



# Annual Parish Meeting

Shenstone Parish Council May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
2017

Reports from Community  
Organisations

# Shenstone *Cares* out and about

- During the past year “Shenstone *Cares* out and about ” has continued to help the elderly residents of Shenstone with transport for vital visits to hospital, the optician, dental and other necessary appointments away from the village. In addition, on the more social side, trips outside of the village for concerts, shopping, lunches and other entertainment has been provided. This has been achieved with the help of 30 volunteers from the younger section of our village who have used their own transport or manned the minibus the charity maintains.
- As a further extension of our work, we have continued to arrange holidays at Merton House in Ross-on-Wye. Eleven members are due to travel there on May 19<sup>th</sup> for a week’s holiday.
- Many have been before and obviously enjoyed it.
- Although we ask those who use our service to make a modest contribution to our running costs, the mini bus in particular does make us very dependent on the generous grants and donations we receive and we would like to thank those who have contributed in the last year.
- Jennie Jones, Hon Sec.

# 2018 Annual Parish Meeting

## Stonnall Village Hall

The Management Committee for Stonnall Village Hall wish to thank Shenstone Parish Council for their continued support.

- Stonnall Village Hall are pleased to report a very good year with a surplus of £11,482.17. This is mainly due to Age UK using the hall for three days a week. Income from other lettings was on a par with previous years. However this will cease at the end of June as they now require five full days, which we are unable to offer and they have found an alternative venue.
- Unfortunately Maureen Williams, known as Mo, the Chairperson and stalwart of the village hall, sadly died in December. Also Muriel Hooper, the booking clerk retired, so new people are now helping to maintain the smooth running of the hall.
- During the year, Kathy Russell, from Staffordshire Village advisory Service, came and carried out an “assessment and health check”, for which we received an excellent report. This covered all aspects of the building, health and safety, management and finance etc. We now need to maintain these high standards.
- As part of the refurbishment of the hall, the toilet facilities being completed in 2016, and we are now looking to do the kitchen later this year. The stage curtains were replaced earlier this month and we thank Shenstone Parish Council for a grant towards the cost.
- It is good to see the hall used regularly for various dance classes, yoga, kick boxing and the W.I. as well as children’s parties and assorted adult functions.

Councillor Sheila Beilby  
Chair Stonnall Village Hall.

# 2018 Annual Parish Meeting

## Stonnall & Lynn Playing Fields Association

- Much has been achieved on the playing field, with the continued help and support from Shenstone Parish Council.
- Since the Stonnall Junior football teams started to play on the field, we have maintained some regular income, but this does not cover the cost of grass cutting and general maintenance. Many of the residents have commented how good the field looks, particularly at this time of the year with the blossom on the trees and the grass still green. It is a facility enjoyed by young and old.
- During the last year, the general maintenance included painting the barriers on to the field and replacing the worn swing seats. Bollards have been placed around the Fields in Trust plinth. There were no major functions, but the junior football teams and Boot Camp used the field regularly.
- This year, with some grant funding from Shenstone Parish Council, Awards for All and Staffs County, as well as our own fund raising, we will be installing a cantilever basket swing in the children's play area. This should be in situ by the school holidays.
- Although there are many litter and dog poo bins around the field, it is annoying to still find litter and dog poo; but I know Stonnall is not alone with this problem. How do we get the message across?
- The Management Committee thank Shenstone Parish Council for their support in maintaining this facility for the community.

Malcolm Beilby  
Chairman Stonnall & Lynn Playing Fields Association.

