Shenstone Parish Council

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Tel 01543 481947, Fax 01543 483312
www.shenstone-staffs.gov.uk, e-mail: admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk

NOVEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

Shenstone Ward

Cllr Mrs J Coton
01543 481412

Cllr T Cox
01543 414 631

Cllr P Hadley (Vice Chairman)
01543 480724

Cllr. Mrs. R. Hancocks
01543 480560

Cllr Mrs S E McGing
01543 480980

Cllr Mrs J Summers
01543 481693

Stonnall Ward

Cllr. Mrs. S. Beilby
01543 452 845

Cllr C E Hollingsworth
01543 373926

Cllr J M Mason
01543 374364

Cllr Mrs. V. Neale
01543 374430

Little Aston Ward

Cllr Mrs E Minchin
0121 353 4996

Cllr D F Salter (Chairman)
0121 308 4421

Cllr I J Sanderson
0121 353 2244

Cllr Mrs V Thomas
0121 353 8786

Cllr Mrs J A Wilson
0121 353 5739

Clerk - Mrs S Nelson
01543 481947

Parish Council "chimes in" with a grant for St Peters Church Clock in Stonnall

One of the many responsibilities of the Parish Council is looking after public clocks (Power to provide public clocks - Parish Council's Act 1957 Section 2) and this year in response to a request from St Peter's PCC in Stonnall, for a grant towards renovating their church clock, the Parish Council was able to help out. The only clocks that are public to the Parish of Shenstone are those positioned on our churches.

The duty of winding the Stonnall clock was taken over by Tony Horton from Harry Martin the previous volunteer winder, a true hero in the service of his community. Harry, now in his mid 80's, climbed the very narrow ladder fixed to the wall into the tower every week for years until Tony courageously volunteered to take over the task this year.

Tony happened to mention that the clock was in a poor state due to its age and the position of the louvres high up in the tower, which had lost their netting protection. But despite its age, (it was built probably at the same time as the church in 1822), Tony was sure that if it was serviced, new wire ropes added and was given a good clean and oil, it could be brought back into full working order but wondered about the chime mechanism which had previously rung out the hours. There was also a need to evict the local pigeon, jackdaw and starling population which had earmarked the site for nesting with the decay of netting.

Tony, who has lived in the village for 35 years could not remember the clock ever having chimed and parishioners who have lived in Stonnall all their lives could not set a date when the bell ceased to chime. A clock restoration company in Shropshire was contacted and after inspection they were confident the church clock could be restored to full working order including the chime. The bell can still be rung manually and was last sounded at the millennium and before that to mark the 11th hour on Commemoration Sunday a number of years ago, but as far as anyone could remember the hours had not been chimed mechanically since 1945. The clock has now been put back in full working order and will chime the 11th hour on Remembrance Sunday which this year falls on the 9th November.

The clock has a simple mechanism and is known as a turret or tower clock and is now a recognised part of Stonnall's heritage and having lasted this long, without attention, is a tribute to the skill of the clockmakers Evans and Son of Handsworth in Birmingham.
It is strange to realise that as short a time ago as the middle of the 19th Century only the very wealthy owned a clock or watch and these did not come into everyday use until the end of the 1800's when cheaper time pieces were imported from the USA.

The Parish Council is very pleased to have been able to help preserve this important piece of village history.

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SHENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDING 2008

Annually Shenstone Parish Council donates Grant Funding to organisations within the Parish which are non-profit making or for which any profits made provide for the good of the community. Funds are to be used within the Parish Boundaries, Shenstone, Little Aston, Stonnall, Little Hay and Footherley.

Details of 2008 Donations

- ***Shenstone Cares Elderly Support Group - £2000***
  towards provision of outings and events

- ***1st Shenstone Scout Group - £500.00***
  For provision of small mess tent and tables

- ***Little Aston Bowling Club - £350.00***
  To assist purchase of seating

- ***1st Stonnall Scout Group - £500.00***
  Towards activities and costs involved in recruiting new leader

- ***St. Peter's Church - Stonnall - £968.00***
  To refurbish the external clock on the façade of the church tower (see cover story)

- ***Shenstone Day Care Centre (Friday Friends) - £1300***
  For transport costs

- ***Shenstone Village Hall - £2000***
  For redecoration of hall and improvements

