

SHALFORD

Village Magazine October 2023
showcasing our community
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
- HORTICULTURAL
SHOW PULL OUT
- CHURCH NEWS
- PARISH COUNCIL
- ARTICLES
- NATURE
- GARDENING
& MORE

INDEX

Page No.

- 3 A Very Special Thankyou to an anonymous villager who has generously funded October's Magazine – Alice Cox
- 4 Local Organisations & Charities
- 5 What's On
- 17 Mel's Animal Rescue
- 17 Essex Bridleways – Mandy French
- 18 Wethersfield Village Shop Hours
- 21 An Excellent Afternoon of Tea, Coffee, Cake and Good Company – Alice Cox
- 22 FOSTAC BBQ Table Top Sale & Cathedral Choir
- 24 Unsung Hero – Diana Forrow
- 25 Meet & Greet – Alice Cox
- 26 Shalford Local History Association – Sally Welsh
- 29 ***Shalford Horticultural Show Pull Out***
- 33 Shalford Map Created 1993 – A Slice of History – Alice Cox
- 34 Shalford Parish Council – Samantha Batt
- 36 Introducing Graham's Crackers – Graham Silvester
- 37 Getting Ready – The Theoretical Gardener
- 39 Wethersfield Airfield - 80th Anniversary – Ross Stewart
- 40 Crossword 70 – Robert Burrows
- 42 Buzzing News from the Hives of Gill Powell
- 46 Nature Notes – No Mow May – Mac Beanland
- 47 Finchingfield Guildhall
- 49 The Hundred Parishes – Museums – Ken McDonald
- 50 From The Vicarage – Rev'd/Fr Alex
- 51 Pant Valley Church Services – October 2023
- 52 Church Warden's Report – Hilary Penney
- 53 Church of St Andrew's Contact List
- 55 How You Can Help Your Child or Grandchild Become More Financially Literate – HarperLees
- 58 Crossword 70 Solution – Robert Burrows
- 59 Our Financial Supporters – Thank You
- 60 Business Directory

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***KNOW WHERE
YOUR NEAREST
DEFIBRILLATOR
IS LOCATED***



Jaspers Green
CM7 5AU



Shalford Village
Hall Church End
of CM7 5EZ



The George Inn The
Street CM7 5HH

FRONT PAGE

**FRIDAY, 1ST
September**

MEET & GREET

**HAPPY 90TH
BIRTHDAY
DIDI**



OCTOBER'S

Magazine has been funded by a villager who wishes to remain anonymous.

Whilst respecting their anonymity, I do wish them to know how grateful we are and how much we appreciate their generosity.

Clearly, Shalford Village Magazine does have a huge following in the village and it is down to the generosity of the villagers that we are able to continue.

Whilst talking to them, it was obvious just how highly they regard our community especially the wonderful organisations and charities working tirelessly.

WHILST RESPECTING YOUR WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

I STILL WANT TO FORMALLY PUT ON RECORD

A MAMMOUTH



Adobe Stock | #269251265



**FROM ALL OF US
YOU ARE VERY SPECIAL INDEED**



LOCAL ORGANISATIONS & CHARITIES

INDOOR CARPET BOWLS

**EVERY TUESDAY AT
SHALFORD VILLAGE
HALL**

FROM 7.30 p.m. to 9.15 p.m.



All ages are welcome to our friendly club. Come along and enjoy a game of bowls, a chat, plus tea, coffee and biscuits

Contact: Vic 07773 707404

SHALFORD LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION



Meetings take place monthly
For date and more information

contact: Sally
07785 235000

or visit
<https://shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk/history-society/>

SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



For more information
<https://shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk/horticultural-society/>



MEET & GREET 1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

SHALFORD
VILLAGE HALL

11 am to 2 pm

*William Bendlowe Charity
People Working For People
It's good to talk!*

FOSTAC

Friends of St Andrew's
Church



Contact: www.fostac.co.uk
or
<https://shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk>

WHAT'S ON - 2023/2024 DIARY DATES

| Day | Date | Organisation | Event | Place | Time | Contact |
|-------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| | 6/7 Oct | A Stane Str Players | A Nautical Musical | Earls Colne V. Hall | 18.45 | 07732 335149 |
| Sat | 7th Oct | W/field Club | Bingo Night | W/field Club | 19.00 | Julia 07712674929 |
| Sat | 14th Oct | FOSTAC | Chelmsford Cathedral Choir | St Andrew's Church | | suebeazleyend@gmail.com |
| Sat | 14th Oct | | Encore A night of Operatic Opulence | Gt Lodge Gt Bardfield | 18.45 | www.greatlodge.co.uk |
| Sat | 21st Oct | W/field Club | Race Night | W/field Club | 19.00 | Julia 07712674929 |
| | 21/30 Oct | Friends S.Primary Sch | Scarecrow Trail | Shalford | | e. fosps1@yahoo.com |
| Wed | 25th Oct | W/field Floral Art | Angelikka Mead Autumn Harvest | Wethersfield V. Hall | 19.30 | Julia 07712674929 |
| Sat | 3rd Nov | W/field Club | Cocktail Evening | W/field Club | 19.00 | Julia 07712674929 |
| Sat | 25th Nov | | Shalford Craft Fayre | Shalford V. Hall | 11.00 | |
| Sat | 25th Nov | FOSTAC | Interesting talks by local guests | St Andrew's Church | | suebeazleyend@gmail.com |
| Wed | 29th Nov | W/field Floral Art | Local Florist-A Christmas Evening | Wethersfield V. Hall | 19.30 | Julia 07712674929 |
| Thurs | 30th Nov | Mel's Animal Rescue | Auction of Promises | 3 Bottles Gt Yeldham | 18.30 | 07800 581749 |
| Sat | 2nd Dec | Parish Council | Christmas Lights Switch On | Shalford V. Hall | | |
| Sat | 2nd Dec | W/field Club | Christmas Lights Switch On | Wethersfield V. Hall | 17.00 | Julia 07712674929 |
| Sat | 2nd Dec | Rayne V. Hall | Christmas Fayre | Rayne V. Hall | 11.00 | |
| Sun | 17th Dec | Rayne V. Hall | Robin Hood Pantomime | Rayne V. Hall | 14.30 | 07847764753 |
| | 2024 | | | | | |
| Sat | 27th Jan | Shalford Horticulture | Quiz Night | Shalford V. Hall | | |
| Sat | 22nd June | Fete Committee | Shalford Village Fete | Shalford V. Hall | | |
| Sat | 7th Sept | Shalford Horticulture | Shalford Horticultural Society Show | Shalford V. Hall | | |

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 4 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

LEARN TO PLAY THE DRUMS
AT YOUR OWN PACE IN A FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT
CONTACT: JAMES
TEL: 07704 070498



RE-ENGAGE (Formerly Contact the Elderly)

Arranging monthly get
togethers 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

Tel: 01376 330694

1 West Drive, Wethersfield - Anytime

St Andrews Church Last Friday of the Month - 9 to 11
a.m.

WHAT'S ON

WEA Shalford Workers Education Association

For more info visit:

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

shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk

<http://www.wea-essex.org.uk>

HEDGEHOPPER S MODEL FLYING CLUB

Affiliated to the
British Model
Flying Ass
(BMFA)

visit:

<http://www.hedgehoppers.org.uk>

JOIN OUR FRIENDLY GROUP OF BELL RINGERS

**WE MEET EVERY
MONDAY** at Wethersfield
Church, 7 p.m. &

FRIDAY at Shalford
Church, 7 p.m.

**FOR MORE DETAILS
CONTACT:**

ROY THREADGOLD

Tel: 01371 850481

COFFEE MORNING – ST ANDREW'S CHURCH EVERY 2nd & 4th THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

**Come along for a friendly chat and
meet your neighbours.**

**Enjoy a selection of homemade
cakes and biscuits.**



SINGING 4 ALL - LORRAINE PATIENT

This new singing group, which is held every Tuesday at Cornish Hall End Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. has become very popular. It is a beautiful renovated Hall with a superb sound system.

It has undoubtedly helped so many people, especially with health issues and friendships have been made. Once a month, we have a SING and CHAT evening enabling the group to develop these special friendships, which makes a fun, relaxing atmosphere. Once a quarter, we have a bring and share food and drink evening. Again, this has been very popular amongst the members. Only well known, popular songs are sung and are taught by myself, a professional opera singer and voice tutor. I decided to volunteer to help people discover the benefits that singing can provide and also the joy that it can bring. Most people say....."I can't sing" when they join, but they soon discover the wonderful world of singing and confidence is gained. No need to read music either. All this wonderful experience for just two pounds a session. This helps towards the hall hire and general admin costs etc?

