

SHALFORD

Village Magazine February 2023

Produced by the People for the People



SHALFORD

**WE ARE PROUD OF OUR
COMMUNITY**

At the heart of our Village
is its People. Our Family,
Friends, Neighbours and
even those we have yet
to meet.

- WHAT'S ON
- CHURCH NEWS
- SHALFORD SCHOOL
- PARISH COUNCIL
- ARTICLES
- NATURE
- GARDENING
- & MORE



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Shalford Village
Hall Church End
CM7 5EZ



The George Inn The
Street CM7 5HH

**FRONT PAGE
PHOTOS**

**Bendlowe's Fifth
Christmas
Luncheon at a
local restaurant**

Bendlowes presents



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Evening*



Friday 17 February 2023

7 pm until 10 pm

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*Vic and Marion reunited for a special
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Please bring your own refreshments



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SATURDAY

FEB | 18 | 2023

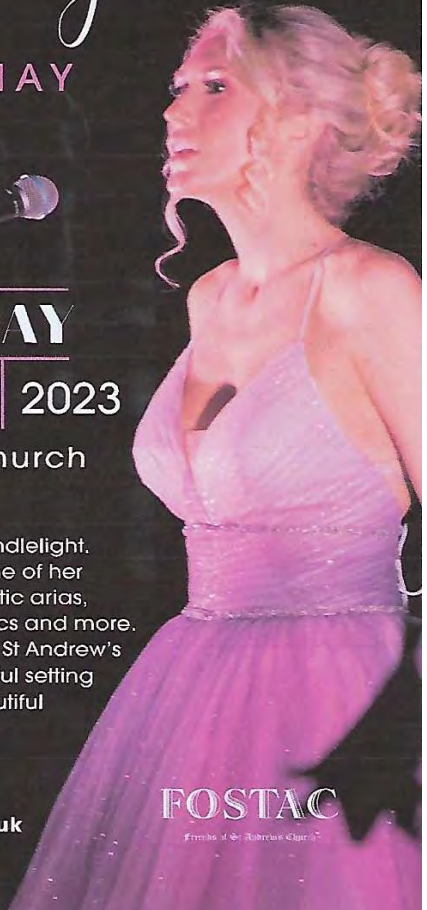
**St. Andrew's Church
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An evening of song by candlelight. Nancy will be singing some of her favourites including operatic arias, musical theatre, popular classics and more. The concert will take place in St Andrew's Church providing a beautiful setting for what will be a beautiful evening of music.



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Julia Broad, 01371 851422/07712 674929

Or by e-mail : broad.julia@yahoo.co.uk

Shalford Local History Association

Presents

A Talk by Mike Bardell

The Only Way is Essex

Local historian Mike takes us on a magical mystery tour of our wonderful county looking at the people, places and general quirks and curiosities that make up our unique history and geography.



Wednesday 22 March 2023

7.30 pm

Shalford Village Hall

Tickets £2 on the day to include refreshments
at the end

The talk will be preceded by the SLHA AGM at 7pm to which all are invited.
This is a standalone talk ie no need to have heard Mike's previous talks. Talk lasts approx. 1 hour

WHAT'S ON

WETHERSFIELD THEATRE TRIPS

We organise theatre trips to London from Wethersfield, with additional pick up points in surrounding areas. The price includes a top class seat plus luxury coach travel. So there's less hassle & more enjoyment when you book with us.

Upcoming Shows 2023 (January - May)



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FROZEN - £75



FRI 3RD MAR
MAMMA MIA! THE PARTY
- £145



THURS 13TH APR
DIRTY DANCING - £75

ROYAL DAPS
Matilda
THE MUSICAL



WEDS 17TH MAY
MATILDA - £65

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WHAT'S ON



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<http://www.cfcshalford.co.uk>

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SHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING

EVERY THIRD
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MONTH
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VILLAGE HALL

TIME: 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

For more information [https://
shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk](https://shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk)

TODDLER GROUP

Shalford Village Hall
Every Wed 9.00 to
15.00

Tel: 07764 204027

Meet & Greet
every 1st Friday of
the month 11am to
2pm

Indoor Carpet Bowls
every Tuesday Contact
Vic 07773 707404

PILATES CLASS

Shalford Village Hall
Every Thurs, 19.45 to
20.45

Tel: 07969 557845

WHAT'S ON

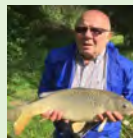
TABLE TENNIS IN FINCHINGFIELD



The group comes to the village hall on Monday evenings to play table tennis 7.30 pm for 2 hours. We welcome new members to come and join the group.

The group has 3 tables and mainly play doubles matches during the evening. All equipment is provided. Currently, to provide most protection for each other, everyone brings along their own refreshments. The standard of play is varied. Most of us had not played since our school days! The key point is that we have a lot of fun whilst aiming to help us keep in shape. Well-being has been realised as a major need following experiences during the last 24 months. Table Tennis definitely provides an uplifting and enjoyable exercise for all who attend the weekly sessions. Why not consider coming along and join us for some laughs and good exercise? We look forward to greeting you. If you would like to have a chat beforehand, please call me on 07775 531781 - Brian

SHALFORD ROADSIDE & CHURCH FISHING LAKES



are affiliated to Billericay & District Angling Club

The river Pant in Shalford is also covered by the Club

For further details contact:-
Fishery Officer: Derrick Marriott,
or www.bdac.co.uk

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CONTACT: JAMES
TEL: 07704 070498



RE-ENGAGE (Formerly Contact the Elderly)

Arranging monthly get
together over a cup of tea for
the elderly



For more details:
Contact:

Sarah Cunningham
Sarah8750@hotmail.co.uk

Or

The Charity Website:
www.reengage.org.uk
Freephone: 0800 716543

SHALFORD CRAFT GROUP

Meetings are held on the
3rd Wednesday of the month.
At 2pm onwards.
Please bring along any craft
projects you are working on.
Share ideas and learn new
crafts.

Chat and craft over tea/ coffee
and cake. For dates of when
and where please contact.

Caroline Ottley 07734140478
Marianna Marriott

WALKING GROUPS

From SHALFORD
The George Pub
every Wednesday at
10 a.m.

From
FINCHINGFIELD
Green every Friday
at 10 a.m.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION POINTS

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1 West Drive, Wethersfield - Anytime
St Andrews Church Last Friday of the Month - 9 to 11
a.m.

WHAT'S ON

SAVE THE DATE
10th/11th June 2023
Shalford Fete/Fun Day

WEA Shalford
Workers Education
Association

For more info visit:
<https://shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk>
<http://www.wea-essex.org.uk>

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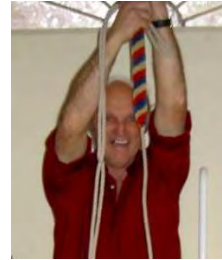
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MONDAY at Wethersfield
Church, 7 p.m. &

FRIDAY at Shalford
Church, 7 p.m.

FOR MORE DETAILS
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meet your neighbours.
Enjoy a selection of homemade
cakes and biscuits.



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EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON



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Village Hall 3.00 – 3.30 pm
The George 3.30 – 4.00 pm

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25 Mar 2023 15th Apr 2023

Wethersfield: 11.20 to 11.50 a.m.
Barryfields: 12.00 to 12.30 p.m.
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This is a great opportunity to discover the wonderful world of singing – and to make new friends.

Weekly sessions are being held at Cornish Hall End Village Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. A small weekly charge of £2 to cover the costs of hall hire and admin will be the only expense. You would be welcome to join the friendly group who have already found pleasure from the weekly sessions.

To register or for further information, please contact Lorraine Patient on

Mobile – 07775 531781 or Email – lorrainepatient@gmail.com

RE-ENGAGE – SUNDAY TEAS

We now have spaces for new guests to join our friendly Sunday tea group.

Our tea parties are free monthly social groups open to people aged 75 and over who are lonely, isolated or in need of companionship. They are a chance for a change of scenery and regular afternoons of conversation and laughter with friends of all ages.

You will even be taken there and home again so don't need to worry about organising travel.

Our teas are held the 2nd Sunday of the month 3pm - 5pm at a different hosts home each month.

If you would like some more information or if you would like to volunteer to help please get in touch.

Sarah 07505241237 sarah8750@hotmail.co.uk www.reengage.org.uk

USELESS INFORMATION

- Flamingos can only eat with their heads upside down
- There are 32 muscles in a cat's ear
- The chicken & the ostrich are the closest living relatives of the Tyrannosaurus rex
- It's impossible to tickle yourself
- Your body contains about 100,000 miles of blood vessels
- 'Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia' is a fear of long words.

REMEMBRANCE EASTER LILIES 2023



Mike Chumbley will be collecting donations for the Easter lily arrangements made at St. Andrew's Church, Shalford, in memory of loved ones.

This is an annual event in which anyone can participate. If you would like to participate, please send him –

**Your name and Contact Address,
The name/s of who you would like to be remembered
And your donation*.**

*A minimum of £5 please, to cover the cost of a lily, or a donation.

Monies to be received by Friday 17th March 2023 latest please.

He is happy to collect **or**
You may phone him on 01371 851101 **or**
Deliver to his address Redwing, Church
End, Shalford (between the school and the
shop)

Heather Smith
(organiser of Church flowers)



CHRISTMAS MEET & GREET



THANK YOU
SO MUCH FOR COMING
AND CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS
WITH US

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ENJOYABLE CHRISTMAS
AND WE WISH YOU ALL A

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RAFFLE – SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Shalford Horticultural Society were very pleased to be asked by Shalford Parish Council to sponsor a Raffle on 3rd December, 2022 at their Christmas Lights Switch On event.



