

## **SHREWLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**

**Shrewley Village Hall – Tuesday 4th April 2017**

### **Minutes**

**1. Apologies**

Mark Beaglehole Neighbourhood Watch, Peter Whiting WDC, Brian and Monica Sparkes, Heather Howell, PCSO Paul Coleman.

**2. Minutes of the previous Annual Assembly held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016 – approved and signed as a true record.**

- 3.** WCC Cllr Jose Compton is retiring in May and Cllr David Lawrie gave thanks for her enormous contribution including support for the extension to the car park, new speed limits on lanes, opposition to the phone mast and improvements to the Village Hall. Her support will be missed and gratitude was expressed for her patience. Flowers were presented and best wishes given for a long and happy retirement. C Cllr Compton said she had represented the council for 24 years at WDC and 16 years at WCC. A lot has been achieved and she had made good friends along the way. She thanked the PC and wished everybody the best of luck.

**4. Shrewley Parish Parents Group – Eliza Gaffney, Chair**

The group was set up a year ago with the aim of providing events for young families and to create a children's playground. There are 7 committee members and monthly Saturday morning craft/film events are held at the Village Hall. Fund raising events have been held including a Burns Night which raised over £700 and future events have been planned. Thanks were given to SPC, the Village Hall Committee, and Social Club, Cllrs and local businesses including the Durham Ox, the Ardencote, Oxygen Accountancy and Hatton Country World.

Richard Curtis explained that the group were in the process of submitting the planning application for the children's playground. Plans were on display. The designs were made of natural products to compliment the rural nature of the area. An 8 -12 week response time from WDC is expected and approximate costs are £30k. Cllr Tilley thanked the group.

**5. Road Safety in Shrewley Common**

- For many years the Parish Council had been researching ways of reducing the speed of traffic on Shrewley Common before it secured funding and installed the vehicle actuated speed limit sign in 2014

- Speed surveys for the Common were taken in December 2012 and April 2013, so the Parish Council commissioned another in December 2014 after the VAS was installed to measure how well it worked. The Police, and Traffic and Road Safety commissioned others in June 2015 and February 2017 respectively.
- To begin with the sign was activated by traffic coming from Claverdon, and the survey showed that the traffic from Claverdon was then going faster than it did before the sign was installed, 69% speeding as compared with 56% before. Even stranger was that the traffic going to Claverdon slowed down even though it could not see the sign.
- Following this result, the PC had the sign turned round so that it was facing the traffic going to Claverdon, and the next survey appears to show that the sign reduced speeding going to Claverdon to only 24% of the vehicles, and of traffic coming from Claverdon (which could not see the sign) to 46%.
- **In short, when the sign faced the traffic coming from Claverdon it seemed to speed it up, but when it was turned round, it slowed it down. In both cases the back of the sign slowed the traffic down!**
- An unofficial analysis of the surveys to date suggests that average speeds on the Common have reduced in the past few years – a result which will probably astonish everyone who lives in the village.
- In my opinion the results of these surveys are too unreliable to base any case for new traffic calming measures.
- In the absence of good independent data we can only rely on the opinion of the stalwarts who manned the Community Speedwatch and our own subjective impressions, from which we believe we must continue to press for safety measures on the Common.
- The influx of young children to the parish during the past couple of years has served to highlight the speeding problem, so the Parish Council renewed its attention to it last year.
- The first proposal considered was to try to get a pedestrian crossing installed, preferably near the village hall (where there is a footpath crossing Shrewley Common and on through the hall grounds) in preparation for the development of a play area at the back of the hall.
- Supported by our Member of Parliament Jeremy Wright and Councillor Gallagher, our proposal for a crossing was presented to the Road Safety Group in January.
- The proposal was rejected on the grounds that “..it is very unlikely that the County Council criteria for a pedestrian crossing would be justified at this location..” And apparently it would cost upwards of £65,000.
- Undaunted, a further proposal was put forward, this time to close the Hockley Road end of Hughes Hill forming a cul-de-sac in order to eliminate most of the traffic hazards at the Shrewley Common end of Hughes Hill – and completely eliminate any hazard at the Hockley Road end.
- This was rejected a few days later.
- This time, the reason given for the rejection by the County Council’s Head of Transport and Economy, Mark Ryder was that there are 99 other sites where there have been four times the number of accidents resulting in personal injury within the past three years, so the Council “are not able to provide any funding for this site”.

