

Shipdham Churchyard Enhancement Project

Over a number of years the village had become more than aware of the deteriorating condition of the wall surrounding the church and a number of studies carried out in the past had recognised those concerns, so in 2004 there was a decision made to make an effort to restore the church wall. This would be a difficult task for a number of reasons; the church wall was listed, any work done to the wall had to be done through DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) approved contractors, proximity of a few inches to a main road (the A1075) and the price of the project.

The churchyard was a closed churchyard, this meant it had been closed by order in Council in the 1877 Act, meaning the parish was ultimately responsible for any upkeep and repair to the churchyard and surrounding wall.

Group Captain Brian Kidd volunteered his time to take on administration of this task forming a small committee to help. An up to date survey was carried out on the church wall confirming previous reports as to the condition of the wall and raised concerns over the safety of one part of the wall. It was decided that in order to obtain any grant funding towards this wall that full village involvement would be required and that not just the wall be repaired that other areas within the churchyard be improved. This was when the project was formally named the Shipdham Churchyard Enhancement Project (CEP).

All groups in Shipdham were approached to help with the project as community involvement was key to obtaining grants. The following groups provided help with the project; Shipdham School, Shipdham Wives Group, Shipdham Girl Guides, Parochial Church Council Members, Shipdham Youth Club, Shipdham Royal British Legion, Shipdham Heritage Centre, Shipdham Horticultural Society, Shipdham Manor Residential Home, Shipdham Twinning Association, USAF 44th Bombing Group and Shipdham Parish Council. Through the involvement of these groups other projects happened within the village, such as:

- The Wives Group printed a very successful book on the history of Shipdham and the publication costs were paid for by Ed Malt
- A successful village ball was held which raised money for the CEP
- The school children and members of other clubs were given demonstrations on how to lay bricks, carry out stone work, etc. which led to projects within the School with building and restoration themes, also projects were done on lighting.

As a result of these children learnt about building and restoration, people in the village learned more about the history of the village through the publication of the book and the involvement of these groups made them talk with one another more which achieved more social interaction and friendship which will continue well into the future.

As a result of this successful project the village now has a fully restored church wall, the churchyard and church is lit, thousands of daffodil bulbs have been planted, trees have been planted, a garden of remembrance has been created for ashes to be buried in the churchyard and young and old have been educated and friends and fellowship has been made. The project ran from 2004 to 2009 and cost a total of £122,542, details of costs and funding are shown in the table below.

Project Costs	
Anglian Flint – Wall Repairs	£102,324
Architect Costs	£8,991
Other Materials	£5,312
Floodlighting	£2,232
Trenching for Floodlights	£588
Print Costs for <i>A History of Shipdham</i>	£2,000
Bulbs	£500
Other Miscellaneous	£595
TOTAL COSTS	£122,542
Project Funding	
Parish Council	(£47,068)
LHI/HLF Grant Funding	(£24,974)
Parochial Church Council Funding	(£24,000)
Insurance Claim	(£17,000)
Donation/Fund raising	(£5,000)
Ed Malt	(£2,000)
VAT Reclaim	(£2,000)
R W Hill Farms	(£500)
TOTAL FUNDING	(£122,542)

A village group having a demonstration about flint work



The final run of wall being repaired



This was the worst part of the wall once the coping stones were removed from the top, the wall could simply then be pushed over