If you would like to try out this special group or join, please call 07775 531 781

WHAT'S ON



SHALFORD VILLAGE HALL

THE heart OF SHALFORD SINCE 1925

New Booking Tel: 07732 313530
Between 9am to 5pm

www.shalfordvillagehall.co.uk

SHALFORD TENNIS CLUB

Membership

Annual Family of 4
Adult

Junior (U17 or full-
time Education
U20)

Casual Hire Cost

To book the court
and for further
information:

Contact: 07732
313530 Between
9am to 5pm

SHALFORD FOOTBALL CLUB

Located at Shalford
Village Hall

For more information visit:
<http://www.cfcshalford.co.uk>

ADC Dance & Fitness

Shalford Village Hall
Every Monday
16.45 to 19.45

Tel: 07852 505153

PLAYING FIELDS

Football
Cricket
Tennis
Children's Playground
Pétanque

ART CLUB

Shalford Village Hall
Every Tuesday 11.00 to
13.00

Tel: 07505 282374

PETANQUE
(BOULES)
LOCATED AT
SHALFORD
VILLAGE HALL



No Need to Book

SHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING

EVERY THIRD
WEDNESDAY OF THE
MONTH
HELD AT SHALFORD
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



FOSTAC

Friends of St Andrew's Church

Sir Roger Singleton OBE

President

President

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL CHOIR IN CONCERT

Conducted by James Davy



Musical Evening with the
Cathedral Choir

Including music by William
Byrd and Thomas Tallis

Saturday 14th October 2023—7.00pm
St Andrew's Church, Shalford

Drinks & Nibbles

Tickets £10

Available from Shalford Stores



www.fostac.co.uk

Affiliated to Charity No 249505

Encore!

A NIGHT OF OPERATIC.
OPULENCE

FEATURING SINGERS FROM OPERA LOKI

Saturday 14th October 2023

7:30pm (Doors Open 6.45pm)

Anne of Cleves Barn,
Great Lodge, Great Bardfield
Braintree CM7 4QD

Come in your sparkles if you wish!

£27 including a glass of fizz (or
elderflower pressé)

Tickets available at www.greatlodge.co.uk

 parking available

GREAT LODGE

WHAT'S ON

WETHERSFIELD FLORAL ART
NAFAS AFFILIATED

WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2023
7.30 pm

ANGELIKKA MEAD
TRAINEE NAFAS DEMONSTRATOR

BRINGS US

AUTUMN HARVEST



**WETHERSFIELD VILLAGE HALL, THE GREEN,
WETHERSFIELD, BRAINTREE CM7 4BS**

DEMONSTRATION 7.30 PM,

Guests £6.00, All Welcome

Julia Broad, 01371 851422/07712 674929

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

or available on the door

WHAT'S ON

COMING NEXT AT WETHERSFIELD CLUB

**CLUB NOW OPEN ON
SATURDAY NIGHTS**

SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER

ANOTHER OF OUR WONDERFUL
BINGO NIGHTS

WITH JOHN BARKER AS OUR
CALLER, HE HAS TO BE
HEARD TO BE BELIEVED!

**CLUB OPEN 7.00 PM,
EYES DOWN AT 8.00 PM
BIG PRIZES TO BE WON!!**

SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER

A RACE NIGHT WITH A
DIFFERENCE

COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN
FAMILIES WELCOME

**CLUB OPEN AT 7.00 PM,
RACING STARTS 8.00 PM**

FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

COCKTAIL EVENING,
COME AND JOIN US
FOR SOME AMAZING
ALCOHOLIC AND

NON-ALCOHOLIC CREATIONS
MEMORIES OF SUMMER ON THE
BEACH!

CLUB OPEN AT 7.00 PM

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON
**5.00 – 7.00 PM AT THE VILLAGE
HALL**

RAISING FUNDS THIS YEAR FOR
ST MARY'S CHURCH
WETHERSFIELD
RAFFLE, STALLS, BBQ, BAR
FOLLOWED BY LIVE MUSIC WITH
**TAKE COVER AT THE
CLUB FROM 7.30 PM**

A festive poster for a Christmas Fayre. At the top left, there is a calendar icon showing '1 of 1'. The background is cream with green holly leaves and red berries. A large gingerbread star is on the left. The text reads: 'Pop in to our Christmas Fayre Saturday 2nd December 11am-1:30pm Rayne Village Hall'. Below this, it lists 'Fantastic Christmas stalls: Body Shop, cakes, jewellery, handmade gifts, refreshments and more!' and 'Free entry'. There are two green Christmas trees on the right side.

Pop in to our
Christmas Fayre
Saturday 2nd December
11am-1:30pm
Rayne Village Hall

Fantastic Christmas stalls:
Body Shop, cakes, jewellery,
handmade gifts, refreshments
and more!

Free entry

A poster for a Robin Hood Pantomime. At the top, the title 'ROBIN HOOD' is in large, stylized green letters with a red arrow through the 'O', set within a gold-bordered frame. Below it, 'Pantomime' is in green. The text continues: 'Sunday 17th December Tickets: £8 per person Rayne Village Hall'. A large brown arrow points to the right. Below the arrow, it says 'Show starts: 3pm Book now: 07847764733 Doors Open 2:30pm'. On the left, there is a cartoon illustration of Robin Hood in a green tunic and hat, holding a bow and arrow. The bottom of the poster features several green Christmas trees.

ROBIN HOOD
Pantomime
Sunday 17th December
Tickets: £8 per person
Rayne Village Hall

Show starts: 3pm
Book now:
07847764733
Doors Open 2:30pm

CHRISTMAS

CRAFT FAIR

SHALFORD VILLAGE HALL

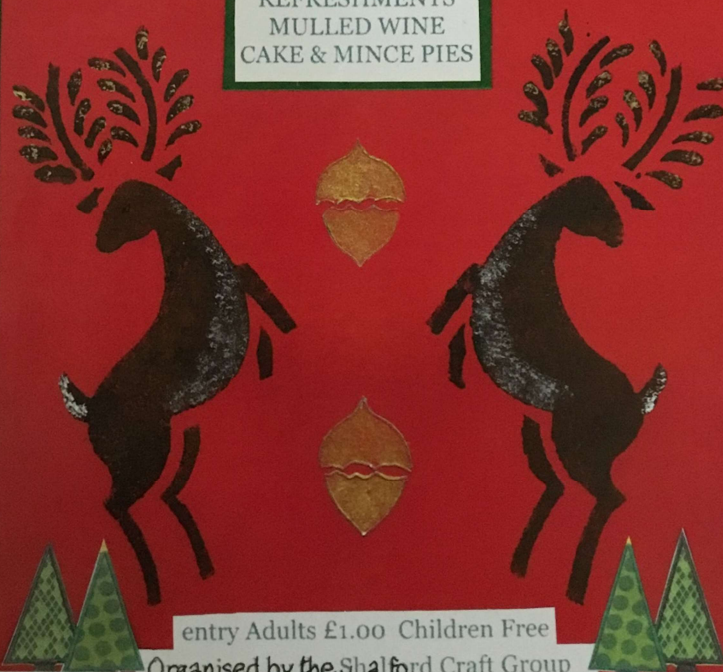
LOCAL HANDMADE GIFTS

ON

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER

11 - 3pm

REFRESHMENTS
MULLED WINE
CAKE & MINCE PIES



entry Adults £1.00 Children Free

Organised by the Shalford Craft Group

WHAT'S ON

SCARECROW Trail

OCTOBER
21ST - 30TH

Pick up your trail map in The George
Inn pub for £2

Maps will also be available in the
school office or via Michelle and
Hayley.

Alternatively you can email us :
fosps1@yahoo.com

We would love for all children to take
part, so please spread the word !!

Follow the trail this
half term to help
raise money for
FRIENDS OF
SHALFORD PRIMARY
SCHOOL (FOSPS)

A treat will be waiting for you at
the end !!



Shalford Village

Made with PosterMyWall.com



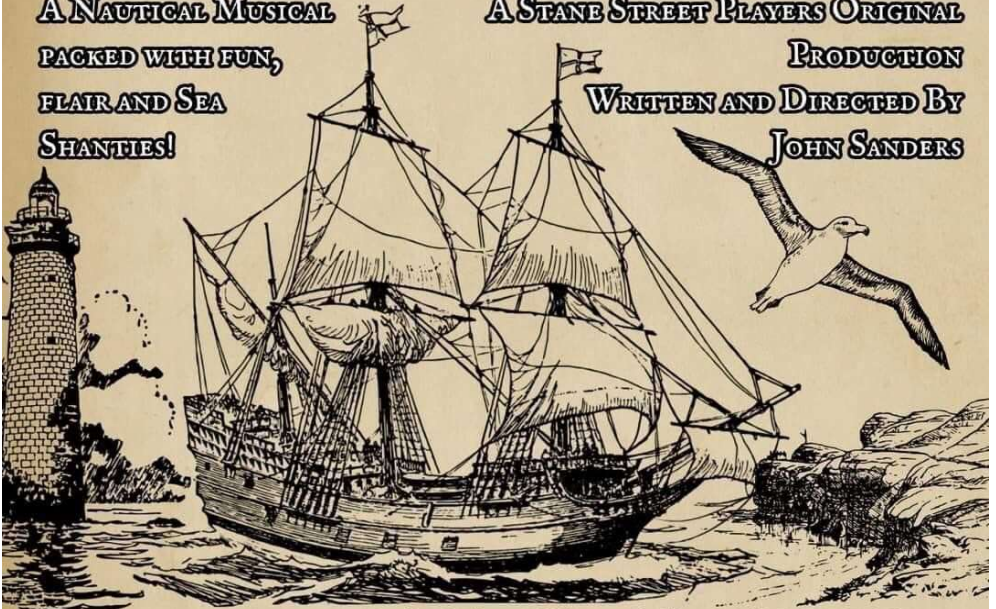
Parentkind
Member Association

WHAT'S ON

CONQUEROR

A NAUTICAL MUSICAL
PACKED WITH FUN,
FLAIR AND SEA
SHANTIES!

