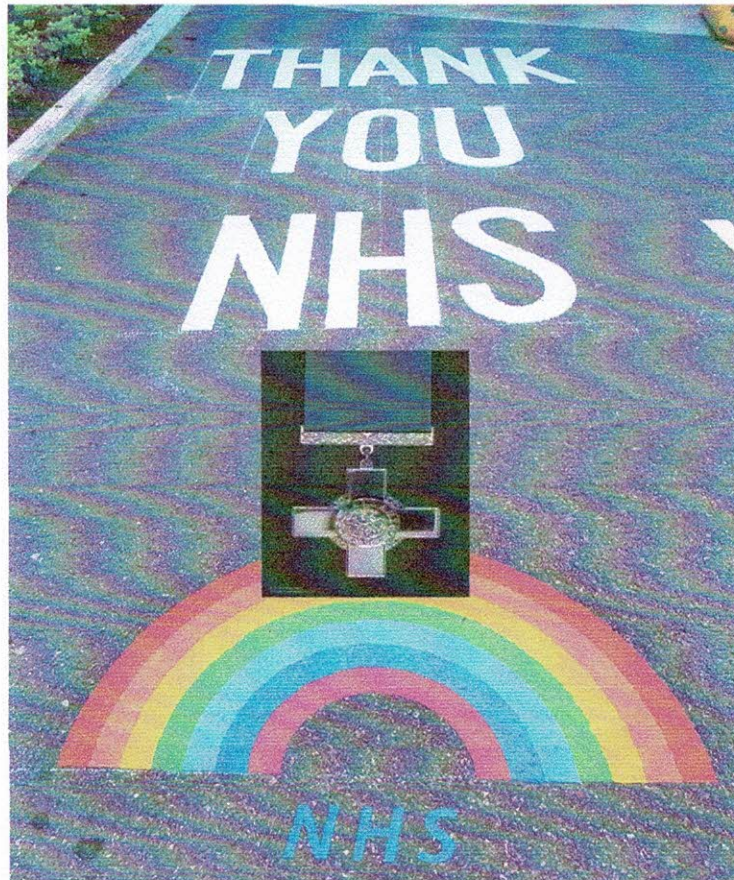


**Stottesdon and Sidbury  
Parish Council**



**Newsletter July 2021**

Hello to all our readers!

Due to the Covid pandemic and the Clerk's illness the production of the newsletters was put on hold but with things slowly get back to 'normal' we have decided to start production again.

**Covid-19:**

First of all a big thank you to everyone in our parish who helped during this pandemic in all kinds of ways - collecting prescriptions, shopping etc. It was very pleasing to see what wonderful community spirit was shown.

Last year the Parish Council were asked to nominate a couple of people who put themselves in the front line and helped in the community through the Pandemic. It was difficult to nominate a couple of people so we sent in names from throughout the Parish and those nominated should have received a card from Mrs Anna Turner, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire. We are sorry that we could not nominate more people but thanks again to all who helped and are still helping parishioners now!

We cannot thank our wonderful NHS enough for all their hard work and dedication throughout the pandemic which has been recognised by the Queen awarding our NHS the George Cross.

We are all extremely grateful for all keyworkers who helped keep things as normal as possible - teachers, shopworkers, delivery drivers etc, everyone played their part.

Thanks to the Doctors and Staff at Brown Clee Medical Practice and Stottesdon Surgery for all your hard work throughout the pandemic and with the vaccination programme.

**Elections:**

As you are all aware Shropshire Council and Parish Council elections were held in May.

Unfortunately we did not have enough candidates come forward so an election was not held for the Parish Council.

We have been very lucky to co-opt 3 new Councillors - Laura Grey from Bagginswood, Zoe Griffin and Mark Pearce from Stottesdon so we are now back to having a full council. Names of all Councillors is on the back of this newsletter.

It was with much regret that sadly Brian Hamilton-Russell passed away last October. Brian had been a Councillor for many years and served as Chairman for several years. Brian was a much respected Councillor and gave a very generous donation towards the purchase of the old Fox and Hounds car park now called 'The Surgery car park'.

