



SHAW-CUM-DONNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Newsletter - Spring 2026

Letter from the Chair

I expect, like me, you are all really fed up with the continuous rain! As I write this there is a watery sun shining but the forecast reads potential snow showers overnight. However, our early flowering cherry has just burst into bloom, and I spotted the bright yellow of a lone daffodil in the front garden this morning. Spring is on the way!



This now brings our Council to a full complement of 9 and I am pleased to say that, along with our excellent clerk Gillian, we are an eclectic bunch that all work very well together towards making our parish a great place in which to live and work.

I do hope you can join us on Saturday 14th March for our Spring Litter Pick. We will be starting from the Castle Pub car park courtesy of George, the owner of the Greek Table (thanks George!) from 10am to 12 noon. The more of us, the more litter we can collect across the parish.

Just bring yourselves and a pair of gloves; we have the litterpickers and the bags!

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th May at the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and find out what the Parish Council have done in the past year and hear about other things going on in the parish. Please have a think about who you can nominate for this year's Community Champion Award (see the advert below). We would love to hear from you about the people in our community who make a real difference.
Councillor Margo Payne

I am very pleased to introduce our two new councillors to you. Stephanie Bovell lives on the Shaw Valley estate. A qualified social worker and a volunteer of several other community-based organisations in the local area, she will be a great asset and of course will be an excellent representative for those living in Shaw Valley.

Liam Anderson lives in Dene Way and is a teacher at Trinity School. Full of local knowledge and obviously with a link to the young people of the parish, he will bring insight into what our young parishioners would like to see in Shaw-cum-Donnington.



The Bill Graham Community Champion Award 2026

Do you know someone who volunteers in the parish of Shaw-cum-Donnington and deserves public recognition for this?

Perhaps they are a kind and helpful neighbour, or they organise a club or charity, or look after a public space to keep it looking lovely for the benefit of the community.

You can nominate anyone who lives, works or volunteers in the parish, whatever their age.

Please send a letter or an email to let us know what is special about your nominee to our parish clerk, Gillian Durrant - see the contact information below - by 20th April. Don't forget to include the contact details for you and your nominee.

The award will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 6th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on Love Lane, and the winner will receive a £50 voucher and framed certificate.

Gillian Durrant Parish Clerk: clerk@shawcumdonningtonparish.gov.uk
Southcote, Kiln Road, Newbury, RG14 2HE.
www.shawcumdonningtonparish.gov.uk

New Bus Timetable

The Oxford Bus Company/Thames Travel have a new bus timetable from 23rd February for many of their routes, including our X24/X34 service, which is available on their app and website: <https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk>

Timetable booklets will be available in the Village Hall and Newbury Library, next to the bus station.

New Pop-Up Library at the Myrtle Community Café in the St Mary's Church Centre

Every Monday* at Shaw Church Hall between 10.30am and 12.30pm, the Myrtle Café provides a friendly and inclusive welcome. In addition to free refreshments, there are internet facilities and help to find specialist information, advice and support.

From Monday 13th April there will also be a new 'Pop-Up' library service once a month at the café, supported by a West Berkshire Council librarian, where everyone can come along and take out books from a selection that will be updated quarterly. This service is being funded by the Parish Council, and we hope it will prove popular.

Future dates for the Pop-Up library are: Mondays 8th May, 1st June and 6th July.

*not on Bank Holidays or in August.

Donnington Fête 2026

The popular Donnington Fête is back on Sunday 28th June. Put the date in your diary now!

The craft and produce show organisers are looking forward to seeing examples of skill and creativity from anyone in the parish - so don't be shy - share your projects with us and bring them along. We would also love to see examples of things you have grown; fruit, flowers, vegetables etc., not to mention cakes and preserves.

The popular dog show will be back, too; details of the categories will be on our website, Facebook page and in the next newsletter.

This year, we will have entertainment from the Watership Brass Band and free activities for children, including the bouncy castle and activities run by 3rd Newbury Scouts and St Mary's Church.

Other local groups will be running stalls and activities and the popular plant stall will be back.

Donations for the free refreshments and plant sales will go towards the Village Hall refurbishment this year; details are on the next page.

If you would like a stall at the show to sell your own craftwork or produce, please contact the parish clerk, on the email address at the bottom of the page.

Help us give Shaw-cum-Donnington a Spring Clean!



Community Litter Pick

Meet at The Castle Pub car park on Saturday 14 March 10am to 12 noon

Please bring your own gloves. Litter picks and bags provided. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Organised by Shaw-cum-Donnington Parish Council
With thanks to the publican of The Castle Pub

Donnington Village Fête

Save the Date!

Sunday 28th June 2026

12.00 Noon to 4.00pm

at Donnington Recreation Ground

Free Bouncy Castle and children's activities

Plant stall, garden show*, fun dog show from 2.30pm*,

Watership Brass Band

Scout BBQ, WI cake stall, ice cream van and more!