A STANE STREET PLAYERS ORIGINAL
PRODUCTION
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
JOHN SANDERS



Earls Colne Village Hall 06/10/23 7:30pm
07/10/23 7:30pm

Harwich Electric Palace 13/10/23 7:30pm

Doors Open: 6:45pm

All Tickets £10

Earls Colne Box Office:

Tel-07732 335149

www.stanestreetplayers.co.uk

Harwich Box Office:

<https://harwichshantyfestival.co.uk/tickets/>





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07947 364 551

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☎ 01376 551951

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www.coopfuneraldirectors.coop Part of Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society Limited



Mel's Animal Rescue

07800 581749

Mel's Rescue is an independent rescue, founded by Melissa Newsome. At Mel's Rescue we believe that every animal matters and strive to ensure unwanted animals are provided with veterinary treatment, rehabilitation, socialisation and all the love they need, whilst they wait patiently for a forever home to be found.

We also ensure that all cats are neutered/spayed help stop the every increasing population!

We are having an
AUCTION OF PROMISES

AT
THE THREE BOTTLES, GREAT YELDHAM, ESSEX CO9 4HY
ON

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30TH 2023 · 6.30PM

FOR A 7PM START

PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN.

Our rescue relies entirely on donations and events organised by our fundraising team to pay the vet bills etc.

**PLEASE COULD YOU SUPPORT US WITH
AN ITEM FOR OUR AUCTION?**

it could be a bottle of drink, a gift hamper, a lunch or dinner voucher, a beauty voucher or maybe even a hotel stay or weekend away!

We realise times are tough so we would welcome individual items we could package into hampers.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ANYTHING YOU CAN OFFER.

PLEASE LET US KNOW.

07800 581749 or 07732 372658

We will also be having a raffle and our pop up shop selling hand made gift items will be there on 30th November.

DRINKS AVAILABLE
FROM THE BAR



NIBBLES WILL BE
PROVIDED

Essex Bridleways Association

The Essex Bridleways Association was formed some years ago to protect and enhance Bridleways. Membership costs £15 to join and runs for a year. Under 16s can join free.

Flu Vaccination requirements for this ride are that all horses attending must be up-to-date with their annual flu injections (ie the last booster is no more than a year old). Random checks may be made so please remember to bring along your horse passport.

**Brooks Farm, Twitty Fee, Danbury
CM3 4PG**

Ride date 8th October.

A variety of hilly tracks through woods, country lanes, surfaced bridleways and field edges. A choice of 8 or 11 miles.

AGM

Keene Hall Galleywood CM2 8PT.

Date 9th November

7pm for 7.30pm.

A chance to meet the committee, get an update on how we are doing and have your say. Enjoy coffee, tea and homemade cakes. Join in the raffle. Further details to follow.

ECC MOBILE LIBRARY 2023

Saturday - 21st Oct, 11th Nov

Wethersfield: 11.20 to 11.50 a.m.

Barryfields: 12.00 to 12.30 p.m.

Jaspers Green: 1.30 to 2.00 p.m.

For further information contact:

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk>

WETHERSFIELD VILLAGE SHOP

We are pleased to announce that the Wethersfield Village Shop now has a licence for off sales of alcohol from the premises, come and see our range of wines, beers and spirits.

We also have stamps for sale during shop opening hours.

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Monday | 10 am – 1 pm | 3 pm – 5 pm | |
| Tuesday | 10 am – 1 pm | 2 pm – 4pm | 6 pm – 8 pm |
| Wednesday | 10 am – 1 pm | | |
| Thursday | 10 am – 1 pm | 2 pm – 5 pm | |
| Friday | 10 am – 1 pm | 2pm – 4 pm | |
| Saturday | 10 am – 1 pm | | |
| Sunday | 10 am – 11 am | | |

Post Office Thursday 2pm to 4pm

POST
OFFICE

EVERY
FRIDAY
AFTERNOON



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



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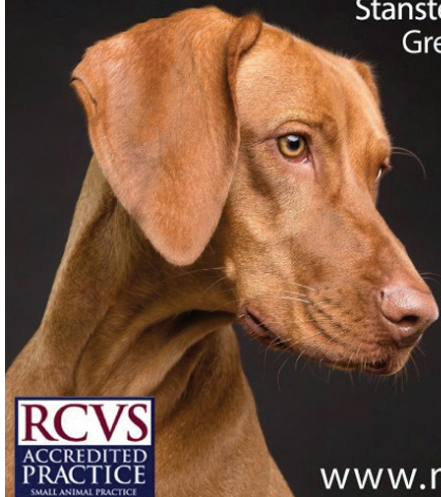
info@capitalglaziers.com

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Stansted Mountfitchet | 01279 813780
Great Dunmow | 01371 872836



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www.mercerandhughes.co.uk



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7 Manor Street ~ **Braintree**
01376 320582

Haslers Lane ~ **Great Dunmow**
01371 874518

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E-mail: steveatdpsltd@hotmail.co.uk

Peter

Telephone 01371 879103

Mobile 07850 942121

E-mail: peterjnorman@btinternet.com

Registered Office: Green Ley Mill Lane Stebbing CM6 3SL



Bell Fencing

 Equestrian  Agricultural  Commercial  Domestic

www.bellfencing.com

enquiries@bellfencing.com | 07786 914823



**Wed 30th
August**
*An excellent
afternoon of
Tea, Coffee,
Cake and
Good
Company*



Angela Tanner arranged a very successful and enjoyable afternoon of tea, coffee, and cake for the distributors and regular contributors of the Shalford Village Magazine on Wednesday, 30th August the first anniversary of the death of Alex, her husband. Angela's incentive to arrange the afternoon was two-fold;

- a) to say a huge thank you to the distributors and contributors for continuously supporting the magazine. Your efforts are recognised and appreciated every month. Without contributors or distributors there would not be a magazine. Thank you we treasure every one of you.
- b) to remember and acknowledge the dedication and commitment made during his lifetime, by Alex, for the Village. As many of you will know Alex was a staunch advocate for the community helping when and wherever possible. He was a great supporter of the magazine spending many an hour each month helping Angela to distribute. Alex is sadly missed by the community as a whole and even more so by his friends and family. His achievements will never be forgotten.



Rest in peace Alex, we remember.....

FOSTAC BBQ AND TABLE TOP SALE - SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2023



FOSTAC
Friends of St Andrew's Church



Hello FOSTAC Members

It seems that FOSTAC picked the hottest day of the year to hold the BBQ and Table Top Sale at St Andrew's Church on Saturday.

We were pleased to see so many people come along – not only to enjoy the BBQ and other refreshments but to see all the Table Top stalls who ventured into the churchyard and the church building.

There were many interesting stalls and we hope they all enjoyed their day.

The next event FOSTAC has planned is the Concert by Chelmsford Cathedral Choir on Saturday 14th October at 7.00pm in St Andrew's Church.

Tickets at £10 will be on sale shortly at Shalford Village Stores . . . (cont. over)

FOSTAC BBQ & TABLE TOP SALE - SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2023



FOSTAC
Friends of St Andrew's Church



... (cont). It seems a long time since the Cathedral Choir visited St Andrew's due to the pandemic but we welcome them along again and look forward to an evening of choral music – together with the usual FOSTAC drinks and nibbles!

We look forward to seeing you again in October

**FOSTAC
Committee**



UNSUNG HERO

Diana Forrow

By: Fostac

Diana and Roger moved from Wales to Blackmore End in 2012 to be nearer family, sadly Roger who had been unwell died a short time later.

Diana has a son and a daughter, five grandchildren and a growing number of great grandchildren ! She attended St Andrew's Church and was soon persuaded to become a Fostac committee member.

As befitting a hero of the month; a question had to be asked of those who know her, "please describe Diana in a few words" I asked. Gentle, unfailingly kind, modest, reliable, always ready to help and considerate. A good listener, a support and comfort to friends, a good organiser, a wonderful cake maker (her cakes are legendary) and her scones are second to none.

Her particular skill, and one greatly appreciated, is cooking and catering. She plays a leading part in maintaining the excellent reputation for fine food at Fostac events, she also runs the twice-monthly coffee mornings at St Andrew's, where her cakes (and don't forget the scones) are a sight to behold.

Among her many talents her flower arrangements are always something special (watch out for her harvest and autumn creations at St Andrew's Church).

An indispensable member of the Fostac team, she plans to move - What shall we do without her?

DIANA – YOU ARE A TREASURE – ONE IN A MILLION

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO



MEET & GREET **5-star Rating**

1ST SEPTEMBER
2023

By: Alice Cox



As the hall became busier and busier and the buzz of chatter started to echo, I couldn't help but set Vic a little task. After all Vic and Janet had kindly stepped forward to help to cover Marianna and Derrick being away on holiday (how dare they!!).

So with tongue in cheek, I said to Vic – “of course, you do know it's Derrick's job to do a quick headcount”. A few minutes later a grinning Vic returned holding up a napkin with 58 written on it. “Does that include those that have left?”, I asked. Vic's eyes rolled, his head shook and off he went. I couldn't help a wry smile starting to form (I hope I'm forgiven).

Seriously though 58 what an excellent turnout and I want to thank everyone who came along to support us. It makes everything we do worthwhile to see so many enjoying themselves. And, of course, a very special thank you to Vic and Janet for helping in our 3-hours of need.



This Meet & Greet was extra special as we were able to help DiDi celebrate her 90th birthday. Led by our one & only Vic, we sang a loud rendition of Happy Birthday.

I haven't finished with that “thankyou” word – thank you also goes out to the many excellent cooks amongst us who brought along tasty and varied cakes and also sausage rolls.



As I often write – Shalford A Community to be Proud Of - You didn't let us down!

