



Find out more about supporting the pier

Picture: Peter Emmons, Scenic Aerial Images of Shotley Gate

... at the Village Hall

BY popular request we are bringing news of the community purchase of Shotley Pier to Shotley Village Hall during the daytime. To find out more about plans and progress, join the team for a presentation, including aerial footage of the pier, whilst enjoying refreshments and a chat at Shotley Village Hall on Thursday 2nd February at 2pm – 4pm

The formation of the Shotley Heritage Community Benefit Society is now complete, along with the Board of Directors, the Steering Group Committee and most importantly the bank account which will enable us to look after the funds raised.

So far, members of the local community have pledged £22,000. But it's not all down to the peninsula community to contribute all the cash. There are opportunities for match-funding, different grant applications and possible tax breaks which will boost this figure providing we get it right.

If you prefer to see the pier purchased and renovated rather than despair over the present dilapidated state of this landmark heritage you can do a number of things to help establish a buzzing, working pier offering community leisure at its best.

Pick up a newsletter available at various places in and around Shotley, such as The Bristol Arms, The Rose, Shotley Post Office and Stores, Parkers Garage, Corner Garage etc. Spread the word among your family, friends and neighbours, and especially those who used to live in Shotley who may have an affiliation to Shotley Pier.

Get in touch to leave your phone number or email address. Contact Chairman, Sally Chicken on 01473 780052, Derek Davis on 07824 167196 or, of course, Shotley Noticeboard. Editor



Shotley Open Spaces show support for the Pier, as do



... Babergh and Mid Suffolk's Communities and Economic Development Team, as well as ...



... Shotley Parish Council.

Please contact June on 788723 or email noticeboard2015@outlook.com and let her know the dates, times and places of your meetings or events!

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION

COPY & ADVERTS

3rd MARCH

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COFFEE TIME

Jim's Quiz - A Winter theme

1. Which Caribbean country entered a bobsleigh team in the 1988 winter Olympics?
2. Which Canadian female singer had a hit in the UK and USA with Snowbird?
3. What is another common name for mangetout?
4. From which Shakespeare play does the line, "Now is the winter of our discontent", come from?
5. What colour snow fell over an area of 1500 sq km in Siberia in 2007? a. Orange, b. Black, c. Pink, d. Gold
6. After she eats the poison apple the 7 dwarfs, believing her dead, place Snow White in what?
7. In which country were the first Winter Olympics in 1924?
8. Where does snow have to fall for there to be an official declaration of a White Christmas?
9. What was the nickname of USA footballer William Perry?
10. What colour is a polar bear's skin?
11. On what side of buildings do icicles mostly form?
12. In the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe how long has the winter lasted? a. 10 years, b. 50 years, c. 100 years
13. How many countries have permanent all year bases in Antarctica? a. 21, b. 24, c. 29, d. 34
14. True or False: The word "Antarctica" literally means "no bears".
15. What is the name of the snowman in Frozen?

For youngsters

1. The Statue of Liberty is in which city?
2. What sort of animal is Mumble in the film Happy Feet?
3. What does the word 'diminish' mean?
4. Which large desert is the biggest in Africa?
5. Harry Potter went to which school?
6. Which country has an island called Sicily at its southern tip?
7. Calais is a port in which country?
8. Which flower is associated with Remembrance Day?
9. Which occupation uses a trowel and spirit level?
10. In America they call it a sidewalk, what do we call it?

Answers on Page 14 under the contacts list

LETTERS

Thanks to Noticeboard volunteers

THE Shotley Noticeboard committee would like to say a big "thank you" to the many volunteers for their contribution in helping to deliver over 1,000 magazines every two months to homes in Shotley and Erwarton, whatever the weather. We aim to get the publication to your door before the first day of the month and it would be very difficult to do this without them.

Please send letters/articles to June at 19 Kitchener Way, IP9 1RN or to noticeboard2015@outlook.com

Shotley Rose

Bookings now being taken for

"VALENTINE'S DAY"

Saturday 11th February 2017

and

"MOTHER'S DAY"

Sunday 26th March 2017

Ring
01473 787237
to book your table



Peninsula
PIZZA TAKEAWAY



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Shotley Stores, The Street, Shotley IP9 1NQ

— 01473 787949

— Tasting is Believing

PARISH COUNCIL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Babergh District Councillor Report

Derek Davis (Berners Ward)

(covering Shotley, Erwarnton, Chelmondiston, Woolverstone and Freston)

THE public face of what Babergh does as a district council manifests itself in tangible services such as refuse collection, planning issues and community projects, such as Shotley pier, which grab the headlines.

