

# The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

## Annual Newsletter 2013

Parish Councillors Dry Sandford Ward	Parish Councillors Shippon Ward
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Mr John Prior resigned from the Council in autumn 2012 and Mr David Willis resigned in May 2013

The Parish Council has two vacancies one in Shippon Ward and One in Dry Sandford Ward. If you are interested in being co-opted as a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk

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

### County and District Councillors

County Councillor Mr Richard Webber – e-mail: richard.webber@oxfordshire.gov.uk

#### Message from County Councillor Richard Webber

“School Transport – decisions are about to be taken which will give us all more time to debate this issue and come up with a fairer, and more understandable scheme than what had been proposed. After all the effort that had been put in by residents over the “safe route to school” issue, it seemed incredible that we could be arguing the whole thing again so soon. I am hopeful that at least a postponement of the decision will be made, giving time for a thorough consultation and a chance to find a policy which gives OCC the savings it needs, whilst being seen to be fair. The Area Stewardship Fund - £15K per county division has allowed me to ask the Highways department to treat all roadside weeds throughout the parish. Where there are village gates these too will be getting a new lick of paint. Although £15K does not go far over such a wide area, there is still money left over. Any suggestions for improvements to our highways would be gratefully received. I am also given a Community Grant of some £10K across the division. This is for start up projects of any type – so again, if anyone has suggestions or need of help up to say £500 for a community project, please let me know. At least I can promise plenty of help with the form-filling!”

District Councillors Dry Sandford Ms Val Shaw – e-mail: valshaw@waitrose.com

Ms Elizabeth Miles – e-mail: elizabeth.miles@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

District Councillor Shippon

Mrs Catherine Webber – e-mail: catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

#### Message from District Councillor Catherine Webber

“The Appeal for 160 houses in South Abingdon having been granted, the implications for traffic on the Drayton Road and hence on the traffic in all the surrounding villages will now have to be carefully considered. The Council is giving consideration to the possibility of calling for a judicial review. It is hard to be hopeful. Drayton Road Abingdon is generally agreed to be one of the most traffic-stressed road anywhere in the Vale. If the lack of a 5 year land supply is able to trump traffic concerns here, it is hard to see anywhere where traffic arguments would be effective in blocking development. This was certainly the case with the Priory Road development and its possible effect on the Marcham S bend traffic. It is becoming ever-more essential that notice is taken of the cumulative effects on schools and our road system of all these houses and that these effects are planned for. OCC recently passed a motion calling for infrastructure to be planned to coincide or precede housing rather than follow it as at present. This must at least be a step in the right direction. In all the anxiety over planning, it is sometimes too easy to overlook what VWHDC does well. We have fewer housing problems than most Districts, we have a Waste collection and recycling service that is the envy of almost everywhere else, and the Vale continues to be one of the safest areas in the country to live. VWHDC plays a major part in those achievements. Like everyone else, I have been looking forward to some sunshine for many months now and I am determined to enjoy it now it’s here. After a short break, I hope to return refreshed and ready to take up the cudgels on Shippon’s behalf.”

#### Message from the 2012/13 Chairman, Caroline Parkin

Once again the Parish Council has had a very busy year. They have considered and commented on 17 planning applications – 14 from Dry Sandford and 3 from Shippon. The planting of fruit trees, as a community orchard, in the recreation ground at Sandleigh Road has now been completed and thanks are due to all the Parish Councillors and members of the public who, with spade in hand, turned up to help. The benches to mark the Queen’s Jubilee have