Look forward to seeing you all again on Friday, 6th October 2023.

SHALFORD LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

MEMBER DONATES OVEN PEEL TO THE GEORGE



Margaret with (l-r) daughter Liz, landlord Paul, son Chris



....and with members of the SLHA

On Thursday 7 September, a very warm evening, members of the Shalford Local History Association met at The George with fellow member (and one of its founders) Margaret Sparks for the presentation of an oven peel. An oven peel is a bit like the long paddles used for getting pizzas out of ovens but is made from wood and was used for getting bread out of bread ovens. Margaret usually resides in Georgia in the United States but has been staying at the cottage she owns in Jaspers Green for the summer, partly to avoid the dreadful heat and humidity in that State. Margaret met



Sleepy Hollow in the year 2000



Archie's mother Emma Cowell outside old Goldsticks around 1922

and married Don Sparks from the Wethersfield Air base in the 1950s and was soon whisked off to the other side of the Atlantic to live. However, she retained her cottage, Sleepy Hollow in Jaspers Green and this is where the oven peel came from.

It was made by Archie Cowell sometime in the 1930s or 40s. Archie was a previous occupant of Margaret's cottage Sleepy Hollow. Archie was born in 1890 to parents Frederick and Emma Cowell who, according to the 1891 Census, were living in Little London, Finchingfield. The 1911 Census tells us that at the age of 21 he was living at Goldsticks and that he was single and living with his parents and older brother John. His occupation was listed as



Archie's wife Florence (nee Whipps) in service at Goldsticks



'Farm Labourer'. On 30 November 1912 he married Florence Whipps and they went on to have at least one child, a daughter called Beatrice born in 1913.

Florence Cowell with their daughter Beatrice



Archie in World War I uniform

Military records then tell us that he signed up for military service at a depot at Warley. He was 24 years old and at this time he lists his address as being Maldon Road, Witham and his occupation, cowman. It looks as though he was sent the next day to Great Yarmouth. His Unit is given as 131st Heavy Battery, RGA (Royal Garrison Artillery?) and his rank is Gunner. His record is very difficult to decipher but it appears that he wasn't demobbed until 1919 at which point his address is given as Water Lane, Shalford.



Archie Cowell ploughing near Codham Mill



Beatrice Clark (nee Cowell)

It would be interesting to know a bit more about Archie's active service. If anyone is able to help on that score please do get in touch. It would also be helpful to know what happened to him after the war as the next record we can access informs us that he died in 1967 and is buried in the churchyard in St Andrew's, Shalford. We are hoping to be able to locate his burial plot in the near future.

In an interview with Margaret Sparks in the 1980s Len Dawson, then 71, talked about the bread oven at Forge Cottage in Jaspers Green which gives us some idea about what bread ovens were like.

This is how these ovens worked. There is a black stone at the back of the oven and when the faggot wood was started then put in some big round wood, and when the stone got white you knew it was hot enough to put the bread in. Used to rake all the ashes out into a bag and they

had what they called a swab, which was a big old hessian bag at the end of a long stick and you wetted it and cleaned out the bottom of the oven. Then you used a long peel to get the bread out. A long time ago people used to cook Christmas dinners in the bakery ovens in Mr Dawson's time. It was quite a time repairing the bricks inside the oven when they got worn out as naturally they had to let the oven go out, usually over the weekend, but it couldn't be let out for long.

Many thanks to Sam Batt for her research into Archie's life, so far, and to Margaret for her interviews with local people and her generous donation of the oven peel. *Shalford Local History Association can be contacted at historyshalford@gmail.com or 07785235000 (Sally).*



SHALFORD

A Community to be proud of

BUT..... YOU

Can make it even **BETTER**

A few hours to spare?

Want to achieve - interested in people - church - history - horticulture - listed buildings - bell ringing - bowls

Then why not volunteer to play an important part in the community and join one or more of the following local organisations

| Organisation | Contact |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Fostac | Sue - 01371 850626 |
| Bell Ringing | Roy - 01371 850481 |
| Bendlowe's (Meet & Greet) | Alice - 07850 264518 |
| History | Sally - |
| Horticulture | ? |
| Bowls | Vic - 07773 707404 |

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SHOW 12TH AUGUST 2023



**IT'S NOT THE
WINNING**

**IT'S THE TAKING
PART THAT COUNTS**

**THANK YOU TO
EVERYBODY WHO
ENTERED ONE OR
MORE CLASSES**

**THANK YOU TO
EVERYBODY WHO
CAME ALONG AND
SUPPORTED THE
SHOW**

THE TEAM

**Carol
Caroline
Christine
Claire
Ellie
Jane
Margaret
Mel
Richard**

SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SHOW SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST 2023



The Horticultural show this year was a great success.

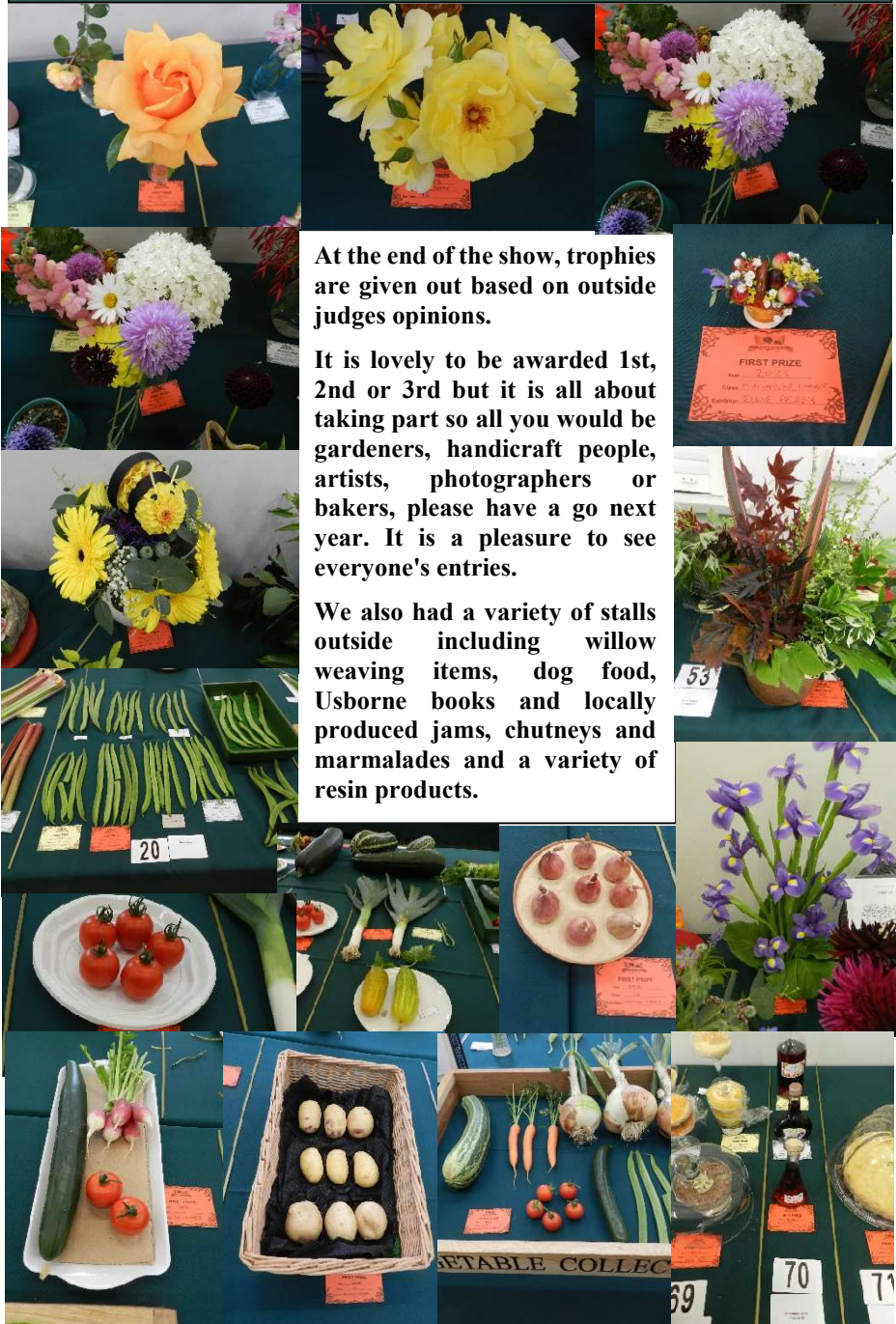
New table coverings gave the hall a professional look and we were delighted to see so many entries and welcome new entrants too.

It has been our intention to invite many people to display not only garden produce, flowers and plants, but also handicrafts, photography, jam or chutneys plus cakes and puddings. Divided by age, our children's entries included; making caterpillars and drawing a favourite animal. We also had a poetry section.

Teas and coffees were provided by FOSTAC and cakes were donated by Mangetout. There was also a raffle.



SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SHOW SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST



At the end of the show, trophies are given out based on outside judges opinions.

It is lovely to be awarded 1st, 2nd or 3rd but it is all about taking part so all you would be gardeners, handcraft people, artists, photographers or bakers, please have a go next year. It is a pleasure to see everyone's entries.

We also had a variety of stalls outside including willow weaving items, dog food, Usborne books and locally produced jams, chutneys and marmalades and a variety of resin products.



SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SHOW SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST 2023



SHALFORD MAP CREATED 1993 – A SLICE OF HISTORY



William Bendlowe's Charity which was formed in 1573 found itself in serious need of funds in the early 1990's. At that time, the Parish Council discussed and agreed to create a map of Shalford showing the routes of footpaths and bridleways and to make prints of the map available for sale, donating any profits to the Charity.

Now over 30 years old the map depicts the Parish of Shalford showing the boundaries and names of many of the fields in Shalford.

The border of the map shows drawings of many of the prominent buildings within Shalford such as The Fox pub (now closed), Village Hall, The George Pub, The School, St Andrew's Church and many properties such as Littles Farm, Dynes Farm, The Old Shop, Redfants Manor, Westons, and many more – *a slice of history*. This map raised almost £3,000 for William Bendlowe Charity.

We have now found a few maps which were not sold but are still in good order to sell and would be a pleasure to own or perhaps gift to another. The maps are available on a heavier paper suitable for framing (priced at £4) and a lighter paper suitable for folding (priced at £2) both 70 cm x 70 cm.

All funds received will go to William Bendlowe Charity. If you wish to purchase one of these enchanting maps, please contact Alice mobile number 07850 264518 or email shalford_village_magazine@btinternet.com

Shalford Parish Council by Samantha Batt



Samantha Batt



Neil Birks



Amanda French



Andrew Hull



Andrew Merryweather



Peter Mitchell



Kevin Welsh

Dog Fouling

Sadly, this is on the rise again and we have just installed some new signage at our most 'active' locations. Across the parish we have many bins so there really is no excuse to not pick up after your dog. We are monitoring the situation and welcome ideas and feedback from residents. Bags are available in the church yard and will also be stocked in the Village shop again soon for those occasions when you find yourself without a bag. We also have two more bag dispensers to be put up this month.



**Please clean up
after your dog**

Ranger report Lol has been litter picking from Hull's Lane to Abbots Hall and in Church End. He also cleared brambles along the B1053 plus footpaths 1,2,3 & 64. He has kept Clifffield tidy, picking up loose branches, apples and making sure the footpath to the church is also clear of brambles. He has even found time to collect his strimmer, learn how to use it safely and collect barn paint ready to spruce up the bus stop. Thanks, Lol, keep up the good work!





From March 2024, Braintree District Council will be introducing a subscription service for garden waste collections.

The first year's subscription fee for

the first green bin will be £55, however if you sign up as an Early Bird you will benefit from a 50% discount.

If you live in a property that is currently on a black sack general rubbish collection - you can join the new garden waste collection too. You can purchase biodegradable sacks from us at a cost of £8 for a roll of 20 sacks. This includes purchase of sacks, delivery and collections. No other type of sack will be accepted. The Early Bird offer also applies reducing the cost to £4 per roll.

Early Bird offer is open until 30 November, so catch it soon at

www.braintree.gov.uk/gardenwastesubscription

Don't forget to keep messaging us at Fix It with any issues you see that need FIXING!



fix.it@shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk

October's meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th October at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

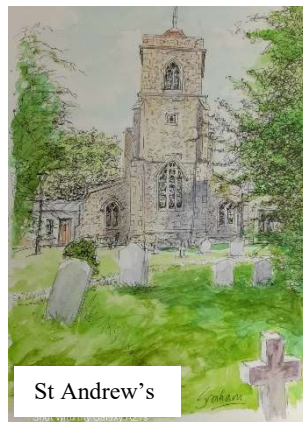
Sam, Neil, Mandy, Andrew H, Andrew M, Peter, Kevin & Jill

Paul at The George



Introducing Graham's Crackers

**Graham's 'Cracking
Caricatures' on FB
A.K.A. Graham Silvester
of Shalford.**



St Andrew's

Graham creates bespoke, sympathetic exaggerations of friends, loved ones and famous people. In addition to this, Graham also creates detailed line drawings and watercolours of pets and local scenes.

Graham is a Bachelor of Fine Arts (with honours) and a fully qualified teacher. He is embarking on his new path after thirty-two years, as a primary school teacher.

His aim is to put smiles on everyone's faces and provide an illustration service, which anyone can access.

Amanda



Like many people, he suffers from bouts of clinical depression/anxiety and consequently, champions the mental health charity, 'Mind'.

From his desire to 'give back', Graham began a fundraising campaign for **Mind**, which caught the attention of Paul Pilgrim, landlord of The George Inn, Shalford.

Paul and Jacqui, (landlady of The Lion, Finchingfield), have championed Graham and his fundraising exploits by kindly donating money and 'show casing' his work, in The George.

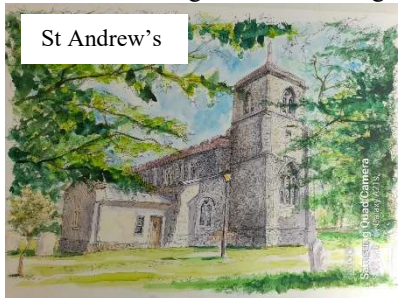
Prices for bespoke caricatures start at £30 and £45 for line-drawings of properties, landmarks and significant buildings (unframed).

Direct message him at gr8crackers@gmail.com with a decent, clear photo of the subject, a short message outlining hobbies, interests, quirks and he'll do the rest!

Rishi



St Andrew's



Shalford Church Camera
© Graham Silvester

GETTING READY



It is October and the summer harvest is coming to a close as the lush greenery turns grey, drooping with exhaustion. Winter weather is cruel, flooding away the nutrients, then battering the soil to a hard pan. Weeds move into the unprotected ground and the spent plants are a haven for overwintering pests and diseases.

October is a golden time to get your vegetable plot ready for the winter to come.

CLEAR AWAY

Pull up all the spent plants for the compost heap. Foliage affected by mildew or blight is fine to compost but bin or burn plants carrying soil borne infections such as clubroot.

WEED

Once the spent plants have been removed, weed thoroughly. Annuals such as hairy bittercress and chickweed multiply rapidly, even in winter, so hoe off the tops before they set seed. Perennial weeds need more attention. Remove them with as much root as possible. If an area is rife with them, cover with thick cardboard to suppress new growth.

IMPROVE

The current idea is not to dig the soil, but each autumn, to spread a thick layer (10-15 cm., 4-6") of garden compost, recycled green waste or well-rotted manure for the earthworms to work in naturally over winter. Four to six inches may be beyond the output of your compost bin and your purse, however, any amount of mulch will be beneficial. The mulch protects the soil and keeps it weed free while feeding in nutrients and year-on-year building in to a rich, deep topsoil.

COVER

Covering the plot will keep the worst of the winter weather from leaching the nutrients from the soil and make it workable in the spring. Black polythene works well but a good non-plastic alternative is thick cardboard which can be recycled into the compost heap just before the spring planting.

WINTER VEGETABLES

The over wintering vegetables such as sprouts and kale need staking to avoid wind rock, fed with slow-release feed and mulched with 5cm/ 2" of compost. Remove any yellowing brassica leaves and check the mesh covers are securely pegged down against mealybugs and pigeons. Leafy greens such as chard, parsley and winter lettuces need to be covered with glass or polythene cloches to keep the leaves in good condition.

The flower borders can be treated in the same way - clearing, weeding and improving the soil. Some plants will survive the winter unprotected. It is not always the cold that plants dislike. Some plants can tolerate the cold but dislike sitting in cold, wet ground. Cover these plants with a thick mulch of whatever you have to hand, even the dregs of the potting compost which will deteriorate over winter if left sitting in the bag in a corner. I find the large plastic domed cloches give good protection especially over dahlias which I never dig up and store – too much hard work!!



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WETHERSFIELD AIRFIELD

80TH ANNIVERSARY

BY: ROSS STEWART

On August 20th RAF Wethersfield Heritage Group held an event to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Airfield. Construction began in 1942 and was completed by December 1943. The first unit that would operate from Station 170 its WW2 code, was the USAAF 416th Bomb Group who were created on Aug 20th 1943 and arrived at Wethersfield on February 1st 1944. They would fly 145 missions until late September when the RAF 196 / 299 squadrons and SAS moved in.

The Americans returned in 1952 with supersonic jets and it was 1990 before the last Americans would leave. It was good to have 15 Americans among our visitors on the event day.



The Heritage Group archive has been in storage since the museum was closed by the MDP in June 2022 so we were grateful to one of our storage benefactors who gave us the opportunity to put some of the collection on display and create a private meet and greet for our American visitors and 100 guests. This was also attended by the Chairman of Braintree District Council Diana Garrod and local Councillor Mark Ault. Representatives of the Village Hall, Village Club, Derek Flannery Sports Pavilion and Village History Group were also among the guests as were some people who had worked at the base during USAF times.

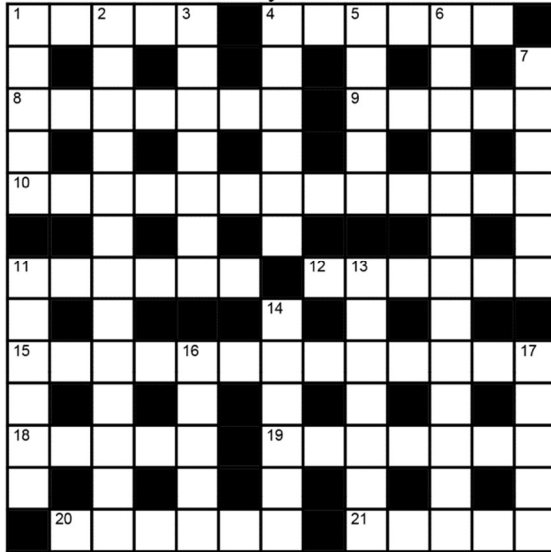
We were also supported by a number of WW2 vehicle teams and Ben Portus from Andrewsfield flew in with his WW2 L4 Piper similar to one that was once at Wethersfield in 1944. Martine and Neil Goddard provided a treat with some 1940s Jive Dancing.

