

# **SHREWLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**

## **TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2025**

### **PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Cllr Robert Wesbury**

#### **The Council**

Councillor Jen Cleary resigned from the Parish Council in September due to work commitments. I would like to thank Jen for her role liaising with WCC to resolve highway issues in the Parish.

Garry Rollason, a resident of Hatton Station, volunteered and was co-opted to fill the vacancy at the November meeting.

#### **Planning**

The PC, as a statutory consultee on planning applications, has commented on 9 applications during the year. Shrewley Parish is in the Green Belt and any new development must meet the requirements of both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Warwick District Council (WDC) Local Plan.

Of particular concern was an application in July to erect 34 affordable homes on a small site at the rear of Oakdene Crescent in Hatton Station. In support of local residents, the Parish Council has submitted a detailed objection. A decision has not yet been made.

#### **South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)**

A new South Warwickshire Local Plan is currently being developed. This is a new joint plan with Warwick and Stratford upon Avon District Councils working together to produce a plan to cover the combined area to 2050.

A particular concern to local residents, especially those in Hatton Station, is a proposal to build a new community which includes 4,500 homes on the Arkwright Estate to the east of Hatton Station. A community group 'Keep Hatton Station Rural' (KHSR) was formed and has submitted a detailed response which the Parish Council fully supports.

The Preferred Options and public consultation stage which was planned for the end of 2023, has been delayed and will now run from January 10<sup>th</sup> for 8 weeks.

#### **Highways and Rights of Way**

After a road traffic accident in 2019, the new vehicle activated sign (VAS) outside Barn Close Nurseries was destroyed. A new sign was finally installed in 2022. However, it stopped working within a few weeks and following repeated requests to WCC Highways to repair it, it was finally repaired in May 2024 and is still working.

The PC engaged a local contractor in 2023 to maintain the village green at Shrewley Common after many years of relying on a local resident, and we are pleased with the new arrangements. As part of the PC Biodiversity Action Plan, areas to the rear of the visibility splays at Shrewley Common crossroads will be left unmown until late July 2025 to encourage wild flowers.

However, the bus shelter on the Shrewley Common crossroads was blown over in the gales at the end of 2024. It is understood that this shelter was erected in 1953 to celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and it has been a local feature for over 70 years. The PC is still assessing options for replacement.

The notice board in Case Lane needs replacing and a local contractor will provide a new board in the near future.

A number of Highway and Rights of Way problems have been reported by Councillors over the year and progress on fixing these is regularly monitored by the PC.

## **Parish Website**

With changes to legislation, technology and web hosting services, it was decided that a new website would be developed and maintained by Parish Online in the future and this is now live – [www.shrewleyparish.gov.uk](http://www.shrewleyparish.gov.uk). This will provide more flexibility, security and continuity for all the organisations that use the site.

I would like to thank my wife Linda, who created and has maintained our previous Parish website for many years.

## **Grants to Local Organisations**

The PC received a £6000+ Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) grant during the year and decided that this would be given to the Village Hall to assist with their proposed extension and improvements to the facilities.

The PC also gave grants to the Ferncumbe Youth Club to support their activities and to the Hatton PCC to assist with Church repairs.

Finally, my thanks to our Clerk, all Councillors and members of our local organisations for their efforts and support over the year and their contribution to our community.

## **SHREWLEY PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT – Clerk, Eleanor Choudry**

The 2024/25 budget set by Shrewley Parish Council was £9,475 and has increased for 2025/26 to £10,046. The Council received £6,250 Community Infrastructure Levy funds. Councillors decided to give the funds to the Village Hall Committee to help improve this valuable community asset.

The Council purchased a refurbished laptop for use by the Clerk. An Emergency First Aid kit was also purchased and is stored in the Village Hall as part of the Community Emergency Plan. The Council has a £1,000 budget to support local groups to provide a tangible benefit to residents. Every year the grant had been used to help support local organisations including Ferncumbe Youth Club and this year it was agreed to increase their grant to £300 to help support a much-needed provision for young people in the area. The Council also gave £300 to Hatton Parochial Church to help with the repair and maintenance of the church roof.