## LAMMAS LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Since my last report in 2017 we have continued to maintain the areas known as the Little Holms and Lammas Land on behalf of the Parish Council for the benefit of the areas many users.
- In particular we have continued to attempt to restrict the spread of Himalayan Balsam, now in our third year we are seeing the results of our previous work, with many areas now free from the plant and in other areas seeing the spread of the plant decreasing. With the funding we have received from the Parish Council we have purchased the tools that have made our task a lot easier enabling us to tackle a far larger area. We appreciate that we will never eradicate this plant and that has never been our objective, but we are keeping it in check.
- We have repaired Calder Bridge as some of the walkway was showing signs of decay due to rot.
- We have planted another 100 plus saplings that Stuart Jones, again managed to obtain free of charge from the Woodlands Trust, these were a mixture of Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Birch and Mountain Ash. The saplings planted at the beginning of 2017 are showing signs of growth with a very good rate of success.
- The banks of the stream have been reinforced where erosion has taken place due to dogs accessing the watercourse.
- The hedges that we have laid over the years have been kept trimmed back. The watercourse has been kept free from obstruction.
- The new Breedon Stone path which was laid early 2017 is wearing well, we did have a problem of flooding of the path at a point on the Little Holms but we believe that we have now solved this problem with some drainage work.
- The poppy cross commemorating the Great War has again been sown with thousands of poppy seeds and we are hopeful of a good display this year.

## LAMMAS LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### CHAIRMANS REPORT

- A new litter bin has been installed at the Pinfold Hill access point and now we have dog poo bins and litter bins situated at all three access points from the village.

- Thanks to Roger Gardner, the Deer have now got a couple of fawns.

We have reinstalled one of the Owl boxes that fell from its tree, and also carried out repairs to our "croc"

- We assisted Greysbrook School P.T.A. to hold their annual fund raising Duck Race on Black Brook, and the event is scheduled to be held this year on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month .
- We are still progressing the idea of being able to access Malkins Coppice from the Little Holms and Stuart Jones has arranged a meeting between ourselves and South Staffs Water, who own the Coppice and surrounding land to see if this is a viable proposition.
- Shenstone and Lichfield Artisan Golf Society made a very kind donation to us and this money has been spent mainly on safety clothing for our workforce.
- All this work has been carried out by the volunteers that make up our committee and a warm welcome to our two new committee members Peter Hedges and Tony Fitzpatrick.

Richard Partridge,  
Chairman

## Shenstone Community Library Association

- Here's some of the things which have been recently said about our library:
- We are so lucky to have this nice place to meet up in, it's just right for our group. Thank you for organising it all, I'd really miss it if it stopped. (about the games afternoon).
- Super library, lovely café and gallery, and amazing baby bounce and rhyme
- Really friendly library – my daughter absolutely loves Baby Bounce and we feel lucky to have this place down the road
- How lucky we are to have had our local library saved, we visit every Saturday for tea and cake and to exchange my daughter's books. The staff who are all volunteers, are wonderful, friendly and very welcoming and it's become a real hub in our community. An absolute gem.
- Best library ever. Books, coffee, cake, kids entertained, lovely
- Great to see a small, village library being used in such an innovative way. Lots of activities for kids especially, with lovely areas for them to play and read and an excellent cafe. Really nice when your children are asking and asking when their next visit will be.
- A lovely place for both young and old. Delightfully friendly volunteers running the library and all its services
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# Shenstone Community Library Association

