



SHUTFORD

Issue 248 March/April 2023

news



www.shutfordvillage.com



February nature photos

Joan Wright took this photo of a hedgehog in her garden when it was milder. Although they usually hibernate in winter, they do periodically emerge to stretch their legs!

Tom Parrish took this atmospheric photo of deer at dawn.

Please send your photos to shutfordvillagenews@gmail.com



Dear villagers...

After all the wintery weather, I'm keeping my fingers crossed that March will go out like a lamb! At least all the spring flowers are out now, and have survived the snow, roll on spring... Talking about the weather, we have an interesting article about rainbow snow - see page 13....

Our fabulous cover photo was taken by Tim Edmonds, and opposite are two great pictures of a hedgehog exploring a garden and deer on the Shutford walk - please do keep sending your photos in. How about some spring-themed pictures? Any lambs, calves or foals would be lovely, or do you have a fabulous spring bulb display in your garden? Does anyone have any nature articles to contribute - remember the Shutford News relies on your stories - just send them to the email below.

We have some great events happening in Shutford in the next few months - the King's Coronation Picnic, the Shutford Festival - but we also have our regulars on the village agenda, which might not garner much attention but keep our village thriving. The Sunday breakfasts, the Film Club, the annual litter pick, all the unsung committee work by the Parish Council, the Village Hall Committee and the local church, not to mention the Shutford News! All these are run for free by volunteers, and we need more people to keep these going. If anyone can commit to some time, it really helps, otherwise unfortunately they will stop in the long run. Please take a look at page 5 for current village vacancies and ways you can help and join in.

Remember to keep up with all the village news - simply sign up to our newsletter by visiting **www.shutfordvillage.com** and completing the on-line sign-up form. If you have any stories, just email me at **shutfordvillagenews@gmail.com**.

Angela

Angela Bliss, Editor

Email: shutfordvillagenews@gmail.com

Cover photo by Tim Edmonds



VILLAGE NOTICE BOARD

Please check the website for updates on village activities restarting or sign up to the village newsletter by visiting www.shutfordvillage.com



Sophie and Chris Morris welcomed the safe arrival of their baby daughter.

Evie May Morris was born on the 20th February weighing 7 lb 2 oz.

Shutford Village Hall 100+ Club Results

FEBRUARY RESULTS:

First Prize	£35.00	Zachary Cringle
Second Prize	£15.00	Rob Mahoney
Third Prize	£10.00	Rose Hancock

MARCH RESULTS:

First Prize	£55.00	Lorraine Wakelin
Second Prize	£15.00	Sue Lock
Third Prize	£10.00	Trevor May

The next Prize Draw will take place on 6th April

Local markets

- Banbury - every Thursday & Saturday
- Banbury Farmers Market - 1st Friday of the month
 - Chipping Norton - every Wednesday
- Deddington Farmers - 4th Saturday of the month

SHUTFORD FESTIVAL - HELP NEEDED!

I did not inform the committee that I would help in the set up and take down of the festival. I just thought I would go and help on the day. Others have told me the same.

BUT if the committee does not get PROMISES of help there will be no 'SHUTFORD FESTIVAL 23'

So if you want to help please make your intentions known to one of the people below. ASAP.

- hellennixseaman@gmail.com
- andrewmcewan78@gmail.com
- clare.mcewan@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you, we need all the help we can (and it's a bit of a giggle)

SUPPORT SHUT-FEST 23!



Bill Boucker



VACANCY for Shutford News Editor

You don't need any special skills, just use a computer. It's about a day's work every 2 months. Email me at shutfordvillagenews@gmail.com for information.



VACANCY for Village Hall Committee Secretary

Please contact Roger or Geraldine Bancroft on 01295 780579 or email shutfordVHC@gmail.com for more details

A letter to the editor:

"I lived in Shutford from 1987 to 1994 at Plush Mill House. I worked as a civilian at RAF Croughton. My wife, a USAF member, worked at RAF Upper Heyford until its closure. We had a teenaged son.

I have nothing but very fond memories of Shutford and the fantastic people whom I met, befriended and lived amongst.

One, in particular, was when Shutford was pretty much cut off with no power during a bad winter storm that lasted several days. Myself and Tom, another USAF mate, brought our large BBQ grills to the front of The George and kept them going for people to use.

