

SHREWLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 3rd April 2018

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – CLLR PAUL TILLEY

Personnel

At our May 2017 AGM we gained a new councillor Dr Richard Curtis who quickly put in motion a Parish wide Tree Survey. He has completed Shrewley Common and Five Ways Road but sadly, due to work commitments has had to stand down as a councillor. We thank Richard for his contribution and look forward to seeing the Tree Survey when complete. We hope to appoint a new councillor at the forthcoming AGM in May.

After many years of working with SPC, Cllr Jose Compton retired in May. We welcomed our new WCC Cllr Les Caborn who has already made his mark on several issues within the Parish.

Planning

There has been a significant number of planning applications this year. The majority have been residential but there have been some commercial applications as well. These relate to The Durham Ox and Tunnel Barn Farm in Shrewley Common, and The Mill in Little Shrewley. Details of all applications can be viewed in the Parish Council section in www.shrewley.org as well as Warwick District Council www.warwickdc.gov.uk

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

WCC Highways Department does 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 undertaken by the contractor remains high.

The main project this year was to improve visibility around Five Ways Island (A4177). Thanks to the help of WCC Cllr. Les Caborn this has now been successfully completed.

Traffic calming in Shrewley Common and Hatton Station continues to cause concern in the community. Progress regarding Shrewley Common will hopefully be achieved this year following the Annual Assembly meeting in April. Hatton Station has had a speed survey commissioned, and pending results, the Parish Council will investigate possible solutions.

Following successful preparatory work on Hatton Station railway bridge last year by Network Rail, final refurbishment has yet to be completed. Jeremy Wright MP has approached NR to get them to honour their promise of completion by 2017!!

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

Finance

Our Responsible Financial Officer, Parish Clerk Eleanor Choudry, manages our Annual Budget. The precept remains fairly consistent from year to year. Shrewley Parish has one of the lowest precepts of all parishes in Warwick District.

Other Parish Matters

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

*Shrewley Parish Parents....*This group is running regular events in the Village Hall for young families. Their long term aim is to provide a children's play area to the rear of the hall. A planning application has been submitted. We support their work with an annual grant.

*Neighbourhood Watch....*co-ordinator Mark Beaglehole keeps us well informed with his regular emails. If you don't receive them, please sign up. Details on Shrewley website. Many thanks to him and all the other co-ordinators.

*BT payphones.....*The Parish Council now own the phone boxes in Little Shrewley and Hatton Station. The groups operating them have posted separate reports. Please support their endeavours.

*Parish Website.....*Linda Wesbury is the webmaster. The site has developed significantly and now receives over 500 visits per month. Many thanks to Linda for undertaking this 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 Les Caborn and all their officers who we have worked with over the last twelve months. We couldn't do what we do without your help, guidance and funding.

I would also like to thank the small band of residents who regularly attend our bi-monthly council meetings in the Village Hall. Your input and support is vital if we are to continue to help improve the quality of life in Shrewley Parish.

SHREWLEY PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT – Clerk

The 2017/18 Budget set by Shrewley Parish Council was £6751 and has remained nearly the same for 2018/19 at £6717. The cost of the hire of the village hall has increased slightly and we have also given a small increase to the grant for Hatton Parochial Church. The budget also includes a grant of £250 to the Shrewley Parish Parents Group and £250 is budgeted for the upkeep of the two parish phone boxes in Little Shrewley and Hatton Station respectively. We are no longer budgeting for election costs as the Reserve Account has a balance of £3500. The precept equates to the equivalent of £15.77 for a Band D household. 2017/18 ends with a healthy balance of over £5000, which includes £174 for Friends of Hatton Station. The Village Hall has received a £1000 contribution towards clearing and improving the drainage of the field area at the back of the hall and includes £100 towards the cost of the new chairs. All parish financial information is available on the Parish Council page at www.shrewley.org.

