



**SHAFTESBURY  
YOUTH CLUB**

**John Jones  
Welcomed as New  
Shaftes Chairman**  
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**NEWSLETTER 2015**

## Shaftes 1886 Kicks Off!



A new association has been established called Shaftes 1886 to organise a series of social events and raise money for the club.

The name takes its inspiration from the year Shaftesbury Boys Club was founded and among the plans are a golf day and memorial match.

The association has launched a Facebook page and Twitter account (both 'Shaftes 1886') and will encourage former members to join the new group.

1886 chairman Paul Turner said: "Everyone has fond memories of their playing days at the Shaftes and a few of us have been talking about setting up a former members' group for a while now."

"The new association provides the opportunity to catch up with old friends while at the same time raise much needed funds for the club.

"We've got a series of events lined up and we are hoping to attract as many former members as possible.

"We want to make a real difference to the club. So, for example, over the next few months we are planning to carry out improvement work on the pavilion with former members contributing their time voluntarily."

Events planned include:

- Dinner at the end of March, TBC
- Sean O'Farrell Memorial Day at the club, including a four team football competition on Sunday May 24th
- Golf day at Wirral Ladies Golf Club on Friday June 19th
- A club-wide youth football tournament with former players refereeing and marshalling the event, TBC
- Golf day in September, date TBC

For more details about the new group please email Paul Turner at [paul.turner@fozcs.co.uk](mailto:paul.turner@fozcs.co.uk) or call his mobile on 07841 996612.



Scottish Power volunteers working hard on the Shaftesbury Youth Club allotment

## Allotment Gets Scottish Power Boost

Regular readers will know that Shaftes is very fortunate to have a large allotment alongside the Club. 2014 was a very productive year for growing a huge range of vegetables there. Work on the allotment was led by Mr Kelly who, with help from our members, dug, planted and tended the beds.

Potatoes, pumpkins, peas, sweet corn, lettuce and tomatoes in the greenhouse were just some of the abundance of produce we were able to grow in the sunny and fertile plot.

Vegetable beds need to be cleared and the allotment tidied after cropping; given the size of our plot this is quite a task. Our need for willing workers coincided with Scottish Power's community volunteer programme for its apprentices. Twenty-five young people worked solidly all day on 24th October preparing the allotment for winter and the 2015 season. This was a very successful and good-natured day. Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to make the allotment so productive!



Scottish Power helpers digging in on the allotment plots

**INSIDE:  
Art Special!**





## LADS Project Begins

The LADS Project is a twelve week personal development programme aimed at 13-19 year-old males and was carried out across each of the four Wirral Youth Hubs.

A key feature of the project is that different agencies meet and work together to support the young men. The project is concerned with low-level safeguarding and targets those considered likely to benefit. Weekly sessions in the Club include discussing risk-taking behaviours and healthy lifestyles, with practical activities to engage the members. The culmination of the project was a two-night residential event where all the participants came together at the Oaklands outdoor pursuits centre in North Wales.



LADS Project members getting involved

Phil Nugent and Darren Sharrock were the key workers for Shaftes, both having in-depth experience of this challenging area of youth work.

One of the drawbacks to such schemes is that attendance is voluntary resulting in low rates of engagement, but those who complete the course can gain a great deal. Two notable successes from the Shaftes group have gone on to become regular attendees at the Club. The project was evaluated as a worthwhile success and could be repeated in the future.

The impressive range of facilities at Shaftes is often a surprise to visitors and youth workers from other clubs. We want to welcome youth club members from across the Wirral and give them the benefit of our extensive facilities. The shortage of qualified staff and transport often prohibits this, but there is still great potential for future development of this area.

## Amazing Artists Display Skills

Our Art Club continues to flourish thanks to our great volunteer group leaders, Andrea and Julie.

The youngsters were busy recently creating colourful Easter hats, pillows and other fantastic artistic creations.



Colourful Easter bonnets being modelled by their proud creators



The talented Art Club hard at work on their latest masterpieces



The pillow artists exhibit their cool and colourful creations

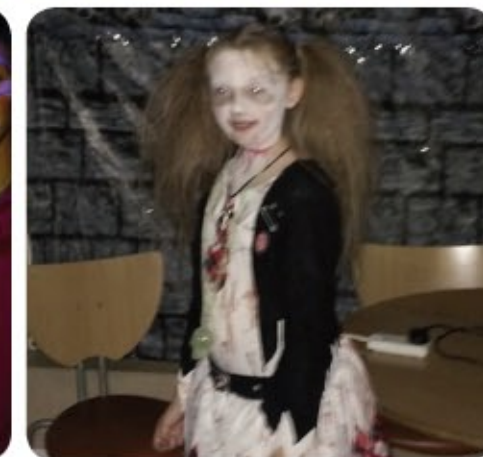
## Terrifying Halloween & Christmas Monsters Attack!