A news helicopter landed and the reporters came into the pub. Before I knew it, I was being interviewed. They asked if I had anything to say to the Electricity Board. I replied, "Help those people who really need it. We've got it under control."

It looks like you have an even more thriving village now and I wish you all the very best in the future.

May G-D bless you all!"

Most sincerely,

David Murillo, Texas 'Dollar Dave'

Shutford - a Village of Dog Lovers

The Parish Council is very grateful to all the dog owners in the village for their vigilant use of the dog litter bins. However occasionally there is still some dog mess left around and even bags of dog mess. So, a polite reminder to everyone to ensure that they clear up after their dog when out walking. NB there are plenty of dog bags at various locations should you forget yours.

Please also stop your dog from using areas immediately outside villager's houses as a toilet.

The Parish Council also asks that dog walkers keep their dog on a lead as and where appropriate particularly now during the lambing season.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind residents that dogs are not allowed on Dairyground. Thank you.

SHUTFORD VILLAGE LITTER PICK

From 11am Sunday 2nd April



Let's do what we can to keep Shutford beautiful, green, and safe for all of us, including animals and wildlife.

VILLAGE LITTER PICK - FROM 11AM SUNDAY 2 APRIL

Please help us to pick up litter in and around the village. Meet at the bus shelter at 11am on Sunday 2 April for our annual village Litter Pick. Bin bags and gloves will be provided. There will be some high-viz jackets and grabbers, but if you have some of your own, please bring them along.

LOCAL CLUBS

Arty Crafty Group - meets every other Wednesday evening at 7pm

Table Tennis - Juniors and adults - meets every Tuesday from 6pm

Yoga - every Monday at 9am

Pilates - every Thursday from 6.30pm

Film Club - last Friday of the month at 7.30pm

WI - Once a month on Tuesdays at 10am

DESIGN AND MAKE YOUR OWN CORONATION CROWN

St Edward's Crown traditionally used to crown the British monarch since 1661

Now it's your turn!



Design and make a Coronation Crown to celebrate King Charles III's coronation and wear it to the [Shutford Village Picnic to celebrate the King's Coronation on Sunday 7 May 2023 from 1.00 pm on Dairyground.](#)

If you design, make, and wear you're bound to be a winner and winners get prizes!

Age categories:

under 8 years

8 - 14 years

14 years and above includes adults!

Get Your Imagination Going and Let Rip!

SHUTFORD VILLAGE PICNIC to celebrate the King's Coronation



Sunday 7th May 2023 from 1pm on the Dairyground*

- **Bring your own food, drinks, chairs etc.**
- **Free Coronation Souvenir for children**
- **Children's Entertainer from 2.30pm**



***Will move to the Village Hall if poor weather!**



**Films for Friday 28 April and
Friday 26 May 2023**

7.30pm in the Village Hall



*Please contact Chris Bull (cmb1963@hotmail.co.uk)
if you would like to join.*

SHUTFORD
Festival '23

Saturday 8th July

FREE AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES FROM 1PM, INCLUDE:

- Teas & cake (including cake competition)
 - Bar & refreshments
- Books, toys, honey, tombola, water & wine
 - Children's games, tug of war
 - Dance display
 - Art display
 - Dog Show

Evening - Live Bands from 6.30pm. £7 entry

All proceeds to Shutford Church & Katherine House



News from Thistle Hill...

As I write it's St Patrick's Day today, the end of Cheltenham Races and we are under starter's orders for another season at Thistle Hill.

Last year's weather was amazing, very dry for most of the year, with that incredible heat during the summer. There were winners and losers - great onions, a good crop of early taters, but the maincrop suffered in yield, and apples and pears were the best we've ever had. Anything that grew during that hot summer period, beans for instance, just stopped and then started again as it got cooler. Fingers crossed, that was a one off. So this year the weather will be the biggest factor for success or failure. Rain, shine, cold or hot, it's always too much, too late, but it's a good conversation starter.

After a relatively normal winter, albeit a very dry February, the late cold spell held back everyone from starting to plant. That's no problem, everything will catch up when the ground's right. Sown now, the seeds will just sit in the ground, but they can rot, be eaten

by birds, rabbits, voles and whatever other beasties roam up there at night after we are tucked up in bed.

