

# SHUTFORD NEWS

Issue No. 236

March / April 2021

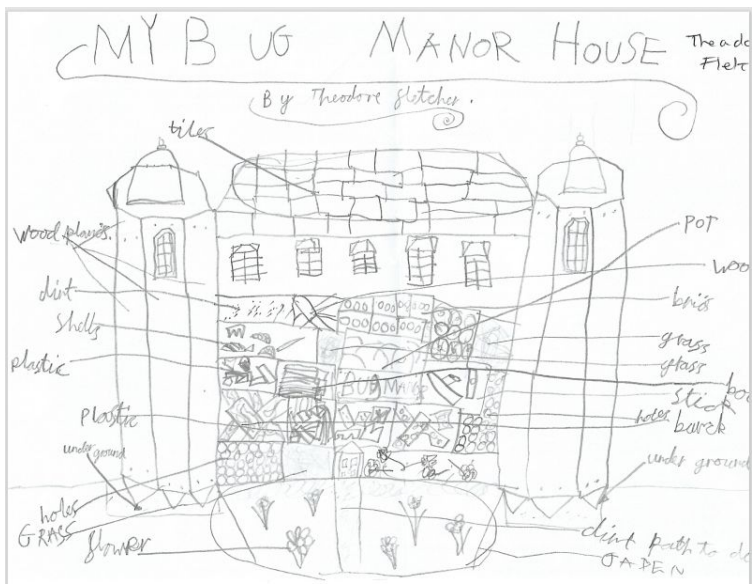


[www.shutfordvillage.com](http://www.shutfordvillage.com)

# Theodore Fletcher's 'My Bug Manor House'



You may remember there was a competition to design a Bug Hotel for the Dairyground. The winning design was from Theo Fletcher with the drawing below. And above is the finished 'Bug Manor House'.



Dear Villagers...

Spring is in the air! And a positive time is ahead of us, at last!

Sadly, recently we lost three fine gentlemen from the village. Ken King, John Finnegan and Jim Gale. Our thoughts are with their families and friends. You can read more about Ken, John & Jim in this edition.



Thank you to our new contributors for this edition, its great to see some new stories.

On a personal note, I wanted to let you know that I am stepping down from my village responsibilities, as our plans are to move away from village, in the near future.

The main roles that I look after are: the production of the Shutford News, circulation of the Village emails & Village website updating. Who will take up the roles? Are you new to the village and want to get involved? Great way to getting to know your village and the villagers. On the next page you will see the roles explained. It could be one person takes them on or they are split with 2 /3 people. They don't to take up too much of your time. So please step forward, don't let the Shutford communication disappear! The plan is that I will continue until the end of May, when I will produce the last Shutford News.

Remember to keep up with all the village news simply sign up to our newsletter by visiting [www.shutfordvillage.com](http://www.shutfordvillage.com) and completing the on-line sign-up form.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rita'.

Rita Livesey, Editor      Email: [shutfordvillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:shutfordvillagenews@gmail.com)

**Front cover photos are of Ken King, John Finnegan  
and Jim Gale with their families**

# **Shutford Village Roles – Shutford needs you!**

## **Shutford News:**

The news is produced 6 times per year (bi-monthly). We are nearly up to its 40<sup>th</sup> year!! Its made up of copy that comes in from various organisations eg, Church, Parish Council, Book Club, Village News etc. As well as village editorial contributions.

Paid for advertising makes up for half of the edition (2021 adverts all booked and paid for).

The role requires collation & co-ordination of copy and creating a print ready pdf (there is a simple package that does this for you). Around 2-3 hours every other month.

## **Circulation of Village Emails:**

The system used is Mailchimp, the database is held within Mailchimp and has around 200 emails. It's a very easy system to use, to set up the emails and add images. Usually takes around 5 minutes to set up and send an email. The content of the emails can be anything from advising people of the next Parish Council Meeting, Events in the village, etc

## **Updating Village website:**

The site is currently up to date. As we progress out of lockdown there may be more activities starting up again and the website is there to promote these activities in line with the village emails. The updating is very simple to follow.

A full handover will be given for all the roles above.

Please get in touch: [shutfordvillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:shutfordvillagenews@gmail.com) to find out more!

Please, please step forward we need these roles to continue!



## **The Churchyard Yew Tree**

The churchyard yew tree was a seedling from our garden which I planted about 40 years ago, with the help of then churchwarden, Fred Sabin, thinking that the churchyard was its natural home.

It came from the magnificent yew tree in what was originally the garden of Barton Farmhouse, subsequently cut down by the builders of The Nook, where its remnants can be seen.