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR LES CABORN

Budget For 2018-19 we set a budget rise of 4.99% made up of 2.99% for general purposes and 2% ring fenced for adult social care. Our Conservative group budget affirmed at council in February included some new and innovative projects namely : £150k for each of next 2years to work with our borough and districts and health and primary care in partnership to reduce homelessness particularly relating to drugs, alcohol and mental health, £125k for a year of wellbeing jointly with Coventry to help people take more control of all aspects of health and wellbeing in their lives, £100k for 2 additional planners to work on major transport schemes, additional funding for children with special educational needs

Adult Social Care We are continuing our transformation of adult services to make them simpler to access and allow users more control of their care.

Children's services We continue to implement smart start which aims to give all children the best start in life from birth to starting school in partnership with health, education and all partners. We are experiencing a rise in children in care and foster homes and Warwickshire lead the West Midlands adoption agency. We are redesigning the transition years for children and families with special needs as they move to adulthood

Education Our new head of education has embarked on a consultation aimed for parents to tell WCC what it expects from education for their children

Highways Throughout the weather this winter we fully gritted all routes on the list with numerous extra gritting to keep them clear. A number of major schemes are due to start including Stanks Island , Heathcote dualing, A46 Stoneleigh Island

Digital by default Our service transformation to full digitised services and access to WCC is gathering pace with a full internal redesign being mapped and expert staff engaged to deliver it. Next phase or how we join up to all partners including parish councils.

Economy Our economy continues to thrive outperforming the West Midlands. Unemployment remains low and WCC is recognised for its skills and apprenticeship work.

Combined authority Warwickshire continues to be a constituent member with the leader of the County Council having the finance portfolio. I also attend the health and mental health meetings. This remains the WCC position.

Old Shire Hall is now operating as a stand alone business unit and is available to hire for functions, weddings etc.

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCILLORS SUE GALLAGHER & PETER WHITING

Please find below an outline of the major developments that have kept us busy at Warwick District Council over the past year. We have tried to cover the most important issues, without going into too much detail. If you have particular questions, please do get in touch.

We should highlight that Sue has recently been appointed the Parish Council Champion for Warwick District. In this role, Sue will act as a potential point of liaison between Parish Councils and both the District and County councils, helping to raise any concerns and assisting the dialogue between the different organisations.

Our thanks to all of you for your help and support over the past twelve months. Sue and I look forward to continuing to work with you during 2018.

Best wishes,

Peter Whiting & Sue Gallagher

Summary

The priority of the Conservative group that controls Warwick District Council has been to continue to provide high quality services, improving them where possible, despite the continued downward pressure on the financial support provided from central government to local government in general, and district councils in particular. As is hopefully apparent from what follows, we are working hard to achieve this on a number of major projects.

Finance and the RUCIS scheme - Despite this financial pressure, the Council recently approved the new rates of council tax for the 2018/19 financial year with only a £5 annual increase on the WDC share of a band D property. If our Parish Precepts are included, Warwick District is in the bottom quartile of all English district councils for its council tax charges. As finance portfolio holder, Peter has worked hard to ensure that the RUCIS scheme remains available despite the need to economise where possible.

This scheme provides funds for a wide variety of local capital projects, and many organisations within Arden ward have benefited from it. We encourage you to continue to publicise this scheme.

Leisure - When she was Leisure portfolio holder, Sue began the process of outsourcing the management of our leisure centres. The new operator is now in place, and we are also approaching the end of a major capital investment programme in Leamington and Warwick; work is beginning to determine what investment is required in Kenilworth. The benefits of these changes are already apparent in terms of increased usage, and the outsourced contract will see a service that cost local taxpayers several hundred thousand pounds each year transformed into one that will deliver annual income of over a million pounds.

