

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Annual Newsletter 2012

Parish Councillors Dry Sandford Ward	Parish Councillors Shippon Ward
Mrs Alison Brockliss Tel. no: 01235 529214 e-mail: alisonbrockliss@gmail.com	Mrs Caroline Parkin, (Chairman) Tel. no: 01235 535969 e-mail: archie232@hotmail.co.uk
Mr. Geoff Fitzgerald (Vice Chairman), Tel. no: 01865 390667 e-mail: geoff.fitzgerald@tech-research.co.uk	Mrs Carole Priestley Tel. no: 01235 525682 e-mail: granville.priestley@sky.com
Mr. Martin Gilbert, Tel. no: 01865 739544 e-mail: d.p.gilbert@btinternet.com	Mr John Prior Tel. no: 01235 531922 e-mail: john@annalisedesigns.co.uk
Mr. Ken Houlden, Tel. no: 01865 730488 e-mail: ken@houlden.demon.co.uk	Mrs Madeleine Russell-Taylor, Tel. no: 01235 523557 e-mail: madbill@talktalk.net
Mr David Willis Tel. no: 01865 735983 e-mail: willis.dh@gmail.com	Mrs. Vicki Talbot, Tel. no: 01235 522255 e-mail: talbots4@newbury.net

RESIGNATIONS

Mrs Jane Cook resigned from the Council in September 2011 and Mr Bill Taylor in March 2012

NEW COUNCILLORS

Alison Brockliss was co-opted on to the Council at its meeting on 28 November 2011

I have lived in the locality for 28 years. My husband is a history professor at Oxford University, and we have three children and one grandchild. I am a retired headteacher, with an honours degree in music, and a specialism in early years and children with special educational needs. I have also set up and led one of the new Sure Start Children's Centres. My last school achieved an 'outstanding' Ofsted grade. It is a great privilege to be allowed to serve our vibrant, diverse community as one of the Parish Councillors, and I look forward to using my skills in such service.

David Willis was co-opted on to the Council at its meeting on 20 February 2012

I was born in Oxford and lived for most of my early life in Abingdon. My career was spent in the motor industry, initially as a Production Engineer. After many years in H.R., I retired as General Manager of the BMW UK Pension Scheme. I am married with two grown-up sons and two grandchildren. Thirty years ago, after some time working in the Midlands, we moved to Wootton where I served on the Parish Council, and as a Parent Governor at Dry Sandford School. 20 years ago we moved to Dry Sandford I hope that my previous experience as a Parish Councillor may now be of some use on the St. Helen Without P.C.

John Prior was co-opted on to the Council at its meeting on 2 April 2012

I was born, bred and educated in London but have lived in Shippon for the past 27 years. Since leaving University in 1960 I have always worked in public sector scientific research establishments. I moved to Oxfordshire in 1968 to work at Culham Laboratory where I specialised in computer graphics and was one of the pioneers in this field. I helped found Wallingford Lions Club in 1976 becoming President in 1981. I joined Abingdon Lions Club in 1995 becoming President in 2000 and Zone Chairman in 2001. I have been Treasurer since 2001 and also run the Club's website. I am a committee member of the Abingdon and District Twin Towns Society and now run the newsletter. Locally I have been vocal in commenting on planning applications that I feel are detrimental to the village.

Carole Priestley was co-opted on to the Council at its meeting on 2 April 2012

I have lived in Abingdon for 42 years. I am married to Granville, a retired Chartered Civil Engineer, and we have two children and four, soon to be five, grandchildren. Prior to retiring five years ago I worked as an administrator on Executive Education at the Said Business School. Prior to this I worked at Abingdon College teaching retailing skills to young adults with learning difficulties and various levels of word processing. I am Chairman of the directors of St Helens Mill Residents Company and am actively involved in the day to day running of The Mill. I am looking forward to the challenges of being a Parish Councillor and will be able to bring a totally impartial view to the table to benefit the community.