Every morning from early spring onwards a song thrush used to serenade us from its perch at the very top. We were all very upset at its demolition – Bobby, the George & Dragon's landlady at the time, threatened to lie down in front of the machinery, to no avail!

When Helen d'Ayala from BBONT, visited the churchyard in 2013 and surveyed the wildflowers (64 plant species, list in church), she remarked on the unusual shape of the yew tree, and what an asset it was for wildlife.

**Jacky Hone**  
**Manor Cottage**



## **Kenneth John King**

18th April 1947 - 22nd February 2021

Honeystone Cottage, Cook's Hill, Shutford

Memorial site: [www.forevermissed.com/kenneth-john-king](http://www.forevermissed.com/kenneth-john-king)

Kenneth John King was born in South London in 1947 where he spent his younger years and then Buckinghamshire until the age of 21 at which point, he set off to see the world. First off, he was offered a job in Johannesburg, South Africa where he met his first wife Maria, and then São Paulo, Brazil where his twin sons, Adrian & Rowland were born. They moved back to the UK to be closer to family and for the boys schooling.



*(Ken pictured here at the age of 32).*

After a short stint in The Netherlands, Ken left his then home in Buckinghamshire to move to Shutford in late 1990. He was immediately attracted to the quaintness of the village as well as Hilltop Cottage, now Honeystone Cottage at the top of Cook's Hill.

Although very busy with a full-time career in sales management across various companies, travelling around the country and across the world, he immediately set out to entirely refurb the cottage. Martin Morris remembers Ken, in a "stylish blue suit, an immaculate shirt to match with French cuffs and well-polished shoes" and so was very surprised by Ken's hidden D.I.Y skills.

He also roped in his young sons at the time, Adrian & Rowland, to help with pulling down the old mud & horse hair plastering, as well as revealing the old inglenook.

Ken was a very active member of the village while he was living in the UK. He was on the Parish council for several years, organised the survey for the Village Plan which resulted in the telephone box refurb, played a key role at helping with the new village hall, was acting village archivist until he died and always volunteered in some capacity with The Summer Festival, sometimes as “bouncer” to ensure people paid their charity contributions on the way in!



*(Ken pictured in his festival t-shirt helping with the rebuild of the village hall).*

Ken was also a memorable quiz master at the Shutford village hall where he was able to show-off his public speaking skills, and sense of humour.

During his time owning the cottage, there were many years Ken spent living abroad in Japan, Oman, Brazil & Thailand. Out of all of these, Japan was by far his favourite. He fell in love with the food, culture, lifestyle and of course the people. His first placement was as COO for a joint venture with BT. He returned a number of years later, when he then met his wife Xiang.

In his spare time, Ken was also a keen runner for much of his life, completing 2 marathons in London, and then one in Tokyo after he had beaten Cancer the first time.

He later became a member of Hash House Harriers and joined clubs all around the world, first in Oman, then Tokyo, followed by Algarve where he had a second home and finally in Oxfordshire most notably with the Bicester Hashers. It is a tradition for every Hasher to be nominated a nickname. Ken's was "King Kok" as decided upon by the first group he ever ran with out in Oman.

Ken was also a real family man. As well as his 3 brothers; Freddie, Raymond and Paul with many nieces and nephews, there are also 3 children: Adrian, Rowland & Alice and 7 grandchildren; Lola, Tabitha, Henry, Otilie, Alexander, Edward & Eliza. His youngest daughter Alice attends Shennington CofE School where Ken also played a very active role as one of the Governors.

*(Ken is pictured here with his daughter Alice far right and his three grandchildren, Henry, Alexander & Otilie).*



Ken will be sorely missed by friends & family.

**Adrian & Rowland King**



# **Illuminate & Celebrate in 2021!**

**Don't forget to get your special dates in for 2021!** 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 2021.

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](mailto:KJJ@kennyjohn.co.uk). Below is a list of those who have been or will be remembering a special day in 2021.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Occasion</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Jacqui Morrisey	Bob Squire`s Birthday
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Anon	Captain Tom & NHS
9 <sup>th</sup>	Anon	In memory of Jim Gale
10 <sup>th</sup>	Lena Cusiter	Sister Veronique`s Birthday
16 <sup>th</sup>	John Hodgkins	In memory of John Finnegan
1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Charlotte Jenkins	St David`s Day
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bob Squire	Jacqui Morrisey`s Birthday
8 <sup>th</sup>	Anon	Commonwealth Day
12 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Holloway	In memory of Karl Brunner, a very dear friend
13 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Roe-French	Rupert and Sara`s Wedding Anniversary
14 <sup>th</sup>	Anon	Mothering Sunday
19 <sup>th</sup>	Anon	in memory of Ken King
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Anon	National Day of Reflection
26 <sup>th</sup>	Rita Livesey	In memory of Mum
28 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Parrish	Kirsten`s Birthday
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Rose & Happy Hancock	Golden Wedding Anniversary
13 <sup>th</sup>	Anon	Special Day

**When more than one sponsorship is received for a particular day the tower is illuminated on additional days.**

**John Finnegan** was born in the county of Neath in Southern Ireland on 3 January 1931. He came from quite a large family, but unfortunately lost his Mother and a sister at quite a young age. He always said: "he went to High School on top of a hill". He left Ireland at around 15 yrs of age and came to England to work at a Stud Farm looking after horses.

