

SHUTFORD NEWS

Issue No. 212

March/April 2017



Our new village hall...

www.shutfordvillage.com

HOOK NORTON BREWERY

THERE'S MORE THAN JUST BEER HERE!

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Dear Villagers,

I am sure you will agree our new village hall is looking splendid. Phase 1 is nearly complete, and a huge thank you to Dave Roberts and the team at Genesis Constructing for the amazing work they have done already.



Phase 2 begun on 18 March. Already a working party has been into fix the insulation and floor boards. The next project will be the electrics & heating. **THANK YOU TO ALL** who have already given their time and to those who will in the coming weeks. The result will be an amazing community project brought together by the village for the village.

Shutford 2017 Festival Fever... has already begun, with plans already happening behind the scenes. Details are covered inside this edition. Look out for the competition to win two tickets. If you haven't already like and follow us on www.facebook.com/shutfordfestival

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rita".

Rita Livesey

Editor

Email: rita@rlmarketing.co.uk

Following the sad loss of my son Christopher, my thanks go to everyone in Shutford who have, with their kindness and care, given me strength and fortitude.

Sue Roe-French



Film Club
Fitness Classes
Dance Classes
Arts Classes
Seminars & Workshops
Craft Fairs
Societies & Clubs
Community Meetings
Private Parties
Children's Parties
Weddings & Christenings ...

Activities in the new Shutford Village Hall

We are delighted to already have received interest from several groups who would like to set-up classes in our new village hall. Further details will follow when these classes will take place, the interested classes are:

- **Yoga Classes**
- **Art & Design Classes**
- **Encore Dance Group** (teaching youngsters of all ages, ballet, tap, modern, freestyle dance to IDTA professional standards)
- **Tai Chi Classes**
- **Craft Workshops**
- **Zumba/HIIT** conditioning Classes
- **Shutford Image:** A photographic & image club

In addition, we will be running the following events once the hall opens:

- **October:** Table Top Sale (recycle unloved items for someone to love again)
- **November:** Travel Counsellors evening (with guests from a hotel chain and a tour operator)
- **December:** Wine Event (run by Majestic wines from Banbury)
- **Film Club** for Adults and Children (dates TBC)

If you have anyone who would like to run a class or book an event, please get in touch by emailing: shutfordvhc@gmail.com or enquire via the booking form which is live on the village website:

<http://www.shutfordvillage.com/village-hall-booking-enquiry-form>

Shutford Village Hall Update



Great progress has been made since our last report, and the committee were officially handed the keys to the hall on the 10 March by Dave Roberts from Genesis Contracting! This has allowed the first Phase 2 working party to start work on the floorboards and insulation, which started on 18 March. Thank you to everyone who took part, a great job!

It's expected that the steps, parking bay and ramp to the front will be completed alongside the phase 2 works sometime in May, to coincide with our opening in Summer 2017.

If you haven't already and would like to join the build team please email: shutfordVHC@gmail.com or telephone **01295 780510** with your offer to help and confirm which areas of support you would like to offer and availability of your time.



GENESIS
CONTRACTING

**Building Contractor for Shutford's new
Village Hall**

projects@genesiscontracting-uk.com

01452 526 195

www.genesiscontracting-uk.com

SHUTFORD VILLAGE HALL
100+ CLUB RESULTS

FEBRUARY £35.00 £10.00 £5.00
 Claire Winfield *Lionel Gibbs Rob Mahoney

MARCH £80.00 £10.00 £5.00
 David Homewood Ashley Taylor Julie Hodgkins

***Lionel's family have asked that this prize be donated back to Village Hall Funds.**

The next draw starting the new membership year will be on Easter Monday, 17th April at the Easter Egg Competition.

GOOD LUCK!

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

<u>Income</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>£</u>
April – September		Prizes	365.00
145 members x £5 =	725.00	Expenses	nil
October-March		Prizes	360.00
143members x £5 =	715.00	Expenses	nil
Totals	1440.00		725.00
Less Prizes	<u>725.00</u>		
	<u>715.00</u>	To Village Hall Funds	

This makes a total of £12942.49 raised since the Club started in 1998.

WELL DONE

Thank you to Mail Boxes Etc. for again printing the Membership Cards for next years' Village Hall 100+Club

Notes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22 March 2017
Your Parish Council

Barbara Reynolds (Clerk)	780479
Lynne Parsons (Chair)	780649
Malcolm Goldie	788538
Athene Duffield	788332
Rose Hancock	780622
John Yeomans	780564
Andrew McEwan	788266
Helen Gibbs	07500937390

The council met in the dining area of the George and Dragon. Once again many thanks to Paul for allowing us to meet there. We welcomed one member of the public as well as Cllr. George Reynolds.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 17 May 2017.
The meeting will start at 7.00p.m. with the AGM and continue at 8.00 pm with
the Parish Council meeting, and will be held in The George and Dragon.

