

# SHUTFORD NEWS

Issue No. 199

Jan/February



**As we were in the Shutford News in October 1984:**



**And on our wedding day 15 November 2014**



Thank you to Shutford News and Ken Jeffs for lighting up the Church. As well as our Anniversary it was the day that we married, in secret, after a 30 year engagement. We wanted to try to re-create the picture that was taken by the then editor Martin Morris, at a Shutford News fundraising Garden Party. Our friend Stu Allsopp took the new picture. Thanks again Mark & Deb Watts (nee Harvey)

Dear Villagers and Happy New Year

Here we go another year ahead! Looking forward to bringing you all the news and events in and around the village. We kick-start the first edition with memory of the very first **Edition** of Shutford News in March 1980 - 35 YEARS AGO!



We have a lovely story from Deb Harvey, see opposite. In the next edition I will print the copy of the first edition. If any villager, has any memories they would like to share with us from that edition please get in touch by emailing: [rita@rlmarketing.co.uk](mailto:rita@rlmarketing.co.uk)

The 'hot' topic at the moment is our Village Hall, we have dedicated a few pages in this edition, please take time to read.

**Do you have a hobby, or an interest, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch so we can add some new articles to the news.**

A big thank you to all our advertisers who are continuing to support the news in 2015! Thank you also to the Parish Council for their donation towards the costs of the Shutford News.

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Rita".

Rita Livesey, Editor Shutford News

#### **Babysitters**

**News of new babies in the village, there may be call for Babysitters. If you want to put yourself forward please email me your name and contact telephone number so we can get an up to date Babysitter notice in the next Shutford News.**



**Minutes of Shutford Community Association Meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
at 19:30 at the George and Dragon, Shutford**

**Present:**

Ken King (KK)  
Tim Page (TP)  
Gordon Freeman (GF)  
Andrew Baud (AB)

Martin Doe (MD)  
Richard Freeman  
Geoff Eccleshall (GE)

**Apologies:**

Debbie Pitt (DP)

**1. Minutes of previous meeting**

1.1 Proposed by KK, seconded by MD.

**2. Treasurer's Report**

2.1 TP confirmed the current surplus is £2,298.03.

2.2 Known commitments include the following:

- £250 for completing the phone box
- £150 for carols
- £50 to support the Shutford Village website
- £250 for Goodnight Out Theatre in January

2.3 GF to write to Daisy and obtain an invoice to enable this account to be settled early in the year. **Action: GF**

2.4 TP had prepared the updated current account and balance sheet. Copy to be sent to MD for the website. **Action: TP**

**3.0 2016 Calendar**

3.1 The 2015 calendar has been well received with only a few left. Many thanks to MailBoxes Etc in Banbury for their printing work and to Rita Liversey for her help in putting it together. Remaining calendars to be offered for sale in the next Shutford News.

3.2 Those attending discussed next year's calendar. The option to only sell calendars and print to order were considered. However, generally it was felt that the calendar provided a good way of finding and preserving village photos, as well as informing villagers of important dates. Generally villagers seemed to like the calendar and so it was agreed that the initiative would be repeated next year, although the supply of historic photos had been largely exhausted.

3.3 The agreed idea for next year's calendar is a photo competition, to be linked with the new website. Winners of the competition would have their photos included in the calendar. **Action: GF to advise RL on call for village photos. MD to include in website launch.**

**4. Broadband update**

4.1 RF continued to closely track progress of the superfast broadband upgrade. Worryingly, the current OCC maps seemed to not include Shutford as being an area covered by the new service. However, RF had also noted that the scheduled date for Shutford to be connected was still noted as being March 2015. RF to look into further.

4.2 AB confirmed that he was experiencing problems with the service of Sugarnet.

**5.0 Phone Box**

5.1 Awaiting confirmation of the position from the PC in tomorrow's meeting.

**6.0 Carl and Dave Show 31st January**

6.1 KK offered to put flyers on local notice boards. MD offered to take some to North Newington. AB offered to send out to those on his email list.

6.2 Flyer distribution to Shutford residents one week before event. Blackboard to be marked up. **Action: GF to organise print run.**

**Action: All to find something for the 'raffle'**

**7.0 Shutford waterslide project**

7.1 Further investigation needed into costs, location and timing. Possibly a Festival day activity to tie with other events on the field. **Action: GF**

**8.0 Shutford website update**

8.1 MD confirmed that the domain name had now been transferred. MD would include links to social media and especially the Festival Facebook page. MD to continue working up web page and tie in with Rita for the Shutford News launch information. **Action MD**

8.2 RF to invite AB as administrator for the Festival Facebook page. **Action RF**

8.3 GF to speak to VHC about website promotion on Village Hall blackboard. **Action GF**

**9.0 Any other business**

9.1 The Village Hall committee are leading the organising of the 2015 festival. It is expected that the first planning meeting will be held on 27th January. All members said they would go to meetings when available and will support as much as possible.

9.2 Any evening event needs to be discussed with the organisers.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

10.1 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7:30 pm at George and Dragon.

**Action: All**

## Our Village Hall

This New Year starts with a village-wide debate more important than we have had for many a year - should we build a new village hall. And, if we do, who will use it, who will pay for it and, crucially, is it fair to ask all households in the village to pay for it?

Since the hall is the only public asset and meeting place within our control (the pub and church, remember are owned by individuals or other groups) getting this issue resolved will certainly be a hotly-debated topic over the next few months. We are, therefore, devoting a significant amount of space of this New Year edition to report on the Parish Council meeting held last month in which the Village Hall Committee formally presented the rationale for a new hall to councillors. In the meantime, it's worth reminding ourselves of how Shutford could benefit from a new hall by restating the claims made for reconstruction by the VHC at a public meeting in November. They said the new building would:

- enhance the historic setting of the pub, church and manor house
- meet the needs of the village which were expressed in the village plan - 84 per cent of respondents to the questionnaire wanted the hall rebuilt or refurbished
- be used by far more people so hire fees will cover its annual running costs from year one
- become easily accessible to mothers and toddlers and the disabled - a vital plus in an age where the elderly are living longer and
- provide an environment which will be used in a whole range of new and different ways which villagers have been asking for.