- ***Little Aston Pre-School - £500***
  For Physical Education Play Equipment

- ***Lynn & Stonnall Conservation & Historical Society - £326***
  For calendar and provision of new cups, saucers and teapots

- ***Little Aston Tennis Club - £296.40***
  Towards cost of wind breaks

- ***Stonnall Gardeners Guild - £200.00***
  Towards advertising and outings

- ***1st Stonnall Brownies - £200.00***
  Towards outing

- ***Little Aston Centre - £1598.00***
  For Security purposes and new gates

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Playing Fields - Current State of Play

Since the Public Health Act 1835 s164 and more recently the Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9&10 - one of the duties of a Parish Council is to provide safe and secure open spaces for use by all parishioners. Historically this has been in the form of a Playing Field/Recreation Ground.

During 2008 Shenstone Parish Council has financially assisted the Playing Field Management Committees located in Little Aston, Stonnall and Shenstone to upgrade and improve the facilities at these sites for ***ALL*** members of the parish. We asked councillors most closely involved in the management of these valuable committees what achievements have been made during the past year.

Little Aston Recreation Ground (LARGA)

On 26th July 2008 we were able to remove the contractor's barrier and open to the public. The response was amazing and within an hour the play equipment was in full swing! Committee members have been asking visitors for their opinion of the new facility and everyone is delighted. Children love the play equipment and parents are pleased with the safety aspect with the small fence around the play area which keeps the children in and dogs out. There is now some extra space available and hopefully, next year, we shall put at least two new items on it - probably for toddlers.

We were amazed when talking to the users to hear that they thought it had been provided by Lichfield District Council. This is not so - all the money has been raised through grant applications (which took many hours to complete), fund raising and some local donations. Shenstone Parish Council, of course, provided the land.

By the time you receive this newsletter the seven piece fitness trail should have been installed (this is due to commence on 30th October) and placed around the perimeter path.

This path has proved very popular - runners doing laps, the elderly strolling, dogs being exercised and children riding on bikes. Parents are delighted that they are able to sit and watch their children go around on their bikes without worries of traffic.

We have been heartened to see how the public has responded to our requests not to use the central grassed area. Our next big project, in the Spring, will be removing all the temporary fencing to open the whole field for use.
We shall need some strong volunteers to help with this.

Play equipment recently installed on site

Appeal for Volunteers

Our main need at present is for new committee members. The hard work has been done in raising the funds and overseeing the project. We now need community-minded people of any age and in particular parents of young children who will have ideas of what is still required to manage the ground.

If you feel you could help on the committee or assist with the removal of the fencing, please ring 0121 353 5739 or 0121 353 5116.

The Official Opening Ceremony is anticipated to be held in late May/early June 2009**.**

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER DETAILS!

Community Police Officer
Jon Ratcliffe PC 3459
Open Desk at Shenstone Library
1st Tuesday of each month from
10.00am tel: 08453 30 31 32
jon.ratcliffe@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

- ***Reports have been received at the Parish Council Office about anti-social behaviour at various locations within the parish - but particularly on the Lammas Land and Little Holmes and the Shenstone Playing Fields. Incidences of drinking at all hours of the day, broken bottles being littered on site, swearing and aggressive behaviour have been reported. Could we appeal to all parishioners if they know who these anti-social people are or if they see things happening to report it to the Police?***

- ***Dog walkers - please take extra care to ensure there is no broken glass on the ground!***

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Stonnall Playing Field

Stonnall Playing Field continues to provide facilities for all age-groups and interests within the village. It is very well used by all sectors of the community and the work undertaken by the Playing Fields Committee, and the care and attention shown by all the users ensure, a safe environment is provided for all.

Stonnall Playing Field offer and maintain a football pitch for the use of Stonnall residents of all ages. The football club has helped with the Stonnall Charity Fun Day and provided work parties to upgrade the footpath (no 12) from the rear of the playing field to Church Lane. The Football Club also provides training sessions for the younger members of the village.

Photo above shows members of Stonnall Fundraisers Association handing donation cheques of £450.00 each to representatives of Stonnall Youth Football Team and Stonnall Youth Club

During 2008 Miss Muffet has arrived on site and has proven to be very popular! (see photos below)

there may be spiders on site ...

…...but Council members have been assured they won't frighten this Miss Muffet away!!!

Shenstone Playing Fields Anti-Social Behaviour

As many local residents are aware there are serious ongoing problems at the site with youths congregating in the dugout shelters and covered spectator stand, drinking, swearing and generally causing disturbance into the hours of darkness.