We are pleased with the grounds maintenance that has ensured the entrance to the village at the crossroads is kept tidy and welcoming.

The Reserve Account balance is £5,040 of which £3,500 is ringfenced for election costs. The precept equates to the equivalent of £22.80 for a Band D household. 2024/25 ends with a healthy balance of just over £3500. All Parish financial information is available on the Parish Council page at [www.shrewleyparish.gov.uk](http://www.shrewleyparish.gov.uk)

## **WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR - Jan Matecki**

The brand new all through school in Bishop's Tachbrook, Oakley School, opened its doors in September 2024. The £60m all through school, which includes a nurse, is the largest capital programme the County has undertaken. The school welcomed for the first time reception class and year 7 students, as well as the year 8 students that spent last year in Myton School's 6<sup>th</sup> form centre while Oakley School was being completed.

On the ecology and landscape front, the County managed to secure £864k of funding from the Local Authority Treescape Fund. 24 community orchards were approved, with 12 of them already planted.

The County also improved its carbon footprint by 1,759tCO<sub>2</sub>e. This includes a decrease of 24% in electricity use in Council building, a 17% reduction from streetlighting, and a further 26% reduction from business travel. The largest source of emissions continues to come from transport and businesses. The £3.3m of funding for new electric vehicle charging points has been approved by the Council's Cabinet to go out to procurement, and hopefully new charging points will start to be installed in areas where home owners do not have access to off street charging, and in rural communities where there is little or no public charging available. It is hoped that around 700-800 charging points will be installed, creating around 1,500 extra charging sockets.

The County is also increasing the use of electric buses throughout the county. 27 all electric buses have been secured for use within the county, with a further 11 to be used on routes cross county to Coventry which are under contract to WCC. There are also a number of buses from Coventry that serve the County.

The number of passengers using the local IndieGo Plus demand responsive bus service continues to grow. In addition, the Companion Plus One concessionary travel pass has been approved to be extended beyond the fixed term end date of March 2025. The Companion Plus One add on allows those pass holders who are eligible, (e.g. those who are registered blind, need a carer 24/7 or are unable to physically board a bus without assistance), to have a carer travel free with the pass-holder on a bus. The scheme has had very positive feedback from those who use it, and has seen around 800 journeys a month being made by those who have the add-on. The Council is hoping that more eligible Concessionary Travel pass-holders will take up the scheme to enable them to also travel independently on public buses.

Staying on transport and highways, the County introduced a 'find and fix' pothole gang. Instead of the usual gangs that go out and fix the potholes that have been reported and identified, the find and fix gangs follow a set route and fix any potholes they come across, reported or not, as well as areas where potholes are starting to form. This has seen an almost doubling of potholes fixed in a year, with 11,232 repaired in 2023-24 compared to 6,016 repaired the previous year. This includes 3,326 repairs completed by the 'find and fix' gang, and they were only introduced half way through the year. The county hopes to fix even more potholes annually, but still need the help of the public to report through their website, (<https://services.warwickshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole/>), any potholes they come across.

Home to school transport costs continue to rise at pace, now serving around 12,000 pupils a day, which is an increase of approximately 20% over the last 3 years. Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) are also seeing increases of 8% per annum. These increased numbers continue to put financial pressures on the Council. The Council is taking measures to reduce costs while still providing a service for those in need of the transport.

Children's services have also seen improvement through the year. The County joined the Families First for Children Pathfinder Programme. The programme includes partner agencies Warwickshire Police and the Integrated Care Board. The service focuses on four key areas, family help, child protection, family networks and safeguarding. One of the new initiatives has been to set up 5 locality-based family help teams. This has seen a reduction in handover times between different agencies, and an overall improved satisfaction level from families. The county has also now opened 4 children's homes across the County which are registered with Ofsted, with a further one awaiting registration. This aim of these homes is for children that need to be in residential care rearing close to their families, communities and schools, and giving a better outcome for the child. It also provides better value for money for the county.

