

SHAPWICK NEWS

July 2018

Issue 283

SPEEDWATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Are you concerned about the speed of vehicles passing through Shapwick? Would you like to help? The Parish Council would like to reinstate the Speedwatch Programme in the village. If you are interested in being trained to use the speed gun please contact the Clerk on shapwickpc@btinternet.com



Some wildlife encountered at Muddy Church by the Decoy Lake!



Early morning bird walk at the Tor Hide

The “Eyes on Wildlife” exhibition—full report on page three

TRAFFIC SURVEY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!



The number of HGVs using Shapwick to get to their final destinations will not have gone unnoticed. The Parish Council are working with the Highways department to find solutions but think it would be a valuable evidence collecting exercise to carry out a traffic survey. For the survey to be successful it will need the support of the community to help record HGVs through the village throughout a given time period—ideally at least a full working day but if there are sufficient volunteers then a couple of days could be surveyed.

If you are interested in helping and can spare a couple of hours to record vehicle numbers through the village please contact the Clerk on shapwickpc@btinternet.com
Thank you.

Thank you

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported the 'Eyes on Wildlife' Cafe last Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoon in St Mary's Church, either by baking/buying cakes, serving, welcoming or coming and bringing friends to buy lunch or refreshments.



It was a lovely weekend and encouraging to see the many visitors coming in to marvel at the lovely wildlife photo exhibition."

Helen Wade

Library Van

The next visit by the mobile library, is on **Tuesday 3rd July**.

The time and place remain the same. The van arrives at the Cricket Pavilion at 10.55 for 20 minutes.



Annual Parish Meeting

Sadly no members of the village attended this meeting (at which village organisations plus County and District Councillors present reports) nor the annual meeting of the Parish Council. This is your opportunity to find out what is going on in the village.

Parish Council meeting dates are advertised in the Shapwick News, on the PC noticeboard and on the PC website—there is always a Villagers' Open Period when you can come along and raise your concerns and village issues.

The next PC meeting is on Tuesday 17th July 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Parish Council Roundup

Brian Norris and Sally Richardson were voted as Chair and Vice-Chair for the forthcoming year.

Traffic—unfortunately the planned meeting with the traffic engineer was cancelled. The PC remains in contact with the Highways department and are awaiting a new meeting date. In the meantime any HGVs reported to the PC will be forwarded to Highways.

Support for Upkeep of the Churchyard—the PC agreed to increase support to £500 per annum with the caveat it will be reviewed based on visible outcomes.

Footpaths—Reports have been received of walkers straying from footpath BW29/9 on the Shapwick/Ashcott border—please remember the Country Code and stay on the designated path.

Audit—the PC certified itself as exempt. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been published on the PC website.

Shapwick Starlets WI



Sue Sellick

This month we were lucky enough to have Beth French, Ocean Swimmer as our speaker. Such an inspirational lady, and what an incredible story:

"Water – and swimming- have always been a refuge for me: I could swim before I have memories of not swimming. As a child, I felt compelled to head out into the ocean and just keep swimming to the horizon and beyond- keep going till I hit land. I don't remember hearing about channel swimming, but I have early awareness that a woman had swum to France and I thought that was incredible. And proved I could swim someplace else.

I was struck with glandular fever at 10 and didn't fully recover- my adolescence being marred by periods of immune dysfunction and exhaustion. It was not until I was 17 and wheelchair bound that ME was given as a diagnosis.

Recovering from ME at such an early age was life changing and liberating- I live without symptoms and spent years regaining trust in my body and my ability to challenge myself. In fact, ME defined my life in so far as I cannot ignore my dreams for fear of frustration triggering a relapse! Life has become a true adventure in the 20yrs since the wheelchair. I travelled and studied abroad, learning indigenous alternatives to healthcare and cultural perspectives on life. I ordained as a Buddhist nun to intensely train in meditation and challenge myself both in mind and body. I relish times I get to immerse myself in that balance of physical being and consciousness. Endurance swimming is nothing if not that!

I now find myself drawn more than ever to share my experiences- the sense of empowerment in overcoming and ultimately learning to rise above challenges is a habit that seems impossible the first time: insurmountable odds are just a few more steps than you think you can take. So far my life has taught me that unless you take as many steps as you think you can, how are you ever going to learn that it really is only a tantalizing few more to get where you want to go?