HQ Relocation - Warwick District Council currently occupies two buildings - it uses the Town Hall for public meetings, while officers are based in Riverside House, originally designed to house the Leamington Building Society. The use of two buildings is inevitably inefficient, while Riverside House is significantly too big for the council, and would require a multi-million investment to bring it back to an acceptable standard. The Council has therefore made the decision to relocate to new offices that will be built on the site of the current Covent Garden car park. This will see the Riverside House site developed for housing, to fund the building of the new council offices. The multi-storey car park at Covent Garden will be replaced and enlarged, and the spending power of council employees will be moved much closer to the centre of the town.

Europa Way - Work is underway that will see this site to the south of Warwick transformed to include housing, commercial buildings, and a new community sports stadium. This latter element would provide a new home for Leamington Football Club, and in turn free up their current Harbury Lane site. This is a complex scheme that involves the close co-operation of many parties, with Warwick District Council co-ordinating.

Fly Tipping - The Council has for some time had in place arrangements with its waste management contractors to provide a rapid response to clean up reported incidents of fly tipping, and this appears to work well. In order to dissuade persistent fly tippers, in late 2017 the Council formed a partnership with Rugby Borough Council to increase enforcement action. Considerable investigative work is required to bring successful fly tipping prosecutions, and RBC has a team with a proven track record in this area. Residents should continue to report any issues, but should not search for or disturb potential evidence themselves.

Gypsy and Traveller Sites - Work continues to identify one or more suitable sites. The new portfolio holder for this area has launched an appeal to Parish Councils to encourage co-operation on the subject, but the topic remains extremely politically challenging. This is despite the fact that bringing one or more sites into operation would greatly reduce or eliminate the problems of illegal encampments that have affected Warwick District and its neighbours over the recent past. The one site under active consideration is the Harbury Lane site currently occupied by Leamington Town Football Club. Assuming the development of a new sports stadium at Europa Way progresses as planned, then this site would become available and is considered suitable. However, this will take several years, and work continues to identify other possible sites.

FRIENDS OF HATTON STATION – CLLR PAUL TILLEY

We have had yet another very productive twelve months. The shrub and wild flower border between the pumping station and the planter by the new car park is now well established. The boundary fence has been renewed by our neighbour, Mrs Lewis and will be painted this summer.

The planter on Platform 2/3 has been replanted with shrubs and bulbs donated by a member.

Passenger numbers have increased by 15% (7% in 2016) in the last year with almost 52,000 (45,000 in 2016) journeys completed. This is the highest figure Hatton Station has achieved since it opened in 1852!

The “old” car park is having the parking bays remarked later this year when weather permits!

We hold a good stock of materials for the ongoing maintenance of the planters and with continuing donations of bulbs, shrubs and plants there has been no draw on our funds which remain at £174.34. This year we will need some new shrubs and plant food which will reduce the balance.

Thanks are expressed to Mark Beaglehole, Will Morley-Brown, Neal Soutter, Dave Appleby and our newest member Graham Bamford for their help. Also to Daphne Tilley for her ongoing maintenance of the planters’ contents!

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

LITTLE SHREWLEY TELEPHONE KIOSK – LINDA WESBURY

Following the decommissioning and subsequent purchase of the Little Shrewley telephone kiosk by Shrewley Parish Council in 2017, the kiosk has been cleaned throughout and the trees and shrubs nearby have been cut back. Power to the box will continue to be provided free of charge and the bulb has been replaced so that the kiosk has been reassuringly lit again on winter nights.

Several local residents have volunteered to maintain the kiosk, one of whom, Jacqueline Aggiss has designed a map showing the houses and footpaths in Little Shrewley. A temporary version has already been placed in the kiosk while a more permanent fixture is being made.

A further poster has been created showing the history of telephone kiosks and the purchase of this Little Shrewley landmark. It will be installed alongside the final version of the map. The wording has also been shared with others to encourage its use in the other Parish kiosks.

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 be happy to 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.

THE CONNIE NEWTON TRUST – 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 30th September 2017, the Trust made six grants totalling £3,330 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.