Often though there are lots of things the officers at Hadleigh, and beyond, deal with and that is where us councillors can help. Quite often we can help with matters such as housing, enforcement issues, environmental problems and a litany of other things, which may not be top of the awareness scale.

No promises or guarantees, and some matters are out of our hands, but don't be afraid or too shy to get in touch and we will do what we can because for some of us it is about getting things done.

Severe cuts by Suffolk County Council have affected rural bus services, social care, children's services and so the list goes on. Although there may be short term benefit on the balance

sheet, quite often these cuts tend to be a false economy with costs rising in other areas and problems do not go away. It is like juggling sand.

It doesn't promise to get better anytime soon and the proposed devolution deal looks increasingly problematic, even with the 'Coalition of the Willing' in Suffolk and south Norfolk trying to salvage a deal with central government.

2017 promises to be challenging and perhaps, ground-breaking in the way we all move forward. All councils face difficulties ahead, including Babergh, but the right people with the right motives can get things done and you, as voters, can help make a difference by exercising your right to vote and not just sit back allowing things to carry on as they are.

What is more tangible than devolution is the May elections, while there will not now be vote for a mayor then, it does give you the opportunity to make your voice heard in the Suffolk County Council elections by choosing the person whose mandate matches your aspirations.

If you have an issue, or just want to discuss a district council matter, please contact me on:

01473 787375 or 07824 167196

or by email derek.davis@babergh.gov.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - FEBRUARY / MARCH 2017

Date	Time	Event	Location
FEBRUARY			
Thurs 2	1.50-4.00	Shotley Social Club	Village Hall
Mon 6	7.30	Shotley Gardening Club: Simon Leatherdale on "Maritime Trees"	Village Hall
Wed 8	From 11.30	Soup-a-Lunch	Village Hall
Thurs 9	1pm	Surgery Closed for Training	
Thurs 9	1.50-4.00	Whist Drive	Village Hall
Fri 10		Over 60's Lunch	The Rose
Sat 11		Bookings taken for Valentine's Day	The Rose
Wed 15	8.50am	Trip to Norwich	
Thurs 16	1.50-4.00	Shotley Social Club	Village Hall
Wed 15 - Fri 17	7.30	Robinson Crusoe Pantomime	Village Hall
Sat 18	2.30 & 7.30	Robinson Crusoe Pantomime	Village Hall
Wed 22	7.30	Shotley & Erwarnton WI: Drug Awareness work of Icen	Village Hall
Thurs 23	1.50-4.00	Whist Drive	Village Hall
Fri 24		Over 60's Lunch	The Rose
MARCH			
Thurs 2	1.50-4.00	Shotley Social Club	Village Hall
Sat 4		Auction	Village Hall
Wed 8	From 11.30	Soup-a-Lunch	Village Hall
Thurs 9	1.50-4.00	Whist Drive	Village Hall
Thurs 9	7.30pm	Viking Forest Project - Anniversary meeting	Village Hall
Fri 10	10-12	Coffee Morning and Raffle	Village Hall
Fri 10		Over 60's Lunch	The Rose
Mon 13	7.30	Gardening Club, speaker Matthew Tanton-Brown	Village Hall
Sat 18	7 for 7.30	Shotley Ceilidh Charity Dinner & Dance	Village Hall
Sun 19	From 5.00	Pier Art Auction	Bristol Arms
Wed 22	7.15	Fashion Show	Village Hall
Thurs 23	1pm	Surgery Closed for Training	
Fri 24		Over 60's Lunch	The Rose
Sat 25	7.00 for 7.30	Bingo and Raffle	Village Hall
Sun 26		Bookings taken for Mothers' Day	The Rose

Local groups please contact June on 788723 or email noticeboard2015@outlook.com and let her know the dates, times and places of your meetings or events! Copy deadline for next edition 3rd March

Police Parish Forum dates for 2017

15 th March	Raydon Village Hall
10 th May	Hadleigh Village Hall
5 th July	Chelmondiston Village Hall
30 th Aug	Capel Village Hall
26 th Oct	Stutton Village Hall
30th Dec	Brantham to be arranged

SHOTLEY NOTICEBOARD FACEBOOK GROUP

Missed a date for placing an item in Shotley Noticeboard? Just phone June on 788723 or send an email to noticeboard2015@outlook.com to request a spot on the Facebook page to share your news or event. If you need to check, forthcoming deadline dates are published in each issue.
www.facebook.com/Shotley-Noticeboard-887080204703575/