HIGHWAYS: The council engineer did not visit. However, several pot holes within the village were repaired, but the PC is aware that the roads in and around the immediate area are still in a poor state of repair. The highways are the responsibility of the County Council, and during this time of local government re-organisation it is difficult to get immediate and long-term support. The PC urges residents to report any concerns they have on the “Fix My Street” web-site. The link is www.fixmystreet.com Cllr. Mc Ewan has agreed to take photos of some of the pot holes and download them onto this site. The clerk will write again to the highways department at OCC.

SPEED CHECK: The Parish Council have now completed this activity and are in the process of analysing the data. A further update should be available at the meeting in May.

DEFIBRILLATOR: This will be attached to the outside of the village hall once the building works are completed. Training will then take place. Letters of thanks will be sent to the British Heart Foundation and the South Oxon Ambulance Trust for their support in this matter.

LITTER PICK: There was a good response to the PC's request for volunteers to litter pick on 18 March. The PC would like to thank everyone who took part in this annual activity to help keep Shutford clean.

PARKING: Once again the PC has received various complaints regarding parking around the village. We are aware that there are no specific parking restrictions in terms of yellow lines etc. However, the normal parking regulations are enforceable relating to corners, for example, the corner of West Street and Malthouse Lane. The police have informed us that they do have the power to give "on the spot fines" for this type of offence. The PC would respectfully ask all residents and those who come to work in the village to ask themselves if they have parked sensibly paying due regard to the safety of others.

DAIRYGROUND: Please remember the sea saw can be used but it should **not** be used by children unless they are supervised by an adult. The PC is in the process of replacing this piece of play equipment.

PLANNING: There have been no applications that are likely to impact on the village as a whole.

VILLAGE HALL: The PC discussed a motion proposed by Cllr. Gibbs and seconded by Cllr. McEwan that the PC give a donation of £2,000 to the Village Hall Committee for the new build. There were three votes in favour, three against and one abstention. The Chair used her casting vote and voted against. The discussion took into account the information provided by the Village Hall Committee, and paid due regard to the appropriate use of public funds.

WYATT ALMSHOUSES, BROUGHTON: These almshouses are situated on the Main Road and Wykham Lane Junction. They are owned by the Wyatt Almshouse Charity. A ground floor single unit will shortly become available. The Trustees invite applications for occupancy in writing to Margaret Allan, Lavercock, Main Street, North Newington OX15 6AE.

Hands off the Horton

If anyone would like to object to the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's vision for the future of the Horton. Please contact Lynne Parsons on 01295 780649 to get a template letter that can be used.



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 Benefice Council met on 18th January and all villages reported on worship, special services, social gatherings and fund raising. The monthly Wykeham News publishes detailed information. Various Lent Group meetings were agreed, as well as the traditional Charitable Lent Lunches. A Youth Group meets weekly in Sibford Church at 5.30pm and is open to all young people in year 9 and above. Messy Church Events started on 18th March and will be held in various villages across the benefice: attendance numbers are dwindling with only 3 children at the first one. For these sessions to continue, we need more support.

The PCC met on 21st February when the financial accounts and annual report were discussed and accepted. A copy of the accounts is held in a folder in church and will be published on the village website after the annual meeting on 28th March. The church has had a good year financially thanks to our loyal congregation and support from fund raising such as the Shutford Festival and Illuminate and Celebrate Initiative. Next year our payment to the Oxford Diocese will reduce to £7689 but even so we need to have a weekly income of £240, excluding any charitable donations and restoration work, to keep the church open.

This year`s Lent charities are Helen Hodgkins Trust (Jars of Change) and British Heart Foundation (Lent Lunch on 10th April).

The check on the church electrics has recently taken place and a report is awaited. The repair to the font has still to be formally agreed by the Oxford Diocesan Chancellor as various advisory bodies had to be consulted. We hope to get authorisation shortly.

There was a small Fairtrade display in church during Fairtrade Fortnight from 27th February with various leaflets and details available all year.

The Bishop of Oxford visited the Deanery on 22nd March and held an open meeting at North Oxfordshire Academy in the evening. He will be at St Mary's Church in Banbury on 23rd July to lead worship at the end of a Deanery Pilgrimage which takes place between 19th and 23rd July.

We are sad that the village has lost three residents in recent weeks: John Gibbs, Michael Aldous and Christopher Roe-French. We offer their families and friends our sincere sympathy.

