



# Shotesham Times

Issue 4

Spring 2014

## Editorial

Welcome to a packed edition of the Shotesham Times. So packed that we haven't been able to cover all the events that have taken place in the village over the last 6 months...sorry. There seems to be a lot about habitats in this issue, human and otherwise. We've started a new series about Shotesham sheds, so let us know about yours. Read about a new "eco-house" and catch up with Andy Musgrove's Shotesham species count. There's no shortage of things to do in the village—find out about the walking group and be inspired to be part of "Team Shotesham".

### One dark night in December...

An invitation to a Murder Mystery Supper in was too good to miss! On a cold night in early December we arrived at the Trinity, with strict instructions to be there before 7. The response was certainly enthusiastic, as I have never seen so many in the hall. We sat with a couple from North Walsham and another from Great Yarmouth, all keen to hear about the nefarious goings on in such a respectable village.

As the lights dimmed, the story began to unfold. I was rather shocked: it was as if Midsomer Murders had come to Shotesham! We had a thrilling adventure, and a corpse, and then the audience was asked to identify the killer.



The lights went up for the interval. As if from nowhere, a delicious meal suddenly appeared, and while we ate and drank there was much speculation at each table as the amateur detectives sifted the clues.

The Master then appeared. Our very own professional, looking more like Worzel Gummidge than Colombo, proceeded to question the suspects and reveal the villain, or villainess! The rest of us got it wrong!

An outstanding evening! Enormous thanks to all the thespians and especially to – Maureen Lister, who wrote the script.

John Albert

### A Dog's View

Waiting for The Walkers to set off on another stimulating bi-monthly trek across well loved footpaths around Shotesham, or further afield, travelling on buses and in cars, I can hardly contain my excitement! Along with Milo, Bramwell, Johnny and maybe other four-legged friends, we follow (or sometimes lead) the chatty group. Sometimes I get confused by the number of booted feet and legs in front and above me, and try hard not to allow my lead to become tangled with others. Puddles, streams, stiles and gates add to the mix of agility tests and obstacles we enjoy. A welcome stop at a 'hostelry' or a picnic in a secret place is a special treat.



Don't get me wrong. It isn't necessary to have 'man's best friend' to join in and don't think it will be difficult to keep up. Walks last a *maximum* of 2 hours. We have different leaders for each rotating weekday or monthly Sunday walk. The pace is *reasonably* gentle.

Whatever the weather, Walkers and Canines benefit from the exercise, companionship and the relaxed, informal atmosphere. Why not come along?

Sam Jeeves (woof)

### The Globe Pub

Although the building has probably been there for about 300 years or more, the first recorded publican was James Aldred in 1835. Ali and David have been 'mine hosts' since 2006. This was a complete career change for them and their aim was to run a friendly, local country pub, which they've certainly achieved. Food is served every day, except Monday, and in the words of a satisfied customer 'You never leave with an empty stomach, this is real pub grub'

They have had, until recently, men and women's darts teams and would like to restart them this autumn. So if you would like to have fun, and have the time to play regularly, just get in touch. You don't need to be an expert. Finally, the famous annual marrow growing competition will be taking place; seedlings will be available in the pub from the end of May.



## More News in Brief

### Cinema comes to Shotesham

Well it is not Cinema City, it's village cinema and Raz Woolacott who organises it tries to choose a variety of films to appeal to a wide audience. He certainly did in January when extra chairs had to be found to accommodate the many people who came to see Woody Allen's production of Blue Jasmine. This was a real treat for cinema buffs but also appealed to those of us who just like a good story. At the end of March we saw "Wadjda", the story of a Saudi girl and her quest to ride a bicycle. The next screening will be in the autumn, let Raz know if you've any favourites that should be shown.

### Village Market

These popular events are held on a regular basis in the Trinity Hall. You can buy a range of locally produced food stuff and other items, ranging from delicious sausages, honey and preserves, yummy cakes to homemade crafts. If you, or you and some friends, would like a stall contact Gwen Jackson on 550337. Next market dates will be Saturday May 24th, then Saturday August 23rd and Saturday October 18th.

### First Annual Plant Fair



Shotesham Gardeners held their first ever plant fair on a sunny Saturday in April. Local gardeners brought plants that they had grown and these were quickly bought up by customers from far and wide. A great success, which will be repeated next year. Thanks to Sarah Cushion for masterminding it and to Tricia for the use of the Trinity grounds.

### A shed of my own

Last year, after 30 years of family life where nothing can be called one's own and every part of the house is shared, I decided the time had come to find a personal retreat and a shepherd's hut seemed ideal.



The original ones are full of character but they were built with very few windows to keep the weather out, whereas I wanted sunlight streaming in and to enjoy the wonderful views of the Tas valley and local wildlife. Having seen some at a workshop nearby I designed one with double doors, windows on all sides and just enough room for a sofa bed, imagining the occasional sleep over. The choice of paint colour was easy - it had to be sky blue so that glimpsed through the trees, even on grey days, it looks cheerful and makes me smile.