On 16th December 2024, the Government announced its proposals for local government reform. It is their intension to abolish at pace all County and District Councils, and to replace them single Unitary Councils. The Government invited County Councils to submit a request to be fast-tracked on this programme of change by 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The County Council, having previously already submitted requests for a Unitary Council, did submit a request to Government to be fast-tracked. The decision was made so that the future could be shaped locally, rather than having a model dictated to the Councils in the future, and to provide certainty to staff.

The requirement is for a minimum population size of 500,000, although exceptions to this could be granted in exceptional circumstances. Current smaller Unitary Councils are also required to submit proposals to merge with other Unitary Councils to make them more sustainable financially moving forward. With all this in mind, it is unlikely that the county would be split into two Unitary Councils, one for the north and one for the south, so a proposal was been put forward for a single Unitary Council. The Secretary of State has announced that Warwickshire will not be included in the first tranche, but still requires WCC, along with all the other County Councils, to put forward proposals for local government reform.

Many County Councils face the same financial pressures of providing the ever increasing numbers in adult social care, children services and home to school transport. The Government's Autumn budget also put extra pressures on the Council's, which includes Warwickshire, due to increased liabilities of National Insurance, (despite assurances from the Government, the County will only be compensated for internal staffing costs and not external services such as adult social care, the cost for these services will increase due to their own increases in minimum wage and NI), and a change in the way local government grants are distributed. This has resulted in some Councils being granted permission by the Government to raise their Council Tax above the 4.99% limit. WCC's Council Tax increase for 2025-26 has stayed within the limit and has been raised by 4.99%, which includes the ring-fenced 2% for the adult social care levy. Warwickshire County Council is also one of only a very few County Councils to have a balanced 5 year medium term financial strategy, with the majority of other Councils reducing their medium term strategies to 3 years.

## **WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCILLORS – Kyn Aizlewood, David Armstrong and Richard Hales**

### **Planning**

During 2024, work to agree a local Development Planning Document (DPD) was concluded. This places an expectation on developers to deliver new homes and buildings in Warwick District that are "Net Zero Carbon in use", substantially reducing environmental impact. WDC, is one of the first councils in the country to implement this planning policy and it now has full weight in planning decisions in the district. All new planning applications are required to meet the DPD requirements, which will improve energy efficiency and renewable energy generation in new homes, lower resident's energy bills and increase the use of technology such as rooftop solar panels.

Also in 2024, approval was granted for a number of new solar farms across the District, including one near Honiley, generating renewable energy for the Grid. 2024 is widely expected to be the first year in which UK low-carbon renewables – wind, solar and hydro power – generate more electricity than burning fossil fuels, showing the substantial shift now occurring in the UK's approach to energy generation.

### **Supporting Nature**

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running, WDC applied a policy of No Mow May seeking to encourage spring pollinators, otherwise, sadly much in decline. Practical lessons were learned from last year's initial No Mow May. Implementation was smoother this year and it is an approach capturing widespread public support (although not from everyone)!

Warwick District residents are the first in the County to recycle plastic bags and wrapping along with other recycling at kerbside. Plastics such as plastic bags, confectionary wrappers, foil lined packaging, bubble wrap, plastic film and more can now be placed in the blue-lidded recycling bin for fortnightly collection. These and other recycled materials are sorted at the Sherbourne materials recycling facility, Coventry, where separated material is sent off for UK-based re-use.

WDC agreed a Biodiversity Action Programme that sets out a strategic approach to 2050 to help create a district that is rich in nature by halting biodiversity loss and putting nature on a path to recovery. It also plays an important role in the delivery of our plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Further information is available at: <https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/biodiversity>

## **South Warwickshire Local Plan**

During 2024 proposals took shape that has led to the current public consultation on Preferred Options. This includes proposals to develop over 50,000 new homes across South Warwickshire. The proposals can be viewed following this link: <https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/preferred-options.cfm>

Parish Councils are statutory consultees and all residents are encouraged to see what the proposals may mean for them and their communities

## **Devolution White Paper – looking ahead...**

On 16 December 2024, the government published a policy paper: English devolution White Paper. This raises a serious doubt as to the future of WDC and the Council met to consider the implications. It appears likely that WDC will be subsumed within a new Unitary Authority, by May 2027 or May 2028. Initial views are that District-level elections will be abolished and non-essential services are likely to be cut-back, to save costs. Decisions on local services will be made at a County or sub-County level.

