



# Shotesham Times

Issue 5

Autumn 2014

## Editorial

Winter approaches, a time when it is easy to become engrossed in indoor pursuits and sometimes to feel a bit lonely. It takes effort, but there is no shortage of things to do and people to meet up with in Shotesham. This addition of Shotesham Times focuses on what is happening in the village. It offers opportunities to join in, to write for us, or to become a campanologist. Take a look at the fantastic Shotesham website calendar and find some company at one of the community events. There are articles about farming, bee keeping, table tennis and more; Shotesham is a lively and friendly village. Don't wait for New Year to make a resolution, don't be alone, resolve to join in!

### A round up of events

**Summer Fete** Sunshine, face painting, a craft tent, ice cream and a dog show all add up to the village fete. There were all the usual stalls and in addition this year, a display of wonderful birds of prey to add to the enjoyment.

The evening entertainment, a live band, dancing and a fish and chip supper rounded off a very successful day. Thanks to everyone who helped put up the tents, all who made cakes and organised events. Well done.



### V2 Rocket Exhibition

On a Sunday afternoon in early October, The Trinity Hall was full, with the words "I remember when..." coming from some of the older residents who were there on that fateful day in 1944 when a V2 Rocket landed in Joy's Loke, close to the School. Film of the launching of the V2 bringing the whole story to life, the realization that Shotesham had been very fortunate in the outcome of 'their' Rocket..Sarah, Sue and Mike, and the young reporters are to be



congratulated. Working tirelessly to produce history information boards illustrated with photographs of

Villagers of the time, their accounts and personal stories. We and all other visitors were totally absorbed in a piece of real-life local history. **Dick and Jan Jeeves**

### Fawnfield Pigs

Things have just about returned to normal on the farm after the extra work that summer always brings.

The hot weather in early July turned into typical British summer weather of a few hot days and then a thunderstorm as soon as harvest started, making it yet again a challenge to get the straw baled for bedding the pigs. At least with harvest being a few days earlier it gave us a bit more time to clear the fields before next year's crop is sown. It's always nice to get the bales stacked in the barn as soon as possible as allowing them to get wet in the field causes them to 'heat up' when stacked which produces a number of moulds which can be harmful to the pigs.

The grain store is just about filled up with new grain brought from a local farmer, it will be milled up in the coming months to produce pig feed.

The pigs continue to produce good sized litters averaging around 14 piglets born a litter. The biggest litter so far this year has been 22 piglets. With cool nights and misty mornings reminding us that summer is coming to an end let's hope for a kind autumn and winter

**The Jackson Family**



**Table Tennis** has begun again in the Trinity Hall on Thursdays at 6.30p.m. New players are very welcome. If you have not played before, but would like a try, we will be happy to arrange a trial session for you. Table tennis has been played in the village for many years, starting in the Methodist Chapel meeting room. Numbers have varied, and are currently lower than for some time, hence our eagerness to recruit new people, young and old, ladies and gentlemen.

You don't need to be an expert, in fact many people hadn't played since they were children, just want to have a bit of fun, and keep fit!

Please ring David Howes (the current organiser) - 01508 558458 or Dave Fox - 01508 558234, Tim Drake - 01508 558418.



## Me and the bee

I came into beekeeping by accident. In 1962 a friend from college days offered me a hive of bees and all the equipment for the hobby. It transpired that his brother had been given two hives and the gear by his parents as a birthday present. In today's currency that would have cost several hundred pounds. Lucky lad, but not so lucky bees, their new owner was quickly bored and neglected them after a year or so. One colony died and the other was in poor shape when I received them in the autumn of 1962.



The New Year, in 1963, was the coldest on record. It began on Boxing Day with a snow storm and sub-zero temperatures. The freeze lasted until mid March and devastated wild life across the country, including my bees.

I was hooked but had no bees. There were none for sale in the UK, so I had to import a colony. The obvious choice was package bees from the United States. These were widely traded in America because the far north was too cold in winter for bees and beekeepers had to replace stocks every year.

Commodification is normal in the USA and the packaging process was no exemption and almost beyond belief.

It starts, conventionally enough, with the production of queen bees, a common practice in beekeeping. The worker bees, though, are produced in mass production systems.

Large hives are fed to generate very large colonies of bees. At harvest time, their queens are removed and discarded. The bees are then shaken into a large barrel until it is full – aided by a light spraying with syrup. The heaving mass is doled out into mesh boxes, using something like a kitchen ladle – a couple of pints per box. A young fertile queen is inserted, in a smaller box for her initial protection, and off they go to beekeepers around the world.