Message from the Chairman, Caroline Parkin

The Parish Council has had an extremely busy year. The new legislation on Localism has proved challenging and it remains to be seen what opportunities it has to offer to us. We have dealt with many planning applications and seen changes in both ends of the Parish. Every application is looked at by the Parish Councillors and a written report sent to the vale, this year every Parish Councillor has attended a workshop on planning in order to make sure that, whilst the planning laws are ever changing, they can keep up to date. Stowford House Nursing Home is now completed and has very quickly become part of Shippon life. We have the pleasure of welcoming 4 new Parish Councillors; Alison Brockliss and David Willis as Parish Councillors for Dry Sandford, and Carole Priestley and John Prior as Parish

Councillors for Shippon. We must record our grateful thanks to Jane Cook and to William Russell Taylor. Bill has served for more than 7 years on the Parish Council and during that time has proved himself to be the voice of reason and with his local knowledge a fount of information. We thank him most sincerely for all his hard work.

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. The dates of the meetings to be held in the next 12 months are as follows.

14 May 2012 (Annual General Meeting) The Community Centre, Dalton Barracks	10 December Dry Sandford Primary School
25 June Dry Sandford Primary School	21 January 2013 The Community Centre, Dalton Barracks
6 August The Community Centre, Dalton Barracks	4 March Dry Sandford Primary School
17 September Dry Sandford Primary School	15 April The Community Centre, Dalton Barracks
29 October The Community Centre, Dalton Barracks	27 May (Annual General Meeting) Dry Sandford Primary School

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

Community Orchard

To mark the Queens Diamond Jubilee the Parish Council is planning a number of events; one of them is the planting of a Community Orchard in Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground. An advert was placed in the WADS newsletter for the last few months to see if any Parishioners wish to be involved. There has been some, albeit limited, support for the work. It is intended to plant the trees around parts of the periphery of the recreation ground in the autumn. Should you wish to assist in this project please contact the Parish Clerk.

Allotments

As readers of the March issue of the WADS newsletter will have seen, we are making good progress on making our own allotments available to Parishioners. This is a joint venture between Wootton PC and ourselves, Wootton PC are providing the land for the project. We are currently awaiting a decision from VWHDC on our planning application. It is anticipated that we will be able to provide twenty half size allotments. If we get the go ahead, and when we are ready for applications, an advert will be placed in the WADS newsletter.

Speeding

In cooperation with Oxfordshire Highways fixing points for Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) were installed in Cothill, Barrow Road and Cholswell Road. VAS signs were used at these points for several months before the service was discontinued. The Parish Council continued to make representations and have recently been informed that the service is being re-instated.

Street Lighting in Cholswell Road Shippon

The Parish Council is working hard to find a solution to raising the funds to install street lighting in Cholswell Road. The Parish Council has set money aside from its budget for the project and is discussing with various other sources to provide matching funding.

Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre

Following the refurbishment the Community Centre is now a thriving centre of activities in the area. St Helen Without Parish Council has continued to support the Centre. Bookings can be made with the Booking Clerk, [Debbie Elwood](#), Tel No. [0777 0447186](tel:07770447186); e-mail; w-and-dscc-booking@hotmail.co.uk

Wootton and Dry Sandford Youth Club+

Since our update in May 2011 the W&DS Youth Club has had another successful year of running. Since September 2011 some of our original members are now older than 16 and no longer able to attend but we have had over 15 new members join the club and our membership remains at 80+ with 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 various trips organised, e.g. to the theatre, to the Oxford Ice Rink, to Tilsley Park, a diving session and indoor wall climbing. We are currently attempting to have at least one off site session a month as these activities have proved highly popular with our members. In addition, there is a weekly programme of informal education sessions and workshops; and, other activities such as cooking and, usual sports like rounders, football, table tennis, pool and cricket. The youth club is a reactive service that offers activities and workshops relevant to the young people. We aim to offer both a fun and a 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 entity for many young people in the area and has received some very positive parental feedback during the time since it has been re-opened. The youth club is indebted to the funding it receives from both the Wootton and St Helen Without Parish Councils and 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 2012-2013

The Parish Councillors recognise the difficult financial climate and has been able to absorb any increased costs due to inflation and maintain the precept at £16,000.