There will be additional services and events during Holy Week culminating with Holy Communion on Easter Sunday, 16th April at 9.30am. As usual the church will be decorated with spring flowers and hopefully there will be some chocolate eggs for us to share.

Christian Aid week this year is 14th – 20th May. There will be a speaker from the charity at our benefice service in Swalcliffe on 7th May.

We are looking forward to the opening of the village hall so we can hold more social fund raising events: our Beetle Drive planned for 20th May at 4.00pm will be held in church if the village hall is not available.

Please see separate page for details of Illuminate and Celebrate Sponsorship. Other funds have been received to remember personal events and anniversaries.

To keep in touch with church news, services and events visit www.wykehambenefice.org.uk or the church which is open every day. Please join us for worship or visit the church for some private quiet time or to see the wild primroses which are in full bloom at present.

To be on our church emailing list contact KJJ@kennyjohn.co.uk.

Illuminate & Celebrate in 2017!



Don't forget to get your special dates in for 2017!

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 2017. How special it would be for the church tower to be illuminated for this occasion for a donation of only £10. Please get in touch with Ken Jeffs on KJJ@kennyjohn.co.uk. Below is a list of those who have been or will be remembering a special day:

Date	Name	Occasion
23 rd January	Jacqui Morrissey	Bob Squire`s Birthday
31 st January	John Bailey	Janice`s Birthday
10 th February	Lena Cusiter	Veronique`s Birthday
13 th March	Alasdair Gibbs	Commonwealth Day
16 th March	Debbie Pitt	Fin`s Birthday
17 th March	Alasdair Gibbs	St Patrick`s Day
19 th March	Rita Livesey	Simon`s Birthday
26 th March	Rita Livesey	Grace Livesey`s Birthday
28 th March	Kirsten Parrish	Birthday
23 rd April	Ken Jeffs	St George`s Day
28 th April	Andrew Baud	Hettie`s Birthday
14 th May	Andrew Baud	Hannah`s Birthday

Any other donation details received after Shutford News publication date will be included in the next issue.



**EASTER EGG COMPETITION
ON
EASTER MONDAY, 17 APRIL
St Martin's Church, Shutford
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 Judge's decision is final.





Friends of the Festival

The ambition of this year's Festival is:

- To provide the village with a bigger and better experience
- To engage more villagers in the event
- To increase the funds we provide to support the Church and the Village Hall

We are planning an event more extensive than last year, whilst still retaining the popular activities and introducing many new ones to increase the experience.

Following last year's success we are delighted that more villagers are expressing a desire to help with the organising and running of the event

We are aware that our final goal is a more challenging task as the increased event requires additional funding which without additional sponsorship will impact on the funds we are able to disburse. Hence, this appeal for more 'Friends of The Festival'.

If you feel that you would like to support the Festival but do not have the time for whatever reason then why not become a 'Friend of the Festival'.

Current Friends have donated either £50 or £100 but there is no specified amount. Should you wish to become a Friend you can either donate by cash or cheque, either to myself at the address below or to Rita Livesey (3 Church Lane, Shutford) (cheques payable to Shutford Fete). Receipts will be issued.

Thank you for taking the time to read this request and remember Friends can make a difference.

John Hodgkins: Barton Barn, Church Lane, Shutford

Email: John: john_hodgkins@icloud.com Rita: rita@rlmarketing.co.uk

Kineton Art Group will be holding their Open Art Exhibition and Sale of Paintings at Kineton Village Hall on

Saturday & Sunday 6 & 7 May 2017

Doors will be open from 10-00 am until 5-00 pm each day

Adults, 50p: Children, free

Please come and enjoy the variety of paintings by members and invited local artists. Regular visitors look forward to the home-made cakes which are available throughout each day, along with other refreshments.

We are pleased to say that we will be sponsoring ***PAINTING FOR PLEASURE***, a not for profit organisation for disabled people and those living with or recovering from illness including carers needing some respite.

If you need any other information please let me know.
e.mail: enquiries@kinetonartgroup.co.uk.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

AT: www.kinetonartgroup.co.uk

Congratulations to:

Troy and Abi on the birth of their baby daughter, Etta Rose, born on 19 January. A sister to Oscar...



Upton House: A Made to Measure Home

Made to Measure Home: Open for Viewing!

It may be wintry outside but Upton is a hive of activity as staff and volunteers get ready to completely change the presentation of our site to our new "Made to Measure Home".

Following Upton's successful Second World War presentation, the clock is turned back to 1927. From 25 March, ninety years to-the-day that the Bearsted family purchased Upton, we will be focussing on how the family created their very own "Made to Measure Home": a perfect place to relax, host guests and parties, and for Lord Bearsted to display his world-class art collection.