now arrived and will be installed in the very near future, one in Sandleigh Road recreation ground and one by the notice board in Shippon. Speeding in the Parish is a serious concern and the Councillors are looking into this problem in both Dry Sandford and Shippon. A Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) will shortly be installed in Honey Bottom Lane. The Council is pursuing the possibilities of speed reduction in Cholswell Road, Long Tow and Barrow Road. The Parish Council secured funding for the lighting in Cholswell Road and this has now been installed and is working. Thanks are due to the Parish Councillors who have worked so hard to achieve this project. The bus stop in Sandleigh Road is to be moved around the corner into the lay-by on Besselsleigh Road. This was after much discussion with the police, the bus company and highways department, who all agreed that this would be a safer option. The Vale of the White Horse Local Plan 2029 has, as you would expect, resulted in many meetings and discussions. The Vale is under a statutory requirement to put together a Local Plan covering homes, jobs and infrastructure. This is part 1; part 2 will include detailed policies on local sites. The Parish Council is committed to protecting the Green Belt. However, they have asked the Vale to consider the two farmyards in Barrow Road as exception sites. This is as a result of the Shippon Plan questionnaire, where the majority of people replied that they would prefer limited housing development on these sites. Nothing has, as yet, been decided and the Parish Council will be in discussion with both the Vale and the landowners over the next few months. Your comments on this would be most appreciated and should be made to the Parish Clerk. David Willis has resigned as a Parish Councillor. John Prior also resigned in the autumn. We thank them both for their work. Thanks are due to all the Parish Councillors for their work throughout the year, particular thanks go to the Vice-Chairman, Geoff Fitzgerald, for all his help throughout the past two years. I would like to record my appreciation to the Clerk, George Edmonds-Brown. An enormous amount of work is required 'behind the scenes' to allow the Parish Council to function and I am most grateful to him for all his help and guidance.

### 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. The dates of the meetings to be held in the next 10 months are as follows.

<b>2 September</b> Dry Sandford Primary School	<b>17 February</b> Dry Sandford Primary School
<b>14 October</b> The Community Centre, Dalton Barracks	<b>31 March</b> The Community Centre, Dalton Barracks
<b>25 November</b> Dry Sandford Primary School	<b>12 May (APM &amp; Annual General Meeting)</b> Dry Sandford Primary School
<b>6 January 2014</b> The Community Centre, Dalton Barracks	<b>23 June</b> The Community Centre, Dalton Barracks

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 above:

### Community Orchard

To mark the Queens Diamond Jubilee the Parish Council has planted a number of fruit trees to form a Community Orchard in Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground. Offers of help from local residents to help care for the trees would be most welcome. Should you wish to assist please contact the Parish Clerk.

### Allotments

The Allotments are complete and plots are being handed over to allotment holders. St Helen Without Parish Council is supporting the project and residents of the parish are welcome to apply for plots as they become available.

### Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre

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

### The Community Website; Administrator Sue Srawley Tel 01865 739871

The community website has been re-launched with information about facilities and activities in the parishes of Wootton and St Helen Without. It can be accessed on [www.wads-village.c.uk](http://www.wads-village.c.uk)

### Wootton and Dry Sandford Youth Club; Adam French, Youth Worker; Tel 01865 327283

**Introduction:** The Youth Club is a busy village club made up of a range of young people from different backgrounds, culturally and economically. The local young people attend Mathew Arnold, Fitzharrises, John Mason, Larkmead and some private schools, which is a very unusual dynamic for an area. The club provides a welcoming place for the young people to mix and socialise with other young people they wouldn't normally get a chance too.

**The Programme:** The young people decide the programme of activities, which includes table tennis, pool, Wii, discussion tables and outside sports. In addition to these activities we have done sports competitions, swimming, cooking, dance, graffiti, card making and cinema night to name a few; and, a number of trips to the ice rink, bowlplex, theatre and Adrenaline Alley – Corby (an indoor BMX and scooter park).

**Workshops:** We try to keep issue-based youth workshops as part of the club; topics covered include bullying (in person & cyber), on-line safety, sexism, pre-judgments (conscious and unconscious), alcohol awareness, smoking, nutrition, empowerment, confidence building, communication skills and laws.

**Evaluation:** We have a very consistent group of around 12 young people who attend each week and another 20 or so who attend fairly regularly, with a noticeable increase recently with the clocks changing and lighter evenings. Overall, just over 50 different young people have attended in the last year.