Our newest member is doing well, catching up on what was an overgrown plot and is now ready for spring planting.

Things to do now

The ground dries quickly and can be worked on to prepare for spring planting. Any odd jobs missed last year, such as pruning raspberry canes, fruit trees, blackcurrants, gooseberries, repairing cages and other odd jobs can be caught up with. Turn out the compost bin and spread out on your plot to conserve moisture.

Onion sets can go in now, broad beans are hardy and can be sown direct, but lots of hardy vegetables such as peas, lettuce, beetroot, onions and brassicas and would be better started in trays under cover. You'll have plenty of time over Easter when hopefully the sun will be out and you're not stuck in a traffic jam on the way to Butlins.

Pests

The onion fly was a big problem a couple of years ago, affecting leeks as well. Hopefully the cold spell has thinned them out but I would cover up if possible with nets or mesh.

Other pests such as rabbits and voles are harder to keep off (you should see the amount of footprints on the plots when the snow was on the ground), but they eat mostly carrots and beetroot so just plant more than you need!

Dog muck

There's a lot of it about, please pick up around the allotment especially, it's not nice on your rhubarb, we prefer custard.

Rats

A huge rat was found on the path next to the allotment, and rats are a problem generally. Please be careful where your dogs roam as there is a possibility of rat poison being present.

Here's to another bountiful season!

Keep on digging...

The Shutford Book Review

LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY BY BONNIE GARMUS

This is the story of Elizabeth Zott, a chemist living in 1950/60's America, struggling to assert herself as a scientist in a world dominated by chauvinistic men and female stereotyping.

After the love of her life, fellow scientist Calvin Evans, dies in a freak accident, she finds herself alone as a single parent, without a job and no prospects of getting one.

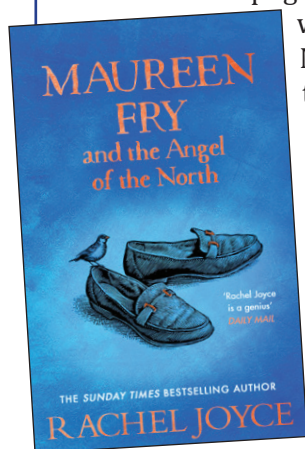
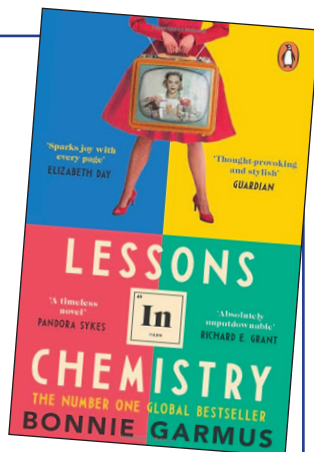
However, a lifeline is thrown and she becomes the reluctant star of an afternoon TV cooking show called Supper at Six. Except Elizabeth's approach to cooking is not conventional and, whilst eyebrows are raised by the producers of the show, the audience love her lessons on the science of food. She explores how chemistry is all about change and ultimately how woman can change themselves.

Most of the group enjoyed the book, finding both comic and tragic elements in it. We agreed that Elizabeth was an exceptional woman, smart and intelligent but she was socially naive. We scored the book at 3.5/5

MAUREEN FRY AND THE ANGEL OF THE NORTH BY RACHEL JOYCE

This is the story of Maureen Fry whose husband Harold walked to the north-east on a pilgrimage to say farewell to his friend Queenie who was dying of cancer. That was ten years ago, and Maureen, who was much affected by his journey felt that she had to do the journey herself - by car!

But Maureen is not like her husband. She struggles to bond with strangers, and the landscape has much changed. She writes colourfully of the journey and found her attitude to life influenced by the people she met and by their warmth and kindness. She becomes transformed into a much happier and contented woman. Book Club Score 4 out of 5.



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

SHUTFORD WI

At our February meeting we had a very engaging talk from the Revd Neil Bowler, our Rector, entitled "Arrivals & Departures: the story of a coalminer's son" which started in a mining community in Yorkshire and ended in the Wykeham Benefice which includes Shutford.