Discover the renovations and witness the “before and after” as the Bearsteds create their family home, and learn how Lady Bearsted’s passion for plants bloomed as she helped design some of the garden’s architectural features, planned borders and worked to make the outdoors her own.

From 25 March you will be invited to walk in the shoes of the Bearsted Family and enter Upton House for a property viewing with the land agent. Come along on our launch day to be the first to see the new presentation.

The gardens, shop and restaurant will be open 11-4: a perfect chance to stroll in the garden and enjoy the spring bulbs. The house will be open by timed ticket from 1-4: collect your timed ticket on arrival.

For information about your visit and our opening hours please visit our website

on <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/upton-house-and-gardens>

SHUTFORD WI

In February, our speaker Liam D'Arcy Brown gave an amusing and interesting talk on the role played by Chusan Island in The Opium Wars in the 1840s. This was Britain's first Chinese island but was eventually handed back to China and its history has since been largely forgotten.

Our AGM took place at our March meeting and began with the singing of 'Jerusalem', followed by the presentation of the Annual Report and Financial Statement. Afterwards the committee, with Jenny Ingham as President, were re-elected. The meeting concluded with Gill recounting her experiences at a Denman College Festive Willow course and displaying the woven Christmas decorations which she made on the day.

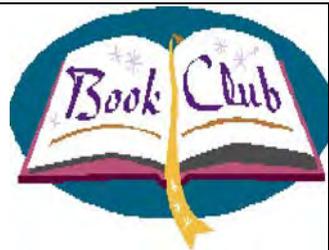
Visitors will be made very welcome at any of our forthcoming meetings, held in **Wroxton** Village Hall at 10am, when our speakers will be:

Apr 4 th	Margaret Thomas - Royal Command Performance
Jun 6 th	Pam Sutton - Troop Aid

There will be no speaker in May as we will be discussing and voting on the resolution/s to be put forward at the national AGM in Liverpool in June.

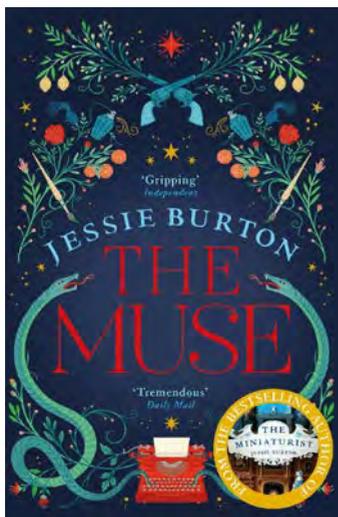
For further information on our WI, please contact either
Geraldine on 780579 or Jenny on 780570

Shutford Book Club

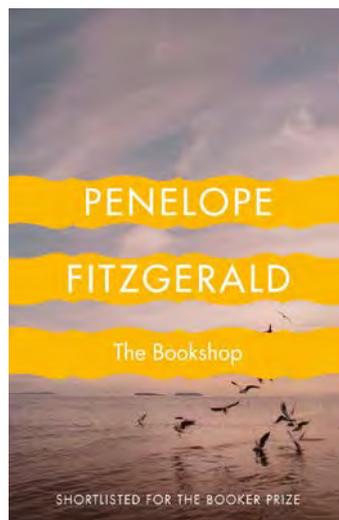


The Shutford Book Club meets on the last Monday of each month. Membership is currently full as space to meet is limited, but you can always take part virtually.

The books we are reading are regularly published in the Shutford News and on the village website, so feel free to read them alongside the Book Club. You can volunteer your thoughts via email to Kirsten Parrish or a note in the door of "The Nook" in Church Lane if you'd like to, and we'll share them at the meetings! Forthcoming books are:



24th April, **The Muse** by Jessie Burton, kindly recommended by Jane Moffatt.



29th May, **The Bookshop** by Penelope Fitzgerald, kindly recommended by Christine Yarborough.

Contact details:

Kirsten Parrish: Kirsten@kdpr.co.uk or 780412

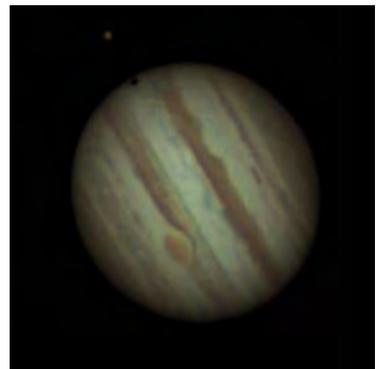
STARGAZERS WATCH THE MOON AND PLANETS DANCE AS SPRING ADVANCES

There are very few weeks of the year when the stalwart British astronomer can dare to contemplate venturing out with anything less than 5 layers of clothing and to feel the warm evening breeze flow through hitherto bobble hat encased locks - stargazers nationwide are relishing the coming of Spring.