He was called up to join the army and spent time in Cyprus and Egypt. During his time in Egypt, he was driving a truck and came across a road block, he was impatient and went through. Unfortunately, for him, the road block was put in place as a Duke of Edinburgh was visiting and John met the Duke head on – it cost him dearly, the Duke ordered him to be put under house arrest (not quite sure of the punishment)!

He met Vera and they were together for many years, unfortunately she died 29 years ago, and John has been on his own ever since. Although he took great comfort in having his son Stephen, daughter in law Georgina and grandchildren to keep an eye on him!

John eventually gained employment with Mr Roots at his Stud Farm in Alkerton and then moved to Shutford continuing to work for him for over 30 years until he retired at the age of 75 hrs.

His passions were horse racing, dominoes, and a pint (or two) or Hooky at the local. If we had to describe him in a few words – 'he didn't take life too seriously, he was very easy going, kind and had a sense of humour with a glint in his eyes and of course a No. 1 Grandad to Thomas & Peter'.

**Stephen & Georgina**

## Mr Finnegan

It was over 25 years ago that I moved into the village and on the first Friday night when I visited the George & Dragon, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr Finnegan and his dominoes partners. I was soon invited to join them and immediately became part of the team and a friendship developed that I have cherished and enjoyed ever since.



I soon recognised Mr Finnegan had a charming Irish personality with a mischievous sense of humour which obviously led to his popularity. This was apparent by the way he was greeted with an affectionate kiss on the cheek by many of the female customers (young and old) as they entered the bar. Occasionally, his response to some of the ladies he was more familiar with, was a ribald comment which today would be classed as politically incorrect!

All his fellow domino players were aware of his occasional loss of memory but never when it was his down. In the later years a marker was introduced and circulated to note who's down it was.

Over the last few years when he was unable to visit the pub, the dominoes continued in his home with myself and his grandsons in attendance. A 'take away' beer from the George and Dragon was always enjoyed.



*John pictured here with his grandson, Peter, on his way down to the pub!*

In the last 10 years when I was working part time, I would pop up and see him the days I was not at work to sit and have a cup of tea, a chat and collect his bet and take it to the bookmakers.

During this time, I began to appreciate the number of people his affection had touched, by the many visitors that would pop in and see him for a chat and a cup of tea. Not only local people but old friends that had once lived in the village, now living as far away as Newmarket.

He lived a full and enjoyable life which he shared with many people and it was a privilege to call him my friend.

**John Hodgkins**



Dear friends,

I write this, my first letter in the Shutford Village news, with great joy as your new Rector. I've already met many people across the village, whilst going out for walks, since my licensing in January as the Rector of the Wykeham benefice. I look forward very much to meeting many more whilst I'm out and about.



It has been lovely to have received such a warm welcome since I moved to the Rectory at 2 Sycamore close in Sibford Gower. I'm slowly getting to know my way around the country lanes as well as learning some of the fascinating history that is embedded in our local villages.

As your new Rector you will see me, when times allow that is, at all of our village events and I look forward very much to be a part of all that we do together. St Martin's church in Shutford I know holds a very special place in the life of the community and as your Rector I would like to continue to grow our church family, because as a church in Shutford, everyone is welcome. I wanted to share with you that I've already been appointed as a school governor at Sibford Gower school and Bishop Carpenter school, and look forward very much to taking up these roles.

As a born and bred Yorkshire man, growing up as I did in a coal mining village, I know the importance of building a real sense of being part of a community and what positive feelings that can bring.

We continue to have weekly Sunday services at the church but we've also introduced a mid week zoom service on Wednesday at 6pm and a Sunday evening zoom service also at 6pm. If there is anything at all you would like to talk with me about during these difficult and challenging times, then please do be in touch.

### **EASTER BLESSING**

*The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.*

*Happy Easter to all who live and work in Shutford.*

*Love & prayers, Revd Neil.*

**Tel: 788005 [revneil@wykehambenefice.org.uk](mailto:revneil@wykehambenefice.org.uk)**

# Stanley James Gale

Born 21st April 1928, Newton Abbot, Devon

Died 19th of January 2021, Katharine House Hospice, Adderbury

Known as Jim or Jimmy all his life, youngest of 4 children.