After the meet and greet, the event moved to the Village with the Jeeps on display at the sports field and a local village history group display. The club was open selling Toppesfield Pumphouse Brewery 9th Havoc and Allied Amber Ales and an Airfield Museum display in the snooker room. The Lady of Essex a 1939 Double Decker Bus which made two runs the first to Finchingfield for the rededication of a Tulip Tree planted in 1960 as a token to Anglo American relations. The second run was to the Pumphouse Brewery and Green Man Pub in Toppesfield. Hot food was on sale from Gourmet Geezer and a talk in village hall on People of Wethersfield covering 30 notable persons from the history of the base from 1943 to present day.

In the evening a USA v UK darts match was held in the club with a narrow win by USA in a deciding match. Upstairs in the hall the bar was open with live music provided by a soloist covering the 60s to 80s.

*A good event, sadly no home has yet been found for the
RAF Wethersfield Heritage Group Archive.*

Crossword 70 by Robert Burrows



Across

- 1 Easily understood (5)
 4 Muddles (3-3)
 8 Deer meat (7)
 9 Talk pompously (5)
 10 Process of reasoning (13)
 11 Essex village home to Brick and Tile Company (6)
 12 Essex hamlet (6)
 15 Soccer (9-4)
 18 Being disliked (5)
 19 Portions (7)
 20 An informer (6)
 21 Physically vigorous (5)

Down

- 1 A bar on a pivot (5)
 2 Group of fixed stars (13)
 3 Divest of a garment (7)

- 4 Monumental stone (6)
 5 South African people (5)
 6 Predatory insect (7-6)
 7 Swallow-tailed flag (6)
 11 Large monkey (6)
 13 Contrary to law (7)
 14 New beginning (6)
 16 Induce (5)
 17 Short prose composition (5)

Cryptic Across

- 1 Clear in part of Honolulu CID? (5)
 4 Pix sum makes confusions (3-3)
 8 No veins maybe in this meat (7)
 9 Some chat or a tea, but still talk boldly (5)
 10 Share IC country

maybe – thinking deeply (13)

11 Rumble badly in this village (6)

12 Large drink served in hamlet (6)

15 Said to be the attractive sport (9-4)

18 Dislike some on podium (5)

19 12.5 percents (7)

20 Some of his nit changes – he's a betrayer (6)

21 Full of life (5)

Cryptic Down

1 The French priest goes up of bar (5)

2 Turn Stella and Con into stars (13)

3 So bride might remove her clothes (7)

4 Some women hire a standing stone (6)

5 Has ox come from Cape people? (5)

6 Begging male? Tis an insect! (7-6)

7 Flag often seen in medieval battles (6)

11 Monkey a help for graduate? (6)

13 Gale I'll order, but against the law (7)

14 Begin again despite hot fears (6)

16 Some attempt to lure (5)

17 Try this solution (5)

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Buzzing News from the Hives of Gill Powell



TALES OF A BUSY SUMMER IN THE APIARY



Since writing last time the bees have been keeping me very busy. I started the season with just the one hive because, sadly, my other colony of bees just died on me. This can happen to any bee keeper and there are many explanations for it. The main ones tend to be lack of stored food, disease or the cold and damp weather. Whilst it is possible to protect against most of these, some colonies are just not strong or numerous enough to make it through the winter months.

In early March I examined the remaining colony to ensure the queen was laying nicely and to supplement their stores with sugar syrup and a pollen patty which gets devoured at great speed. This leaves them to concentrate on rearing the first of this year's brood of workers and to enjoy the early spring sunshine and the newly flowering blossom in the garden.

As mentioned in my introductory article I have been preparing for the *Basic Bee Keepers Exam* which I took later on in the year. For the exam I was asked to demonstrate a method to prevent your own bees from leaving *en mass* or *swarming*, known as '*swarm control*'. The need to implement swarm control can often be spotted in advance, for example if the workers have made a new queen cell it may mean they are intending to swarm when she hatches. The recommended method for me to use is called the *Pagdon Method*.

This method requires the queen bee and the flying bees to be separated from the brood or unhatched eggs and the *non-flying bees* and *nurse bees*. This is done by transferring the queen and flying bees to an empty hive in order to fool those bees into thinking they have already swarmed. The clever bit is to then swap the places of the swarmed hive with the original hive as the 'swarmed' bees are programmed to come back, after foraging, to what they believe is their home hive, which will be the one in their original hive's position, even if the hives are just a few inches apart they will normally find their hive. If there are a few bees that don't get the email and go to the wrong hive it doesn't really matter as long as





all the hives are strongly populated. Before implementing the *Pagdon Method* it is essential to ensure there is a queen cell in the original hive which will hatch out and build up the colony again.

I studied this method carefully to avoid embarrassment. However the demonstration of shuffling hives looked a bit like a magician doing the three cup trick, with Nigel having to guess where

the queen is now. Anyway all went reasonably well, the new queen in the original hive hatched out, went on her maiden flight to get mated, returned to the hive and started laying eggs. This is a joy to experience as it tells us all is going well. This will normally be the only time the queen flies outside the hive.

There were now two healthy colonies to start the year, but I wanted a third so I could be sure of going into this winter with three good hives, in case the winter took its toll again. I bought a small colony of bees from another local bee keeper. These particular bees turned out to be exceptionally hard working and seemed eager to make a start. Installed in a fresh hive with a new super over the brood box, they turned out to be the most prolific of honey makers.

A hive consists simply of a series of boxes, with no floors to them, placed one on top of one another, each containing a line of frames that are hanging inside each box and filling it. The bottom box is normally the brood box which is deeper than the other boxes and the frames are used as receptacles for eggs and rearing young, the brood cells are normally restricted to the centre portion of the frame. Whilst the surrounding areas of the frame are used to store food for the young ones and the queen. A Super is the name given to a smaller box which is narrower and the frames less deep. These are used as depositories for pollen and making honey. There is a practical reason for the difference in size, if the brood box frames are filled with honey it would probably take an 'iron man' contestant to pick one up.

If there is plenty of forage ie flowers and blossom from which they can collect nectar, the bees can fill a super with ten frames in about two weeks. Some hives end up with three or four supers on if everything goes well. It is normal to take the honey off on two or three occasions, in the late spring and summer months which is a challenging experience, but very satisfying.

This is where things begin to get very sticky, drips of honey get on every surface no matter what precautions are taken, floors, furniture, equipment, utensils and people, nothing escapes as my kitchen becomes a honey extracting hub, it's great fun but hard work so whoever is at home at the time gets dragged into helping. Because once you start there is no stopping until it is all done as there is no room in my kitchen to cook or eat when *the honey spinner* moves in.

When I pick up a Super with ten filled frames I am often surprised at how heavy it is, when full and capped with wax a super frame can weigh two or more kg. each. When the honey has been spun off the frames and put through a series of sieves to catch any stray pieces of





wax or other bee-related bee debris it is left to stand in a holding bucket until all the tiny bubbles, formed during spinning, rise to the surface and disappear. After a couple of days it is usually possible to *jar up* the honey, or is it *honey-fill the jars* or simply *enjar* the honey and label it ready to sell. I find it much easier to store in the jars than in large holding buckets.

Depending on the time of year the Super frames are returned to the hives either for refilling or if it is the end of the season they can be returned for a wash and brush up, bee-style and if necessary these non-flying bees will clean the frames and carry out repairs and maintenance to the frame membranes. These supers and super frames are then taken away from the hive for winter storage.

I was intrigued this year to discover that the first honey I spun off was setting solid in the jars almost

as soon as the lids were on, the bees had presumably found a field of rape early in the season as this normally makes the honey set hard because of the structure of the sugar crystals. If the honey isn't spun off in time it can set hard on the frames and it's a devil to remove it. So it helps to find out where your bees are foraging early in the season before the main blossoms and flowers are available. Incidentally, rape honey is wonderful on hot toast as it melts easily and has a buttery taste.

Regardless of this year's generally unfavourable weather during the honey making months, the bees have been up and out either, as soon as the sun comes out or the rain stops. At the end of August when the last of the honey is removed from the hives. It is a good time to check all the remaining bees in the hive and to make sure the queen is still ok. It is normally possible to find her among the thousands of other bees if she has been marked with a brightly coloured spot on her back. Without a spot it can take an awful lot longer. A different colour spot is used each calendar year to place a mark on the queen's back, normally this will be done at the time she starts to lay eggs. So the colour used will give her age away. Whilst a queen can live and produce eggs for two, three or more years, knowing her age will help with 'progression planning' for the hive

The main body of bees are the workers and in contrast, these ladies live for only 6 weeks. Most colonies will have a relatively small number of male bees called Drones, their job is to mate with queens from other colonies. Drones normally live for several months until they are booted out by worker bees, typically in the Autumn.

Having checked that there is still a queen in residence and importantly that she is laying eggs, which will maintain the colony over the winter, it is time to treat the hives with something that kills off the ubiquitous verroa parasite without harming the bees. The verroa mite lives in most hives in this country unfortunately, so it is a question of reducing their presence as far as possible.

