



Little Aston

Shenstone

Stonnall

# Parish Council News

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**WINTER 2020**

## ALL THE NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

### Stonnall Youth and Community Centre

Staffordshire County Council has offered Shenstone Parish Council the ownership of the Stonnall Youth and Community Centre (SYCC) building and land. The offer was made on the basis that the Parish Council would become responsible for the building and would need to continue its use for the benefit of the Stonnall community.

Since the offer was made the Parish Council has reviewed the condition of the existing SYCC building so that our long-term investment responsibilities are clarified. Following completion of a professional building condition assessment the Parish Council has concluded that the estimated cost of repair and renewal of the existing building at a minimum cost of £75,000 is so significant that the comparative cost of a replacement building should be considered.

The Parish Council has also initiated an online and postal consultation exercise open to all Stonnall residents and interest groups which is still open and available to Stonnall residents. The consultation questions have sought to clarify the range of community uses residents want to see provided in future and the survey has also gauged the depth of interest. So far the number of replies have been disappointingly low but from the range of returns the responses have indicated a preference for: -

- A facility that offers facilities to the whole community, young and old
- Safe, secure storage facilities
- On-site parking
- Room hire rates at a reasonable level
- Good acoustics
- multi-purpose flooring solution suitable for regular cleaning and a quick transition
- Childcare- offering preschool or toddler/baby groups – I think this is key, especially to attract young families into the village.
- Exercises groups and classes (we should ensure that this includes groups for all- including elderly, kids and general population)
- Social groups- i.e. elderly, special interest groups
- Village social events – film nights, xmas events, music nights, food market
- Commercial groups- i.e. weight watchers

It was the intention of the Parish Council to hold a drop-in session with villagers to hear first-hand thoughts and ideas for the use of

any community facility but due to the social gathering restrictions as a result of Covid 19 this has not been possible.

The Council has set up a working group that has identified a provisional cost estimate for a replacement building which meets current standards and this ranges between £225,000 and £275,000 covering the project professional services, legal, construction and fit out costs. The working group has reviewed the ability of the Parish Council to fund this level of project expenditure. While the Parish Council currently has the budget capacity to make a substantial contribution it does not have the total amount required and other funding will need to be secured.

The working group has met the Head of St Peters school regarding school investment plans and Staffordshire County Council officers with responsibility for pre-school provision. The County Council will require the Parish Council to continue to accommodate the existing rights of access of the school to park on the SYCC land and also accommodate the land ownership right of GP surgery to access land at the entrance to the SYCC.

The working group has asked both the SYCC and the Stonnall Village Hall to return their pre Covid 19 regular hall bookings and more recently their post Covid 19 bookings for September. These returns give an indication of demand for weekday, evening and weekend hours use of both buildings. The returns show that with some give and take there is real potential for weekday, evening and weekend Stonnall community activities to be satisfactorily accommodated within one building. In addition the village hall site has space to allow several options for the existing building to be expanded.

Taking all the findings above into account the working group recommended to the October Parish Council that Stonnall Village Hall is best placed to provide for all current and future needs of Stonnall residents and work should progress to the next stage of investigating its development potential. The SYCC will also be involved in ensuring all existing users are successfully accommodated. The Parish Council will also be requesting that Staffordshire County Council ensure that the SYCC remains in use until any Stonnall Village Hall accommodation building alterations are completed.

The Parish Council will also propose to the County Council that the site of the SYCC can be used to provide for the current and future needs of the Stonnall GP surgery and the St Peters School.

The Parish Council will now engage the services of specialist consultants to assess the potential for alterations and additions to the internal design and external land connected to Stonnall Village Hall to maximise its potential for the future needs of all Stonnall residents. It should be noted that no final decisions have been made in respect of the Village Hall as the Council are only completing a clear and viable line of enquiry.



## A brief message from the Chairman

The past few months have been more than trying and this Council's heartfelt sympathy goes to anyone who has been affected by this dreadful pandemic.

We have been relatively fortunate in Lichfield that the numbers affected are lower than the National average though we must remember that we border areas with much higher incidence so care must be taken to avoid the spread of infection. Please follow Government advice for your own protection, and for the safety of everyone around you.

I must at this point pay a massive compliment to the band of volunteers, Team Shenstone, coordinated by our own Parish Clerk Shirley, who all gave so much of their time, effort and experience throughout the whole period making and delivering vast quantities of delicious cakes to residents across the Wards who were in isolation, lockdown or simply in need of a little 'personal attention'. They received support from various local businesses, themselves suffering from the effects of the situation, by way of donations of ingredients etc. and the group also received recognition for their work by way of financial awards from Tesco (£500) and Persimmon Homes (£500) all of which was spent on more ingredients and materials.

The ladies of Shenstone Quilters did a particularly fine job producing face masks and the sterling and unstinting work of the many volunteers which included collecting provisions and prescriptions, has not gone unnoticed.

Similar excellent volunteer efforts have been much appreciated all over the Parish. Marianne Barber has done a wonderful job coordinating the efforts of the volunteers in Stonnall with numerous activities to keep spirits high as well as looking after those in need and supporting our NHS heroes.

Thanks must also go to our Lengthsmen team of Steve and Gerry who have continued to work though the period to keep our villages clean and tidy. They have carried out essential and more complex work at various sites including on our recreation grounds and playing fields to help make them Covid19 safe and they have also been involved in the completion of flood prevention work in Stonnall.

