



Little Aston

Shenstone

Stonnall

# Parish Council News

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Winter 2018



## ALL THE NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

### Christmas tree to Light up Little Aston Once Again

Residents of Little Aston can look forward to the much loved tree outside the shops being lit this year following an agreement between Little Aston Community Association and Shenstone Parish Council. The Council have taken over the organisation, installation and funding so that the tree will once again be displayed for all. The installation is set for Nov 27th with a switch on shortly afterwards. One date for the diary is December 7th at 6.30pm when there will be carols around the tree. We hope to see as many of you as possible there.



### Commemorative Benches for the Parish

The Parish Council purchased three benches, one for each village, to mark the centenary of the First World War and this one has been a wonderful addition to Stonnall on the corner of Main Street and Cartersfield Lane. There have been many events in the village to mark Remembrance this year and Stonnall Pre-school have planted some flowers and poppies next to the bench as well as decorating the ground with some hand painted poppies. We were also joined from members of the community in the form of parents, our village childminders as well as John from Stonnall Gardeners and Patsy from St Peters Church who read a very moving prayer.



### A Brief Message from the Chairman

Over the past few months your Council have again been working to protect and enhance our villages and the lives of those who enjoy being a part of our community.

Our Neighbourhood Plans, which so many worked so hard to create, have been called on to help control development in certain areas and financial, and in deed manual, support has been made available to sustain and enrich

leisure time activities for our residents.

Within these pages you will read reports about many of the achievements and ongoing projects that your Council and its Members are involved with including; the ground work and maintenance that has been done on St. John's cemetery, the investigations that are making good progress towards safeguarding the future of the Norman tower and the reinstatement of an ancient role, that of a Lengthsman...a person tasked to look for, and carry out, work that needs doing around our area from general tidying and cleaning to repairing and painting things, all of which enriches our surroundings and brings with it a sense of pride to our community.

The Council has had regular correspondence and meetings with Highways England officers regarding the current state and the future of the Wall Island complex. We have been informed that the whole area will be re-lined with improved lane markings and upgraded direction signage but unfortunately, as we are constantly hearing, due to the financial situation this will not be until possibly late next year.

May I, along with all my fellow Councillors, wish you all a peaceful festive time and a very happy forthcoming 2019.

*David Salter.*



## Best Kept Village - Stonnall

In the results for 2018 Stonnall was Highly Commended. The certificate will be displayed in the Youth and Community Centre.

The actual competition ran from 1st May till mid-July during which a valiant band of villagers picked up litter, swept bus shelters, put up bunting and posters, cut grass, weeded, pruned and planted beds, pots and baskets and even a wheelbarrow. Many thanks to our band of helpers especially with watering the plants in 2018, a never ending task! We are a small group and even smaller since Carole and Brian Harbon together with Marge moved to Lincolnshire. We wish them Bon Voyage and hope they will be very happy in their new home.

However, we need volunteers to replace these founder members. An hour a week from March to October, in any arrangement to suit yourself - not just a Sunday, old or young, male or female - we value your help.

We will always help you to distinguish a weed from a plant, to plant bulbs or plant out a tub, basket, bike or wheelbarrow!

We would like to enter Best Kept Village in 2019 but, unless we have more volunteers to help it is doubtful. Please think carefully. Please ring Valmae on 01543 374181 (evenings please) or approach any of our volunteers.

High-vis jackets will be supplied to our volunteers in the near future.

## Dog Fouling in Stonnall

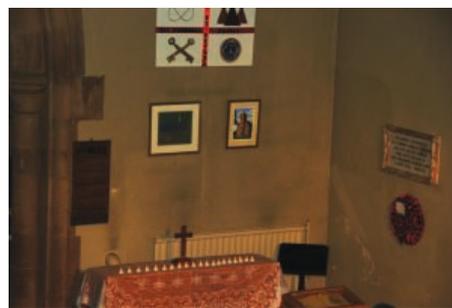
New dog fouling signs have been put up on our Playing Field. Also - Be warned! Lichfield Environmental Protection Team will be deploying enforcement officers who work in plain clothes to catch offending dog walkers. Dog fouling is a criminal offence which could lead to the dog owner appearing in Magistrates Court or Crown Court. These officers will be visiting the playing field regularly. It would be lovely if every dog owner was responsible, but dog poo is still being left and not picked up. Please be a responsible owner and clean up after your dog.