March was our AGM where we reviewed the events and finances of the last year and appointed the committee for the coming twelve months. We also started preparations for the Group meeting in April when we will host a gathering of members from Hornton, Cropredy and Bloxham WIs with a speaker and afternoon tea.

Visitors will be made very welcome at any of our forthcoming meetings, held in Shutford Village Hall on the following Tuesdays at 10am, when our future speakers will be:

- April 4th: Susan Drage - Recycling but not what you think
- May 2nd: Sandy Forrester - Craft Demonstration
- June 6th: Analiza Jones - Shells from the Philippines

*For further information on our WI,
please contact Geraldine on 780579
or Jenny on 780570*





Freak Snow in Shutford

During the snow fall on the 9/10th of March coloured snow fell in a limited area around the George and Dragon, Shutford.

This has happened rarely anywhere in the world.

Experts believe that certain snow seeding clouds form very high up in the exosphere as the flake forms and starts to fall through the thermosphere this starts a rapid acceleration in mass pushing through the stratosphere at hundreds of miles per hour. They then hit Nimbostratus clouds that are made from the deepening and thickening of an altostratus cloud in the high layers of the mesosphere. Slowing and taking on a harmless chemical compound that absorbs colour, 'looflirp-A'. This makes the flakes White. They are now large enough and slow enough to pass through the troposphere.

This is the un-proven theory part.

Scientists reckon that as the snow falls it probably passes through a rainbow. A rainbow is a meteorological and optical phenomenon that is caused by reflection, refraction and dispersion of light in water droplets resulting in a spectrum of light. Light as you know is made up of a wave and, a partial. In a rainbow the partials take on a specific colour that is passed onto the Looflirp-A infused flakes. As each flake goes through a different colour it lands on the ground in that order giving the snow on the ground graduated rainbow colours.

RED, ORANGE, YELLOW, GREEN, BLUE, INDIGO & VIOLET

There is an easy way to remember the colours in a little rhyme called a mnemonic: "Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain"

I hope this clears up any confusion in your Village.

Professor Lib Rekcuob (NIT. WIT.)

VILLAGE DIARY

APRIL

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					1 Painting 9.30	2
3 Yoga 9.00	4 WI 10.00 Table Tennis 7.30	5 Arty Crafty Club 7.00	6 100 Club draw Pilates 6.30 & 7.45	7 Brown & blue bin	8	9
10 Yoga 9.00 Bank hol so might change	11 Table Tennis 7.30	12 Arty Crafty Club 7.00	13 Pilates 6.30 & 7.45	14 Green bin	15	16
17 Yoga 9.00	18 Table Tennis 6.00 & 7.30	19 Arty Crafty Group 7.00	20 Pilates 6.30 & 7.45	21 Brown & blue bin Film Club 7.30	22	23
24 Yoga 9.00 Book Club 7.30	25 Table Tennis 6.00 & 7.30	26 Arty Crafty Club 7.00	27 Pilates 6.30 & 7.45	28 Green bin	29	30 Breakfast 9.30

MAY

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2 WI 10.00 Table Tennis 6.00 & 7.30	3 Arty Crafty Club 7.00	4 Local Election	5 Brown & blue bin	6 Painting 9.30	7
8 Yoga 9.00 Bank hol so might change	9 Table Tennis 6.00 & 7.30	10 Parish Council 7.30	11 Pilates 6.30 & 7.45	12 Green bin	13	14
15 Yoga 9.00	16 Table Tennis 6.00 & 7.30	17 Arty Crafty Club 7.00	18 Pilates 6.30 & 7.45	19 Brown & blue bin	20	21
22 Yoga 9.00	23 Table Tennis 6.00 & 7.30	24 Arty Crafty Club 7.00	25 Pilates 6.30 & 7.45	26 Green bin Film Club 7.30	27	28 Breakfast 9.30
29 Yoga 9.00 Book Club 7.30 Bank hol so might change	30 Table Tennis 7.30	31 Arty Crafty Club 7.00	Pilates 6.30 & 7.45			

COMING UP AT KATHARINE HOUSE

Our calendar for the coming months is already packed! As well as our much-loved Moonlight Walk and challenge events, we're looking forward to our Open Gardens returning and the launch of Rose to Remember. It's thanks to your ongoing support that we can continue to care for local people and families when they need us the most.