The one positive that Coronavirus has brought has been the revival of a community spirit possibly not seen since wartime where neighbours and even strangers took the trouble to help fellow human beings; Council's thanks go to all of you.

We collectively paid tribute on our doorsteps to the NHS, millions of pounds were raised by people of all ages and abilities from all walks of life to help support the essential work of our service providers and to fund research...everyone cared.

Let's see if we can all continue to make our villages a safe, friendly and comfortable place to live and work and maintain that community value and spirit.

**Stay safe.  
David.**



## Good News from Shenstone Library

Our village library is open and welcoming visitors. We have followed all the guidance rules to ensure that we are a very safe place. It is fortunate that we have a health and safety expert in our team who has overseen all our safeguarding measures and makes sure that every aspect is covered and maintained. You will be welcomed by one of our volunteers at the door and the first priority is to ensure that you are kept safe. There will never be too many people inside and when you go in you will still have access to the different parts of the building. Sanitising materials are there for you to use and keep you and others safe.

The book service in the library is working well with new support for our members. Book bundles can be selected, placed in bags and then quarantined for the required time before being collected or delivered. This has been particularly useful for our members who are not out and about at this time. Visitors to the library are still able to select their own books and to keep everybody safe there are restrictions regarding numbers, a one way system for entering and leaving the building, and more. Returned books are put in quarantine before they can be returned to the shelves.

The Coffee Shop continues to be popular and safety issues are in place. There are free-standing panels separating tables and making safe places for friends and families to meet. There are fewer tables in the area to ensure social distancing is in place for each group. The cakes are just as yummy as always and don't we all like to smell the coffee! The Gallery has had three exhibitions since reopening and will continue to have new artwork every month.

The library is still open for you and it meets stringent health and safety controls. We are here to serve the community and to bring a bit of normality into our daily lives. Don't forget that the hours have changed a bit and are listed below.

Good wishes from all of us at the library.

### Library

Tuesday: 9-5.00  
Wednesday: 9-1.00  
Thursday: 9-1.00  
Friday: 9-2.00  
Saturday: 9.30-1.00

### Coffee Shop

Tuesday- Saturday:  
9.30 - 12.00





(Pictured are Ann, Mary and Liz)

# Unsung Heroes

There have been fantastic volunteer efforts all across the Parish over the last six months and thanks must go to everyone. The Parish Council would like to say a particular massive thank you to the ladies (and one gentleman!) of Team Shenstone Bakes.

Following the enforced closure of the Library café in March the team of bakers decided to continue producing delicious cakes and biscuits but this time as treats for residents in need across Shenstone. So since then deliveries have been made, often twice a week, direct to the door with the treats extended to include quiches, sausage rolls and crumbles. The three primary bakers are Mary Jones (savoury Superstar), Liz Walch (biscuit Queen) and Ann Hawthorn (tray bake Goddess). William Powell (Fruit cake Master) assisted whenever possible and none of it would have been possible without the kindness & generosity of Pat Patrick who donated and made up all the boxes which meant deliveries could be presented so well.

Deliveries stopped in the main in September but there will be a special delivery to all past recipients in time for Christmas.



## Shenstone Old Church Tower to be Renovated - £374,000 Raised by Friends of Shenstone Tower (FoST)

For some years, Shenstone old church tower has been designated a Grade 2\* (At Risk) listed building, and in 2017 Historic England conducted a feasibility survey to produce a plan to renovate it.

The old tower in Shenstone churchyard is all that remains of the former church that was demolished when the adjacent church of St John the Baptist was built to replace it in 1853. Whilst the tower has c13 origins and features, it replaced an earlier church known to have existed in 1129 and is reported to be built over Saxon Foundations: evidence of Saxon masonry was found during archaeological excavations carried out in 1970/1.

The tower is located at the extreme north west corner of the existing churchyard and is constructed in red ashlar sandstone. It is approximately 15.0 metres tall and 5.0 x 5.0 metres on plan.

The Historic England survey enabled preliminary plans to be drawn and discussions to take place between representatives of the Lichfield Diocese, St John's Parochial Church Council, the Parish Council, Lichfield District Council, Historic England and other interested parties, to explore the feasibility of its repair. An open public meeting held in the community library in July 2019 resulted in the formation of the Friends of Shenstone Tower (FoST). Their objective is to repair the tower to make it available to the village and wider public for cultural and recreational uses.

The survey also revealed some interesting details - including a lot of bird poo!

Since the inaugural meeting there has been an incredible amount of work completed by a small but determined group of enthusiasts in a very short space of time: the Friends are now registered as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), and a lease agreement is virtually complete. The promise of historic England support of up to 80% of the total project repair costs of £330,000 has been the catalyst to successfully apply for the required match funding from HS2, as well as an additional £44,000 funds to refurbish the tower and surrounds for visitors.

An astonishing £374,000 has been raised. Contributors include:

Historic England, HS2 (Groundwork), Garfield Weston, Lichfield District Council, Pilgrims Trust, Lech Trust, Shenstone Parish Council, Friends of Greysbrooke School, Shenstone and Lichfield Gold Society, as well as a plethora of donations from local residents including one who when asked to contribute put his hand in his pocket and said, 'Here, have all my money'.

The Friends have now appointed an architect, completed a bat survey (there are none in the tower) and by the time of publication, after site clearance and the erection of new gates, an archaeologist and a quantity surveyor will have visited the tower and a more accurate examination completed. This will enable detailed plans to be drawn for submission to the appropriate authorities for planning permissions. We hope that work will begin in earnest in the early spring of next year.