The Friends of Shippon – contacts: Carol Gibbins (01235 527211) or Val Dawson (01235 529596)

Meetings are held monthly in the Church Hall (behind the Church). Annual membership is £12, visitors £2.50. We aim to try to cover a wide spectrum of interests and forthcoming events include:

- Talk on container gardening Tuesday, May 15th at 7.30 pm
- Whist Drive Friday 20th April at 7.30 pm
- Visit to Woozelbears, a canine hydrotherapy, physio and grooming centre Saturday 5th May at 5 pm.
- Shippon Fete held jointly with the Church Saturday, June 16th 1.30pm –3.30pm
- (We shall be looking for plants and plant pots, soft toys and tins, jars and bottles for our stalls),
- Talk on the Wilts and Berks Canal Friday 13th July at 7.30 pm

The digital projector and a screen (courtesy of funding from the Parish Council) may be borrowed by residents of Shippon, on payment of a refundable security/breakage deposit and proof of residence. Tel.: 01235 527211/529596 for details.

NEWS FROM DALTON BARRACKS; John Higgs, Station Staff Officer, Dalton Barracks

2011 saw our Regiments continuing their preparations towards deployment and support of the ongoing Defence effort in Afghanistan. 4 Logistic Support Regiment completed an intense programme of exercises and training prior to deployment in March 2012, with many personnel spending lengthy periods away from their families and the home-base. Returning to barracks in October 2012, plans are already set for their official homecoming parade through Abingdon later this year. 12 Logistic Support Regiment, due to leave for operations later this year, were re-joined in January 2012 by 43 Close Support Squadron from Gutersloh in Germany to restore unit cohesion ahead of their mission specific phase of training. 3 Logistic Support Regiment, the last to deploy in 2013, still found time for the sporting arena and successfully retained their title as Army Unit Athletics Champions in July 2011. All 3 units have seen key personalities change during the last year, with the most notable being the arrival of Lieutenant Colonel MacIntyre and Lieutenant Colonel Moffat, taking command of 4 and 12 Regiments respectively. The annual Abingdon Station Armed Forces Open Day held in early July 2011, successfully led by Major Nicola Parry-Belcher, was supported by the wider local community, including a group of representatives from the town and district authorities. A fine day commenced with a relay fun run, the Abingdon Dash, organised by Captain Richie Crane. Keenly contested by groups adorned in fancy dress, the Welfare Officer’s team of Mums and their children were selected as overall winners by the Station Commander. Drawing deserved praise from those attending, the day included static and arena activities, a landing by the Silver Stars parachute display team, and concluded with a hugely entertaining Party in the Park. At regimental level, our units continue to build and maintain effective relationships with local schools. A small group of ‘reporters’ from Carswell School were hosted and treated to a presentation of regimental and Army life, which they transcribed into a news report, including details of a frank question and answer session chaired by the Regimental Sergeant Major of 3 Regiment. Our Community Development Warrant Officer, Mark Sheath, also hosted a similar programme for a group from the Kingfisher Special School in September. Elsewhere, St Helen and St Katharine School teamed up with soldiers from 12 Regt in support of the charity Ten for Ten, a 10 day fundraising appeal to mark 10 years in Afghanistan. The Station Commander, Colonel Ed Newman, is ever eager to support local military cadet units and provided use of site facilities for an Air Training Corps activities day in September, and welcomed the Army Cadet Force skills competition organised by 33 Squadron of 4 Regiment in February. Despite their demanding programmes, our soldiers remain willing to engage with deserving causes and this last year has seen the organisation of a charitable dinner in aid of Help for Heroes, and collections in differing venues for the Army Benevolent Fund, Royal British Legion, and Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association. Recent fund-raisers included a charity danceathon held in the Community Centre in support of Heart FM’s ‘Be a Kid for a Kid’ appeal, and a strong turnout of runners for the Sport Relief Mile event. The larger annual