CAN YOU WALK THE WALK?

Join us for this year's Moonlight Walk on Saturday 20 May and get ready to MOVIE! Choose from a six-mile or ten-mile walk and help us put the FUN into fundraising. From Darth Vader to Disney princesses, Mary Poppins to Marvel characters – the costume options are endless! So gather your crew, dress to impress and take part in our annual fundraising walk through Banbury to help raise vital funds for our hospice.

www.khh.org.uk/moonlight

ROSE TO REMEMBER

Remember a loved one at our special Rose to Remember event this June. Purchase your hand-crafted metal rose, designed especially for Katharine House Hospice, and dedicate it to the life and memory of someone special. The roses will form part of a stunning temporary installation at Sulgrave Manor for two weeks in June. We have a limited number of roses available, so visit our website for more information and to order yours today.

www.khh.org.uk/rose-remember

CALLING ALL BUDDING GARDENERS

Can you help our hospice and take part in our Open Garden scheme this year? Whether you've taken part for us many times before or are just interested in finding out what it involves, then we'd love to hear from you! We are always so grateful to the green-fingered supporters who have made Open Gardens for Katharine House such a success over the years – and we hope it continues to grow. www.khh.org.uk/gardens

Sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter and keep in touch with all our latest news and events at the hospice.
www.khh.org.uk/newsletter

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, SHUTFORD Illuminate & Celebrate

Thank you to everyone who continues to support this initiative. If you wish to arrange a light up please contact Ken Jeffs at KJJ@kennyjohn.co.uk: small donations for church funds are welcome.

Below is a list of recent occasions remembered:



Date	Name	Occasion
4th February	Mervyn & Val	Oscar's Birthday
10th February		Scarlett's Birthday
18th February		Mervyn's Birthday
28th February		Oliver's Birthday
3rd March	Clare McEwan	In memory of mother, Anne
16th March	Debbie Pitt	Fin's Birthday
17th March	Anon	St Patrick's Day
19th March	Anon	Mothering Sunday & Anniversary
24th March	Margaret Holloway	in loving memory of my dear friend Pamela Brunner. Now at peace
26th March	Anon	Anniversary
29th March	Margaret Holloway	in loving memory of Karl Brunner on his Birthday
23rd April	Anon	St George's Day
6th May	Anon	King Charles III Coronation Day

The church tower is illuminated each Sunday and on some other days without publicity. If more than one occasion is celebrated on a particular day, the tower is illuminated on the following day(s). Details of sponsorship received after the Shutford News deadline will appear in a later issue.

Church news

Rector - Revd Neil Bowler – 788005

Churchwarden – Ken Jeffs – 788308

Safeguarding – John Bailey - 780478

SERVICES: See Wykeham News or Website



The PCC met on 24th January at which the 2022 Annual Report and Accounts were accepted: these will be presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, to be held, later than planned, on Monday, 15th May at 7.30pm in Shutford Village Hall. New churchwardens, PCC members and a Synod Representative will be elected at the meeting with a time for refreshments afterwards. 2022 was a good year with congregations and income up, boosted by some special services, weddings and christenings. Other items on the meeting agenda included worship and outreach, safeguarding, electrical restoration work and fundraising. There was also mention of the Church of England Synod's decision to allow parish priests to bless same sex relationships: detailed proposals will be shared in due course.

Membership of the church electoral and family rolls will be reviewed in April, and it is important that anyone wishing to be more involved with the church should apply to join. With a relatively small congregation there is a need for some younger and willing villagers to help keep the church part of village life. At present there are no obvious people to replace existing PCC members when they step down from their roles. Membership application forms are held in church or may be obtained from the rector or churchwarden.

John and Julie organised a well-attended Warm Spaces Coffee Morning on 8th February in the village hall: £130 in donations was collected for the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal. Should we have regular coffee mornings?

Lent started on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February. Members of our church are studying a booklet entitled Dust and Glory: a Lent journey of faith, failure and forgiveness. Others are taking part in Lent Study Groups at Sibford Rectory and receiving daily emails as part of the church Come and See Initiative. There will be additional special services during Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

The first in the series of charitable Lent Lunches in the Wykeham Benefice was held in Shutford on 27th February. Although attendance was a little lower than seen in recent years, we were able to collect £200 in donations for Katharine House Hospice. As usual there was an excellent choice of homemade soups with bread and cheese and other goodies. Thanks to everyone who made the occasion a social and financial success.