If you are interested in getting involved in this exciting project or would like to contribute to the fund raising, please do not hesitate to contact Stuart Jones on 01543480480 or email: 59stuartjones@gmail.com



*Bird poo*



*Crumbling masonry*



*Invasive vegetation*



*Rotten flooring*

## Stonnall Village Activities

Of course, not a great deal can happen in the village at the moment, but having been conscious for some time of the litter around the village, on Saturday 19th we decided to join, 'Tidy Britain Campaign' and do one of our Litter Picks. These used to be a regular occurrence in the village but have fallen by the wayside in the last few years. Accordingly, thirteen people, eight ladies, four men and one boy, rose to the occasion and, equipped with sacks and pickers from the Parish Council, set out at various times to suit themselves on Saturday 19th to tackle the problem. Eighteen sacks were collected in all and I was amazed by my personal experience. I set off to walk down Fighting Cocks' Lane from Cartersfield Lane and before I had walked more than twenty yards, my first sack was so full and heavy that I had to start on another one. I couldn't believe there was so much rubbish in such a short space! Others in our group discovered several items which were far too big and heavy for our sacks and had to be left for collection by Highways. A suggestion was received from one of our company that a monthly litter-pick might be a good thing. We shall see.

We are not able to hold our usual Coffee Club mornings once a week at the moment but for many years now we have incorporated a Macmillan, 'Biggest Coffee Morning in the World' into one of our September meetings. In the past, we have raised amounts such as £545.40 and £402.00, with this event, so we were determined to do something. Many of our regulars were informed of this and asked to make a donation, if they so wished. In particular those twenty plus regulars, who receive free cake once a fortnight, courtesy of Shenstone Library cake-maker, Mary Jones, and were desperate to pay something, were told of the Macmillan effort. As a result, we raised £350.00 – a very good effort.

There was also a cake sale, organised by a group from Heath close, which, I believe, raised about £400.00. Well done them!

In all, then, Stonnall raised £750.00 this year, even though we couldn't hold proper meetings. It's all down to our lovely community spirit, which has been so apparent during the last six months.

## Stonnall Playing Field flooding

Following serious flooding issues work has taken place to replace the trash screen on the culvert at the bottom of Stonnall Playing Field. A railing is also being installed as a security measure along the brook.

## Shenstone Christmas Market

Due to the current Coronavirus situation there will be no Christmas Market this year.

It had been hoped that we could build on the huge success of last year but sadly it is not too be. Oh well, even bigger still next year!

## Little Aston flooding

The flooding in Newick Avenue, Little Aston has been successfully resolved. Surface water drainage pipes that were not on any records from the post WW2 period have been fed into by new developers not realising the capacity. This has caused the problem and it has been rectified.



## Traffic order for restricted parking around Shenstone Station

A formal Consultation for the parking restrictions around the Station is complete with the results as follows

Staffordshire County Council Amey have sent out a total of 194 consultation letters to residents in Admiral Parker Drive, Holm View Close, New Road and Richard Cooper Road, Shenstone in order to gain their comments and views for the proposal.

A summary table is provided below for responses broken down by street.

Street	Consultations Sent	Replies	Support	Not Support
Admiral Parker Drive	52	10	9	1
Richard Cooper Road	74	10	1	9
New Road	22	4	0	4
Holm View Close	24	8	0	8
Station Road	11	4	2	2
Trinity Close	6	0		
Lynn Lane	2	0		
Main Street	1	0		

5 residents have stated in their replies that they object to the proposal which included 3 in Holm View Close and 2 in Richard Cooper Road.

The specific comments raised by residents within each of the streets are summarised below.

### Admiral Parker Drive

This is the road nearest to the station in which existing parking issues are most significant. A 20% response rate is achieved with 90% of responses in favour of the proposals.

Comments were favourable citing past issues with waste collection service, visibility for egressing driveways and inconsiderate parking resulting in residents being unable to access their driveways.

Comments have been received regarding the signage type and aesthetics of any restrictions requesting that the Highway Authority avoids signage clutter.

One response on APD supporting the proposal still cites issues regarding visitor parking will be lost.

In summary, the proposals seem acceptable given the current issues experienced by residents with the recent introduction of charging on the station car park resulting in more on-street parking and a lesser used car park.

### Richard Cooper Road

This is the neighbouring street with restrictions provided so far along. 14% response rate with 90% of responses not supporting the proposal.

5 respondents cite parking displacement as their concern. These are properties not covered by the current proposals.

2 respondents are concerned about the parking proposals on the bend adjacent to No. 2 Richard Cooper Road. One is concerned about vehicles forced on the wrong side of the road and the other regarding restricted visibility from their driveway should parking be permitted outside their property.

### New Road

All replies received for this road were from properties which aren't covered by the current proposals citing issues likely with parking displacement.

### Holm View Close

This is a short cul-de-sac of 24 dwellings of which 1/3 responded stating they don't support the current proposal. To summarise, they state that any lining will be intrusive and will result in loss of on street parking for their additional cars as well as visitors and trades people.

They don't currently suffer on-street parking issues from the station not even following the recent introduction of car park charging.

### Station Road

4 responses with 2 supporting and 2 respondents from Station Cottages a short mews off Station Road citing loss of on-street parking for their visitors as an issue.

The engineer is now producing an objections report to respond for the issues raised.

