

Shutford Parish Council Election Candidates

On **Thursday 3 May** there will be an opportunity to vote for the Parish Council that you would like to represent our village. Voting takes place at The George & Dragon from 7am-10:00pm. There are nine candidates standing: **Sandy Forrester, Athene Duffield, Rose Hancock, Helen Nixseaman, Lynne Parsons, Debbie Pitt, Carolyn Rann, George Reynolds & Ashley Taylor.**

Below are several candidates who are standing with information about them. Please note all nominated candidates were invited to forward information for this leaflet. **Remember you have seven votes. You can vote for as many or as few as you wish but no more than seven, so make them count!**

Sandra Forrester, known as Sandy

I have lived in Shutford for 20 years with my husband, Nigel, and our twin sons, Lewis and Ross, who now spend more time away at different Universities. You may not know me to speak to but will have probably seen me painting faces at the Fete or taking part in many Decorated Egg competitions.

It is great to see growing number of community gatherings that the new Village Hall now seems to have fostered within and out of the building. I love attending the lunches, when not at work, and being creative – at the hall, pub or Fete.

I continue to work as an Early Years Speech and Language Therapist in the North Oxfordshire. I was a Governor of Bishop Carpenter School after my children had left and until the school joined the Warriner Academy. Now I offer my time to the community as part of the Parish Council.



Helen Nixseaman

I have lived in Shutford (right next to the Village Hall) for 6 years and have really enjoyed making new friends and experiencing the energy and enthusiasm of the community. The new Village Hall is a fantastic asset and I would love to play an active role on a Parish Council that continues to work with the community on similar projects, for the benefit of all of us, young and old.

Helen Nixseaman continued... I was previously a partner at PwC, the accountancy and business services firm, initially in London and then Birmingham. I retired in 2016. I continue to serve on the boards of Coventry University, Young Enterprise and James Allen's Girls' School (JAGS), where I am the deputy chair and also chair of the finance & general purposes committee. These organisations are all charities with the aim of educating and improving the futures of young people – something I feel strongly about. I would bring my business experience to the Parish Council.

As some of you are aware, I have shares in a couple of racehorses, who are trained a few miles away. I enjoy going to see them on the gallops and at the races. I also spend time with family and friends, walking with the Shutford Strollers, socialising at the George & Dragon, and attempting to do pilates and yoga in the Village Hall.



Lynne Parsons

I have lived in Shutford since 1983 and we have brought up our two daughters here who both attended local schools. Either not working or working part-time during this period I was able to involve myself in lots of village and local activities.

I was a Shutford Parish Councillor and a Banbury District Councillor as well as a governor at the local primary and secondary schools. In Shutford I was a member of the then Shutford News editorial team

and helped to organize various village activities; Valentine's Day dances, May Day celebrations, carol singing round the village etc.

Yes even in the 1980s and 90s Shutford had a great social scene! As the children got older I resumed my career as a teacher and school counsellor moving on to being a "dreaded" Ofsted inspector and ending my career as a senior civil servant in the Department of Education.

I am passionately committed to the notion of community and society and firmly believe that, if we can, we should contribute to both our local community and wider society. I am proud to be a parish councillor and, over the last year, chair where I have tried my best to respond to all the concerns raised by residents. I enjoy taking part in other village activities and belong to other Shutford groups. I also volunteer one day a week for the Citizens Advice Bureau and actively support the Marie Curie charity. As you can see from the accompanying photograph I like travelling in Europe (in this instance Bologna) and just love to have fun!

Debbie Pitt

I have lived Shutford (Cooks Hill), for 10 years and have recently retired after 25 years working in the charity sector. I strongly believe in making our village a thriving community, so I helped with the village hall project, started the Thursday lunches and Sunday breakfasts in which everyone is welcome and meet other villagers.



A Parish Councillor should be involved in village life to be able to contribute to the decisions that a Parish Council can make on behalf of the villagers. Since I was opted onto the Parish Council 6 months ago I feel I have already made a small difference to what is needed in the village.



Carolyn Rann

I moved to Shutford in 2013 and absolutely love living in our village, where I may be spotted walking, very slowly, with our much loved, and ageing, Cairn Terrier.

My husband, a hotelier, and I met at Oxford Brooke's and we have three grown up children. Due to my husband's work we have travelled widely and lived in ten different countries. I gained a degree in Hospitality Management and

I have worked for the BBC, in elderly care, as a personal assistant, teaching and in the floral business, and I have also volunteered, primarily in fundraising, with several charities.

To have finally settled in such a fabulous part of the world and with such a vibrant community is a blessing. I would relish the opportunity to be a councillor, representing the Shutford villagers, and to make a positive difference in our community.

I admit to being a plantaholic and loving gardening, and my other interests are reading, pottery, crafts, cookery, music and wildlife and I am very passionate about environmental issues.

Ashley Taylor

My wife and I, along with our daughter, have made our home in the village since 2006. Shutford is a highly desirable village and I would like to play my part in keeping it that way. I feel that being a member of the Parish Council is one way to achieve this.

I have several years of experience of being part of the Parish Council, both as a Councillor and more recently as Chairman. I have been part of the successful resolution of the ROMP in 2011 and the regeneration of the Village Hall more recently in 2017. I have a good knowledge of the operation and structure of the Parish Council and it's remit both within the Village and the wider District and County Councils.



I believe that for the success of the village the Parish Council should have members from a wide range of backgrounds and ages to enable successful representation of all aspects of, and voices from the village community. In turn this ensures that all needs and wants can be heard and represented fully. I believe in the beauty of traditional village life, but believe that it must also move with the times to provide as relevant a community today as it did yesterday but more importantly, for the future – for our children and theirs.

I feel that I am easily approached and so as a Parish Councillor would be able to liaise well between the Parishioners and the Parish Council.

Through my work as an Engineer, I am objective rather than subjective, weighing up the pros and cons of a debate and then able make a considered and reasoned decision.

I am a hard working and conscientious person who does not shy or shirk away from a task without seeing it through to fruition. I will be willing to give my time to the role to ensure that I play a full and active part to the best of my ability.

From the above reasons I believe that I will make a good and proactive Parish Councillor and be able to represent the community beneficially in all respects.

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