



SHALFORD



Village Magazine November 2023
showcasing our community
Produced by the People for the People



REMEMBRANCE DAY
11TH NOVEMBER 2023



- WHAT'S ON
- REMEMBRANCE
- CHURCH NEWS
- PARISH COUNCIL
- LOCAL ORGANISATIONS
- ARTICLES
- NATURE
- & MORE

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FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS



A huge thank you to all our financial supporters – villagers, advertisers, Parish Council, Parochial Council, Bendlowe's, Horticultural Society, Craftnoon Club. Every contribution large or small has made a BIG difference. Without these funds, there would not be a magazine.

**KNOW WHERE
YOUR NEAREST
DEFIBRILLATOR
IS LOCATED**



Jaspers Green
CM7 5AU



Shalford Village
Hall Church End
CM7 5EZ



The George Inn The
Street CM7 5HH

FRONT PAGE

**Heart Photo
MacMillan
Coffee
Morning**

**Bottom Left
Dry Gulcher Crew
Shalford History
Association**

NOVEMBER'S

Magazine has been funded by John & Janet Bright.

John was born in Shalford and has lived in the village all his life Janet came to the village when she was 16.

They married 53 years ago and have lived in Barryfields all their married life. They played various sports within the village when young.

They were heavily involved in clubs and groups and enjoyed the social aspect in the community.



At present they both attend Meet and Greet each month but are unable to help in many activities in the village now so they were pleased to make a donation to the village magazine as a way of keeping the community spirit going. They look forward to reading the magazine each month as it keeps them informed of what is happening in the village.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank you both for the enormous amount of work you carried out for the village in days gone by and wish to say how grateful and thankful we are to you for your incredible generosity and kindness.



***SENDING A HEART-FELT
THANK YOU***



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LOCAL ORGANISATIONS & CHARITIES

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**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
Sat	3rd Nov	W/field Club	Cocktail Evening	W/field Club	19.00	Julia 07712674929
4th Nov - 17th Nov		Shalford History	Shalford Remembers	St Andrew's Church		
Sun	12th November		Service of Remembrance	St Andrew's Church	10.12	
Sat	25th Nov		Shalford Craft Fayre	Shalford V. Hall	11.00	
Sat	25th Nov	FOSTAC	An Evening with Mac & John	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
Fri	1st Dec	Bendlowe's	Christmas Meet & Greet	Shalford V. Hall	11.00	
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	
Fri	15th Dec	Bendlowe's	G&T Music Evening	Shalford V. Hall	19.30	Alice 07850 264518
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. 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

COFFEE MORNING – ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

EVERY 2nd & 4th
THURSDAY OF THE
MONTH

10.00 a.m. to 12.00
p.m.



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

LEARN TO PLAY THE DRUMS
AT YOUR OWN PACE IN A
FRIENDLY

ENVIRONMENT
CONTACT: JAMES
TEL: 07704 070498



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
07450251525

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

WALKING GROUPS

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

From
FINCHING
FIELD
Green every
Friday at 10
a.m.

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

WHAT'S ON



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-esssex-pc.gov.uk](https://shalford-esssex-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

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



FOSTAC

Friends of St Andrew's Church

AN EVENING WITH MAC & JOHN

Come along and listen to two of our local villagers talk on some very interesting times.

John Burrow is our Wandering Policeman talking of his exploits whilst a policeman
and
Mac Beanland—Talking Turkey—his experiences as a turkey farmer

An evening of humour and fun

Saturday 25th November 2023
St Andrew's Church, Shalford—7.00pm

Drinks & Nibbles

Tickets £5 Available from Shalford Village Stores

President Sir Roger Singleton OBE

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WHAT'S ON

Christmas Meet and Greet



FRIDAY 1st December 2023

**11 am to 2 pm at Shalford
Village Hall**



To celebrate - it will be FESTIVE

So join us – all welcome

A light festive lunch

A glass of bubbly

Christmas carols

For further information contact:

Alice: Tel 07850 264518 or 01371 851146

or E-mail: alicecox53@btinternet.com

BENDLOWE'S – PEOPLE WORKING FOR PEOPLE



Shalford Christmas Light Switch On

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 2, 2023**

SHALFORD VILLAGE HALL

5.30PM - 8.00PM

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Stalls | Music |
| Refreshments | Carols |
| Food | Honey Stall |
| Toppesfield | Craft Club |
| Brewery | Raffle |
| Sid n Ivy Dog | Mulled Wine |
| Treats | |

Contact: amanda.french@shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk





Bendlowes presents

*G & J
Performing*



*'A Little
Christmas Music'*



Friday 15 December 2023

7.30 pm until 10 pm

Shalford Village Hall



*Vic and Marion bring us a festive evening of
favourite Christmas songs*



Tickets £5

(available at Meet and Greet or from Marianna)

Please bring your own refreshments



Shalford Local History Association
Presents

Shalford Remembers

4 November to 17 November 2023
St Andrew's Church, Shalford



*An event honouring the people of Shalford who
fought for their country*

- An exhibition inside the Church with stories of those who served, flower displays, a reflection area and children's craft activities
- Outside the Church an evocative poppy installation using around 700 community made poppies as well as beautiful wooden soldiers.

Culminating in ...

A Service of Remembrance

10.45 am, Sunday 12 November

St Andrew's Church, Shalford



Shalford Local History Association:

Shalford Remembers



As many of you will know, the History Association have been working towards a Remembrance event for 2023. We thought it important to honour local people and their sacrifices during various conflicts and provide a focus for the village to remember.

An exhibition will take place at St Andrews Church in Shalford daily from Saturday 4 November until Friday 17 November and anyone can visit daily during this time. Entrance is free. The exhibition inside the Church will include:

- Stories of local people who fought for their country including members of the Royal Marines
- Items relating to military service
- A reflection area
- Stunning flower arrangements
- A children's area with craft activities

Outside the Church will be an evocative poppy installation using around 700 community made poppies as well as beautiful wooden silhouettes of soldiers.

On Sunday 12 November there will be a special Service of Remembrance beginning at 10.45 am at the Church. This will feature readings and performance by local school children, a Royal British Legion Standard bearer and artefacts from World War I.

For more information email historyshalford@gmail.com or call 07785235000 (Sally)

ECC MOBILE LIBRARY 2023

Saturday - 11th Nov, 2/12, 23/12

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>

POST OFFICE

**EVERY
FRIDAY
AFTERNOON**



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

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.

2023/2024

Recycling does not end at your kerbside collection

Reduce your waste even further by using recycling bring banks to recycle your:

- glass bottles and jars
- textiles and shoes
- food and drink cartons, eg Tetra Pak

To find out where to recycle these and lots of other items, go to www.recyclenow.com/recycling-locator

Did you know?

Disposable nappies are not accepted in your clear sacks - please put these in your grey bin, or try reusable nappies.

RECYCLING SACKS

My Recycling Calendar

TUESDAY ROUTE 2

OCTOBER 2023 3 10 17 24 31	NOVEMBER 2023 7 14 21 28	DECEMBER 2023 5 12 19 27
JANUARY 2024 3 9 16 23 30 <small>WED</small>	FEBRUARY 2024 6 13 20 27	MARCH 2024 5 12 19 26
APRIL 2024 1 8 15 22 29 <small>WED</small>	MAY 2024 6 13 20 27 <small>WED</small>	JUNE 2024 4 11 18 25
JULY 2024 2 9 16 23 30	AUGUST 2024 6 13 20 27 <small>WED</small>	SEPTEMBER 2024 3 10 17 24

■ Grey bin and food bin
□ Different collection day

● Clear sacks and food bin only
○ Different collection day

■ Green bin, clear sacks and food bin
○ Different collection day

◇ Green bin (BIRCHMERE ONLY), clear sacks and food bin
◇ Different collection day

MY COLLECTION CHECKLIST:

- Out for collection on the right day by 7am
- All waste is in the bin with the lid shut
- Clear recycling sacks are securely tied
- All cardboard kept dry in clear recycling sacks
- For furniture or bulky items use our collection service www.braintree.gov.uk/bulkywaste

Did you know?

Food that cannot be eaten should go into your weekly food waste collection. It becomes fuel and soil improver. A single recycled binning just can generate enough electricity to charge your phone twice!

GARDEN WASTE

From 4 March 2024 this will be a subscription service only. If you want a garden waste collection, make sure you sign up at www.braintree.gov.uk/gardenwaste subscription.

NO TBA WASTE

GREEN BIN

FOOD BIN

Braintree Council

Correct as time of publication 16.8.2023

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.

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.

Members only Christmas Ride

The ride this year is on the **2nd December 2023** at Thorndon Country Park, Brentwood. An 8 mile ride on surfaced tracks with optional Christmas fancy dress. Free mulled wine and mince pies.

