

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without Annual Newsletter 2011

Following the local elections held on 5 May 2011 your Parish Council currently consists of the following members:

Dry Sandford

Mr. Geoff Fitzgerald (Vice Chairman), Old Tara Barn, Church Lane (01865 390667) e-mail: geoff.fitzgerald@tech-research.co.uk

Mr. Martin Gilbert, 6 Lansdowne Road (01865 739544)

Mr. Ken Houlden, 4 Lansdowne Road (01865 730488) e-mail: ken@houlden.demon.co.uk

Shippon

Mrs Caroline Parkin, (Chairman) Applebrook, Faringdon Road (01235 535969) e-mail: archie232@hotmail.co.uk

Mrs Jane Cook, e-mail Jane.Cook@talktalk.net; (mobile 07920803130)

Mrs Madeleine Russell-Taylor, 26 Rookery Close (01235 523557) e-mail: madbill@talktalk.net

Mrs. Vicki Talbot, 58 Barrow Road (01235 522255) e-mail: talbots4@newbury.net

Mr. Bill Taylor, 26 Rookery Close (01235 523557) e-mail: madbill@talktalk.net

Dry Sandford Ward still has two vacancies. If you are interested in joining the Council please contact the Clerk

Message from the Chairman

Your new Parish Council met for the first time on the 9th May 2011. We have said goodbye to two of our hardworking councillors, Wendy Rossiter and Diane Livesley. We thank them most sincerely for all their hard work during their time on the Parish Council.

We also said goodbye to Stephen Grigson, our chairman for the last six years. During his time on the Parish Council as chairman Stephen never missed a meeting – an achievement in its own right! He has been an excellent chairman and will be greatly missed.

We would very much like to see as many of you as possible over the next year at the Parish Council meetings. These meetings are about local issues that affect us all and your contributions would be most appreciated.

Caroline Parkin Chairman

New Councillor

Mrs Jane Cook was co-opted on to the Council at its meeting on 9th May 2011

"I have lived with my husband David, in Shippon for six years; we previously lived in North Abingdon where we brought up our four children. As with most adult children they have left home and then come back to live with us at various times. We now just have Alexandra living at home who has just completed her university degree. I work full time in Abingdon for Social and Community Services, in Adult Social Care. We like to spend some of our spare time out in one of David's classic MGs touring the Oxfordshire countryside."

Meetings

The Parish Council meets, normally on a Monday evening, on nine occasions during the year. The venues alternate between Dry Sandford Primary School and the Community Centre, Dalton Barracks, Shippon. Meetings begin at 7.30 pm and the first item on the agenda is an opportunity for residents to bring their concerns to the Council avoiding the necessity to sit through a long agenda of routine business. A small number of residents attend on a regular basis and members of the Council are grateful for their continued interest.

25 July 2011- Dry Sandford Primary School	9 January 2012 - Dry Sandford Primary School
5 September - The Community Centre, Dalton Barracks	20 February - The Community Centre, Dalton Barracks
17 October - Dry Sandford Primary School	2 April - Dry Sandford Primary School
28 November - The Community Centre, Dalton Barracks	14 May -The Community Centre, Dalton Barracks (Annual Parish Meeting and AGM)

The **Annual Parish Meeting** and the **Parish Council Annual General Meeting** will both be held on **Monday 14 May 2012 at the Community Centre, Dalton Barracks, Shippon**, beginning at **7.00 p.m.** You are invited to attend and raise any matters of current concern to you.

The Parish Council is available to deal with your concerns and you can contact the **Clerk** if you wish any matter to be discussed at the Council Meetings. His contact details are:

George Edmonds-Brown Tel/Fax: 01865 739419 e-mail: g.edmondsbrown@btinternet.com

Review of Bus Service 43

The Parish Council has asked the Oxfordshire County Council review team to consider the day the No 43 bus goes to Abingdon. The service was reduced at the last review from two days a week (Monday and Thursday) to one day a week (Thursday). As Monday is market day in Abingdon it may be a more appropriate day to run the service on Thursdays. The Parish Council would welcome the views from people in the Parish who use the service – please pass any comments to the Clerk.