Copy deadline
for next issue
3rd March

WHAT'S ON

Shotley Drama Group

presents



at Shotley Village Hall
February 15th - 18th

Wednesday 15th, Thursday 16th, Friday 17th at 7:30pm

Saturday 18th at 2:30pm and 7:30pm

Adults £7.50 OAPs and Children £6.50

Family (2A 2C or 1A 3C) £23

The tickets are available from

The Shotley Rose, Carol 01473 787353 and

Mandy 01473 787460

(Please add £1 to prices if you purchase tickets on the day)

We look forward to seeing you!

Oh yes we do !!!!!



PIER ART AUCTION

at The Bristol Arms

On Sunday 19th March
from 5.00pm onwards

Viewing from Tuesday 14th March

Help contribute towards fundraising for
the Pier and buy original art.

Email: pjhdrs@aol.com
or Tel: 01473 787819

SHOTLEY CEILIDH IS BACK

Back by
popular
demand

Get your gladrags on it's Ceilidh time

Dinner and dancing to the Caledonian Reelers

In aid of Action Medical Research for Children

Saturday 18th March 2017 7pm for 7.30pm at Shotley Village Hall

Tickets £25 to include 4 course dinner and dancing

Contact Karen Smith on 01473 787731

Hurry as tickets will sell out fast!

WHAT'S ON



The Funktion Junction
Shotley Village Hall
Saturday 1st April

From 7.30 - 11.00
Tickets available from
Ian Peters (787460)
£10.00 each
Bar & Raffle

Music to get you dancing!

AUCTION

of General Household Goods,
Collectibles and Small Furniture

Shotley General Auction

4th March at 9.30am

Nothing to sell? Come along, bag a bargain and have a great morning out. Free parking. Refreshments available. To avoid disappointment, make an early booking or for more information, call

Jim Catling on 01473 788499

or email james.catling@yahoo.co.uk

or Norman Bugg on 01473 787358

Lots in on Thursday, 2nd,
10am-noon, 2-7pm

Viewing 10am-6pm on Friday, 3rd

SHOTLEY CHURCH HERITAGE 700

COFFEE MORNING



and Bring & Buy Sale
everyone welcome

Where? SHOTLEY VILLAGE HALL

When? FRIDAY 10th MARCH

Time? 10am 'til midday

Entry: £3 includes coffee and biscuits
plus two strips of raffle tickets

SHOTLEY CHURCH HERITAGE 700

BINGO & RAFFLE



SATURDAY 25th March

SHOTLEY VILLAGE HALL

Starting: 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Heritage Park celebrates five years

IT IS five years since the purchase of the Community Woodland and Mudflats at Shotley Gate. Since that time major improvements have been made with new access steps, view points and seating areas. Most of the benches have been purchased by residents and the majority of capital funding for improvements (in the order of £30,000) has come from external sources (Babergh District Council, Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Foundation).

Shotley Heritage Park came about after the installation of erosion protection to the foot of Shotley Cliff. The two phases were done on a shoestring budget with phase one costing £38,000 and phase two costing £68,000. It was a huge project to undertake, and thankfully external funding of £106,000

meant that the net cost to the community was almost nil. As a result of collaborative working with the Statutory Bodies involved with the project the (then) Footpath Group received the 'Working Together' Award from Suffolk County Council, along with a grant of £5,000 which is held in reserve for the next phase three erosion protection project.

It just shows what can be achieved when we work together, and that external funds are available to produce great results for our community.

My how those five years have flown! Who'd have thought it was possible?

Gary Richens, Chairman, Shotley Open Spaces (formerly Shotley Stour Footpath Renovation Group)

Walking for the Wounded fund-raising update

A MASSIVE 'Shotley thank you' to all who were part of 'Team TIC' over the 2 days of Mid Suffolk Tourist Information Centre's 'Walking Home for Christmas' over 17th - 18th December - a national initiative from the 'Walking with the Wounded' charity which helps to support wounded veterans back into employment - whether a walker, driver, part of the reception committee or cheering on from the sidelines! A special mention to 'veterans' Gary and Jim who ran the entire route ahead of us!