### Proposed amendment

Following the consultation, the following amendments are recommended to the proposed parking restrictions:

- Holm View Close – 8 objections received from 24 properties. Main concern raised was the loss of on-street parking with the current proposed single yellow lines. Suggested change to no parking restrictions on Holm View Close other than double yellow lines at the Lynn Lane / Holm View Close junction.

- Admiral Parker Drive – a concern raised about a length of carriageway between the two station accesses opposite No. 3 Admiral Parker Drive that would have no parking restrictions. Shenstone Parish Council Clerk raised a concern about this unprotected stretch. The suggested change to simply extend the single yellow marking to cover this location.

No further consultation would be required to make the above amendments. The engineer will complete the objections report; if acceptable the traffic order can be signed and the parking restrictions put on the ground (December 2020 / January 2021).

## COUNCILLOR VACANCY AT SHENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

A vacancy has arisen for a Councillor at Shenstone Parish Council. We are looking to co-opt a new Councillor for the Shenstone Ward of the Parish of Shenstone.

If you are interested in applying for this role please send your application to:

**Parish Clerk, Shenstone Parish Council , Parish Council Office, 25C Main Street, SHENSTONE WS14 0LZ. Tel: 01543 481 947 e-mail: admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk**

Please enclose a letter outlining your relevant experience and why you feel you would be suitable for this role.

### Before applying

We would ask that you check that you fulfil the eligibility requirements, as shown on the statement below, as evidence will be required upon application

### Candidates must

[a] Be aged 18 years or over and included on the relevant Electoral Register

[b] Be a British or Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic

of Ireland or a citizen of another Member State of the European Community, and either:

[c] Reside in the Parish or within 4.8 kilometers (3 miles of its' boundary) during the whole of the twelve months before the day you are nominated and election day

[d] Occupies land or property within the Parish boundary

[e] Has her/his principal place of work within the Parish boundary

### Who cannot be a candidate?

Certain people are disqualified from being elected. You cannot be a candidate if

- You hold paid office under the Parish authority or a politically restricted post (as defined in Part 1 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989); or have been adjudged bankrupt or made a composition or arrangement with creditors: or

- Have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (including a suspended sentence) without the option of a fine, during the five years before Election Day; or

Have been disqualified under part III of the Representation of the People Act 1983 or under the Audit Commission Act 1998

- The closing dates for applications is Friday 6th November 2020

# Full Parish Council Meetings 2020/21

Tuesday 8th September at 7.15pm via Zoom  
 Tuesday 13th October at 7.15pm via Zoom  
 Tuesday 10th November at 7.15pm via Zoom  
 Tuesday 8th December at 7.15pm via Zoom  
**2021 (Location dependent on Covid restrictions)**  
 Tuesday 12th January at 7.15pm Little Aston Village Hall  
 Tuesday 9th February at 7.15pm Shenstone Village Hall  
 Tuesday 9th March at 7.15pm Stonnall Youth & Community Centre  
 Tuesday 16th April at 7.15pm Little Aston Village Hall  
 Tuesday 11th May at 7.15pm Shenstone Village Hall  
 Tuesday 8th June at 7.15pm Stonnall Youth & Community Centre  
 Tuesday 6th July at 7.15pm Little Aston Village Hall  
 Tuesday 7th September at 7.15pm Shenstone Village Hall  
 Tuesday 12th October at 7.15pm Stonnall Youth & Community Centre  
 Tuesday 9th November at 7.15pm Little Aston Village Hall  
 Tuesday 7th December at 7.15pm Shenstone Village Hall  
**Meeting of Finance, Legal, Health & Safety Committee 2019/20 Parish Council Office Shenstone**  
 Tuesday September 22nd at 5.30pm via Zoom  
 Tuesday November 24th at 5.30pm  
 Tuesday January 26th at 5.30pm  
 Tuesday March 23rd at 5.30pm  
 Tuesday May 25th at 5.30pm  
 Tuesday June 20th at 5.30pm  
 Tuesday October 26th at 5.30pm  
**Meeting of Neighbourhood Planning & Property Committee 2019/20 Parish Council Office, Shenstone**  
 Tuesday October 27th at 5.30pm  
 Tuesday February 23rd at 5.30pm  
 Tuesday April 27th at 5.30pm  
 Tuesday June 22nd at 5.30pm  
 Tuesday Sept 21st at 5.30pm  
 Tuesday November 23rd at 5.30pm.

## LITTLE ASTON BOWLS CLUB

This season has been something of a non-event ! In July we did manage to have some restricted bowling, limiting numbers and observing COVID safety rules.

Our season has now officially ended and some renovation work has been carried out on the green. We have to express our appreciation to Shenstone Parish Council for grants received both towards the cost of the renovation work and also towards the cost of a new mower – thank you !

Our 2021 season will start in April and we look forward – optimistically – to enjoying the challenge of our renovated green.

New members of all abilities are always welcome. For more information , visit Little Aston Bowls Club website or telephone Hilary Crowley:- 0121 353 8238

## Little Aston Recreation Ground

The Little Aston Recreation Ground has been badly affected by the consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Having had to close its gates on 23rd March under Government directive the site unfortunately remained closed until 14th September.

The decision to remain closed beyond the announcement from Government in July that such sites could open, provided it was safe to do so, was not an easy one to take but it was controlled by a directive from our insurance company that stated our cover would be void unless we commissioned a full independent safety inspection of all the equipment on the site. The situation was further complicated by the subsequent Government announcement that any defects discovered following an inspection must be rectified prior to opening.

There are only a few companies able to carry out this type of detailed inspection and they were quoting up to a 12 week backlog.