## Stonnall Remembers

What a week-end we had in Stonnall, from the 9th to the 12th of November! There were no fewer than four events to make us remember and reflect on 'the war to end all wars', and, of course, all that has happened since.

The week-end began with an evening presentation in St Peter's Church, of 'The Stonnall Brigade'. This was a representation of a book, written by Councillor David Smith, where the departure to battle of the lads from Stonnall, is watched by a simple-minded lad, unable to join up. Their return is anxiously awaited by him. Sadly, it doesn't happen, but the anxious watcher dreams that it does, and is able to die in peace.



*Twenty candles representing each of the brave men who died in the WW1 conflict.*

The presentation, directed by Liz and Dave Daly, now of The Mint Theatre, included words and actions, accompanied by suitable music. Those involved were many villagers, including children from St Peter's Academy, members of The Mint Theatre, Stonnall Singers, musicians from Staffordshire Troglodytes and our own Cherrywood duo. The church was full of people of all ages, mainly from Stonnall and its surrounds, who all seemed to be greatly moved by the proceedings.

Saturday evening continued the experience, with a hot supper in the Village Hall, accompanied by a video of Stonnall from 1918 to 2018, created by Julian Ward Davies, and music from the last century, presented by Councillor David Salter. As on the previous evening, people of all ages were present and many joined in the dancing after the meal, including several teenagers and one little girl aged about three, who never stopped dancing until her parents took her home to bed!

Another community event, bringing people together!

On Sunday, St Peter's Church was full for the Service of Remembrance, with regular churchgoers, members of the uniformed groups from the village, several local councillors and relatives of some of the war dead, remembered on the Memorial Plaques on the walls of the church, one for the Great War, one for the Second World War and one for the Falklands conflict. The names of the fallen were read out and also those never-to-be-forgotten words spoken on all such occasions. Many wreaths, having been blessed at the altar, were laid below the plaques. A collection was taken for the Royal British Legion, as indeed was the case on the previous evening.

Finally, on Monday, Stonnall W.I. had invited two gentlemen involved with memories of Cannock Chase, as a recruitment centre, providing accommodation for thousands of troops, as a military hospital and as a prisoner of war camp. The talk, shared by the two men, was illustrated throughout with pictures of the Chase at all these various stages of its history. The W.I. had opened their meeting to the public and were searching for extra seating before the start, as so many members of the public had taken advantage of the invitation.

So, four opportunities to remember and reflect, each bringing together our community and, perhaps, inspiring a hope for a different and better future.

## Christmas in Stonnall

On Wednesday, 5th December, all the regulars at the weekly Coffee Club, will be conveyed by coach to the Beverley Hotel, in Walsall, for a splendid Christmas Lunch. This was the venue last year and everyone (almost) was full of praise for the splendid outing, so here's to this year's celebration. Stonnall Singers will provide their usual Christmas Concert, in St Peter's Church, on Saturday 8th December. The concert is called, 'Villagers All', so hopefully, all the villagers will be present, to listen and sing, ready for Christmas.

The Annual Village Nativity Pageant will take place, outside the Village Hall, on Monday 17th. It is a little early this year, but the next Monday is Christmas Eve and no doubt people will be busy doing other things. Everyone is welcome to join in the pageant, dressed as shepherds, wise men, angels, innkeepers or any other suitable character. If you only wish to come and watch, that's fine but bring your voices as there will be plenty of carols.

The first special Church Service is the very popular Christingle Service, which is to be held on Sunday afternoon, 9th December, from 4.00 pm. On 16th, also at 4.00, there is the equally popular Nine Lessons and Carols. St Peter's Academy has two services in St Peter's Church at the end of term, on 20th and 21st December, then the Morning Service on 23rd is a dress-up Nativity. Finally, we have the Service of Hope and Remembrance, at 2.00 pm on Christmas Eve, with Midnight Communion to follow, starting at 11.30 pm.