Well, what do you think? Take a look at the next four pages to find out what was said at the meeting ....

### **Villagers to decide on new village hall funding**

Shutford Parish Council has voted to put the future of our village hall in our own hands. The decision came after an hour-long presentation by the Village Hall Steering Committee and vigorous debate among the 35 plus villagers who attended the first Parish Council meeting of the New Year.

Councillors have agreed to ask households if they are prepared to fund part of the cost of a new village hall by increasing the amount paid on the parish council precept, which is paid as part of our annual council tax. If villagers want to go ahead with the new building plans the increase in precept is likely to be around £45 a year for a Band D property – only slightly more than the cost of a Mars bar a week.

The cost of a new hall is estimated at less than £300,000 and the Village Hall Committee has already received pledges for £100,000 and holds retained funds of around £25,000.

But with over 40 per cent of the money required already secured, the Parish Council were told that further fund raising is unlikely to boost this amount by more than between £25,000 and £40,000 due to the fact that alternative sources of funding for projects of this kind have been largely withdrawn by local councils.

Since the pledges, which have been secured for a new hall on the existing site, are dependent on the evidence of villager's support for the project, the Village Hall Committee had concluded that the only way to meet the villager's requests for a new or refurbished hall was by raising a Public Works Loan.

Loans of this type are already in widespread use to fund village hall construction throughout the county.

### **Why we need a new village hall**

The Village Hall is run as a charity and the trust deed makes clear it must serve the entire community and be accessible to all.

With a growing elderly population who are all living longer and a large number of young parents with toddlers, easy and safe access is a major downside for the existing structure. Disability and pushchair access and disabled facilities cannot be economically provided and it has no safe drop off point for users.

Full refurbishment of the existing hall is uneconomic. The pledges are for a new hall only which means it would cost only a little more - about £30,000 - to rebuild it entirely, leaving the next generation with lower running costs and lower maintenance costs.

Usage of the current hall is falling and it no longer covers its running costs. The deficit is made up by fund raising while villagers hire other more modern halls for parties and family events. The current financial position of the hall is not sustainable. However, villagers are clear that usage would be high if the hall was modernised, thus confirming research that rebuilt halls generate a surplus and are vibrant and active from the day they re-open.

The cost of a new hall today - £300,000 - will rise rapidly due to high building cost inflation which is currently running at between five and seven percent. This means that a new hall will cost £400,000 in only five years - a £100,000 increase that is beyond any fundraising programme we could achieve.

#### **If we don't do it now, when will we?**

"It's only a matter of time before the issue being discussed is not one about rebuilding the hall, but the problem of not having one at all".

With these words, spoken as the meeting came to a close and before councillors took their vote on next steps, one villager highlighted the reality of the present situation - doing nothing is not an option. A full structural survey of the hall in 2012 identified the need for major structural and cosmetic repairs in the short and medium term. Costings show that, without the pledged £100,000, the Village Hall Committee will have to spend over £40,000 on the asbestos roof alone. A full refurbishment would cost up to £170,000.



### **How do we raise this loan?**

Any loan which leads to an increase in the village precept will be raised by the Parish Council only after consultation with villagers. The mechanism to be used for this consultation process is still to be established. It will be designed to establish the level of support for the loan and, as councillors made clear, to ensure all households are able to make their views known.

To keep any agreed increase as low as possible, the VHC has undertaken to continue aggressive fund raising and to involve the villagers in some of the finishing elements of the new build such as kitchen fitting and decoration.

### **Your investment for the future**

Some villagers questioned the need for a rebuilt hall pointing out that since the existing one is not being used much, there will be no demand for a new one in the future. The difficulty some households may have in paying an increase in the precept was also to the fore of the minds of some speakers. These two issues were addressed by one resident who suggested that it might be helpful to take a more altruistic view of the need for a new hall and view it as an investment in the next generation. He said that “in the 60 years since the hall was put up the world has changed dramatically. We cannot possibly know what faces the people of Shutford in the next five or six decades but we do know that the world of work is changing rapidly. Technology is altering the prospects for jobs and incomes for everybody. The role of the community in facing this change will become more and more important,” he argued concluding by saying that the provision of a comfortable place where young and old can meet should, therefore, be seen as an investment in the future, not a cost on the present.

### **What next?**

In due course all villagers will be asked for their views on the scheme. Please use the opportunity to say what you want. Villager feedback is essential. Look out for village notices, meetings and further updates.

[newhall@shutfordvillage.info](mailto:newhall@shutfordvillage.info)

## **Shutford Website Update - [www.shutfordvillage.com](http://www.shutfordvillage.com)**

Martin Doe has taken over the maintenance of the Shutford website, inheriting the role from Mike Ponikowski, who has been instrumental in developing a valuable resource of information.

“Having seen first-hand the amount of work that Mike has put in to develop the website, I feel that we all owe him considerable gratitude for his efforts on behalf of the village”, says Martin.