The proposals are silent on any implications for Town and Parish Councils.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us:

Kyn Aizlewood, [kyn.aizlewood@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:kyn.aizlewood@warwickdc.gov.uk)

David Armstrong, [David.armstrong@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:David.armstrong@warwickdc.gov.uk)

Richard Hales, [Richard.hales@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.hales@warwickdc.gov.uk)

## **VILLAGE HALL – Charles Stevens**

Since taking on the role of chairman, I have had an interesting year.

The village hall has moved to an online booking system, which is working very well after a few hiccups at the beginning.

The major management issue has been the building works to extend the hall and revamp the facilities. Planning permission took much longer than was expected, but was granted a few weeks ago. However the delay by the Planning Department of WDC meant the required grant from WDC was no longer available as the budget had been allocated elsewhere.

The committee decided therefore to hold back any work, until such time the charity became an Incorporated Charity and work has started on the transition. The Trustees of the hall wanted the protection that this affords before such expensive outlay diminishes the hall funds.

Also, this will allow the works to be undertaken without too much disruption to bookings already received. In the meantime the hall continues to hold events for the benefit of the local community, with good attendance at these.

## **THE CONNIE NEWTON TRUST – Robert Wesbury**

The Trustees have agreed a Deed of Variation to alter the objects of the Charity to enable the Trust to provide assistance for persons over the age of 30 who live or have lived within Shrewley and neighbouring parishes and are suffering financial hardship.

The Trust made awards totalling over £20,000 during the year ending September 2024.

If you feel that there is someone you know who could benefit, please contact a local Trustee in confidence. You will find their contact details on the Parish notice boards and more information on the Charity and the contact details of the Trustees are also available on the Charities page of the Shrewley Parish website: [www.shrewleyparish.gov.uk](http://www.shrewleyparish.gov.uk).

## **HATTON COMBINED CHARITIES– Zara Hadfield**

The Hatton Combined Charities include: The Charity of Catherine Throckmorton founded before 1652, The Charity of Jane Baker founded in 1849, The Charity of Jane Norcliffe founded in 1897, The William Edwards Coat and Gown Charity founded in 1818, together with a bequest made by Mr. Butler-Miles. The first four charities were “combined” in 1909, and the Butler-Miles bequest added later.

50% of the income from the Throckmorton Charity continues to be used for the upkeep of the fabric of Hatton Church – the incumbent rector becomes a Trustee upon appointment. The remainder of the Charity’s income is used to provide some immediate short-term assistance to residents and students in need.

The Charity is very pleased to welcome Gaye Williams who has recently been appointed as a Trustee.

Trustees meet three to four times a year to discuss current charity funds and establish who in the local Parishes would benefit from the Charity. This year the charity has been able to provide monetary support to residents towards household bills and essential household items.

The Charity has continued to support students who are in school or at college; providing funds to enable them to have 1:1 coaching from the ‘Head Start’ programme. The programme offers careers advice and support for those students feeling lost and wondering what to do next in life.

The Charity again issued a Warwick Books gift voucher to all 2024 Year 6 school leavers from Ferncumbe Primary.

This past year a donation was made to The Friends of Ferncumbe. This will be an ongoing annual donation to support the Curriculum Enrichment Programme. The programme aims to deepen and broaden the children’s life experiences and includes Forest School sessions and music activities.

The Charity was also pleased to make a monetary pledge to a student at Henley High School who is fundraising to take part in an expedition to Kenya in 2026. The Trustees have no doubt that the enthusiastic student will reach their fundraising target. It is an exciting opportunity to volunteer and support many vital projects in Kenya and the Trustees wish them the very best of luck!