Thanks also to David Ferguson and Beverley Montague who served on the Parish Council.

### **Shropshire Councillors:**

Gwilym Butler was re-elected and Simon Harris from Kinlet has taken over from Madge.

Their contact details are: gwilym.butler@shropshire.gov.uk and simon.r.harris@shropshire.gov.uk

### **Madge Shingleton:**

We were very sad that Madge Shingleton did not stand for re-election as Shropshire Councillor.

Madge was first elected to Stottesdon Parish Council in 1978, she was then elected as a Bridgnorth District Councillor then as one of our Shropshire Councillors when it went Unitary whilst still on the Parish Council as well as running The Hollows Nursery business.

Madge moved to Cleobury Mortimer so she was unable to remain on our Parish Council but Madge did so much for this Parish during her terms of Office and still continued to attend our meetings as Shropshire Councillor until she retired in May as she was not getting any younger!

Madge was one of many who helped securing the playing field attached to Stottesdon School and her photograph can be found in the book 'Stud on the Hill' selling drainpipes to allow the field to be drained.

The Kinsleys at Stottesdon and The Meers at Chorley were houses built by Shropshire Rural Housing Association for local people through Madge's hard work and dedication to the parish as she was well aware of the lack of housing for young people.

Madge will be remembered for all her hard work, straight talking, help and support given to the Parish Council and many people in the area.

It is time for Madge to put her feet up and take a well earned rest.

Thanks Madge - you will be missed!

### **Roadside hedges/trees:**

Can we please ask all landowners to check their roadside trees as numerous have come down over the last year or so blocking roads.

Roadside hedges are also a problem, can these be cut as soon as you are able to please?

### **Grit bins:**

Thinking ahead please let the Clerk know where grit bins are required and we will ask SC to provide, if possible. The damaged one at the bottom of Moonhouse Bank has been reported. Piles of grit cannot be left on the sides of the roads.

### **Road maintenance:**

Reports of potholes etc are sent to Shropshire Council on a very regular basis by the Clerk. We are all as frustrated as everyone else that work is not being carried out as quick as we would like it to happen but we keep pressing on!

Please report any problems you see to Shropshire Council - the more complaints they receive the better! If you have damaged your vehicle/tyres go onto [www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk) where you can find advice for claiming for damage.

We regret the upset the road closures have caused but this is the only way the work can be carried out. There will be another road closure in Station Road when work is carried out on the drainage system at the bottom of Moonhouse Bank to prevent the flooding which occurs. This should have been carried out in February but Councillors were not happy that the work planned would solve the problem so this had to go back to 'the drawing board', we are assured that the money is still earmarked for the work.

### **Parking:**

We are sorry to have remind everyone again about parking in the village:

**The Surgery car park** is for use of Doctors, Staff and Patients during Surgery hours after this parking is allowed but ALL cars must be removed ready for Surgery opening hours. **PLEASE DO NOT** park in the areas marked for **MEDICAL STAFF**. If you would like to park a vehicle there for some reason other than using the Surgery then please contact the Parish Council Clerk for permission. We will have to consider other options if these requests are not adhered to.

**Parish Council parking bays in Glebe Drive.** These were put as **SHORT TERM** parking for parents bringing and collecting children from school, nursery and visitors to the village and not for residents parking, as per the sign.

**Parking outside Stottesdon School:** Once again concerns have been expressed regarding the amount of vehicles parking on the side of the road outside the school. **PLEASE** remember farm vehicles, delivery vehicles, lorries and Emergency Services need to get through. Vehicles are being parked on a bend and vehicles coming from the bottom end of the village are having to drive on the wrong side of the road - an accident waiting to happen!

**PLEASE** using the parking bays in Glebe Drive or on the drive as long as dropped kerbs, gates and pavements are not blocked but **DO NOT** park on the grass. Thank you!

### **Police:**

We now have a new Police Officer and a new PSCO covering our area - PC Strangwood and PCSO Jacqui Fletcher along with PCSO Shelley Hyde.