It was therefore fortunate that Shenstone Parish Council had previously booked an inspection as the obligatory annual one was, by this point, overdue.

However, the amount of repair and replacement work required meant that it needed several thousand pounds spent and a great deal of work over the following few weeks from the volunteers who keep the place going.

If you visit the park you will notice that some items of equipment are missing or taken out of commission awaiting the delivery of replacement parts or complete units.

As LARGA is a charity, there has been little or no support by way of funding from the Government in the way that there has been for Council owned and run sites. Covid19 also prevented the Party in the Park from taking place meaning that the income from that event has been lost.

So, if you do visit us, please remember that we are a charity and that the site is maintained entirely by volunteers who are now struggling to keep the site open and safe for your enjoyment.

If you can, please support us by dropping a few coins into one of the 3 collection boxes around the site, or you can visit our website or Facebook page and make a donation through our Just Giving site.

I must now report the retirement from the management committee, on health grounds (not Covid related), of our Chairman and his wife, Phil and Diana Berry.

The LARGA committee, and indeed everyone involved with or who have even just used the Recreation Ground are incredibly grateful to Phil and Diana who have been members of the committee for over 12 years.

Throughout that time they have shared their vast knowledge and experience of flora and arboriculture and have dedicated an enormous amount of time and effort. They have also guided the committee through the development and completion of many initiatives and important policy and procedural issues. They have shared their own visions of the recreation ground in the way it has developed over the years. Their enthusiasm and commitment will be sorely missed but thankfully they have both offered to stay in contact in an advisory capacity with all of the volunteer gardeners.

***We all wish Phil a continued and speedy recovery.***

## Introducing a new Curate for Shenstone

St John the Baptist in Shenstone has a new member of the team.

Graham was born in Walsall, grew up in Willenhall and felt a sense of vocation to



ordained ministry when he was 15. Before (and during) his exploration to ordained ministry in the Anglican Church, Graham worked for HMV in Wolverhampton and was active in Churches in Wolverhampton City Centre. Working and worshipping in a City Centre opened Graham's eyes to the needs of many people who are lonely, isolated and on the margins of society, which reinforced Graham's calling to ordained ministry and instilled a desire to reach out to those in need.

*Welcome to the village Graham.*

## Adopt a Station Scheme

In March I travelled to Liverpool from New Street railway station. Passing through a number of stations en-route I was stuck by Coseley Station which was full of flowers, shrubs and a striking horse statue. Inwardly I marvelled at how spectacular it was. Then when I saw that West Midlands Railway were running a scheme where the local community could adopt their railway station I thought then that our station in Shenstone could be a beautiful resource for our community. The scheme means that a group of "Friends" is created with a constitution and a bank account to make improvements to their local station. Our station is staffed for three hours every day, and our station officer has tried, out of her own purse, to purchase plants and seeds, bird-feeders and bird food to improve not only the "look" of the station but to positively improve its environmental impact. How much could a GROUP of people do? Do you have spare time? Spare plants? Spare ideas for improvement? (NOT the parking issue – this would not fall within the remit of the group) please contact me and we can get going! We are so fortunate to have such a beautiful building and grounds – it could become a hub for exhibitions, performance, nature and gatherings. Instead of sitting on the edge of the village it could become the centre of attention and a greater asset to our community.

Please contact me if you are interested: Jane Arnstein : Arnstein.jane@gmail.com

## Police Community Support - Parish update

Reported crime has been lower during the

period of the pandemic, however, vehicle crime is starting to increase with a number of vehicles having been stolen, mainly Land Rovers and BMWs. Remember to store any key fobs in a Faraday pouch or a tin overnight and make sure that your vehicle and property are secure before you turn in for the night to prevent keyless car theft. Consider anti-snap locks on your windows and extra locks on any French windows to prevent access to your property via this point of entry in order to steal car keys to access your car. Security information is available on the Staffordshire Police web site: [www.staffordshire.police.uk](http://www.staffordshire.police.uk) and updates on local crime can be obtained by signing up to Staffordshire Smart Alert which is free.

Website: [www.staffordshiresmartalert.co.uk](http://www.staffordshiresmartalert.co.uk)

Speeding vehicles remain a concern for many people in all our villages. We are grateful to the commitment of members in the Speedwatch groups in Shenstone and Stonnall. Particular thanks is extended to Sue Walton who is hanging up her fluorescent vest after more than 10 years faithful service. This is an excellent community initiative that only requires a few hours a month as a minimum form volunteers to improve the safety of our roads. Your effort makes a difference to the safety of our communities. In the spring, when hopefully the second wave of Corona Virus has come and gone, we are hoping to arrange another training course at Lichfield Police Station. We are also considering developing a group along the Aldridge/Walsall Road in Little Aston if we can get enough volunteers. Anyone interested or wanting more information should send an email to [andrea.horsnall@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andrea.horsnall@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk)

Cyber-crime has massively increased since the lock down began with many fraudsters using the pandemic to scam people. Lots of current information is being posted on the Shenstone Parish web site by Staffordshire Police and is updated on a monthly basis; read it and do not get caught out!

A huge thank you to so many people who continue to help vulnerable and isolated people in our community. Your care and kindness does not go unnoticed. Thank you also to those of you who channel many of your free hours in clearing litter around the village and country lanes. Our community is all the better for your efforts. Anyone who would like to assist them, please contact the Parish Council Office.