This was precious time - the busy weekend before Christmas - and included dawn starts on both days to finish the walks in daylight. Everyone successfully completed the 18 miles from Stowmarket to Ipswich and the 14 miles from Ipswich to Shotley unscathed, but we were ready for the refreshments kindly provided by



The Suffolk Food Hall, Ipswich TIC and the Bristol Arms. We collectively raised a staggering £1,175.25 (including Gift Aid). Much fun, laughter and lively conversation was had on both days, leaving us with some fun memories to treasure across both new and existing friendships. Various penalty points incurred on Day 2 have yet to be redeemed as beer tokens and you can probably guess who has the most points! The walk also jointly raised the profile of the Gipping Valley & Stour & Orwell walks, and HMS Ganges Museum (commemorating the 40th anniversary of its closure this year and of which I'm a Trustee).

I've already been asked about next year - watch this space - but additionally I've committed to walk 700miles in '17 to raise awareness of Dementia, Osteomyelitis and Shotley Pier - as part of Suffolk's Year of Walking from May 2016 - May 2017. Perhaps others are on their own walking challenges? If so, please share if wished. Best wishes and happy walking!

Annette Ellis

NEWS FROM HOLBROOK AND SHOTLEY SURGERY

Training days

Our next training afternoons will be on Thursday 9th February and Thursday 23rd March when we will be shut from 1pm. Please ring 111 for advice if your query cannot wait until the following day. In an emergency, dial 999.

Peninsula Patient Network

Our Patient Group has been active over the last few months and preparing to relaunch this year. They are holding an Awareness Week from 20th to 24th February so please pop in and meet our core representatives to see what they've been up to and how you can help.

If you would like to be contacted with small surveys or to answer questions on an occasional basis, please email peninsulapatientnetwork@gmail.com or drop your details into the practice.

Julia Smith, Practice Manager

www.holbrookandshotleysurgery.co.uk

Please send letters/articles to June at noticeboard2015@outlook.com

Copy deadline for next edition - 3rd March

NATURE NOTES



VIKING FOREST PROJECT

To our children's, children's, children

Golden Wood and wildflower meadow

The cold, damp and sometimes drear days of winter are now fully upon us but as in all wildlife stories nature carries on its hard labours. Not just simply surviving as it has for millennia before but striving forward to give it's progeny the best possible chance of survival. Sometimes unnoticed but always giving it's best performance. Below ground, and as David Attenborough might say, "a world within a world.... a society within a society" innumerable mini beasts are working to ensure that they and their kinsfolk survive all that winter can throw at them. Hurrying amongst the tuberous roots of our native Bluebells, which will already be showing signs of growing, our actors in these scenes will be giving performances reminiscent of the worst horror movies imaginable. Just because the participants are small to our eye doesn't make them any the less formidable if you, yourself, are small. And it's all happening under our feet. Just above ground, cowslips and primroses are also starting to get their

acts together and within a matter of weeks will be flowering in all their glory. The Viking Forest Project conservation volunteers have also been hard at work and their unremitting efforts will make sure that Golden Wood puts on its best possible show during this spring and summer. The coppiced hazel, osier and goat willow will quickly bud up and by the end of the season put on some six feet of growth. However, in the intervening period, this management practice will have allowed greater light penetration to the woodland floor and offered our wildflowers the chance to thrive under optimum conditions.

As always it's all down to the weather, breeding opportunities, migration strategies, predation and a host of unknowns but I for one will be enthralled as to how the season unravels. Swallows will already have started their northbound migration from their South African winter homes and Whitethroats and Blackcaps, both of which nest in Golden Wood will become restless in their winter quarters. There will be rejoicing and there will be disappointments. That's life in general and it's how wildlife works. Whatever you do in 2017, make sure that you and your offspring engage in our natural world. It really is wonderful!
Ian Peters 787460

A focus on Lapwing

LAPWINGS from western Europe make migratory movements in early winter, with birds moving west and south to reach areas with a mild, maritime climate, many reaching Britain and Ireland from late September through into November.

The flocks wintering here may number many hundreds or even thousands of birds, the numbers influenced by weather conditions on the Continent. Cold weather, and frosty conditions in particular, see birds relocate from farmland onto estuarine sites, where food remains accessible. Birds may also leave Britain and Ireland altogether if things get really bad, to seek out better conditions in western France and Spain.

Even with the possibility of shifting to more favourable sites, particularly cold winter weather can lead increased levels of mortality. The winter visitors leave Britain and Ireland from March, overlapping with the period during which British - and Irish -breeding birds will be back on their breeding territories. Lapwings nest in open country and prefer to have a good view from the nest, which is why nests are usually placed on a slight mound or hummock. The adults rely on the camouflaged

patterning of their eggs and chicks, something that becomes more effective if the parent bird can spot a potential predator at a distance and engage in active defence of their eggs and chicks by either flying at a potential predator or by enacting a distraction display. Lapwing chicks leave the nest soon after hatching and move into areas of vegetation where more food is available.



