

## Open Gardens ... phew what a scorcher!

Shilton has been hosting an annual Gardens Open day since 1979, with a break of one year, and this year has to be one of the busiest on record. Fifteen gardens were open (well done you brave openers), and just about all remaining Shiltonians, plus some imported ex-villagers, friends and family members, were occupied with the vital ancillary tasks necessary on this busy day. The sun shone, visitors flocked in, the car park filled up in no time, cakes nearly ran out at the Old School, and all this despite huge competition from other nearby villages also holding open garden days. We definitely had at least 370 paying visitors, plus accompanying non-paying children.

And once again the visitors were all appreciative and charming. The best comment I received after the event, from a visitor who knew Shilton, was *"Shilton remains a beautiful village and yesterday we felt that in addition it seemed to have a very good community spirit."* How right he is, and that's what it's all about. He also said *"Refreshments excellent by the way, and great value - thank you ladies."* (We're putting the price up next year!).

And not only was this perfect afternoon thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who took part but we made a record amount - **£3,271.64\*** for Old School village hall and church funds.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make our Open Gardens day yet another great success; the gardeners, bakers, flower arrangers, church cleaners and sitters, organists, raffle prize donors and ticket sellers, car park attendants, tea providers and kitchen assistants galore, sign putters-up, kind people who gave us donations, and all the other volunteer helpers on the day, from near and far. It wouldn't happen without you and your community spirit. Three cheers to you all! And of course to our lovely visitors. Roll on next year.

*\*[The Shilton Salvage Squad certainly won't beat, or probably even match, that figure this year but we have just reached the £1,000 mark so do please keep sending your unwanted items our way]*

## What's next?

### The Pig Roast, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm

We're sticking to last year's winning formula – preferably without the torrential rain – and having a pig roast plus salads and desserts at the Old School and, weather permitting, spilling over on to the Rectory lawn. The booking form is attached and you need to get your booking to us **at the very latest by 14<sup>th</sup> July so that we can finalise catering, size of pig etc.** Bring your own booze as usual, and offerings of salads and puds will be gratefully received ... as well as raffle prizes please.

### Dog Show Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September

Sarah Royle would like to hear from anyone who might have a particular preference for classes for the dog show? If you do, please give her a ring (845288) or email [sarahjane.royle@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjane.royle@gmail.com)).

### Ride & Stride 8<sup>th</sup> September

Jean Roberts would like to hear from anyone wishing to take part in this event or who is willing to do a stint of sitting at the church to welcome Riders & Striders. (Tel. 841194 or email [jean.roberts2@btinternet.com](mailto:jean.roberts2@btinternet.com))

## Dates for your diary are ....

- Pig Roast, at Old School, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July – see above and attached).

- Parish Council meeting Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August – Bradwell Village
- Dog Show Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September
- Ride & Stride Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September
- Chapel Harvest service & tea Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September
- Soup lunch Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 12.00-2.00pm (*new date*)
- Church Harvest service and lunch Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October
- Parish Council meeting Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October
- Coffee morning/Bring & Buy Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November
- Fireworks (instead of Halloween) Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November
- Soup lunch Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 12.00-2.00pm
- Soup lunch Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 12.00-2.00pm
- Chapel carol service & tea Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December
- Church carol service & supper Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December
- Parish Council meeting Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December
- Carols by the pond Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

## **Shilton Old School Management Committee AGM Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July**

The OSMC AGM is open to everyone. If you'd like to attend it starts at 7.30pm in the Old School.

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

Attached you'll also find details of a proposed new Neighbourhood Watch scheme. If interested, again please contact Sarah Royle.

## **Parish Council** meeting dates for 2018 are as follows:

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August- Bradwell Village

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October - Shilton Old School

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Shilton Old School

All meetings start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. Meetings at Bradwell Village take place in the Dining Room.

*Ann Tyldesley, Clerk to the Council 01367 860130*

Shirley Cuthbertson, Secretary, Old School Committee\*, C/o Honeystone Cottage, Ladburn Lane, Shilton Tel: 01993 842404 \*Old School Committee = Marilyn Cox, Jean Roberts, Helena Wright, Lis Lovell, Sarah Royle, Penny Pearce, Mary Colson, Guy Richmond, Paula Talford and Shirley Cuthbertson.

***From Veronica Barry ....***



## **UK Swift Awareness Week**

We had a great turnout for the village 'Swift walk' linking to wider events taking place across the UK as part of the first National Swift Awareness Week. Fourteen of us - including two people from Stroud who saw us on the 'google map' of activity, spent a beautiful midsummer evening in the village admiring its resident Swift population.

We counted over eighteen birds and watched them 'screaming' over the church and Hill Green, as well as entering nests in tight-fitting spaces under the roofing tiles. David Roberts' brilliant knowledge gave an insight into the life of these wonderful birds ... which live 80% of their life on the wing and travel over 6,000 miles to and from Southern Africa before they return to Shilton in May. We also looked at Ron Mackenzie's Swift nest boxes, and learnt about how these birds are reducing in numbers as they lose their life-long nest spaces when rooves are replaced. David and Veronica will be entering Shilton's swifts on the RSPB survey. If anyone thinks they have Swifts nesting, let us know! If you are thinking of re-roofing we would love to speak to you about how you can act in time to keep nesting spaces for Swifts into the future. Useful information can be found at:

<http://actionforswifts.blogspot.com>, [www.swiftconservation.org](http://www.swiftconservation.org) or contact Veronica if you would like an information leaflet

# Shilton Village Pig Roast

## Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm

Pig roast, Salads and desserts included

Bring your own booze & soft drinks ... and something to sit on if you can  
Raffle

<b>Return completed form no later than 14<sup>th</sup> July please</b>
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I would like ..... adult tickets @ £10.00 each      =      £\_\_\_\_\_

and ..... 5-14 year old tickets at £5.00 each      =      £\_\_\_\_\_

(under 5s free)

**Total**      £\_\_\_\_\_

*(please make cheques payable to Shilton Village Hall)*

I will also be able to provide: a pudding\_\_\_\_\_

a salad\_\_\_\_\_

Completed form should be returned with your payment to any of the following asap: Marilyn Cox (842470), Shirley Cuthbertson (842404), Jean Roberts 841194)
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