Please note normal parking charges for Thorndon Country Park apply. As at 1/4/22 £4.60 for 3 hours and £5.80 for more than 3 hours. Time slots will be either morning or afternoon to fit in as many riders as possible.

Mandy French



RE - ENGAGE

(FORMERLY CONTACT THE ELDERLY) SUNDAY TEA

We are coming up to our 13th year running our lovely tea group for older people in our community. We now have spaces for new guests and would love to welcome you along to a tea! This is a free service and transport is provided to pick you up and make sure you are home safe. If you like to have a chat and some good cake then come along. We are a small, friendly group and you would receive a warm welcome.

--o0o--

We also really need volunteers to keep this lovely group going. Can you spare just 2 hours a year to host a tea in your home? You just need a downstairs' loo and not too many steps into your home and love cake! Would you like to drive for us and join in the tea and chat. Drivers can volunteer every month or a couple of times a year. Any help is much appreciated and we can't run our group without our wonderful volunteers.

For more information please call Sarah 07505241237 or email sarah8750@hotmail.co.uk Thank you!



CALLING ALL FARMERS



By: Alice Cox

For some time now I have felt that it would be a great asset to have the Farming Community represented in the Magazine be it arable or livestock or both and am wondering if there is a farmer out there who would be willing to oblige.

Maybe an article on how farming has changed over the years due to mechanisation, crops available, health & safety or government intervention. Maybe how crops have changed, how to recognise wheat from barley, fertilisers, weed killers etc. Diary Notes, or maybe something personal regarding farming.

Whatever – I would love to hear from you: Alice 07850 264518 or email:shalford_village_magazine@btinternet.com



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HARVEST FESTIVAL, ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

BY: JENNY EARLEY

**"This is your garden, Creator God
A thing of beauty, Beyond
understanding,
A poem that is being written
Not in words,
but in colours"
(from faith worship.com)**

St. Andrew's Church came alive through the colours and textures of flowers and hedgerows, crops and berries to celebrate the Harvest Festival Service on October 1st. The beautiful array of floral arrangements lit up every corner of the church with the colours of autumn and harvest. Our team of local amateur flower arrangers run by Mrs Heather Smith put on an inspiring display of blooms and foliage, and as one of the team I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to create a display. I chose deep coral roses with carnations in a pedestal arrangement and used contrasting alstroemeria with added textures of dried poppy and seedheads, finished off with garden foliage and trailing ivy. Many others chose bright yellow sunflowers, orange chrysanthemums, gladioli, autumn leaves and berries. There were wonderful displays of God's Harvest including grains and garden produce.



As a traditional festival that has been celebrated through churches since ancient times, flowers do not only decorate the church and capture the feel of the seasons but can also be in themselves offered up to The Lord in thanks for our Harvest.

SHALFORD LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VISIT TO GREAT BARDFIELD

BY: SALLY WELSH

On 27 September members of the Association plus some extra guests headed to Great Bardfield for lunch at the Blue Egg followed by a talk about the history of the village and its artist community and tour of the village.

The initial talk, given by Dr Janet Dyson in the Bawden Room next to the Town Hall was very interesting. She talked about the history of the village and explained that its comparatively wide main street was to accommodate the weekly market and annual horse fair in the Middle Ages.



Bardfield was home to one of the richest and most influential women of the fourteenth century, Elizabeth de Clare, founder of Clare College, Cambridge. Later on, in the 16th century, William Bendlowe became one of the most important historical people connected with Great Bardfield. He was Sergeant-at-Law to Elizabeth I, surprisingly as he was a staunch Catholic. A man of great piety, he endowed the village with a school, almshouses and made annual bequests to the poor. He is of course responsible for Bendlowe's Charity in Shalford. Without him there would be no Meet and Greet! He lived at Place House, a Grade II* building in the village and his initials can be seen on one of the beams of the house.

The artist community thrived in the village from the 1930s to the 1970s and included the likes of Edward Bawden and Eric Ravilious both of whom were war artists. The Bardfield History Association has its own set of original sketches of that Bawden drew for a book called a Life in an English Village published in 1949. They depict life in Bardfield such as the school, local shops and businesses. Janet told us that they had been able to identify and even interview some of the subjects in the pictures. We were also able to view a number of other pictures and painting in the village collection by other artists.

After the talk, Janet handed over to Peter (due to her broken arm) to take us on a short walk around the village itself. He pointed out the various houses where the artists lived, such as that of textile designer Marianne Straub, as well as other interesting sites.



We were very lucky to end our tour at Brick House where Janet now lives and which was the home of Edward Bawden for 40 years. The house still has the 1930s wallpaper put up by the Bawdens in one room and Janet has decorated the hall and another



reception room with Bawden-designed wallpaper.



We were stunned when Janet took us through to the back of the house to the double height artist studio. The garden was also quite stunning featuring a large lawn, a parterre and even a swimming pool at the very end!

Our group really enjoyed their visit and were very grateful for Janet and Peter's kindness and their time.



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MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING 2023

We had another successful Coffee Morning on Saturday 23rd September. Tables loaded with homemade cakes/ pies and pastries.. Tea /Coffee ...Raffle...Tombola...Bric a brac and lots more ...

Together we raised an amazing **£600 +** I would like to thank , on behalf of Macmillan, all those who attended, donated, and helped make it all possible

Caroline Ottley



GREENSTEAD GREEN & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL CLUB

PLOUGHING MATCH

BY: JANICE VINCE

Well, the weather gods certainly smiled on us on Saturday 30th September when we held our annual event at Tattersall's Farm Morris Green by kind permission of the Grimwood family. The ground was fairly good going so some nice work done by our ploughmen.



A total of 59 turned up on the day to compete including some trade demonstrators.

A brilliant turnout from the public as well up to 300 spectators came to see what it was all about during the course of the day. We also had horses ploughing which is a great treat for everyone and the horse ploughman very kindly allowed those who wanted to, to have a go.

One of our hosts, Josh Grimwood trying his hand at it.

The Henny Road Run called in to see us on their way through for a cuppa and something to eat. 16 tractors in all lined up

So all in all a great day, enjoyed by competitors and public alike. Here's to next year's match, our 70th anniversary where we're hoping to have 70



ploughmen. So come on get those tractors out of the sheds, ploughs out from the hedges and shine this boards in readiness.

Thank you to everyone who came to support us.



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Fridge Freezer.....	£30 small
Dishwasher	£32
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Call: 01376 337 442

www.washtumble.com

Shalford Parish Council by Samantha Batt

For all general comments or queries please contact
clerk@shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk



Dog Fouling

In addition to new signs, we have also installed bag dispensers at Stoneley Park and in Jaspers Green. Thank you to everyone who picks up after the dogs.

Footpath Feedback

The Council are assessing all the footpaths in the Parish to develop a cutting plan for 2024, understand where there are access issues and collate and maintenance requirements such as broken bridges, stiles etc. This will help us allocate resources such as the Ranger, contractors or ask for Braintree or Essex Council support.

If you would like to contribute to this assessment, please contact the Clerk with details of the Footpath number (from the walking map or village map), the issue or comment and the exact location, ideally with what3words. Some good news, the Footbridge on FP38 near Yorney Wood has been repaired by Essex County Council

Website update

Please visit our website, which has had a revamp thanks to Councillor Welsh.

You can subscribe to the newsletter as well as viewing the events calendar and finding information about lots of the village groups and activities.





Ranger report

Lol has been busy painting our bus shelters and don't they look much better. Thank you Lol. He has also been litter picking throughout the village and cutting back and clearing footpaths 2,3 and along the B1053.

Levelly Wood

Forestry operations in the wood are ongoing as part of Essex County Council's woodland management programme to benefit the long-term health of the woodland and support biodiversity. All the works are sanctioned by the Forestry Commission and are under licence.



SHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL PRESENTS

Shalford Christmas Light Switch On

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 2, 2023

SHALFORD VILLAGE HALL

5.30PM - 8.00PM

Stalls	Music
Refreshments	Carols
Food	Honey Stall
Toppesfield	Craft Club
Brewery	Raffle
Sid n Ivy Dog	Mulled Wine
Treats	

Contact: amanda.francis@shalford-essex.co.uk

Christmas Tree Light Switch On!!!!

A date for your diary is Saturday 2nd December at 5.30pm, when the Shalford Tree lights will be switched on at the Village Hall. There will be refreshments, stalls, carols, music and everyone is welcome!