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THIS WINTER AT FLATFORD WILDLIFE GARDEN

IN February we will be running two Snowdrop Weekends on 11/12th and 18/19th. The garden is full of drifts of lovely snowdrops to enjoy at this time of year. We'll also have potted snowdrops for sale, and seasonal advice on wildlife gardening for you to take home.

The garden at Flatford is designed to inspire people to help wildlife in their own gardens. Many people don't realise that they could easily help conserve wildlife by thinking differently about their gardens. For creatures like honeybees, bumblebees, butterflies, and many birds, gardens can allow them to travel across the landscape with access to food and shelter, which is vital to their survival. Gardens are no less important for creatures without wings - many gardens offer ideal habitat for hedgehogs, provided that the gardens are all connected. Surprisingly, hedgehogs need to travel up to 2 miles per night in order to find sufficient food, and therefore they not only need to be able to get *into* your garden, but also into your neighbours' gardens from there. Once in, apart from being charming in their own right, they will munch on your slugs and snails!

Here are some ideas to transform your winter garden into a mini-nature reserve:

Safe & warm in winter ...

Don't cut back the summer's growth come autumn, but be patient and leave the summer's bounty until spring. The dead plant material and autumn leaves will create an insulating

blanket over the soil's surface, creating a warm, dry haven for many small creatures hibernating away the winter months. You may then be lucky enough to have songthrushes and other hungry insect eaters rummaging in the leaf litter, searching for insect food in the depths of the winter. You can then have a satisfying tidy-up in early spring, once the worst of the winter is over.

So mulch more ...

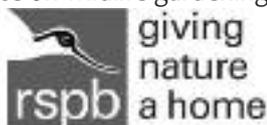
Mulch your borders – choose something with an organic origin – homemade compost, well-rotted woodchips or bark chippings. This mulch not only nourishes the soil and plants, but also provides a source of food for soil invertebrates. Healthy populations of earthworms and other invertebrates have real benefits for the soil, and hence the plants, but will also provide food for a long list of carnivorous garden friends, such as hedgehogs, all the amphibians, song thrushes, blackbirds, robins, and many more.

Winter hibernation sites

Train a dense evergreen up your walls or fences, it will provide a safe haven for birds to nest, or butterflies to hibernate in winter. The 5 common garden butterflies, namely the comma, the small tortoiseshell, brimstone, peacock, and increasingly the red admiral, all overwinter by hibernating as adult butterflies, and need somewhere dry and insulated to shelter. In many cases, a thick evergreen climber such as ivy up against a fence or wall, provides an ideal hibernating place.

More information at www.rspb.org.uk/flatford.

Shirley Sampson, warden



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01206 391113 or Lynn Riddell: 01473 788598

e-mail: keyno.mullany@btopenworld.com



NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

EAST SUFFOLK ASSN FOR THE BLIND

THIS is an independent and voluntary charitable organisation promoting the welfare of blind and partially sighted people in East Suffolk since 1914. Membership is free. We hold a social gathering on the last Wednesday of every month at Stutton Community Hall from 2pm until 4pm providing entertainment, afternoon tea and a raffle and, twice a year in the Summer and at Christmas, we enjoy a lunch at a local hotel. If you would like to join us, ring our Community Support Worker, Ian, on 01473 788380 for more information.

THE FIGURE RING

IT'S that time of year when lots of people decide that for one reason or another they would like to shift a bit, or in my case a lot, of weight. Maybe for holidays, a wedding or just for general wellbeing. We hold our meetings on a Saturday at 10:00am at the Shotley Village Hall (left hand side entrance) and all are welcome. We don't do diets. What we do is try and change the way you think about food, making very easy sensible changes to your eating habits which mean you can still eat what you like but consume less calories. We talk about the importance of fitness and how losing weight on its own isn't good for the body. There's tea, coffee, raffle, prizes and lots of fun so why not pop along and join in. What have you got to lose?

We charge £3.00 per session with all profits going to each. Raffle is £1 a go. All money raised at the raffle goes to the next session's raffle prizes. Feel free to join the Facebook page, a closed group so what is said there only members see. Search for The Figure Ring or E-mail me: thefiguring@gmail.com or call me on 07585 304100.