Please continue to follow the Government recommendations, as they change, with regards to the Corona virus. As the Police, we seek to engage, explain, encourage and finally enforce the ruling where necessary. We would much rather everyone was responsible and did their bit in helping to keep us all safe.

*Officer PCSO 25049 Andrea Horsnall*

## Shenstone Community Library Local History Group

Although usual activities can't take place in the library at the moment, some events have moved online. The local history group has been keeping in touch with its members through regular emails including local history articles such as 'Lichfield during the

Civil War' and 'Fotherley's Cottages'. We also have a monthly meeting on Zoom where topics in the past have included talks about 'Blacksmiths in Shenstone' and 'Shenstone's World War 2 Heroes'. You may also have seen Paula and Bronwen's photographs of old Shenstone on the Shenstone Matters page on Facebook.

If you would like to know more about the local area's fascinating history by receiving our email articles or by joining our Zoom meetings, please email Lynda Jones at [lyndastellajones@gmail.com](mailto:lyndastellajones@gmail.com)

## Stonnall Volunteers

The volunteers in Stonnall are still supporting, as and when needed, consciously looking after our own and each other's mental as well as physical health.

The Support Group are busy getting crafty and making poppies to display in their windows for Remembrance Day.

Local children will be making crepe paper poppies and all ages are encouraged to get involved with painting, colouring or decorating stones and pebbles with poppy flowers. There is a template on Stonnall Matters for people to print out.

## 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.

# LITTLE ASTON TENNIS CLUB



In these difficult times for us all, Little Aston Tennis Club, located at the rear of the Village Hall in Little Aston, are making 2020 a year to remember for very positive reasons.

The club had survived on a “shoe string” for many years with a membership of around 45, and up to 2017 the 3 old shale courts were only playable for 8 months of the year and the club closed during the winter months. However things started to change in 2017 with the installation of a new generation of Clay Court called Red Plus from Italy. This is an Internationally acclaimed professional clay court good enough for the top professionals in the world to play on, and indeed they have 2 at the famous Monte Carlo Club.

The first of it's type in the UK, the Red Plus clay court proved a massive success and as a result back in June the club attracted the full time services of a former ATP Professional Tennis Player in Arnaud Benidor (known as Arnie). Arnie bought up on the clay courts in France, is a top level coach and has been instrumental in the membership increasing to 90, a 100% increase over 4 months. He believes this is the surface to truly learn and improve your tennis on. Membership may be restricted to 100 in the near future.

With numbers increasing in the club, this motivated a number of the members to raise enough funds to have installed a further 2 Red Plus hybrid clay courts which will enable the club to open all year round and offer enviable top class tennis facilities. The courts

are due to be completed by the end of October.

Alongside this, the club is funding a new unique Floodlighting system from France for the existing Red Plus court and it is hoped these are installed in the next few weeks. We also are proud to have built and installed a mini “grandstand” on our first Red Plus court, hoping this gives players the feeling of playing in a professional environment. Playing on a true clay court as good as this has many health and physical benefits. It is less taxing on the body and players of all levels and ages will have the opportunity of a real clay court experience.

The Irish LTA having sent coaches over to play at Little Aston are to install Red Plus courts at their National Tennis Centre in Dublin. In addition the LTA are now taking notice and visits are to be arranged for them to trial the courts. An LTA tennis science coach and an Italian professional tennis player have recently trialled the court and are looking to install them at a new tennis clay academy outside London.

Look out in the future for the first British Tennis player in over 80 years to win Roland Garros, if so, it may well have been that Little Aston Tennis Club played a “Big Part” in producing the new King or Queen of Clay !

If you are interested in joining the club please visit our Website : [www.latc.org.uk](http://www.latc.org.uk) for further details.

# Shenstone Parish Council Members' Contact Details

## SHENSTONE WOOD END / SHENSTONE WARD / LITTLE ASTON AND STONNALL WARD

- **Councillor David Salter - CHAIRMAN SHENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**  
251 Birmingham Road, SHENSTONE WOOD END, Lichfield WS14 OPD  
Tel: 0121 308 4421 / mob: 07956 142215 e-mail: david.salter@lichfielddc.gov.uk
- **Councillor David Thompson - CHAIRMAN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING & PROPERTY COMMITTEE**  
19 New Road, SHENSTONE WS14 ONQ  
Tel: 01543 480953 / mob: 07582 603003 e-mail: davidann.thompson@btopenworld.com
- **Councillor Neil Perry**  
57 Admiral Parker Drive, SHENSTONE WS14 ONS  
Tel: 01543 480 502 / mob: 07977 210057 e-mail: neilperry@talktalk.net
- **Councillor John Branch**  
40 Birmingham Road, SHENSTONE WS14 OJU  
Tel: 01543 480 928 / e-mail: johnbranchwork@gmail.com
- **Councillor Stuart Jones**  
23 Holly Hill Road, SHENSTONE WS14 OJF  
Tel: 01543 480 480/mob: 07541 089990 e-mail: 59stuartjones@gmail.com
- **Councillor Lesley Edgley**  
2 Admiral Parker Drive, SHENSTONE, WS14 ONS  
Tel: 01543 481 861 e-mail: annieoakley679@gmail.com
- **Sheila Beilby - - VICE-CHAIRMAN SHENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL & CHAIRMAN  
FINANCE & LEGAL COMMITTEE**  
Highgate House, 80 Main Street, STONNALL WS9 9DX  
Tel: 01543 452 845 / mob: 07967 134268 e-mail: beilby@hotmail.co.uk
- **Councillor Gail Nicholls**  
24 Main Street, STONNALL WS9 9DU  
Tel: 01543 376629 e-mail: gailnicholls4@gmail.com
- **Councillor Mick Cox**  
16 Wallheath Crescent, STONNALL WS9 9HS  
Tel: 01543 374 869 / mob: 07968 724222 e-mail: mick40cox@fastmail.fm
- **Councillor Val Neale**  
57 Wallheath Crescent, STONNALL, WS9 9HS  
Tel: 01543 374 430 e-mail: valerieowen279@btinternet.com
- **Councillor Nicola Macdonald**  
6 St Peters Close, STONNALL WS9 9EN.  
Tel: 0773 650 3834 e-mail: jamesmacdonald6@sky.com
- **Councillor Nicholas Smith**  
Forge Cottage, Forge Lane, LITTLE ASTON.  
Tel: 07967 016673 e-mail: skisaintefoy@aol.com
- **Councillor Nicki Gobran**  
Contact via Parish Office
- **Councillor Kelly Harrison**  
Contact via Parish Office
- **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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR	DAVID SMITH	david.smith1@staffordshire.gov.uk
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR		
STONNALL & LITTLE ASTON	JOSEPH POWELL	joseph.powell@lichfielddc.gov.uk
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR		
STONNALL & LITTLE ASTON	ELIZABETH LITTLE	Elizabeth.little@lichfielddc.gov.uk
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR		
SHENSTONE	DAVID SALTER	david.salter@lichfielddc.gov.uk
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT	CHRISTOPHER PINCHER	christopher.pincher.mp@parliament.uk