The Shippon Village Plan

The Shippon Village plan was adopted by the village and is now in the process of being implemented. Consultation is taking place with the Vale planning department and, on traffic issues, with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC).

Speeding

A speed survey has been carried out by OCC on Barrow Road and the results are currently being analysed to assess the size of the problem and to decide on action to rectify it. Fixing points for Vehicle Activated Signs have already been installed in Barrow Road and in Cothill in an effort to reduce speeding. Following the reorganization of the OCC Traffic Department the VAS has not been operating in the Parish for the last few months. We understand, however, that this is being reviewed and hope to see the system in operation again shortly.

Street Lighting in Cholswell Road Shippon

The Parish Council continues to give priority to providing street lighting in Cholswell Road. The estimated cost of the project is £29,708 (plus VAT which is reclaimable). The Parish Council has identified funds from its own resources to meet part of the cost and will be approaching other organisations that may be able to help.

Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre

The Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre was formally opened by HRH The Duke of Gloucester on 12th October 2010 following the £930,000 refurbishment. The Parish Council has warmly supported the project and contributed £10,000 to the cost. The Centre is now a tremendous asset to the community and is very well used by local organisations. Bookings have tripled since the refurbishment. The Board of Management are working hard to run the Centre and to ensure its future viability. The Board are still looking for volunteers to help manage the Centre; if you feel you can help please contact the Chairman, Kevin Langley, on 01865 739355. The Community Centre hosts over 40 user groups which provide a wide range of activities to the community. If you wish to make a booking this can be arranged by email at w-and-dscc-booking@hotmail.co.uk (a new Booking Clerk is being recruited).

Wootton and Dry Sandford Youth Club

The W&DS Youth Club has been back in action since last June with some 80+ members and regular attendance of 25+ per week. There is a professional youth worker (Adam), alongside several enthusiastic volunteers supporting the varied activities of the club, operating out of the new community centre. We have been running a wide range of activities including organising various trips e.g. to the theatre, to the Oxford Ice Rink, to Tilsley Park, to the Kassam Stadium (England versus Sweden Female International football match) and to other youth clubs. In addition, there is a weekly programme of informal education sessions and workshops; and, other activities such as cooking, dancing classes, hair and make-up sessions; as well as the usual sports like rounders, football, table tennis, pool and cricket. We even ran a successful “Dragons Den” event where the youth club members created and presented their own entrepreneurial business ideas. The successful candidate started selling cakes for a small profit and donating part of their profit to charity. The youth club is a reactive service that offers activities and workshops relevant to the young people. We aim to offer both a fun & safe place for young people as well as the opportunity to discuss key issues with non-judgemental supportive adults. We aim to give them the opportunity to get information and for them to make informed choices. The club is a key figure amongst many young people in the area and has received some very positive parental feedback in recent weeks. The youth club is indebted to the funding it receives from both the Wootton and St Helen Without Parish Councils and from local companies, without which there would be no youth club. For further information then please contact Adam French on 07743 874162 or drop in to the youth club on a Tuesday night (7 – 9pm) during term time.

Parish Rate 2011-2012

The Parish Councillors recognise the difficult financial climate and has been able to restrict the increase in planned expenditure, compared to last year, to only 0.16% from £15,975 to £16,000, even though the total number of residents on the electoral register increased by 11.4% from 1,386 to 1,544.

The Friends of Shippon

The overriding aim of the Friends of Shippon is to bring together people living in the village and local area and so create a stronger sense of community. Meetings are held monthly in the Church Hall (behind the Church). Annual membership is £10, visitors £2. We aim to try to cover a wide spectrum of interests and forthcoming events include:

Mallam's Roadshow (get your family heirlooms valued) Wednesday, July 6th 7.30pm

Talk by Mr Richard Jones (magistrate) Wednesday 21 September

We now have a digital projector and screen (courtesy of funding from the Parish Council), which may be borrowed by residents of the Parish. An address identification will be required and a booking form completed and signed- Phone 01235 527211/529596 for details.