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

November's meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th November at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

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



I REMEMBER

by: Alice Cox



My life has changed forever
You were here yesterday but not today
You won't be here tomorrow
Nor tomorrow's tomorrow

With your last breath
Went my joy and happiness
Leaving behind emptiness
Dark days; pain and sorrow



But I know as the minutes
Melt into hours, hours into days,
Days into months, months into years
The emptiness, pain and sorrow, will slowly fade

Replaced by memories flourishing like flowers
Nourished by our time together, our memories
Growing into a bouquet of beautiful blooms
Each exquisite bloom, an unforgettable memory

I'll remember your smile
Your laughter, your walk
The glint in your eyes, your humour
Your favourite sayings
Your favourite song

I'll remember the laughter we shared
The places we visited
Your interests, hobbies and passions
Your kindness and tenderness
The family and friends we shared

Remembering our treasured memories
Will teach me to smile and laugh again
To accept that you have gone
To be grateful that you were part of my life
To take comfort when feeling low

So Rest in Peace
For I am blessed with treasured memories
To call upon to see me through today
tomorrow & tomorrow's tomorrow

I will remember.....





WILLIAM BENDLOWE'S

*PEOPLE WORKING
FOR PEOPLE*



For many, November reminds us of Remembrance especially 11th November Remembrance Day and also 2nd November All Souls Day. Here at Bendlowe's this has prompted the Team to reflect and remember our supporters who, sadly, are no longer with us. However they supported us; be it by attending, Meet and Greet, an outing, a fund-raising event or by donating, we were extremely grateful for their support and company. We remember each one of them with fondness, affection and appreciation.

Reggie Nelson; Peter Canham; David French; Eric Baker; Diane Suett; Dave Isbell John Taylor; Don Mavis; Alan Oates; Peter Ottley; Diana Hulkes; John Bahr; Alex Tanner; Margaret Smith; Smudger (Mick Smith); Patrick Alexander; Lawrence Rawlinson

A treasured photo of Mac Beanland's



France 2017 - Remembering Family

1918 PEACE TEA AT SHALFORD HALL



Photo by Kind Permission Shalford History Association

REMEMBRANCE DAY 11TH NOVEMBER



WHAT IS REMEMBRANCE?

By Kind Permission of Royal British Legion

Website: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>

Remembrance honours those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life. We unite across faiths, cultures and backgrounds to remember the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from Britain and the Commonwealth. We will remember them.

We remember the sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from Britain and the Commonwealth. We pay tribute to the special contribution of families and of the emergency services. We acknowledge innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict and acts of terrorism.

Remembrance does not glorify war and its symbol, the red poppy, is a sign of both Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future.

Wearing a poppy is never compulsory but is greatly appreciated by those who it is intended to support. When and how you choose to wear a poppy is a reflection of your individual experiences and personal memories.

Remembrance unites people of all faiths, cultures, and backgrounds but it is also deeply personal.

It could mean wearing a poppy in November, before Remembrance Sunday. It could mean joining with others in your community on a commemorative anniversary. Or it could mean taking a moment on your own to pause and reflect.

Everyone is free to remember in their own way, or to choose not to remember at all.



Why We Wear Poppies On Remembrance Day

By Kind Permission of Imperial War Museum

Website: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/why-we-wear-poppies-on-remembrance-day>

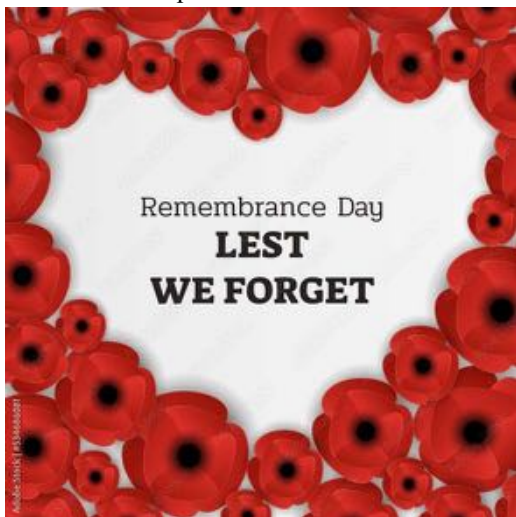
The poppy is the enduring symbol of remembrance of the First World War. It is strongly linked with Armistice Day (11 November), but the poppy's origin as a popular symbol of remembrance lies in the landscapes of the First World War.

Poppies were a common sight, especially on the Western Front. They flourished in the soil churned up by the fighting and shelling. The flower provided Canadian doctor **John McCrae** with inspiration for his poem 'In Flanders Fields', which he wrote whilst serving in Ypres in 1915. It was first published in *Punch*, having been rejected by *The Spectator*. In 1918, in response to McCrae's poem, American humanitarian **Moina Michael** wrote 'And now the Torch and Poppy Red, we wear in honour of our dead...'. She campaigned to make the poppy a symbol of remembrance of those who had died in the war.

Artificial poppies were first sold in Britain in 1921 to raise money for the Earl Haig Fund in support of ex-servicemen and the families of those who had died in the conflict. They were supplied by Anna Guérin, who had been manufacturing the flowers in France to raise money for war orphans. Selling poppies proved so popular that in 1922 the British Legion founded a factory - staffed by disabled ex-servicemen - to produce its own. It continues to do so today.

Other charities sell poppies in different colours, each with their own meaning but all to commemorate the losses of war. White poppies, for example, symbolise peace without violence and purple poppies are worn to honour animals killed in conflict.

The poppy continues to be sold worldwide to raise money and to remember those who lost their lives in the First World War and in subsequent conflicts.





IN FLANDERS FIELDS

By Kind Permission of Royal British Legion
Website: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>



The poppy is a symbol of Remembrance and hope, including hope for a positive future and peaceful world.

They are a show of support for the Armed Forces community, those currently serving, ex-serving personnel and their families; and a symbol of Remembrance for all those who have fallen in conflict.

John McCrae wrote the poem In Flanders Fields which inspired the use of the poppy as a symbol of Remembrance.

In the spring of 1915, shortly after losing a friend in Ypres, a Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae wrote his now famous poem after seeing poppies growing in battle-scarred fields.

In Flanders Fields The poem by John McCrae

*In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.*





RAF Wethersfield - Remembrance Day

By: Ross Stewart, Curator, Wethersfield Airfield Heritage Group.

The airfield having been predominately USAAF in WW2 the RAF Wethersfield Heritage Group and Museum has taken part in the Cambridge American Cemetery Memorial Day on the last Monday of May each year, where we remember the 48 American Servicemen who lost their lives in WW2 and around 20+ from the Cold War years (research still ongoing for exact numbers and names).








A-170 - Wethersfield

Tablets of the Missing

<p>S/Sgt Glenn J. Bender, 669th Bomb Sqn 1Lt William Edward Cramsie, 671st Bomb Sqn 1Lt Raymond Kyle Cruze, 668th Bomb Sqn S/Sgt Charles R. Henshaw, 671st Bomb Sqn S/Sgt Jack O. Nielsen, 669th Bomb Sqn 2Lt Arthur A. Raines Jr., 669th Bomb Sqn S/Sgt Jack Steward, 671st Bomb Sqn</p>	<p><u>Buried at Cambridge American Cemetery</u></p> <p>Pfc Bryon Kidd Allen, HQ Pfc Charles W. Coleman, 668th Bomb Sqn S/Sgt Royden Edward Conopask, 670th Bomb Sqn S/Sgt Joseph John Shields, 669th Bomb Sqn 2Lt Norris Brydia Haney 670th Bomb Sqn S/Sgt Harold W. Smith, 668th Bomb Sqn 2Lt John David Smith, 669th Bomb Sqn S/Sgt Thomas Ira Walsh Jr., 670th Bomb Sqn</p>
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There were however British and Commonwealth Soldiers, Glider and Paratroopers, SAS, SOE. (Special Operations Executive) Spy's who flew from RAF Wethersfield into the ETO European Theatre of Operations in the last 7 months of WW2. There is no memorial to those



hero's and the numbers and names are unknown. From October 1944 to January 1945 RAF Squadrons 196 & 299 operated from the airfield, flying Stirling MkIV Bombers.

As part of RAF 38 Group their tasks involved Glider Towing, dropping supply containers to Resistance Groups and SAS, taking SAS and SOE teams over the battle area to parachute in behind the enemy lines



Records show that two aircraft were lost during the time at RAF Wethersfield, one from 196 Squadron 6 Aircrew died, and one from 299 Squadron 2 Aircrew MIA (4 parachuted to safety 3 were captured and 1 evaded capture). The Australian pilot and a sergeant went down with the plane into the North Sea and are recorded as missing in action. A Stirling Bomber was found by divers off the coast of Norway in 2017 but to-date it has not been identified. Both men are remembered at the Commonwealth Memorial in Runnymede.



There is no memorial at RAF Wethersfield for any of the American, British or the Australian Pilot. There are now no USAF memorial plaques as these have been removed from the Chapel and Memorial Courtyard as a result of the current use by the Home Office.

From 1952 to 1990 the USAF from Wethersfield regularly attended and paid respect to all fallen servicemen at the Remembrance Day Parades and service on the 11th November as in

the photo above.