A harder decision was where to position it so that it was accessible on my daily dog walks but far enough away from the house to feel like an escape. Eventually after severe flooding along the valley it became obvious that there was one piece of land higher than the rest which was right on the river, facing West into the setting sun and easily fenced off from the grazing cattle. This year it has

been severely tested and, although the river lapped around the wheels, the hut remained dry and I can check it hasn't floated off to Stoke Holy Cross from the bathroom window.

The fun part was filling it with practical and beautiful things, reflecting the countryside. It is adorned with homemade bunting made for our daughter's wedding, rugs, lanterns, flower paintings, wildlife books, charts of butterflies and a driftwood mirror. Plus of course things you need to camp out, including a bottle holder on a rope to cool the wine in the river Tas.

Finally a fire pit was positioned in front so we can cook and then warm ourselves in the evening, watching the setting sun. Even the space underneath is useful for storing firewood and garden tools.

The cattle graze either side of the river and the regular birdlife consists of a pair of nesting swans, the barn owls which glide past each afternoon, and the occasional flash of a blue kingfisher.

The profusion of snowdrops along the banks in Spring will give way to comfrey and loosestrife and then Himalayan balsam, which attracts numerous bees and butterflies and entertains with the unexpected explosion of the seed pods.

This is an evolving project with plans to build more owl boxes, moor a kayak and introduce some bee hives. The water is remarkably clear and we have ventured in for a spot of wild swimming, so a landing platform is also on the wish list to avoid scrambling up the muddy bank.

On summer weekends my hut is ideal for sharing with friends and family but on most days of the year it is my very own place of calm solitude.

Gill Tewson



## I'd love to live in a house like that ( part 2)

In the last edition of Shotesham Times we talked about Grove Farm and the changing profile of housing in Shotesham. So from old to new, would you like to live in an eco-sustainable house similar to the one proposed by Dennis Jewell? The house is to be built into the hillside at the entrance to the village. The site is shown in the photo. Compared to Grove Farm there would be little or no history attached to it. Yet it is already developing its own stories as it travels through the planning and development processes. True, it is yet to be built, but many people have been involved in the planning and already have their stories to tell. When it is built there will be new stories that will become part of Shotesham's architectural history.

So what makes this build an eco-friendly house? This particular build would meet Code level 6 standards. It means the home will have to be completely zero carbon (i.e. zero net emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from all energy use in the home). This is achieved by using highly environmentally friendly materials, minimizing construction waste. It means using current top insulation materials for the roof, walls, windows and doors whilst maintaining a level of ventilation for good health and maximizing provision for recycling. In some ways it utilises Roman bath style ducting for warm air management, plus solar management for electricity generation and hot water. The choice of every appliance using water must be carefully considered, and grey water would be re-cycled along with rain water harvesting.

In fact, doing everything to minimize the ecological impact of the construction of the home. The outcome of all these measures is that fuel bills are likely to be negligible.

The house will also consider the future use of the property for example, making provision for access for wheelchairs and if necessary a lift.

The surrounding landscape and inner courtyard garden has had to pass a rigorous set of criteria to blend with the surrounding countryside and sustain, and encourage, a wide variety of wildlife. Sounds like it would attract wildlife galore... so if you are an arachnophobe it's probably a no better bet than an ancient property!

But there are a growing number of people who in these times of rising fuel bills and concerns about the environment find themselves saying "I'd just love to live in a house like that". How about you? Ancient or modern?

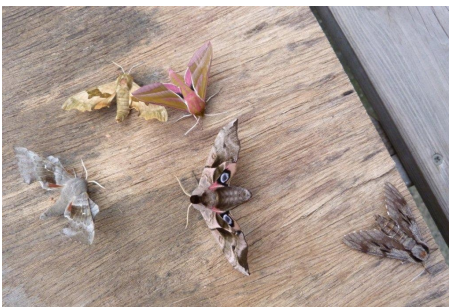
Maureen Lister



### The 1,000 species challenge

Last year, I wrote about how I had set myself a challenge to see if I could find 1,000 species of animals, plants and fungi in a 1-km square around my house in Shotesham. I can now reveal that the final total for the year was an incredible 1,406 species! In the event, I reached the 1,000 mark on 9<sup>th</sup> July (the flower Greater Spearwort in the pond on the common alongside Hollow Lane), but then kept the challenge going. I finally added the largest animal of the year – the Roe Deer – during a family walk on Christmas Day – and continued to add new species in the closing hours of New Year's Eve. The last species was a Rabbit Flea that we pulled off our cat!

The final breakdown included: 91 birds, 14 mammals, 22 butterflies, 497 moths, 13 dragonflies, 10 grasshoppers, 92 beetles, 105 flies, 64 bees and wasps, 18 spiders, 5 centipedes, 5 millipedes, 15 snails and slugs, 53 fungi, 311 plants (including 4 orchids) and a variety of other creatures (including 2 fleas!)



