

SHREWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 2ND APRIL 2019 - REPORTS

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – CLLR ROBERT WESBURY

The Parish Council co-opted and welcomed Elaine Forty as a Councillor in May and I was elected as Chairman in September, following the resignation of Cllr Paul Tilley in July. Paul was a Councillor for 13 years and Chairman for 3 years. Also in July, Will Morley-Brown resigned due to work commitments. Will had served for five years as a Councillor. I would like to thank them both for their contribution.

Our Councillors have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election in May but at this time, the Parish Council will still have two vacancies. If you are interested, please contact any Parish Councillor or the Clerk for more information.

Shrewley Parish is in the Green Belt and new development must meet the requirements of both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Warwick District Local Plan. The Parish Council, as a statutory consultee, has commented on over 20 planning applications during the year.

I am pleased to report that following last year's Assembly when Cllr Will Morley-Brown outlined the case being made for a bus to Ferncumbe School for children from Hatton Station, the County Council agreed to provide this service from September.

Following a request from a previous Assembly for a speed check on Station Road, Hatton, this has been carried out and indicated that there is not a significant speed problem. The full results are on the Shrewley Parish website www.shrewley.org

Also in response to concerns from residents about speeding traffic on Shrewley Common, the Parish Council arranged for 8 police speed checks over four months and two motorists were dealt with for excess speeding. We have also recently surveyed residents to get their views on traffic calming priorities in the village and a summary of the results will be presented to the Annual Assembly.

A number of road issues have been reported over the year, including a major flooding problem on the Hockley Road/Hughes Hill junction, which has now been resolved. Local reported problems can be found by following the link from the Parish website and entering your postcode.

Despite our best efforts, we still have a number of unresolved reported problems on our footpaths, some dating back two years. These reports can also be found on our Parish website.

Following consultation with the Canal & River Trust (CRT) the towpath at the south-east entrance to Shrewley tunnel has been cleared and new signage to the canal from Shrewley Common is proposed.

We have also repaired the notice board at Hatton Station and installed a new grit bin in Little Shrewley at the junction of Mill Lane and Croft Lane. I would like to thank Roly Robinson and Keith Duffell for mowing our village greens and Jean Andrews for looking after the flower beds on Shrewley Common.

Over the year, the Parish Council made grants totalling £1300 to the Village Hall, Ferncumbe Youth Club, Hatton Church and Shrewley Parish Parents Group in support of their activities.

Following a number of local burglaries, the Parish Council requested a meeting with the Police Commissioner and senior police officers to discuss residents' concerns. As these concerns were shared by residents in adjoining parishes, our local District Councillor Sue Gallagher arranged a public meeting chaired by Frazer Pithie, at Rowington Village Hall in March when our MP Jeremy Wright, Police Commissioner Philip Seccombe and Inspector Dave Kettle answered questions from residents. The hall was packed to capacity with over 150 residents attending. Our website has a detailed report on the meeting which can be accessed from the Neighbourhood Watch page.

District Cllr Sue Gallagher has indicated that she will not be standing for election in May after serving for 12 years. We have had tremendous support from Sue in resolving many local issues. I thank her for her commitment and wish her well for the future.

Finally, my thanks to all Councillors, our Clerk, and members of our local organisations for their efforts and support over the year and their contribution to our community.

SHREWLEY PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT – Clerk

The 2018/19 Budget set by Shrewley Parish Council was £6717 and has remained nearly the same for 2019/20 at £6726. 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 £26.22 for a Band G household. 2018/19 ends with a healthy balance of over £5500, which includes £160 for Friends of Hatton Station. The Village Hall have received a £1000 contribution towards felling dangerous trees and reducing the canopy behind the Village Hall to improve sunlight penetration so that the Shrewley Parish Parents Group can progress the use of part of the field as a children's play area.

All parish financial information is available on the Parish Council page at www.shrewley.org

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR LES CABORN

Budget

Council set a budget of 3% for general use plus 2% ring fenced for adult social care. This is the last year we can apply the social care premium as we await the social care green paper to determine the future for social care funding.

