

Memorial Park Trees

Working Woodlands carried out the work of felling dead and dying trees and pruning dead wood in the park in late January and early February. The work went very well and all of it was successfully completed. A number of people were concerned about the number of trees being felled and found it difficult to believe that trees that seemed to be in good health were actually dying and could pose a danger to the public, particularly in high winds. This gave rise to a vigorous exchange on Facebook with the argument being settled after Cllr Chris Horridge posted photos of hollow timber which had come from the trees that were felled. He pointed out that it was not the external, but the internal condition of the trees that mattered.



Several local voluntary groups benefited from the treework. Much of the timber was only suitable for use as firewood and was advertised as being for sale. Residents were invited to make donations towards the funds being raised by the Friends of Shevington Memorial Park for improvements in the park. The proceeds from the sale came to £200 and were passed on to the FSMP.

Timber that was not suitable for use as firewood was chipped and all the woodchip (3 lorry loads) went to the Parish Council's allotments at Forest Fold and has been used by the tenants. Parts of a beech tree were cut up and used to make a table and log seats for a children's nursery. Four log planters have also been partially created for the Friends of Gathurst Station to use as part of their displays.

The other good news is that all of the trees that have been removed will be replaced. The photo below shows the Working Woodlands team.



Shevington Parish Council has small grants available for local community groups. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk for an application form or download one from our website.

**Have Pride in Your Parish
DON'T Fly Tip
Take it to THE Tip!**

East Quarry

Maybrook Investments, as the owner of East Quarry, Appley Bridge, has now been granted a Temporary Water Abstraction Licence by the Environment Agency, despite objections from 285 local residents. An amendment was made by Maybrook to the original application, which had been to drain the water completely. The previously stated objective for complete drainage is to then be able to use the site for landfill, with inert waste, and eventually build - a project which is anticipated to take decades to complete.

One of the main reasons stated by the landowner for the need to drain water is to prevent the anti-social behaviour that occurs on hot sunny days, when both children and adults choose to travel from out of the area and trespass on the property, purportedly to swim.



The revised temporary dewatering will take out 70% of the water. After dewatering the level of the water left above the bed of the quarry at the monitoring point designated by the Environment Agency must be at least 10.94m. Abstraction must not cause the water level to fall below this. A third-party consultant has calculated that, if dewatering takes place over a continuous period of time, it will take approximately three months to reduce the water level to this height.

At this stage it is not clear what the intentions are once the water level has been dropped by an estimated 15 metres. Nor is it clear when work is to commence, as the licence allows for this to be at any time between now and 31 March 2028.

Concern has been expressed from local residents that with water still in the quarry, but with more rock face exposed, it will continue to attract swimmers on hot days and have added dangers. These include jumping from higher ledges into shallower water, underneath which, it is understood, there is abandoned quarrying equipment. In addition, exposure of the sides of the quarry may attract visitors all year round, potentially even motocross bikes, as has been seen in other areas. This would increase the noise nuisance and would be heard further afield, making a problem that is currently an issue for a few days a year into a year-round one, if the site is not adequately secure.

The residents feel that the immediate answer to the problem is to substantially improve the fencing around the site. In their view it is inadequate, because it is evident that currently access is easy. Over the last few summers there has been significant attendance from both local and transport Police in an attempt to disperse the groups of people attracted to the area.

Although East Quarry is in West Lancashire, it is right on the boundary with Wigan and therefore what happens there impacts on residents of Shevington Parish.

East Quarry Campaign Group

Friends of Gathurst Station

If you are interested in assisting with a bit of weeding/planting/watering at Gathurst Station, contact **Keith Till** by e-mail please: ktht13@googlemail.com.

PS: Not too much watering required at the moment!



Barry King

In November 2020 the Parish Council were saddened to receive the news of the death of Barry King.



Barry worked for 40 years as a planning officer with Wigan Council, rising during that time to a very senior rank.

After his retirement, Barry devoted much of his free time to the village community. He was Treasurer of Shevington Fete Committee and a member of Shevington & District Community Association. He also became a co-opted member of the Parish Council - initially as a Councillor and later as a Committee member. Whenever planning matters were on our agenda Barry was undaunted. He would spend a great deal of time reducing large tomes of complex material into information that the community and councillors could understand. Barry was also a founder member of Shevington in Bloom and later treasurer for Appley Bridge in Bloom up to his final illness.

Barry had a wide range of interests. He was passionate about cricket and travelled to several countries to follow the English team.

He enjoyed walking and was a member of Wigan Ramblers, where he established a number of longstanding friendships.

He was also fascinated by all modes of public transport. His home was a living museum of models of trams, buses, planes and trains! For a time Barry served as Station Adopter for Gathurst and Appley Bridge stations, reporting problems to the railway authorities and communicating information to the public about new developments or changes to schedules.

Barry grew up in Kent and studied in London. He never lost his Southern accent, but his commitment to his adopted communities of Wigan and Shevington was very strong. We will miss you Barry!

Shevington PC and Community