It doesn't take too keen an eye to have already noticed that our star, the Sun, is rising earlier and setting later each evening, sunrise at the beginning of April around 6.45am and setting by 7.30pm, but by the end of May rising around 5am, setting around 9pm heading towards the shortest day on June the 21st. This yearly cycle of lengthening and shortening of days is purely a product of the Earth's tilt in relation to its annual path around the Sun, Southern Hemisphere dwellers experiencing the opposite happening, as we approach Summer, they approach Winter.

The planet Venus, so long our evening winter beacon in the night sky has moved to the other side of the Sun and now rises in early morning skies, but far too close for safe observing until the middle of May. Similarly, Mars and tiny Mercury, both equidistant either side of the Sun are lost in the fierce and dangerous glare, planet watchers keep well away from those two.

However, for the avid planet spotter the two gas giants, Jupiter and Saturn will be our Spring and Summer companions and are both equally fascinating to look at. If you have the opportunity, observe them both through a telescope for the most incredible views. Jupiter stays within the boundary of the constellation of Virgo over the next couple of months and is already an easy object to see as soon as the sky darkens. Excellent photo opportunities occur with Jupiter and the Moon on the 10th April and 7th May. Mighty, beautiful Saturn is a late riser and a good photo opportunity with the Moon is in the early hours of the 14th of May. **(Photo taken by CNAAG member, Alexandra Browne, 'High magnification view of Jupiter catching the moon low and its shadow across the gas bands'.)**



Find Saturn just above the constellation of Sagittarius staying frustratingly close to the Southern horizon. However as you observe it amongst visibly more intense star fields, bear in mind you are looking toward the centre of our own galaxy, the Milky Way, to the region where it is thought a mysterious gigantic sun devouring Black Hole resides.

As the winter constellations slip away, the more subtle Spring star patterns hove into view. Amongst the many Gemini, the twins, marked by main stars Castor and Pollux precede the fainter and challenging constellation of Cancer which contains the impressive Praesepe or Beehive star cluster, essential to have a dark night and spellbinding through binoculars appearing like a small nest of stars.

These two constellations lead the way for wonderful Leo, easily found by looking for the 'backward question mark' pattern of the lions head with the main star Regulus lying a mere 60 light years away, marking the full stop of the question mark - also referred to as a 'sickle' shape. Leo leads the way for a night sky full of galaxies, and whenever the Moon is out of the way, an astronomers paradise.

Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group have been holding events since the beginning of March in support of BBC Stargazing Live and we begin April with a public event at the Rollright Stones on the 1st, starting at 6pm for a whole evening of intense observing through a wide range of powerful telescopes - wrap up warm and bring everything you may need. If it is cloudy or wet the event will be held in nearby Long Compton village hall with a mixture of displays, talks and refreshments, free and suitable for all ages.



The following Saturday, the 8th, we will be in Chipping Norton Town Centre for 11.30 - 2.30 for Solar Observing outside Jaffe & Neales Bookshop and returning from 6 - 9.30 for Lunar Observing - again a free event, suitable for everyone. We finish our Stargazing Live support activities with a talk on Monday the 17th of April by Oxford based, Chipping Norton born astrophysicist Andrew Pontzen. **(Photo taken by CNAAG member, Mel Gigg, 'CNAAG members filming for BBC Sky at Night on Enstone airfield')**.

CNAAG meets every 3rd Monday for a talk by a professional astronomer and all of our meetings, indoor or outdoors, are open to everyone - we can even come to you for an evening's stargazing, please get in touch

The Summer continually poses a challenge to Chipping Norton stargazers but the enthusiasm in the group ensures that we will be active and observing at every opportunity please get in touch - but be warned, it can become addictive.

Seasonal Jobs in the garden...

Let us transform the quality of your lawn!



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- ✓ Controls Weeds & Moss
- ✓ Pay as you go - No Contract
- ✓ Safe for Children & Pets
- ✓ Cheaper & More Effective than DIY

 **Greensleeves**
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www.greensleeves-uk.com

01865 321421

March

The lawn will really be coming out of the Winter season now and warmer temperatures will usually mean the grass is starting to grow.

Your lawn will require the first cut of the year to be made around about this time.

Don't cut too severely though, simply take the 'top' off. You can lightly rake the lawn first to ensure that the grass blades sit up right.

Neaten up the edges using blades or a strimmer to ensure a tidy finish.