“I have read with interest the comments regarding the website in the recent village survey. The survey contained a number of good suggestions and I will be trying to incorporate a number of these, wherever practical”, adds Martin. “However, the website will only ever be as good as the information it contains and anyone is welcome to contact me with anything that they would like to be displayed on the site, particularly events and items of local interest.” So, why not check out the site at **[www.shutfordvillage.com](http://www.shutfordvillage.com)** right now? This little quiz may also tempt you to take a look. No prizes are available this time around, but the answers to the following questions can be found on the site:

- 1) Which band sings the first line in the new Band Aid 30 version of Do They Know Its Christmas?**
- 2) In which historic county of Wales are the Preseli Mountains, from which the bluestones used at Stonehenge were taken?**
- 3) Recently park rangers at Taylor Creek, South Lake Tahoe in California have had to ask people to stop taking selfies with which animals in shot for safety reasons?**
- 4) What is the name of the probe, part of the Rosetta spacecraft, which successfully landed on comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko?**
- 5) Which two countries lie on the southern border of Mexico?**
- 6) On a weather map, what name is given to a line drawn through places with the same atmospheric pressure?**
- 7) Where does Rupert Bear live?**
- 8) What nationality is Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho?**
- 9) What is the official name given to horse racing over fences in the UK, Ireland and France?**
- 10) On which West Indian island were Rihanna and Grandmaster Flash both born?**

Watch the progress of the new website, and keep a particular eye out for a very special competition coming later in the year!

Martin Doe: **[mardy.online@googlemail.com](mailto:mardy.online@googlemail.com)**



## ***Saturday 20 June 2015***

Hopefully, by the time you read this, planning for this year's Festival should be in full swing. We think everyone would be in agreement that last year the event was a resounding success and could well be described as a 'best ever', doubtless helped by perfect weather.

In the chair and leading the way this year, it is the turn of the Village Hall Committee, who will be ably assisted by the usual joint beneficiaries, St. Martin's Church and the Community Association. However, we would like to get as many villagers as possible helping to run, organise and promote the event, hoping to build on last year's achievement.

We need new ideas and helpers of all kinds, so please keep an eye on the notice boards and come along to the meetings. Some of the big stars from last year have already indicated that they are willing to come along again. If you want to get involved, (great way to meet new people if you are new to the village) need information or have some useful contacts, then ring Roger or Geraldine on 780579.



### **Dogs for the Disabled Puppy Socialiser Appeal nr Banbury**

Dogs for the Disabled is appealing for volunteer puppy socialisers living near Banbury.

Patient, dog-loving members of the public are invited to apply to care for one of our pups for more than a year, helping to prepare them for their future role as an assistance dog. Volunteers help our pups grow into confident, well-behaved young dogs, comfortable in many different environments and ready to start formal training with Dogs for the Disabled trainers and instructors.

Feeding, training and caring for a puppy is a demanding, time-consuming but ultimately very rewarding role: some socialisers have looked after more than 10!



Potential volunteers are asked to email [liz.stone@dogsforthe-disabled.org](mailto:liz.stone@dogsforthe-disabled.org) with full contact details so that she can help them find out whether they meet the criteria for the role.

For example volunteers need to have a fully-fenced, secure garden and be able to devote several hours a day on activities to socialise the puppy. They will be asked familiarise the puppy with locations including supermarkets, schools, hospitals, dentists, buses and trains to prepare them for their working life.



The puppy can live with children aged over two years and a maximum of two existing pet dogs.

Supervised and supported by the charity's puppy co-ordinators, they will teach basic skills including walking on a lead, 'sit', 'down', 'wait' and 'stay' and they will also be required to attend regular puppy classes at the charity's Banbury centre. The pup's food and vet costs are paid by Dogs for the Disabled.

The volunteer's reward will be to see the young dog they return to the charity, after 6-8 months' intensive training, become a fully-qualified assistance dog partnered with a disabled adult or child and picking up dropped items, fetching the phone, loading and unloading the washing machine, calling lifts and helping them dress and undress. Some will progress to become autism assistance dogs helping a child with autism and the entire family live a calmer, less stressful life.

For more information visit the website  
[www.dogsforthedisabled.org](http://www.dogsforthedisabled.org)

## **ART EXHIBITION & CRAFT FAIR**

Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School

**Sat 7th and 8th March 2015**

*10.30am – 4.30pm*

More than 200 artworks by national and local artists

All day café

Quality Craft Stalls

Children's Craft Workshops

For more information please contact:

Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School PTA – [sibfordprimarypta@gmail.com](mailto:sibfordprimarypta@gmail.com)

Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School  
Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower, Banbury, OX15 5RW



### **Locally Butchered Shutford Lamb For Sale**

We breed and rear native Dorset Horn lamb in Shutford. The Dorset Horn is a rare breed of sheep with less than 3000 breeding ewes left in the British Isles.

If you would like to buy a half or whole butchered lamb:

- packaged in its different cuts
- a rich flavoured lamb
- produced in Shutford
- with minimum food miles (we use our closest abattoir at Long Compton)

We are taking orders for spring lamb now (hopefully ready in time for Easter). Please contact us for more information including prices and delivery/ collection on:

T: 01295 788186

M: 07500 937390

E: [helengibbs84@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:helengibbs84@hotmail.co.uk)

**SHUTFORD VILLAGE HALL**  
**100+ CLUB RESULTS**

**NOVEMBER            £35.00            £10.00            £5.00**

Martin Norrington    Martin Bull    Geoffrey Townsend

**DECEMBER           £50.00            £10.00            £5.00**

Jan Walters           David White    Julie Hodgkins

**JANUARY            £35.00            £10.00            £5.00**

Wendy Loader       A.MacGregor   B.Wyatt-Grainge

The February Draw will take place at the WI Meeting in the  
Village Hall on Tuesday 3 February.  
The March Draw will take place at the Parish Council Meeting  
in the Village Hall on Wednesday 11 March when the  
**First Prize will be £95.00**

**GOOD LUCK!**

We will be calling on you in February and March to sign up  
members for the next 6 months/year.