We thank everyone who bought a ticket and congratulate the following winners

- 1st Prize 71 Richard Bain - Hamper
- 2nd Prize 66 Gill Askew - Hamper
- 3rd Prize 14 Lisa (Marianna) - Baileys and chocolates.
- 4th Prize 120 Mike Fielding - Port

SHALFORD VILLAGE FETE – 10TH/11TH JUNE 2023



**The next meeting for
The Shalford Village June Fete is
Wednesday, 22nd February 2023
to be held at the Village Hall at 7 pm
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In Memory of My mate “Smudger”

By: Vic Goodey

The Village has lost a good friend, Mick Smith (Smudger) who has passed away leaving a great big hole.

I first met Smudger at Meet and Greet - a larger than life character with a million and one stories. I wonder if anyone knew that he was a Fireman during his working life. That made him as proud as Punch. It wasn't long before he came to play Carpet Bowls but it took him a bit longer to master it. He wouldn't give up and became a useful player, often delighting in taking shots off me! I reminded him several times that “I am the Chairman” which made him chuckle and play even better.

Smudger was always willing to come in early, to set up and get in some practice, as

well as helping clear away and remaining with us until lock up.

When Bendlowe's and the Village Hall organised the installation of the Petanque Terrain, Smudger was there - only this time *I was the novice and he had the experience!* I can still hear him laughing.

During the Jubilee celebrations he did his bit at the Petanque Terrain, he was supposed to be there implementing the Health and Safety methodology as we had discussed beforehand but in reality he was having a good time, which was what it was all about.

Smudger was ill for some time but it didn't slow him down when doing what he enjoyed. He maintained his athletic prowess, although well hidden. I would look on in wonder as he'd chase down a wayward bowl, crawl around on hands and knees to collect in the bowls after each end and leap up to make room for the first player.

Smudger was a joy to know, he loved his wife and family, he loved a good time, he loved coming up to the Village Hall for the events, he loved a good joke and he loved Shalford. He told me on several occasions how he blessed the day he moved to the Village and he thought the world of his friends and neighbours.

My sympathy and thoughts are with Carole, Anthony and his three daughters, at this very sad time.

So here's to you Mick, you will never be forgotten

SMUDGER (MICK SMITH)

Just before Christmas, I heard the sad news that Smudger had passed away. Smudger joined Meet & Greet when it was still in its infancy and within a short time became an enthusiastic and energetic supporter accompanying us on many visits and outings. During Covid lockdown we asked him if he would write an article for Bendlowe's Bugle – despite our request being a little out of his comfort zone; Smudger being Smudger readily accepted our challenge tackling it with his usual gusto. We remember Smudger with the same dedication, affection and loyalty to Shalford Community and re-print his article in celebration of his life and to honour his memory.

*Thank you Smudger, you were a joy and a pleasure to know – you will be missed
but never forgotten – Alice Cox*

—o0o—

THE STORY OF MY LIFE AS BEST AS I CAN REMEMBER

BY: MICHAEL B SMITH (SMUDGER)



I was born on 14th January 1939, the year that Britain and France declared war on Germany. The first couple of years of my childhood were fairly uneventful until 1941 when my father passed away from blood poisoning. I didn't learn about this till later on in my life. As I got older my mother told me how she had to go out at 6 am every morning to do two or more paper rounds to supplement her small widow's pension. As I got older things became harder for all of us – with three growing boys to feed and clothe – but we knew nothing of these hardships at the time.

I have been led to believe that soon after my sixth birthday, my mother met a soldier and they married. As things settled down, he proved to be a very good man and he treated us three boys as his own. I hated school as I was a slow learner (lazy). Many of the teachers could not be bothered with me and many times I was sent to stand outside the Headmaster's Office. If he

came out, he would ask what I wanted and I would tell him. He would tell me to wait there and when the bell went for change of lesson, he would come out and tell me to go to my next class if I was lucky and if it was something I liked, that was great. This carried on almost until I left school. When I went to talk to someone about what I wanted to do when I left school, I had no idea.

I became a butcher's boy which I enjoyed as I earned £2 9 shillings and a penny until the Christmas of that year. I worked from 6 am until about 7 pm. Soon, I had had enough and left. The following Monday, I started in the local Brick Field where the wages were about £6 a week. After a few months, I got a job piecework digging clay for making bricks. I did this for a number of years until 1963 when we were told the field was going to close due to the high cost of hand-made bricks. Few people wanted hand-made bricks. By this time, I was married with three children. I was concerned as I knew that I could not do this type of work until I was 65. Therefore, I decided that I needed a job with security and applied to join the London Fire Brigade.



I was accepted and started my training on 10th February 1964. All us new recruits went into a classroom and filled out all our personal details, next of kin, etc. The Officer in Charge countersigned the form and from that moment on we were Firefighters (not firemen – they worked on the footplate of trains). After 16 weeks training the Instructor told us where we were to be posted. My face dropped – I was being posted less than a mile from my home. The Station was one of the quietest in the London Fire Brigade!

I reported for duty the following Monday. After six months you were allowed to apply for a transfer. I applied immediately and ten days later my application was REFUSED. I think that,

in the following few years, I must have put in at least ten transfer requests all to no avail.



Footnote: I did my whole service at this one station, apart from when sent on “out-duty” (where another station did not have enough men. Stations with spare men would “fill in”). As I wanted to learn all I could, I applied for more qualifications, MD (driver), BA (breathing apparatus) ET (heavy rescue).

Photos: The four photos are of myself and another member of my Watch in a competition that took place once a year between all the Stations in the London Fire Brigade from 1950's to 1980's. It required a team of two men to run out two lengths of hose and connect the two lengths together. One man would run back to the start to connect it to a hydrant whilst the other would put a nozzle on (branch) and run the hose to its full length. The man at the hydrant would turn on the water. The man at the nozzle would knock a target, remove the nozzle, undo the hose, drain it and then roll it up, run back to the start and place all equipment in a marked-out square. Both would run back to the finish and stand to attention. I cannot remember the best finish time but I do not think it was much more than four minutes.



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Photo taken June 2022 at Shalford's celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

FUNERAL SERVICE

IN LOVING

MEMORY OF

MOLLY WRIGHT

Molly passed away peacefully at home on 13th January 2023 aged 107 years and 43 days. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends and her passing will leave a great hole in village life, especially for all at St. Andrew's Church, as did her parents and grandparents. She was always cheerful when her great list of friends came to see her, despite being confined to her bedroom and in great discomfort for the last few months. Memories of her are legion and we shall have the chance to share some of these at a service of celebration for her remarkable life.

Funeral Service to take place on Tuesday 31st January at St Andrew's Church Shalford at 12:15pm followed by a private cremation.

Molly has requested family flowers only but donations, if desired, will be shared between Christian Aid, Cancer Research, Oxfam, Age UK, Barnardo's, Farleigh Hospice and The Red Cross, as she has made monthly donations to these for many years. However, you may specify a particular charity if you wish.

c/o G W Hardy & Son The Green Finchingfield CM7 4JS

Molly also requested NO Black please.





Chairperson's Report

4th January 2023

Good Evening everyone

Thank you for supporting us this evening on such a miserable night.

I'd like to formally welcome back Heather Smith who has agreed to be our new President. Following Heather's resignation in January 2022; as a team, we have kept Shalford SHS alive.

In January we hosted a quiz evening with new quiz masters Debbie and Gary, who enjoyed themselves so much they've agreed to come back again next year.

We ran our first summer show, the weather had been extremely hot and several committee members were unavailable, but the show went on! It may have been sparse but it was an enjoyable day, with a superb lunch for judges and helpers, Bendlowe refreshments and a good raffle.

An outing was organised most successfully by Caroline to Beth Chatto gardens, stopping for coffee at Poplar Nurseries.

Our members were also involved earlier in the year in planning the village jubilee celebration, which was a huge success over a four-day weekend. The SHS sponsored the colourful planting of the village hall planter and huge thanks go to Christine for planning and taking care of this during the hot summer months and then re-planting for Autumn.



We then cancelled our Autumn Show in respect of the passing of our Queen.



Finally in December we were invited by the Parish Council to run a raffle, which we did most successfully during the evening that the Christmas lights were switched on, a new celebration for our village.

Thank you all for your patience and support during my first year of being Chairperson and I wish you all a very Happy New Year

Jane Mills

BENDLOWE'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

How uplifting it was to welcome so many supporters of Bendlowe's Meet & Greet to our fifth Christmas Luncheon held in January at a local restaurant.

Bendlowe's first Christmas Luncheon took place in January 2018 and it has been held every year since (with the exception of 2020 due to lockdown). Every year has been well attended and this year was no exception with over 30 of our very special friends coming along to take over the restaurant for the afternoon.

The food, as always, was delicious, plentiful, well presented and amazing value for money, served by very friendly staff. A choice of two or three courses was on offer.

Our one and only Vic thanked all the organisers and our afternoon was enhanced by celebrating a couple of birthdays – of course, a noisy round of “happy birthday” to Angela and Rosemary echoed throughout the building.

Bendlowe's favourite – a *free* raffle with a prize of a bottle of wine was won by Kay.

A big thank you goes to Mel Fray for organising this year and we now look forward to organising this event in *January 2024*.



CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR – SATURDAY, 19TH NOVEMBER 2022

By: **Marianna Marriott**

On Saturday 19th November 2022, the Shalford Craft Group held a Christmas Craft Fair at Shalford Village Hall. Some members of the group and other local crafters/businesses had stalls to sell their handmade crafts. There was an array of gifts on display. Handmade Christmas cards and decorations, wooden bowls, signs, cheeseboards, candle holders and coat hooks, jewellery, hand knitted clothing and gift items, honey products, jams and pickles, beauty products, lighted bottles, biscuits and confectionery, pet food and treats. There was certainly something for everyone! The raffle had some amazing prizes donated by stall holders, members of the craft group or from Shalford residents. Mike and Nicola did a great job of selling tickets.

In the kitchen, there were refreshments available, including mulled wine. Well it was nearly Christmas and we sold out, so what does that tell you about the people of Shalford!!! The selection of cakes was amazing, again donated by our talented and generous villagers. There were mince pies, scones, sausage rolls, brownies, cupcakes, and muffins.

The event was well supported all day. It was lovely to see so many people. Many favourable comments were received. We will run the event again this year before Christmas so please look out for adverts around the village or in the magazine.

If anyone is interested in joining the craft group which is held on the third Wednesday of each month at either Caroline's or Marianna's house please contact **Caroline on 07734 140478 or**

Marianna on 07450 251525 - you will be most welcome. They are very informal meetings and of course plenty of tea/coffee and cake.



RHUBARB - GROWN IN A POT



Rhubarb is eaten as a fruit but officially it is a vegetable. Rhubarb is a big deep-rooted perennial that will grow in a large pot for several years. Its blush stems and large sculptured leaves make an impressive architectural feature.

Size matters when choosing a pot and generally, the bigger the better. Larger pots hold more compost and thus more moisture and nutrients. Pots require good drainage to prevent rotting, but the large leaves of rhubarb need a steady supply of water. To provide both requirements, plant in a mix of well-rotted manure, John Innes No. 3 compost and add water retaining crystals to help to keep the compost moist.

METHOD

- Plant young rhubarb plants or “crowns” in early winter or early spring.
- Make a hole in the compost and plant ensuring the crown, where the new shoots emerge, is not buried.
- Each subsequent year apply an all-purpose granular feed and renew the top layer of the compost mix.
- Pick stems from spring until early summer by twisting and pulling at the base of the plant rather than cutting them.

However, do not harvest your plant in the first year which needs to bulk up, and in the second and third years pick only a few stems. In the following years pull as required.

To pull rhubarb, place your thumb inside the stem as far down as possible and with a twisting motion, pull it from the crown. Cut off the leaves, which are poisonous, and put them to rot on the compost heap.

To “force” rhubarb for early, tender, pale pink stems exclude light completely by placing a bucket or terracotta forcing pot, over the crown, any time from late winter to early spring. The blanched stems will be ready for harvest about a month later.

Forcing exhausts plants so give them a rest every other year.

The old cultivar “Champagne” is an early cropper and ideal for forcing, while “Giant Grooveless Crimson is relatively compact and not overly acidic.

Remember it is the stalks you are harvesting so imperfections on the leaves does not mean you cannot use the stalks.

Happy Gardening
The Theoretical Gardener

NATURE NOTES – THE SPIDER

By: Mac Beanland

I hope Everyone had a nice Christmas and I wish you a Happy New Year.



One quiet evening over Christmas, I sat by the fire with a tot of Malt Whiskey and my dog thinking what shall I write in my nature notes for the new year; when I noticed one of the fairy lights on the Christmas tree was shining through a brand-new cobweb and I decided the spider was telling me to write about spiders. So, spiders it is.

I know a lot of people are terrified of spiders they can take you quite by surprise but most spiders which are native to the UK are harmless. When I set about making notes, I realised I knew very little about them so it has been a very steep learning curve and, I must say, I have found it a very interesting subject to research. One thing which has amazed me: I have only seen it a few times in my long farming life, is to go out early in the morning and see a complete field covered by one seemingly complete cob web suspended from the uppermost leaves of the crop. This must have been the work of thousands of spiders working all night and means that they know a certain type of fly is going to hatch from the ground and the spiders want to catch them for food in very much the same way in which swallows and swifts suddenly appear in their hundreds one summer evening for a feast on certain flying insects which have just hatched and taken to the air.

One piece of research tells me that the majority of spiders are solitary only meeting up once a year to mate and if the female rejects the male, she will usually kill him and eat him and if they do mate, she will eat him any way once they have mated. So now you know where the expression, “you look good enough to eat” comes from, but a few species are sociable and do work together and produce huge webs to collect food. There are over 45,000 known species world wide of which only a very small number are verminous. One fact which truly amazed me was that most of the solitary species don’t have a brain as such instead they have a very highly developed nervous system which controls their whole-body systems. They all breed in the spring time both male and female have their reproductive organs at the lower end of their abdomens but they don’t couple during mating the male deposits his semen in a small silky parcel and deposits the whole parcel into the females genital opening using his pedipalps to carry it (then whilst he is exhausted but happy, she eats him). The female then lays her eggs into a cocoon which she has made using the silk she produces to make her webs with. She can lay between 1 to 3000 eggs at a time they will hatch a month later and she will stay with them and feed them with her milk; they will stay in the nest for a month



until they are fully grown. It is important for a healthy brood that the mother keeps the nest free from parasites. I know some people are afraid of spiders but rest assured of the 650 species found in the UK only 12 can bite you and they are all the fat varieties with short hairy legs. Spiders in your house are said to be of more benefit than hinderance as they feed on most of our insect pests and flies even eating earwigs. Most of our spiders don't need water, leading entomologist do say that spiders are an important part of our indoor ecosystems and are rarely a danger to humans.

Before I moved to Shalford I lived in a converted Essex Barn with lots of original old wooden beams with countless nooks and crannies which were homes to countless spiders. Removing spiders webs was an endless job. A lady who used to come and do some cleaning for me would send me a text saying "I will come over tomorrow and evict some of your spiders", but I must say they never bothered me!

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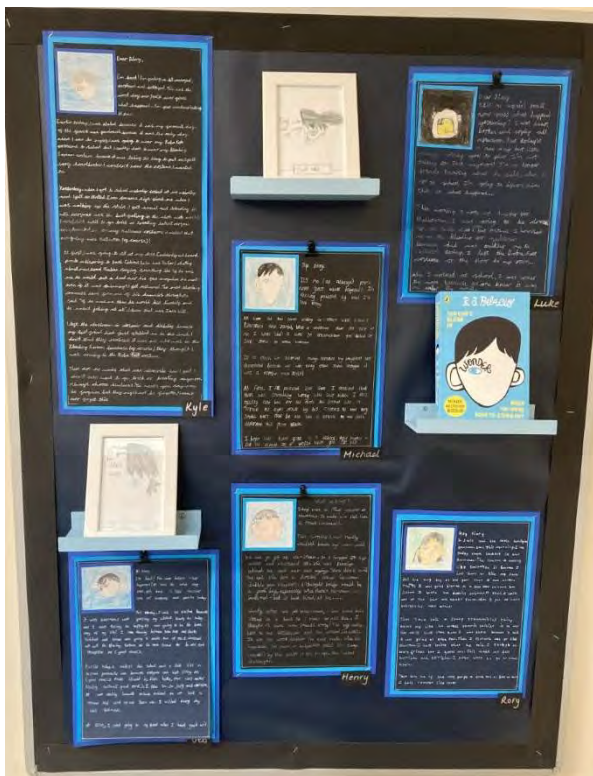


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SHALFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL
By: JENNIFER PENNEY, HEAD OF SCHOOL



Year 5 and Year 6 have been reading a book called Wonder, which has also been made into a film. We always get so much from this book, and I recommend it for ages 10 years and up. It is a great read for adults too!

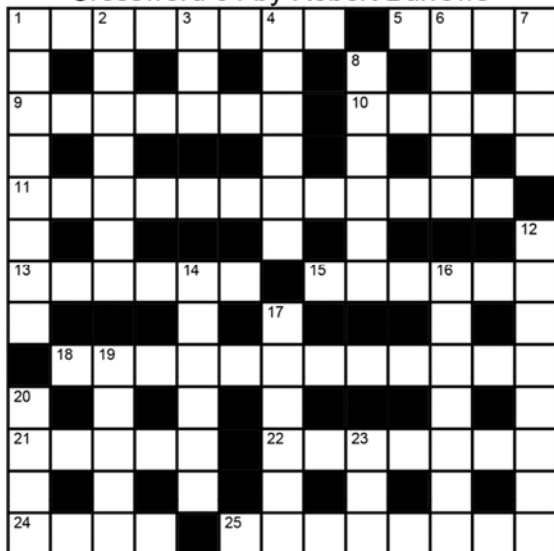
The teacher, Mrs Hinton, has made a beautiful display with the children's work. We are very proud of the pupils, who have worked so hard on this.

The main theme of the book is kindness and understanding of people's differences.



If you have just moved into the area or you have any questions or you would like a tour of the school, please give us a ring on 01371850336. You can book in and come and see the lovely displays for yourself.