- **To summarise, after our unsuccessful installation of the VAS, we approached the Traffic and Road Safety Group suggesting first a pedestrian crossing and then the conversion of Hughes Hill to a cul-de-sac, but both initiatives were slapped down, and no alternatives were suggested by them.**
- Your Parish Council's approaches to the Traffic and Road Safety Group for help with the safety of Shrewley Common have not even resulted in constructive advice, never mind actual action.
- One could be forgiven for thinking that every suggestion that is put to our so-called Road Safety Group will be rejected until the personal injury record of the road becomes totally unacceptable, bordering on carnage.
- The Parish Council has no further ideas to improve the safety of the Common at this time, but we are open to any suggestions.

Cllr Morley-Brown suggested that children playing signs could be included with the development of the children's playground. Richard Curtis to contact WDC Planning Department.

Traffic speeding in Hatton Station was mentioned and it was suggested that a speed survey should be carried out at a midway point by the bridge.SPC to contact other PC's to ask if they had any successful ideas that slowed traffic within their villages. Cllr Tilley to contact Fraser

## **6. Open Forum**

Ed Bracher, Riding for the Disabled Association, advised of their plans to turn Lowlands farm into a training centre. He explained that it was a meaningful form of therapy and 4 people were on the waiting list for every 1 person that was riding. The proposed designs were on display.

David Howell asked what is the future of the countryside in Warwickshire and other rural areas. Nunhold Road will be completed at Easter and is funded by WCC. With drainage, haunching of the sides and bigger passing areas this should be a vast improvement. WDC no longer have a Tree Officer. Richard Curtis, a local arboriculturist, said that he would be happy to advise on trees in the Parish.

## **7. Chairman's closing remarks**

Cllr Tilley thanked everyone for supporting the Assembly and also the local organisations for their reports which highlighted just how much was going on in the village and surrounding area. He said "Tonight has been a celebration of our societies and organisations and shows we have a thriving community. This is down to all those people involved giving their time freely and making this small parish such a vibrant place." Linda Wesbury, Daphne Tilley and Jean Lawrie were thanked for providing the refreshments.

## **REPORTS**

### **PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – CLLR PAUL TILLEY**

#### **Personnel**

We continue to have a full complement of councillors for most of this year. Sadly, Cllr Helen Jones has resigned and now we are looking to co-opt a replacement. Many thanks to Helen for her work on the council over many years.

#### **Planning**

A change in the planning process has seen WDCs decision to withdraw posting local planning notices adjacent to the sites that are listed. The Parish Council will now display these notices printed on yellow paper on the nearest noticeboard to the site in question.

A major development at Lowlands Farm in Shrewley Common is being proposed by the Riding for the Disabled Association. As the site is in Rowington Parish, we are not statutory consultees. However, local residents are encouraged to look at the proposals and engage in the planning process.

Our planning guru, Cllr Wesbury is thanked for the considerable time he devotes to what is our most significant responsibility.

#### **Roads, Footpaths and Road Safety**

Upkeep of our roads is undertaken by WCC Highways Department who continue to do an excellent job in ever more difficult circumstances. Completion times for repairs are now much longer than in previous years but the quality of the work remains very high.

Drainage work and road reinforcement on Nunhold Road is the main project this year, due for completion over the Easter period. Severn Trent Water have been renewing a water main along the B4439 Old Warwick Road and also along Mill Lane, Little Shrewley. This has caused major disruption to traffic flow in the parish.

Cllrs Wesbury and Darwen continue to monitor our footpaths and instigate action where remedial work is required. Many thanks for your hard work.

Road safety in Shrewley Common continues to cause concern in the community. Cllr Lawrie has been working very hard to try and get WCC to come up with a solution to the problem of speeding through the village. The VAS sign was turned to face towards Five Ways Road and we await the results of a recent speed survey undertaken by WCC.

#### **Finance**

Our Responsible Finance Officer, Parish Clerk Eleanor Choudry, continues to manage our Annual Budget. The precept remains fairly consistent from year to year; we have one of the lowest precepts of all parishes in the Warwick District.

#### **Other Parish Matters**

*Notice Boards*.....There is now a new community noticeboard in the Village Stores and also one outside the Village Hall. Thanks to Suki and Jazz, and the VHC for installing them.

*The Village Hall*.....we continue to support this vital hub of our community with an annual grant. The ongoing work undertaken by Cllr Lawrie and his Management Committee continues to enhance what is already one of the best equipped halls in Warwick District. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

*Parish Plan*..... the last outstanding item to be actioned is investigating a play area for children. This is now being done and we have supported Shrewley Parish Parents with a small grant.

*Shrewley Parish Parents*....The work of this group continues with great enthusiasm! They are running regular events in the Village Hall for young families as well as pursuing ways of funding a children's play area to the rear of the Village Hall.