During the winter months when bees cannot get out to feed at all and in the interim months where food is more limited it is essential that their stores are once again supplemented with sugar syrup feed. This will help deal with shortfalls in the bees' stores, until the sun starts to warm the earth again, the following year.

The last job will be to get all the equipment used during the season, thoroughly cleaned and put away for next year. Any repairs, refurbishment or painting can normally be left to be done on one of those bright winter days.

There is an old wives' tale which says, if somebody dies in the family you should tell the bees. Well my mother passed away in August so I duly visited the bees that same day and informed them. My mother who was 93 always asked me, when I visited her, 'how are the bees?' so I felt it was my duty to tell them of her passing

Also on the day of her funeral we brought home the flowers from her coffin and put them on our patio table and no sooner had we done this than a couple of bumble bees came to feed on the flowers and stayed all afternoon. A fitting end!



Fun fact : A worker bee can travel up to a 3 km radius of the hive when foraging and can visit up to 2000 flowers a day. I wonder who had to run about counting all those visits.



NATURE NOTES - NO MOW MAY

BY: MAC BEANLAND



Picture showing regrowth after one cut in May red clover in flower and lots of other wild flowers

I cannot think just how many years I have been doing my Nature Notes in the Bardfield Times, but I know I started the Shalford Parish magazine some five years ago.

It has been my policy to avoid anything controversial and to try to stick to nature, but I have become very saddened in recent years at the way we farmers (yes I still consider myself a farmer at heart) are blamed for the decline in wildlife.

Farmers have always been considered to be custodians of the countryside and wildlife and we still are. Yes, farming practices have changed in some areas as economic situations have demanded but there are large areas of the UK where they have remained the same for centuries. Those areas are still being affected by a decline in some species of wild life and to add to our problem there are a few people with some very funny ideas who seem to be able to influence the policy makers. One such idea is No Mow May. It might have seemed like a good idea at the time but it wasn't thought through. Local Authorities loved it, it saved them a job cutting the verges but it led to some very dangerous situations on the rural roads and very much reduced the variety of wildlife habitat. All we finished up with was a lot of dead dry grasses of the most vigorous varieties and they are the ones which have shed a lot of seed which will dominate next year's sward.

Wildlife thrives when it has a variety of habitat, by mowing a narrow strip along the road side with one cut done early; you encourage young green grass to grow along with wild flowers like daisies, buttercup, clover, vetches and many other wild flowers which are nectar producers and good for our pollinators. It is the principle of life; every plant, creature and organism have the same basic aim in life and that is to reproduce itself and grass is no exception. It reproduces itself by going to seed, then it dies but if we mow it or graze it, it keeps growing weather permitting, and tries again to go to seed.

Another (bright idea) is to reduce livestock numbers in the New Forest, Dartmoor, Lake District, Fells, and Peak district when we all know it is the livestock which has created those places and the livestock have always lived in harmony with wildlife. I am also a big believer in producing our own food and being less reliant on imports, surely this war in Ukraine must be a wakeup call. We are very fortunate living in this district as we have fresh local food producers and farm shops so let's use them. The 'experts' need to look very carefully for other reasons for the decline in wildlife and I can list a number of reasons, No Mow May is one of them. It may have saved local councils some money but it has left roadside verges with a mass of dead grass which is useless for wildlife, is hazardous to road users and if we had a dry summer would have been a big fire risk.

FINCHINGFIELD GUILDHALL



Guildhall is a name usually given to the buildings of two types of medieval guild: religious guilds or craft guilds. In small towns and villages, however, these purposes often entwined so that the Guildhall existed for religious, economic and social purposes. The building of Finchingfield Guildhall by the Trinity Guild ties it to the Church. The existence of a guild in Finchingfield is mentioned in *The History and Antiquities of the County of Essex* by Philip Morant (1786). He states that: “Here was a Gild called Trinity Gild, founded by Henry Onyon, William Sergeant, Richard Walklefar, Richard Mortimer and Kempe, Gent. to fund a Gild priest.”

Built circa 1470, from oak, filled with wattle and daub and with a clay-tiled roof, Finchingfield Guildhall exhibits many of the features of a typical East Anglian Guildhall. It is built close to the church, in the heart of the village, with a first-floor guild room and evidence of shops/workshops in the ground floor. The roof timbers reveal that the original building was extended in the 17th century. After the abolition of the Guilds, the Guildhall came into private ownership. John Mildmay is recorded as the owner, but it is not known to what use he put the building. We do know that the Guildhall was not in a good state of repair when it was subsequently sold to Sir Robert Kempe, of Spains Hall, Finchingfield. Sir Robert paid for substantial repairs and probably, the 2-bay extension at the eastern end. Sir Robert sold the Guildhall to a group of villagers in 1630 for £50. The deed for this exists still and can be inspected at the Essex Records Office.

Any building which survives for more than five and a half centuries has been adapted and altered to meet changing needs. Finchingfield Guildhall is no exception to this. Over time it has been used for celebrations, education, relief of need and hardship, civic administration, exhibitions and meetings to name but a few examples.

In the list of Essex Guildhalls of 1548, four Guildhalls are noted for housing a school; of these, three are in urban settings, with Finchingfield Guildhall being the only rural location. With the abolition of the Guilds, it is unlikely that the school in the Guildhall continued. However, with the sale to the village in 1630 and an endowment for a school, local boys once again received an education in this historic building. It was not until Finchingfield Church of England Primary School was founded in 1856 that this ceased.

Since the seventeenth century, there was continuous use of part of the Guildhall as almshouses. Documentary evidence for this from the foundation of the Guildhall to 1630 is minimal, but it is likely that those suffering hardship would have been given accommodation, as was common at the time. By 1658, almshouses were established in the Guildhall. Further evidence of almshouse use is scant, but by 1907 there was only one elderly lady in residence. After her demise the Guildhall deteriorated, a state of affairs that was not remedied until 1950.

Research has revealed that the village bridewell or holding cell was located in the Guildhall. Offenders were held here until their cases were heard at the Quarter Sessions. Drawing

information from local authors the first Parish Council meeting in 1894 was held at the Guildhall whilst the building was also used for the relief of poverty through many schemes including thrift clubs, the distribution of bread, coal and clothing, as well as centuries of village meetings, exhibitions and social functions.

By 1950 another programme of major works was undertaken. Sadly, modern materials were used, as was considered best practice at the time, and the old lime render was removed, to be replaced with cement. This, with concrete floors and installation of two staircases to the new almshouses created on the upper floor, resulted in the loss of or damage to parts of the Guildhall.

There was little investment in the Guildhall until 2008, when the Finchingfield Guildhall Trust was formed to save the building from dereliction. After several years' bidding for funding, the build started in earnest in 2011. Expert craftsmen were employed using ancient techniques, and local materials were sourced. The Guildhall re-opened in July 2014.

In keeping with its original purpose, the building is now a stimulating heritage based facility for all. We undertake a range of activities including hosting the volunteer run village Library and holding weekly Monday coffee mornings to which all are welcome. There is an interactive Museum open from 2 - 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays, entry is free.

The historic Guildroom is available for hire and is used for a wide variety of social functions.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

BY: KEN MCDONALD,
Secretary

The Hundred Parishes is blessed with an exceptional number of museums, all open at this time of the year.

Saffron Walden Museum was purpose-built in 1835. It displays a real treasure trove of material relating to the local area.

Imperial War Museum, Duxford is enormous, displaying all kinds of wartime material including its own listed buildings from each World War, as well as many aeroplanes, both civilian and military.

Great Dunmow Museum is housed in a former maltings. It encompasses displays about its former function as well as broader elements of Dunmow history.

Forge Museum in Much Hadham includes metal tools from the forge, while its own medieval wall paintings reveal an insight into Tudor fashion. Still in Much Hadham, the hamlet of Perry Green was for many years the home of sculptor Henry Moore. Today, the Henry Moore Studio and gardens includes an extensive outdoor display of his large works and indoor history of his life.

Ashdon Village Museum has an exceptional display of all aspects of local life in the 20th century - and an excellent tea room.

Stansted Mountfitchet has an extensive toy museum within Mountfitchet Castle which is itself a popular destination for children who probably don't realise that this fun place is teaching them a lot about the history of Norman times.

Finchingfield's 15th-century Guildhall incorporates a small collection of local history, presented with help of modern technology.

Great Bardfield has a small Cottage Museum and also a village cage, a former lock up.

Further information for each of these can be found on www.hundredparishes.org.uk – either towards the end of the relevant Parish introduction, on What's On, or on the Attractions pages. There, you will also find information about Fry Art Gallery, Linton Zoo, Hinxton watermill and several windmills. We are, indeed, blessed.

Photos

1 Ashdon Village Museum; 2 Chishill Windmill; 3 Forge Museum, Much Hadham; 4 Great Dunmow Maltings Museum; 5 Hinxton Water Mill; 6 Imperial War Museum, Duxford;
7 Saffron Walden Museum



IN THE UNITED BENEFICE of Finchingfield, Cornish Hall End, Shalford, Wethersfield, Little And Great Bardfield THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES



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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...

The beginning of this month sees the season of Harvest come to our churches. Of course, harvest has been going on for many weeks by now, and the traditional celebrations in church mark the traditional time of its completion. As such, it's a time for reflecting – looking back on what the past year of growing has produced, and giving thanks for all which is good.