Scarify your lawn if it has not yet been done and the thatch levels look high – speak to your Greensleeves lawn care expert for advice.

Your Greensleeves Spring lawn care treatment will take place between February and April. It will bring the lawn out of the Winter months whilst continuing to control moss it will also stimulate growth and improve the appearance of your lawn.



Shutford Striders, Strollers and Shufflers!

We have formed an informal walking group for ladies in Shutford, to explore and enjoy the lovely walks around

Shutford and the surrounding areas.

We meet on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am by the bus shelter. We then decide where to walk and the length of walk (varies from 45 mins to 2 hours), depending on the weather conditions.

Regular attendance is not necessary, just come along when you can.

All welcome.

**Recommended a visit to this emporium of quality furniture,
antiques and lots more....**



Second Time Around

Quality Furniture & Antiques

18 & 19 Beaumont Close,
Banbury, OX16 1TG
07490655955

01295 273599
info@secondtimearoundcharities.org



New village hall opens opportunity for DofE volunteering

This year as part of my silver DofE (Duke of Edinburgh award) I have decided to do my volunteering section by helping the project to complete the village hall.

The story of DofE

'Since its creation in 1956 by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, the DofE has gone from strength to strength. Guided by the same set of principles and by young people themselves, it's as relevant today as it was then.'

'The DofE has a positive impact on young people's lives, in terms of their personal development and employability, and on wider society, from charities gaining active and engaged volunteers to businesses hiring work-ready recruits.'

There were 1,000 DofE Awards achieved in the first year and 119,892 last year. I was one of that number achieving my Bronze Award.

My objectives this time include volunteering for an hour a week for a period of six months, this will include a varied number of activities to assist the village volunteers in the completion and subsequent upkeep of our new village hall.

Please feel free to ask for my help with any of the activities you are involved with, by contacting either Rita Livesey or Gordon Freeman who are acting as my assessors.

James Speck

Shutford

2017

FESTIVAL

Saturday 17th June

1:00pm - 10:30pm

The Caribbean

is coming to Shutford

CARIBBEAN
competitions

ENCORE
Dance Group

Festival Stalls

LIVE REGGAE BAND

COOKERY demonstrations

Hotsteppas

Fairground

Dog Show

RIDES

SWEET treats

ALL DAY
Beer Tent & BBQ

AIR RIFLE
competition

MINIBEAST Roadshow
CHERWELL Summer Hubs

LIVE BANDS FROM 5PM

BIG EYED FISH

FOLKLAW

HOTSTEPPAS

GED WILSON

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE DAY

£2 entrance fee during the afternoon • £7 from 4:00pm*

THE MANOR HOUSE PARK SHUTFORD

Further information and ticket details please visit

www.shutfordvillage.com

 find us on facebook /shutfordfestival

*PLEASE NOTE: Children under 12 FREE

*If you purchase an evening ticket you can use
that as the entrance fee for the afternoon!*

Tickets are available
through Eventbrite.co.uk

SPONSORED BY



COUNTY PUMPS



BANBURY
COOKERY SCHOOL

Little
Amsterdam
CAFE • RESTAURANT • OCTOPUS FRANKIES
CAFE OF THE YEAR 2015

Shutford Nature Hub



Tawny Owl
Jane King

The days are getting longer, the local fields are full of lambs and as the trees burst into blossom and the daffodils come into bloom, it looks at last as though spring has arrived. Hooray!

There have also been other signs of the changing seasons around Shutford; the greater spotted woodpecker has been heard "drumming". Woodpeckers don't sing like many birds so the drumming which can be heard at this time of year is their way of advertising their territory. The birds choose a hollow piece of wood that magnifies the sound and they have been noted on telegraph posts around the village. They make the sound by banging their long beaks onto the wood, which one would assume would cause an almighty headache, but their skulls are particularly constructed to allow for this with air pockets in the structure working as shock absorbers.

Tawny owls have also been heard calling mid morning. These birds are nocturnal, and the too-whit-too-who call associated with them is actually made by two birds. The female calls ke wick and is answered by the male who calls hoo-hoo-hooooo. It is the male bird heard calling during the day and for many years it was thought this daytime calling was associated with the breeding season but now new studies are trying to understand why it occurs as it has also been recorded at other times of the year. If you hear the Tawny owls do record it in the Nature Hub so we can share our recordings with these studies.