*Neighbourhood Watch*....co-ordinator Mark Beaglehole continues this important aspect of our community. Many thanks to him and all the other co-ordinators for making this possible.

*BT payphones*..... Phone boxes in Shrewley Common, Little Shrewley and Hatton Station are now registered for adoption by the community; Shrewley Village Hall will oversee Shrewley Common box while residents of Little Shrewley and Hatton Station will do so on behalf of the Parish Council.

*Parish Website*.....Linda Wesbury continues as the webmaster and site development is ongoing. Many thanks to Linda for undertaking this very time consuming work.

Finally, a very big thank you to all the Parish Councillors who give up their time freely to help make our Parish what it is today. Also to our Parish Clerk, Eleanor Choudry who keeps us up to speed with the mass of correspondence that all Parishes now have to deal with. Thanks to WDC Cllrs Sue Gallagher and Peter Whiting; WCC Cllr Jose Compton and all their officers who we have worked with throughout the last twelve months. We couldn't do what we do without your help, guidance and funding. Special thanks to Cllr Compton for all she has done in our parish over many, many years. Jose is retiring from local government after an astonishing FORTY years.

I would also like to remind residents that we meet every other month as a council in the Village Hall. Agendas are posted on the Shrewley web site as well as our noticeboards in Case Lane, Five Ways; Mill Lane, Little Shrewley; Oakdene Crescent, Hatton Station; outside Shrewley Village Hall, and inside Shrewley Stores, Shrewley Common. You are encouraged to attend and have your say in shaping the future of our community.

## **SHREWLEY PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT – ELEANOR CHOUDRY**

The 2016/17 Budget set by Shrewley Parish Council was £6311 and has increased slightly for 2017/18 to £6751 to include a £250 grant to the Shrewley Parish Parents Group. This equates to the equivalent of £23.02 for a Band F household. 2016/17 ends with a healthy balance of over £4500, which includes £174 for Friends of Hatton Station. The Village Hall have received a £1000 contribution towards the replaced fence and refurbishment of the area by the telephone box at the Village Hall. The Reserve Account balance has been increased to £3250. All parish financial information is available on the Parish Council page at [www.shrewley.org](http://www.shrewley.org).

## **WCC ANNUAL REPORT SPRING 2017 – C CLLR JOSE COMPTON**

Warwickshire County Council in common with most councils find themselves in financial difficulties, especially with the budget for Adult Social Care. Hence the council tax for 2017/18 will incorporate 2% extra for this service plus 1.99% general increase. The Police Budget will not increase as improvements to the service will be taken from Reserves.

Notwithstanding this WCC envisages employing an extra 40 Social Workers to cope with the assessment of the 750 looked after children. No reduction in the services for gritting routes, Fire & Rescue Service, Highway Budget, the delegated Transport Budget for Councillors or Safer routes to School.

Several Capital Schemes locally are proceeding – Kenilworth Railway Station and Stanks Island. Warwick Museum has re-opened after a refit funded by the Heritage Lottery along with WCC funding. £1 million will be used for LED lighting across the County. Broadband coverage will improve as we strive to reach the rural areas in 95% of the County. More funding has been announced for Rural Industries which includes farming. The programme for Extra Care Housing for enable people to live independently but with help on hand will continue as strive to support our most vulnerable residents and people with Learning Difficulties.

We are working with the Health Service to address the issues raised under the Sustainability & Transformation Plans which is causing so much concern as the provision of specialist services and remodelling of other services has not as yet gone out for public consultation.

On the plus side Warwickshire County Council has received an award for being in the top 100 in England for employing Apprentices. On the down side we envisage losing a further 300 staff to cope with the Budget cuts from the Government of £67 million on top of the £95 cut from the previous four years.

Warwick Rural West Community Forum has met three times during the past year and has allocated all its' grant funding to parish schemes. We are not sure about the format of the next Forum as with Boundary Changes to WCC funding rules may change however as we look back the Forum has provided a very useful way of Parishes coming together with members of the public to hear reports from the Police, Warwick District Council, Warwickshire County Council and the setting of Police priorities.

I have always attended Parish Council meetings during my time as your County councillor and thank the Councillors and Clerk for their help and co-operation in dealing with parish concerns.

## **ARDEN WARD - WDC - CLLR SUE GALLAGHER AND CLLR PETER WHITING**

### **Report to Parish Councils March 2017**

Following the elections to the newly-formed Arden ward in June 2015, we are now roughly half-way through our term - perhaps not surprisingly, therefore, much of our report concerns work in progress.