SHREWLEY WOMENS INSTITUTE – JEAN LEWIS

Shrewley WI meets on the first Thursday of each month, at 2.15pm. In 2017 we had 70 members on our books, of which 13 of these were dual members, and the average attendance for each meeting was in the 50's. Our pattern of meetings is much the same each month with approximately 30 minutes of business; a speaker; followed by afternoon tea.

Shrewley WI started in 1937, and so we celebrated our 80th Birthday in August. Unfortunately we do not have any members who remember the beginning!

We appreciate the village hall being so well maintained. The new electrically operated screen has made life much easier. Thanks go to the Village Hall Committee.

The topics covered by Speakers varied enormously from Wrapping Presents to the History of Coventry. I am sure each member would have a different favourite: Margot McCleary with her Joyce Grenfell impressions, who entertained us twice; Alan Rogers, who spoke about the anecdotes of escapades in the police force! and Ian Carr 'making a visible difference through sport'.

Outings are also organised by Warwickshire WI Trustees. The several trips to London were popular—Houses of Parliament, Jewish London, and Barrow Boys & Bankers. Also, in other directions --- the trips to Salford Quays, Southwell Workhouse and David Austin Roses. A number of members learnt of 'The remains of Richard III under the car park'.... and others listened to Margaret Thatcher (alias Lesley Smith), closer to home at Hatton! Several members enjoy the Serious Science lectures, and others the knitting courses or country walks. There is always a wide range of interesting options.

Every two years there is a Warwickshire competition for the 'Ros Trophy'. This year the competition was in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death, with a 3 minute reading from one of the Austen books. We are delighted that Sheila Light, one of our members, won the competition. Congratulations to Sheila.

We appreciate the dedication of the Warwickshire Trustees. They are the backbone of the structure of WI, without whom we would not be enjoying the breadth of interests enabling us to broaden our minds, -- and indeed enjoying the friendships that we continue to make through WI.

At the end of March 2018, Warwickshire Federation starts the celebrations for their Centenary. 1918 was the time of the suffragettes, -- and the start of the struggle for equal rights for women!

VILLAGE HALL - DAVID LAWRIE

The past 12 months have been very busy for the village hall with regular club bookings, family parties, Social Club meetings and events such as two live performances and children's events like the "Play and Stay" meetings organised by Shrewley Parents' Group and so on.

- The hall's popularity as a meeting place seems to be growing, but this in turn calls for more maintenance, so it is pleasing that Donna is still keeping the hall clean and tidy to a very good standard.
- When the main drain blocked last year we were able to rod it out ourselves, but there was a lurking fault which caught us out in January, and we had to have it re-lined completely, a very costly exercise. Fortunately, the hall reserves were sufficient to defray this cost and leave enough in the kitty to cope with other emergencies.
- The field at the back of the hall has been neglected for many years apart from regular mowing, so this year we decided to clear the rubbish at the bottom of the area, level the field and renew the field drainage system down to the ditch at the eastern boundary. This has opened out the area making it more suitable for the Village Show, and will make it easier to develop the Children's play area being planned by Shrewley Parents' Group if it comes to fruition. There is still an old tree by the gate which will be removed in a few days, and further tree surgery will be carried out shortly after that which will let more light into the field making it a much more pleasant place. A grant of £500 from the Village Show has been used towards the cost of this work, and a further grant has been awarded by the Parish Council which will help to defray the continuing cost.
- A WDC (RUCIS) grant which the WI supplemented with a gift of £500 was used to replace the hall chairs in January. Additional cupboard and worktop capacity was constructed in the bar area last summer, and a motorised projection screen was installed at the same time.
- Towards the end of the year the hall was able to purchase the telephone kiosk from BT Payphones, and since then we have been in a tussle with BT and Western Power to get the power supply restored so that we can house the defibrillator there.
- We are in the process of fitting new curtains and rails in the hall.
- After very many years of looking after village hall bookings, Brian Sparks has passed the job on to Elaine Hall who is getting to grips with it, and making the changes she needs to suit her ways of working. We are all most grateful to Brian for looking after the function for so long, and pleased that Elaine has risen to the challenging task.
- The Craft Fayre in November was a new venture for the hall, but it was very successful, and it is hoped that it will become an annual event.