**£5.00 for 6 months**

**£10.00 for the year**

If you are out when we call we will leave an envelope for your  
subscription and ask you to drop that back to one of us.  
Cheques should be made payable to '**Shutford Village Hall**'.

If we miss anyone please contact one of us.  
Margaret Holloway, Monastery Lodge, High Street. Tel: 788396  
Joan Wright, 32 The Dairyground. Tel: 788336

**Welcome** to Mrs Carol Nicholls, who has recently moved into 6, Bottles, The Dairyground from Wellesbourne, together with her Siamese cat "Tinx". Carol has two daughters Deborah & Michelle who are married with two children each.

Carol works part-time as a marketing assistant and handling bookings. Her hobbies are, Art & Design, Astronomy, Dancing & Scuba. She moved to Shutford to be closer to family & friends. "I am looking forward to being part of a friendly community again."

**Thanks to Jenny and Tony Ingham** for providing the Xmas tree and to Brian Ailsby and Margaret Holloway for setting it in place outside the Village Hall and decorating it.

Thanks very much

Christine (in capacity as Secretary of the Village Hall)

**CHRISTMAS BINGO:** On behalf of the village hall I would like to thank everyone who gave prizes and donations, helped and came to the Christmas Bingo. Special thanks to Roger for doing the calling and to Barbara for being able to borrow the calling machine!

It was held in early December and was a great success with over £297 being raised for village hall funds. We had a good attendance and a fun evening, as always, was had by all.

Joan Wright

<p><b>VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS TO</b> <b>Geraldine &amp; Roger Bancroft - 780579</b></p>
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## SHUTFORD WI

As 2014 comes to a close, WIs around the country are preparing to celebrate the Centenary of our organisation in 2015, which will include the countrywide circulation of a Baton. This will be visiting our area during a week in April and local events are being organised, at various venues including Broughton Castle & Bloxham School. The Baton will be carried on part of its journey by the Hook Norton Brewery dray horses.

Our final meeting of the year on December 2<sup>nd</sup> took the form of a Christmas Social when members shared an excellent buffet and exchanged cards and Secret Santa presents. Later in the month on December 12<sup>th</sup>, a more formal Christmas lunch was enjoyed at the Wroxton House Hotel.

Our new year commenced on January 6<sup>th</sup> with an illustrated talk by Jenny Boyle on the 'Rivers of Russia' when we marvelled at the architecture of the many churches with their onion shaped domes and corbel arches called kokoshniki.

Visitors will be made very welcome if they wish to join us at any of our forthcoming meetings, held in the Village Hall at 10am, when our speakers will be:

- Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> - Ray Allen - "Vital Clue"
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> - no speaker as this is our AGM
- April 7<sup>th</sup> - Wendy Norman - Oxfordshire Country Markets

Enquires can be made to Geraldine on 780579 or Jenny on 780570.



## CHURCH NEWS

**Rector** - Revd Ronald Hawkes - 780555

**Church Wardens:**

Mr Ken Jeffs – 788308

Mr John Hodgkins - 788609

**SERVICES:** Most Sundays 9.30am but see Wykeham News & Benefice website for details.

The Bishop of Dorchester came to Shutford on Advent Sunday for a special Benefice Service organised by Reverend Ronald. The service included a renewal of baptismal and confirmation vows during which the Bishop spoke about St Andrew. The benefice choir led the singing. A retiring collection raised £191 for the Bishop of Oxford's Outreach Fund. Many of the congregation enjoyed refreshments afterwards.

Henry the Hoover has not been returned to church. Sadly there has been a spate of thefts from churches in this area including other vacuum cleaners. On a brighter note a generous couple in the village have donated £100 and a new cleaner has been purchased. We also had offers of other vacuum cleaners to replace the lost one.

We had 20 people at Messy Church in Shutford Village Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> December. All the craft activities had a Christmas theme. We will continue to hold these events across the benefice in 2015 and they are ideal for families with younger children. The meetings will usually be held from 4.00–6.00pm on Saturdays and will finish with refreshments.

Shutford Community Association organised the village carol singing on 17<sup>th</sup> December. Daisy and Deddington Brass led the 50 or so villagers around the village. The evening finished with refreshments provided by the SCA in church. A collection of £136 has been given to the church.

Christmas Services were well attended and as usual the church was beautifully decorated by our team of florists who donate flowers all year round. It was good to have families with children in church and the Christmas Day morning service attracted the highest congregation of the year with 57 villagers and visitors to hear the Christmas story.

Attendance at the Christingle was good but the number of children coming is dwindling. There was plenty of congregation participation:

made during refreshments. £100 from the collection has been given to the Children's Society to help their work with vulnerable children.

Church attendance during 2014 has been stable with an average of 12 people in church on an ordinary Sunday. We have about 20 villagers who come to church once a month and another 40 or so who come occasionally: Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas etc. The church is concerned about church growth as the usual congregation average age is 60 plus. To help us, the Oxford Diocese has invited us to be part of a consultancy looking at church growth in a multi parish benefice. Nicky McGinty, who is also an ordained minister, is our consultant. We have been asked to consider the following: 1. Describe your church in three words: positive, less positive and other. 2. What is the best thing that has happened in your church? 3. What one area do you think we should ask for help/advice in order to make a difference? Answers please.....

There is a need for more people to become involved with church life, both in worship and fundraising, to help reduce the financial and work commitment of a few. Any help is always welcome and appreciated.

Thinking of money, 86% of the cost of ministry in 2014 has been covered by our regular worshippers and donors. Any additional income required to cover our total expenditure of £250 per week has come from various fund raising initiatives held during the year. There are financial pressures on everyone and we are aware that all village organisations and businesses need support, if we are to continue to thrive.