events on the Airfield, Abingdon Airshow and CAR-nival are major fund-raisers for local and Service charitable causes, and both will be returning for 2012. Warrant Officer Mark Sheath has worked tirelessly to identify suitable activities for our community, establishing excellent links with a variety of independent and local authority groups. His work with the Thames Valley Probation Service's Payback Scheme continues to produce excellent results locally; the brook, once buried under a pile of discarded shopping trolleys and old bicycles, is now awash with flora and fauna; the Long Tow hedge received a much awaited trim; the Scout Hut was repainted. Mark is the Station's focal point for the Armed Forces Playday, funded through the Ministry of Defence Community Covenant grant scheme and Abingdon Town Council, taking place on the Sports Field on Saturday 9 June from 10am until 3pm. One of a series happening across the region, the event organised by the Oxfordshire Play Association, is open to everyone. It promises to be a fun day, is a celebration of play, and will offer something to suit all tastes. For local historians, you will have already noted that we approach 80 years since the opening of RAF Abingdon at Shippon. The site began life as a training station for RAF Bomber Command in September 1932, before the arrival of the Army and re-naming as Dalton Barracks in 1992. The Curator of the Abingdon Museum is currently working with our regimental staff to select suitable items for a small permanent Army display, and more for a larger temporary exhibition from November 2012 through to the end of February 2013. Colonel Newman is encouraged by the strong relationship that exists across the local wider community and is fully supportive of the initiatives involving co-operation with the County, District and Parish Councils, and Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Thames Valley Police and Probation Service. Looking ahead, he is hopeful we can all join local celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Olympic success, and the safe return of our regiments from current and forthcoming operational tours.

Message from our PCSO Carly Millward, Thames Valley Police

Recently I have held various Street Briefings in the area, in Sunningwell; Wootton; Barrow Road, Shippon; and Lashford Lane, Dry Sandford. This is a way of actively encouraging residents to come out and meet the local Neighbourhood Team, discussing any issues or problems they are facing in the Community. The last briefing proved very successful attracting roughly 20 residents. I will continue to carry on with this initiative and organise briefings in the future; feel free to come and chat the neighbourhood team! Crime trends are still remarkably low in the area, with only a handful of crimes being reported this year. Recently a car was criminally damaged in Spey Road, Shippon and fencing material was stolen from a field near to Cothill School, just a reminder to residents to be extra vigilant when in the area and to call in any suspicious behaviour on the new 101 number. Parking and speeding continue to be a concern in the area, I will be using the SID (speed indication device) in the near future to try and deter speeding. Also a polite reminder to residents to park appropriately and safely on the roads, the last thing needed is an unavoidable accident! An example of this has been vehicles parking too close to the corner where Lashford Lane joins Church Lane.

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; we hope to shortly re-instate the Vehicle Activated Signs in Barrow Road, Cothill and Cholswell Road**
- **Potholes, littering, defective street lights and crimes are reported using the contact numbers below.**
- **Residents' co-operation would be appreciated in keeping the Sandleigh Road recreation ground free of litter. Please take your litter home.**

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Parish Transport Representative (PTR) - Mrs June Rowe, 15 Elm Tree Walk, Shippon, OX13 6LX; **Tel. 01235 527210.**

Thames Valley Police - Serious crimes **999**; non-emergency crimes **101**. The Parish Thames Valley Police contacts are PC Keith Morton and PCSO Carly Milward (C6517). They can be contacted on **101**

Vale of the White Horse District Council - Environmental Wardens (to report offenders anonymously) **Tel. 01235 540555** Dog bins are emptied weekly - contact the Vale on **Tel. 01235 520202**. Biffa **Tel. 0300 610610**

Oxfordshire County Council – Street Lighting **Tel. 0800 317 802** or by e-mail giving the lamppost number to streetlighting@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Dalton Barracks' contacts: **Guardroom** on **Tel. 01235 543668** if no reply, **Detention Centre** on **Tel. 01235 543565**

Royal Air Force Benson - flying activities - www.raf.mod.uk/rafbenson flying complaints can also be registered on the website or on **Tel. 01491 837766 ext. 5218**.

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

Litter and domestic waste

The VWHDC Waste Management Team **Tel. 01235 520202**; Waste contractor Biffa **Tel. 0300 610610**