2019/20 is the last year of our current One Organisational Plan and cabinet and leadership team are already working on 2020-2025 corporate plan.

Despite the challenges these are the highlights of our budget:

£6.8 million in children's social care to meet costs of increasing numbers of looked after children, more support for moving from care to independent living, plus additional £2.8 million for children's transformation fund to reduce demand for children's social care.

£7.3million for elderly citizens and vulnerable adults and support greater integration between health and social care.

£1.1million for home to school transport to meet increased demand.

£400,000k for New compactors at our recycling sites to meet demand

£300,000k to create capacity in digital and technology investment to ensure service redesign.

£2.0 million for a new Early intervention, Prevention and Community's capacity fund

£1.0 million revenue to generate additional capital for investment in infrastructure.

£2.0 million to maintain and enhance our work to ensure a vibrant Warwickshire economy including £1.0 million over 4 years to deliver City of Culture projects to maximise opportunities for Warwickshire.

£30,000 to continue supporting the Armed Services Covenant.

Additional £300,000 to extend our homelessness project to 4 years working without Borough and District partners.

£500,000 to support transport solutions for communities focused on rural isolation and supporting vulnerable groups.

Economy and Skills

CWLEP has the strongest growth of all the UK LEPs between 2009 and 2017

Productivity (gav) per job filled is also best for the UK

Largest exporting area outside London and 2/3 rds of West Midlands exports

53 foreign direct investment projects in 2017/18 creating 3621 jobs

An independent assessment by BEIS for OECD case studies said,

Dynamism of local economy a major strength

Improving productivity , falling unemployment ,increased business start-ups

Strong local entrepreneurship ecosystem- start-ups, scale-ups, innovation.

Warwickshire has continued to promote apprenticeships including role in WCC.

Health

In February I lead a public interest debate on the motion: the Council believes that an integrated care system focussed on communities is the right way forward for the Health and Well-being of citizens in Warwickshire. This was approved and confirms our direction of travel working with all health partners from GPs to Acute hospitals.

It is also the Coventry and Warwickshire year of Well-being promoting that we are all responsible for our own well-being.

We are also delighted to welcome Sir Chris Ham, former chief executive of the Kings Fund, as the independent chair of our Coventry and Warwickshire STP.

Over the past few months we have been working with the voluntary sector, community and health to develop a framework for Social Prescribing in Warwickshire with common parlance and map the good work already happening so we have the same offer for all our citizens.

Fire and Rescue

Our chief fire officer retires 1April and we have appointed the deputy chief fire officer from West Sussex as our new chief. During the year Warwickshire was in the first tranche of fire and rescue service national inspections under the new police and fire inspection regime. We received a rating of good.

We also signed an MOU with West Midlands Fire and Rescue for co-operation including training and cross boundary working.

Our Fire and Rescue commenced a Hospital to Home transport taking elderly people home from hospital or to a Care home when no other help is available and to prevent longer stays. They are settled in and a return visit is made to carry out a safe and well check of the house.

Highways

Warwickshire has been awarded joint top place in the Ipsos-Mori national survey of road conditions and repairs, 3300 people in Warwickshire were interviewed within a national total of 100,000.

We are recruiting additional highway engineers to help deal with the pressure of housing development.

We have maintained our winter gritting buying a new to us fleet of updated gritters.

Transformation

The new operating model is now operational.

Monica Fogarty is appointed Chief Executive with 3 directors for people group, communities group and resources beneath. Service delivery and commissioning of services is delivered by 13 assistant directors which include the Director of Public Health and the chief fire officer.

Our new website is operational and will be further enhanced, including a remodelled call centre operating as the front door to services at WCC. We are working on more service transformation using digital access and models of support.

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCILLOR SUE GALLAGHER

For the past twelve years I have had the honour and privilege to represent where I live together with several nearby communities by being an elected member of Warwick District Council (WDC). Over the period since 2007 I have come to meet and know many people who live in Leek Wootton, Shrewley, Rowington, Haseley, Beausale, Lapworth, Baddesley Clinton, Chadwick End and Wroxall. These rural communities are what in many ways makes Warwickshire one of England's finest counties.