## Little Aston Recreation Ground Association

It was a hectic summer this year at the Little Aston Recreation Ground with zero rainfall during the months of July and August. As a result, our team of volunteer gardeners were watering on the field at least three times every week. Without this mammoth effort then many of the saplings planted in the last few years would have died. The photograph below taken by Councillor David Salter, who is Vice Chairman of our committee, demonstrates just how parched the field became during the drought. David and Pam's picture of their dog Zaida could well be the image of a hunting hound in the deserts of Arabia!



At the height of summer, on July 7th, we held our ever popular 'Party in the Park' with record numbers attending. It was as always, a fantastic community event and my thanks to all the volunteers who helped again this year to make the evening a tremendous success. Planning such an event takes a full year and some of the performers have to be booked two years in advance.

Visitors will have noticed the beautiful bench recently installed at our recreation ground. Shenstone Parish Council has purchased three commemorative benches, crafted by renowned designer David Ogilvy, one for each ward, to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the hostilities of the First World War and in recognition of the immense sacrifice of over 1.1million British and Empire Service Men and Women who lost their lives so that future generations could live theirs. The recreation ground is proud to have been chosen as the ideal location for Little Aston's bench.

We have continued throughout the summer and autumn with our monthly working parties and in October and November planted 10,000 crocuses and 1,000 daffodils. The crocus bulbs were purchased to aid the global campaign to eliminate polio. We can hardly wait until next spring to see the bulbs in flower.



## Little Aston Residents Pull their Green Fingers Out to Clean up their Street



More than 30 residents in Little Aston pulled on their gardening gloves and turned out in force to give their road some kerb appeal.

Families living in The Grove gave up their Sunday morning and came together to help tackle overgrown weeds and bushes in the road.

The voluntary gardening session, which took place on 16 September, was organised by residents Lisa Deeming and Nicki Gobran.

Nicki said: "Lisa had the idea, the road was looking really scruffy. Lisa contacted the council and they said they were coming out to spray the road but the council approved weed killer doesn't work on all weeds. The road needed to be cleaned up but resources are limited, so we decided to do it ourselves."

People of all ages got involved in digging, weeding and sweeping and Lichfield District Council agreed to collect the bags of garden waste. In total 12 bags were filled with garden waste.

Among the gardeners was local parish councillor Charles Fordham. Youngsters in The Grove even got into the community spirit and set up a little stall and book sale in the street. They made £11 and donated it to charity.

Everyone's hard work was rewarded with beer, prosecco and homemade cakes.





## Community Clean up Days at St John's, Shenstone



*Some of our hardworking volunteers.*

In June and September this year a willing band of volunteers came together to transform the old cemetery at St John's Church. The site had become extremely overgrown with many of the older grave stones completely hidden and the back of the Old Tower inaccessible.

On a sweltering hot day in June, over 30 volunteers worked incredibly hard to generate over 100 bags of waste and complete well over half of the site with the other half being successfully finished on the second visit in September. On both occasions, we were joined by volunteers from The Rapid Relief Team whose contribution was huge and our thanks go to all of them. Many villagers took part as well as members of the Parish Council with both days being declared successful and rewarding.



*We were able to transform this*



*to this!*

## Father Christmas at Shenstone Village Hall



All village children are invited to come along to meet Santa on Saturday 8th December between 2pm and 4pm at the Village Hall. Entry is free and there will be a present for each child as well as lots of activities, a bouncy castle and a raffle.

## Shenstone Relief In Need Charities

Having a hard time? Is there something that would make your life easier if you could afford it? It may be help with mobility, help with playgroup fees or school uniform or an essential household appliance that has broken.

If so, we may be able to help. These Charities were set up as far back as 1642 to help people in difficulty.

Let us know what you need and we will do our best to help. Contact via the Treasurer Mr Keith Goldsworthy on 01543 480 326.

ALL CONTACTS ARE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE.

## Rainbow Bulb Planting

1st Shenstone Rainbows have been putting their Rainbow Promise (...to be kind and helpful) into practice, by providing and planting Spring bulbs around the Glebe. The 16 girls each planted clumps of daffodil bulbs by the church gate and around the cherry tree, which they promptly



renamed "The Rainbow Tree"! The girls hope that everyone will enjoy the colourful display when the bulbs come into bloom in the spring, and the Leaders hope that in future years, the girls will be reminded of their Rainbow days in Shenstone.