23 people attended our Autumn Lunch of homemade soup, bread and other goodies raising £123 from donations. The Christmas Draw was launched at the lunch and door to door sale of tickets in the village raised £704. This money has been used towards the church building insurance premiums. Viv Mitchell won the Christmas Hamper: a list of other prize winners is in the church porch. Among other successes in 2014 was the Illuminate and Celebrate initiative (details elsewhere in this publication) which raised £670: again thanks to all who made donations to this and support our fundraising and social occasions.

To keep in touch with church news visit: [www.wykehambenefice.org.uk](http://www.wykehambenefice.org.uk) or email [KJJ@kennyjohn.co.uk](mailto:KJJ@kennyjohn.co.uk).

## Shutford Calendar 2016!



Remember this?

A great photo taken of our 2014 Festival. Just one of many taken last year of our wonderful village. We now want more for our new website (see website article elsewhere in this edition) to build up a great collection for everyone to see and with the potential for inclusion in the **2016 Shutford Calendar**. If you're a budding photographer, then please do send in your photos and we'll add them to the new website and you'll automatically be included in the calendar competition.

Please send your photos to the editor: [rita@rlmarketing.co.uk](mailto:rita@rlmarketing.co.uk)

## Illuminate & Celebrate in 2015!



### Don' forget to get your special dates in for 2015!

If you have a special celebration, maybe a birthday coming up, or a loved one you would like to remember, a christening or some other occasion in 2015. How special it would be for the church tower illuminated specially for this occasion. It only costs £10.00 per occasion:

Please get in touch with Ken Jeffs on [KJJ@kennyjohn.co.uk](mailto:KJJ@kennyjohn.co.uk)

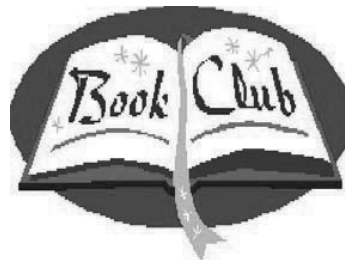
Here is a list of those who have been or will be remembering a special day:

Date	Name	Occasion
11 January	Ashley Taylor	Olivia's birthday (7 January)
20 January	Gordon Freeman	Claire's birthday
24 January	Debbie Pitt	Sasha Chadbon's 14 <sup>th</sup> birthday
5 February	Sharon White	
11 February	Dot Harvey & Derek Turner	Rhoda's Turner 95 <sup>th</sup> birthday
14 February	Anon	St Valentine's Day
26 March	Rita Livesey	Rita's Mum, Grace Livesey's birthday

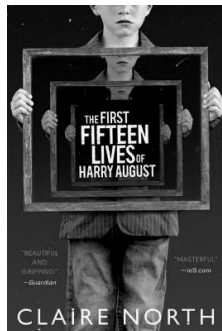
Any other donation details received after Shutford News publication day will be included in future issues.

## Shutford Book Club

Welcome to the Shutford Book Club. We meet on the last Monday of each month at 7.30 pm in the 'Restaurant' at The George + Dragon.

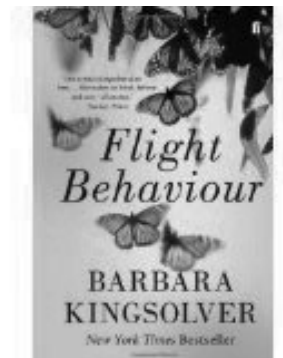


The next meeting is **Monday, 23 February 2015,**  
**The George + Dragon, Shutford.**



The February book is **"The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August"** by Claire North, hosted by Wendy Hall.

The March book is **"Flight Behaviour"** by Barbara Kingsolver, hosted by Kathleen Leeson. (Meeting date **Monday, 30 March**)



To enquire about the Shutford Book Club please contact Kirsten Parrish,  
Email: [kirsten@kdpr.co.uk](mailto:kirsten@kdpr.co.uk) or Tel: 01295 780412

### **Exams? At 43? What was I thinking....?**

*Going back to school, by Kirsten Parrish*

First, a quick introduction for those new to the village and the Shutford News. My name is Kirsten Parrish. I'm 43, but feel 63 most days. I live in Church Lane with my dog, Darwin, and husband, Tom (yes, I meant to put them in that order, Darwin is here more of the time).



To cut a very long story short and at risk of boring everyone to tears, I'm a relatively recent allotment holder (on Thistle Hill, and no, I didn't know it was called that either), and a very keen, but very, VERY amateur gardener.

After battling with more failures than successes on the allotment – but at the same time loving almost every minute of it, even manure and slug hurling – I decided to go part time at work (I'm lucky that I'm my own boss and only had to argue with myself about that for a while) and embark on a horticulture course at Pershore College. The course started in September 2014, and I promised to share my progress juggling study and running my own business with readers of the Shutford News.

By the time you read this I'll be at the end of my first theory certificate in Plant Growth, Propagation and Development, and just starting the Garden Planning, Establishment and Maintenance part of the course. I'm also underway with a certificate in Practical Horticulture, and if I pass all three will end up with a Level 2 Diploma from the Royal Horticultural Society. (Sorry, I know that's very dull for those who've heard all that before, as if it wasn't boring enough the first time around...).

Anyhow, a promise is a promise, so here's an update on how it's going! I'll also use this as an excuse to share some revision topics with you at the same time with a short quiz... and yes, there are prizes on offer!

So, what's it been like, learning again after being out of regular study for so long? In short, a lot, lot harder than I expected. For a start, I thought the course modules would be far less 'academic' than they are. How hard can gardening be?

Well, pretty tricky if you're expected to know all the botanical names of the various plant tissues within a leaf, root and stem, for example. Or give the full Latin names for 13 different conifers (they all looked pretty much the same to me before I got up close and personal with a few – sharp needles!).