Hatton Combined Charities can give monetary help to:

- Those struggling on a low income.
- People who have unexpected bills to pay.
- Individuals with a change in financial circumstances.
- Students and apprentices for the cost of books and tools.
- People struggling to get to and from hospital appointments.
- Those in need of help with funeral costs, beds, soft furnishing or white goods.
- Students who are in school or at college, feeling lost and wondering what to do next (via the Head Start Programme).
- Unexpected issues and traumas that have left individuals needing monetary assistance.

Only those who are resident in the Parishes of Beausale, Hatton, Haseley and Shrewley are eligible to benefit from the charity.

There is an advertisement in the Ferncumbe News giving details on how to contact the Charity. If you are aware of someone who would benefit, or you yourself needs help, and meet the above criteria then please do get in touch.

## **LITTLE SHREWLEY TELEPHONE KIOSK – Linda Wesbury**

The Little Shrewley telephone box which was purchased by the Parish Council in 2017 remains a focal point in the village, maintained by local residents. A map of the village together with its history is shown inside. Paint has been provided for the refurbishment of the kiosk which is planned for this summer.

## SHREWLEY WOMENS INSTITUTE – Elaine Forty

Another successful year for Shrewley Womens Institute.



Shrewley WI members meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month where we enjoy a variety of speakers arranged by our committee.

**March:** Chris Sprigs gave a talk on natural healing; this was about how to deal with minor injuries.

**April:** We shared Wren Hall teas with Budbrooke on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

The money raised from this goes towards our charity for the year. Our speaker at our regular members meeting was Debra Juler from the RDA.

**May:** Martin Sirot Smith gave us an interesting talk about Sulgrave Manor and the Washington family. Taking on the character of Lawrence Washington Lord of the Manor.

**June:** 'What did your dad do in the war' Alistair Price gave a talk on his father's experiences in the war and has written a book on the subject, members found this very interesting.

**July:** Vicky Farmer spoke about a day in the life of a TV presenter, speaking about her appearance on The Chase and all that goes on during the day.

**August:** was our summer lunch where members provided the buffet. Our speaker for the meeting was local Acupuncturist Juanita.

**September:** We had our annual coach trip to Belvoir Castle which was enjoyed by everyone.

**October:** This month we had Rev Nigel Jones who spoke about his time as a Chaplain in prisons.

**November:** Following our Annual Meeting, Mike Sheldon gave us a very interesting talk about the history of Hill Close Gardens. We purchased an annual ticket for our members to visit the gardens. This was our charity for this year, and he was presented with a cheque for £500.

**December:** We had our Christmas meeting at the Red Lion and after we enjoyed a buffet lunch.

**January:** We were entertained by Jennifer Rigby a professional actress in Shakespeare, theatre, film and TV productions.

**February:** We had a very interesting talk about the History of Playing Cards.

**March:** Steve Bruce Auctioneer will be valuing our items bought in by members and talking to us about his experiences as an auctioneer.

Our Charity this year is the Warwickshire and Solihull Blood Bikers. We also meet locally outside our monthly meetings for coffee/lunch

## SOCIAL CLUB – David Lawrie

A fairly quiet year for the Club, but we did manage to screen seven movies, host a memorable Coronation lunch, a successful Village Show, a Craft Fayre and another rousing Retro Band night during the year.

Cashless payment is becoming very popular at Hall events now.

The next movie will be on 28<sup>th</sup> February, when we will be screening "Thelma" to Club members. And we can still recruit further members.

## FERNCUMBE YOUTH CLUB – David Dyke

2024 has been a good year for the youth club, with our members enjoying the physical activity, interaction, fun, games and tuck shop treats.

We meet every Wednesday 7.00 – 9.00pm and are open to all children in school years 5 and above for football, pool, table tennis or just to chill out with friends. Access is open to all the children of the local Parishes with up to 30 attending a week and the ongoing support is deeply appreciated. The first week is free and then £1.00 per week. We remain indebted to our volunteers who make the club happen.