**Volunteers:** the biggest hurdle the club has is the retention of volunteers. I know first-hand, with the pressures of a busy job and family, that doing an additional evenings work, paid or voluntarily, has been a struggle. We had to recruit an assistant to ease the burden on the small team of volunteers. Steve Armitage (volunteer & Treasurer) has also unfortunately left the area and has been a major loss for the club, leaving our small team feeling a bit of pressure. We are now actively trying to recruit a broader base of volunteers to make it as stress free and enjoyable as possible.

Although the team and I have found this year tougher than the previous I feel we have managed to deliver an excellent club with fun and engaging activities, whilst challenging the young people's opinions and perceptions and always encouraging the young people to think 'Why?' I feel we are all very proud of what has been achieved to date and we are all keen to build on what we have done. We would like to take this opportunity to thank both Parish Councils for their contribution to our club on behalf of the young people.

**Quotes from Young People:** 'The youth club is superb, I feel safe and it's a warm environment to get away from the pressures of home'; 'The club is a fun place to socialise'; 'It's fun and enjoyable'; 'It's a place where you can come and have a chat about things you wouldn't normally'; and, 'We got to go to Corby which was amazing!!'

### **Parish Rate 2013-2014**

The Parish Councillors recognise the difficult financial climate and has again 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 £12.00, visitors £2.50.

We aim to try to cover a wide spectrum of interests and forthcoming events include:

Summer Delight - Puddings and Pimms

Friday 9th August at 7.30 pm

Radley Lakes by Earth Trust

Friday 13th September at 7.30 pm

A Story Traveller's Journey by local author Judy Stubbley

Friday 11th October at 7.30 pm

Chocolatier

Friday 8th November at 7.30 pm

Christmas Social

Friday 13th December at 7.30 pm

The digital projector, screen and a PA system (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. The Friend of Shippon appreciates the help of the Parish Council in acquiring this equipment which has been of great benefit to the community.

### **News from Dalton Barracks; John Higgs, Station Staff Officer, Dalton Barracks**

The commitment and deployment of our Regiments to operations in Afghanistan is ongoing, with all 3 units deployed within the last year, fighting supplies through areas which remain among the most hostile in Afghanistan. 4 Logistic Support Regiment returned to Abingdon in September 2012 after a hectic but successful 6-month tour. Over the course of 3 weeks all members of the unit and attachments were safely delivered to eagerly awaiting families. They quickly found the limelight, particularly enjoyed the Freedom parade held in November, and were treated to an impressive performance from the Abingdon Military Wives Choir during a Service held in St Helen's Church. 12 Logistic Support Regiment's deployment followed in October, with their key role to plan and execute the movement of huge armoured convoys to the patrol bases and forward operating bases across Helmand Province. 3 Logistic Support Regiment left Abingdon recently for Afghanistan to replace 12 Regiment, following an incredibly intensive programme of mission specific training. Bitterly cold winds and drizzle didn't stop people pouring into Abingdon for 12 Regiment's homecoming and medal parade on the 24<sup>th</sup> May. It was hard not to be moved by the eruption of public cheers and applause as the Regiment paraded in the Town's Market Square for medal presentations made by HRH The Princess Royal. This year sees the Royal Logistic Corps celebrate 20 years since its formation in 1993. A lot has happened in that time and the Corps has evolved in response to changing demands and operational needs. And the evolution continues. The year ahead will see further change for many of our troops, who face exposure to the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the military redundancy programme, swiftly followed by implementation of the recently announced Army Basing Review. Dalton Barracks will continue as a key Army logistics base, but will see the disbandment of 12 Regiment by April 2014, with personnel transferred to other units across the Corps, and a later switch between Aldershot and Abingdon of 3 Regiment and 27 Theatre Logistic Regiment. Although disruptive, the local down-sizing towards 2 regiments will alleviate the current pressure on overcrowded single and family accommodation. A temporary display of military uniforms and artefacts in the refurbished Abingdon Museum recorded 80 years since the opening of RAF Abingdon at Shippon, and 20 years under Army occupation as Dalton Barracks. The Pre-School Nursery, a key welfare element to the military community has been ever-present and growing during this time; the

