

Shilton Old School Committee Newsletter

February 2016

(see also www.shiltonparishoxon.co.uk)

Happy New Year everyone. Just for a change, and so that no one has any excuse whatsoever to say they didn't know anything about this event or that, here's a list of the many and varied forthcoming happenings in Shilton this year, or those that have so far been planned anyway. Further details can be found in this newsletter, or in future editions of the *Parish Pump*, or will follow at a later date.

2016 diary dates.....

February 3 rd	Soup lunch, Old School, 12.00-13.30
February 17 th	Parish Council meeting (Bradwell Village) 19.30
February 27 th	Charity meal by Camilla Edwards in aid of RABI (<i>see below</i>), Old School, 19.00
March 2 nd	Soup lunch, Old School, 12.00-13.30
March 23 rd	Parish Council meeting (Old School) 19.30
March 24 th	Benefice Passover supper, Old School (<i>details in Feb Parish Pump</i>) 19.30
March 26 th	Egg rolling, races on the pond, egg hunt and Easter tea, starts 14.30 at Old School
June 12 th	Open Gardens 14.00-18.00
July 16 th	Bbq by the pond
Sept 3 rd	Dog show (to be confirmed)
Sept 10 th	Ride & Stride
Sept 25 th	Chapel Harvest Festival followed by tea in the Old School
October 2 nd	Church Harvest service and lunch at Old School
October 29 th	Halloween party, Old School
Nov 2 nd	Soup lunch, Old School, 12.00-13.30
Nov 5 th	Coffee morning and Bring & Buy Bonfire and fireworks (<i>to be confirmed and only if someone will volunteer to take charge</i>)
Dec 7 th	Soup lunch, Old School, 12.00-13.30
Dec 11 th	Chapel Carol service followed by tea in the Old School
Dec 18 th	Church Carol service followed by supper in the Old School

Read on for more details of some of the above, to find out who won the free 500 litres of oil in the annual village oil buying group raffle, lost property, filing cabinet give-away etc.

Christmas now seems a long time ago, but all the village celebrations were well attended. We had a wonderful turnout for the church carol service and the supper afterwards and are very grateful indeed to everyone who prepared and supplied the food. It's such a relaxed and happy way to see in Christmas with friends and neighbours.

The carols by the pond were also enjoyed by all, and once again the tree in the water looked very beautiful, due to a great deal of hard work on the part of Guy and friends in erecting it in the first place, then having to fish it out of the pond and get it upright again after it was felled by gale force winds, and finally dismantling it after Twelfth Night. We did invest in a pair of size 10 waders for this by the way, and these have been added to the village hall equipment store and are available for anyone to borrow, should the need arise.

Shortly after Christmas a very large branch fell off one of the Horse Chestnut trees by the pond. Thank the lord this didn't happen whilst the carol singers were beneath it. It seems the tree is unhealthy and will need to be felled. Perhaps this is a chance to replace it with something to commemorate HMQEII's 90th birthday – a sapling oak? All ideas [and of course offers of sponsorship] welcome.

Don't miss Camilla's Charity meal.....

On **Saturday 27th February** Camilla Edwards, with the help of friends and family, is hosting a charity three-course meal in the Old School to raise enough money to enable her to take part in the *Three Peaks Challenge* in aid of *The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution*, a charity helping people in need in the farming community. She needs your support so please come along. The meal is free but you will be able to buy raffle tickets on the night and make a discretionary donation at the end of the evening. As usual, because places are limited, if you'd like to come please fill in the application form on the back page of this newsletter or telephone or email Camilla asap.

Camilla is also planning to do a calendar raffle and is seeking prizes for that. If you can help with a prize or a promise for the raffles please let her know.

Can't make the meal but would still like to donate? Camilla would be delighted to receive your contribution.

And another free meal on offer

This one in the form of the Benefice Passover supper in the Old school on **24th March** at 7.30pm. This supper was initiated by Rev. Karen Young last year and proved so popular it was decided to do it again.

And once more, because of limited space, bookings for seats will need to be made in advance please to Jean Roberts (01993 841194 or jean.roberts2@btinternet.com).

Eggs galore.....

Saturday 26th March is the date for our egg rolling races and duck and boat races on the pond, the Easter hat competition, egg hunt and Easter tea in the Old School. This is a perennially popular afternoon, often despite the weather. Sale of entries for the races commences at 2.30pm, and because Easter is early this year the Easter hats may need to be fur-lined!

Open Gardens.....

Our big fund raiser of the year, on **Sunday 12th June**. And this year the date coincides with the weekend chosen to hold HMQEII's 90th birthday celebrations so we are hoping to make our Open Gardens even more special ... somehow ... all suggestions welcome. We'll definitely be putting up some bunting, and it has been suggested that we hold a scarecrow competition too, perhaps with a royal theme ... anyone willing to take part?

We'll be seeking garden openers and as many helpers and cake makers as possible so please step forward and volunteer ... or expect to be pestered soon.

Free 500 litres of oil.....

Gillie Coghlan was the lucky winner of this year's free 500 litres of oil from Sweet Fuels in the annual village oil buying group raffle.

Unwanted goods

We had an incredible amount of good quality unwanted or surplus belongings donated to us last year for sale at car boot fairs etc. for boost Old School funds. The total sum raised in 2015 was **£1,282.37** and the Old School Committee is very grateful indeed to the generous souls who gave us so much quality stuff ... and we are always happy to take more.

Lost a Jamie Oliver plate

We have a rather nice square, white Jamie Oliver plate in the Old School that doesn't belong to us. If it's yours, please would you let me know?

Need a filing cabinet

We have several going spare at the Old School, for free. If you'd like one, or more, do let me know.

*Shirley Cuthbertson, Secretary, Old School Committee
C/o Honeystone Cottage, Ladburn Lane, Shilton
Tel: 01993 842404*

Charity Supper Saturday 27th February

Later this year Camilla Edwards is hoping to participate in the *Three Peaks Challenge* to raise money for the *Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution*, a charity founded in 1860 and having an unbroken history of supporting members of the farming community in challenging times and supporting people in the farming industry who are in financial difficulties.

To do this she needs to raise her entry money and seeks your help to do so, in a very pleasant way.

She is offering you a three course dinner in the Old School on Saturday 27th February in exchange for a donation at the end of the evening and/or the purchase of a raffle ticket. So don't delay, book your places asap by filling out and returning the form below to Camilla or Celia, calling them on 01993 841523, or emailing c.edwards13@yahoo.co.uk.

<p>Charity Supper in aid of The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution Saturday 27th February at the Old School at 7pm</p> <p>Please reserve spaces for(name) or I am unable to come but would like to make a donation, donate a raffle prize or buy raffle tickets</p>