Crossword 64 by Robert Burrows



Across

- 1 A rare or unique person (4,4)
 5 Charitable relief (4)
 9 Status of celebrity (7)
 10 Get away from (5)
 11 Essex hamlet (7-5)
 13 Blood poisoning (6)
 15 Natural (6)
 18 Essex hamlet (7-5)
 21 Musical instrument (5)
 22 Seedless raisin (7)
 24 Contralto voice (4)
 25 Quartz variety (8)

Down

- 1 Beautiful plant (4-4)
 2 Document to achieve goal (4,3)
 3 Help (3)
 4 Deepest within the self (6)
 6 Small wingless insect (5)

7 Action of turning (4)

- 8 A nerve cell (6)
 12 Transmission of news (8)
 14 Mad (6)
 16 Irregularity (7)
 17 Material thrown overboard (6)
 19 A cipher (5)
 20 Ascetic discipline (4)
 23 Ignited (3)

Cryptic Across

- 1 Two cheers for rare bird (4,4)
 5 Sadly slam the hand-outs (4)
 9 Do trams make for celestial status? (7)
 10 Avoid eastern duel maybe (5)
 11 Sadly, Barb, germ seen in hamlet 7,5

13 Small spies could cause infection (6)

15 Hotel drink? It's natural (6)

18 Sly, Rose, chore organised in this hamlet (7-5)

21 Groan about the instrument (5)

22 Lust Ana to get golden grape (7)

24 Singing voice of Val Torro? (4)

25 Hasty? Met for semi-precious stone (8)

Cryptic Down

1 Hour Bess arranges to get plant (4-4)
 2 Damp oar could make travel guide (4,3)

3 First help (3)

4 No mist, maybe, but deepest (6)

6 Scoundrel in Seoul maybe (5)

7 Turn around and killed (4)

8 Sounds like new Ron, tiny body part (6)

12 Acts sewn up – how to spread the word (8)

14 Poor Annie's mentally ill (6)

16 Any loam could be abnormal (7)

17 Badly set jam could be washed up on beach (6)

19 Obligated, though missing a letter (5)

20 Some BYO gas needed for exercise (4)

23 In part, Eli turned on the gas (3)



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

BY: TRICIA MOXEY, Trustee

Flowering snowdrops are a welcome sight in early February. Although not native to this country, these spring-flowering bulbs were planted in churchyards from the 16th century onwards. As their seeds are dispersed by ants, they have become naturalised in suitable locations such as hedgerows. Snowdrops carpet parts of Hatfield Forest and the gardens of Audley End and Easton Lodge where visitors can admire them; smaller clusters will be present in most of the churchyards around the Hundred Parishes.

Snowdrops are easily seen, but other early spring flowers will follow them as the days lengthen. Yellow-flowered primroses, winter aconites and lesser celandines appear alongside sweet violets. All these flowers produce pollen and nectar, vital food for early-foraging honeybees, queen bumblebees and other insects. Surveys of churchyards indicate they can be havens for wildflowers often supporting species which have become rare in the wider countryside.

Whilst neatly mown grass is appreciated by many, leaving vegetation uncut allows many attractive grassland plants to flower for the benefit of insects.

The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland organises a wildflower hunt to record what is in flower at the start of the year. The aim is to record how flowers are responding to a warming climate. Enthusiasts search their local area, noting what is in flower. This year, the number of species recorded within the Hundred Parishes was much reduced, almost certainly due to the wintry weather experienced in December.

More flowers will bloom as spring advances, so I encourage you to enjoy one or more of the walks or open gardens listed on www.hundredparishes.org.uk - or visit your local churchyard. If you are able, take some photos of what is in flower to share with friends or family or post them on Facebook, perhaps on The Hundred Parishes Facebook group.



Snowdrops



Winter Aconites



Snowdrops in Stansted Mountfitchet churchyard



Snowdrops in Takeley churchyard

Shalford Parish Council by Samantha Batt



Happy New Year to all our Parishioners!

What a fabulous turn out we had prior to Christmas at our first Christmas light switch on. What a stunning tree kindly donated by the Phipps family. A donation of £200 was made by the Parish Council to the Creamer fund in return. Thank you to Andrew and Andrew for setting up and special thanks Neil Birks for his creative flair making this tree our best yet.

Thank you to all the stall holders, helpers, Reverend Nicholls and of course to you, our lovely friends and neighbours who turned out to support. We look forward to making it bigger and better next year!



Hopefully, you will have seen our lovely new sign at **Stoneley Park**. We are hoping to do more with this site over the coming year with the support of Essex County Council.



Do you want to improve where you live?

See something wrong?

Click - Report - Track

Take a picture - Send it to us with a location -
Track our progress on our website.

*Fly tipping - Weeds - Littering - Pot Holes - Path
Issues - Fallen Trees*

**Please only send one issue per email to
fix.it@shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk**

As the weather improves our **Parish Ranger** will be out and about again. Please do report anything that you see that needs attention via Fix It.

Council meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there

Mandy, Adrian, Sam, Andrew M, Andrew H, Neil & Michelle

A VERY UNUSUAL GUEST FOR DINNER

By: Carl Muir

When I was about eleven, I started listening to Radio Moscow. My father's set's short wave reception was clear though the speaker spoke to me as if I was an audience, rather than to me personally like our BBC. I listened as well to Voice of America. WW2 was over. The broadcasts were not very interesting, though the Russian one offered to send me a file of coloured postcards of Moscow which I sent for. These were very interesting. I studied them and kept them safe.

Many years later in the 70s, there was a series of armed bullion robberies in London. What has this to do with Russia? Wait a minute. My new next door neighbour Brian (we'll call him that – he'd prefer it) was a motor design engineer for commercial vehicles. Britain's banks were demanding urgent safety improvements for their staff carrying millions of pounds in their vulnerable vans. Brian's company had taken over a nearby small vehicle manufacturing place to build something to withstand a deadly attack on the high street. Later on, improved detection contributed to the stopping of attacks we are told, together with the electronic method of money transfer, but the presence of the new armoured Securicor vehicles on streets was the turning point.

About this time, there was civil unrest in Russia, turmoil on Moscow's streets, and they too suffered many deadly armed robberies. However there was a relaxation of tension between Russia and the Western countries. Brian called in one evening. The Russian government had put in an order for Securicor vehicles. It was not top secret, but certainly not publicised as they were combating international criminals. He said their people were here headed by a senior engineer. Also he felt in view of the security situation this man was certainly a police officer, he might be from the KGB – the world's most frightening secret organisation. Further, he was in a hotel near us, accompanied by some anonymous staff – more engineers/security people in a back room, maybe KGB personnel. My next surprise was Brian intended to entertain his visitor at the hotel this evening as all arrangements for sales and transport were complete and would I like to come? I certainly did and I remembered to bring my Moscow postcard collection. He said the British authorities including police were fully aware of the goings on. The evening was very enjoyable. We were soon on Christian names terms with the foreign guest – Michael. He was charming and amusing, immaculately dressed and speaking accent-free faultless English, chatting generally. (Brian told me earlier he had been questioned and the vehicle tested minutely for two days). Well into the meal, Brian being uninhibited asked Michael if he was KGB, the prompt reply being "Yes, I am a Colonel". So were his unseen associates who remained constantly out-of-sight. I told him how I used to listen to his broadcasts and he examined my cards. He gave me his visiting card and invited me to Moscow. Then he burst out laughing, saying "I must tell you this. It's unbelievable, as told to me by my colleagues. This afternoon they had a tap on the door and two big young men walked in unannounced, put their hands forwards and said "Hullo boys, you must be KGB. We are Special Branch Police Wales. The girl on the desk said where you'd be. We thought you'd like a drink," and produced a couple of beers. In no time they had a card school going." Michael said, still laughing, "In the whole history of the KGB anywhere in the world, there has never been the slightest likelihood of any personal contact with another country's security service. It

is forbidden, it is secret". He paused, "Until your Welsh beer today!" We shook hands like the Special Branch did and slipped home.

Thirty years later, remembering that evening, I find it unreal a KGB Colonel on duty invited me to Moscow. He was probably being polite. However regarding Brian and his motor factory, I recall the speech from the MI5 Boss on November 15th, when he said his organisation had now expelled over four hundred Russian spies from the UK. Before they bought the Securitor's, they would have investigated his works, himself and family personally, and his workforce to exclude listening devices or other incriminating evidence. In my childhood naivety, I was unaware of Moscow's seeding of a juvenile audience for the future.

Still, I enjoyed meeting Michael.

THE GEORGE INN, SHALFORD

Hi, I'm Paul Pilgrim and, as a lot of you know, I'm the new owner of The George Inn. Even before I started trading, I knew I had made the right decision to come back to my roots. I believe all villages should have a pub - a community within a community - and it



was obvious from the get-go that you guys felt the same. I had so many people pop in and show an interest during the refurbishments, saying how much they wanted – and were looking forward - to getting **their** pub back. We had a 'soft' opening on 18th October and it was pure joy to see how word spread that night and to see the number of locals who came in to say how wonderful it was that we were open. Ever since, I have met more and more people from the village and surrounding

areas, who have supported, encouraged and helped create a most wonderful, friendly atmosphere. We are a pub first and foremost, but now serve delicious traditional Essex Huffers with chips for your enjoyment. We had great fun celebrating Christmas and bringing in the New Year with you and now have a pool table and a monthly ladies night – with plans for a gents night too! There will be more events and merriment throughout the year, so follow us on Facebook to see what's going on

– <https://www.facebook.co/thegeorgeinnshalford>. That just leaves me to say a massive THANK YOU for welcoming me – and The George Inn – back to being part of the Shalford community.

