 <sup>th</sup> & 28th	August 18th
September 8 <sup>th</sup> & 29th	October 20th
November 10th	December 1 <sup>st</sup> & 22nd



Some tips we have been asked to pass on :

Prescription Pre-payment Certificates

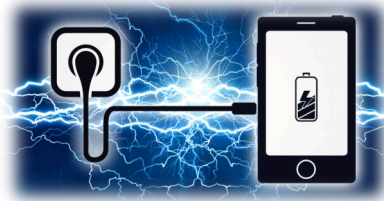
If you need more than 12 prescribed medicines each year, you could save money with a 12-month PPC. Please see link to find out how <http://shotteswellvillage.co.uk/news/507-2/save-money-on-nhs-prescription-charges/>



The Parish Council attended various meetings throughout the year. At one of these meetings energy consumption was discussed, with the most useful tips to reduce energy consumption including: only boil enough water in the kettle for what you actually need and secondly do not leave mobile phones on charge over night. Aside from this being a potential fire risk this really eats up electricity most phones will charge within an hour.



We also attended a meeting whereby we were able to secure an emergency box for Shotteswell. This is located in the Village Hall. The kit includes high visibility jackets, megaphone, wind up torches, glo sticks and a First Aid Kit, (hand gel, radio, pads and pencils). The Parish Council has an Emergency Plan in place.





**Long Service:** Robert Gilchrist served for 20 years on the Parish Council, It had long been in the offing to plant a commemorative tree in recognition of Robert's long service. This year we managed to find a suitable site and Robert came along to do the honours. The tree is recorded on the County's records.



The Parish Council continued with the bulb planting scheme which sees the villages awash with daffodils in the spring. A scheme that has been ongoing for over 25 years. The verge along Church Lane was the lucky recipient of this years planting. Our thanks to Gordon Ingram for planting the bulbs.



**Precept:** For the third year running we have frozen the parish precept (the budget on which we run the parish) Shotteswell precept is £5,500 comparable size councils are Warmington £7,900 and Ratley £12,000.

The accounts for the year are reproduced below and are the last audited accounts for the year. These are always displayed on the noticeboard each year.

#### Shotteswell Parish Council Accounts for 2013/2014

Receipts		Payments	
Interest	3.84	Auditors	Nil
VAT Refund	545.44	Poppy Wreath	50.00
Donation	61.56	RoSPA	106.80
Grant	900.00	Brasenose	250.00
		WALC	90.00
		V Hall Grant	500.00
		Church Grant	500.00
		Defibrillator	1,443.00
		Playing Field	15.15
		Mower	230.00
		Plants & Tree	267.67
		Benches	1,010.85
		Insurance	1,001.49
		Printing/Stationery	160.15
		Grass	1,376.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1510.84</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,001.11</b>
Balance B/F	9,105.22		
Precept	5,500.00		
Receipts	1,510.84		
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,116.06</b>		
Receipts			
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,001.11</b>		
Payment			
<b>C/F 14/15</b>	<b>9,114.95</b>		

NB Sum carried forward includes the Gunter bequest, which is ring fenced

The grant for the Village Hall was used for a replacement window and the Church grant was also used for a window repair. The repair in the Church carries a dedication to the community.



#### Playing Field:

This facility continues to be extremely popular. Many fundraising actives such as the village fete, childrens' parties and charitable fundraising (which often leads to hiring the hall for toilet facilities, bringing in extra revenue for the hall) are held there and children and their families continue to enjoy the equipment. We are reliably informed that our field is considered to be "the jewel in the crown" in the



Stratford Area as far as playing fields go.

It was decided to use the remainder of the Luise Gunter bequest before it depreciated. The new Seesaw was installed late autumn and appears to have become a favorite with the children. The annual inspection by RoSPA detected no issues and the council



installed the bird deterrents on top of the swings, to try and keep the seats clean.

**Lost Property:** The Parish Council monitored the abandoned bike by the Village Hall for two weeks. The Police have collected the bike as no one has claimed it. If anyone knows who the bike belongs to please contact Warwickshire Police at the Stratford office.



#### **Village Hall:**

The Parish Council has been very supportive of the Village Hall over many years and has helped with many projects. Following

an open meeting the request came from the ladies who do most of the catering at the Village Hall for a plate warmer. This was something that would make life a good deal easier and seemed very reasonable. After offering to purchase a plate warmer the Village Hall committee agreed and in January the warmer arrived, the warmer has already been put to good use several times already and will be a bonus to anyone wishing to hire the hall.