The Local Plan is almost certainly the most significant single item with which we have been grappling as a council. Last year we reported the concerns of the Inspector primarily concerning the treatment of Coventry's unmet need in our initial submission. These led to a period of suspension, followed by a revised plan being submitted. Current indications are that the modifications that we have made have satisfied the vast majority of the Inspector's reservations, with any remaining changes capable of being handled through the final consultation process. We are therefore hopeful of having an approved Plan in place (with all the associated benefits, in terms of planning certainty and availability of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds) later this year.

The second ongoing challenge, of particular relevance to Peter given his Finance portfolio, is the management of the District's finances against a background of sharply reduced government funding. Our Revenue Support Grant (the amount received from Central government) has fallen from c£4 million to less than £1 million over the past 5 years, and we expect it to be eliminated in the 2019/20 fiscal year. Despite this, we have maintained (and in many instances improved) the vast majority of the services that are provided by WDC. This is becoming ever more challenging, with any clear efficiency savings having long since been made.

One example of the type of approach that we are adopting is provided by our Leisure services. Sue played a major role in instigating the proposed outsourcing of the management of our leisure facilities in Kenilworth, Leamington Spa and Warwick. While the contract has yet to be signed, early indications are good that the move will not only cover the interest cost of the ongoing significant investments (some £15 million) that we are making in improving our facilities, but also deliver more than the hoped-for level of savings to council taxpayers.

The proposed relocation of the council's offices from Riverside House to the Covent Garden site in Leamington is another example of a major investment designed to save money (at least £300,000 per annum) over the long term. Considerable amounts of preparation work have already been undertaken, with planning applications likely to be the next public step in this major development.

While many of the projects in which we are engaged have little direct impact on Arden Ward, the problem of fly tipping, recently the subject of much press comment, does sadly feature from time to time. A complex problem, Sue and I have seen it presented as a purely urban phenomenon, frequently arising from badly-managed student accommodation. We will ensure that WDC's proposals to tackle the issue address the rural, as well as the urban perspective.

Finally, despite the financial challenges faced by the Council, we are delighted to announce that the RUCIS (Rural and Urban Capital Improvement Scheme) grants will remain in place in the new fiscal year. Many of our parishes have benefited from this scheme, and we would continue to urge you to look for suitable beneficiaries.

As ever, thanks to all of our Parish Councils for their help and support - we both look forward to further progress in the coming year.

## **FERNCUMBE YOUTH CLUB REPORT MARCH 2017 - STUART INGALL-TOMBS**

Again 2016 the club enjoyed steady membership and attendance levels. Keeping the club open throughout the holidays has proved beneficial to the numbers attending and as we get lighter evenings our numbers continue to grow. Again, we thank Ferncumbe school for helping us promote the club and we use social media to advertise forthcoming events. The average age of the children attending the club is 10-11 years. We find that once they start going to secondary school, homework sometimes prevents them from coming, but it is always lovely to see them in the holidays where they can catch up with old friends. We continue to be members of Hatton Joint Organizations which has now become an important source of funds with the decline in grant funding from local authorities. HJO runs very successful events such as the Bingo evening and Skittles night. On the 4th June it is running its spectacular Country Fair and Dog Show again hosted at Hatton Country World where Youth Club will be running the ever-popular Bacon bap stall!

We ran just the one Wren Hall teas this year - our next Teas are on Sunday 14th May. Our continued thanks go to our amazing team of experienced and dedicated youth leaders, who week in, week out, support this facility for the children of our local parishes, and without whom there would be no Youth Club. Again during the last year, we have also benefitted from the support of students working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Despite the success of all the above initiatives, we would not survive without the continued support and goodwill of the parish councils of Shrewley, Hatton and Haseley & Beausale who we thank very much for their support and funding.

## **SHREWLEY WOMENS INSTITUTE - JEAN LEWIS, SECRETARY**

At the beginning of the year our membership had reached 70 and the committee felt that we were close to bursting. We decided on two serious changes - firstly to serve only cakes and scones for tea and not sandwiches, and secondly to close the books. We now therefore, have a waiting list.

A number of our activities through the year seem to have revolved around food! We held an 'After- Christmas' meal, and we celebrated the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a meal- plus the union jacks and bunting. Our new treasurer was keen to swell the coffers, and organised another meal – open to local residents, and with a duo serenading. The event did serve its purpose, and made several hundred pounds, which was put towards a Denman Bursary.

(Denman is a WI owned Georgian mansion near Oxford , set up for a wide variety of residential and day courses.)