If you look at some of our favourite traditional harvest hymns, you will find this idea extended a bit more widely – the yearly cycle of sowing, growing and harvesting is seen as an illustration of our lives, as we sing lines such as

Grant, O harvest Lord, that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

As such, Harvest time is a good opportunity not just to look back and give thanks for the fruitfulness of the land, but also on our own lives. Indeed, as our understanding of human effects on the environment increases, we realise that our relationship with the fruits of the earth is something which ought to give us much cause for reflection. As we head into the season of autumn, it is another way in which the Church's year is matched to the pattern of nature around us. As the world draws in towards a winter sleep, we are invited to think about what marks our lives will have left – what will have been our fruits for the harvest?

But if that seems rather melancholy, the parable of nature reminds us that this is all part of a cycle; in November we will enter the season of remembrance, and then in December, we celebrate the coming of light into darkness, just as new growth unseen lies beneath the ground. We will, once again, greet the spring time and the coming of Easter, perhaps calling to mind another hymn which connects us to the land: 'Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain.'

In a world which is always in a hurry to move forward, it's good to be reminded of the benefits of looking back – of self-reflection and thankfulness. Hopefully this harvest season will be an opportunity for us all to do just that, and our churches are a perfect place to find the space for that to happen.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

Sunday 1 October – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Harvest Festival Service – Shalford

10.30am Harvest Festival Communion Service – Great Bardfield

11am Prayer & Pilgrimage (a Celtic tradition morning worship) – Wethersfield

3pm Children's Church – Wethersfield

Sunday 8 October – Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford *(followed by breakfast in church)*

9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little Bardfield

10.30am Harvest Festival Communion Service – Finchingfield

11am Harvest Festival Family Service – Wethersfield

5pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 15 October – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

9.30am Morning Service – Shalford

10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield

10.30am Family Service – Finchingfield

5pm Evensong with prayers for healing – Cornish Hall End

Sunday 22 October – Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield

9.30am Morning Service – Shalford

10.30am Sunday Café – Cornish Hall End

11am Family Communion Service – Wethersfield

Sunday 29 October – Last Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Benefice Communion Service – Great Bardfield

Regular Services and 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

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



**Shalford
St Andrew's**



**Wethersfield
St Mary
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St John the
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**Gt Bardfield
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**Little
Bardfield
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**Cornish Hall
End
St John the
Evangelist**

St Andrew's was definitely the coolest place to be in the village in the first weeks of September so hopefully the walls will act like storage radiators for the rest of the month and save heating costs until the colder weather arrives.

I'm very grateful to all those who turned up to lend a hand in the churchyard on the 2nd September – which was mercifully a cooler day – and managed to tame some of the wilder aspects of the area. We have now benefitted from the services of a team from the Community Payback Scheme who will undertake some of the heavier maintenance jobs on a part-time basis and reduce the burden on our regular volunteers.

September continued with a very successful FOSTAC barbeque and table-top sale in the churchyard, although it being the hottest day of the year so far many participants opted to remain in the comparatively cool church. My thanks, as ever, to Sue Morton and all the FOSTAC committee for all their hard work in raising funds for the maintenance of St Andrew's.

If you have visited the church recently you will have noticed a new addition near the chancel screen, a beautiful, bespoke votive candle stand, lovingly given in memory of a past worshipper. It is the work of a talented metalwork artist, Graham Thrussell, and is a unique piece specially commissioned for St Andrew's church. Even after a few weeks it has proved popular and I can only imagine that many of you will have taken the opportunity to come into the church, light a candle and sit quietly for a little time while you remember a loved one or pray for someone or something that is on your heart today.

Although the local harvest has been gathered in already, and indeed most fields have been ploughed, harrowed and readied for next year's crop, we will meet in St Andrew's on Sunday 1st October at 9.30am to give thanks to God for this year's harvest, to pray for all those who work the land and to look forward to a fruitful summer in 2024. Please join us if you can. It does no harm to remind ourselves that we are dependent on so many matters beyond our control and we owe our farmers a huge debt of gratitude for their resilience and perseverance in times of climatic, political and fiscal uncertainty. We are truly blessed indeed.

Hilary Penney

SHALFORD CHURCH OF ST ANDREW'S PANT VALLEY CHURCHES CONTACTS



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How You Can Help Your Child or Grandchild Become More Financially Literate

When you were young, how did you learn about managing money? Did your parents give you pocket money for doing chores around the house? Or maybe they bought you a piggy bank or opened a building society account and helped you understand the importance of saving?

However you learned about managing your money as a child or teenager, the experiences and support from adults – like your parents, grandparents, or teachers – may well have shaped your financial attitudes and habits in your adult life.

So, now you are the adult, sharing your knowledge with a child or grandchild is likely to help them to become more confident with their money.

Given that a recent study by [Shepherds Friendly](#) revealed that only 1 in 4 people in the UK are financially literate and know how best to look after their finances, this is even more pertinent than ever before.

Of course, what you teach your child or grandchild about finances will depend on their age, so read on to find out how you can help children of different ages become better at looking after their money.

It's important to start teaching children at junior school age about money

It's well worth educating children of a young age about the importance of money and managing their finances. You could do so in the following ways.

Giving them pocket money for doing household chores

One of the most effective ways of teaching your child or grandchild about the importance of money and how to manage it is by encouraging them to earn their pocket money by doing chores or activities around the house. That could be anything from washing up to keeping their room clean and tidy.

This can help them understand the pride of working to earn their valuable pocket money and the importance of rewarding hard work with something enjoyable.

Encouraging thinking about saving now versus spending later

At junior school age, it could be beneficial to set up a savings account for your child or grandchild and encourage them to make regular deposits into it.

Additionally, children at this age can also be taught the importance of saving now versus spending later. For example, it could be a good idea to encourage them to understand the value of self-control when it comes to spending. You could use the motivation of “one sweet now, or two sweets later.”

Helping them understand how doing things costs money

Children often learn by watching and doing. So, asking them to load the shopping and then hand over the money will help them understand where the money is going and learn how doing and buying things costs money.

For example, you could list all the things you'll be doing with them over the coming days and put cash into a wallet or purse. Ask them to pay for each activity or item using the money in the purse so that they can see the change reducing each time.

Teenagers need to know the importance of budgeting

When children hit their teenage years, it could be a good idea to teach them about managing their money.

Whether it's money for lunch, school supplies, or other small necessities for this period in their life, pocket money can run out very quickly for young teens. So, discuss "wants versus needs" and how they might "want" some items but not "need" them, and how they should balance their spending accordingly.

For example, many teenagers feel peer pressure from friends and will look to purchase items because their friends have them. However, these might not be items they really want or need, so helping them to have more self-control over what they purchase could be useful for them.

Opening their first bank account

As a teenager, your child or grandchild will no doubt have outgrown the piggy bank that you bought for them when they were young. So, there's no better time to help them set up their first bank account.

This will help them to understand the benefits of putting money aside whenever they can. Additionally, you can also teach them about logging into their online account, managing direct debits and standing orders, and even basics like using cash machines (and why not to use ones that charge!).

Letting them take over budgeting (with supervision) for a short period

Talking to your child or grandchild about your financial responsibilities and helping them to understand what you need to budget for could really help them with their own finances.

You could explain to them how you need your income to cover bills, shopping, household costs, and anything you spend on your child too.

While obviously supervising them, you could help them take over the budgeting for a few days and then sit down with them at the end to discuss how they felt it went. For instance, was it harder than they expected? What did they learn from it about budgeting and their own finances?

Young adults can start building their finances for the future

As a young adult, being able to handle finances correctly and understanding what savings and investment options are available is important. So, as their parent, guardian, or grandparent, helping them become more financially literate is a great first step.

Helping them to understand the benefits of starting to save early

You'll know first-hand how important it is to start saving early, but your child or grandchild won't have that same level of experience. So, teaching them the benefits of starting to save early can be helpful for them in the years to come.

For instance, encouraging a young adult to start saving early could allow them to take advantage of compound interest. This refers to the principle that when they save money, as well as earning interest on the savings, they could also earn interest on the interest itself.

Indeed, as a result, you could help them to understand how keeping their money saved – and not accessing it – could see their money grow at a faster pace due to interest rates.

Plus, by starting to save early, it will put them in a better position to meet their short- and medium-term financial goals in the future, whether that's buying a new car or even purchasing their first home.

Discussing the potential benefits of investments

Once your child or grandchild has been working for a while and they've accumulated some savings, it may be a good time to talk to them about investing. You could encourage them to think about setting long-term goals and investing regularly over time.

Get in touch

If the young adult in your life wants to understand how goals-based financial planning could work for them, you could even bring them along to meet your financial planner.

Planning as a family – particularly when it comes to gifting and leaving a legacy – can be beneficial to both you and the younger members of your family.

Please email info@harperlees.co.uk or call 01277 350560.

Please note

Investments carry risk. The value of your investments (and any income from them) can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount you invested. Investments should be considered over the longer term and should fit in with your overall attitude to risk and financial circumstances.

This article is for general information only and does not constitute advice. The information is aimed at retail clients only.

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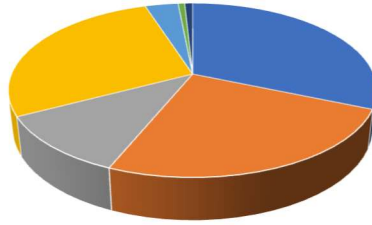
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| Plumbing | DPS Plumbing | 20 |
| Pub | The George Inn | 41 |
| Roofing | R Wheeler | 38 |
| Veterinary | Mercer & Hughes | 19 |
| Water Softener | Ian Holmes | 57 |
| Websites/Printing | Applied Image | 48 |

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