SHOTLEY GARDENING CLUB

BY the time this reaches you we will have enjoyed our Christmas and New Year feasting and will be looking forward to a return to our speaker programme. On 6th February, a break from our usual meeting night of the second Monday of the month to make way for the Pantomime, we will be listening to Simon Leatherdale on the topic of "Maritime Trees". The competition will be a photographic portrait of a tree, taken by a member.

On 13th March, back to the second Monday, the ever popular, Matthew Tanton-Brown is returning to us with a seasonal talk, the title of which he hasn't finally settled on but we are confident that it will be as informative and entertaining as always. We expect that, as usual, he will bring plants to tempt us. The competition for March will be a photograph, taken by a member, of Shotley in Winter.

Our talks in February, March, April and the performance piece in May are open to non-members. Details from Karen Smith 787731 or June Edwards 787422. *June Edwards*

SHOTLEY CHURCH HERITAGE 700 CLUB

TRIP TO NORWICH

THE trip is being organised by Suffolk Norse and has been arranged for Wednesday 15th February leaving Shotley at 8.50am and Norwich at 4.00pm. The fare is £9.00 payable on booking with Norman on 787358.

SOUP-A-LUNCH

This popular lunchtime social event is held on the second Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall. Attend any time from 11.30am as serving starts at about 12 noon and will cost only £3.50. Contact Norman on 787358 to arrange a lift if necessary.

November Draw Winners:

£25 (058) Mrs D Bacon; £20 (161) Mrs V Simpkin; £15 (129) Mrs C Lock; £8 (103) Mrs S Catchpole; £7 (100) Mrs C Higgs.

December Draw Winners

£25 (112) Mrs G Nunn; £20 (064) Mrs J Catchpole; £15 (119) Mrs M do Boltz; £8 (058) Mrs D Bacon; £7 (124) Mrs J Richards.

New members are always welcome to join the 700 Club at a cost of £1 per month. This can be paid at intervals of 3, 6 or 12 months. To join, or for more information, contact Norman Bugg on 787358.

SHOTLEY OVER 60's SOCIAL CLUB

OUR forthcoming meetings on Thursdays are from 1.50pm to 4.00pm, the dates being 2nd February, 16th February and 2nd March. When it is the Pantomime in the Village Hall we will have lunch at The Rose followed by our meeting.

We had a very good and successful year last year with outings, the concert and Christmas meetings. I do have some ideas for

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NEWS FROM THE GROUPS CONTINUED

this year which, all being well, should provide some very varied occasions. As we have been on so many different outings over the years it is getting a bit difficult to find new places to go as some of our member would not be able to cope. If anyone has any ideas I would be grateful if you could let me know.

We are always looking for new members who will be made very welcome indeed. For any other information, or lifts needed, please contact Norman and Eileen on 787358.

SHOTLEY WHIST DRIVE

OUR Whist Drives on Thursdays are from 1.50pm to 4.00pm, the dates being 9th February, 23rd February and 9th March.

We are a very friendly group and we have a very enjoyable afternoon. We play 12 games of Whist, then we have refreshments, usually home-made cakes, then we play another 12 games. The whole afternoon costs just £2.

I do have some lovely people who will help if needed. Just turn up at the Village Hall and see how you get on. Any lifts needed, or information, please contact Norman and Eileen on 787358.

PENINSULA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

WINTER is definitely here with much colder nights, meaning you have to be extremely brave to be out there spending time to look up at the heavens. I did however manage to see a wonderful waxing crescent moon and, just below, Venus blazing a trail. Most of you have probably seen Venus without even knowing it. It is the second brightest object in the night sky after the moon and can be seen this time of the year towards the west just after sunset.

Things to look out for over the coming months

On 19th January just before dawn you can spot Jupiter just below the moon. For those with a pair of binoculars, wedge yourself up against a wall or lamp post and take a look at Jupiter. You should be able to see some, if not all of the Galilean moons. If you do see four then, plus ours, would mean you have seen five different moons in one night. The 25th January towards the east sees a stunning waning crescent moon and just below will be Saturn. You can easily spot Saturn with binoculars but you will need a telescope to see any of the rings.

February sees a Penumbral Lunar Eclipse which you can watch with the children as it's not a school night. Begins: Friday 10th Feb at 22:34 with maximum eclipse on Saturday, 11th Feb 00:43 ending on Saturday, 11th Feb at 02:53. Get out there and try and take some wonderful photos of this great event. There is also a comet passing earth in February but you will have to be a member of The Peninsula Astronomical Society on Facebook to get more precise timings and viewing opportunities. Seek us out to join the group which sometimes meets to share these experiences. Happy viewing!