I wasn't prepared for that fact I'd need to know the life cycle of a potato cyst eelworm. Not just know it, but draw it. Given that at one point the female buries its head in the host plant (potato, tomato, nightshade...) before it....."has relations with" with the male, and then stays there until a minimum of 200 "eelworms-to-be" burst out of its cyst-shaped body, that certainly has proved to be quite a challenge.

However, I have found learning again to be really exhilarating. The experience of wanting to learn because I'm choosing to do it - rather than being forced to learn because I'm young and that's just what you are told to do - is very, very different. The challenging part is that although I am understanding the lectures as we go along, and certainly learning useful things such as how to plant a tree properly, or grow new plants (propagate) from leaf cuttings, for example, retaining the information seems to be almost impossible.

That "memory issue" doesn't really matter so much in day-to-day working life, as you just get on with the task in hand and gather new information as and when you need it. However, when you are faced with the prospect of taking four exam papers in one day – and knowing you won't have Google or Wikipedia to rely on to remind you of the equations for photosynthesis, for example – it starts to get a bit worrying.

I'm doing all the right things – making notes, summarising key points on library cards, getting the long-suffering Tom to test me, making sure all the labels in every cupboard face the same way, hoovering a lot, sharpening pencils a lot more (yes, the revision-diversion tactics have stayed fresh after all those years!) – but it doesn't seem to be working. I can write notes on a card, go and make a coffee, and come back sure that they must have been ghost-written, as I don't even remember writing the notes, never mind what they say!

I keep trying to remind myself that this wasn't the point of doing the course, though. I'm doing it as I'm interested in the subject and wanted a temporary respite from hammering away at a computer all day, writing articles and presentations for construction and chemical companies. This is certainly a change from that! At the same time, it makes no sense to take on a new challenge and not want to do well, whatever it is. So it's back to the revision in between responding to clients' emails and keeping the business ticking over....



And here's where you can help. I've got five questions I'm supposed to know the answers to. If you can let me know what you think the answers are, that'll help me towards getting through those exam papers! Email your suggestions to me at [kirsten@kdpr.co.uk](mailto:kirsten@kdpr.co.uk), and whoever gets them all correct will receive a packet of wildflower seeds to help Shutford's wildlife flourish. **Deadline: 14 February 2015.** Kirsten's "help her pass the first RHS exam" quiz:

1. What is the Latin name for this plant?



2. What disease are these plants suffering from, and what is the name of the organism that caused it?



3. What is a *Cucurbita pepo*, and what is unusual about how its seeds should be sown?

4. What is this tomato suffering from, and which mineral is it likely to be deficient in?



5. Can you tell me the difference between an orthodox seed and a recalcitrant seed, and give me one example – in Latin – of each?

*Good luck – and good gardening!*

# THE GEORGE + DRAGON

Book now for Valentine's Day - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February

*£30 per person*



## Amuse-bouche

Lobster & crayfish cocktail

## Starters

Slow cooked pork belly, truffled white beans

Beetroot fritters with halloumi

Pan-fried pigeon breast, wild mushroom risotto

Crab pâté, toasted brioche

## Mains

Slow cooked duck leg, potato gratin, roasted citrus carrots

18oz côte de boeuf, red wine shallots, balsamic vine tomatoes,  
hand cut chips, peppercorn & béarnaise sauce (*for 2 to share*)

Whole baked sea bass en papillote, salsa romesco, new potatoes

Sun-dried tomato, mozzarella & basil puff pastry tart



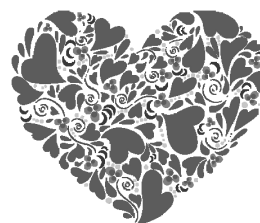
## Desserts

Chocolate fondant, vanilla ice-cream

Peach pain perdu, Chantilly cream

Orange & Grand Marnier pancakes

Cheese & biscuits





**EASTER EGG COMPETITION  
ON  
EASTER MONDAY, 6 APRIL  
IN  
THE VILLAGE HALL  
AT 2.45pm**

There will be two categories:

**Best Decorated Egg**

**Best Concept Egg**

Prizes will be awarded to the Winners in the following age groups:-

**Under 7 years**

**7 - 10 years**

**11 - 15 years**

**Adults 16 and Over**

Weather permitting we will then go up to the Beacon for the

**EASTER EGG ROLL**

There will be a prize in each age group for the person first to roll their egg to the bottom of the hill.

**The Judges' decision is final.**

# THE GEORGE + DRAGON

Bread & olives £3

## Starters

Curried lentil, parsnip & apple soup £5

King prawn crevettes, garlic butter £7

Duck & parsley terrine, balsamic plum chutney £6

Beetroot fritters with halloumi £6

For 2 to share - Charcuterie board - *cured meats, Iberico cheese, artichoke hearts, peppers & bread* £12

## Mains

Hook Norton venison loin, parsnip puree, red cabbage, sautéed potatoes £19

Whole Welsh sea bass baked with lemon & rosemary, crushed new potatoes, roasted fennel £15

Celeriac & potato gratin, honey & ginger roast roots £10

8oz rib-eye steak, hand cut chips, roasted tomato and garlic mushrooms £18

Toad in the hole, bubble & squeak, onion gravy £11

Chicken cacciatore with gremolata £13

*(Chicken supreme served with a Tuscan style tomato, garlic, olive, mushroom, herb and bacon stew with chopped parsley, caper & lemon zest tapenade)*

The George Burger, smoked Applewood Cheddar cheese, coleslaw, relish, hand cut chips £11

## Desserts

Warm poached pear, honey & cinnamon glaze, vanilla ice-cream £6

Chocolate tart, mint ice-cream £6

Orange & Grand Marnier pancakes £6

Selection of ice-creams £3

Selection of British & French cheeses £7

*Dessert wine – Vistamar Moscatel, Chile - £2 (50ml)      Port – Taylor's First Estate Reserve - £3 (50ml)*

Tuesday - Fish & Chips only £6      Thursday - Steak Night - 8oz rib-eye £14 / rump £11

*Our food is prepared from scratch so please be aware that all main courses can take up to 30 minutes to prepare. Our food may contain traces of ingredients known to trigger allergies. Please speak to a member of staff if you have a known allergy.*

# easyfundraising .org.uk

If you are interested in helping to raise money for the Shutford Village Hall Rebuild Project we have found a great way to raise money for **free**, simply by shopping online through a website called easyfundraising([www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)).