Being able to help individuals with issues or problems they face is one of the most satisfying aspects of being a Councillor and as far as I am concerned it is this ability that has always been my central focus in all that I have done. Of course one has to make decisions at times that are not going to be universally popular but nevertheless are decisions that one knows are the right actions to take.

I'd like to think that on most occasions whether it be with individuals or with the respective Parish Councils within the area I represent I have always been available, prepared to step in but crucially act to do the things which needed to be done wherever and whenever possible. It is, of course, for others to judge but I feel I could not have given more time or commitment to my role than that I have demonstrated across the communities that make up my District Council ward.

For the large part of my twelve years as a District Councillor I have been a member of the Conservative group. I have always, and continue to hold the view that Councillors who spend people's money raised through Council Tax should welcome challenge, questions and accept accountability as part of their role.

However, in my view events over the past twelve months show the Conservative group running WDC taking a tawdry approach in administering the affairs of our district local authority. The shabby and inexplicable treatment of two vibrant charities that each make a significant contribution to Leamington Spa and the wider district was the start for me. The use of a political whip by the Conservative leadership to stop elected members by coercion what had been a non-political cross party intention to allow these charities to thrive into the future, allow them to invest in the Council's estate and in return provide longer term security of tenure was as disgraceful as the reasons given were disingenuous. I for one refused to go along with being dragooned into thwarting the efforts of so many ordinary well intentioned people involved in the charities concerned. Consequently, I supported the charities and defied the political whip.

My judgement and action immediately initiated disciplinary action by the Conservative Group leadership against me. How dare I seek to represent people and not do as I was told by those who considered themselves as my 'political masters'. This was compounded when it became apparent that prior meetings had taken place by those who had set themselves up as judge and jury at a proposed disciplinary hearing of me. Such a process is a world away from natural justice and against Conservative Party rules but despite raising this still nothing changed which confirmed I needed to resign from the Conservative Group.

Since becoming independent I have been appalled at the continued arrogance of the so-called leadership of the Conservative group. The dreadful handling of the WDC HQ relocation and its affects upon Leamington Spa being a prime example.

The duplicitous approach when it comes to planning policy and affordable housing, the needless vandalism of cutting down scores of mature hardwood trees and the potential disruption to town centre businesses badly, if at all, managed have been elements of dismay to many people and when combined demonstrate a breathtaking lack of political intelligence. Yes, there may now be a delay to the scheme but it's too little too late and politically expedient with the election of a new district council shortly upon us.

The people of Kenilworth have been treated just as badly demonstrating that those running the Conservative leadership have learnt nothing from the WDC HQ debacle. In response to a public consultation that showed that there was overwhelming support for the retention of outdoor swimming at Abbey Fields the Council chose to back the least publicly supported option. Consequently, a tradition in Kenilworth that stretches back for nearly a hundred years will come to an end despite imaginative plans put forward by a Kenilworth resident for an exciting 25 metre outdoor pool within the current Abbey Fields pool site. The cost of such a great facility was estimated to be just £2.5 million. WDC's leadership response, despite continued vociferous opposition from townspeople, has been to ignore the resident's proposal and press ahead with the least supported option of an indoor training pool as part of spending an eye watering £9 million.

I believe this summary demonstrates why I could no longer be part of the Conservative political group running the District Council especially when combined with a culture, certainly for some elected female members that have been prepared to speak up, that has ranged from indifference and ignorance through to the removal of portfolios and bullying. A fact evidenced from the number of resignations by female Councillors from the Conservative group through its period in office.

Transparency and openness when combined with listening and humility is true leadership. The behaviour of the Conservative leadership on Warwick District Council informs me that their idea of public service is very different, arrogance is considered to demonstrate leadership with listening all but not existent and humility not a concept even recognised.

I earnestly hope that those that know me and my approach will agree I have never been a person to quit or walk away from any issue or need. With District Council elections approaching I have had to consider long and hard as to whether, if re-elected, I would wish to serve a further four years as District Councillor. I have decided that having served three terms of office which have been very enjoyable, bar the recent political aspects I mentioned earlier, I will not be standing for re-election as District Councillor for Arden Ward.