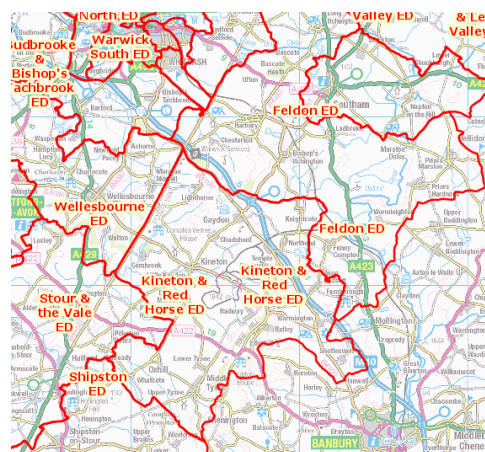
#### **Elections May 2015:**

Parish Council elections take place in May in conjunction with the General and District Council Elections. Should we have an uncontested Parish Election in Shotteswell, the cost will be minimal but a challenged election will cost in the region of £600 - £1,000. Sadly our current District Councillor Simon Jackson is not seeking re-election, Simon has been a stalwart of the parish and will be missed.



Due to boundary changes we now will fall under the Vale of the Red Horse as the number of District Councillors at Stratford has been reduced in number from 53 down to 36. This will be approximately covering an electorate of 2685.

At the next election for County Councillor due to boundary changes, Shotteswell will fall under the Kineton and Red Horse Area too. Again the number of County Councillors has been reduced in number.



#### **New Road:**

Following requests to get the hedges cut back, the Parish Council managed to negotiate with Orbit Housing Association and the hedges have been cut back and have made an appreciable difference.



### Speed Reduction:

As you may recall the Parish Council initiated a speed awareness campaign and also made recommendations to the County Council, over two years ago. These included new welcome nameplates requesting people drive considerately through the village, coupled with the installation of dragons teeth markings on all three entrances to the village. A 30mile speed limit would potentially increase speeds and would be difficult to enforce, as the village would be a low priority for the police. We are pleased to report that the County Council has at last agreed with the Parish Council recommendations and we wait to see what funding may be available to achieve this.



# WELCOME TO SHOTTESWELL

**Please drive carefully through our Village**

### Transport:

The Parish Council have been asked if it would be possible to subsidise transport for approximately 15 persons into Banbury. As you may be aware there is one service bus that currently operates on a Thursday only at present. We made enquiries and have ascertained apart from the "U Bus", which replaced the old "dial a ride system" that there is another scheme that would be viable. This would however be dependent on 15/16 persons requiring to travel on the same day but would not be time limited. This is called Back & 4<sup>th</sup> Community Transport and is available to community and voluntary organisations. All vehicles are fully wheelchair



accessible which allows wheelchair users to travel alongside their companions. Hire charges Monday – Sunday £40, plus 50p per mile including to and from Wellesbourne base. There are no restrictions on how far organisations can travel, in summer months they regularly transport people to the seaside. Based on this 15 people sharing costs of approximately £60, (allowing 30 miles from Wellesbourne to Shotteswell and return (30miles) and 10 mile return into Banbury therefore cost approx. £4 to £5 per person and can be booked on a regular basis.

### Footpaths:

The Parish Council has received complaints that people are not sticking to the line of footpaths. We appreciate that this may be unintentional but please may we remind people to observe the signs. In particular permissive footpaths are there by the kind permission of the landowner. To avoid the risk of paths being withdrawn, it is

essential that there is no deviation from the footpath line.  
**Our thanks to the volunteers who keep the paths in such good order for us all to enjoy.**



**PLEASE KEEP TO  
THE FOOTPATH  
GRASS STRIP SOWN  
AS WILDLIFE HABITAT**



**Dog fouling:** Sadly the Parish Council has received an increasing amount of complaints over dog fouling. Whereas we appreciate that most people are very conscientious, unfortunately some people are not cleaning up after their pets.

We were asked to include this in the report and would respectfully remind everyone to please clean up and dispose of the waste responsibly in the bins. Dog dirt as well as being unpleasant does carry significant health risks to children in particular.

**Provisional Parish Council Meeting dates:**  
*Please note these are subject to change*

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September,  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November & Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

**Fire Alarms:** We have striven to encourage all residents to have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in their homes. Please bear in mind that if you develop hearing problems special alarms are available which will alert you if asleep and a fire occurs. These special alarms have flashing lights and a sensor pad that fits under your pillow.

**Fire Cover:** A new part time peak demand fire appliance is to be stationed at Gaydon, manned by a crew of five. It is crewed by detaching people from Rugby, Nuneaton and Leamington. From the 4<sup>th</sup> April it will have two watches each working a 7 day fortnight covering 0700-1900 only, no night time cover. Fenny Compton Fire Station will still be operational and provide any night-time cover.

As you may appreciate on reading this report the Parish Council has had another very productive year. Additionally the Parish Council has continued to build on solid relationships with neighbouring parishes which is mutually beneficial.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking my fellow Councillors for their hard work over the past year and would like to thank residents for their continued support.