This was how I got my beekeeping re-started in 1963, and I've been going ever since.

**Colin Purdom**

## More events in pictures

### September 20th Harvest Supper and Ceilidh



### October 4th Big Sky Concert in All Saints



## New Vicar for Shotesham Churches

Earlier this year removal vans were busy criss-crossing the A140 as Adrian Miller, one time vicar at Shotesham moved to Mulbarton and Dawn Davidson, non-stipendiary minister at Mulbarton took his place here.

Dawn and her family, husband Tim and son Joel, moved in June to the Rectory in Saxlingham, as she joined the Tas Valley Team with special responsibility for the Shotesham and Saxlingham churches.

This is Dawn's first position as team vicar; she started her training in Mulbarton in 2006 and became ordained in 2009. Before that Dawn worked in various businesses, including Norwich Union (Aviva) and Anglia, as well as being a stay-at-home mum.

She is delighted to be part of Shotesham life, and is looking forward to help the churches grow and to meet more local people.

Dawn's first Holy Communion service at All Saints could be called a 'baptism of fire' as part of the service was filmed for Anglia news Hidden Histories series [www.itv.com/news/anglia/2014-08-13/hidden-histories-the-county-with-the-largest-concentration-of-churches-in-the-world/](http://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2014-08-13/hidden-histories-the-county-with-the-largest-concentration-of-churches-in-the-world/)

However she acquitted herself well and we are pleased to welcome this friendly down-to-earth person to the village.





### Coming up

**Sunday November 9th War Memorial at 10.45, an act of Remembrance** . If there are villages who have lost relatives in any conflict and would like to place a cross on the memorial please contact Jeff Gough on 550358 who will be happy to supply a small cross.

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 7:30 p.m  
Poetry Evening at The Globe –**

The Village Association is arranging an informal event where people can bring and read out their favourite poems, poems that mean something to them or even poems that they've written. It's on Armistice Day so a WW1 flavour wouldn't be amiss. Do come with your poems (not too long!) and join in or just sit, listen and be transported on the wings of words.

**Saturday December 6th 10am-12noon Trinity Hall Village Christmas Market**

As Christmas is a time for giving, as well as the usual goodies on sale there will be a free gift and cracker under the tree for any children there. Also a raffle in aid of Nelson's Journey

### Shotesham Estate

We have had perfect growing weather over the last 12 months, which culminated in one of the best harvests we have had at Shotesham Estates in terms of yield and quality, with some crops up to 30% higher than average. All crops established well in good conditions and were subjected to a mild winter, plenty of sunshine and moisture at the key times. We had the rare and pleasant 'problem' of struggling to find places to safely store it all! The harvest is the culmination of a years work for Chris Harvey our farmworker and me, so it is very pleasing to see all the hours and attention to detail being rewarded. Unfortunately the world is currently over-supplied so our celebrations were short-lived with prices falling dramatically!

We have invested heavily in field drainage costing £1000/ac over the last few years to ensure that the fields' potential are not hindered by the impact of wet soils. This involves assessing the field's soil type. The higher the clay content the less 'free draining' the soil. On the 'heavier', more clay fields, we place perforated plastic pipes at 0.8m deep, at up to 40m apart with stone in the trench above. The fields are then 'mole'd' at right angles to these main drains. This involves pulling a vertical leg with a steel cylinder at the base through the soil at 0.6m deep and 2.7m apart. The water then runs down these slits and fissures into the 'mole' created, then along into the stone above the main drains and away into the ditches. The recently drained areas now yield as well as the rest of the field.



Next year's crops are now establishing well following the very welcome recent rains and continued warm weather.

The Sunflowers, shown here, are planted annually for bird cover and they have also flourished this year.

**Jon Nott**

### The Flag of East Anglia



If you've been for a walk along Hawes Green, you might have noticed an unusual flag flying in the front garden of Dairy Cottage. This is the official flag of East Anglia.

It was invented by George Henry Langham around 1900 and draws upon the coat of arms of the Wuffingas dynasty, namely three crowns in a blue shield, the colour of the Swedish flag, superimposed on the red cross of St George. This is a reference to the region's Anglo Scandinavian roots, the Wuffingas having taken their name from Wuffa, an early East Anglian King. The three crowns appear as early as 1400 on the baptismal font in the parish Church of Saxmundham, as well as in the arms of the borough of Bury St Edmunds and the University of East Anglia. I have also seen them on enamelled shields above an old shop in Norwich.