- This coming year, we have already booked a quiz night for 8th June and a “horse-racing night” for 16th November; the Social Club has a full program of events, and I am sure Shrewley Parents’ Group will be using the hall too, if only for their now annual and renowned Burns Supper in January.

SOCIAL CLUB – DAVID LAWRIE

During the year, the Club has put on several live performances and a full programme of popular movies, and introduced items of new equipment.

We were pleased to welcome Sally Andrews as a member of the Committee in June.

The new amplifier provided for Hall use was commissioned in April, and a new motorised screen was installed about the same time. The screen has proved to be a big improvement on the old one, but the projector mounting had to be reconstructed to use it properly. There were teething troubles with the amplifier which had to be repaired under warranty, but it now seems to be performing as it should. New microphones were obtained so that the Wharfedale sound system can now be used with four microphones connected to the mixer

The “Quiz night” produced for the Village Hall in May was very well received, and another will be held on 8th June this year. In October, an old-time music hall performance by “Sundial Theatre” was a big success, as was our “Christmas Crackers” party featuring Steve Pilkington on piano and members of the parish on stage. Ginny Davis’ performance of “Arrows of Desire” in February was a little expensive for us, but was modestly successful, and it more than covered its costs.

The eight movies screened during the year were all well received, though one of them, “Allied”, blew up the amplifier, and the most recent (excellent) movie “Hidden Figures” had an audience of 14 intrepid members in a snowstorm where the depth of snow increased from three inches at the start of the movie to six inches at the end!

There is a new programme of popular movies for this year, the Quiz Night already mentioned and a Race Night on 16th November, but there will be additional events as the year progresses.

The Club will be ten years old in May, and it seems to be as enthusiastic as it was when it was founded.

SHREWLEY PARISH PARENTS – 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.

2017/18 has been a successful year for us. We have held a ‘stay and play’ session at the Village Hall every 2 months, with regular attendance at each one. We took part in the Shrewley show again, and did lots of face painting for young children. Our big event this year was our Burns Night supper in late January. Building on the success of last year’s event, we welcomed 80 guests to a 3 course meal, a ceildih band, and a piper. We raised a grand total of just under £1300, and we plan to run this event again in 2019.

In late 2018, we submitted plans to Warwick District Council for the playground project. This is currently open for consultation and we expect a decision imminently.

Looking ahead to the remainder of the year, we are considering changing the format of our regular Saturday sessions in an attempt to open them up to slightly older children.

Under consideration at the moment is a Family Movie afternoon. More details to be published on Facebook and the Parish website once plans are in place.

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!

FERNCUMBE YOUTH CLUB – STUART INGALL-TOMBS

2017 has been another steady year for the club. Our attendance numbers remain constant with slight dips in the holidays which is to be expected although we do still have new members joining throughout the year which is fantastic. This is partly due to us using social media to advertise events we take part in and what is going on, on club nights. We have had another successful year with Hatton Joint Organisation providing us with valuable funds.

Again, we must show our enormous thanks to our fabulous leaders who ensure that the club stays open and provide a facility for young people to enjoy in the parish. There are many children who attend the club who live in Shrewley and Ferncumbe Youth Club would like to thank the Parish Council for continuing their support and funding for another year.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – MARK BEAGLEHOLE



The joint Hatton Station, Shrewley and Little Shrewley Neighbourhood Watch is a voluntary organisation committed to working with you and your neighbours, providing information and coordination in support of a safe and secure environment for individuals and communities within the area, and giving a voice to local residents on the issues that matter to our community.

We work closely with the Parish Council, the local Warwickshire Rural West Police Team, and sister schemes in neighbouring village communities to focus on reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and on practical ways to improve our protection and safety for greater security in our homes and communities.