Whenever you buy **anything** online (e.g. Christmas presents, groceries, clothes, books, train tickets, book hotel rooms, insurance for your home or car etc.) you can raise a free donation for Shutford Village Hall Rebuild Project . There are over 2,700 retailers registered with the site, including Amazon, John Lewis, eBay, Sainsburys and Tesco who will donate a percentage of what you spend to Shutford Village Hall Rebuild Project to say thank you for shopping with them.

Even a wide variety of Charity shops will donate to Shutford Village Hall Rebuild Project, so you would be supporting two charities at once.

Here's how it works:

1. Sign up – go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/shutfordvh> and click on the button to sign up.
2. Shop – from the easyfundraising website, search for the retailer you'd like to shop with and click through to the retailer to make your purchase. This tells the retailer you came from easyfundraising. The price is exactly the same as if you'd visited the retailer directly and you will be on the retailers site.
3. Get a donation – after you've made your purchase, the retailer will give a cash reward that easyfundraising turn into a donation for Shutford Village Hall Rebuild Project.

Donations vary. Some retailers will give 1.5% others up to 7%

Whereas utility companies give a donation of anything up to £21.

Even your online grocery delivery would create a donation of up to 50p each time.

If villagers, their family and friends use Easyfundraising with Shutford Village Hall Rebuild Project as their cause, donations will soon add up.

No cost, no catch!

Please be assured that using the easyfundraising website will not cost you a penny. There are no catches or hidden charges and Shutford Village Hall Rebuild Project benefit from any donations you make once registered.

Thank you for your support.

Shutford Village Hall Rebuild Project

**NOTES FROM THE  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**Present:** Cllrs. Hancock, Parsons, Duffield and Gibbs .  
Cllr. Reynolds (OCC & CDC)

Cllr. Parsons was elected as Chair in the absence of a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Two people had applied to be co-opted on to the council and Ashley Taylor was co-opted and also re elected as Chairman.

At this point there was an adjournment for the Village Hall Committee etc. to explain their request for the Council to apply for a Public Works Loan to enable the village hall to be rebuilt. If this took place it would mean an increase on each household's Council Tax. After much discussion it was agreed that the Council would agree in principle, with the proviso that more information is required and the residents of the village will have to be given a chance to decide if that is the way forward. The form of consultation will be looked into.

**Highways:** Certain potholes have been ringed for repair, the renewal of white lines will not take place this year for financial reasons and OCC will cut the grass verges twice and sight lines three times per year.

**Red Telephone Box:** This will be placed at Jame Corner near the hedge which is Parish Land. This will take place later in the year.

**Speed Checks:** The police have been approached and there are four people on the list as volunteers.

**War Memorial:** A quote has been accepted for the cleaning of the memorial, and a Grant of £500 has been received, leaving a small sum for the Parish Council to pay.

**Dairyground:** The back of the bench has broken and so it was agreed to purchase a new bench.

**Finance:** The Annual Precept was discussed. The Clerks' salary will increase to £800.00. The following donations were agreed:

Village Hall	£150
Shutford News	£75
RBL Wreath	£30

Subscriptions will be made to ORCC, OALC & OPFA.

It was agreed to keep the Precept at £6000 for the 2015/16.year.

**Correspondence:** The faster Broadband is progressing but there is no date as yet.

**Next meeting will be held on  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm**

**SHUTFORD'S PARISH COUNCILLORS AND PARISH CLERK**

<b>Barbara Reynolds (Clerk)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>780479</b>
<b>Ashley Taylor(Chair )</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>788788</b>
<b>Malcolm Goldie</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>788538</b>
<b>Athene Duffield</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>788332</b>
<b>Rose Hancock</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>780622</b>
<b>Lynne Parsons</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>780649</b>
<b>John Yeomans</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>780564</b>
<b>Helen Gibbs</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>07500937390</b>

## The Feather Forecast for Shutford:

There are 4 species of Bunting seen in the UK: **Cirl, Reed, Corn & Yellow Hammer.**



The **Yellow Hammer** male is unmistakable with a bright yellow head and under parts, brown back streaked with black, and chestnut rump. Often seen perched on top of a hedge or bush, singing. Found all year round across the UK but are least abundant in the north and west, and absent from some upland areas. Look in open countryside with bushes and hedgerows. They feed on insects & seeds

The **Corn Bunting** is a nondescript lowland farmland bird & is the largest of the buntings. It is a stout, dumpy brown bird which flies off with a fluttering flight with its legs characteristically 'dangling'. Often seen perched prominently on a hedge, post or wire, singing its jangling song. It is seen all year round & feeds on insects & seeds.



The **Reed Bunting** is a sparrow-sized bird but slim and with a long, deeply notched tail, the male has a black head, white collar and a drooping moustache. Predominantly a farmland and wetland bird. Typically found in wet vegetation but has recently spread into farmland and, in winter, into gardens. They are seen all year round & feed on insects & seeds.