For further information contact Carol Gibbins (01235 527211) or Val Dawson (01235 529596)

News from Dalton Barracks

The Regiments in Dalton Barracks continue to provide support to the Defence effort in Afghanistan. 2010 was a year in which those in 12 Logistic Support Regiment achieved extraordinary feats; fighting logistic support through to those in need; enhancing Afghan capacity to provide self-sustaining security and governance, maintaining supply lines to support the force forward; or supporting those in Afghanistan and those back home. The Regiment attended a Council run function in Abingdon prior to their deployment in March and hosted the Town Council in the Officers' Mess as part of the Medal Parade in December.

The Station Commander, Colonel Ed Newman, views improvement of the barrack infrastructure as a top priority, with highest focus on the soldiers' accommodation blocks, fitness facilities and site heating system. Good work by the on-site contractor, taking advantage of late additional funding, saw some upgrade work to accommodation in the last financial year, with more refurbishment currently ongoing. As our units begin to prepare for deployment, more emphasis is placed on their personal fitness levels, with a call for additional facilities to cope with the higher demand. A Project Team is presently surveying and costing the delivery and installation of a further Sports Hall and upgraded changing facilities before the onset of winter. The welfare of families is a key part of Service life and funding was secured in the last year to see significant improvement to the Community Centre, Youth Club and Pre-School Nursery.

Our Regiments remain eager to engage with the local community and Saturday 2 July sees the Armed Forces Open Day held on the Sports Field adjacent to the barracks. The day is a collaborative event involving the Vale of White Horse District Council, Abingdon Town Council and Station military units. The event will include a mix of arena displays, entertainment, stands and sporting competitions, culminating with a Party-in-the-Park concert from 4pm onwards.

The units continue to liaise closely with local schools, assisting with a groundwork project at Carswell School, and an Army Day at Our Lady's School, to name just two. Service charities deservedly receive much media attention for their efforts to support the defence effort. A worthy sum was raised for Help for Heroes during a hugely successful Charity Rugby dinner hosted in the Officers' Mess by the Station Commander in late-May. The larger events on the Airfield, Abingdon Airshow and Carnival are ever-popular and generate welcome charitable income for Stowford House and Service charities. Our Community Centre is the choice of venue to launch the nationwide 10 for 10 campaign; an appeal raising money for Service charities over 10 days in October and marking 10 years in Afghanistan

All 3 Regiments now face hectic and intense training, with numerous exercises, ahead of further deployment to Afghanistan for all over the next 2 years.

John Higgs Station Staff Officer

The Dalton Barracks Youth Club (Every Tuesday 5:30pm – 7:00pm) is a very successful and fun place to be. Recently we've seen the arrival of more sports equipment and a new football table. Recent activities have included a day trip to the Coral Reef swimming pool, Drayton Manor theme park, sports days and sailing on Farmoor Reservoir. This year's Summer Camp is in conjunction with Bordon Army Welfare Service and will run from the 22 – 26 Aug.

Summer activities In addition to the Youth Club activities, we will also include a **Football Training School** for the ages of 5 years upwards starting on the 25th - 29th July. To book a place please call 01235 54 3775 between the hours of 9am and 5pm. Please note that there is a maximum of 30 places so book early!!

The Mums and Tots group have planted a very successful garden plot that is just about bursting at the seams with home grown strawberries, peas and lettuce. They will be competing in this year's "Dash" on the 2nd July at the Abingdon Station Open Day and are looking for Mums of all ages to join their up-and-coming team.

Kyushindo Martial Arts is progressing nicely with children and adults of all ages joining in the Tuesday session. Easter saw their first crop of martial artists gain their red and yellow belts at the grading event at Thameside School. Thanks go to Carl Harris for his enthusiasm and talent in providing the community with a fantastic opportunity to broaden their fitness skills and confidence. The group meets every Tuesday at 7pm – 8pm with the first lesson free.

Street Dance is quickly growing in its appeal as the coolest thing around with thanks to the group's organiser Brian. The session starts at 4pm every Friday and welcomes all newcomers. Each term ends in a spectacular performance and well earned party.

Abingdon Station Open Day 2nd July – This year's event is to be the most spectacular ever – with fairground rides, free – fall parachutists, lots of static displays and Dash charity relay event. For further information look out for the posters on the Parish notice board or the local press. Entrance is free with donations being given to the Army Benevolent Fund.