# Support Staffordshire Good Neighbour Scheme

The importance of good neighbours has been highlighted so much since Covid 19. Many residents have been helping others informally and through formal volunteering. Support Staffordshire have launched a new scheme to support groups which have been established since the pandemic and the Parish Council would like to know if you would like to take part. This questionnaire supplied by Support Staffordshire is to find out a) the need for a formal group and b) what interest there is in actually volunteering. Please complete & return to the Parish Office if you would like to comment.



## Appendix 1: Sample Questionnaire to Establish Community Need

Are there any small jobs or tasks that you struggle to do? Would you like to chat to someone on a regular basis? Is there anything a local volunteer could help with?

Our Good Neighbour Scheme could help you with small things like collecting shopping, being a friendly ear or helping you fill in forms. Although it can be difficult to ask for help sometimes this Scheme is all about matching you with a volunteer who can support you.

Maybe you don't need help yourself but would like to volunteer? All of our volunteers are supported to do their role and we would be interested in hearing from anyone new. Anyone can apply even if you only have a little time to give.

We would happy to hear from you and ask that you complete this form if:

1) You may want to use the Scheme **OR** 2) You want to volunteer your time

**1. DO YOU WANT TO USE THE SCHEME?**

Please let us know in what areas you might need help:

- Someone to talk to
- Shopping help
- Prescription collection
- Help with form filling or letter writing
- Small household DIY tasks like changing lightbulbs or hanging curtains
- Gardening tasks
- Walking dogs or other pet care
- Other (please state):

**2. DO YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP IN THE SCHEME?**

Please let us know in what areas you are interested in?

- Someone to talk to
- Shopping help
- Prescription collection
- Help with form filling or letter writing
- Small household DIY tasks like changing lightbulbs or hanging curtains
- Gardening tasks
- Walking dogs or other pet care
- Other (please state):

Can you be part of a rota answering phone calls? YES  NO



YOUR DETAILS:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you'd like further information, please get in touch with us on 01543 481947



# 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 Johns the Baptist Church.	Rev Liz Chamberlain	01543 480 286
Trinity Methodist Church	Rev Joanna Thornton	01543 253744
	Rev Graham Wigley	01543 480286
Shenstone Day Care (Friday Friends)	Rita Hancocks	01543 480 560
Friends of Shenstone Tower	Shirley O'Mara	01543 481 947
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 Fishwick	01543 480 618
Richard Cooper Room	Tresa Rock	01543 481 504
Shenstone Village News	Sue Heseltine	01543 480 548
Shenstone Scouts, Beavers & cubs	Brian Devonshire	01543 481590
Shenstone Guides	Sarah Hardie	07946 777 170
Shenstone Brownies	Angela Hiney-Bancroft	01543 481 610
Shenstone Rainbows	Rosemary Lawrence	01543 483 437
Shenstone Mens Group	Jim Pole	01543 480 545
Womens Evening Institute	Gina Whorton	01543 480 884
Shenstone Baby & Toddlers	Amy Bull	0794 7359 786
Shenstone Tennis Club	John Branch	01543 480928
Shenstone Strollers	Pat Roberts	01543 481 389
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
Shenstone Indoor Bowls	Keith Jones	01543 481 022
Footherley Club	Isobel Smith	01543 480 678
Shenstone Badminton 50+	Terry White	01543 480 261
Shenstone Evening Book Group	Ivor Sanderson	07597 958 189
Shenstone Painting Class	Dave Upton	0121 353 5338

## 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
Stonnall Youth & Community Centre	Nigel Cragg	07704 805 961
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	Grace Taylor	07951 839399
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	stonnall@hotmail.co.uk	please email
Stonnall Coffee Club	Val Neale	01543 374 430
Stonnall Reading Group	Roz Owen	01543 371 747
Stonnall Rainbows	Grace Taylor	07951 839399
Stonnall Neighbourhood Watch	Maxine Wakefield	01543 375 108
SCAR (Stonnall Campaign about Roads)	Phil Whitehouse	07887 372 182
Diamond Jubilee Allotments	Debbra Pastel-Tullah	07787 666932
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)	Lisa Breeze	07956 954 737
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

# Remembrance Sunday in Shenstone

Sadly, due to the ongoing impact of Covid 19 and the decision by Lichfield District Council not to grant road closure notices, this year's service at the Cenotaph will be much reduced. However, we will still be marking the occasion and paying tribute to those who were lost.