SHOTLEY OPEN SPACES

IT IS eight years since the 'Shotley Stour Footpath Renovation Group' was set up, initially focussed on preventing the continuing erosion to the parts of Shotley Cliff that did not have the protection of sheet piles. Once this work had been completed the group then moved on to maintaining Shotley

Heritage Park, work we have successfully done since 2012.

Under our new identity of 'SOS' we will continue to look after the community owned woodland which has become such a popular open space for locals and visitors.

For more information about who we are and what we do please look at our website, www.shotleyopenspaces.co.uk. On the 'maintenance schedule' page, as well as pictures of the maintenance work done at the picnic area at Bristol Hill, you'll find the original 'Parish Council Heritage Park Business Plan 2012' that led to the purchase of the woodland and mudflats, along with the original 'Cliff and Woodland Survey 2012' and more recently the 'Mudflat Management Plan 2014'.

We worked closely with the Parish Council to produce these documents, which led to the successful purchase of the Heritage Park and mudflats (securing the £20,000 needed to purchase the land from Babergh District Council and Suffolk County Council).

The *Mudflat Management Plan* was needed to satisfy Natural England's concerns about the loss of foreshore with the proposed 'Phase 3 gabions' that would sit immediately in front of the badly corroding sheet piles. Thanks to this Parish Council document, Natural England agreed that the proposed Phase 3 project was acceptable and hence the granting of a Phase 3 Construction licence by the Marine Management Organisation. Once this project is completed the Heritage Park and River Stour footpath at Shotley Gate will be protected for future generations and we will continue to have coastal access to this lovely part of Suffolk.

A vision of the future is to have the Shotley Pier renovated back to its former glory (well done to the Shotley Pier Group, you have done so much so quickly!) and the coastal footpath from Bristol Hill west to Cackle Creek in pristine condition, with a surface as good as the one at Marsh Lane.

Our 'Walkers are Welcome' initiative is progressing well. We have now submitted our full application to the National WaW scheme managers and are awaiting their feedback – hopefully we will have done enough to achieve full accreditation. Thank you to everyone who has given us support for this.

Our 'Carols in the Park' event the week before Christmas was a success thanks to all who turned up with extra food and loads of good cheer. Thanks especially to Barrie Powell for the lovely mulled wine and Maureen Williams for the scrumptious sausage rolls. Legendary. Plus, the weather behaved itself, hardly a breeze though very, very dark. We'll build on the event for next year and will be putting in a request to the Parish Council to fund some improvements over the Summer that would have long lasting benefits for all, particularly those of a more mature age ...

Finally, a huge thank you to all who purchased the Shotley 2017 Calendar. We had sold out completely by 1st December, and by now for February you'll be looking at the 'Signalling Tower' in the Ganges site (note the deliberate error when we called it the Water Tower. Top marks if you spotted this).

For the 2018 Calendar the theme is 'Shotley through the Seasons'. Please send in your 'entries' any time between now and the end of July 2017 to marian.pugh@btinternet.com and they will be considered for the Calendar. All entries will be displayed on our website from October 2017. As with the 2017 Calendar we would like to credit the photographer alongside their photographs so please let us know if that's ok. Also, if

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS CONTINUED

the photo includes any people, please confirm that you have their permission to allow it to be shown.

That's all, must get my coat on and go for a walk – got a New Year's resolution to keep! If you want to be included on the growing Shotley Open Spaces e-mail list, please contact Geraint Pugh (g.pugh1@btinternet.com) or Gary Richens (gary.richens.583@btinternet.com). *Gary Richens*

OPEN VERSE

OPEN Verse invites you to come along to the Baker's Arms, Harkstead to listen or recite a poem or prose of your choice or share one of your own. The evening starts at 7pm for 7.30pm and costs £3 towards the buffet. The theme for the meeting on February 23rd is 'Comic', while the theme for the meeting on March 30th is 'Rivers'.

SHOTLEY CARPET BOWLS

WE are now half way through the winter league fixtures. So far we have won one league game and lost a few close matches. The club had a good evening at the Gardeners Arms for the Christmas meal.