Frankenstein had his hands full at Farmageddon



Spooky masks cause Halloween scares



A blood-thirsty zombie goes on a Halloween rampage

Halloween just seems to be getting more and more popular. On 29th October a group of brave Club members visited Farmageddon in Ormskirk. The farm barns there are converted into spooky, haunted places full of creepy monsters and walking through them is a fun but scary challenge.

We held our own blood-curdling evening two days later on Halloween. There were lots of creepy costumes...

At the Christmas party the most popular game of the evening was the 'create an Egyptian mummy' competition.



Mummy construction in progress

## Sean Honoured With New Tournament

Sean O'Farrell, an extremely popular and active youth worker at Shaftes for 25 years, sadly died as a result of cancer in 2013.

A football tournament was set up in his honour involving three teams consisting of other members, ex-members, and our star players Phil Nugent (Club Manager) and Paul Turner (Shaftes Council Member). Phil is pleased to report that his team won, albeit on a penalty shoot-out.

£450 was raised by the participants and this will be used to buy a memorial bench in Sean's name, to be placed in front of the sports pavilion.

It is intended that the tournament will become an annual event.



Sean O'Farrell

## Ron Smith Award

The late Ron Smith was a former Chairman of the Shaftes Council and in his name we present an award (kindly donated to the Club by Ron's son) to our Volunteer of the Year.



In 2014 the deserving winner was 14 year-old Amy Birrs (above). Amy helps out most evenings with a range of activities including IT, the coffee bar and with the various events held at the Club. She also gave the reading at the 2014 Remembrance Service (below).



The 2014 Remembrance Service



## Big Lottery Fund

We are pleased to report that an application to the Big Lottery Fund has been successful and has enabled us to resurface the astro pitch adjacent to the Clubhouse. Our members have first priority to use the pitch, but the quality of the new surface means that we can now hire out the pitch when the Club is otherwise closed.



The new astro pitch surface

## A Gift of Trees

The Woodland Trust has made a generous donation of trees to be planted around the site.

Phil Nugent and Barry Cavanagh were interviewed on Radio Merseyside's Tony Snell Show about the trees as part of National Tree Week and the centenary of the First World War.



**A HUGE THANKS**  
to all our patrons,  
friends, contributors,  
and helpers, working to  
support Shaftes and our  
**LOCAL COMMUNITY!**

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## Shaftesbury People Matter(s)

The Club and Shaftes Council owe a big thank you to Ray Linforth, who has stepped down as Chairman, after steering us through difficult and uncertain times. Ray, a retired architect, has been an active and well respected chairman and will continue as a council member. We are very grateful for his efforts and we wish him a more restful future.



John Jones, the new Chairman of Shaftes

The role of new Chairman of Shaftes has been passed on to **John Jones**. John is a Chartered Legal Executive and Licensed Conveyancer and divides his time between his roles as a senior property and compliance

lawyer, lecturing and delivering training to staff. John is married with four children and five grandchildren. In the 1990s he served as Deputy Chief Commandant of the Merseyside Police Special Constabulary.



Mr Kelly (back, far left) with his Tae Kwon Do Club members

**Energetic volunteer Mr Kelly has contributed to numerous activities at Shaftes for many years.**

As well as leading and organising the regular Tae Kwon Do Club he has provided invaluable assistance in

many more club activities such as working on the allotment.

The work of volunteers like Mr Kelly do so much for the young people of Wirral and the life of the Club and we are very grateful for all his efforts!

## Thank You to Cammell Laird

In exchange for using the Club football facilities, Cammell Laird has kindly donated a defibrillator.

This is a very useful and essential resource for a venue which offers so many strenuous sports activities. Its presence also creates a greater sense of security for staff, visitors and the many sports spectators. A big thank you for Cammell Laird's generosity!

## Young Disabled People's Club

This group meets every Saturday between 4.30pm and 7.30pm and offers use of the Shaftes club facilities to any disabled young person in Wirral.

The group is still in its infancy and starting to build up its new membership but shows much future promise to become a valuable resource to members in the area.