We hosted the Norwegian delegates from the ACWW Conference (Associated Country Women of the World). ACWW is a charitable organisation helping women and children in poorer countries to enjoy a better life. We served an English afternoon tea, of course. The delegates were delightful, and their English was thankfully excellent. The only disappointing event of the year was the Annual Garden Party. Rain was not actually forecast, but we did have a downpour, and there were a few soggy sandwiches!

Our members took part in a number of Federation run events. Sightseeing trips seem to be the most popular: London, Chatsworth, Hardwick Hall, Chavenage House. Others enjoyed the Singing for Fun, the different craft days, the Serious Science Lectures, and the walks -- Independence Day walk and a walk around Draycot Water. The most difficult thing I had to do as secretary was to reduce the numbers wishing to attend the Michael Portillo Lunch at Wroxall Abbey, from 22 down to 15. The County had organised the event, and hadn't anticipated the extent of interest. The marquee was finally laid for 500, and Mr Portillo was, of course, an excellent speaker.

At most monthly meetings we invite a speaker. Talks on 'Dutch Flower Auctions', 'Life of the Musicals', 'History of Patchwork', 'The Work of the Samaritans' and the 'Colour Coordination' lady. In November we were lucky enough to hear Sarah Falkland talk on 'Life at the BBC'.

We ended the year with the infamous Christmas concert. Unfortunately it was the first time that we needed to restrict entry to members only. With 70 members there was little room for visitors.

In April 2017, Shrewley WI will be 80 years old. This is quite an achievement, so will of course need celebrating. We will be presented with a certificate at the Warwickshire AGM. I am pleased to say that Monica Sparks has agreed to receive it on our behalf. Monica is our longest serving member.

## **HATTON COMBINED CHARITIES – SHEILA LIGHT**

The Hatton Joint Charities include: The Charity of Catherine Throckmorton founded before 1652, The Charity of Jane Baker founded in 1849, The Charity of Jane Norcliffe founded in 1897, The William Edwards Coat and Gown Charity founded in 1818, together with a bequest made by Mr. Butler Miles. The first four charities were “combined” in 1909, and the Butler-Miles bequest added later.

50% of the income from the Throckmorton Charity is required to be used for the upkeep of the fabric of Hatton Church - the incumbent rector becomes a trustee upon appointment.

The remainder of the income is used for the elderly in need and apprentices needing tools for their trade; also included are study books for students. In 2011 some modifications were made to bring the schedule up to date; these included updating some wording (e.g. to replace “help with coal” to help with fuel”) and the removal of a fixed age limit for educational grants. The trustees will also consider requests for some immediate short-term assistance. Last year an amount in the region of £1,000 was distributed in the parish of Shrewley.

Only those resident in the parishes of Beausale, Hatton and Shrewley are eligible to benefit from these charities. The Trustees are always pleased to hear from anyone who might be in need.

Following the retirement of our clerk for many years, Monica Sparks, we have been delighted to welcome David Thompson as our new clerk. We have been equally delighted to welcome Sue Wood to fill our vacant trustee role. Both bring a level of expertise and knowledge which is proving most valuable.

## **SHREWLEY AND DISTRICT GARDEN SOCIETY – DAVID HOWELL**

2016 was a land mark for our society as we celebrated 25 years since our meetings commenced. We celebrated with two special events. The first was our Annual Summer party in June, on this occasion at Hill Close Gardens and the second was with a special lecture given by Mick Evans, Head Gardener from Packwood Gardens, this was held at our September meeting.

Many interesting talks were given from January - April resuming again from September - December. During the year we once again organised two day visits. In May a trip to Wisley and September a trip to the Water Perry Gardens. In July we had an evening visit to Yew Tree Barn where our host provided us with delightful hospitality and refreshments.

Many thanks must go to our hard-working committee with special mention to Jean Dance who once again took on the role of Chairman, Secretary and Program Organiser, well done Jean.

The past year saw our attendance and membership numbers falling especially in the month of October and November. However, with an excellent attendance for our AGM and Christmas Bring and Share in December things are looking brighter for the coming year.

David Howell elected Chairman for the coming season of 2017.

Amendment.....David Howell, Garden Society thanked Juanita in her role as Secretary.

## **SHREWLEY PARISH PARENTS GROUP – ELIZA GAFFNEY**

Shrewley Parish Parents is a group of parents with young families in the Parish. We came together in April 2016, and we have two key aims. The first is to build a children's playground in Shrewley, and the second is to create opportunities for young families to meet and make friends locally.

The past year has been a really busy one for us. We have run monthly Saturday morning stay and play sessions at the village hall, which have included a range of different activities, like messy play, crafts and the occasional film. Parents and children alike enjoy these sessions, and we hope we have facilitated new friendships and connections in the community. Our numbers have grown steadily, from approximately 5 families at our first gathering, to 17 in March this year. We also took part in the Shrewley show, and generated a steady stream of children getting their faces painted!