BENEFICE BELFRY NOTES

By: Roy Threadgold

In common with virtually every sector of society, our bellringers of the Pant Valley Churches suffered a severe setback to their progress through loss of members and lack of practice opportunity. Four of our Benefice churches have rings of bells – Gt Bardfield, Finchingfield and Wethersfield have 8 each, whilst Shalford has 5 and we arrange Sunday Service ringing in all of them.

The Annual District of the Northern District of the Essex Association of Change Ringers in January was still in “Zoom” time, so none of the customary ringing, service, meal and socialising. However, the business meeting went ahead virtually and Tim from Shalford was elected as District Secretary – the first Shalford ringer to hold Association office.

Happily, 2022 then saw a return to more normal times and ringing has regained its old momentum.

The first coup was in April, when a Wethersfield band, boosted by two Braintree ringers, came first in the Northern District Striking Competition at Great Easton. Subsequently we went forward to the County finals at West Ham in July, coming 7th.

Meantime, a Shalford band, for the first time ever, entered the District Call Change competition at Rayne and gained a creditable second place.

At the beginning of September, we had the Benefice Pilgrimage to St Peter’s Bradwell-on-Sea, and an advance party of our ringers arranged to be ringing the bells of St Thomas’ Parish Church to welcome the main party to the village.

There was another Benefice trip in October, ringing at five churches around Newmarket with a nice pub lunch (and darts for the boys) half way.

Talking of boys, we currently have four boys aged 11 to 15 among our Sunday Service ringers, but strangely, no girls at the present! (Our overall age range is 11 to well over 80.)

Quarter peals have been rung in all four towers. These are a sort of landmark test of ringing ability, requiring about 45 minutes of non-stop teamwork and intense concentration. At the time of writing, Gt Bardfield had scored 7, Finchingfield 6, Shalford 3 and Wethersfield 9. Especial congratulations to those achieving their first Quarter: Adrian, Alexander, Alfie, Matt and Pamela. At Shalford in March we were finally able to ring a Quarter of 1,260 Plain Bob Doubles in memory of David French on what would have been his 65th birthday, having been thwarted for two years by COVID. In May a Quarter of 1,312 Hazel Surprise Major was rung in memory of Hazel Threadgold who had sat through thousands of ringing sessions throughout the country and beyond, and in July, Roy celebrated a big birthday with a Quarter of Grandsire Triples at Finchingfield, the rest of the band all having been taught by him over the course of nearly 60 years. A Quarter of Plain Bob Triples at Bardfield celebrated the 60th wedding anniversary of Peter and Marian.

An exceptionally busy period for ringers was triggered by the death and funeral of HM the Queen and the accession of HM King Charles III. A single bell in each tower was tolled for an hour at noon on the day following the Queen’s death, and a muffled Quarter Peal was rung in

her memory at Wethersfield. Further ringing was hastily arranged for the Accession announcement and again for the funeral. Now we have our eyes set on the coronation; at least we have more warning of that.

Practices are held on Mondays and Tuesdays at Wethersfield (Tuesday being basic handling on silent bells for new ringers), Thursdays at Gt. Bardfield and Fridays at Shalford.

New recruits are always welcome; why not check it out at [Becoming a Bell Ringer - Essex Association of Change Ringers \(eacr.org.uk\)](#), or simply come along to one of our practices. But beware, it's not just a matter of pulling a bit of rope; you could become addicted!

Contacts:

roy@boydellsdairy.co.uk

nick@hollandfamily.org.uk

Crossword 64 Solution – Robert Burrows

1	R	A	2	R	A	3	A	V	4	I	S		5	A	6	L	M	7	S
	O		O		I		N			8	N		O						L
9	S	T	A	R	D	O	M			10	E	L	U	D	E				
	E		D		O		U		S		W								
11	B	A	M	B	E	R	S	G	R	E	E	N							
	U		A				T		O									12	N
13	S	E	P	S	14	S		15	I	N	N	A	T	E					
	H				N			17	J			N		W					
		18	H	O	R	S	L	E	Y	C	R	O	S	S					
20	Y		U	A			T					M		C					
21	O	R	G	A	N			22	S	U	L	T	A	N	A				
	G		H		E				A		I		L		S				
24	A	L	T	O				25	A	M	E	T	H	Y	S	T			

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THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES**



**Shalford
St Andrew's**



**Wethersfield
St Mary
Magdalene**



**Finchingfield
St John the
Baptist**



**Gt Bardfield
St Mary The
Virgin**



**Little
Bardfield
St Katharine**



**Cornish Hall
End
St John the
Evangelist**

From the Vicarage...

'Have you ever wondered...' It's a line which has inspired many journeys and big life choices. For many (if not most) of us, moments will have stuck in our memories of the time when either we, or someone close to us, first voiced a suggestion which led us down a significant path in our lives – that might be marriage, career, starting a family, or moving house, to name just a few examples. I still remember the first few people who asked me, 'Have you ever wondered about becoming a priest?' I also remember my own initial reactions, which were along the lines of: 'What, me? I don't think I could do that!'

Big changes in life do tend to start with us 'trying out' the idea, talking about it first as a remote possibility, 'wondering' about it, until – if it is the right thing – it starts to crystallise and become more definite. It means that we all need spaces in which we can give voice to those wonderings, and while they might start off as private, as time goes on, we will all rely on the support of others in whose company we can test our wonderings, who can affirm and shape what we are discovering.

This is something we believe is particularly important in church, as we have at the heart of our faith the belief that God wishes every one of us to flourish. So, you may notice in the list of services and events a number of items which include the words 'discussion,' 'reflection,' and 'explore'. This is because church is not a place where we aim to provide lots of 'cut and dried' answers about what you should believe; instead, it's a place to discover a relationship with God. So, whatever your wonderings about faith, life and God, we'd love you to come and share those with us, fellow wonderers.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

**Services on Sundays and
Principal Holy Days**

Sunday 5 February

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Parish Communion – Shalford

10.30am Sunday Café – Cornish Hall End

10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield

11am Prayer & Pilgrimage – Wethersfield
(an informal service of reflection and discussion)

3pm Children’s Church – Wethersfield

Sunday 12 February

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little Bardfield

10.30am Morning Service with Communion – Finchingfield

11am Family Service – Wethersfield

4pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 19 February

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

9.30am Morning Service – Shalford

10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield

10.30am Family Service – Finchingfield

4pm Words & Music *Looking towards Lent* – Cornish Hall End

Tuesday 21 February – Shrove

Tuesday

9.30am Holy Communion

followed by Pancake Party at 10.15am – Great Bardfield

Wednesday 22 February – Ash

Wednesday

11am Reflective Communion Service with ashing – Wethersfield

7.30pm Sung Communion Service with ashing – Great Bardfield

Sunday 26 February – First Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield

9.30am Morning Service – Shalford

10.30am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield

11am Family Communion Service – Wethersfield

Regular Services & Events during the week

Monday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield

Tuesday

9am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

Thursday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Wethersfield

10am Prayer Group (1st, 3rd & 5th weeks)

Coffee Morning (2nd & 4th weeks) – Shalford

Coffee Morning (3rd week) – Cornish Hall End

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

Friday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Shalford

Saturday

10.30am (3rd weeks) Coffee Morning – Wethersfield

AND IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS...

All are welcome to join in one of the discussion groups we are running with thanks to the hospitality of some of our local pubs. The group which meets at **The George, Shalford** is already up and running, and meets on **Mondays at 2.30pm**. Additionally, from **Sunday 26 February**, another such group will be meeting at **The Finchingfield Lion on Sunday evenings at 8pm**. These groups are particularly aimed at those who are **exploring questions of faith**, and would like to talk in a relaxed and open environment about them. No need to book in advance – just turn up, and all are welcome!

**SHALFORD CHURCH OF ST ANDREW'S
PANT VALLEY CHURCHES
CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT**



**Shalford
St Andrew's**



**Wethersfield
St Mary
Magdalene**



**Finchingfield
St John the
Baptist**



**Gt Bardfield
St Mary The
Virgin**



**Little
Bardfield
St Katharine**



**Cornish Hall
End
St John the
Evangelist**

I do hope that you all had a contented Christmas-tide and a feeling of optimism for the New Year. We celebrated at St Andrew's without the anti-Covid precautions that prevailed over the last two years and it was wonderful to see so many of you at the Christmas Eve carol service, about 250 all told! Nancy May was there to sing to us and the Vicar played the organ to perfection. The church looked simply beautiful, decorated with floral arrangements in red, gold and green by Heather Smith and her talented team, and dozens of candles made and put in place by Michael Mason. I'm sorry if you missed it because few village churches (in my experience) could equal the display created by local people who love this place.

Now 2023 is upon us with all the opportunities and surprises – maybe unwelcome – that will inevitably arise. St Andrew's is in good heart and is there for you whenever you need it. I had hoped, in collaboration with Bendlowe's and the Parish Council, that St Andrew's could take part in a "Warm Spaces" initiative in the Village Hall from November – March and to that end I applied in October for a grant from a special fund under the auspices of Essex County Council to give us some cash towards set-up expenses. However, I heard nothing more until December when I was told by email that due to "unprecedented demand" the fund's organisers were struggling with the volume of requests and that I would get an answer in due course. I'm still waiting! Maybe one of the effects of global warming will negate the need for a community "warm space" this winter but it would have been useful during the cold snap in December. I'll keep you updated.