This has not been an easy decision but nevertheless it is a considered and final decision. I have done all I can and remained true to my principles throughout my time as District Councillor. I am twelve years older since becoming a District Councillor and there are other things I wish to do. I do not wish to give up more time undertaking a further four years as a Councillor on an elected authority that I do not see as reflecting the 21st century or changing and operating to meet expectations in 2019 and beyond.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone that has helped, supported and voted for me over the 12 years that I have been proud to be District Councillor. I do hope that people will come forward from the villages to represent their communities at the District Council rather than the Arden Ward ending up with three Councillors all who are from Kenilworth.

It is now for others if they are so minded to step forward and play their part.

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, Haseley and Shrewley are eligible to benefit from these charities. The Trustees are always pleased to hear from anyone who might be in need.

Last year our clerk was forced to retire due to ill health. We have been fortunate to secure a replacement in the person of David Brooksbank, and we are most grateful to him for taking on this role.

It is not always easy for the trustees to be aware of people who could benefit from this charity, and to this end we are printing leaflets to be displayed in public meeting places. There is also an advertisement each month in the Ferncumbe News giving more details. If you feel you qualify yourself, or are aware of someone who could benefit and meets the criteria set out above, do please get in touch.

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 2018, the Trust made four grants totalling £3,500 to local residents.

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 2.00pm. In 2018 we had 65 members on our books, with the average attendance for each meeting being around 50. Shrewley WI started in 1937, and so we are now 81 years old. Unfortunately, we do not have any members who remember the beginning!

We appreciate the village hall being so well maintained. It is always warm and clean, and now with new, comfortable chairs. The electrically operated screen has been a great asset. Our thanks go to the Village Hall Committee.

Our pattern of meetings is much the same each month with approximately 30 minutes of business; a speaker; followed by afternoon tea. The topics covered varied greatly: Birmingham Royal Ballet; The Perseus & Andromeda Fountain at Witley Court; An Actors Life; 'Hula Hooping' – both the history and demonstration! 'The Real CSI', which gave us a very different portrayal, to that shown on TV; Sarah Hancock spoke on 'The Work of the U3A' (University of the Third Age) - and with the variety of interests on offer, members could certainly take up new hobbies.

Our summer meeting included a lunch with Tricia Stuart - one of the original Calendar Girls. Her talk was on the making of the calendar, and the life of the ladies since.

This year it was Shrewley's turn to host the Annual Meeting of our group of 6 local WI's. The evening included a pictorial display of the activities of each WI; supper, and entertainment provided by 'The Merry Midwives'.

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 mind, and indeed enjoying the friendships that we continue to make through WI.

Members of Shrewley have taken advantage of many of the County organised trips—to The Houses of Parliament, Tutbury Castle, The National Army Museum, The Terracotta Warriors at Liverpool -- and 'The Grand Centenary day out', when over 1,000 Warwickshire WI members (19 from Shrewley) were taken by Johnsons Coaches to Lincoln. Members also took advantage of other activities – the Serious Science lectures, various Crafts, and even Clog Dancing.

At the end of March 2019, Warwickshire Federation closes the celebrations for their Centenary year. As part of this, the County had decided to ask the WIs to raise money for Warwickshire Air Ambulance. Shrewley held an afternoon tea in the village hall – homemade cakes, china cups etc. We were delighted to be able to forward £460.

FRIENDS OF HATTON STATION – PAUL TILLEY

The main news this year is that our campaign to have the road bridge repaired and repainted has finally come to fruition! Well I say finally.....what I should say is that the final phase of digging out the roadway and waterproofing the structure is on hold. This is due to the presence of utility cabling buried beneath the surface. Detailed plans are being drawn up between Network Rail, Western Power and BT to ensure a swift and safe renewal of the surface can take place with no service disruption to the community. Unfortunately, this will mean another road closure, which should be significantly shorter than the one that has just finished! Many thanks to Jeremy Wright MP for all his support in helping get this project moving!