We have also been busy working on the playground project. We now have a professionally designed playground, and have started the process of a planning permission application with Warwick District Council. Needless to say, this project will require money, so this year we also held our first large fundraising event - Burns Night in January 2017. We had a full Burns supper, 6 piece ceilidh band, and a piper who piped in the Haggis! We sold 60 tickets to this event and raised over £700, which was a fantastic achievement.

In the next year, we plan to continue with our Saturday morning events, host another evening fundraiser in June, and progress our playground project.

Shrewley Parish Parents would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the community who has supported us in our first year - The Parish Council, the Village Hall, and everyone who has attended one of our events. We look forward to another busy year!

## **VILLAGE HALL REPORT – CLLR DAVID LAWRIE**

- In compliance with our successful Big Lottery Grant to fund the acoustic panels and the hearing loop, three "Hearing Awareness Days" were held in the hall during the year, giving people insight into the problems of hearing loss and what can be done to alleviate the affliction.
- The acoustic panels have in fact been very successful in improving the sonic ambience of the hall, and improving the clarity of sound from movies on movie nights.
- A Risk Assessment for hall users was written early in the year, and all the portable electrical equipment was PAT tested.
- A new member of the Hall Management Committee, Matthew Black joined the committee. Matthew is welcome as one of the younger residents of Shrewley Common.
- Hall hirings continued steadily during the year, augmented by meetings of the new Shrewley Parents' Group, introducing children to the hall, and including a very successful Burns Supper in January.
- The unused area behind the hall has been offered to Shrewley Parents' Group for development into a play area. Shrewley Parents' Group are preparing a planning application for this purpose, and seeking sources of funding for the work.

- Quotations have been secured for work on the rest of the field behind the hall in order to improve the drainage and to prune the trees so that it will be more suitable for out-door functions such as the Village Show, and sources of finance are being sought.
- The Hall's AV system is being revised to bring it up to date and make it easier to use.
- An application for adoption of the telephone kiosk in front of the hall has been filed.
- The area round the telephone kiosk has been paved and the fence renewed, and the used notice boards acquired by the Parish Council have been installed.
- The new kitchen was inspected by Environmental Health, and the inspector approved it, with the comment that it was to a "very good standard".
- Using a small grant from the Rural West Community Forum, we were able to replace the temporary car park markings with permanent marking.

## **SOCIAL CLUB REPORT – CLLR DAVID LAWRIE**

Since the last Annual Assembly the Social Club produced a Quiz night on 6<sup>th</sup> May and a Barn Dance on 9<sup>th</sup> December, and seven popular movies. The intention was to hold a Burns Supper in January, but the date was given to Shrewley Parents Group as a suitable event for them to raise a little capital.

The hall's installation of acoustic panels has improved the sound quality in the hall for music and movies, and of course the new hearing loop ensures that those with hearing loss do not have to strain to hear the performances.

There is a new programme of popular movies for this year as well as another Quiz Night an old-time Music Hall event, and a musical evening.

The club is looking forward to being able to use the new audio/visual equipment being installed by the hall. The club's existing equipment has been in use for eight years and it is awkward; the new equipment will be much easier to operate.

The club membership has now increased to 398, and we continue to be surprised that the number seems to increase on every club night. The Club will celebrate the ninth anniversary of its foundation this May.

## **SHREWLEY COMMON ROAD SAFETY – CLLR DAVID LAWRIE**

- For many years the Parish Council had been researching ways of reducing the speed of traffic on Shrewley Common before it secured funding and installed the vehicle actuated speed limit sign in 2014
- By the middle of 2015, speed surveys showed clearly that not only did the sign fail to reduce speeds, but that it seemed to increase them.