We have gained two new players this year and if you are interested in coming along to the club and giving it a try please contact me on 788829 as we are always looking for new players. *Paul Catchpool*

SHOTLEY FC

CURRENTLY sitting nicely at the top of the table, we're picking up some very good results recently but were unfortunately knocked out of the cup by Capel Plough which is 2 leagues above us. We lost on penalties after drawing the game 2-2 after extra time and it was very unfortunate not to come away with a win. The club would like to thank people for their support and a big thank you to our kit Sponsor Andy Kirby of BSURE. Contact 07435 963340 or deanscutcher602@hotmail.com *Dean Scutcher*

SHOTLEY & ERWARTON WI

SHOTLEY and Erwarton WI held the last meeting of the year on Wednesday 14th December and were pleased to welcome several guests. Sue Miller stepped in as our Speaker at short notice when the planned Speaker had to cancel. Sue amazed

us with the beautiful craft work she undertakes and she was pleased to find such a responsive audience. There was a sharp intake of collective breath when she asked our President, Lyn Higgs, to stick two fingers up for her but a relieved sigh when we discovered that this was in order to show us how to tie the perfect bow. You turn the ribbon round this way and then under and but really, you had to be there! The competition of home-made cards which were judged by Sue, was won by Diane Colley. Mince pies, sherry and Christmas Carols followed and the evening ended on a wave of goodwill and Happy Christmases. If you want to come along to sample an evening with us then we hold meetings every third Wednesday in the village hall starting at 7.15 p.m. and you can be assured of a warm welcome. We send warmest wishes to everyone for a Happy New Year.

Our first meeting of 2017 found the hall abuzz with chatter and laughter and a wonky microphone didn't help our President to get the meeting started! Lin Howell came first as overall winner of the competitions for last year with Carol Davis 2nd and Sheila Mower 3rd. Group B was the overall Group winner. The "fidget quilts" produced last year have been very successful in the dementia clinics and wards and we were asked if we could make some more. After our business had been completed our Speaker, Lyn Caitling, gave us a talk on her and Jim's life in Kefalonia. Lyn brought Metaxa brandy and Ouzo with nibbles of olives as well as feta cheese and pitta bread and we were soon enjoying hearing of their time at the start of Kefalonia's tourism industry. She told us that once you are accepted a suffix is added to your name so Lyn is now

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Lynula and Jim will henceforth be known as Jimaki.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 22nd February, the date altered because of the pantomime, at which our Speaker will give a talk on the drug awareness work of Icen. The competition is a homemade Valentine's Card.

Further dates for the diary are 22nd March, our Group Meeting, which will be an open meeting with all welcome to come and enjoy our Fashion Show.

On 6th May a coffee morning will be held at the Village Hall from 10am to raise funds for the Hall. On 20th May there will be a tombola at Holbrook table top sale and on 8th July an afternoon cream tea will be held at Jo Lee's. A busy first half of the year. Visitors are most welcome at any of our meetings and you will be sure of a warm welcome.

A fashion show is being hosted by Shotley and Erbarton WI at their meeting on Wednesday 22nd March at 7.15pm to which visitors are most welcome. Come alone or bring a friend - you will be assured a warm welcome.

Allana Baxter

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(Volunteer enquiries only)	787310
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Parish Clerk - D. Bedwell	788510
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Village Hall Management	788517
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Women's Institute	787311

PARISH COUNCIL

Shotley Parish Clerk, **Dina Bedwell**, can be contacted about all Council matters by phone and e-mail at:

Tel: 01473 788248

E-mail: shotleypc@btinternet.com

Alternatively, you can write to her at:

22 Great Harlings, Shotley Gate, Ipswich, IP9 1NY

"Whilst minutes are on the website, anyone can contact the Parish Clerk for a printed copy, especially for those not on the internet."

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Winter theme: 1. Jamaica, 2. Anne Murray, 3. Snow Pea, 4. Richard the 3rd, 5. Orange, 6. Class Coffin, 7. France, 8. Roof of the Met Office, 9. The Fridge, a. Black, 11. South side, 12. c. 100 years, 13. b. 24, 14. True, 15. Oaf Youngsters' quiz: 1. Invisibly cloak, 2. Saint Nicholas, 3. Green and red, 4. Na-tivity Play, 5. December 31st, 6. White Christmas, 7. Ebenezer, 8. Holly Bush, 9. Twenty-Four (24), 10. Mary Kids: 1. New York, 2. Penguin, 3. Get smaller or decrease in size, 4. The Sahara, 5. Hogwarts, 6. Italy, 7. France, 8. Poppy, 9. Bricklayer, 10. Pavement.



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