Local Residents have reported an increase in anti-social behaviour preventing them from taking their children to the site. Residents of properties in close proximity to the site have reported that their families' lifestyles have been seriously affected. At a recent Parish Council Meeting one younger member of the parish very eloquently reported that on a number of occasions he has witnessed individuals urinating in full view of all on the site.

The local Police have been made aware and residents have been very helpful in reporting this anti-social behaviour directly to the Police, Shenstone Playing Fields Management Committee, Lichfield District Council and the Parish Council.

Shenstone Parish Council is taking action to help eradicate this disturbing behaviour trend and restore this area to provide a safe and secure open space for use of all parishioners.

Shenstone Tennis Club.

The Tennis Club continues to thrive and has provided coaching events throughout the summer which have been enjoyed and well attended by parishioners of all abilities and levels of fitness

Future Plans.

Residents will be aware that the children's play area is now in a less than satisfactory condition and a working party consisting of Parish Councillors and willing parishioners has been set up with the aim of designing a new play area and raising the required finance.

The working party is already consulting with Greysbrooke Primary School for input from the children and would also welcome any suggestions from local residents (particularly the younger ones!) about equipment or facilities they would like included in the new play area.

For further info please contact Cllr Paul Hadley, Chairman of Shenstone Playing Fields Management Committee on 01543 480724.

Keys have been found at the Shenstone Playing Fields - please contact the Parish Council Office on 01543 481 947

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FLOOD INFORMATION USEFUL INFORMATION /CONTACT DETAILS

- **Lichfield District Council** **01543 308 999**
  www.lichfielddc.gov.uk

- **Environment Agency** **0845 988 1188**
  Floodline **www.environment-agency.gov.uk**

- **Staffordshire Civil Contingencies Unit**
  www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk
  01785 898 618

- **Association of British Insurers** **0121 622 6555**
  www.abi.org.uk

- **Met Office** **www.metoffice.gov.uk**

- **National Flood Forum** **01299 403 055**
  www.floodforum.org.uk

- **CLARENCE SERVICE** **0800 23 23 23**
  Clarence@staffordshire.gov.uk

Lynn Lane Embankment Stabilisation Scheme Planned for April 2009

At a Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th September at Shenstone Village Hall

- ***Senior Project Engineers from Staffordshire Highways gave a presentation on the proposed works to address settlement problems with the approach embankments of Lynn Lane Railway Bridge, Shenstone scheduled for April 2009.***

- ***A number of parishioners from Shenstone and Stonnall councillors attended this meeting and put forward their views.***

- ***Stonnall residents have raised concerns regarding the proposed diversions.***

- ***An up-to-date traffic survey recording times and numbers of HGVs using the roads in the parish was requested.***

Many further issues were raised and the Engineers noted comments received and confirmed they would consider and report back to the Parish Council with a revised plan for consultation. Shenstone Parish Council have contacted Staffordshire Highways to arrange further meetings to discuss this matter and will keep parishioners updated

HELP US KEEP STAFFORDSHIRE'S ROADS AND PAVEMENTS SAFE! INFORMATION /CONTACT DETAILS

CLARENCE

is the Customer Lighting And Roads ENquiry CEntre for Staffordshire County Council.

0800 23 23 23

They take reports for highways defects and street lighting faults throughout the county. The Staffordshire Clarence service is open daily between 8am and 6pm

On freephone 0800 23 23 23

and at any time by e-mailing: Clarence@staffordshire.gov.uk

Street Lights and Signs

Broken streetlights make streets dark, causing problems and worries for people. Broken road signs make the roads more dangerous. If you see a street light or road sign that's not working for any reason, report it to CLARENCE.

Roads and Pavements

Potholes on the road and damaged pavements can cause injury, particularly to children, cyclists and infirm people, and can cause damage to vehicles. For prompt response to repair roads and pavements, report it directly to CLARENCE.

Traffic Lights & Pedestrian Crossings

Crossings and traffic lights that don't work make the roads dangerous for everybody. Report it to CLARENCE.

Blocked Drains on Roads

Blocked gullies on roads are a problem as rainwater causes flooding when it can't drain away. Any problems? report it to CLARENCE.