The footbridge on the station has also been refurbished with a new surface and step treads. Overzealous use of rock salt had caused significant corrosion. Safe to say lessons have been learnt and a far less corrosive substance will now be used in icy weather! The "old" car park has had its parking bays remarked.

Passenger numbers have increased by 17% (15% in 2017) in the last year with almost 60,700 (52,000 in 2017) journeys completed.

The large planter on Platform 2/3 is now well established. The small planter by the new car park is having a complete makeover this Spring. Both planters will soon be having their biennial painting. We hold a good stock of materials for the ongoing maintenance of the planters and have received donations of bulbs, shrubs and plants. Our funds currently stand at £160.83 some of which will be spent on compost and fertilizer this Spring.

Thanks are expressed to Graham Bamford, Mark Beaglehole, and Dave Appleby for their help in keeping the planters watered in what was a very hot and challenging summer. Also to Daphne Tilley for her ongoing maintenance of the planters. In recognition of their help, Chiltern Railways provided Family Day out passes which were gratefully received.

Friends of Hatton Station now has a page on the Shrewley website www.shrewley.org

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 is being maintained and has remained a focal point in the village during the dark winter nights.

The completed map showing the houses and footpaths in Little Shrewley has been installed, together with a poster showing the history of telephone kiosks and the purchase of this Little Shrewley landmark.

The phone box is maintained by a number of residents who regularly clean it inside and out, and cut back vegetation to ensure the phone box is well kept.

VILLAGE HALL - DAVID LAWRIE

Organisation:

When we decided to allow Shrewley Parish Parents' Group to use part of our field to construct a play area, the plan was that they should be completely independent of the Hall organisation. Very soon we found that the Hall Committee would have to be responsible for the new facility, which meant that the Group would have to be merged with the existing Hall Organisation, so this merger has taken place. The Parents' Group has prepared a Project Plan for the task, which is on schedule beginning with preparing applications for the grant funds which will be needed. After very many years working very informally with the Village Hall, we have set up a simple agreement with Shrewley Show for the use of the hall which shares any proceeds equably, ensuring the continuation of the Show.

The Hall's records have been reorganised to comply with General Data Protection Regulations.

Hall hiring: Rented hours have improved again this year, and the contribution from children's coaching classes has increased. The increased hall use is calling for more car space, as you will see below.

The premises: During the year the following maintenance and changes have taken place:

Both car park gates brought into service

Main foul drain replaced as an emergency

Eastern end of the field cleared of brush, and new land drains installed.

Hall pillars repaired and all the walls waterproofed
 New committee room door fitted
 New curtains and rails installed
 Taps in ladies' toilet replaced
 Domestic water heater replaced
 Telephone kiosk power re-installed.
 Lighting over defibrillator improved.
 New switches backstage to replace inaccessible plug and socket connections.
 Broken exit gatepost replaced with drop bolt on gate.

Inspired by a Tesco "Bags of Help" grant and assisted with donations from WDC Forum, HJO, W.I., the Village Show and the Parish Council, we will be installing interlinked plastic pavers on part of the field to cope with the overflow parking resulting from the Hall's increased popularity.

Functions: The Social Club puts its frequent shows on, and in addition it produces live entertainments for the Hall, and last year we produced a Quiz Night on 8th June, a Christmas Party, and the "Fat Chance" comedy and music night on 8th March. The Hall's second Craft Fayre on 17th November was again a success, and another will be staged this November.

SOCIAL CLUB – DAVID LAWRIE

Thanks to the continued enthusiasm of the Social Club Committee and many Club members, we had a very successful and entertaining twelve months.

The bit that was not so entertaining though was the imposition of the Data Protection Regulations act, where the Club was not alone in getting our membership records unnecessarily muddled. In the process of asking our membership to confirm that they still wanted us to keep them informed of events we actually lost a large block of records and had to contact a lot of members again to restore them to the list. Our confusion is not unique, and most organisations have had problems with the new legislation.