The church has now embarked on its own "new year" which began on Advent Sunday back in November and there are a number of projects in the pipeline as outlined in my December report. We are ably bolstered by the hard work of FOSTAC which raises funds that contribute solely to the maintenance of the fabric of our ancient building – like the Forth Road Bridge there is always something that need attention – and I would urge you to support their 2023 programme whenever you can, either by attending the events and/or by contributing some muscle-power when necessary; there are always jobs to be done backstage in staging each event. Please contact Sue Morton if you feel you can help.

My very best wishes to all of you who read this, and I notice that the snowdrops are beginning to show in the churchyard, surely an indication that spring is on the way!

Hilary Penney

SHALFORD CHURCH OF ST ANDREW'S

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St Andrew's Coffee Mornings

STOP PRESS!! And a HAPPY NEW YEAR

Last year we supported Braintree Food Bank and thanks to you all coming along to the Coffee Mornings we managed to raise more than £344 which has now been donated to the Braintree Food Bank.

This year we are continuing with two Coffee Mornings each month - that is the 2nd Thursday and the 4th Thursday in the month.

This year we are going to continue to donate to a local Charity and the one which has been chosen for the first six months is **Essex Air Ambulance**. As we know they do wonderful work and we are lucky to have this service - so please come along and enjoy good company, coffee, cakes and donate anything you can.

If you are able to make a cake or cakes these would be very welcome - so far we only have one 'cake-maker'!! If you can bake a cake please let Diana know as it will be very much appreciated.

For more details contact Diana Farrow on 01371 850110 or Sylvia Lester 01371 850211.

We look forward to seeing you all and any new friends in the coming months.





FOSTAC

Friends of St Andrew's Church

President

Sir Roger Singleton, CBE.

February 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

We wish all our supporters a very Happy New Year

FOSTAC is now planning to arrange the events for 2023 and the first one will be on Saturday 18th February in St Andrew's Church

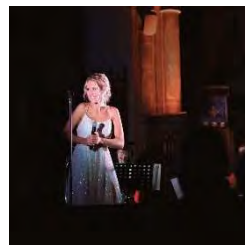
We welcome Nancy May to present a concert of song and music. Nancy has become a well-known singer to us and we are pleased she has agreed to perform for us.

Nancy is a 'cross-over' Soprano living in Essex performing operatic arias, musical theatre, popular songs and more, all in a classical style. She has sung at high profile events and for a member of the Royal Family.

Tickets will be on sale shortly priced at £10 and there will be the usual FOSTAC Drinks and Nibbles

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday 18th February

FOSTAC
Committee



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History of aviation (cont)

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This article is about the history of aviation.

In 1709, [Bartolomeu de Gusmão](#) presented a petition to King [John V of Portugal](#), begging for support for his invention of an airship, in which he expressed the greatest confidence. The public test of the machine, which was set for 24 June 1709, did not take place. According to contemporary reports, however, Gusmão appears to have made several less ambitious experiments with this machine, descending from eminences. It is certain that Gusmão was working on this principle at the public exhibition he gave before the Court on 8 August 1709, in the hall of the [Casa da Índia](#) in [Lisbon](#), when he propelled a ball to the roof by combustion.^[*clarification needed*]

Balloons

Main article: [History of ballooning](#)



Lithographic depiction of pioneering events (1783 to 1846).

1783 was a watershed year for ballooning and aviation. Between 4 June and 1 December, five aviation firsts were achieved in France:

- On 4 June, the [Montgolfier brothers](#) demonstrated their unmanned [hot air balloon](#) at [Annonay](#), France.
- On 27 August, [Jacques Charles](#) and the [Robert brothers](#) (*Les Freres Robert*) launched the world's first unmanned hydrogen-filled balloon, from the [Champ de Mars](#), Paris.
- On 19 October, the Montgolfiers launched the first manned flight, a tethered balloon with humans on board, at the [Folie Tison](#) in Paris. The aviators were the scientist [Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier](#), the manufacture manager [Jean-Baptiste Réveillon](#), and Giroud de Villette.
- On 21 November, the Montgolfiers launched the first free flight with human passengers. King Louis XVI had originally decreed that condemned criminals

would be the first pilots, but Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier, along with the [Marquis François d'Arlandes](#), successfully petitioned for the honor. They drifted 8 km (5.0 mi) in a balloon-powered by a wood fire.

- On 1 December, Jacques Charles and the [Nicolas-Louis Robert](#) launched their manned hydrogen balloon from the [Jardin des Tuileries](#) in Paris, as a crowd of 400,000 witnessed. They ascended to a height of about 1,800 feet (550 m)[15] and landed at sunset in [Nesles-la-Vallée](#) after a flight of 2 hours and 5 minutes, covering 36 km. After Robert alighted Charles decided to ascend alone. This time he ascended rapidly to an altitude of about 9,800 feet (3,000 m), where he saw the sun again, suffered extreme pain in his ears, and never flew again.

Ballooning became a major "rage" in Europe in the late 18th century, providing the first detailed understanding of the relationship between altitude and the atmosphere.

Non-steerable balloons were employed during the [American Civil War](#) by the [Union Army Balloon Corps](#). The young [Ferdinand von Zeppelin](#) first flew as a balloon passenger with the Union [Army of the Potomac](#) in 1863.

In the early 1900s, ballooning was a popular sport in Britain. These privately owned balloons usually used [coal gas](#) as the lifting gas. This has half the lifting power of hydrogen so the balloons had to be larger, however, coal gas was far more readily available and the local gas works sometimes provided a special lightweight formula for ballooning events.^[29]

Airship

Main articles: [Airship](#) and [Zeppelin](#)



The 1884 Krebs & Renard first fully controllable free-flights with the LA FRANCE electric dirigible near Paris (Krebs arch.)



Santos-Dumont's "Number 6" rounding the Eiffel Tower in the process of winning the Deutsch de la Meurthe Prize, October 1901.

Airships were originally called "dirigible balloons" and are still sometimes called dirigibles today.

Work on developing a steerable (or dirigible) balloon continued sporadically throughout the 19th century. The first powered, controlled, sustained lighter-than-air flight is believed to have taken place in 1852 when [Henri Giffard](#) flew 15 miles (24 km) in France, with a steam engine driven craft.

Another advance was made in 1884, when the first fully controllable free-flight was made in a French Army electric-powered airship, *La France*, by [Charles Renard](#) and [Arthur Krebs](#). The 170-foot (52 m) long, 66,000-cubic-foot (1,900 m³) airship covered 8 km (5.0 mi) in 23 minutes with the aid of an 8½ horsepower electric motor.

However, these aircraft were generally short-lived and extremely frail. Routine, controlled flights would not occur until the advent of the internal combustion engine (see below.)

The first aircraft to make routine controlled flights were [non-rigid airships](#) (sometimes called "blimps".) The most successful early pioneering pilot of this type of aircraft was the Brazilian [Alberto Santos-Dumont](#) who effectively combined a balloon with an internal combustion engine. On 19 October 1901, he flew his airship *Number 6* over Paris from the [Parc de Saint Cloud](#) around the [Eiffel Tower](#) and back in under 30 minutes to win the [Deutsch de la Meurthe prize](#). Santos-Dumont went on to design and build several aircraft. The subsequent controversy surrounding his and others' competing claims with regard to aircraft overshadowed his great contribution to the development of airships.

At the same time that non-rigid airships were starting to have some success, the first successful rigid airships were also being developed. These would be far more capable than fixed-wing aircraft in terms of pure cargo carrying capacity for decades. Rigid airship design and advancement was pioneered by the German count [Ferdinand von Zeppelin](#).

Construction of the first [Zeppelin](#) airship began in 1899 in a floating assembly hall on Lake Constance in the Bay of Manzell, [Friedrichshafen](#). This was intended to ease the starting procedure, as the hall could easily be aligned with the wind. The prototype airship [LZ 1](#) (LZ for "Luftschiff Zeppelin") had a length of 128 m (420 ft) was driven by two 10.6 kW (14.2 hp) [Daimler](#) engines and balanced by moving a weight between its two nacelles.

Its first flight, on 2 July 1900, lasted for only 18 minutes, as LZ 1 was forced to land on the lake after the winding mechanism for the balancing weight had broken. Upon repair, the technology proved its potential in subsequent flights, bettering the 6 m/s speed attained by the French airship *La France* by 3 m/s, but could not yet convince possible investors. It would be several years before the Count was able to raise enough funds for another try.

German airship passenger service known as [DELAG](#) (Deutsche-Luftschiffahrts AG) was established in 1910.

Although airships were used in both World War I and II, and continue on a limited basis to this day, their development has been largely overshadowed by heavier-than-air craft.

Heavier than air

Main article: [Early flying machines](#)

17th and 18th centuries

Italian inventor [Tito Livio Burattini](#), invited by the [Polish](#) King [Władysław IV](#) to his court in [Warsaw](#), built a model aircraft with four fixed [glider](#) wings in 1647.^[30] Described as "four pairs of wings attached to an elaborate 'dragon'", it was said to have successfully lifted a cat in 1648 but not Burattini himself.^[31] He promised that "only the most minor injuries" would result from landing the craft.^[32] His "Dragon Volant" is considered "the most elaborate and sophisticated aeroplane to be built before the 19th Century".^[33]

The first published paper on aviation was "[Sketch of a Machine for Flying in the Air](#)" by [Emanuel Swedenborg](#) published in 1716. This flying machine consisted of a light frame covered with strong canvas and provided with two large oars or wings moving on a horizontal axis, arranged so that the upstroke met with no resistance while the downstroke provided lifting power. Swedenborg knew that the machine would not fly, but suggested it as a start and was confident that the problem would be solved. He wrote: "It seems easier to talk of such a machine than to put it into actuality, for it requires greater force and less weight than exists in a human body. The science of mechanics might perhaps suggest a means, namely, a strong spiral spring. If these advantages and requisites are observed, perhaps in time to come someone might know how better to utilize our sketch and cause some addition to be made so as to accomplish that which we can only suggest. Yet there are sufficient proofs and examples from nature that such flights can take place without danger, although when the first trials are made you may have to pay for the experience, and not mind an arm or leg". Swedenborg would prove prescient in his observation that a method of powering of an aircraft was one of the critical problems to be overcome.