Shenstone Parish Council
Tel: 01543 481947

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Community Organisations—Brought Up to Date

SHENSTONE

Shenstone Cares		01543 672378
Shenstone Day Care (Friday Friends)	Margaret Ward (Co-ordinator)	01543 480602
Shenstone Church Hall Booking Secretary	Mrs V. Chmiel	01543 480356
Shenstone Village Hall Booking Secretary	Theresa Rock	01543 481504
Shenstone Wesley Hall Booking Secretary	Colin Fishwick	01543 480618
Cooper Room Booking Secretary	Kath Taylor	01543 481421
Shenstone Village News	Sue Heseltine	01543 480548
Scouts groups (Shenstone)	David Davies	0774 7620156
Gardening Guild (Shenstone)	Diana Millward	01543 481543
Women's Evening Institute (Shenstone)	Margaret Pyke	01543 480527
Women's Afternoon Institute (Shenstone)	Mrs Boosie	01543 480438
Shenstone Tennis Club	Brian Morris	01543 480691
Parish Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	Mrs J Norton	01543 481718
Shenstone Library Afternoon/Evening Reading Group	Frances Kennedy	01543 480146
Shenstone (Parish) Library		01543 480915
Lammas Land Management Committee	Jim Calder	01543 480983
Pavilions Club		01543 481658
Shenstone Pathfinders Football Club	Alan Williams	01543 255562
Shenstone Playing Fields	Paul Hadley	01543 480 724
Shenstone Painting Class	Dave Upton	0121 353 5338
Shenstone Quilters	Janet Hickie	01543 481100
National Women's Register – Shenstone	Elaine Cooper	01543 480015
Shenstone Art Class (Wednesday)	Colin Clifton	0121 353 6296
Shenstone Friends and Neighbours	Cynthia Stokes	01543 480032
Shenstone Relief in Need Charity	Cllr. J. Mason	01543 374 364
Rainbow Guide Group— Shenstone	Rosemary Lawrence	01543 483 437

STONNALL

Village News Stonnall/Stonnall Singers	Cllr Mrs. V. Neale	01543 374430
Stonnall Painting Class	Geoff Hunt	07941 428625
Stonnall Village Hall (Bookings)	Bookings	0751 025 3547
Pre School Play Group	Jenny Simkins	01543 476 014
Stonnall Youth Club/Coffee Club	Cllr J Mason/Cllr Mrs. V. Neale	374364/374430
Stonnall Gardeners Guild	Cllr J Mason	01543 374364
Stonnall Players	Sheila Pritchard	01543 372583
Stonnall Guides	Alison Peat	07818 662776
Stonnall Scouts/ Beavers/Cubs	Nick Simkins	01543 476014
1st Stonnall Brownies	Melanie Langham	01543 676935
Stonnall Playing Fields Management Committee	D Andrews	01543 373394
Stonnall Womens' Institute	Mary Jenkinson	01543 375639
Stonnall Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators	Ian Wragg	01543 374091
Stonnall Needlecraft Class	Cllr Mrs. V. Neale	01543 374430
Stonnall and Lynn History and Conservation Society	Lynne Ingram	01543 374629
Stonnall Reading Group	Deirdre Hollingsworth	01543 373926

LITTLE ASTON

Little Aston Recreation Ground (LARGA)	Joanne Hateley	0121 353 3342
Little Aston Table Tennis Club	Ron Leighton	0121 353 6157
Little Aston Pre School Play Group	Mrs. Davies	0795 004 7172
Little Aston Community Association	Alan Wilson	0121 353 5739
Little Aston Centre	Joyce Smith	0121 353 5393
Little Aston Bowling Club	Rod Crowley	0121 353 8238
Little Aston Tennis Club	Richard Sochon	0121 353 3226
Little Aston Women's Institute	Jo Harris	0121 353 6748
Little Aston Evening Women's Institute	Doreen Miller	0121 308 4732

USEFUL NUMBERS

Footherley Club	Isobel Smith	01543 480678
Telephone Preference Service for blocking unwanted calls		0845 0700707
Police (non emergencies)		08453 302010
British Transport Police		0800 405040
Pollution Incident Hotline		0800 807060
Trading Standards		01785 226000

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FESTIVE EVENTS 2008

LITTLE ASTON

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

All proceeds towards a
New kitchen at Little Aston Centre
Saturday 15th November 2008 from 2pm to 4pm
Venue: Little Aston Centre, Little Aston Lane Entrance Fee: 50p
£10.00 to hire a table - contact 07771 878 903