Came from a very ordinary background – his father was an engine driver on the GWR, but he was the first in his family to go to grammar school.

Joined the RAF towards the end of the war aged 16 as an apprentice electrician and after the war was invalided out due to TB. He was ill for a number of years and spent much time in various hospitals, where he met his wife Maija who was his nurse (at the end of WW2 the British Government arranged for Eastern European refugees to come to the UK to help rebuild the economy.



***(Picture of Jim taken in 2017 with Alex and Renata - his grandson and granddaughter-in-law)***

Maija, a Latvian, arrived here in early 1947 and was sent to work in a TB hospital in Salisbury.) Although very different in temperament, character and background, they fell in love and married in 1950 and the marriage lasted until her death in 2014. Their only daughter Ingrid was born in 1953.

When people talk about Jim the words they use are always – cheerful, gregarious, likes to chat!

He was a people person and spent his life working as an office manager for the building contractors Sir Robert McAlpine, mainly in and around South Wales where he lived for 45 years.

It was a job that suited him down to the ground as it entailed meeting people from all walks of life. The portacabin office on the building site was his domain where he organised everything to do with life on the site. He worked for the same company all his life until his retirement in 1991 and then took on a pastoral role visiting the company pensioners and their widows.

He retained a great affection for Wales even after he moved from Cardiff to Shutford in 1998.

Jim and his wife Maija were a quiet couple who kept themselves to themselves when they moved to Shutford, mainly due to her dislike of socialising. They liked to garden and stayed close to home apart from holidays in Europe and USA, often visiting his wife's extended family.

When she died in 2014 after a short illness, he was bereft but with some encouragement began to make friends in the village and soon became a well-loved member of the community.

He could often be seen making his way round the village chatting to anyone who wanted to talk and as he gradually became more frail, people took him under their wing and helped out as much as they could.

It was his greatest wish to be able to remain at home in his old age and with the assistance of a brilliant team of carers he was able to do that. He made many friends in Shutford and once a week went to the pub where he enjoyed a couple of pints in his special chair by the bar. For his 90th birthday nearly 3 years ago his family and friends organised a surprise party in the new village hall – an occasion he enjoyed greatly.

Although very frail at the end of his long life, he remained mentally bright as a button, alert and still enjoying the company of anyone he came across. He will be sadly missed and remembered with love and affection by everyone who knew him. There will be a memorial service at St Martin's Church in celebration of his life later this year and his ashes will be interred next to those of his wife and granddaughter Katie in Sun Rising Natural Burial Ground in Tysoe.

**Ingrid Newton (Jim's daughter)**

# CHURCH NEWS

**Clergy** – Revd Neil Bowler - 788005

**Church Wardens:**

Mr Ken Jeffs – 788308

Mr John Hodgkins - 788609

**SERVICES:** Most Sundays 9.30am but see Wykeham

News & Benefice website for details



2021 has started quietly with a steady return to worship in church as members of our congregation are receiving their coronavirus vaccinations and feel more confident to venture out. However, some of our regular congregation are staying at home with an average of only 5 in church for Sunday Worship and 3 for Saturday Morning Prayer. Our Rector, Revd Neil supported by Revd John and Glyn have led services with some lay led ones. Music has been recorded by the St Martin's Singers, as we are unable to sing. The church is open for private prayers on Sunday, 10.30am until about 5.00pm, but it is not obvious that anyone takes the opportunity to visit. Online services held at 6.00pm on Wednesday and Sunday will continue for those staying at home. There is also Diocesan Church at Home online Sunday worship at 10.00am.

During the coming months, we will be looking at our worship patterns, online and in church, outreach and ways we can grow our church membership. What would encourage you to come or return to church to worship or be involved with church activities? Any thoughts or ideas are always appreciated.

An online, informal, benefice meeting was held on 5<sup>th</sup> February, during which Revd Neil thanked everyone for their welcome and especially John Tattersall for his care and support. All benefice parishes shared their news. There will be a review of service provision across the benefice and pastoral care and visiting will be Revd Neil's priority as soon as conditions allow. Recent high profile safeguarding issues were highlighted: our policies will be reviewed.

The PCC had an online meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February, when the Annual Report and Accounts for 2020 were accepted. These will be presented to the annual meeting likely to be held in June or as soon as face to face meetings can take place. Thanks to the generosity of our regular worshippers and others we have managed to pay our way with a small surplus to help start 2021. Copies of the report and accounts will be published on the Shutford village website after the annual meeting but can be obtained from the churchwarden meanwhile.