### Things of interest locally:

The usual winter visitors are now all here, Redwings, Fieldfares, Pipits etc. Now's the time to put up bird boxes ready for next spring & put the feeders out. To attract different birds try putting out the food they prefer:

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Nuts....          | Tits, Great spotted woodpecker, nuthatch         |
| 2. Sunflower         | Tits, Goldfinches, Chaffinch, Greenfinch         |
| 3. Nyjer ...         | Goldfinches, Tree sparrow, House sparrow         |
| 4. Suet balls...     | Great spotted woodpecker, Robin, Blackbird, Tits |
| 5. Dried mealworms.. | Robins, Blackbirds                               |
| 6. Suet cakes..      | Tits, Robins, Woodpeckers                        |



### Collective Nouns for birds:

1. A fleet of Mudhens
2. A flight of Goshawks
3. A cloud of seafowl

### Did you know?

- Flamingo's have knee joints that can bend backwards
- Some Buzzards can see small rodents from a height of 15,000 ft.
- The Hawk Buteo has 1 million photoreceptors per square millimetre in its retina.
- The Penguin has a flat cornea that allows for clear vision underwater. Penguins can also see into the ultraviolet range of the electromagnetic spectrum.
- Pigeons can detect sounds as low as 0.1 Hz.

The Shutford Feather Forecast is brought to you by 'Jack Dors'



### **Royal British Legion**

#### **Poppy Appeal – Balscote and Shutford sub-Branch**

The total collected in the two-week period was £2,372.11 an increase of £42.79 over last year which is a good result as two villages were not covered, one where the collector was not available this year and the other, North Newington where the collector had left the area. We advertised for replacements but no-one volunteered. The grand total raised so far since 1 October 2014 is £2511.57. The total for the Branch as a whole is £13,955.25 beating last year's final total and we still have 10 months still to go.

Home Collection Units are not doing as well as in previous years, so if you or you know of anyone who would like one to rid you of your unwanted small change, please give me a call and one will be yours for the asking.

So well done everybody and thanks again for your efforts, they are very much appreciated. I would also like to say a big thanks to Mrs. Dot Harvey for co-ordinating the sub-branch collection and also the general public for their generosity. As in my opening paragraph we need a new collector for North Newington any volunteers please contact John Mills on 265629.

(John Mills)  
Poppy Appeal Organiser

### **Membership**

As at 30 September 2014 the membership of Balscote and Shutford sub-Branch was now down to 15 members. New rules being issued shortly by Headquarters is that branches with 8 or less members are going to be closed down. At the rate the sub-Branch is losing members, mostly due to age, it will only be a few years before Balscote and Shutford sub-Branch will be closed down and the Branch standard will then have to be laid up.

I want Balscote and Shutford sub-Branch to continue but we need someone in the sub-Branch area to come forward to generate some interest and encourage more people to join.

Dot Harvey has been dealing with the Poppy Appeal and doing an excellent job but she needs help. If you could spare a few hours a month please contact me.

(John Mills). Chairman. Tel: 265629

## **Bloxham Country Market (Fridays)\***



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### **Banbury Market:**

- Every Thursday & Saturday 9.00 am - 4.30 pm
- [www.banburymarket.co.uk/](http://www.banburymarket.co.uk/)

### **Adderbury Market:**

- Every second Thursday of the month 6.00 pm - 8.30 pm
- The Institute, Adderbury

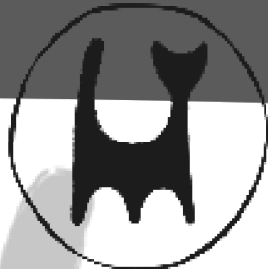
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**Contact Editor: [rita@rlmarketing.co.uk](mailto:rita@rlmarketing.co.uk)**



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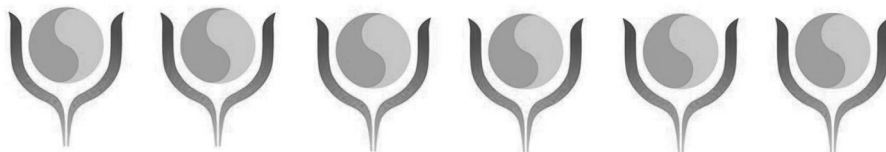


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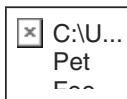
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## Diary

<b>February</b>		
Tuesday	3	WI – Ray Allen – Vital Clue, Village Hall 10am.
Tuesday	3	SCA Meeting, The G & D, 7.30pm
Friday	6	CDC collection Blue/Brown bins fortnightly
Wednesday	11	Mobile Library – West Street, fortnightly 9.30-9.50am
Friday	13	CDC Normal Waste Collection fortnightly
Monday	23	Book Club The G & D – 7.30pm
<b>March</b>		
Tuesday	3	WI – Annual General Meeting, Village Hall 10am.
Tuesday	3	Shutford News Planning Meeting, 3, Church Lane- 7.30pm.
Wednesday	11	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall – 7.30pm.
Saturday	14	<b>Deadline for Shutford News</b>
Monday	30	Book Club The G & D – 7.30pm
<b>April</b>		
Easter Monday	6	Easter Egg Competition, Village Hall, 2.45pm
Tuesday	7	WI – Wendy Norman, Oxfordshire Markets, Village Hall, 10am.

**The 'Shutford News' Team**  
**Editor:** Rita Livesey: 780510  
**Editorial Team:** Margaret Holloway & Joan Wright  
**Advertising & Accounts:** Rita Livesey: 780510  
**Distribution:** David & Margaret  
**Printing:** R Print, Warwick

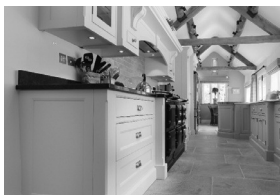
The next Shutford News Planning Meeting will be:  
 Tuesday, 3 March 2015, 7:30 pm at **3, Church Lane, Shutford.**  
**DEADLINE FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE:** Saturday, 14 March 2015.  
 Email: rita@rlmarketing.co.uk



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