During the year we screened the following movies to good audiences:

2018	April	Murder on the Orient Express
	May	Kingsman, the Golden Circle
	June	Lion
August	The Greatest Showman	
	September	Breathe
	September	The Imitation Game (a repeat, by special request for W.I.)
	October	The Post
	November	Victoria and Abdul
2019	January	Mamma Mia 2
	February	Paddington 2

The following were "live" events:

2018	November	Craft Fayre (Produced by Elaine Hall in aid of the Village Hall)
	December	"Christmas Capers" our Christmas party (Directed by Sheila Light)
2019	March	"Fat Chance", a music and comedy show.

In the near future the following events are booked:

April 12 th	Movie "The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society"
May 11 th	ABBA Revival, a live show, produced by Shrewley W.I.

May 17th Movie "The Darkest Hour"
June 28th Movie "Finding Your Feet"

The rest of the programme is left fluid to take advantage of the best entertainment that we can find, but we keep our members informed of all new development; hence the importance of our mailing list!

SHREWLEY AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2018 was a very good year for the Shrewley and District Garden Society. We had some lovely speakers throughout the year, notably, in September, Glyn Jones – Head Gardener of The New Place - Shakespeare's Garden and in December, Michael Marriott – Head Rosier from David Austin Roses.

The Chairman David Howell demonstrated useful 'Topical Tips' at each meeting – delighting the audience most months with the 'Chelsea Chop'.

Our coach trip to Biddulph Grange was a great success, but unfortunately the Birmingham Botanical Garden trip was cancelled – we shall try again another year. In September, we had an afternoon trip to Guy's Cliff Kitchen Garden in Warwick, where we had an excellent guided tour with tea and cakes to follow. In June, for our Summer party, four gardens along Shrewley Common, were opened by Members of the Society. We all visited and enjoyed strawberries & cream and a glass of wine, served at the last garden. Thank you to all participants. The AGM and Christmas Party rounded off the year very well with quizzes and prizes of pretty hellebore plants.

We were delighted that The Society's Membership increased from 48 in 2017 to 58 in 2018 with a few more visitors attending the talks and joining us for our coach visits.

Many thanks must go to our hard-working committee, with David Howell at the helm, Herbert Andrews as Treasurer and Juanita Bolster as Secretary. Also much gratitude goes to Jan Belcher, Peta Cox, Sheila Clarke and Sylvia Green.

We are looking forward to the 2019 Programme and coach trips and continued success with The Shrewley and District Garden Society.

FERNCUMBE YOUTH CLUB – DAVID K DYKE / SELENE DYKE

2018 has been a positive year for the club with a rise in attendance numbers throughout the year with many new members joining. We continue to use social media to attract members and share new events, special nights and the arrival of new exciting tuck shop items.

We appreciated the support of Wroxall for the "Cake and Teas" Sunday which was well supported with great help from local volunteers and we continue to be very grateful to Hatton Combined Charities providing us with very valuable funds, all made possible by the fantastic support from all the volunteers.

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.

We continue to be indebted to our fabulous leaders who run the club every week ensuring that the club stays open providing a facility for young people to enjoy in the parish.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – MARK BEAGLEHOLE



The joint Hatton Station and Shrewley Neighbourhood Watch is a voluntary organisation committed to working with residents and family, friends and neighbours, to provide 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 advising on practical ways to improve our protection and safety for greater security in our homes and communities.

Action Plan for 2019/20

Our local NW scheme is active and steadily growing in membership, even if it isn't highly visible! We have a Local Organiser and a small band of Co-ordinators spread around the two main villages and nearby areas. Their role is to provide points of contact for communication with the NW scheme and our Police contacts – ensuring new residents moving into the area are invited to join, disseminating information about crimes which have taken place in the area, and focusing on matters of crime prevention. 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.

Both nationally and locally, the Police are using email and new technology to establish a wider and more inclusive support network, to collectively meet emerging challenges such as 'County Lines' activity and urban crime spreading into soft rural areas. Fraud and crime alerts, and practical support information about crime prevention will be distributed regularly, to keep everyone aware of current issues like internet scams 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 Be Informed!