Human endeavour is miraculous. Pioneering spirit is within all of us: our own lives are there to be explored and this incredible planet we live on is an absolute gift to be cherished and learned from. It's our right to learn about ourselves and our responsibility to do what we can with what we learn".

Oceans 7 Documentary - 'Beth's oceans7 journey is being filmed by award winning, BAFTA nominated documentary makers- the highs and the lows of this epic adventure across the globe. Due for release early 2018, keep your eyes peeled for developments!'

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 10th July, 7.30 pm - 'Life as an Auctioneer and Valuer", Alan Mechen from the Wells Auction House, McCubbing and Redfern. Alan will be telling us about Somerset's oldest auction house established in 1845 and some of the more unusual items up for auction over the years.

Watch out for:

Honeycrock Creams Teas on Tour - Shapwick Cricket Pavillion on Sunday 5th August - more details to follow.

For details of our Book Club, Film Club, Skittle Team and Craft Club find us on Facebook.



The “Eyes on Wildlife” exhibition

By Rich Tweedy • Website: riverbankscribe.wordpress.com • Email: vicar@poldenwheel.co.uk

The “Eyes on Wildlife” weekend in the Burtle Village Hall was filled for the evening with Dominic Couzens, who came to speak about “Birds Behaving Badly”. We’d expected to hear about bird behaviour, and there was plenty of that – what we hadn’t realised was how entertaining a speaker Dominic is! He has a great sense of humour and soon built up a good rapport with the audience. Just before the second half, he also told us a bit about his faith – how he’d been an atheist at school but became a Christian shortly after arriving at university.



Dominic Couzens (front right) fielding questions at the Village Hall after a great talk and supper.

Throughout the weekend, the photographic exhibition ran in Shapwick Church. Much as I like taking bird photos myself, the ones on display were in a different league – they were outstanding! The main displays were provided by Carl Bovis, James Cawte, Dan Hargreaves, Kim Hemmings, Chris Hooper, Andrew Kirby and Colin Lawrence. Their generous contributions were very much appreciated. For me, one of the most notable photos was one of a stoat running on ice at Greylake: Carl had seen it in the undergrowth, and had set his camera in expectation that it would run out. When it did, he was ready. From this I learned that the ability to anticipate what an animal will do next is a really important skill to learn!

On the Saturday afternoon, we had a Muddy Church – an outdoor variant on Messy Church. Over twenty primary-ages kids came with their parents. Fiona Livesley, our inspiring and indefatigable leader, had devised a really good set of activities for the children as they walked through woodland and meadow to the Decoy Lake. There, we had a picnic, before descending on the Decoy Hide in force – fortunately there were no birders there to disturb at the time!



*Above: the wildlife photography exhibition just before opening time.
Below: the café and exhibition in full swing*

There was an early start on Sunday for a couple of dozen folk, for a bird walk led by Alison Everett. We saw several Great White Egrets – now a regularly breeding colony in the Avalon Marshes having first bred only three years ago – and several Great Crested Grebes with their chicks. After the walk, we went for a full cooked breakfast at the Ashcott Village hall.

The weekend concluded with two Celtic-style services, at Chilton Polden and on the playing field in Ashcott. We had two guest speakers: in the morning David Maggs, the diocesan environment adviser, and in the evening Caroline Pomeroy, the Director of Climate Stewards, who both encouraged us to think about and act on our responsibilities for climate and the environment.



Children and parents head towards the Decoy Lake at Shapwick Heath

and the bird walk. I hope the team and all those who’ve visited enjoyed the weekend as much as I have!

The weekend has been a team effort of the Polden Wheel churches, and I’m indebted to the many who gave so much of their time and energy. Space prohibits a full roll call but I must especially thank Helen Wade for running the café in Shapwick Church, Rosemary Tucker and her team for providing the food in Burtle Village Hall, Sue Ball for all her help with the admin, Freda Prime and her teams in Ashcott for the breakfast and the evening at the playing field, Rowena Steady for leading the music in the church services – and especially Alison Everett, an avid birder herself, who gave many hours for each of the events, particularly the exhibition



Surely, if it’s a tree, it must be climbed?