We deeply appreciate the support and funding from all the local parish councils and charities as this makes a vital difference to the running and existence of the Youth club.

## **SWEAT - Shrewley and Wroxall Environment Action Team (including Beausale, Haseley and Honiley)**

### **February: Family-friendly activity to create a wildflower bank at Wren Hall**

On Sunday 11th February a team of young and old gathered at Wren Hall under the guidance of Olivia Williams of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to plant a wildflower bank. Leaves were cleared and piled for composting, the ground was scarified and the seed broadcast by hand. A bout of stomping around helped bed the seed in, and our work was done. The session concluded in Wren Hall style with tea and cake!

We're extremely grateful to the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust for supporting this event.

### **Mapping Bee-friendly areas in our local area**

An idea for a longer-term project is to map the Bee-friendly areas in Shrewley and the Four Parishes. We could do this using the Parish Online tool to which both parishes subscribe. This could include field hedgerows, field margins managed for environmental benefit, agricultural land use (permanent pasture or arable), roadside verges that are managed for biodiversity etc.

Any further thoughts on this would be welcome.

### **April: Talk on the Fascinating World of Bees and Beekeeping**

Building on the bee-friendly theme we arranged for a local bee-keeper Alan Deeley from Burton Green to give a talk at Wren Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> April in the evening at Wren Hall. Alan's talk was practical and interactive (and entertaining!) with various beekeeping props to hand around. Alan's talk covered:

- Bees and the composition of a Honeybee Colony
- Evolution of beekeeping and bee hives
- Swarming
- Threats to bees and pollinators
- What you can do to help

Honey was available for sale!

### **Heat Loss Surveys in Shrewley using IR Camera**

Members of Shrewley Parish Council have expressed interest in using an IR camera to carry out heat loss surveys on properties for those who are interested. Options for borrowing an IR camera (e.g. from Kenilworth Town Council) are being explored, and further information will follow.

Contact: [martinwood.fiveways@gmail.com](mailto:martinwood.fiveways@gmail.com)

### **October: Halloween Pumpkin Special Event for Families**

Shrewley and Wroxall Environment Action Team (SWEAT) is particularly keen to engage with youngsters in our community across Shrewley and the Four Parishes. We were very fortunate to host a fantastic Halloween Pumpkin Event at Wren Hall for young families with Anne Marie from [Cooking Made Easy - Get Cooking!](#)

Youngsters learned how to make garlic flatbreads, carved pumpkins and used the scooped-out insides to make delicious pumpkin soup. Great lessons were shared in how to cook without waste. Anne Marie generously gave loads of take away tips not to mention tasty bread and soup for tea! The event was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

*"Wonderful community event - really thought Anne Marie was great."*

*"It really was fabulous, and we are now pumpkin soup and simple garlic bread fans!"*

The event was generously subsidised by the Wren Hall Creative Cookbook Fund which supports creative projects in our community from the profit made on the "Bakers of Wroxall Cookbook".

To find out more about SWEAT and to join our email list contact: [martinwood.fiveways@gmail.com](mailto:martinwood.fiveways@gmail.com)

## SHREWLEY VILLAGE SHOW

The 59th SHREWLEY VILLAGE SHOW took place on Sunday 1st September 2024 at Shrewley Village Hall and grounds. It was one of the warmest and sunniest show days on record which led to a bumper attendance during the afternoon. The Village Hall was packed full of magnificent vegetable and fruit displays, a beautiful array of flowers together with a photography section, superb handicrafts, very tasty home produce, home brewing and a superb full and interesting junior section for our younger exhibitors in 3 age groups; under 5 years, 5-8 years, and 9-15 years.

At 10.45am prompt the doors of the Village Hall were closed and judging commenced. There were some outstanding entries which were awarded either first, second or third prizes and the very best exhibits in each section were awarded a certificate of merit.