Girlguiding is certainly thriving in our village. A new Guide section has recently been added to the existing Rainbow and Brownie sections, so girls can enjoy being part of the action right up to the age of 14. The year ahead will be an especially exciting one for all sections, as girls will have the chance to explore new badges, activities and awards which are part of the innovative new programme for Girlguiding.



## Lengthsman joins Shenstone Parish Council

The Parish Council is delighted to announce the appointment of a new member of staff. Stephen Crane joins us as our new Lengthsman from the end of September. The position of the Lengthsman dates back to the Middle Ages when Parish Councils employed men to maintain an area or length of road. Steve will be looking after a little more than that across all Wards! Working two days a week, weather dependant, we are sure that Steve will have an immediate impact and we are very pleased to welcome him to our community.



## Parking problems around Shenstone Station

Following several months of discussion, the Parish Council has very recently received confirmation that a consultation will now proceed with regard to parking restrictions around Shenstone station. Many residents will be aware that the Council have been pushing hard for measures to address the excessive number of badly parked cars in Admiral Parker Drive, Richard Cooper Road & New Road in particular. These vehicles not only park inconsiderately but are a serious safety concern. County Councillor David Smith has now prioritised the installation of parking restrictions, full details of which will be shared shortly with residents as part of the formal consultation process. This also involves a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which is a legal order that makes the parking restrictions enforceable. The TRO involves a process of consultation with statutory bodies such as the police, fire, ambulance service, county councillor, district and parish councils and so forth. As mentioned, residents directly affected will also be consulted and the general public are given an opportunity to have a say in the process. Once this has been completed, and as long as no objections to the proposed Order are upheld, then the road markings are installed. It's not unusual for the whole process to take 6-9 months and can take longer if there are a significant number of objections.

Parking in and around Main Street, Shenstone is also very much on the Parish Council's agenda.

## What Future for Shenstone's Old Church Tower?

The Old Tower, together with adjoining arch, is all that remains standing of the previous Shenstone Parish Church. The old church dates to the 12th century, but with Norman and possibly Saxon remains. Its outlines are still visible in the churchyard. The Old Tower probably dates to the 13th century, with later additions and is the oldest structure in the Parish of Shenstone. Most of the old church was demolished upon the completion of the present church in 1854. It is thought that the Old Tower avoided demolition due to lack of funds at the time, and so it has stood in the churchyard ever since. It was 'Listed' (Grade II\*) in the 1960s and is presently one of Staffordshire's most 'at risk' listed buildings



This year Historic England (formerly English Heritage) has convened a series of meetings with Parish Councillors, Lichfield Diocese and St John's Church members, and Shenstone Local History Group to discuss the future. The Old Tower is in need of considerable expenditure to consolidate the structure and make it safe. However, even if that can be achieved, what would its purpose be? Internally, the Tower measures only about 10 feet square. There are 2 further levels above the ground floor, once connected by ladders.

So what purpose could it serve? A viewing platform? A local history display area? Villagers are invited to offer ideas and suggestions to Parish Councillors to aid these ongoing discussions. Please contact the Parish Clerk with any suggestions on 01543 481 947 or [admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk)

## Changes to Bus Passes

Your Staffordshire Card has been a popular scheme, however, the numbers of people using the scheme have fallen significantly. For this reason, along with unprecedented financial pressures, the county will be ending the scheme on August 31, 2019. Passes will be valid until that date. There have been discussions with bus operators concerning ending of the Your Staffordshire Card Scheme and they have commercial options available. To find the current ticketing option that best meets your circumstances contact the bus operators in your area.

The national bus concession in England is available at any time on a Saturday, Sunday or bank holiday, and from 9.30am to 11pm on any other day.

The pre 9:30 travel is a discretionary enhancement Staffordshire has made to the national concessionary travel scheme. Unfortunately, due to unprecedented financial pressures the county council is no longer able to fund this enhancement and is proposing to end the offer from Spring 2019. You can still travel for free after 9.30am or pay the operator's fare if you wish to travel before this time or after 11pm on weekdays.

People can make comments up to the 30th November by email at [yourstaffordshirecard@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:yourstaffordshirecard@staffordshire.gov.uk) and [buspasscomments@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:buspasscomments@staffordshire.gov.uk) or by writing to The Bus pass Team at Staffordshire County Council, 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH.