Rev Liz will lead a small service with the Chairman of the Parish Council laying a wreath and Representatives of the community groups invited to do the same- a scout or brownie, for example, laying the wreath on behalf of their pack accompanied by a responsible adult from their family bubble. It will not be possible to accommodate the large groups of members or to have the usual procession through the village.

Bells will be rung from St John the Baptist Church to mark the end of the two minute silence which residents are encouraged to mark on their doorsteps in a similar way to "Clap for Carers"

If residents do feel they would like to attend as in years past then please do maintain social distancing and stay on the pavements- safety is paramount both in terms of the Coronavirus and traffic. No order of service will be given out and there will no singing with all music pre-recorded in accordance with current legislation.

Services will be held at St John the Baptist and Trinity Church at

the same time as the service at the Cenotaph. Residents may also wish to attend at St Peter's in Stonnall.

Children of the village are asked to display in windows throughout the village.

Any paintings or drawings delivered to the Parish Office will be displayed in the Library and on noticeboards as we did with the Teddy Bear challenge earlier in the year.

Should Government guidelines change again before Nov 8th then plans may need to alter again.

Every effort will be made to share news with residents.

Shenstone History Group would like to share the names of those who we honour from the Village.



## World War Two 'LEST WE FORGET'

### The Shenstone and Stonnall Heroes who paid the Ultimate Sacrifice.

NAME	DATES	SERVICE	THEATRE OF WAR	HOME	MEMORIAL
Private William Albert Richards 525333697	Died 24th March 1940 (age 21)	Worcestershire Regiment 8th Battalion	Europe France/Belgium Campaign	Stonnall Wife Annie Parents John & Rose	Dunkirk Town Cemetery and St. Peter's Church
Sergeant William George Cunnington 740754	Died 16th Nov. 1940	RAF Pilot 261 Squadron (volunteer service)	The Battle of Britain GB /Malta	Parents from Walsall Wood	Stonnall Runnymede Memorial & St Peter's Church
Gunner John Wilfred Oliver 1701459	Died 19th Nov. 1940 (age 33)	Royal Artillery 59 Searchlight Regt. 399 Battalion	UK	Parents James & Clara Rookery Cottages	St John the Baptist & the Shenstone Cenotaph (Killed whilst on duty)
Marine Daniel Joseph Rowlands	Died 24th May 1941 (age 21)	Royal Navy HMS Hood Battlecruiser	Atlantic Ocean Ship attacked and sunk in the Straits of Denmark	Father Richard 2, Waterworks	Portsmouth Naval Mem. & The Shenstone Cenotaph
Private Edward Thomas Smith 5057646	Died 24th April 1943 (age 33)	Herefordshire 4th Battalion	North Africa Campaign Tunisia	Wife - Frances Fotherley Cottage Parents-Thomas & Edith, Moss Cottage	Massicault Cemetery Tunis & the Shenstone Cenotaph
Pilot Officer David Huddleston	Died 22nd March 1944 (age 34)	R A F (Volunteer Res)	UK Killed over Birmingham (a faulty fuel system caused both engines to cut out)	Wife- Norah died in 1940, They lived in Court Drive, Shenstone	Buried in St. John's Churchyard & remem- bered on the Shenstone Cenotaph
Private Eileen Spencer WII 2560	Died 19th May 1944	A T S Auxiliary Territorial Service	Staffordshire UK	Parents: Alfred & Nellie. 2 Park Drive Shenstone	Buried in St John the Baptist Churchyard Remembered on the Shenstone Cenotaph
Ordinary Seaman Peter Taylor P/JX 598020	Died 29th Sept. 1944	Royal Navy Minesweeper HMS Magic	English Channel Sunk by German manned torpedo	Parents David and Cather- ine Cleveland House, Hollyhill, Shenstone	MPK Portsmouth Naval Memorial & Shenstone Cenotaph
C M P Harry Taylor	29th Sept 1944	Corp of Military Police		Parents: Harry and Alice Stonnall Sandhills	Bath (Haycomb) Memo- rial of the Military Police. Also at St. Peter's Church
Signalman Denis Arthur Fletcher 4535843	24th Nov 1944 (age 31)	Royal Corp of Signals	Far East Singapore POW Changi Prison (15.4.42)Died Formosa 1944	Parents Edwin & Alice 21 Ashcroft Lane	Died of malaria. Memorial, San Wan Ceme- tery Hong Kong & Shenstone's Cenotaph.
Private Edwin E Harvey 14389069	Died 25th Nov. 1944 (Age 40)	Worcestershire Infantry Regiment 2nd Battalion	BURMA (Myanmar)	Parents: Samuel & Emily Whitacre Lane	Rangoon Memorial Yangon Region Burma & St. Peter's Church
Private Amos William Allen 14365853	11th April 1945	Welch Regiment 1/5 Battalion	Western Europe Campaign	Wife: Mildred Pinfold Hill	Bechlingen War Cemetery Soltau Germany