staff, parents, children and a number of previous Station Commanders recently gathered to celebrate the Nursery's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the majority of which has been under the caring management of Yvonne Miller. Abingdon Military Wives Choir has enjoyed great success since its formation and had media coverage in the run up to local public performances last year. In mid July 2012, the Choir was invited to record a song for the Military Wives Christmas album, and were later nominated for the Sue Ryder Women of Achievement award for Thames Valley. Their fine charitable work is echoed at unit level, with soldiers of all units giving their time freely to assist with collections and fund-raising for a mix of worthy local and Service-related causes. Captain Richie Crane again led on organisation of a hugely successful Families' Open Day held on the Dalton Barracks Sports Field on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, delivering various activities, stands, arena displays and culminating with an evening of party-in-the-park entertainment. The Airfield continues to host a range of activities, with the Airshow and CAR-nival returning for 2013. The Royal Signals White Helmets Motor Cycle Display team used the facility for their annual training camp ahead of their 2013 programme and kindly provided a performance to a small group of our families and troops who braved the wintery chill of late-March. For the first time this year, we also saw the venue in use by the Royal British Legion for their Ride of Respect on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June; approximately 3500 riders assembled for the ride finishing at the Memorial Garden in Carterton. Originally introduced for repatriations routed from RAF Lyneham to Oxford, the event now provides an opportunity for participants to pay their respects to those killed during current and previous operations. Whilst the operational demands of Afghanistan are expected to reduce, with 3 Regiment returning to Abingdon this Autumn, our units remain heavily involved with drawdown, reorganisation and training. Another busy year awaits.

### **Message from Andrew McCormack PCSO Thames Valley Police**

I am delighted to now be in post as the PCSO for Wootton, Dry Sandford, Sunningwell and Marcham. I have been a PCSO for five years, half of this time was spent covering Abingdon town centre and half was spent covering Botley, Wytham and Cumnor. I am looking forward to transferring my previous experience and knowledge from both areas to my new Neighbourhood. I will continue to hold Have Your Say meetings and Street Briefings in the same way that PCSO Milward has done previously and I would encourage residents to take this opportunity to share any issues or concerns they have with their Neighbourhood Team, also feel welcome to simply come and introduce yourselves and get know your local PCSO. The Street Briefings and Have Your Say Meetings times and dates will be advertised on the Thames Valley Police Homepage and via leaflet drops and posters. We are still glad to report we are in a low crime area and statistics reflect a drop or no change in most areas of crime. If you wish to make contact with me you can do this via or non emergency number 101 or via e-mail [andrew.mccormack@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andrew.mccormack@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR COMMUNITY**

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.
- Residents' co-operation would be appreciated in keeping the Sandleigh Road recreation ground free of litter. Please take your litter home
- Reporting incidents of dog fouling to the Environmental Warden

### **USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS**

**Parish Transport Representative:** 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 Andrew McCormack (C9461). They can be contacted on 101

**Vale of the White Horse District Council: Litter and domestic waste:** Waste contractor Biffa Tel. 0300 610610  
The VWHDC Waste Management Team Tel. 01235 520202; E-mail - [wasteteam@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:wasteteam@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

**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

**Planning Department,** Vale of White Horse District Council; Tel: 01235 520202

E-mail: [planning@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:planning@whitehorsedc.gov.uk); **Planning Enforcement:** Tel - 0149 823277;

E-mail [planning.enforcement@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:planning.enforcement@southandvale.gov.uk)

**Oxfordshire County Council: Street Lighting:** Tel. 0800 317 802 or by e-mail giving the lamppost number to [streetlighting@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:streetlighting@oxfordshire.gov.uk) **Oxfordshire Highways:** potholes and other problems relating to highways and footpaths can be reported on the website [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) or by telephone on Tel. 0845 3101111.

**Dalton Barracks:** 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](http://www.raf.mod.uk/rafbenson) Flying complaints can also be registered on the website or on Tel. 01491 837766 ext. 5218.