Following the retirement of Bishop Colin Fletcher, after 20 years' service, The Venerable Gavin Collins was licenced, on 28<sup>th</sup> February, as Episcopal Vicar of the Dorchester Area pending his consecration as Bishop of Dorchester at Lambeth Palace on 14<sup>th</sup> April. Gavin was Archdeacon of the Meon in Hampshire: he studied law and became a solicitor before his ordination in 1997. The start of his ministry, as our area bishop, was delayed due to the coronavirus but he and his wife have now moved to Oxford.

During Lent, Revd Neil has led online discussion groups: Growing Together in our Christian Faith, Thursday evenings and our Lenten journey through Art on Monday evenings. The Church of England's Lent campaign – entitled God's story, Our Story - explores how Christians can share their faith with others. The Oxford Diocese has "Come and See" – an invitation to take the first steps in exploring faith – with daily readings and reflections. During the present crisis, we are encouraged to read Psalm 23, which has been a source of strength for thousands of years – why not pause and say it each day!

Coronavirus has dominated our lives for the last year but thankfully the future is looking brighter. We look forward to when we can meet up safely, whether it is in the village hall, pub, or church and restart social events and fundraising. We are grateful to everyone who has helped during these difficult times – couriers, postman, milkman, local shops and supermarkets but mostly neighbours who have kept an eye on each other. Many of us in the church community are in a vulnerable age group and, instead of being out in the community helping, have been on the receiving end of help and are grateful.

We are sad to have lost several members of the village community recently – Jim Gale, John Finnegan and Ken King, also Jean Hancock, who lived in Shutford for many years. We offer our sincere sympathy to their families.

On a brighter note, the flowers in the churchyard are blooming – a trio of yellows can be seen – celandines, primroses and Lent lilies – daffodils. Take care when visiting the church and grounds: please call and spend a few minutes quietly reflecting on recent events. People of all denominations or none are always welcome in church but remember – Hands, Face, Space!

Most of our plans for Easter are going ahead but Messy Church in Sibford on Good Friday is cancelled. We hope to see you in church on Easter Sunday morning when Revd Neil is leading worship. The Easter bunny will have brought along some chocolate eggs, along with spring flowers absent in Lent.

For church information, including Rev Neil's Weekly Pastoral Letter, see website or contact KJJ@kennyjohn.co.uk.

**Shutford Parish Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm by video conference.**

**The meeting commenced at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs: Helen Nixseaman (Chair), Ashley Taylor (Vice Chair), Stephen Barnes, Sandy Forrester, Chris Hall, Paul Huewen, George Reynolds, and David Best, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Three members of the public also attended the video conference.

<b>21/011</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence:</b> None
<b>21/012</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest:</b> None.
<b>21/013</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting:</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 were a correct record (unanimous) and signed by the Chairman.
<b>21/014</b>	<b>Matters arising from the minutes:</b> The actions list from the last meeting was reviewed.
<b>21/015</b> 21/015/1	<b>Parish Matters:</b> <b>Allotments –</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The residents renting the field at the bottom of Plot Rd do not want to allow the allotment holders to top up their water butts in periods of drought.</li> <li>2. The new owners of Honeysuckle Cottage want to take over a plot on the bank, possibly keeping chickens, bees and planting fruit trees. It was agreed that fruit trees can be planted but the decision on chickens was deferred to investigate the implications of livestock on allotments.</li> <li>3. It was agreed that an allotment holder can replace a broken greenhouse and that quotes will be obtained for cutting down some tall holly trees near a house.</li> <li>4. There is some rubbish left by an allotment holder when they vacated their plot on the bank near the footpath. It was agreed that they will be contacted and asked to clear it.</li> </ol> <b>Dairyground –</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tesco has confirmed that their grant can be used for landscaping on The Dairyground. This will be investigated when lockdown restrictions are lifted.</li> <li>2. The Bug Manor, winner of the bug hotel competition, is being built.</li> </ol>
21/015/2	
21/015/3	
21/015/4	