Further information will be displayed on all Parish notice boards or can be obtained by calling **01235 543775** and ask for either Mark or Emma.

Crime Statistics

Annual crime statistics released by the Home Office on 20th April show the overall level of crime in the Thames Valley area has dropped by more than seven per cent. The National Crime Statistics for 2010 shows 13,793 fewer crimes were recorded in the Thames Valley area in 2010 compared with the previous year. From January to December 2010 there were 175,082 offences recorded within the Force area, which serves more than two million people, compared to 188,875 during the same period in 2009 – a fall of 7.3 per cent, which is higher than the national average of a 6.5 per cent fall. In the Wootton area including Boars Hill, Marcham, Shippon, Besselsleigh, Dry Sandford, Sunningwell and Bayworth there were a total of 199 of crimes reported, and 47 resulted in a sanction detection. Most of the crimes committed were burglaries and criminal damage. Also there were numerous noise complaints during the royal wedding. Considering the vast area this is a very low figure, and residents are urged to report any crime that has happened on 0845 8 505 505.

Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen

The Parish Council is considering providing a permanent facility to the community to mark The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. A sum of up to £2,500 has been identified for this purpose. The Parish Council would welcome any suggestions from members of the community. Ideas to date include:

- The provision of seats in the bus shelters
- An additional bus shelter
- Playground equipment
- A bench in the playground
- Flower planters
- The Cholswell Road street lighting will also be a Jubilee project.

The Parish Council makes every effort to ensure that the infrastructure of the village is kept in good order.

Residents and landowners can, however, be a tremendous help by –

- **Ensuring that their hedges are cut back to avoid impeding highways and footpaths.**
 - **Ditches are kept clear to prevent flooding**
 - **Cars are parked appropriately – parking on the pavement can make it difficult for mobility scooters**
 - **Speed limits are observed within the Parish**
 - **Potholes, littering, defective street lights and crimes are reported using the contact numbers below.**
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Useful Contact Numbers

Parish Transport Representative (PTR)

Mrs June Rowe has volunteered her services as the PTR, whose role will be to keep in touch with views and needs of bus users and the performance of local bus services and advise the Council accordingly. Any queries or comments should be addressed to her at **15 Elm Tree Walk, Shippon, OX13 6LX**, or telephone **01235 527210**.

Thames Valley Police

Serious crimes should be reported on **999** non-emergency crimes **0845 8 505 505**.

The police officer who will be covering Dry Sandford and Shippon is PC Keith Morton. He can be contacted on **0845 8 505 505**. The Police Community Support Officer for the Parish is PCSO Carly Milward C65167. She can be contacted on **0845 8 505 505**.

Vale of the White Horse District Council

Anyone seeing a dog owner acting irresponsibly and not cleaning up after their pet can report them to the Environmental Wardens anonymously on **01235 544066**. At present the dog excrement bins in this area are emptied every Monday, excluding bank holidays. To report any faults contact the Vale on **01235 520202**.

Oxfordshire County Council – Street Lights

If residents notice street lights that are not working they can report this to OCC on **0800 317 802** or by e-mail to streetlighting@oxfordshire.gov.uk giving the number of the lamp which is displayed on the post.

Dalton Barracks

If residents are concerned about activities on the airfield, the first point of contact is the **Guardroom** on **01235 543668**. If there is no reply on this number, the **Detention Centre** on **01235 543688** can be contacted.

Royal Air Force Benson

For information on flying activities conducted by RAF Benson, visit the following website: **www.raf.mod.uk/RAFBenson**, then click on “flying info” where the current programmes are listed. The procedures for flying complaints are also found here, or direct dial telephone number **01491 837766 ext. 5218**.

Oxfordshire Highways

Potholes and other problems relating to highways and footpaths can be reported online on the www.oxfordshire.gov.uk website or by telephone on **0845 3101111**.

Litter

The Vale of White Horse District Council Waste Management Team (telephone **01235 520202**) has contracted Verdant to deal with domestic waste and litter. Verdant can be contacted on **0300 610610**.