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 VILLAGE SHOW – HERBERT ANDREWS

The 55th SHREWLEY VILLAGE SHOW took place on Sunday 2nd September 2018 at Shrewley Village Hall and Grounds. On a lovely sunny and warm late summer 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 superb full and 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 the very best exhibits were awarded a certificate of merit.

The Show itself opened at 1.30pm, with free parking again this year at the Durham Ox to ensure less congestion along Shrewley Common, with the very popular raffles and this year a gourmet BBQ together 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 serving beers wines prosecco as well as soft drinks was more popular than ever as visitors enjoyed a drink and burger relaxing in the warm sun-shine along with a traditional ice cream van which was popular with adults and children alike. Another highlight of the Show was the ever popular beautifully decorated tea tent which was particularly well supported again this year, serving an extensive range of delicious home-made cakes with tea and coffee. The tables set outside the tea tent in the reserved tea tent area were beautifully laid out giving everyone one the chance to sit down over a cuppa and a chat whilst watching the activities at the Show.

Throughout the afternoon there was background music and later in the afternoon was the egg throwing competition which is now a firm favourite with the visitors to the Show. The afternoon was 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. If you would like to be involved please contact Herbert Andrews, Show Chair.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Plans are now well advanced for the 56th Shrewley Village Show on Sunday 1st September 2019. 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. Details will be on the website at www.shrewley.org where details of the exhibits can be downloaded. Get planting and exhibit. It's your Show!

IMPORTANT NOTE: If an Annual Shrewley Village Show is to continue, which the committee very much hope it will after some 55 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.

HATTON STATION TELEPHONE KIOSK – SHEONA ALEMI

The HSBC gathered in the Spring of 2018 to begin work refurbishing the BT telephone box at Hatton Station. Several layers of paint and rust were rubbed and scraped away, before a shiny new layer of red undercoat and topcoat paint were applied. The work was carried out over a couple of sunny weekends and was great fun for all those involved. A big thank you to everyone who contributed money, time, materials and cups of tea!

The adjacent planter has been filled, with the support of Barn Close Nurseries and is watered regularly by our local volunteers. The electricity supply has been reinstated, so with the addition of Festive Christmas lights and England flags during the Football World Cup- it really has brightened up the area.

A couple of broken window panels have required replacing and the group are now actively fundraising to replace them. It's hoped that over the coming year sufficient fundraising will enable us to replace all the windows with new ones.

The intention is to create a book exchange within the box in 2019. If you'd like to get involved please contact Sheona Alemi 07969066827 as our next meeting is scheduled for May 20th and we intend to have a family BBQ by the box on Saturday 15th June- everyone welcome!

SHREWLEY PARISH PARENTS – ELIZA GAFFNEY

In the last year, SPP have progressed with their main aim of building a playground in the village.

In late 2018, we submitted a business plan to the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) to outline our plans for how to fundraise the development of the playground, and how to manage it in the future. The committee approved the plan and we have now agreed a formal structure for how to deliver this project. A member of SPP will sit on the VHMC to report on the projects progress and when the playground is in place, to report on its use and ongoing management. We have also put together a list of local volunteers who can help to maintain the playground on a weekly rota when it is built.

We have had professional playground designs done by three different companies and have selected one of these as our playground provider (Proludic). We are currently at the final stages of determining the exact space allocated to the playground, and deciding on which playground equipment it will contain.

We have continued to run our Stay and Play events, having done an event in June, October, December 2018, and February 2019 since our last report. All of these events have been well attended and we continue to attract new families. We have recently agreed to find a way to share the Social Club's film licence, thereby cutting on costs and enabling us to look at new ways to show films in the community.

We have now purchased child sized tables and chairs for use in the Village Hall, both for our own events and for anyone who rents the Hall for a children's party. We used our Parish Council grant last year to buy equipment for our stay and play events.

We also ran a stall at the Shrewley Village Show in September 2018.

As ever, we are always keen to welcome new members along, especially to get involved in fundraising, and the Stay and Play events. New ideas and faces always welcome!