**Shutford Parish Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm by video conference.**

21/015/5	<p><b>Containing Outbreak Management Fund Grant</b>– This grant can only be used for items directly related to COVID-19 containment. The Village Hall Management Committee will be consulted to see if they need any support.</p> <p><b>Potholes</b> – A lot of potholes have been filled around the village, including the ones on Malthouse Lane. The Clerk has been trained as a “Highways Superuser” and is able to approve pothole repairs around the village within the 30mph limits. Potholes at least 40mm deep should be reported to the Clerk. The Clerk will walk around the village periodically.</p> <p><b>Village Litter Pick</b> - It was agreed that a post lockdown litter pick should be carried out as soon as possible after lockdown restrictions are lifted. The Parish Council would like to thank those residents who regularly pick up litter through the year. It was agreed that quotes would be obtained for some litter picking equipment (sack mates, sacks and pickers).</p>
21/016 21/007/1	<p><b>Finance:</b></p> <p><b>Accounts and Bank Reconciliation</b> – The Accounts and bank reconciliation up to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 were issued prior to the meeting and agreed. The bank balances were £15,398.48</p>
21/017	<p><b>Correspondence:</b> None.</p>
21/018 21/018/1 21/018/2 21/018/3	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <p><b>20/03672/F</b> – Springhill Barn – Permitted by CDC 15/02/21</p> <p><b>20/03128/F</b> – 4 The Dairyground – Permitted by CDC 24/02/21</p> <p><b>21/00392/F</b> – Holywell House – It was agreed to support this application.</p>
21/019 21/019/1	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <p><b>Annual Parish Meeting</b> – It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish meeting as a virtual meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May.</p>

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday **12<sup>th</sup> May, 2021** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall or by video conference if public meetings are still restricted due to Covid-19. The Annual Parish Council meeting will be held beforehand at 7.00pm. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.56pm.

## **Some COVID PERIOD ‘finds!’ by Mervyn Benford**

You may have seen me wandering the parish taking photos during Covid exercise, some end up in the Shutford calendar.

You may have seen me wandering the parish taking photos during Covid exercise - some end up on the Shutford calendar.

We have a really lovely world around us- hills and rolling landscapes dotted with sheep and trees in their season. But even after 29 years here it seems there is still discovery.

Val and I have lived a lot in Sweden where the tiny coltsfoot is always a totem of spring and people vie to find the first in flower. We have tried for years in vain to find some.



Imagine our delight now- doing Covid walks, to find three clumps in Shutford - so, we have the picture now to send to Sweden!

St. Martin’s Churchyard for me is a haven of seasonal beauty, echoes of long-gone villagers though some families still going on - like the seasons - and the ivy!

Church authorities, faced with maintenance costs, now recognise the ‘wild’ nature suiting all kinds of life - and for me a surprise ‘find.’





After a recent Sunday service, I spotted pink catkins just lit by the sun! Val is a florist, and her tree book identifies this as a Turkish Hazel! It is clearly self-seeded, still young. The book says native to central and south-east Europe and West Asia- more new warmth on nature's thermometer maybe.

The service also brought a new thought that, despite many years since my mum stuck me in the village choir age 12, through later periods of on

and off admittedly, I still have no better explanation of why we exist- despite science taking us back to a quantum soup of quarks and gluons. Science has yet no better explanation for a highly complex universe than some enormous accident! I read in 'New Scientist' (my son-in-law's) of quantum particles experts ever more bewildered by finding things like matter can be in two places at the same time - like God at Christmas and Easter? A Chipping Norton Church last year apologised: "Sorry the church is closed.....but the tomb was empty!"

Covid has seen for perhaps the first time the entire world united in caring for others - across politics, wealth, sport, entertainment, young and old, gender, media, culture, across Faiths or none. Sikhs and Muslims cooked and made meals for *any* needy people in their neighbourhoods.

Shutford as a community supports St. Martin's in many ways - we all know how much Ken Jeffs does - including cutting the grass and arranging church illumination!

## **Security and safety...Travels with my memories by Debbie Pitt**

Whenever I travelled my family and friends asked me if I ever worried about my safety – I have been to some insecure places including few in a State of Emergency – the killing of the Nepalese royal family, unrest in Bangladesh and the first time women could vote in Afghanistan. Here are a few more that I remember.

Nigeria has a record of aid workers being kidnapped for ransom and when I was working for a very well known, and rich organisation, who were very strict on security. I received two phone calls every day to ensure I was OK. If I had been kidnapped, the key phrase I was to say when they asked how things were was “I have had a very boring day”.

As I was not being allowed out of the hotel for the 10 days (no alcohol was served either and veggie food very limited!) by 8<sup>th</sup> day I was indeed having a very boring day. You can imagine how I really had to concentrate on what I said when I got the security call. The last thing I wanted to happen was for the organisation to send out the SAS crashing through the windows on ropes to ‘rescue’ me.

Papua New Guinea is another country not known for its safety. As I left for Heathrow, someone asked if I had had the full security briefing and had been given my rape alarm – I had neither given to me.

But once there the people were so friendly and kind and I never felt threatened and would wander round the town, going to the local markets and chatting to people.

I was lucky not to have had to travel on a local bus as they were often stopped by bandits, referred to as ‘rascals’, who did steal and worse.

It wasn't just my safety that I remember.