Action Plan for 2018/19

Although we may not be particularly visible, we are not standing still and our local NW scheme is steadily growing in membership. We need to keep up this momentum in order to expand the reach of our scheme, so during the year we will be inviting existing members to promote the scheme with their neighbours, and get them signed up for our email alerts.

Followers will be aware that traditional role and scope of Neighbourhood Watch was reliant on our volunteer band of local Coordinators and Local Organiser to provide points of contact for communication with the NW scheme and our Police contacts.

However, increasingly we are also embracing email and new technology to establish a wider and more inclusive support network, to collectively meet new and emerging challenges in today's rapidly changing world and to encourage active participation.

Fraud and crime alerts, and practical support information about crime prevention will be distributed regularly, to keep everyone aware of current issues like internet and telephone-

based fraud, burglary, car crime and thefts from sheds & outbuildings, so we can all take action to help ourselves and our neighbours to avoid becoming victims!

Join our Neighbourhood Watch and Get Involved!

To get yourself on the distribution for email crime and fraud alerts, please contact your NW Local Organiser – email: mark.beaglehole@hotmail.com - including your postcode and house number so we can put you in touch with your local NW Coordinator, and to ensure you receive the appropriate crime alerts for your location.

SHREWLEY AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

What a splendid year has passed for us all at our small but select group of members, membership rising throughout the year. We have had a few small hiccups along the way – notably involving our outings and despite the early evening difficulty when arriving into the Village Hall car park. This due very much so to the extended time given to the tutor group who also utilize the same car park facilities. We have had several near misses of car collisions within the entrance area but otherwise the meetings passed very well.

The speakers selected by Jean were excellent and of the highest standard, some of our speakers coming back for second and third time.

In April we once again had our Spring Show and Bulb competition with an increased entry, combining with an excellent talk by Jack Willgoss on his Chelsea Award Winning Violas which resulted in a very lively and interesting evening.

Our trip to Kew availing us of the RHS free entry was well worth the visit once again and on equal par certainly to Wisley Gardens.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Wrest Park outing due to lack of numbers but made up with an extra outing to Bodenham Arboretum in October, which was much enjoyed by all who went.

Finally, I would like to thank all my small in number but extremely hard-working committee throughout the year, no more so than our excellent secretary Juanita and the very skilful e-mails sent out on a regular basis to our members.

SHREWLEY VILLAGE SHOW – HERBERT ANDREWS

The 54th SHREWLEY VILLAGE SHOW took place on Sunday 3rd September 2017 at the Village Hall and Grounds. On a somewhat blustery day the Village Hall was packed full of magnificent vegetable and fruit displays, a beautiful array of flowers together with a photography section, superb 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 and a the very best exhibits were awarded a certificate of merit.

The Show itself opened at 1.30pm, with free parking this year at the Durham Ox to ensure less congestion along Shrewley Common, with the very popular raffle and pig roast with numerous activities in the Village Hall Grounds, ranging from the traditional bowling, chocolate tombola, bottle stall, milk the cow,, face painting etc.

The well stocked bar as always was very popular and a 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 to the winners and a special presentation to all the children who exhibited in the Show.

A lot of hard work is put in throughout the year by the Village Show committee and new ideas are always very welcome. David Howell has retired from the committee following last years Show. The committee would like to thank David for all his hard work commitment and support for the Show.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Plans are now well advanced for the 55th Shrewley Village Show on Sunday 2nd September 2018. The committee is hoping for even more exhibits this year. As before, the Show will start at 1.30pm with a BBQ, bar and tea tent. Here's hoping for great weather.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If an Annual Shrewley Village Show is to continue, which the committee very much hope it will after some 54 consecutive years, then more help is urgently required throughout the year as well as on the Show weekend itself. We need to recruit at least three more committee members to ensure a high quality vibrant Show can continue for future years. If there is a lack of volunteers then the Show is unlikely to continue in its current format. If you would like to help please contact Show chair Herbert Andrews 01926 843423 or the Show secretary Simon Lister 01926 843450

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.