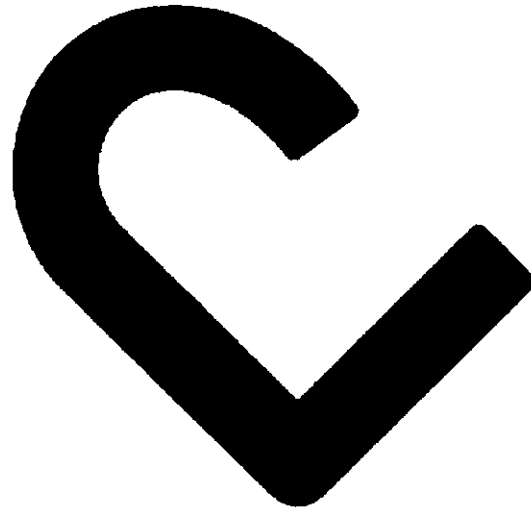
- Eighteen months ago, Shenstone Library was managed and run by Staffordshire County Council. It had an uncertain future, with diminishing book borrowing figures, and declining visitors. A feeling was voiced by some that libraries were unnecessary, and that the library could close without anyone much noticing.
- What seems without dispute is that Shenstone Community Library has been given a new lease of life by the efforts of people who have contributed to a vision of what this resource can bring to everyone, and especially the vulnerable, in our community. It seems that the imagination of those who use this space has been fired and given expression in the generous amount of time and incredible skills which are given freely to the organisation.
- An account of the steps which were taken leading to the transformation of the library and coffee shop are given as an appendix to this report. Probably the key moment for me was the opening week, culminating in Shenstone festival. We were able to welcome people to admire our new coffee shop, with its coffee roasted, and cakes baked, in our village, and our first exhibition of paintings produced by local artists. Many new members to the library were signed up, and we have continued to see this membership rise. Last November, when we extended our opening hours so that we were open five days instead of three, we were able to show that we were serious about the quality of our service to the community.
- What is clear to me is that it would not have been possible without a considerable investment of goodwill from people who live in Shenstone, and nearby. Key officers of Staffordshire County Council have also given considerable support, and they continue to support us as we develop further. I have been particularly fortunate in the people who comprise the management team (which includes trustees), most of whom will be giving you a report of the areas they manage, and who have devoted many hours to making the dream a reality.



# Shenstone Community Library Association

- So.....What next for Shenstone Community Library?
- Clearly, there has been considerable activity since the charity was established. The calibre of our volunteers (over seventy are active on a rota to run the library desk and coffee shop), as well as those who manage our communications, and our activities, has ensured that the service offered to the community has been of a very high quality. It will be important to continue to retain these volunteers, recruit new volunteers and to develop the skills of the volunteer body in the future.
- There have been times when the capacity of the building has been stretched, particularly when our events have proved to be very popular. The management team will continue to consider how it can be used so that its potential is maximised for the community, possibly by extending the building, or the opening hours, or both. The additional funding raised from the coffee shop helps us to have greater financial security and enables us to develop the buildings and services, and we will use this imaginatively so that there is a comprehensive offer to local residents.
- We have been mindful that the coffee shop must be seen to serve the needs of the library and our key performance indicators. Early indications are that it has played a significant part in increasing the numbers of new members and books issued. Attendance at events is also excellent, in part due to the quality of the refreshments. We plan to improve on these key performance indicators in the coming year.
- The lease and contract with SCC were signed on a 5+5+5-year basis. We know that the terms are generous in comparison with other Local Authorities, but we don't have an assurance that this will continue after 2021. We therefore need to strengthen our organisation so that it can be resilient in the future.
- Shenstone Community Library Management Team is particularly grateful for the financial support given by Shenstone Parish Council. There is no doubt that its generous grants given in 2016 and 2017 helped to secure the future of the library for the parish.
- Lynda Jones, Chair

**With our grateful thanks to Shenstone Parish Council from Footherley Hall  
Residential Care Home.**



**Sisters Hospitallers**

FOOTHERLEY HALL  
RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME



Sisters Hospitallers

FOOTHERLEY HALL  
RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME

- Words cannot express how thankful we are for approving our grant application for activity equipment. At Fotherley Hall we provide a varied activity programme for our residents; creating a happy environment with engaging, interesting and fun activities which help to improve the quality of life for residents and the equipment you have provided enhances this greatly.
- Our holistic approach and person centred care creates the basis for residents to retain their independence and lead active lives within our home and meaningful activities play an extremely important part of this.
- Residents were so excited to see the all new activities arrive and are already benefiting from them! We've been singing-along to the CDs (a great activity for the brain) on the wonderful music centres and having fun doing the jigsaws. The sensory box has stimulated our smells and the touchy feely game has created lots of laughter. We have only mentioned just a few of the new activities but they are all wonderful and so beneficial.
- **Thank you very much from us all at**
- **Fotherley Hall**