The traffic in most Asian countries can be frenetic as well as colourful.

Often, I saw motorbikes with the pillion holding a huge sheet of glass or an oversize television.



The rickshaws in Bangladesh could be completely full of bananas, bed rolls, furniture etc.

In Vietnam it wasn't unusual to see a whole family – parents and at least 4 children and possibly their supper in the form of a pig tied to the back, all on a motorbike. In the end you stopped worrying about it and I never saw a crash in all the places I have been to.

# Shutford



As new parents and new members of the community Amy Braidotti would like to connect with other new mums, dads and babies to form a Shutford

‘Baby & Toddler Group’.

Interested in joining ‘virtually’? Initially, and then more get-togethers can be planned once allowed.

Please get in touch with Amy:

Email: [braidotti.amy@gmail.com](mailto:braidotti.amy@gmail.com)



# Shutford Village Hall 100+ Club Members!

Thank you to everyone who has renewed, or  
joined the 100+ Club Membership.  
(Proceeds from the 100+ Club go to the running and  
maintenance costs of our new Village Hall).

We currently have 109 members.

There is still time to renew or join if you haven't already!

Club Membership costs only £10.00!  
You then go into a monthly draw where you could win up to  
**€55.00!**

Here are the BACS details if you want to pay online, please ensure  
you leave your name or membership number as a reference when  
paying by BACS.

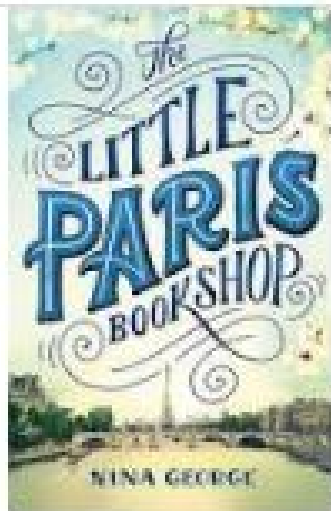
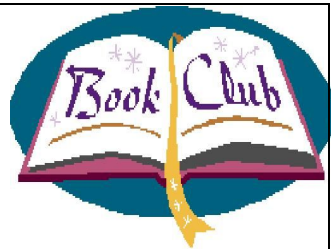
Sort Code: 30-90-89 Account No: 37346560

Not a member and want to join. Please email:  
[shutfordvillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:shutfordvillagenews@gmail.com)

Please note subscriptions need to be paid on or before 31 March  
2021 to be entered into the first monthly draw in April. Remember  
you need to be in it to win it! Thank you for your continued  
support during these difficult times.

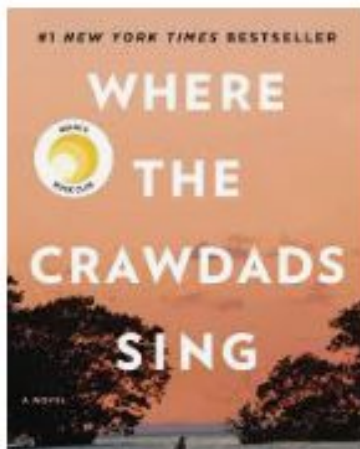
# Shutford Book Club

The Shutford Book Club normally meets on the last Monday of each month in Shutford Village Hall 7:30 pm. During Lockdown this is being done virtually.



**26 April**, "The Little Paris Bookshop" by Nina George, suggested by Carole Ralph

**31 May**, "Where The Crawdads Sing" Delia Owens, suggested by Christine Yarborough



by

Currently the book club is full, however, 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 would like to, and we'll share them at the meetings!

**Contact details:** Email: [kirsten@kpgardencare.co.uk](mailto:kirsten@kpgardencare.co.uk) or 780412



# Easy and yummy Ginger biscuits



**Oven** 180c/ 350f, fan 160c or  
gas mark 4

**Cooking time** 15 minutes

## Ingredients

300g Plain Flour

225g Sugar

1tsp Bicarbonate of soda

1 ½ tsp baking powder

2 tsp ground ginger

170g butter

1tbsp golden syrup

2tbsp milk

1. Put your oven on to 180c/ 350f, fan 160c or gas mark 4.
2. Lightly grease a large flat baking tray.
3. Combine all dry ingredients into a large bowl.
4. Melt butter and golden syrup on a low heat.
5. Pour in melted ingredients to dry ingredients along with the milk and mix into a firm dough.
6. Using your hands form the dough into biscuits, place them onto the tray allowing for them expand. I usually get about 8-10 on my tray, you may like to make them larger or smaller to your taste.
7. Place in the middle of the oven for about 15 minutes or until they are golden brown.