## Do you have a couple of hours free on a Friday?

Shenstone Day Care are looking for volunteers each Friday to help serve lunches but most importantly join in with this weekly opportunity for our elderly residents of the village to socialise in a warm and welcoming environment. You don't have to be free every Friday- but if you like a chat and want to make a difference whenever you can please contact Rita Hancocks on 0759 859 3579.

## The Lichfield Council Local Plan Strategy and related Local Plan Allocations Document

The Lichfield Council Local Plan Strategy and related Local Plan Allocations Document continue their updating journey and the Parish Council continues to monitor and comment on any proposals affecting Shenstone, Stonnall and Little Aston.

The Parish Council has objected to the Local Plan Strategy proposal to include Shenstone as a Key Rural Village suitable for significant growth and secondly proposals to include land north of Little Aston and south of Shenstone as a New Settlement area. The "Save our Shenstone" movement has also objected to these proposals. We also objected to proposals to make Shenstone a new employment location due to inappropriate transport infrastructure, current vacancy rates for existing units and environmental damage. We await the outcome of Lichfield Council's consideration of the consultation on the Local Plan Strategy proposals.

We are aware that there is separate interest in the land north of Little Aston and south of Shenstone by a separate Greater Birmingham Strategic Growth Study and also by Savills. We will also continue to monitor these interests carefully.

Using the approved Shenstone Neighbourhood Plan, we have argued successfully against inappropriate Local Plan Allocations housing proposals in Shenstone in the recent past and we will continue to use our Neighbourhood Plans to protect the character and amenity of Shenstone, Little Aston and Stonnall in the future.

## Apply for a Community Grant

**Do you represent a community group or organisation? The 2019 Community Grant application process is now open and the Council welcomes requests from groups which help and involve local people. The usual amount awarded is between £250.00 - £1000.00.**

You can apply for a grant if:

- Funds are to be used within Parish boundaries
- You are a non-profit making group or, any profit made will be used for the good of the community
- You have a constitution or strict set of rules, signed and adopted by the chairperson and/or other senior officer
- You have a bank/building society account which requires the signature of two or more committee members
- You can enclose a current set of accounts signed by the appropriate member of your group
- You can spend any grant monies within the current financial year
- You have made certain that any work carried out complies with all relevant legislation, e.g planning permissions etc.

Please contact the Parish Clerk on 01543 481 947 or on [admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk) for an application form.  
Deadline Monday January 14th 2019.

## Diamond Jubilee Allotments a Hidden Gem

Did you know that the Parish has its own allotments? Situated on farmland with an entrance on Cartersfield Lane in Stonnall, we have over 40 plots, tended by residents in the Parish and managed via a committee of volunteers.

We're a friendly, helpful group who love spending time in this peaceful haven, growing fruit, vegetables and flowers. We host social events throughout the year so that you can meet fellow plot holders and gain and share information about the best crops to tend.

We don't have a waiting list currently, so if you're interested in visiting the site and finding out more information about how to take on a plot, please ring Viv on 07804 929108 and we'll be happy to show you around.



# Community Groups/Organisations

Contact the Parish Council on 01543 481 947

or

e-mail [admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk)

## SHENSTONE

St John's Church.	Rev Liz Chamberlain	01543 480 286
Trinity Methodist Church	Rev Joanna Thornton	01543 253744
Shenstone Day Care (Friday Friends)	Rita Hancocks	0759 859 3579
Shenstone Cares	Sue Lea	01543 483 548
Shenstone St John's Hall	Mary Wilson	01543 480 286
Shenstone Village Hall	Tresa Rock	01543 481 504
Shenstone Wesley Hall	Colin Fisherwick	01543 480 618
Richard Cooper Room	Tresa Rock	01543 481 504
Shenstone Village News	Sue Heseltine	01543 480 548
Scouts Group	David Davies	0791 2377 117
Shenstone Ladies Group	Pauline Sampson	01543 480 535
Womens Evening Institute	Gina Whorton	01543 480 884
Shenstone Baby & Toddlers	Amy Bull	0794 7359 786
Shenstone Tennis Club	John Branch	01543 480928
Shenstone Community Library	Librarian	01543 480 915
Lammas Land Management Committee	Richard Partridge	01543 481 102
Shenstone Pathfinders F.C.	Gary Cantelo	01543 480 171
Shenstone Playing Fields	Graham Jarvis	01543 481 437
Shenstone Painting Class	Dave Upton	0121 353 5338
Shenstone Quilters	Joy Shorey	01543 481 297
National Womens Register	Lynne Young	01543 480 420
Shenstone Friends & Neighbours	Cynthia Stokes	01543 480 032
Rainbow Guide Group	Rosemary Lawrence	01543 483 437
Footherley Club	Isobel Smith	01543 480 678