On 16 May 1793, the Spanish inventor [Diego Marín Aguilera](#) managed to cross the river Arandilla in [Coruña del Conde](#), [Castile](#), flying 300 – 400 m, with a flying machine.^[34]

19th century

Balloon jumping replaced tower jumping, also demonstrating with typically fatal results that man-power and flapping wings were useless in achieving flight. At the same time scientific study of heavier-than-air flight began in earnest. In 1801, the French officer [André Guillaume Resnier de Goué](#) managed a 300-metre glide by starting from the top of the city walls of [Angoulême](#) and broke only one leg on arrival.^[35] In 1837 French mathematician and brigadier general [Isidore Didion](#) stated, "Aviation will be successful only if one finds an engine whose ratio with the weight of the device to be supported will be larger than current steam machines or the strength developed by humans or most of the animals".^[36]

Sir George Cayley and the first modern aircraft

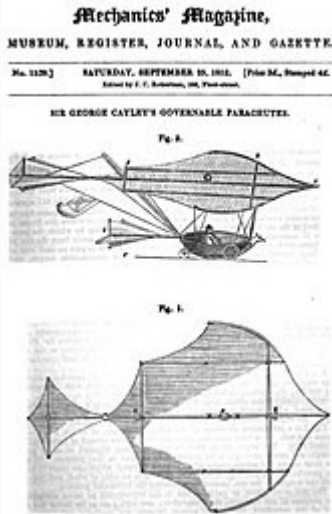
[Sir George Cayley](#) was first called the "father of the aeroplane" in 1846.^[37] During the last years of the previous century he had begun the first rigorous study of the [physics of flight](#) and would later design the first modern heavier-than-air craft. Among his many achievements, his most important contributions to aeronautics include:

- Clarifying our ideas and laying down the principles of heavier-than-air flight.
- Reaching a scientific understanding of the principles of bird flight.
- Conducting scientific aerodynamic experiments demonstrating drag and streamlining, movement of the centre of pressure, and the increase in lift from curving the wing surface.
- Defining the modern aeroplane configuration comprising a fixed-wing, fuselage and tail assembly.
- Demonstrations of manned, gliding flight.
- Setting out the principles of power-to-weight ratio in sustaining flight.

Cayley's first innovation was to study the basic science of lift by adopting the whirling arm test rig for use in aircraft research and using simple aerodynamic models on the arm, rather than attempting to fly a model of a complete design.

In 1799, he set down the concept of the modern aeroplane as a [fixed-wing](#) flying machine with separate systems for lift, propulsion, and control.^{[38][39]}

In 1804, Cayley constructed a model glider which was the first modern heavier-than-air flying machine, having the layout of a conventional modern aircraft with an inclined wing towards the front and adjustable tail at the back with both tailplane and fin. A movable weight allowed adjustment of the model's [centre of gravity](#).^[40]



"Governable parachute" design of 1852

In 1809, goaded by the farcical antics of his contemporaries (see above), he began the publication of a landmark three-part treatise titled "On Aerial Navigation" (1809–1810).^[41] In it he wrote the first scientific statement of the problem, "The whole problem is confined within these limits, viz. to make a surface support a given weight by the application of power to the resistance of air". He identified the four vector forces that influence an aircraft: *thrust*, *lift*, *drag* and *weight* and distinguished stability and control in his designs. He also identified and described the importance of the cambered aerofoil, dihedral, diagonal bracing and drag reduction, and contributed to the understanding and design of ornithopters and parachutes.

In 1848, he had progressed far enough to construct a glider in the form of a triplane large and safe enough to carry a child. A local boy was chosen but his name is not known.^{[42][43]}

He went on to publish in 1852 the design for a full-size manned glider or "governable parachute" to be launched from a balloon and then to construct a version capable of launching from the top of a hill, which carried the first adult aviator across Brompton Dale in 1853.

Minor inventions included the rubber-powered motor,^[citation needed] which provided a reliable power source for research models. By 1808, he had even re-invented the wheel, devising the tension-spoked wheel in which all compression loads are carried by the rim, allowing a lightweight undercarriage.^[44]

Age of steam

See also: Steam aircraft

Drawing directly from Cayley's work, Henson's 1842 design for an aerial steam carriage broke new ground. Although only a design, it was the first in history for a propeller-driven fixed-wing aircraft.

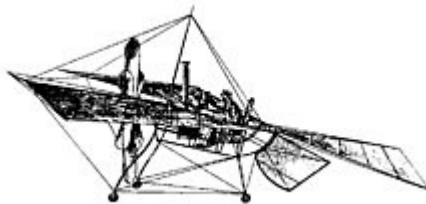


1843 artist's impression of [John Stringfellow](#)'s plane *Ariel* flying over the Nile

1866 saw the founding of the [Aeronautical Society of Great Britain](#) and two years later the world's first aeronautical exhibition was held at the [Crystal Palace](#), London,^[45] where [John Stringfellow](#) was awarded a £100 prize for the steam engine with the best power-to-weight ratio.^{[46][47][48]} In 1848, Stringfellow achieved the first powered flight using an unmanned 10 feet (3.0 m) wingspan steam-powered monoplane built in a disused lace factory in Chard, Somerset. Employing two contra-rotating propellers on the first attempt, made indoors, the machine flew ten feet before becoming destabilised, damaging the craft. The second attempt was more successful, the machine leaving a guidewire to fly freely, achieving thirty yards of straight and level powered flight.^{[49][50][51]} [Francis Herbert Wenham](#) presented the first paper to the newly formed Aeronautical Society (later the [Royal Aeronautical Society](#)), *On Aerial Locomotion*. He advanced Cayley's work on cambered wings, making important findings. To test his ideas, from 1858 he had constructed several gliders, both manned and unmanned, and with up to five stacked wings. He realised that long, thin wings are better than bat-like ones because they have more leading edge for their area. Today this relationship is known as the [aspect ratio](#) of a wing.

The latter part of the 19th century became a period of intense study, characterized by the "[gentleman scientists](#)" who represented most research efforts until the 20th century. Among them was the British scientist-philosopher and inventor [Matthew Piers Watt Boulton](#), who studied lateral flight control and was the first to patent an [aileron control system](#) in 1868.^{[52][53][54][55]}

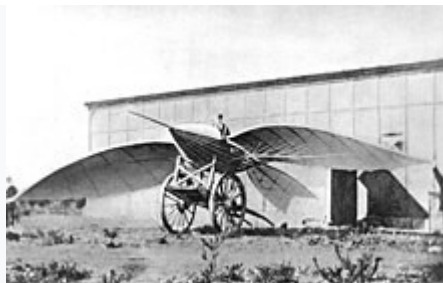
In 1871, Wenham made the first [wind tunnel](#) using a fan, driven by a steam engine, to propel air down a 12 ft (3.7 m) tube to the model.^[56]



[Félix du Temple](#)'s 1874 *Monoplane*.

Meanwhile, the British advances had galvanised French researchers. In 1857, [Félix du Temple](#) proposed a monoplane with a tailplane and retractable undercarriage. Developing his ideas with a model powered first by clockwork and later by steam, he eventually achieved a short hop with a full-size manned craft in 1874. It achieved lift-off under its own power after launching from a ramp, glided for a short time and returned safely to the ground, making it the first successful powered glide in history.

In 1865, [Louis Pierre Mouillard](#) published an influential book *The Empire Of The Air* (*l'Empire de l'Air*).



[Jean-Marie Le Bris](#) and his flying machine, Albatros II, 1868.

In 1856, Frenchman [Jean-Marie Le Bris](#) made the first flight higher than his point of departure, by having his glider "*L'Albatros artificiel*" pulled by a horse on a beach. He reportedly achieved a height of 100 meters, over a distance of 200 meters.



Planophore model aeroplane by Alphonse Pénaud, 1871

[Alphonse Pénaud](#), a Frenchman, advanced the theory of wing contours and aerodynamics and constructed successful models of aeroplanes, helicopters and ornithopters. In 1871 he flew the first aerodynamically stable fixed-wing aeroplane, a model monoplane he called the "Planophore", a distance of 40 m (130 ft). Pénaud's model incorporated several of Cayley's discoveries, including the use of a tail, wing dihedral for inherent stability, and rubber power. The planophore also had longitudinal stability, being trimmed such that the tailplane was set at a smaller [angle of incidence](#) than the wings, an original and important contribution to the theory of aeronautics.^[57] Pénaud's later project for an amphibian aeroplane, although never built, incorporated other modern features. A [tailless](#) monoplane with a single vertical fin and twin tractor propellers, it also featured hinged rear elevator and rudder surfaces, retractable undercarriage and a fully enclosed, instrumented cockpit.



The *Aeroplane* of Victor Tatin, 1879.