Enjoy with a mug of hot tea or coffee with family and friends (when we can). These biscuits don't last long in my house, but they fill the home with a lovely ginger smell and put smiles on everyone's face. Enjoy.

**Claire Corry**



### **OPEN GARDENS FOR KATHARINE HOUSE APRIL 2021 – SUMMER 2022**

As we move into spring and look forward to summer, we hope that our annual Open Gardens for Katharine House can take place this year. If you are interested in opening your garden in support of Katharine House or for more information, please email [getinvolved@khh.org.uk](mailto:getinvolved@khh.org.uk) or contact our fundraising department on 01295 816 484 or visit [www.khh.org.uk/gardens](http://www.khh.org.uk/gardens)

### **EASTER VIRTUAL BALLOON RACE – 4 APRIL 2021**

Take part in our virtual balloon race - the perfect gift for everyone to enjoy this Easter. Enter the race for just £3, and you're in with a chance of winning £500! It's a great way to celebrate Easter, whilst supporting those affected by life-limiting illness. Find out more [www.khh.org.uk/balloon](http://www.khh.org.uk/balloon)

### **FIRE WALK FOR KATHARINE HOUSE – SEPTEMBER 2021**

As the temperature drops, why not turn up the fundraising heat by taking part in our fire walk to help support people facing life-limiting illness in our community. To find out more head to [www.khh.org.uk/firewalk](http://www.khh.org.uk/firewalk)

Please sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter, which is designed to keep you in touch with what's happening including news of our fundraising events and developments. Sign up [www.khh.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.khh.org.uk/newsletter)

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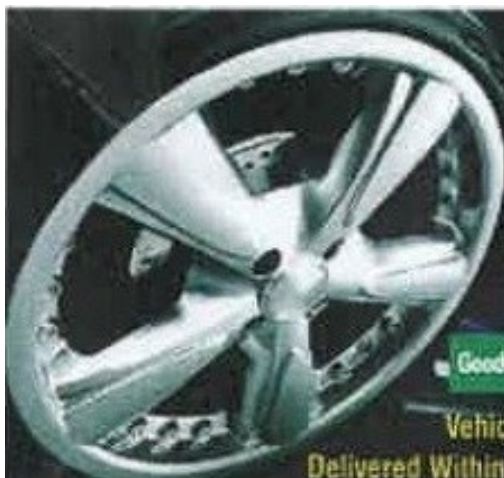
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### **Local Markets:**

**Banbury - Every Thursday & Saturday**

**Banbury Farmers Market - 1st Friday of the month**

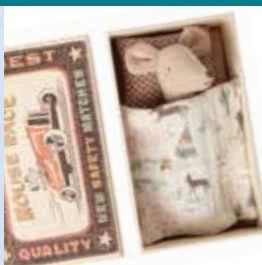
**Chipping Norton - Every Wednesday Chipping Norton**

**Deddington Farmers - 4th Saturday of the month**



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## VILLAGE EVENT DIARY

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

[www.shutfordvillage.com](http://www.shutfordvillage.com)

### Shutford Village Hall 100+ Club Results

#### February Results:

FIRST PRIZE	£35.00	Shutford Stud
SECOND PRIZE	£15.00	John Hodgkins
THIRD PRIZE	£10.00	Paul Hughes

#### March Results:

FIRST PRIZE	£55.00	Ceri Davies
SECOND PRIZE	£15.00	Steve Mates
THIRD PRIZE	£10.00	Fay Ponikowski

The next Prize Draw will take place on 8 April.

#### The 'Shutford News' Team

- **Editor:** Rita Livesey
- **Editorial Team:** Margaret Holloway
- **Advertising & Accounts:** Rita Livesey
- **Distribution:** Pam Whittle & Di Wood
- **Printing:** MailBoxes Etc., Banbury

The next planning meeting will take place virtually on Tuesday 4 May.

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:** Saturday 14 May.

Email: [shutfordvillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:shutfordvillagenews@gmail.com)

Please note dates are correct at the time of going to print.





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Welcome back!!

Our beer garden will be open for table service between:

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April until Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

We will put out further guidance for 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 onwards.

We will still have cleaning stations and hand sanitiser throughout the garden space. Rule of 6 applies – up to 6 people from multiple households or a group made up of two households.

The toilets will be available – masks should be worn when going inside.

There is no need to book however, we will obviously have limited space outside so booking is advisable for food.

There is no need to eat in order to purchase alcohol however our kitchen will be open as shown below.

Mon – Fri – 5 – 10pm

Sat & Sun 12 – 10

Food 5 – 8

Food 12 – 8

It's April/May and it's England so we recommend bringing warm clothing or a blanket with you!

It's been a tough 12 months and we can't wait to see you all again!

Thank you for your continued support and stay safe.