It sounds a lot of species, but if I learned one thing it was that I was still overlooking an awful lot more. I expect the true number of species around Shotesham is probably over 5,000. There's a lot of wildlife out there, under our noses. The biodiversity of our village is fascinating and often beautiful, and there is a lot still to learn. In particular, Shotesham Common is a very rich habitat of a type that is becoming increasingly rare in our countryside, and we should try to manage it carefully, especially for plants and insects that thrive in such damp habitats.

I'm still looking for more new species, if somewhat less intensively this year! I have already found quite a lot more this year, including a bug called *Acericerus heydenii* which has never before been recorded in Norfolk! Yesterday I found another new centipede under a garden plant pot. If you find any interesting wildlife around the village I'd be delighted to hear about it – simply email me at [andy@bubo.org](mailto:andy@bubo.org).

Andy Musgrove

## More News

### Japan here I come!

My name is Laura Jackson and for the past 11 years I have been involved in Girlguiding, from a Rainbow to now a Young Leader at the age of 16 with the Guides at 43rd Saxlingham Nethergate Scout and Guide Group. I applied to take part in an International Opportunity with Girlguiding Anglia which has involved attending a selection weekend in November 2012 and a second interview in November 2013, both at Pax Lodge (one of the four World Centres) in London. Following this process, I am fortunate to be one of the Girl Guides that has been chosen to represent the UK and Norfolk (being one of only two Guides from Norfolk), for the 23rd World Scout Jamboree which is to be held in Japan in July and August of 2015. The trip involves a few days acclimatising and sightseeing in and around the capital city of Tokyo, the 10-day jamboree itself which includes a visit to Hiroshima, a peace programme, water activities and a community project, and finally I will spend several days at a home stay to get a real feel of everyday Japanese life and culture.

The World Scout Jamboree itself is a fantastic peace exercise where 30,000 young people from around the world meet in Japan across geographical, religious and cultural borders. We will learn teambuilding and leadership skills, giving us tools to contribute to a better society in our communities. In order to help those Scouts and Guides from less privileged countries who would otherwise have not been able to participate in the Jamboree, some of the fees I raise will contribute towards their costs, enabling them to share this amazing experience. I have gained so much from Guiding and I hope to share my experiences with others so they can see what fantastic opportunities are on offer.

As Girlguiding UK is a registered charity, it is a requirement for me to fundraise the cost of the trip of £3400 myself. I am very excited about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and feel honoured to have been selected, which is why I would really love to attend. I have already had a series of fundraising events including a coffee morning, danceathon, jumble sale, quiz night and craft fair, and on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July I am hosting a talk, demonstration and book signing by local artist, John Patchett, at the Trinity. This event will be £4 to include a glass of Pimm's or soft drink – I hope that you can make it!

I would also like to thank everybody for their support over the past few months with my fundraising events.



### Team Shotesham

Team Shotesham participated in the Norfolk Village Games for the first time, last year. On a sunny Sunday in June, on the sports fields of Framingham High School, villages from across South Norfolk competed in sports ranging from Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Climbing Wall, Darts, Fitness Triathlon, Five-a-Side Football, Rounders, Short Mat Bowls, Table Tennis, and Tennis.



36 villagers, aged 8 to 70+ made up Team Shotesham, and fielded a team for all the competitions. A great feat in itself! We won the Athletics competition for small villages, and came 3rd in Archery, Five-a side Football, and Tennis. Not bad eh!, for our first attempt. Shown here are Ben Allen and Euan Thomson of The Grove, receiving awards for winning Athletics competition

We hope to field a full Team for the 2014 Games in June, at Long Stratton. WE NEED YOU! Remember; it's not all about the winning, but the taking

part, and having fun.

If you would like a taster of some of the sports e.g. archery, table tennis, new age kurling, come along to the Norfolk Village Games Roadshow at Saxlingham Scout Hut on Sunday May 18th, 11am-1pm

For further info contact Raz Woollacott 550122, [razwoollacott@gmail.com](mailto:razwoollacott@gmail.com).

### Dates for your diary

See **Contact** for up-to-date information

**Friday June 6<sup>th</sup>** Harper Wells Wine Tasting event, Trinity Hall

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June Village Sports Event** – Long Stratton

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July** Village Fete and Evening party/supper

**Saturday 20 September** Harvest Supper with Ceilidh

**4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> October** Village History- V2 Rocket Exhibition/, Trinity Hall

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October** – Big Sky Concert, All Saint's

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October, Karen Heywood, Professor of Oceanography**, will talk about '**Observing the ocean with UEA's mechanical dolphins**'.

Seaglidors are a revolutionary new way to help us to understand the mysteries of the ocean. Similar to a dolphin in size and shape, they survey the ocean and send their data back by mobile phone, receiving instructions from pilots back at UEA.

UEA operates a fleet of 4 Seaglidors worldwide, including several Antarctic missions and some more locally in the North Sea. The UEA Seaglidors were featured on Mustard TV, available at <http://www.mustardtv.co.uk/browse/the-robotic-dolphins-of-norfolk/>