### **Stottesdon Oaks - a potential project: Wade Muggleton**

Do you look at the view around the parish? We all move around the roads, paths and look out of our windows but what do we see? Well almost everywhere you will see trees but do we ever think about the make up of the view, what is the species, age and health of those trees.

It was interesting to read in the Cleobury Clarion that people in Cleobury Mortimer have undertaken a tree survey of their parish to ascertain the health of their tree stock. The results are very concerning, for they discovered that in what they term "the lowland and countryside of Cleobury parish" they have around 8,500 trees over 10 years of age. But that 6,500 of those are estimated to be over 150 years old, making 76% of the tree stock old or elderly, meaning there is a huge gap in the age structure of their parish trees.

Now I would guarantee that were we to conduct the same survey here in Stottesdon, Chorley and Sidbury we would come up with an almost identical result. In short, our Parish, along with most others, has a huge shortage of young trees to ultimately replace those oldies in the landscape, meaning that if we do nothing our Parish will look very different in a few decades time; a far more open and, I would say, way less attractive landscape.

So is it perhaps time for a bit of a Parish Tree project to work together and try to get some young trees back in the view? There is an old saying that "the best time to plant a tree is ten years ago" well we don't have that luxury, any tree planting will already be playing catch up, for we cannot reproduce middle aged trees.

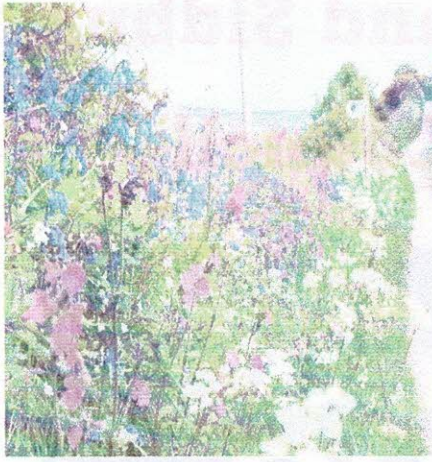
Government are telling us that as a nation we should plant many more trees in the battle against climate change, for cooling, carbon storage and as wildlife habitat. So perhaps we as a community and a parish need to make a start. I envisaged if we can find suitable locations perhaps we try and get a few oak trees going this winter, any such project is very much about doing something for future generations which in itself seems a really positive thing to do after what have been a rather negative time with the pandemic.

Anyone interested in doing something positive by way of a parish tree project ring Wade on 718753 or contact the clerk who will pass messages on.

**Please note:**

Whilst every effort is made to accuracy, Stottesdon & Sidbury Parish Council cannot in any circumstances accept responsibility for errors or omissions of advice given in this publication. The opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the views of Stottesdon & Sidbury Parish Council.

## Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project (RSVP):



A number of parishes in the south-west of the county have signed up to RSVP in recent years and your parish council has decided to join too.

This will help to increase plant biodiversity in the neighbourhood which will in turn help the pollinators (bees and butterflies etc.) and other insects with an added bonus of our verges looking more colourful and uplifting in the spring and summer.

Over the last 60 years, 97% of our wildflower meadows have been lost, which has had a huge impact on wildlife. Road verges offer a real

opportunity to help reverse this loss.

Unfortunately, many verges are cut too early in the year, with the cuttings left to rot down. This type of management removes food sources for pollinators and destroys most finer grasses and wildflowers, leaving the verges to become dominated by 'rank' vegetation such as coarse grass, hogweed and nettles.

In many places throughout the UK road verges are now being managed as mini meadows, allowing wild flowers to thrive and attract insects and other pollinators. This ensures the survival and natural spread of many native wildflowers both common and rare, and provides food for insects that pollinate our food crops.

The Parish Council has identified a number of potential sites and is working with Shropshire Council, which has overall responsibility for verge management, to plan how future verge management could better benefit wildlife, reduce carbon emissions, and enhance the beauty of our roadsides.

The verges would be managed by local volunteers. Safety would remain paramount and of course any verges which need to be cut regularly to help with road visibility would continue to be cut.