## STONNALL

St Peters Church, Stonnall	Rev Liz Chamberlain	01543 480 286
Village News	Cllr Mrs Val Neale	01543 374 430
Stonnall Village Hall	Deb Monk	07510 253 547
Pre School Play Group	Wendy Holmes	07971 068 705
Stonnall Youth & Community Centre	Nigel Cragg	07856 317 576
Stonnall Gardeners Guild	Pam Ramsell	01543 372 241
Stonnall Players	Sheila Pritchard	01543 372 583
Stonnall Guides	Alison Peat	07818 662 776
Stonnall Scouts/Beavers/Cubs	Marie Jenkins	07977 516 161
1st Stonnall Brownies	Melanie Langham	07936 362427
Stonnall Playing Fields Management Committee	Malcolm Beilby	01543 452 845
Stonnall Womens Institute	Sheila Simpkins	01543 361 458
Stonnall Stitchers	Ann Powell	01543 361 778
Lynn & Stonnall Conservation & Historical Society	<a href="mailto:stonnall@hotmail.co.uk">stonnall@hotmail.co.uk</a>	please email
Stonnall Reading Group	Pam Osbourne	01543 373 370
Stonnall Neighbourhood Watch	Maxine Wakefield	01543 375 108
SCAR (Stonnall Campaign about Roads)	Phil Whitehouse	07887 372 182
Diamond Jubilee Allotments	Viv Tsesmellis	07804 929 108
Stonnall Singers	Bob Share	01543 480 033

## LITTLE ASTON

St Peters Church, Little Aston	Rev Philip Daniel	0121 352 1095
Little Aston Recreation Ground (LARGA)	Jo Tibbins	0121 353 5097
Little Aston Table Tennis Club	Ron Leighton	0121 353 6157
Little Aston Pre School Play Group	Leighsa Wack/Sara Bradbury	07950 047 172
Little Aston Community Association	Steve Bennett	0121 308 4947
Little Aston Village Hall	David McGuffin	07595 663 332
Little Aston Bowling Club	Rod Crowley	0121 353 3226
Little Aston Tennis Club	Lawrence Ormond	0121 308 1254
Little Aston Evening Womens Institute	Doreen Miller	0121 308 4732
Little Aston Brownies	Kathryn Sakwa	07712 845 384

## USEFUL NUMBERS

Shenstone Parish Council Office: 01543 481 947 e-mail: [admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk)

Lichfield District Council : 01543 308 000

Staffordshire County Council : 0300 111 8000

Staffordshire Police: ring 101

# Shenstone Parish Council

## Members' Contact Details

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- **Councillor Rita Hancocks**  
68 Birmingham Road, SHENSTONE, WS14 OJU  
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- **Councillor David Thompson - CHAIRMAN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING & PROPERTY COMMITTEE**  
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- **Councillor John Branch**  
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- **Councillor Sheila Beilby - VICE-CHAIRMAN SHENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL & CHAIRMAN FINANCE & LEGAL COMMITTEE**  
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- **Councillor Charles Fordham**  
6 The Grove, LITTLE ASTON, B74 3UB  
Tel: 0121 353 3605 e-mail: charlesfordham12@aol.com
- **Councillor Nicholas Smith**  
Forge Cottage, Forge Lane, LITTLE ASTON.  
Tel: 07967 016673 e-mail: skisaintefy@aol.com
- **Parish Clerk: Shirley O'Mara, Shenstone Parish Council**  
25C Main Street, SHENSTONE, WS14 OLZ  
Tel: 01543 481 947 e-mail: admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk

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