It is hoped that should the RAF Wethersfield Heritage Group survive that we will once again establish a Memorial Garden to pay respect to both USAAF, USAF, RAF and RAAF who made the ultimate sacrifice to save our freedom today.

9/11/44	Flying Officer	Derek William Eves	Age 21	196 Squadron
9/11/44	Sergeant	Maurice Arthur Goult	Age 19	196 Squadron
9/11/44	Flight Sergeant	Charles Alfred Myers	Age 34	196 Squadron
9/11/44	Flying Officer	John Anthony Norton	Age 22	196 Squadron
9/11/44	Flight Sergeant	Harry Ruston	Age 27	196 Squadron
9/11/44	Sergeant	John Vass Thompson	Age 21	196 Squadron
27/11/44	Flying Officer	John Dickie (Australian)	Age 26	299 Squadron MIA
27/11/44	Flight Sergeant	Stanley Dixon	Age 20	299 Squadron MIA



FLAK BAIT B26 MARAUDER - ANDREWSFIELD

BY: MIKE ROWLAND

When I took over as airfield manager in 2006 I had very little knowledge of the history of the airfield, which can probably be said for many of us who frequent the Andrewsfield. It was only after doing some research for a radio interview concerning the proposed siting of a new Garden Village on the airfield that I came across more information and the name Flak Bait kept coming up.



So let the story begin, I was aware that Mild & Bitter a Marauder B26 which we have painted on the back wall of the restaurant at the club, was famous because it survived over 100 missions (normal life was 30 missions), However Mild & Bitter's achievements were surpassed by Flak Bait which became the only B26 Marauder to survive the war with a total of 207.

I should have mentioned earlier that both aircraft flew most of their missions from Andrewsfield. I had been made aware a few years ago, by friends, that the nose section of Flak Bait had been returned to the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC and as Carol and I were planning to visit Washington DC this year, I thought I should do some more research on this famous aircraft. During this research it became clear that after Flak Bait survived the war, she was flown to Bavaria and then eventually dismantled and shipped by train and sea to the USA. The aircraft although in pieces was split between 2 museums although most sections were in store near Dulles Airport Washington and the nose section in Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC as previously mentioned. It was also apparent that the museum had now decided to restore Flak Bait for exhibition.

Never being one to miss a possible blag, I decided to write tongue-in-cheek to the curator of Smithsonian Museum. Dear Sir "... has come to my attention that you are in possession of one of my aircraft and I was hoping that we might be able to visit your museum to see how she is doing etc. etc. etc....."

I was delighted to receive a very nice email by return inviting us to meet with him 10:30am on October the 1st. Little was I prepared for what was in store.

Monday 1st October 10am opening time for the museum, we arrived early at this most impressive building just outside Dulles airport, the car park was all but empty and parking and entrance to the museum was free. With Military precision we arrived at the agreed meeting place to be met by Pat Robinson head of the Smithsonian's restoration department. Pat explained that the curator was not able to attend but that he had directed Pat to look after us, and look after us he did.



Surprise number one, Pat was not alone, he had 2 other gentlemen that were introduced to us Mr Bob Mike ... Historians from Andrews Air Force Base (home of Air Force One).

They had been informed of our visit through the museum and it came to light that they had been unaware of Andrewsfield but have since discovered that both airfields were named after the same person General Frank Andrews. I certainly knew of Frank Andrews, who during the war was killed tragically on a flight back from Europe to the USA, however I did not know that he was lined up to take over the post of Supreme Commander which was eventually given to Dwight Eisenhower who later became President. Both historians were intrigued to hear more about Andrewsfield and what part it played in WW2 and also the importance of Flak Bait in the war's history.

Pat informed us that we were all going to be taken back stage to the restoration hangar floor where the majority of their restoration projects have been carried out. Health and safety and the clinical environment where this work takes place is not normally accessible to the public who would normally only observe from high platforms around the hangar.

I could write a book about the 2 ½ hour tour, however here are the main points.

The project is to restore Flak Bait back to the condition she was in when she made her last flight from the UK. This entails stripping the aircraft down to its individual nut bolt rivet and individual panels and wiring looms etc. Where original parts can be used they are cleaned and restored, if the part is unserviceable they would source original material and original machinery used to manufacture the part and make a new one.

With this knowledge, we were escorted into the hangar. For the very first time I saw Flak Bait, I was surprised as to how emotional the moment was for us both, to see this amazing huge aircraft having this whole hangar to herself with millions of dollars being spent on her and she flew out of our little grass airfield in Essex, the hairs certainly went up on the back of my neck. I must have just stood there staring at the nose section before me for what seemed like minutes, but was probably just 30 seconds. Even in pieces she looked magnificent. Bit by bit section by section we were shown and explained what the process of restoration it was in. For example, just before her last flight, the pilot and crew had signed their names all over the aircraft, in some places the names had been painted over whilst she was sitting in Europe. Whilst trying to restore the signatures in view or by x-ray under the paint, they noticed some that did not seem right either because of the pen or pencil used or the size of the writing, so the team set to task to find out what, eventually they managed to find some photographs of the aircraft and in the photograph were children with pencils standing by the aircraft. Mystery solved and these were then removed.

We witnessed one tail plane that had been x-rayed then had the original skin painstakingly removed, the ribs and spars restored, a false covering placed on top of the tail plane and then the original painted skin was replaced on top. Even where the paint had flaked it was re-glued and the edges sealed to protect. It would have been an easier project to return her too new.

So at the end of an exclusive tour, I had to ask the main question "Why Flak Bait?" Pat explained, the museum has on display the very first aircraft that was bombed at Pearl harbour which instigated the USA entering WW2, they also have the "ENOLA GAY" the aircraft which dropped the atomic bomb on Japan and subsequently ended WW2 so they wanted Flak Bait as the most successful survivor of 207 missions and that survived the war, completing beginning middle and end of WW2. Epilogue - There were signs saying please do not touch this aircraft - I guess that didn't include past owners oops!!!



12 Ways Animals Have Helped The War Effort

By Kind Permission of Imperial War Museum website:

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/12-ways-animals-have-helped-the-war-effort>

Throughout history animals have accompanied men into combat as modes of transport and communication, protectors and companions. They have fulfilled a variety of roles – from carrying men and munitions to evacuating the wounded, performing guard and sentry duties to carrying out search and rescue operations, detecting gas in trenches to locating improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Afghanistan.

Here are some of the ways animals have helped the war effort from the First World War to the present day.



1. Cavalry and Horse-mounted Infantry

When the **First World War** broke out in 1914, both sides had large cavalry forces. Horse and **camel-mounted troops** were used throughout the war, particularly in the desert campaigns, but on the Western Front cavalry charges became increasingly difficult as the fighting became deadlocked and trench warfare took over. Over the course of the twentieth century, the role of cavalry continued to change as combat became more mechanised.



2. Medical evacuation

Ambulances – both horse-drawn and motorised – were part of a vast network of **medical services** set up to treat the wounded. Pictured here is a horse-drawn ambulance on the Western Front during the First World War. Animals were also used to evacuate the wounded when wheeled or motorised transport was not possible, either because of rough terrain or where roads were in poor condition. In desert conditions, **camels fitted with cacolets to carry the wounded** would transport casualties to aid posts, dressing stations or field hospitals. One camel could usually carry two injured men – one on each side of its hump.



3. Transport



During the First World War, pack animals like horses, donkeys and mules travelled over landscapes destroyed by heavy bombardments to deliver the war materiel needed at the front. Working individually or in teams, they would carry heavy guns and ammunition, as well as other vital supplies, especially where the use of motorised transport was impossible. This practice continued into the **Second World War**, when elephants were also used to carry weapons and ammunition **in the Far East**. Animals were not only used to carry weapons and supplies, but to transport men as well.

4. Labour and heavy lifting

Horses, mules, donkeys, oxen and even elephants were used for heavy labour during the First and Second World Wars. They would be used in constructing roads and railways, or to carry heavy loads across difficult terrain that was unsuitable for motorised transport. Mules were particularly adept at navigating the rocky landscape that was a feature of the Italian campaign during the Second World War, while in the Far East the skill and strength of the elephant in manoeuvring large objects was particularly useful for building bridges.



5. Clearing up bomb damage

Kiri and Many were circus elephants in Hamburg, Germany. During the Second World War, their strength was mobilised by local authorities to clear the wreckage resulting from Allied bombing raids. Kiri and Many continued to clear up bomb damage after the war ended. This photograph of the two elephants moving a wrecked car was taken six months after the German surrender.