We welcome your views and involvement as the support of the local community is vital in restoring this incredibly important habitat, whilst also addressing concerns about road safety, visibility, or other local issues. You can get involved with planting, sowing seeds, growing on plug plants and many other opportunities the project can offer. Leading this project will be Cllr David Young (01746 718684) and Cllr Zoe Griffin (07980 314 088

Please let David or Zoe have your thoughts or offers of help with this project or contact the Clerk.

P.S. You can follow RSVP on social media (@ShropsVerge on Twitter and Facebook)

**St Marys Parish Church, Stottesdon:**

Please help us win National Lottery Funding by taking our Community & Heritage Survey

Your responses will help design the facilities, events and activities that this project could deliver. The 5 minute Survey is online - simply type this into your search engine: [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Stottesdon01](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Stottesdon01)

If you respond *before Friday 23rd July* you can enter our prize draw for six months membership of our monthly '100 Club' Lottery - which is our way of saying 'thank you' for all your help! Good luck!! Stottesdon PCC.

**Chorley village hall news**

We're currently open for organised for our regular weekly bookings of yoga pilates and a dance/exercise class. We're hoping to fully reopen in line with Government guidance for hall bookings soon. Our website is currently being prepared for its update and relaunch. We're hoping our popular film club will be able to reopen from September, plus a number of events for the parish up to Christmas and beyond. Volunteers always welcome.

Contact Joe Bubb on [joe@phoenix-cottage.co.uk](mailto:joe@phoenix-cottage.co.uk)

07808162891

Or Claire Bradley on [claire@woulfe.org.uk](mailto:claire@woulfe.org.uk)

07505083597

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022:**

In June 2022, the United Kingdom will once again be in the spotlight around the world while we raise a glass in celebration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's 70th Year Reign.

The May Bank Holiday has been extended to Thursday 2nd June 2022 and with an extra Bank Holiday on Friday 3rd June where we will enjoy a nationwide 4-day celebration to include splendour and pageantry like only the British know.

Royal Jubilee events are synonymous with street parties and gatherings up and down the country, friends and neighbours will get together to enjoy this historic event and show support and thanks four our Monarch Queen Elizabeth II.

The Platinum Jubilee is set to be even more extraordinary than the Diamond Jubilee and that was spectacular.

This has been discussed at the Parish Council meeting and we are looking for ideas of how to celebrate this event within the Parish.

Please let the Clerk or a Councillor know if you have any ideas or are prepared to help getting things organised.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:****CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Clerk can be contacted at all reasonable hours.

Mrs F Morris  
18 Glebe Drive  
Stottesdon  
Kidderminster  
DY14 8UF

Telephone number: 718453 (answerphone available)

Email - stottesdonpc@btinternet.com

Website: www.stottesdonpc.co.uk

**PARISH COUNCILLORS:**

Mrs R Abbiss	718451	Mr C Smith	718499
Mr D Young	718684	Mr J Rogers	718570
Mrs S Crawford	718126	Mr M Pearce	718404
Mr S Allen	718623	Mrs Z Griffin	07980314088
Dr D Powell	718863	Miss L Grey	07595 341816

**Shropshire Councillors:**

Gwilym Butler	07801099015	Simon Harris	07833094145
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Stottesdon School	718617
Shropshire Gateway Nursery	718769
Stottesdon/Sidbury Church	718127
Chorley Village Hall	718437 (bookings)
Doctors	712672
Philip Dunne, MP	01584 872187
Shropshire Council	0345 678 9000 (general enquiries)
Lacon Childe School	01299 270312
Bridgnorth Endowed School	762103
WI (Helena Hale)	718012
Power Loss Helpline	08457 331331
Mobile Library	01584 813600
Crimestoppers	0900 555111
Rural Stress Network	024 7641 2916
NHS Direct	111
Shropshire Rural Housing	01743 874848
Severn Trent Water (Emergencies)	0800 7834444
Duck Inn	718267
Fighting Cocks	718270
Shropshire Registration Service	0845 6789016
Police	101 non emergency call or 999 emergencies
<b>Tree Wardens:</b>	
Wade Muggleton (Stottesdon)	718753
Nathan Home (Chorley)	07966365157