

Binfield Heath Village News

Issue No. 125

November 2023

Plans for village shop

Update on plans for houses and shop (P23/S2237/FUL, July 2023). **Please see overleaf for full information.**

Updates on the Forge and Three-a-Leet

First plans for the Forge were praised by SODC planners following a pre-application discussion to outline the village project ahead of a formal application for planning permission. This means that more detailed plans can now be prepared and will be available for viewing and comment before submission in the New Year.

Although most of the surveys and investigations have now been completed, the team has to wait for any signs of bat breeding, which usually takes place in May, before any works can begin. Signs of bat roosting have been found in the old hayloft.

At Three-a-Leet, the front porch lower panels are being replaced and damp which has been found in the sitting room will be treated this month. The house is now almost ready for letting. A large rainwater tank under the grassy orchard strip still needs to be removed, so a temporary gravel pathway to the house has been laid to avoid damaging the stone path. It will make access to the house easier in the interim.

We will let you know in advance if any noisy or disruptive work is to be undertaken.

The Forge Team

Shiplake Community Cinema

SCC will be holding their next Film Night at Shiplake Memorial Hall on Fri, 17 Nov. The Film is THE BOAT THAT ROCKED. A band of rogue DJs stand up to the government of the 1960s that want to control popular culture on the airwaves.

Tickets: £8 can be bought at Shiplake and Binfield Heath Stores. Doors open at 6.45pm for 7.30pm performance.

For more info please contact Pam Huggell on 01189 402105 or pam-huggell@btinternet.com.

Binfield Heath Chapel

There are a wealth of current offerings from the Chapel, including a walking group on Mon, 20 Nov, a coffee morning on Fri, 24 Nov, 10 – 11.30am, and a Christmas Trail for families and children on Saturday, 9th December, 10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (please see attached 3 posters for further information).



Also at the Chapel:
Carols by Candlelight, Fri, 15 Dec at 7:30 p.m.
Carols by Candlelight, Sunday 17 Dec at 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop on Sun, 26 Nov

Everything you need to create your own beautiful Christmas Wreath for your front door. This event is a great way to kick off the festive season. Whether you're a seasoned wreath maker or a complete novice, you are guaranteed to end the session with a wreath you can be proud to display in your home.
All profits to Shiplake C of E Primary School

Sunday, 26 Nov from 14.00 -16.00 at Harpsden Village Hall. Cost: £45.
<https://buytickets.at/moomibotanicals/1016269>.

You will be provided with everything you need to create a natural 10" ever-green Christmas wreath, including adornments. Along with a festive drink and mince pie. Any queries, email Lyndsay on moomibotanicals@gmail.com.

Village carols, 14 Dec

Please join us for village carols in front of the Forge on Thurs, 14 Dec. The band is booked and plans are in hand for a short, joyful village get-together. The format will be the same as last year, with singers and band outside the Forge and a hot drinks station by the shop.

Parents are fully responsible for the safety of their children. The Village Society team will bring drinks and mince pies across the road to you, to minimise the need to keep crossing the road.

The evening starts at 6.45pm and should finish around 7.30pm. Look forward to seeing everyone there!

The Village Society

The Nativity Journey, Sun, 17 Dec

Please see the attached poster



Meet at 14.30 in the Great Hall at Shiplake College.

Nibbles and drinks by the fire and carols round the Christmas tree.

Carol singing at the Bottle and Glass, 15 Dec

You are warmly invited to carol singing in the teepee, at the B & G, on Fri, 15 Dec. The pizza oven will be fired up and the bar will be open. During the evening a collection will be made for a local charity. Carols start at 18.45pm.

Christmas Wreath making workshop

Join Lily from Little Cryws Cottage for a special workshop with fizz, coffee and breakfast nibbles on Weds, 6 Dec at the Bottle and Glass at 10.30am. Cost: £70. For more info incl booking details please see attached poster.