6. Search and Rescue

Dogs, with their keen sense of smell, could seek out soldiers and civilians in distress or in need of assistance. During the **First World War**, search and rescue dogs would venture out into no man's land to locate wounded men. They carried water and medical supplies to men out of the reach of ambulances, and could lead stretcher parties to wounded soldiers stranded in no man's land. Dogs also performed search and rescue duties on the home front during the Second World War, helping

to locate people trapped under debris following **German air raids**. Pictured here is **Rip**, a stray dog adopted by the ARP (**Air Raid Precautions**) in Poplar, East London, who helped locate victims after German air raids during the Second World War.



7. Communications

Pigeons and dogs, often able to navigate battlefields more quickly and easily than humans, were trained **to carry messages**. This task was especially important when technology failed or when other forms of communication were cut off. So vital were **carrier pigeons** that during the First World War anyone caught 'killing, wounding or molesting' a pigeon could be imprisoned or fined. War dogs attended a special training school to help them become accustomed to the sights and sounds of battle, helping them stay focused on their missions even in the midst of war.

8. Guard dogs and scouts

Private John Rudd of the 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment sitting at the roadside in a Korean village with his dog, which has been trained for guard duties.



Dogs, with their sensitive hearing and heightened sense of smell, are particularly suited for detection duties. Guard dogs are employed to watch over militarily important locations – such as railways, bridges, defence installations and ammunition stores – and give warning of any trespassers. Scouting dogs similarly alert their handlers to the presence of enemy troops, but this has to be done silently so as not to give away a patrol's position.



9. Mine detection

Dogs' remarkable sense of smell has also been harnessed by the military throughout the twentieth century to **locate mines** and concealed IEDs (improvised explosive devices). In this photograph, taken in August 2012, a military working dog completes a drill in the Camp Bastion EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) and Search Task Force, 33 Engineering Regiment training area. Camp Bastion was the principal British base in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.



10. Gas detection

This photograph was taken near Loos in France on 31 January 1918 and displays rescue equipment used by the 3rd Australian Tunnelling Company during the **First World War**. The cages in the foreground were used to carry mice or canaries, which were used to detect the presence of **poison gas**.



11. Pest control

Conditions in the trenches could lead to infestations of disease-spreading pests, particularly rats attracted by food, waste and dead bodies. Cats and dogs were sometimes trained to hunt these vermin and **help maintain hygiene** in the trenches. This is the pet dog of the Middlesex Regiment, pictured with its catch of rats in a trench on the Western Front during the First World War. **Cats** were also

kept on board Royal Navy and merchant ships to hunt vermin and protect the food stores from rats – a role they have played throughout history.

12. Pets and Mascots

Animals are not only used for work. **Dogs**, cats, **pigs** and goats – as well as the more unusual monkeys, **bears** and lions – were kept as pets and mascots to raise morale and provide comfort amidst the hardships of war. Superstition also played a part as mascots were thought to bring good luck to troops.





10 Surprising Laws

Passed During The First World War

By Kind Permission of Imperial War Museum

website: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/10-surprising-laws-passed-during-the-first-world-war>

The outbreak of war in 1914 brought many new rules and regulations to Britain. The most important of these was the Defence of the Realm Act (DORA), passed on 8 August 1914 'for securing public safety'.

DORA gave the government the power to prosecute anybody whose actions were deemed to 'jeopardise the success of the operations of His Majesty's forces or to assist the enemy'. This gave the act a very wide interpretation. It regulated virtually every aspect of the British home front and was expanded as the war went on.

Here are a few of the surprising measures introduced by DORA - some of which still affect life in Britain today.



1. Whistling

Whistling for London taxis was banned in case it should be mistaken for an air raid warning.



2. Loitering

People were forbidden to loiter near bridges and tunnels or to light bonfires.



3. Clocks go forward

British Summer Time was instituted in May 1916 to maximise working hours in the day, particularly in agriculture.



4. Drinking

Claims that war production was being hampered by drunkenness led to pub opening times and alcohol strength being reduced. The 'No treating order' also made it an offence to buy drinks for others.



5. Drugs

Possession of cocaine or opium, other than by authorised professionals such as doctors, became a criminal offence.



6. Blackouts

A blackout was introduced in certain towns and cities to protect against air raids.

7. Press censorship

Press censorship was introduced, severely limiting the reporting of war news. Many publications were also banned.



8. Postal censorship

Private correspondence was also censored. Military censors examined 300,000 private telegrams in 1916 alone.

9. White flour

Fines were issued for making white flour instead of wholewheat and for allowing rats to invade wheat stores. Further restrictions on food production eventually led to the introduction of rationing in 1918.



City of London Police.

NOTICE TO ALIEN ENEMIES.

BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9 P.M. & 5 A.M.

male alien enemies are required, with effect from 18th May, to remain at their registered places of residence unless furnished with a permit from the Registration Officer of the Registration District in which that place of residence is situate.

The Police are directed to enforce this restriction.

J. W. NOTT-BOWER,
407 POLICE OFFICE, 20, OLD SPYRE, LONDON, E.C.

10. Foreign nationals

DORA put restrictions on the movement of foreign nationals from enemy countries. The freedom of such 'aliens' was severely restricted, with many interned.

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BERRIES

Berries and other fruits brighten up the winter garden not only for the gardener but for the birds and small mammals who need to build up their strength at this time of year. Berries are a prime source of protein for them.

Most berries start green and ripen to a variation of red which is a signal to the wildlife that the berries are ready to eat. Berries contain the seed of the plant which bears them and creates a mutually beneficial system. Once the birds and animals eat and digest them, this guarantees the next generation of plants that feeds them. The main sources of berries are shrubs and trees. Some profuse examples are -

Shrubs

Pyracanthas

These are pre-eminent among plants with long lasting fruits. Their stiff habit makes them ideal wall shrubs which tolerate any soil. In fact, the poorer the soil and the more restricted their roots, the better they will flower and fruit. After the mass of white flowers in summer the bush will be covered in yellow, orange, or red fruits which combine well when grown alongside each other.

Callicarpa bodinieri “Profusion”

This small shrub covers its branches with vivid purple berries. For a short time, they co-exist with the last of the leaves which are also tinged with purple. After the leaves fall, the berries persist deep into winter on the pale bare wood. C. Profusion is self-fertile and will invariably fruit well. Although the birds prefer red berries, they will eventually eat the purple berries in a hard winter.

Trees

Holly

The Holly is synonymous with Christmas. The leaves may be thickly spined or spinless with berries varying from bright red through black, yellow and white. Male and female flowers are produced on separate plants with both sexes present to produce fruits on the female tree. Growing in full sun produces the best leaf colour in variegated hollies. Leaf variegation comes in many forms of yellow or white edge around a green leaf or green edge around a yellow or white leaf. Usually, the berries are eaten by the birds long before Christmas. If you want to save berries for Christmas cover a few branches with old cut down tights or kneehighs. Once you have decorated the house, the remaining branches can be uncovered to give the birds a Christmas feast.

Sorbus

Sorbus are valued for their ornamental leaves as they colour well in Autumn. They are tolerant of atmospheric pollution and are an ideal specimen tree in a small garden. The berries come in an array of colours – white, yellow, orange, red and brown.

Sorbus ‘Joseph Rock’ is an exceptionally striking tree with upright branches giving it a neat silhouette after its leaves turn orange, red and purple, and eventually fall in the

Autumn. Its amber-yellow fruits borne in great bunches persist into January. Although they too are eaten after all red berries have gone.

Crab Apple

Crab apples are grown for their fragrant flowers, edible fruits and autumn leaf colour. They are ideal specimen trees suitable for small gardens. Malus 'Golden Hornet' produces white flowers from pink buds in late Spring followed by long lasting golden yellow fruits which are loved by the birds and local mammals. For those who like to make crab apple jelly grow Malus 'Jelly King,' which has pure white flowers followed by large orange-pink fruit to make a fine amber jelly or perhaps, Malus 'Flutter ball' which produces heavy crops of large butter-yellow fruit to make an excellent jelly.

Trees and shrubs which bear berries mean everyone is a winner. Gardeners enjoy the Spring blossom, the insects enjoy the resulting nectar, and birds, insects and mammals (including us) prepare for the winter gorging on the inevitable fruits and berries.