- All the independent surveys we have had on the Common indicate that between 61% and 69% of the traffic exceeds the speed limit, and this was confirmed by our Community Speed Watch teams when they were working.
- The influx of young children to the parish during the past couple of years has served to highlight the speeding problem, so the Parish Council renewed its attention to it last year.
- The first proposal considered was to try to get a pedestrian crossing installed, preferably near the village hall (where there is a footpath crossing Shrewley Common and on through the hall grounds) in preparation for the development of a play area at the back of the hall.
- Supported by our Member of Parliament Jeremy Wright and Councillor Gallagher, our proposal for a crossing was presented to the Road Safety Group in January.
- The proposal was rejected on the grounds that “..it is very unlikely that the County Council criteria for a pedestrian crossing would be justified at this location..” And apparently it would cost upwards of £65,000.
- Undaunted, a further proposal was put forward, this time to close the Hockley Road end of Hughes Hill forming a cul de sac in order to eliminate most of the traffic hazards at the Shrewley Common end of Hughes Hill – and completely eliminate any hazard at the Hockley Road end.
- This was rejected a few days later.
- This time, the reason given for the rejection by the County Council’s Head of Transport and Economy, Mark Ryder was that there are 99 other sites where there have been four times the number of accidents resulting in personal injury within the past three years, so the Council “are not able to provide any funding for this site”.
- Your Parish Council’s approaches to the Traffic and Road Safety Group for help with the safety of Shrewley Common have not even resulted in constructive advice, never mind actual action. Even when we installed the vehicle actuated sign they did not advise us that it would be ineffective, causing us to waste time and money on it.
- To summarise, after our unsuccessful installation of the VAS, we approached the Traffic and Road Safety Group suggesting first a pedestrian crossing and then the conversion of Hughes Hill to a cul-de-sac, but both initiatives were slapped down, and no alternatives were suggested by them.
- One could be forgiven for thinking that every suggestion that is put to our so-called Road Safety Group will be rejected until the personal injury record of the road becomes totally unacceptable, bordering on carnage.
- The Parish Council has no further ideas to improve the safety of the Common at this time, but we are open to any suggestions.

## **SHREWLEY VILLAGE SHOW REPORT 2016 - HERBERT ANDREWS, CHAIRMAN**

The 53rd Shrewley Village Show took place on Sunday 4 September 2016 at the Village Hall and grounds. On a gloriously sunny day the Village Hall was packed full of vegetable and fruit displays, a beautiful array of flowers together with a photography section, handicrafts, very tasty home produce, home brewing and a very interesting junior section for our younger exhibitors in 3 age groups; under 5 years, 5-8 years, and 9-15 years.

At 10.45am prompt the doors of the Village Hall were closed and judging commenced. There were some outstanding entries which were awarded either first, second or third prizes.

The Show itself opened at 1.30pm with a very popular pig roast and numerous activities in the Village Hall grounds, ranging from the traditional bowling, chocolate tombola, bottle stall, milk the cow, bouncy castle, face painting etc. The well stocked bar as always was very popular and the highlight of the show was the ever popular tea tent which is particularly well supported, serving an extensive range of delicious home-made cakes with tea and coffee.

Throughout the afternoon there was a very entertaining live band and later in the afternoon was the egg throwing competition which is now a firm favourite with the visitors to the Show.

The afternoon is rounded off with the presentation of the cups and trophies and a special presentation to all the children who exhibited in the Show.

Following various successful shows over the years money has been invested in equipment for the Show and recent donations have been made by the Show committee as follows:

- show tables £1,232
- show tentage £1,177
- donation towards acquisition of Village Hall defibrillator £500
- Village Hall flower tubs £100
- Shrewley Social Committee (film nights and social events) £700

In the new year to reflect on yet another very successful Show the committee members and their partners spent a very convivial evening at the Fleur de Lys, Lowsonford. A lot of hard work is put in throughout the year by the Village Show committee and new members to the committee and new ideas are always very welcome

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:** Plans are now well advanced for the 54th Shrewely Village Show on Sunday 3rd September 2017. The committee is hoping for even more exhibits this year. As before, the Show will start at 1.30pm with a pig roast, bar and tea tent. Here's hoping for great weather.

To move with the times we are delighted to announce the Show has its own Facebook page with an ever-growing circulation. You can help us in publicising the Show by sharing our FB page.

## **THE CONNIE NEWTON TRUST – CLLR ROBERT WESBURY**

The Trust provides assistance for persons over the age of 45 who live or have lived within Shrewley and neighbouring parishes and are suffering financial hardship.

In the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, the Trust made five grants totalling £3,000 to local residents. Awards were made for hospital visiting costs, heating costs and general financial assistance.

If you feel that there is someone who could benefit, please contact a local Trustee in confidence (Monica Sparks, Norman Winnett, Sylvia Green, Joyce Wright, Kemble Everitt or

Robert Wesbury). Their contact details are available on the Parish notice boards and on the Parish website [www.shrewley.org](http://www.shrewley.org).

## **FRIENDS OF HATTON STATION – CLLR PAUL TILLEY**

We have had another very productive twelve months. We have established a shrub and wild flower border between the pumping station and the planter at the entrance to the new car park. A donation of gravel and recycled wheels has helped protect the verge. The height restriction barrier has still to be replaced leading to concern in the community that the new car park is very vulnerable to unauthorised parking of large vehicles and caravans.