LITTLE ASTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - TWINNING SECTION

Musical Evening with Queen Elizabeth Mercian School Swing Band - Saturday 22nd November 7.30pm
American Supper - bring plate of food to share and own drinks
Venue - Little Aston Centre
Tickets £6 adults £4 children
Ring 0121 308 0138 or 0121 311 1055

STONNALL

- ***Tuesday 2nd December***
  Calor Village of the Year Luncheon and presentations at Guildhall London
- ***Saturday 6th December—2pm***
  Christmas Fayre - Stonnall Village Hall
- ***Wednesday 10th December***
  Coffee Club Christmas Luncheon
- ***Saturday 13th December - 7.30pm***
  Village Carols Concert - St. Peters Church
- ***Monday 22nd December - time 6.30pm***
  Christmas Pageant outside Stonnall shops
- ***Wednesday 7th January 2009***
  Stonnall Garden Guild Quiz
  7.30pm— Stonnall Youth and Community Centre
- ***Thursday 15th, Friday 16th and Saturday 17th January 2009 - 7.30pm Stonnall Players present their Annual Pantomime in Stonnall Village Hall***

SHENSTONE

Quiz Night - Venue Shenstone Village Hall—Saturday 15th November at 7.30pm - Bring your own drinks, Teas/coffees and refreshments will be available

Shenstone Painting Group

Exhibition of paintings at the Cooper Room by Shenstone Painting Group - Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd November 2008 - The exhibition will be open from 10am to 4pm on both days. Admission is free and most of the paintings are for sale.
Further details contact Colin Clifton on 0121 353 6296

Father Christmas!!!!!!
Saturday 13th December 2pm to 4pm
Shenstone Village Hall
Gift for every child!

Shenstone Parish Council Meetings
2nd Tuesday of each month
(except August) at 7.15pm

- *Nov 11th 2008 — Stonnall Youth and Community*
- *Dec 9th 2008 — Shenstone Village Hall*
- *Jan 13th 2009 — Little Aston Primary School*
- *Feb 10th 2009 — Stonnall Youth and Community*
- *March 10th 2009 — Shenstone Village Hall*

Little Aston

Community Association Twinning Section

Are you aged between 8 and 80? Do you like meeting new people? Do you like going on holiday? Would you like to join our Twinning Group? Little Aston is twinned with St. Georges sur Baulche in Burgundy, France.
We are looking for new members for our children's/adults/family visits. Adult/family visits take place alternate years in April/May. Children's visits (11 - 17 year olds) take place alternate years, usually in October. In 2009 the French adult/family group are coming here in April and the children will be going to France during the October half-term holiday. FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Anna Howle on 0121 308 0138

Stonnall

Stonnall Coffee Club continues to be well supported each Wednesday from 10.00 to 12.00 - Venue Stonnall Youth and Community Centre. The coffee is good but we've been told the cakes are even better!

Shenstone

Friday Friends - APPEAL FOR NEW MEMBERS!
Good Company, Good Food, Good Times!

Friday Friends meet on Friday of each week from 11am to 3pm in Shenstone Village Hall for morning coffee, lunch cooked by a well respected and talented chef and friendship, as well as entertainment and activities. The entertainment programme is tailored to the wishes and interests of members, so if there is something you would like to do, please join us and tell us about it. We currently have room for a few new members so if you are sixty years of age and over, live in the parish and wards of Shenstone (namely Shenstone, Little Hay, Footherley, Stonnall and Little Aston) and would like to find out how we spend our Fridays, we will make you very welcome.
Shenstone Village Hall is fully accessible to people who use wheelchairs or have limited mobility and we employ care assistants for those requiring extra personal assistance. Wheel-chair friendly transport is also available for those who need it. If you are interested in coming along - without any further commitment, please contact Margaret Ward on 01543 480 602 Conny Parrott on 01543 481 446.

Little Hay and Footherley

If you have any news from Little Hay or Footherley that you would like included in the next edition of the newsletter please contact the Clerk on Tel: 01543 481 947, Fax: 01543 483312 or e-mail: admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk

REMINDER

The next Shenstone Parish Council Newsletter will be distributed in February 2009 to over 3000 addresses in the parish - if you have an event taking place or any news you would like to share which may be of interest to our parishioners, or if you would like to advertise your business contact us on 01543 481 947

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