The region's name derived from the Angles, a tribe that originated in Angeln, in what is today northern Germany, but was then part of Denmark. The Kingdom of the East Angles formed about 520 by the merging of the North and the South Folk who had settled in the former lands of the Iceni during the previous century and during the early C7th was one of the most powerful Kingdoms in Britain.

As we in Norfolk do not possess a specific county flag, like Lincolnshire or Cornwall for example, this is the nearest device we have to define our local identity in the United Kingdom.

## News in Brief

### Bell Ringing at All Saints

A few years ago, having heard the bells at All Saints being rung for a wedding, I climbed the spiral staircase one practice night and watched the ringers. They made it look so easy, however when I tried, I found it was anything but!



Going back the following week I was given a pocket book of instructions telling me that "learning to ring is a long job even for the brainiest of us – a lifetime long". Now, nearly seven years later, I've barely scratched the surface of all there is to ringing bells.

It is not just the physical aspect of controlling a bell that weighs several hundred-weight by pulling a rope, there is also the mental challenge of change ringing and learning methods. Unlike on the continent, where bells were struck with hammers or swung haphazardly, during the seventeenth century English ringers developed their own method of ringing by mounting the bell on a wheel and swinging it full circle. This gave the ringers control over when their bell sounded among the other bells and ringing in the "English Manner," change ringing, began and this is how we ring today.

Ringing is an enjoyable hobby and I also find the history of all the churches we ring in and their bells fascinating.

**Jan Thurlow**

Wonderful view from the bell tower



### Shotesham.com

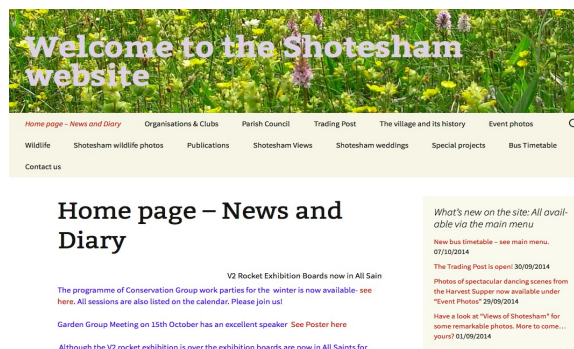
The idea for Shotesham's new website came up at the Village Association in April. We thought about the basics. What should it do and who was it for? Who would update it and keep it relevant? Once we found answers it was time to start.

Before thinking about design we recruited our team of volunteers who would keep the site up to date. After that the first practical steps were easy. A domain name cost £8.99 and a year with a hosting site £34.99. We discovered "Wordpress" - a sophisticated free website building kit. This offered the possibility that a few volunteers with little IT knowledge could muddle through and create a decent website whilst learning enough to go on developing it.

This was not as easy as it first seemed and involved many hours of scratching heads. Eventually though it took shape and a few months later shotesham.com was ready for launching in September.

We wanted the website to "belong" to the village residents. We are delighted to say that by the time of the launch almost 40 people had contributed material. So, we hope you see it as your website. Please tell us what you think ("Contact Us") and help us to keep making it more and more useful.

**Frank Mitchell**



#### Home page – News and Diary

What's new on the site: All available via the main menu  
New bus timetable – see main menu, 09/10/2014  
The Trading Post is open! 30/09/2014  
Photos of spectacular dancing scenes from the Harvest Supper now available under "Event Photos" 29/09/2014  
Have a look at "Views of Shotesham" for some remarkable photos. More to come... yours! 01/09/2014

V2 Rocket Exhibition Boards now in All Saints  
The programme of Conservation Group work parties for the winter is now available- see here. All sessions are also listed on the calendar. Please join us!  
Garden Group Meeting on 15th October has an excellent speaker! See Poster here  
Although the V2 rocket exhibition is over the exhibition boards are now in All Saints for

### Dates for your diary

See **Contact** or **Shotesham.com** for up-to-date information

**Sunday November 9th 10.45am War Memorial** Act of Remembrance to mark 100 years since World War 1

**Tuesday November 11th 7.30pm The Globe** Poem and a pint

**Friday November 21st 7pm Trinity Hall**-Film night 'Chef'

**Saturday December 6th 10-12** Village Christmas Market

**Wednesday December 24th 6pm** Carol singing around the tree on Church Hill and then inside All Saints for entertainment and refreshments.

**Wednesday December 31st The Globe 12 noon** New Year Fun Run

### The Shotesham Times editorial team,

Sue Astbury, Maureen Lister and Mike Knights, would like to thank all the contributors to this edition.

If you have a story to tell, or would like to help in any way contact

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