Happy Gardening

The Theoretical Gardener

Mercer & Hughes Independent Veterinary Surgery



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Stansted Mountfitchet | 01279 813780
Great Dunmow | 01371 872836

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Nature Notes - Oak Apple

By: Mac Beanland



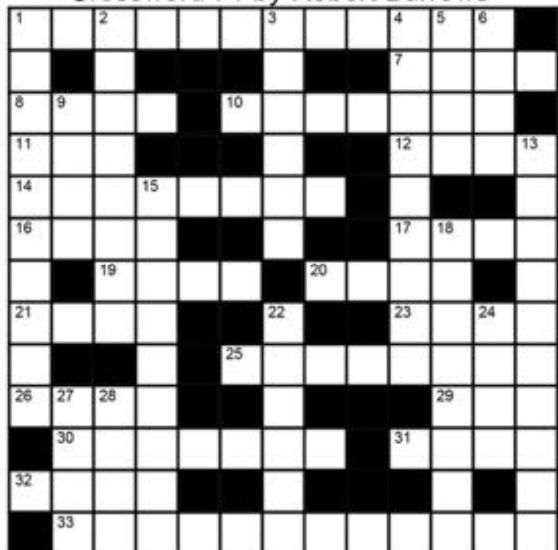
Someone asked the question what is this? It was what is commonly known as an Oak apple which can be found growing on oak trees. They are not a fruit at all, they are in fact a deformed leaf. The adult female oak gall wasp which is wingless crawls up the tree and along the branches to reach a leaf. She then lays a single egg on a leaf and as the eggs hatch and form larvae, they excrete a liquid which irritates the leaf causing it to wrap around and start to form a gall; a round ball 1 to 2 inches in diameter. The larvae feeds on the gall tissue until it matures. It gets mated then falls to the ground, burrows into the soil where it lays eggs on the oak tree roots. Once these eggs hatch into larvae they feed on the oak tree roots for over a year, once these have matured into wasps they emerge from the soil, some male, some

wingless females which start the whole process over again. We are told oak wasps are beneficial to the tree but I can't find out in what way, maybe it's to do with fertilization if the males fly from tree to tree. It's a well-known fact that the oak tree is host to more insects than any other tree. Oak gall wasps are very small and don't look like any other wasp, gone are the familiar stripes these are brown and shiny with a flat abdomen.

Oak apples have been well known in folk law, they still have oak apple day in some parts of England and Wales and there is also an Oak Apple song. As oak apples mature they turn to shades of brown, these have been collected and provided colour dyes for artists. Vincent van Gogh used oak apple gall ink to tint his drawings.



Crossword 71 by Robert Burrows



14 Working beauty a bystander (8)

16 Water source makes you healthy (4)

17 A rig broke in Latvian capital (4)

19 Puts dads together (4)

20 Put your name to poor gins? (4)

21 Could be time for one thing (4)

23 Very bad? Live it up! (4)

25 Ember man made into thin layer (8)

26 Hats for tin kids? (4)

29 Some risk you take up in the air (3)

30 Tie core to made select group (7)

31 I sew badly but am astute (4)

32 Some having energy in DNA? (4)

33 String hat Dee cut and flattened (12)

Across

1 1689 rights statute (4,2,6)

7 Nautical hail (4)

8 A slope (4)

10 South American bird (7)

11 Small deer (3)

12 Electric lamp (4)

14 Spectator (8)

16 Fit and healthy (4)

17 Man's robe (4)

19 Joins (4)

20 Mark of attestation (4)

21 Individual thing (4)

23 Wickedness (4)

25 Layer of tissue (8)

26 Tops (4)

29 Region of the atmosphere (3)

30 Select social group (7)

31 Having wisdom (4)

32 Hereditary factor (4)

33 Stopped bending (12)

Down

1 Mersea Island hamlet (10)

2 Mushroom spore-producing structure (8)

3 Destroyed (6)

4 Quick meal (9)

5 Biblical pronoun (4)

6 Spiritual part of human being (4)

9 Of the highest quality (1-3)

13 Essex village (7-3)

15 Great European painter (3-6)

18 Hostile incursion (8)

22 Fasten with stitches (6)

24 Coloured fluids (4)

27 Freezes (4)

28 A Prohibition (4)

Cryptic Across

1 Cost of entitlements? (4,2,6)

7 Hello at sea (4)

8 Pram could roll back on it (4)

10 Wetland bird held by Martina Mount (7)

11 Fish eggs for some hero, Edward? (3)

12 It can make light or flower (4)

Cryptic Down

1 Whirl labor around in this hamlet (10)

2 Llama and eel produce mushroom structure (8)

3 Indure despite being spoiled (6)

4 Fast food from Germany? (9)

5 You said to be in hot Bible (4)

6 One said to be essential part of a person (4)

9 Spell out major highway (1-3)

13 Find Zelda by ENE in this hamlet(7-3)

15 Alter mods for great artist (3-6)

18 Vision? an incursion maybe (9)

22 Wings around the East while stitching (6)

24 They are often used to draw on skin! (4)

27 Some nicest cold sweets? (4)

28 Refrain from taking you out of doughnut in short (3'1)



Buzzing News from the Hives of Jillie Woolcock



*Hello Shalford, it's me again with the latest instalment of
'Beekeeping as a Beginner Year One'*

Towards the end of May this year, I finally got my first colony of bees delivered by a Beekeeper in Braintree, a very nice man who, it turns out, bred lovely gentle bees. He arrived with what is known as a "Nuc" or "Nucleus". A "Nuc" consists of five frames containing bees, their queen and frames of brood (eggs, larvae, and capped cells) and stores - food to keep them going until the flying bees start foraging. The Nucleus in my case was put straight into the brood box. A brood box is the largest of the boxes that make up the hive and is effectively their nest. The remaining available space in the box is filled with empty frames which the bees would then 'draw-out' - in other words they would make a flat piece of wax suspended from a wooden frame into a multitude of identical hexagonal cells into which Her Maj would

lay her eggs, and where they would rear their brood and store their pollen, nectar and honey.

Foundation on the left and drawn-out comb on the right
which the bees are still busy filling



Having taken advice from the beekeeping course I choose a Commercial hive. The Commercial hive has a larger than usual brood box which helps prevent the bees from swarming, but as I mentioned before, there are a myriad of hive designs to choose from: National Standard, Commercial, W.B.C. (named after its designer: William Broughton Carr) which is commonly thought of

as the traditional shape of a beehive. The Langstroth (designed by Reverend Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth in c.1852) and Warre (designed by a French monk Abbe Emile Warre) working on the principle that it mimicked the inside of a hollow tree trunk - a much favoured nesting site in the wild. And finally the Top Bar, said again to mimic a more natural form of nesting. So,

you see there is a vast array to choose from - but be warned. Once you've chosen your hive design stick to it throughout your apiary as the internal frames are also in a myriad of sizes and designs and seldom mix and match. These hives are all wooden, usually cedar, but there are also many similar polystyrene hives which are much favoured as they are warm in winter and also much lighter than their wooden counterparts.

Commercial Brood Box with super and roof.



And weight is an important factor to bear in mind. A brood box full of bees, eggs etc and stores ought to weigh c.80lbs (over 36 Kilos) and a super (the box where the bees store their honey which we then harvest) should weigh c 40 lbs (c18 kilos). At the end of the August my hives had one brood box and four supers - I am 5'3" so you do the maths! My kitchen stool came in very handy to reach the top of my tower of a boxes. It's quite a

workout and there are plenty of beekeepers around with very bad backs. I suppose with hindsight (it being a wonderful thing) I should have gone for the practical, light polystyrene and not the aesthetically pleasing wooden hives - but we are where we are and the cedar smells lovely and the bees are very happy in their wooden home.

Brood box plus four supers



The bees were left in peace for a week after they arrived and then it was the day of my first, solo, inspection – yikes! First: light your ‘smoker’. It's one of those things that the saying: “Easy when you know how” was invented for. Unlike most of this enterprise I had not You Tubed a how-to video on how to light the smoker. Using smoke when you open the hive has the effect of a) sending the bees down into the hive to rescue honey and b) helps prevent the bees stinging as, full of honey, they cannot bend their abdomen to do their darndest or c) it messes with their ability to communicate and mount a defensive attack. You choose. Used sparingly, Smoke is definitely an asset for a beginner. Some Beekeepers use water and others nothing at all. Indeed I watched one Welsh beekeeper simply tapping the top of each frame to announce his arrival before removing it and the bees remained calm throughout his inspection. I use the smoke sparingly but also tap to announce myself. My bees know it's me because I literally announce myself to them - I know it sounds batty but they seem to appreciate my courtesy as I bust into their nest each week



The Smoker

Anyway back to lighting the smoker. You want cool smoke so whatever you are using in the smoker should smoulder. You do not want or need a flame thrower which is precisely what I had on my first attempt. Nor must you attempt to light your smoker when you have your veil and gloves on as they could go up with you inside them. I hadn't read that bit of the instruction manual and my rubber gloves melted on my hand, fortunately not causing any damage but lesson definitely learnt. 1) Light using newspaper and once flames have subsided 2) stuff smoker full of dried grass is now my preferred method but it took some refining

before I learnt the best way. I can hear you saying, well it's not exactly rocket science. Ah, yes, but if you've never done it before....

The weekly inspection takes place during the summer months to help prevent swarming, to check Her Maj is present and laying, and also to inspect for the health and general wellbeing of the colony. More of all this, dear reader in my next instalment. For now I hope the autumn continues to be long and sunny for you.