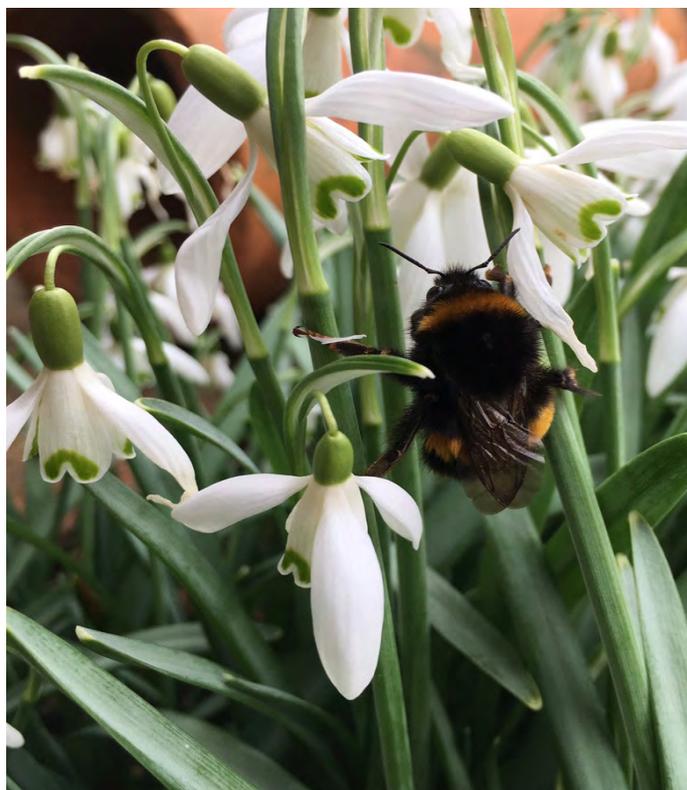


Great Spotted Woodpecker
Maurice Baker

The buzzing sound of large bumble bees flying around on a sunny spring day is one of the defining sounds of spring for many of us and at this time of year when there are so few insects around, bumble bees are an invaluable pollinator. Typically the queen will emerge from her winter hibernation, which she will have spent alone underground, as the temperatures rise in spring. She is the lone survivor of last year's colony. She will need to replenish her reserves of energy so she can be spotted feeding on spring flowers.

She also looks for a nest site that might be in a bird box, under a shed, in a hole in a wall or underground. The nest site is stocked with pollen and nectar and when it is ready she will lay her eggs, and perhaps surprisingly, incubate them herself. This will be the start of a new colony, and so the lifecycle starts again.

On a sunny day at the end of February a beautiful Black Sexton beetle was spotted in Church Lane field. These beetles are actually widespread throughout the country and as their name suggests they are nature's undertakers and do an important job in the wild, burying small mammals such as mice and voles and small birds. These insects have amazing special antennae that allow them to smell a rotting corpse from up to a mile away. The male and female will pair up by a corpse and fight off

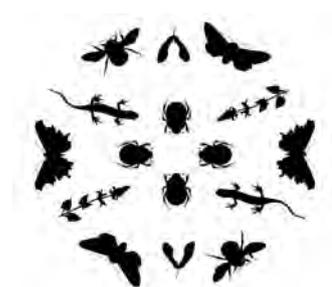


Buff-tailed Bumblebee
Carolyn Rann

rivals; they then set about burying it by digging out the earth underneath. They lay their eggs in the soil near the carrion and use it to feed their larvae until they are fully grown. They pupate into the soil from which they will emerge the following year completing their lifecycle. This might all sound a little gruesome but it's nature's wonderful way of using resources, enriching soil and removing potential disease from the countryside.

We live in such a beautiful part of the country and a lot of this 'wild activity' goes on unseen but we rely on nature for many basic services such as absorbing carbon, providing us with healthy soil, clean air and water, natural pest control, pollination, and a great deal of pleasure. If you spot anything interesting around Shutford please do keep recording on the sheets in the Nature Hub.

This spring we will be using the records to create an illustrated 'food web' to help us understand the network of local wildlife and how the various plants and animals depend on each other and on us.



Shutford Nature Hub



Black Sexton Beetle
Carolyn Rann



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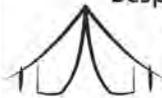
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Diary

April		
Tuesday	4	WI –Margaret Thomas – Royal Command Performance, Wroxton Village Hall, 10am
Tuesday	4	Shutford Walking Group every Tuesday 9:30 am meet at bus shelter
Friday	7	CDC Normal Waste Collection fortnightly
Friday	14	CDC collection Blue/Brown bins fortnightly
Monday	24	Book Club, G+D, 7.30pm
May		
Tuesday	2	WI – Resolutions Meeting - Wroxton Village Hall, 10am
Tuesday	2	Shutford News Planning Meeting, 3, Church Lane - 7.30pm.
Saturday	13	Deadline for Shutford News
Saturday	20	Church Beetle Drive, 4:00 pm St Martin's Church
Monday	29	Book Club, G+ D, 7.30pm
June		
Tuesday	6	WI – Pam Sutton, Troop Aid, Wroxton Village Hall, 10am
SATURDAY	17	SHUTFORD SUMMER FESTIVAL