Equally authoritative as a theorist was Pénaud's fellow countryman [Victor Tatin](#). In 1879, he flew a model which, like Pénaud's project, was a monoplane with twin tractor propellers but also had a separate horizontal tail. It was powered by compressed air. Flown tethered to a pole, this was the first model to take off under its own power.

In 1884, Alexandre Goupil published his work *La Locomotion Aérienne (Aerial Locomotion)*, although the flying machine he later constructed failed to fly.



Clément Ader *Avion III* (1897 photograph).

In 1890, the French engineer [Clément Ader](#) completed the first of three steam-driven flying machines, the *Éole*. On 9 October 1890, Ader made an uncontrolled hop of around 50 metres (160 ft); this was the first manned airplane to take off under its own power.^[58] His [Avion III](#) of 1897, notable only for having twin steam engines, failed to fly:^[59] Ader would later claim success and was not debunked until 1910 when the French Army published its report on his attempt.



Maxim's flying machine

Sir [Hiram Maxim](#) was an American engineer who had moved to England. He built his own whirling arm rig and wind tunnel and constructed a large machine with a wingspan of 105 feet (32 m), a length of 145 feet (44 m), fore and aft horizontal surfaces and a crew of three. Twin propellers were powered by two lightweight compound [steam engines](#) each delivering 180 hp (130 kW). The overall weight was 8,000 pounds (3,600 kg). It was intended as a test rig to investigate aerodynamic lift: lacking flight controls it ran on rails, with a second set of rails above the wheels to restrain it. Completed in 1894, on its third run it broke from the rail, became airborne for about 200 yards at two to three feet of altitude^[60] and was badly damaged upon falling back to the ground. It was subsequently repaired, but Maxim abandoned his experiments shortly afterwards.^[61]

Learning to glide; Otto Lilienthal and the first human flights^[edit]



The Biot-Massia glider, restored and on display in the Musee de l'Air.

Around the last decade of the 19th century, a number of key figures were refining and defining the modern aeroplane. Lacking a suitable engine, aircraft work focused on stability and control in gliding flight. In 1879, Biot constructed a bird-like glider with the help of Massia and flew in it briefly. It is preserved in the [Musee de l'Air](#), France, and is claimed to be the earliest man-carrying flying machine still in existence.

The Englishman [Horatio Phillips](#) made key contributions to aerodynamics. He conducted extensive wind tunnel research on [aerofoil](#) sections, proving the principles of aerodynamic lift foreseen by Cayley and Wenham. His findings underpin all modern aerofoil design. Between 1883 and 1886, the American [John Joseph Montgomery](#) developed a series of three manned gliders, before conducting his own independent investigations into aerodynamics and circulation of lift.



[Otto Lilienthal](#), 29 May 1895.

[Otto Lilienthal](#) became known as the "Glider King" or "Flying Man" of Germany. He duplicated Wenham's work and greatly expanded on it in 1884, publishing his research in 1889 as *Birdflight as the Basis of Aviation* (*Der Vogelflug als Grundlage der Fliegekunst*), which is seen as one of the most important works in aviation history.^[62] He also produced a series of [hang gliders](#), including bat-wing, monoplane and biplane forms, such as the [Derwitzer Glider](#) and [Normal soaring apparatus](#), which is considered to be the first air plane in series production, making the *Maschinenfabrik Otto Lilienthal* the first air plane production company in the world.^[63]

Starting in 1891, he became the first person to make controlled untethered glides routinely, and the first to be photographed flying a heavier-than-air machine, stimulating interest around the world. Lilienthal's work led to him developing the concept of the modern wing.^{[64][65]} His flight attempts in the year 1891 are seen as the beginning of human flight^[66] and because of that he is often referred to as either the "father of aviation"^{[67][68][69]} or "father of flight".^[70]

He rigorously documented his work, including photographs, and for this reason is one of the best known of the early pioneers. Lilienthal made over 2,000 glides until his death in 1896 from injuries sustained in a glider crash.

Picking up where Lilienthal left off, [Octave Chanute](#) took up aircraft design after an early retirement, and funded the development of several gliders. In the summer of 1896, his team flew several of their designs eventually deciding that the best was a biplane design. Like Lilienthal, he documented and photographed his work.

In Britain [Percy Pilcher](#), who had worked for Maxim, built and successfully flew several [gliders](#) during the mid to late 1890s.

The invention of the [box kite](#) during this period by the Australian [Lawrence Hargrave](#) would lead to the development of the practical [biplane](#). In 1894, Hargrave linked four of his kites together, added a sling seat, and was the first to obtain lift with a heavier than air aircraft, when he flew up 16 feet (4.9 m). Later pioneers of manned kite flying included [Samuel Franklin Cody](#) in England and Captain Génie Saconney in France. *More next month.*

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History



Left: Jeu de paume, Paris

The term "tennis" is thought to derive from the French word *tenez*, which means "take heed" – a warning from the server to the receiver. Real tennis evolved, over three centuries, from an earlier ball game played around the 12th century in France. This had some similarities to [palla](#), [fives](#), Spanish [pelota](#) or [handball](#), in that it involved hitting a ball with a bare hand and later with a glove. This game may have been played by monks in [monastery cloisters](#), but the construction and appearance of courts more resemble medieval courtyards and streets than religious buildings. By the 16th century, the glove had become a racquet, the game had moved to an enclosed playing area, and the rules had stabilized. Real tennis spread across [Europe](#), with

the Papal Legate reporting in 1596 that there were 250 courts in [Paris](#) alone, near the peak of its popularity in France.^[6]

Royal interest in England began with Henry V (reigned 1413–22) but it was [Henry VIII](#) (reigned 1509–47) who made the biggest impact as a young monarch, playing the game with gusto at [Hampton Court](#) on a court he had built in 1530 and on several other courts in his palaces. His second wife [Anne Boleyn](#) was watching a game of real tennis when she was arrested and it is believed that Henry was playing tennis when news was brought to him of her [execution](#).^[7] Queen Elizabeth I was a keen spectator of the game. During the reign of James I (1603–25), there were 14 courts in London.^[8]

In France, [François I](#) (1515–47) was an enthusiastic player and promoter of real tennis, building courts and encouraging play among both courtiers and commoners. His successor, [Henry II](#) (1547–59), was also an excellent player and continued the royal French tradition. The first known book about tennis, *Trattato del Giuoco della Palla* was written during his reign, in 1555, by an Italian priest, Antonio Scaino da Salo. Two French kings died from tennis-related episodes – [Louis X](#) of a severe chill after playing and [Charles VIII](#) after striking his head on the lintel of a door leading to the court in the royal [Château at Amboise](#). King [Charles IX](#) granted a constitution to the [Corporation of Tennis Professionals](#) in 1571, creating a career for the 'maître paumiers' and, establishing three

levels of professionals – apprentice, associate, and master. The first codification of the rules of real tennis was written by a professional named Forbet and published in 1599.^[9]

The game thrived among the 17th-century nobility in France, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, and the [Habsburg Empire](#), but suffered under English [Puritanism](#), as it was heavily associated with gambling. By the [Age of Napoleon](#), the royal families of Europe were besieged and real tennis, a court game, was largely abandoned.^[10] Real tennis played a role in the history of the [French Revolution](#), through the [Tennis Court Oath](#), a pledge signed by French deputies in a real tennis court, which formed a decisive early step in starting the [revolution](#).

An epitaph in [St Michael's Church, Coventry](#), written circa 1705 read, in part:^[11]

Here lyes an old toss'd Tennis Ball:
Was racketted, from spring to fall,
With so much heat and so much hast,
Time's arm for shame grew tyred at last.

During the 18th century and early 19th century, as real tennis declined, new racquet sports emerged in England: [rackets](#) and [squash racquets](#).



Real Tennis house at [Coburg](#), Germany

There is documented history of courts existing in the [German states](#) from the 17th century, the sport evidently died out there during or after [World War II](#).^[citation needed]

In Victorian England, real tennis had a revival, but broad public interest later shifted to the new, much less difficult outdoor game of [lawn tennis](#), which soon became the more popular sport, and was played by both genders (real tennis players were almost exclusively male). Real tennis courts were built in [Hobart, Tasmania](#) (1875) and in the United States, starting in 1876 in [Boston](#), and in [New York](#) in 1890, and later at athletic clubs in several other cities. Real tennis greatly influenced the game of [stické](#), which was invented in the 19th century and combined aspects of real tennis, lawn tennis and [rackets](#).

Real tennis has the longest line of consecutive [world champions](#) of any sport in the world, dating from 1760.

Victorian court master-builder

A forgotten master of designing, building and restoring real tennis courts was the British [Fulham](#)-based builder, Joseph Bickley (1835–1923).^[12] He became a specialist around 1889 and patented a plaster mix to withstand condensation and dampness.^{[13][14]} Examples of his surviving work include: [The Queen's Club](#), [Lord's](#), [Hampton Court Palace](#), [Jesmond Dene](#), [Newmarket](#), [Moreton Hall](#), [Warwickshire](#) and [Petworth House](#).^[15] There are also examples of his projects in [Scotland](#) and in the [United States](#).^{[16][17]}

Locations



Real Tennis Court building at [Falkland Palace](#), housing the world's oldest tennis court and [Falkland Palace Royal Tennis Club](#)



The Spectators' Gallery facing the court at Falkland Palace



Inside the Spectators' Gallery, Falkland Palace

There are more than 50 real tennis courts in the world, and over [half of these are in Britain](#)

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