PANT VALLEY CHURCHES
We are seeking a
Benefice Administrator

Would you like to help our churches flourish as they serve our village communities? This benefice, or group of churches, comprises six parish churches, and we would like to appoint someone to help coordinate activities and communications across the constituent parishes.

Location: Working from home, but with the occasional need for attendance at locations within the benefice.

Salary: £11 per hour.

Hours: 6 hours per week, 2 of which to be usually on a Friday, and the remainder worked flexibly.

Contract: One year fixed-term in the first instance, with a 3-month probationary period.

Apply by: Monday 6 November 2023.

We are seeking someone who is sympathetic to the Christian faith, and the ideal candidate will have excellent communication skills, as they will be the first point of contact for a range of church enquiries. They will also have excellent IT skills, as the role will require use of Google Calendar, Word, Excel, web-based interfaces & social media.

The Benefice is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, and the successful applicant will be expected to share this commitment, and undertake appropriate safeguarding training as part of their role.

If you would like to apply, please send a CV, covering letter, and contact details of two referees to the Vicar, The Rev'd Alex Shannon, at rev.alex.shannon@gmail.com. Rev'd Alex is also happy to answer any queries about the role.

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



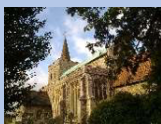
**Shalford
St Andrew's**



**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...

The fast-paced spread of news in the modern world is such that, between writing something and it going to print, much can change. I am very conscious that I am writing this piece having only recently heard about the appalling escalation of conflict in the Holy Land, and with little idea how things will look by the time these words are read. But I am also conscious that, whatever the developments – and we pray they will be in the direction of peace – these words will be read in a season when we are remembering the consequences of wars which are now regarded as part of history.

When we think of this latest chapter in a long-running conflict alongside continued fighting in Ukraine and other less well-publicised outbreaks of war, it is easy to wonder whether our human family has learnt anything at all from the world wars of the twentieth century. It gives us a reminder of the importance of our continued observance of Remembrance, particularly when we learn that many of today's conflicts have their roots in matters not properly addressed when what we think of as 'historical' wars came to an end. Wars cast a long shadow over history – often longer than the memories of the individual people who experienced them.

Helplessness and hopelessness are easy and natural reactions to the waves of 'bad news' which reach us from across the world, but remembrance is also a time of hope. One of the most important things we do at Remembrance services is to read the names of individuals who lost their lives in recent wars. On the one hand, this brings home to us the human cost of war, but on the other, it reminds us of the individual acts of courage and selflessness which we always find amidst the horror of armed conflict. Somehow, even the worst we see of ourselves cannot extinguish that core of humanity which we have in common with every single other person – and that, surely, is something worth remembering.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

Thursday 2 November – All Souls Day

10.30am Requiem Eucharist – Gt Bardfield
5pm Service of Remembrance – Shalford

Sunday 5 November – All Saints Sunday

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)
– Finchingfield

9.30am Parish Communion Service – Shalford

10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield

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

4pm Shoebox Service – Cornish Hall End (Children's Church meeting at 3pm)

Sunday 12 November – Remembrance Sunday

9am Requiem Eucharist – Great Bardfield
10.50am Services of Remembrance Finchingfield, **Shalford** & Cornish Hall End
3pm Service of Remembrance – Great Bardfield War Memorial

Sunday 19 November – Second Sunday before Advent

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 – Cornish Hall End

Sunday 26 November – Christ the King (Sunday before Advent)

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield

9.30am Morning Service – Shalford

9.30am Sung Communion Service for the feast of St Katharine – Little Bardfield

10.30am Sunday Café – Cornish Hall End

11am Family Communion Service – Wethersfield

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
Magdalene**



**Finchingfield
St John the
Baptist**



**Gt Bardfield
St Mary The
Virgin**



**Little
Bardfield
St Katharine**



**Cornish Hall
End
St John the
Evangelist**

No churchwarden, even one of a small village church like ours, could ever say that life is boring! You need to have the hide of a rhino (to ward off criticism, deserved or not), the patience of Job (dealing with contractors/traders who may promise but not deliver - yet), the diplomatic skills of Solomon and the stamina of a stage manager of a repertory company. Mixing metaphors, you need to be able to keep multiple plates spinning and hope for no crashes!

However, there are many consolations, such as our beautiful Harvest Thanksgiving service in October with glorious decorations inside the church and Mac's tractor parked outside, all in summer-like weather. My thanks to all who contributed in any way and helped us to remember that we are, indeed, a rural community.



And now we come to the season of Remembrance with a service for All Souls' Day on 2nd November when we remember with gratitude our loved ones who have gone before us and commit them again to God's loving care. There are lists at the back of the church if you would like to add the names of those you would wish to be commemorated in this service.

On 12th November please do come to the main Remembrance service in St Andrew's at which we will be joined by our Wethersfield friends. Times of both these services are shown in the magazine.

The warm weather of the last month meant that we didn't have to put the church heating on until well into October – (hooray, one plate that didn't need spinning!). We will use up the oil that is left in the tank before the new electric under-pew system comes into operation, but when it does you will notice the difference. Instead of entering a church that feels warm when you come in you will have to wait until you are seated, the idea being that the people are kept warm but not the roof void above. I do hope it works but, just to be sure, wear an extra layer when you come to church and hope to be pleasantly surprised. At any rate it will do wonders for our carbon footprint! Off I go to check on those plates

Hilary Penney

SHALFORD CHURCH OF ST ANDREW'S PANT VALLEY CHURCHES CONTACTS



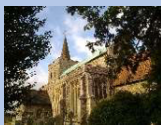
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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

BY: TRICIA MOXEY

Trustee

Residents living in the countryside of the Hundred Parishes are fortunate that the intrusive sounds of human activities are less when compared to those living within built up areas close to main roads or railway tracks or beneath regular flight paths. Even within our homes our ears are subjected to a cacophony of sounds: TV or radio programmes, ring tones, the hum of machines, barking dogs or noisy neighbours. Rarely are we surrounded by silence!

Appreciating tranquillity is an essential aspect of being in the countryside, where it should be possible to scan attractive views of verdant landscapes or cloudy skiescapes, hear natural sounds and catch glimpses of wildlife without intrusive background noises. Evidence gathered over the past 15 years reveals that tranquillity is not just a pleasurable experience but is essential for human health and wellbeing reducing stress levels and lifting spirits.

In the early 1990's concerns were raised about the harmful levels of intrusive noise in daily lives. The Countryside Commission and the Council for the Protection of Rural England worked together to produce an Intrusion Map which highlighted areas that were most affected by human-induced noises. Since then, research has been undertaken by CPRE and others to develop suitable methodology for measuring noise and evaluate the visual impact of developments on landscapes. In 2012, tranquillity gained recognition in national planning policy. Now studies are prepared to evaluate Landscape Character Areas and their Sensitivity to Change, and these are included in the reports prepared for Local Plans. They must include appropriate mitigation measures to help reduce intrusive noise to acceptable levels.

The walk descriptions listed on the Hundred Parishes website provide opportunities to appreciate the tranquillity of this part of the country, to hear bird song, sense the wind in the trees and view some wonderful rural landscapes.

Photos 1 – Great Sampford 2 – Hatfield Broad Oak 3 – Linton 4 – Little Easton 5 – Manuden 6 – Saffron Walden 7 - Thundridge



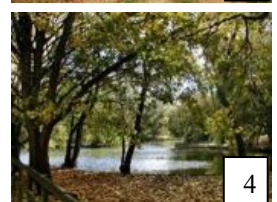
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2



3



4



5



6



7

BRAINTREE AND BOCKING PUBLIC GARDENS



Introduction

The Gardens have been here since 1888 for the people of Braintree and the surrounding areas to enjoy – If you have never visited them, please come and enjoy this wonderful peaceful part of Braintree. The Gardens are free for all to use.

History

Braintree and Bocking Public Gardens were donated to the people of Braintree by Sydney Courtauld in 1888.

Sydney Courtauld was the nephew of Sam Courtauld, who founded what became the world's largest textile manufacturer. Sydney, (1840-1899) started to work for the family business in 1870.

As a result of the early death of Prince Albert in 1861, Queen Victoria decreed that the country should go into Mourning and mourning meant the wearing of Crepe (or crape), a black crimped silk material, worn to respect the dead. Samuel Courtauld & Co had a virtual monopoly in this material and thus prospered greatly. They had developed the skill of making it early in the century, and because of it had survived the free trade measure in 1860, when the Palmerston government brought in a treaty with France, allowing French silk to be imported free of duty. This caused many English silk manufacturers to go out of business, but Courtauld's were able to survive through crape which France was unable to make.

From 1886 – 98 the business suffered a serious downturn such that had never been experienced before, but this was the time when Sydney decided to give his garden to the people of Braintree. Living at Bocking Place, he conceived a great idea. Although he built a new house on the same site in 1887, the garden was the same.