The 'Shutford News' Team - Editor: Rita Livesey
Editorial Team: Margaret Holloway & Joan Wright
Advertising & Accounts: Rita Livesey
Distribution: David & Margaret
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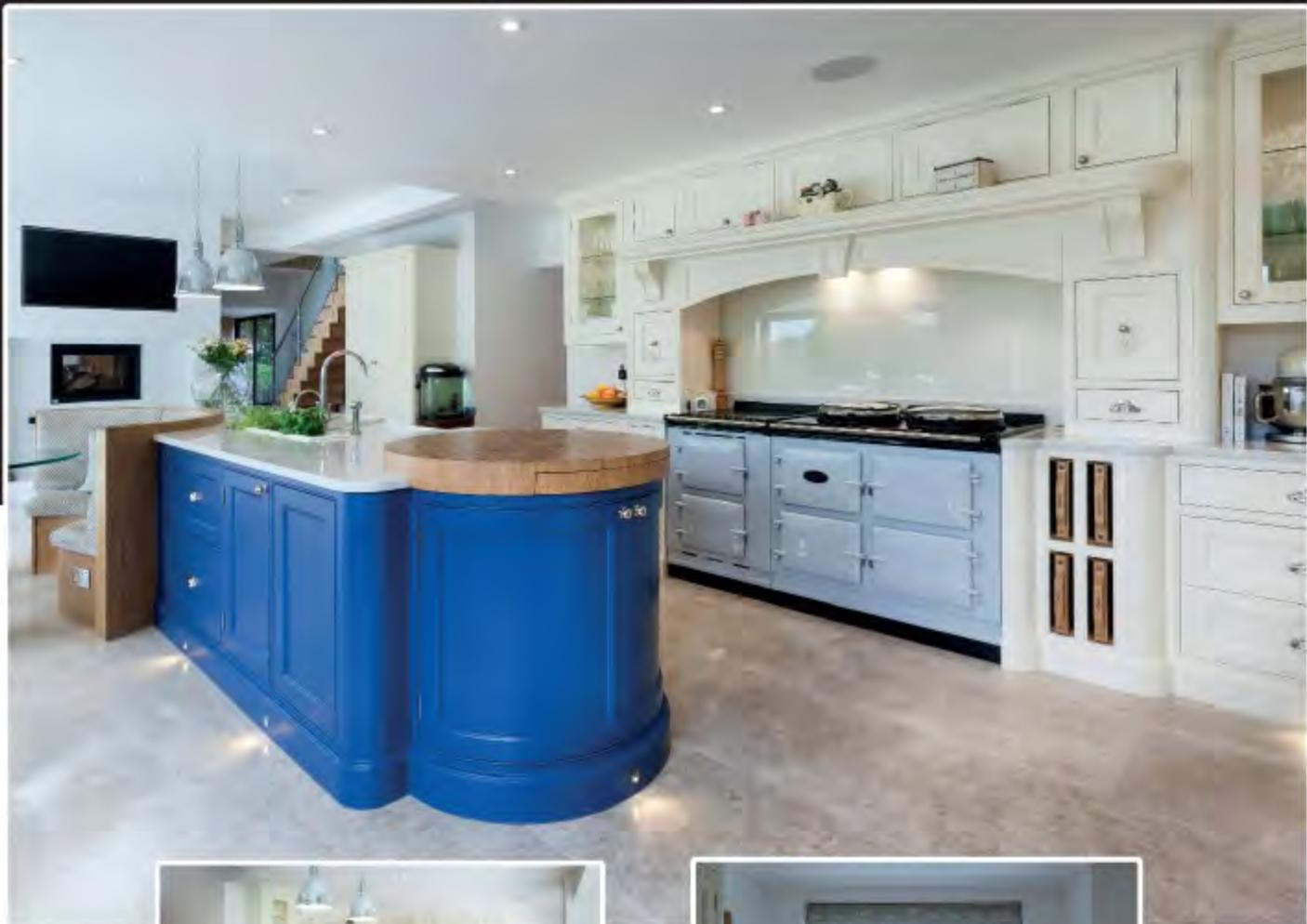
The next planning meeting will be on
Monday, 2 May 2017 @ 7:30 pm- 3 Church Lane, Shutford.

DEADLINE FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE: Saturday, 13 May 2017
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