The Show itself opened at 1.30pm, with free parking again this year at the Durham Ox to ensure less congestion along Shrewley Common, with the very popular raffles and this year a gourmet BBQ together with numerous activities in the Village Hall Grounds, ranging from the traditional bowling, chocolate tombola stall, bottle stall, Klondike Challenge and others. The well stocked bar serving beer, various premium lager, wine and prosecco as well as soft drinks was more popular than ever as visitors enjoyed a drink and burger relaxing in the hot sunshine. There was also the Wandering Fern Coffee Box serving a range of coffees, and Josh's Pizza van, which were both popular with adults and children alike. Another highlight of the Show was the ever popular beautifully decorated tea tent, which was particularly well supported again this year, serving an extensive range of delicious home-made cakes with tea and coffee. The tables set outside the tea tent in the reserved tea tent area were beautifully laid out giving everyone one the chance to sit down over a cuppa and a chat whilst watching the activities at the Show.

This year there were also plenty of activities for our younger visitors, which included face painting, a roving magician and the ever popular, traditional Punch and Judy Show, as well as a bouncy castle and hook-a-duck sideshow.

New for this year was a superb display of magnificent classic cars, mostly supplied by local residents, which proved an extremely popular addition to the Show.

Throughout the afternoon there was background music with a live band and later in the afternoon was the annual egg throwing competition which is now a firm favourite with the visitors to the Show. The afternoon was rounded off with the presentation of the cups and trophies to the winners and a special presentation to all the children who exhibited in the Show.

A lot of hard work is put in throughout the year by the Village Show committee and new ideas are always very welcome. If you would like to be involved, please contact Herbert Andrews, Show Chair, 07836 360301.

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:** Plans are now well advanced for the 60th anniversary Shrewley Village Show on Sunday 7th September 2025. The Show committee is hoping this will be an extra special Show this year. As before, the Show will start at 1.30pm and here's hoping for great weather again. Details will be on the website at [www.shrewleyvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.shrewleyvillagehall.co.uk) Get planting and exhibit. It's your Show! The Show also has its own Facebook page with an ever-growing circulation.

## SHREWLEY TOWPATH VOLUNTEERS

Regular litter picking and monitoring of the canal towpath in our area (between bridges 57-60) continues.

Unfortunately, there are still plenty of discarded cans, plastic bottles, glass bottles and rubbish to be found. These are not only an eyesore but a danger to the environment. Dog waste also remains an unpleasant problem. Owners not clearing up after their dog or leaving filled poo bags on or beside the towpath.

Anyone and everyone can help - just by keeping their litter until they find a bin, picking up any litter spotted during a walk and being a responsible dog owner.

For fly tipping by the canal or other related issues please contact Lindsay Darwen (01926 842160)

**PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR TOWPATHS CLEAN AND CLEAR**

## HATTON STATION BOX CREW - Sheona Alemi

Hatton Station Phonebox is more than just a Phonebox, it remains a central part of our little community. It brought a group of volunteer neighbours together to renovate it in May 2018 and the community What's App group continues to grow with 94 local residents. The group and box continue to be a vital part of community life by connecting local residents who can now use the book exchange. In 2020 resident Sheona Alemi suggested a Christmas tree be placed adjacent to the box and organised a crowd fund which collected £170 to purchase a Christmas tree and lights.



The remainder being held in reserve for essential repairs and subsequent Christmas trees. A total of £221 was collected at a second crowd fund in December 2023. The monies are held in a personal account to purchase the tree and for any essential repairs of the box. In December 2024 in addition to the tree from Barn Close a new set of mains powered lights were purchased for this year's tree. The lights are very much brighter than previously and powered using the socket within the Phonebox. The remaining balance in the crowd fund is now £58, just enough for the 2025 tree. It is anticipated that a third crowd fund may be necessary for 2026 - should the community wish to continue placing a Christmas tree by the phone box. A big thank you to Barn Close Nursery for their help with the tree as always.

The box underwent a full repaint in August 2023- a big thank you to resident Richard Fell and the paint team. The planter was also given a spruce up and a few new plants added this year. The whats app group continues to maintain its upkeep and reviews the books periodically.