

Community Activities

In the Initial Survey 8% of respondents mentioned that they would like to see improved community activities and events. The Main Survey included a section entitled Activities. Research for this section revealed that there were in fact a surprising number of clubs and activities already taking place in the village, which would imply that the problem to be addressed is as much to find ways of promoting existing activities as it is to set up new ones.

Given a list of suggestions for new activities, the proposed new activity that garnered most interest (36% of respondents) was a Village Party. Concerts (28%), a Film Club (23%) and Quizzes (21%) were the next most popular choices.

Two areas were identified for action:

- To promote existing activities
- To set up and support new activities.

Develop existing activities

A new parish website is to go online early 2014. All existing clubs and organisations will have the opportunity to have information about their activity on the site. Upcoming events will be highlighted on the home page. Users of the website will be able to register for email alerts about the areas they are interested in.

95% of respondents said they used the internet from home (100% of the younger age groups, tailing off to 83% of the over 75s). The majority of residents should thus be able to access the new site and be kept aware of current activities in Shiplake. The interactive elements of the website should allow people to feel fully involved in the local community.

Support new activities

Several new activities have been proposed. These may be set up within the auspices of the SVCC. These include a Wine Club, regular quizzes, informal language conversation groups and two needlecrafts groups. There is a need to be careful not to duplicate activities that already exist in the area. Initial proposals were for a film club (a local pub plans to set one up) and for a table tennis club (there is already one in Henley).

The most ambitious proposal is to hold a Village Party, with the first one planned for the summer of 2014. Clubs and organisations in Shiplake will be invited to run a stall or sideshow to promote what they do. Other attractions could include performances by local musicians. If successful, it could become an annual event.



Lower Shiplake street party 2013

The future

The experience of setting up new groups will provide a template for future initiatives. The improved communication links provided by the new website and email lists will enable ideas to be floated to gauge interest and to gather support.



Wargrave and Shiplake Regatta
Dongola Racing