Tea, coffee and squash provided free of charge

Relax and enjoy an afternoon of traditional fun with

the community of Shaw-cum-Donnington!

* competition entry details will be available nearer the time

Limited car parking

Please walk if you can!

Organised by Shaw-cum-Donnington Parish Council

www.shawcumdonningtonparish.gov.uk

HELP FOR THOSE IN URGENT NEED, HARDSHIP OR DISTRESS

The Shaw-cum-Donnington Relief-in-Need Charity (Charity No. 202642) provides small (usually £500 or less) grants or loans to meet specific needs of persons experiencing urgent need, hardship or distress who live within the civil Parish of Shaw-Cum-Donnington or the immediately adjacent area who have some link to the parish, e.g. school. Grants are also available to organisations providing support to the Parish community.

If you are in need, please apply for consideration on a confidential basis, to either:

Clerk to the Trustees - David Marson Tel: 07894 038184

Email: david@dvmarson.uk or

Chairman of the Trustees Chris Byng Tel: 07768398502

Grants are aimed at assisting people through a period of sickness or hardship. The range of support that the charity can provide is extensive and includes:

- Weekly allowance for a limited period to address an urgent need;
- Special payments to relieve sudden distress;
- Purchase of specific items such as washing machines;
- Payment of travel expenses for persons requiring medical treatment or relatives visiting them;
- Payments for essential services, e.g. home help, nursing aid.

The charity dates from 1735 and is funded primarily by bequests and donations. **If you wish to donate, please contact either of the above.**



Support your Village Hall: *Give today, Grow Tomorrow*

Your Village Hall needs you!

Now we have the planning permission in place for the village hall extension we need to raise the money to fund the building work. The total build costs are estimated at £680,000, but we already have £150,000 as a generous donation from the Parish Council.

We now have a project listed on The Good Exchange, a website portal that will help us find grants and donations. The QR code will take you to the project on the Good Exchange. You can make a donation

today to help make our dreams for this exciting community facility a reality!



Donate here
or pop a cheque in
our post box!

There is an ambitious programme of fundraising events planned for 2026, including the Table Top Sale advertised on this page. Please support this event, as well as the others throughout the year.

Table Top Sale!

Sunday 1st March

From 11am *(sellers arrive 10am)*

Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall

£10 per table / £15 two tables

Selling Bakes, Toys, Crafts and more!



Entry £1 on the door

Refreshments available



To book a table, contact:
scdhallbook@yahoo.co.uk

Parking at the hall is limited, please walk if you can

Can you help make a plan a reality?

If you can spare an hour or two a month to help us raise the funds to build the hall our community deserves then please get in contact.

We particularly need help with fundraising, organising events, publicity and spreading the word on Social Media.

We would love to hear from you.

Contact us on

scdhallbook@yahoo.co.uk

Flooding by the Spout Ditch and the River Lambourn

The Parish Council are talking to West Berkshire Council and Action for the River Kennet (ARK) to find a way to repair the breach in the bank of the Spout Ditch, which runs parallel to the River Lambourn at the bottom of Dene Way. The breach has caused flooding to the gardens of homes along Dene Way in recent winters.



Your West Berkshire Ward Councillors



Councillors Antony Amirtharaj and Martha Vickers are the West Berkshire Councillors for the Speen Ward, which includes Shaw-cum-Donnington Parish Council. If you have any problems with WBC, they may be able to help.

Councillor Antony Amirtharaj 07584 252 028
email antony.amirtharaj1@westberks.gov.uk

Councillor Martha Vickers 07413 323 525

Your Shaw-cum-Donnington Parish Councillors

Margo Payne - Chairperson
margo.payne@shawcumdonningtonparish.gov.uk

Ian Miller - Vice Chair
ian.miller@shawcumdonningtonparish.gov.uk

Richard Almond
richard.almond@shawcumdonningtonparish.gov.uk

Liam Anderson
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Stephanie Bovell
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Paul Bryant
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Mary Carter
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Glyn Thomas
glyn.thomas@shawcumdonningtonparish.gov.uk

Colin Yates
colin.yates@shawcumdonningtonparish.gov.uk



Therapy Yoga Adaptive Class

for

Disabilities, Illnesses and Injuries

1 – 2 – 1 Tuition

Mondays - by appointment

(payment by donation)

Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall

Contact Shweta or Veena on: 07534 394939

or email to: swastiyoga21@gmail.com



Stepping into their shoes starts on a Wednesday night.

Week by week, our volunteers empower thousands of young people to try new things, make new friends and stand on their own two feet.

You don't need to be Bear Grylls to join us. You don't need to have been a Scout when you were younger. You don't even need to know how to put up a tent.

Whatever your skillset, lend a hand for as little or as much time as you can spare, and we promise you'll get more out than you put in.

We provide the training. You show up, get stuck in, and make new memories for life. Sounds fun? Worthwhile? It is.

Scan the QR code or visit 3rdnewburyscouts.org.uk for more information.



#SkillsForLife

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