

Shotley Parish Council- December 2020

Shotley Food Parcel Scheme: The scheme has been running since the beginning of May and continues to support a number of local residents. It has, at times, also been called upon by other local authorities to support families in emergency situations. We are delighted and feel humbled to have been able to make a little difference to the lives of some of our neighbours.

To date we have provided 125 food parcels to families in Shotley, Freston and even Stutton. This has been achieved thanks to funding from Babergh and SCA for £3,000 and private donations, for which we are most thankful. We have spent so far a total of £2,970.

If you or anyone you know is ever in need of such help, please contact Dina Bedwell on 01472 788248 or e-mail Parish.Clerk@shotleyparishcouncil.org

Foreshore footpath: An independent group of volunteers, supported by £350 of County Councillor D Woods' Locality budget, carried out works which have successfully repaired the path. SCC Rights of Way have been asked to assess with a view to officially re-opening the path and removing the existing closure notice.

Heritage Park: Maintenance to trees within the Heritage Park is ongoing , as a small number of diseased or dead trees had to be felled due to health and safety reasons. As a result, we shared in excess of 7 tonnes of Ash, 3 tonnes of Chestnut and 1 ton of Oak in firewood with our parish, so hopefully, your home fires will be burning well this Christmas.

The lost trees will be replaced in due course as part of the Heritage Park management.



Shotley Community Orchard: The group has secured grant-funding of £550 from the AONB, which will help improve the site. The orchard of 18 trees has now been planted and a further 3 are due soon. The group was able to get free compost from Babergh District Council, which will hopefully give the trees a good start. Parts of the orchard have been

cleared of nettles and a log pile and a compost heap have been added to encourage wildlife. A small section has already been sown with meadow seeds, with more planned for the Spring.

Social Media: Shotley Parish Council now has a Facebook Group page, which will be a step further in our efforts to improve Community Engagement. With big project, such as our Neighbourhood Plan and the play areas regeneration, it was agreed by members that having a dedicated social media presence would be very helpful. For formal enquiries and request please still contact the Parish Council by telephone or e-mail.
<https://www.facebook.com/shotleyparishcouncil>

Clerk's note: As we approach the end of a year like no other, I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all those people who made a difference to the lives of others: Our frontline workers, our carers and volunteers, our helpers and good neighbours, and anyone who went that extra mile to make sure someone else was ok.

They say a crisis can either bring out the worst or the best in people and we have witnessed the best of what Shotley has to offer when it comes to community spirit, kindness and willingness to help.

I would also like to take a moment to pay my respects to all those who lost their battle against this terrible virus and offer my sincere condolences to their loved ones. The nation mourns with you.

Whilst looking for that light at the end of the tunnel, I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2021.