An inspection of the church electrical installations in October highlighted items that need to be fixed including the changing of the high-level lights to make them safer and more energy efficient. The PCC have agreed that the work should be done, and Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust has awarded the church a grant of £3000 towards the cost. The Archdeacon of Dorchester has also confirmed the work may be implemented without a faculty. There are some issues to be resolved but the electrical work should be completed during the spring. The PCC then hope to arrange for plaster work in church to be repaired and then for the walls to be redecorated and the metal window frames repainted. The last time this was done was more than 30 years ago.



The early snowdrops in the churchyard have faded and are being replaced by primroses, celandines and daffodils. A new hawthorn hedge has replaced some brambles on the edge of the churchyard behind the George and Dragon: thanks to some generous residents who have covered the cost.

Mothering Sunday this year, was celebrated with an afternoon tea service in Shutford Village Hall. The service was suitable for all ages and pots of miniature daffodils were given to mothers at the service and others unable to attend. The next church event in the hall, will be a free craft morning to celebrate Easter on Good Friday morning, 7th April 10.00am until noon. Ideal for families with young children, there will be lots to do, a story and refreshments to finish – there may also be some Easter Eggs?

St Martin's Church is open each day, usually from 10.30am to 4.30pm, for private prayer or solace. There is a short Morning Prayer Service on Saturday at 9.00am and services at 9.30am or 11.00am on Sunday: a benefice service is held at one of our village churches on the first Sunday of the month. For information about any church issue or services, contact KJJ@kennyjohn.co.uk or the Rector, nbowler34@yahoo.co.uk or visit Wykeham Benefice website.



Thank you to everyone who cares about St Martin's church and continues to support the church council with their work keeping the church open and available to everyone. People of all faiths or none are always welcome, so please join us for a service or another special occasion in 2023.

For information about any church issues, contact KJJ@kennyjohn.co.uk or the Rector or visit the Wykeham Benefice website. www.wykehambenefice.org.uk

Shutford Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs: Helen Nixseaman (Chair), Ashley Taylor, George Reynolds, Lynne Parsons and David Best, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Four members of the public attended the meeting.

23/010	Apologies for Absence: Cllr Chris Hall, Stephen Barnes, and Paul Huewen
23/011	Declarations of Interest: None
23/012	Minutes of the last meeting: It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2023 were a correct record (unanimous) and signed by the Chairman.
23/013	Matters arising from the minutes: The action list was reviewed.
23/014 23/014/1	Parish Matters: Coronation Celebrations – There will be a bring your own picnic on the Dairyground on Sunday 7th May. Entertainment will be provided by Juggling John which will be funded by the Cherwell District Council grant which has been approved. It is hoped that commemorative coins will be given to children and that there will be a crown competition.
23/014/2	Telephone Box – This will be renovated and converted to a book shelter. Moisture absorption will be used to keep it dry.
23/014/3	Spring Clean – This will take place on Sunday 2nd April from 11am.
23/014/4	Dairyground – The crowns of some of the trees that are near the play equipment have been lifted to reduce the mess from birds. The equipment will be cleaned.
23/014/5	Seat and replacement post at the Tyte Pond – These will be installed as soon as the weather improves.
23/014/6	Rat Infestation – This appears to have got much better with less rat sightings and bait not being taken. Residents are asked to remain vigilant and take care when feeding birds.
23/015 23/015/1	Finance: Accounts – The accounts and bank reconciliation were circulated prior to the meeting.
23/015/2	Bank Balances – The bank balances on 3rd March were £15,237.00.
23/016 23/016/1	Correspondence: Dog mess left around the village – A resident had written complaining of an increase in dog mess being left around the village and bags being left on the ground rather than put into bins. Dog owners are asked to be responsible and clear up after their dogs.
23/017 23/017/1	Planning: 22/02411/F – Re-consultation on retrospective application for shepherd huts at Slatters Barn. It was agreed to reiterate the comments on the original application.
23/017/2	23/00571/F – No objections provided that sympathetic materials are used although there are concerns of noise from the outside kitchen and dining area.