The Wilfred Owen window at Dunsden Church

Please click on this link: [The Wilfred Owen Window - Connected \(reading.ac.uk\)](http://The Wilfred Owen Window - Connected (reading.ac.uk)) for full information on the new window at Dunsden Church.

Viewings can be arranged by speaking to the churchwardens. 07496 695660.

SHADDO

SHADDO is busy rehearsing for Goldilocks and the 3 Bears! Put the date in your diary. The performance will be January 25-27 2024.

If you would like to be involved please contact admin@shaddo.uk.

Neighbourhood Plan

Following completion of the summer consultation, the Neighbourhood Plan has been updated to address comments and has now been submitted to SODC for examination. After the examination there will be a referendum to enable parishioners to bring it into force, probably in the Spring if all goes well.

Flower Show photos

Many thanks to Vin Willgoss for taking fabulous photos at this year's Flower Show and to Mark Dodson for kindly managing the village website. The photos will be uploaded in the next couple of days, so please look on binfield-heath.org.uk.

Plans for Village shop

The October PC meeting focused on Tristan Phillimore's application to build two semi-detached houses next to the shop – and on the future of the shop itself. Main concerns expressed were the need to see one complete plan that included houses and shop together, including any extra accommodation there, putting pressure on parking and amenity space, plus a commitment to keeping the shop/PO viable into the future. The PC agreed to wait for a plan of the whole site before committing itself one way or the other. Tristan was invited to the next PC meeting so that the whole plan could be discussed again.

Tristan responded positively to these comments by sending a revised plan of shop and houses to the council. This showed downscaled plans for the shop with no increased accommodation or any other major changes to the building. The barn is to be renovated but left empty. The shop, post office and existing accommodation would be restored and upgraded but otherwise remain essentially as they are now, with no impact on current parking. The plan is on the [PC website](#).

Having seen a ground plan of the whole site, councillors thought we should publish our position. A majority felt that their main concerns and those of the village had been covered and therefore voted to recommend approval in principle of the application, with some conditions suggested. Two councillors still had some reservations. Councillors were also aware of villagers' desire to know where the PC stood on the matter.

The whole council would still like the garden spaces of units 1 and 2 to be more equal but has been told by SODC that tree protection dictates their size and shape. We are also still concerned about the overall size of the proposed new building and the Estate has agreed to make any possible changes to the land division and the building scale that SODC will allow. Planners have already indicated that they are likely to approve this application.

The Parish Council recommendation to SODC is advisory only. It carries the same weight, whether published before, after or alongside other peoples' comments.

You can look at the plan and voice your own opinion on the SODC website. Your views will be taken into account by the planning authority, as will ours. We may also be adding comments and suggestions to the site.

Everyone is entitled to air their views on the SODC Planning website (P23/S2237/FUL, July 2023). This is particularly important if you feel that you have a concern that has not been addressed by the Parish Council, the applicant or SODC planners. Nothing that has happened so far prevents that.

The PC recommendation will be tabled for ratification at the next Parish Council meeting on November 27, which will again be attended by Tristan Phillimore. If you have any further questions, please come and ask then. The best possible outcome would be a compromise that includes slight repositioning and a reduction in scale of the proposed houses. Both the PC and parishioners can submit further comments to address different views.

The BH Parish Council

Get your newsletter as soon as it is published. We aim is to get as many as possible on our village mailing list, so that we only have to deliver to newcomers and those without internet access. Please email your email address to marina.hart9@outlook.com to be added to the list.

You can also access the newsletter from the [VILLAGE WEBSITE](#). Please also let [me](#) know if you wish to unsubscribe. A hard copy will not be delivered to you though.

Dates for your diary:

17 Nov	Shiplake C Cinema
26 Nov	Wreath making workshop
27 Nov	PC meeting
6 Dec	Wreath making workshop
9 Dec	Christmas trail
14 Dec	Village carols at the Forge
15 Dec	Carols at BH Chapel
15 Dec	Carols at the B&G
25-27 Jan	Shaddo panto