The planter on Platform 2/3 has been filled up and replanting is now in progress. Thanks to Barn Close Nurseries for doing all the hard work and providing the soil, manure and compost.

Passenger numbers have increased by 7% in the last year with over 45,000 journeys completed.

Severn Trent Water have taken over ownership and maintenance of the pumping station.

Thanks are expressed to Mark Beaglehole, Will Morley-Brown and Neal Soutter for their help. Also to Daphne Tilley for her ongoing maintenance of the planters' contents!

Our funds stand at £174.34. which go towards the cost of new shrubs, plant food and new bulbs.

**Finally if anyone living in Hatton Station would like to join us, please contact Paul Tilley 07773416819 or [ptilley17@btinternet.com](mailto:ptilley17@btinternet.com) . Your help, particularly with summer watering, would be much appreciated.**

**SHREWLEY & HATTON STATION NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (HSNW) -  
MR MARK BEAGLEHOLE, LOCAL ORGANISER**



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### **Current Status**

During 2016, the combined Neighbourhood Watch scheme has continued to operate effectively across Shrewley and Hatton Station as a partnership between the Warwick Rural West (WRW) Police team and the local co-ordinators, with one overall local organiser. We also liaise with adjacent schemes where matters extend beyond parish boundaries.

The area continues to benefit from relatively low crime rates, which is clearly no cause for complacency, as we see from frequent reports of shed burglaries in the Shrewley area over recent weeks, and an ongoing picture of household and vehicle crime in other local villages.

The main aim of our local HSNW scheme is to help make this area of Warwickshire a safer, healthier and happier place in which to live and work. We do this by engaging in a number of key activities, typically :

- facilitating the sharing of good practice and providing timely alerts

- providing a communication channel for highlighting issues of common concern
- maintaining a network of volunteer co-ordinators to provide local contact and assist with Community Messaging
- adopting a collective approach in addressing problems and sharing solutions
- focusing on crime prevention and providing reassurance through practical advice

### **Message from Chief Constable Martin Jelley**

*“I have always been a great admirer and supporter of Neighbourhood Watch and the role it has within our communities, particularly in relation to crime prevention and public reassurance, cannot be underestimated. As one of our key partners in reducing crime, Neighbourhood Watch schemes across Warwickshire work tirelessly for the benefit of the local community to ensure that people are safe from crime and enjoy a good quality of life in their local area and I want to build on the excellent work that has been seen in Warwickshire over many years. The partnership between the police and the public is key to the success that we have enjoyed and I am committed to protecting all of our communities with your continued help and support going forward. Can I thank each and every volunteer, who gives up their own time to assist in making their particular community a safe place in which to live”*

January 2016 saw the launch of the Community Messaging Service (CMS) – a combined distribution process for crime reports, alerts and newsletters, accompanied by the adoption of a central distribution list of member names. Centralising the cascade of information allows the network of NW co-ordinators, each responsible for a small group of addresses in their proximity, to focus on engaging with their neighbours to raise awareness and increase participation.

Big thanks must go to our local Police team and HSNW Co-ordinators for all their work and support for the scheme in 2016/2017.

### **Action Plan for 2017**

**Awareness** – We have received positive feedback from a number of residents which suggests that NSNW is working well. Supported by the WRW Police team, scheme co-ordinators will continue to raise awareness and highlight the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch to local residents during 2017.

**Membership** – Our scheme already connects directly with around 1 in 3 residents, but clearly we would like to improve take-up and see more members signing up for the CMS email cascade process wherever possible. During 2017 details of the HSNW scheme will be circulated to residents in Shrewley and Hatton Station via parish notice boards and a mail drop, plus other communications (as yet to be decided). To endorse the success of the HSNW scheme and boost recruitment, residents may also receive occasional doorstep visits from a co-ordinator, or members of the Neighbourhood Police team.

**Visibility** - large yellow signs are on display at the roadsides, and a scattering of Neighbourhood Watch stickers can be seen in house windows – as a deterrent to opportunist criminals who may be passing. We will be working with the Parish Council to increase visibility of the scheme where possible.

Please direct any questions to Mark Beaglehole, to a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, or to a member of the local Police team.

**TO REPORT A CRIME OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY PLEASE RING 999 (EMERGENCIES ONLY) OR 101**

To add your name to the scheme and information cascade, please send your name/address and email (if applicable) to [hatton.shrewleynw@outlook.com](mailto:hatton.shrewleynw@outlook.com) or the address below.

*MARK BEAGLEHOLE*

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