23/018	Any Other Business:
23/018/1	Tree donated by OCC – OCC has planted this at their suggested location on Ivy Lane rather than the location on the Dairyground requested.
23/018/2	Grass cutting – It was agreed that the clerk will contact Mr Lovesey to confirm that he wants to continue with the mowing as he has moved house.
23/018/3	Verge mowing – It was agreed that the clerk would contact Mr Prickett to confirm that he wants to continue mowing the verges and to remind him not to mow the verge in Church Lane until the daffodils have stopped flowering and leave the area of verge at The Rickyard unmown.
23/018/4	Charitable donation requests – The PC decided that it is only appropriate to make donations to charities that work directly in the village.
23/018/5	Speed limit signs in Lower End – OCC Highways has confirmed that these could be moved further out of the village at no cost if the village adopts the 20mph speed limit that is being implemented in a lot of Oxfordshire villages.
23/018/6	Neighbourhood Watch – It was questioned whether this was still in operation in the village, and it was agreed that residents would be asked whether they want the scheme at the Annual Parish Meeting.
23/018/7	Large tree on allotments along Lower End – Cllr George Reynolds will take a look at this as the allotment owner has advised that it is very large and may need attention.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm

The Shutford News & Comms Team

- **Editor:** Angela Bliss
- **Editorial Team:** Margaret Holloway
- **Village Comms:** John Bailey
- **Village Website:** Hilary Pillin
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- **Printing:** youloveprint.co.uk

Contact us by email: shutfordvillagenews@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 12th May 2023.

The next planning meeting will take place on Friday 5th May 2023.

Dates are correct at the time of going to print.

THE EASTER FLOWER

*Far from this foreign Easter damp and chilly
My soul steals to a pear-shaped plot of ground,
Where gleamed the lilac-tinted Easter lily
Soft-scented in the air for yards around;
Alone, without a hint of guardian leaf!
Just like a fragile bell of silver rime,
It burst the tomb for freedom sweet and brief
In the young pregnant year at Eastertime;
And many thought it was a sacred sign,
And some called it the resurrection flower;
And I, a pagan, worshiped at its shrine,
Yielding my heart unto its perfumed power.*

Dear friends,

This beautiful poem by Festus Claudius McKay, better known as Claude McKay, who was a Jamaican-American writer and poet at the beginning of the 20th century, captures I would suggest wonderfully, the physical beauty of Easter. Even though McKay was, as he describes himself in his poem, a 'pagan', he still could see and engage in the beauty of the meaning of Easter, through the fragrance and sight of the Easter flowers.

The beauty of the Lily as a flower, has significant Easter symbolism, because it is a flower that, if you see it painted in a picture depicting a Christian story, often is interpreted as representing symbolically, the hope of eternal life, that comes into the world in and through the resurrection of Jesus.

Flowers can and often do engage our senses, be it our sight, our smell and even our touch, but they can also evoke thoughts, memories and feelings. The seasons of our year are often reflected in the flowers that we see. Flowers are also used by us in our culture today as gifts, in our celebrations, and also in memory of and to remember people who we love but see no more.

Whatever you might or might not believe, the beauty of the Easter Lily as it engages all of our senses, is for us all without discrimination or favour. As a Christian I believe that Easter brings to us all once again, the gift of the beauty of the promise of eternal life, into all of our lives.



Love & prayers

Revd Neil Wykeham Benefice, Tel: 788005



The Pilates Place...EveryBODY welcome!

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Shutford News

SUMMARY OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2022

Income 2022

Advertising	£1,295.00
Donations	£300.00
Calendars	£311.50
Cash from pub donations	£25.32
Total	£1,931.82

Expenses 2022

Printing	£1,212.66
Stationery	£25.04
Stationery cash payment	£4.94
Total	£1,242.64

Bank balance 1/1/22 £788.72

Total £2,720.54

Expenses £1,242.64

Total balance £1,477.90

Accounts examined and from various papers seen, show a true reflection of Shutford News financial activities during 2022.

A.J. Jones

10th February, 2023.

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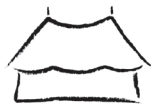
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