Across the Causeway was another part of the garden of Bocking Place and Sydney seeing the thundering horse drawn traffic up the Causeway, determined to make an area where people, particularly children, could walk more safely. What we see today is his legacy to the people of Braintree and Bocking.

The Gardens Today

There are 5 acres of formal gardens, incorporating over 200 trees and extensive footpaths, making it a lovely green space for a family outing and a grand

backdrop for family photos.

There is a children's playground with play equipment for fun and exercise, including playground classics like, slide, swings, climbing frame, roundabout and more. Children love the play area, they can climb, run, swing, jump, slide, and bounce to their hearts content.

There are two tennis courts which can be booked, for a small fee, via the Garden's website.

There is a Hide, which has been financed from a Generous Grant by Essex Community Foundation. A water scrape has been constructed, and berry bearing shrubs planted. An old tree stump acts as a support for bird feeders. Plus, a stumpery has been constructed at the Southwest Corner.

These additions to the Gardens encourage flora and fauna and are another element to enjoy.

The Wild Garden is particularly popular with the mini beasts and squirrels, while the round pool has water lilies and goldfish to spot.

The Coffee House in The Gardens, situated in the gatekeeper's cottage, just inside the main entrance, is open seven days a week from 10:00am until 2:00pm, all year round.

Managed by Rachel, the Coffee House provides quality food and refreshments, and has become a community hub, hosting a weekly Meet Up Monday's session, as well as supporting the park's many events, and being a go-to place for the town's businesspeople and residents for a relaxing lunch.

Events

The gardens are a charitable trust and contrary to popular belief, receives no support towards the costs from local or central government. Amongst other things to raise funds the trustees arrange regular events held in the Gardens.

Starting in May with our Festival in the Gardens, a two-day event which attracted 8,000 people over the two days. This event attracts a youthful crowd, which helps bring Braintree residents of all ages into the Gardens.

Followed in June, by the Little Legs Festival, which attracted over 3,000 visitors over the three days. This event aimed at pre-school children attracts our





youngest crowd, giving them experiences and memories of the Gardens that they will cherish in the years ahead.

In July the open-air cinema screened 'I Wanna Dance with Somebody', the story of Whitney Houston, attracting 200 people for the evening's event.

From July and throughout August we had the Family Fun Day's, which attracted



100's of entrants two days a week through the school holidays, and provided kids of all age's active outdoor fun, despite the challenging weather conditions.

Throughout the summer, on the last Sunday of each month Bocking Concert Brass performed at the Brass Band Concerts. These, free to enter events, add to the ambiance of an English country garden, throughout the summer.

In September was our annual Classic Car and Motorcycle Show, which attracted 1,600 visitors, 100 cars and 20 motorcycles, appealing to a broad age range from young to old. Thanks to our new Trustee Vince Eade and his team, the event surpassed all previous years.

For further information on this wonderful peaceful part of Braintree, go to www.braintreeandbockinggardens.co.uk





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3 SIMPLE WAYS TO INCREASE YOUR PENSION POT TO FUND YOUR DREAM RETIREMENT

Whether you're planning to travel the world, spend time with friends and family, or simply enjoy not having to get up early and commute to work, you'll likely be looking forward to your retirement.

Indeed, a survey carried out by **Aviva** revealed that travel was the most popular bucket list option for people close to retirement. 41% of respondents said they wanted to explore the world once they'd stopped working.

Of course, if you want to see the magnificent sights of Machu Pichu or the stunning scenery of New Zealand, you need to know that you have enough money put aside to fund the trip. Similarly, you'll need to ensure you've saved enough for anything else you have planned for your retirement.

With rising interest rates and the cost of living crisis making it harder for people to maintain their lifestyle during retirement, it's been a challenging few years for many.

Indeed, a separate study by **Aviva** found that 71% of Brits are worried about not having enough money to do the things they want to do when they retire.

You may be keen to increase your pension pot to help fund your dream retirement. So, read on to discover three simple ways that you could do exactly that.

1. Maximise your State Pension

Given that the State Pension is a guaranteed sum that rises in line with economic circumstances over time, it could be a very useful bedrock to your income.

The amount of State Pension you can claim will depend on how many "qualifying years" you have. You normally accrue a "qualifying year" by making a certain level of National Insurance contributions (NICs) or by claiming certain benefits. This could have been for being a registered foster carer or for caring for one or more sick people.

To receive any State Pension, you must have at least 10 qualifying years of NICs. To claim the full State Pension – £203.85 a week in the 2023/24 tax year – you'll need 35 qualifying years.

You might automatically think that you'll be in line to receive the full State Pension. However, although you may have worked all your life, there could be gaps in your National Insurance (NI) record that might prevent you from receiving the full amount. Fortunately, you can plug gaps in your record by making voluntary NICs. You can usually go back six years to do this. That said, until April 2025, you'll be able to do this if you have gaps between 2006 and 2016.

Additionally, if you have been unable to pay NICs because you were ill or you were caring for someone, you may be able to claim additional NI credits. For example, if you are registered for Child Benefit for a child under 12, caring for one or more sick people or people with disabilities for at least 20 hours a week, or a registered foster carer, you may be able to claim credits.

By maximising your State Pension and claiming any available NI credits, you could give your retirement funds a real lift.

2. Increase your monthly pension contributions

One of the most straightforward and potentially lucrative ways of boosting your pension pot is by increasing your monthly pension contributions.

If you're employed, your employer will usually make regular payments into your pension pot on your behalf. By law, you and your employer will have to pay a minimum amount into your pension scheme. This is set at 8% of your earnings.

Your employer must pay at least 3% of this, and your contribution will be the remaining 5% (including tax relief).

While not obligated to, some employers may increase their contributions if you increase the monthly amount you put aside as well. This is typically a direct match, meaning if you put aside an extra 1%, they may do the same.

Crucially, your provider will then invest your pension savings, giving them the opportunity to grow in the markets.

So, if you are considering increasing the amount of money paid into your pension each month, it could make sense to start as soon as possible. That way, your savings will have more time to grow and capitalise on the benefits of compounding.

Put simply, the longer that your money remains invested, the more time it has to potentially work in your favour.

If you receive additional funds, such as a work bonus, it could also be worthwhile making a one-off payment to your pension as you could benefit from tax relief on this contribution.

This neatly brings us to...

3. Make the most of tax relief

One key advantage of saving into a pension is tax efficiency. Your pension savings will be able to generate interest and investment returns entirely free from Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax (CGT) while held in your fund.

You'll also receive tax relief on your contributions, essentially seeing the Income Tax you would have paid on your money added to your pension savings instead.

You can receive tax relief on your pension contributions up to the Annual Allowance, a maximum threshold for tax-relievable savings each tax year. In 2023/24, this stands at £60,000. This figure could be lower if you are a high earner or you have already started flexibly drawing income from your pension fund. You can contribute more than this into your pension, but there will be a tax charge on any funds you pay in that exceed the Annual Allowance.

You'll receive basic-rate tax relief automatically on your contributions. This means that topping up your pension by £100 would only cost you £80, as the government would pay the additional £20.

Crucially, higher- and additional-rate taxpayers can claim extra tax relief through a self-assessment tax return. This means a £100 contribution will only cost £60 or £55 respectively. With pension tax relief an important part of pension saving, it's vital to claim the full amount you are eligible for. Despite this, a report by **Standard Life** has revealed that £1.3 billion of tax relief has been left unclaimed.

So, if you're a higher- or additional-rate taxpayer, make sure to claim the additional tax relief you're entitled to. Failing to do so may mean you miss out on boosting your wealth even further.

Speak with an experienced financial planner

A smart financial plan can make a significant difference in planning for your retirement and having the funds you need to do everything you want to do. This is when speaking with a professional financial planner can help.

We can help you identify how much you'll need to achieve your retirement dreams, devise a financial plan, and act as a sounding board for all your decisions. Please email info@harperlees.co.uk or call 01277 350560.

Please note

A pension is a long-term investment not usually accessible until 55 (57 from April 2028). The fund value may fluctuate and can go down, which would have an impact on the level of pension benefits available. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. The tax implications of pension withdrawals will be based on your circumstances. Thresholds, percentage rates, and tax legislation may change in subsequent Finance Acts.

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Wethersfield Airfield Scrutiny Committee (WASC) Update

By: Andrew Hull, Chairman

The hard work undertaken by WASC continues. The threat of the largest prison complex in Europe still looms over us and at some point, early next year, the Home Office’s reliance on Class Q, permitting 12 months’ use, will come to an end and they will have to seek full planning. We need to be prepared.

Some of WASC’s hard work is starting to pay off already: the Bomb Store/Weapons Area has recently been designated Grade 2 listing, giving it considerable protection. The Chapel and Victor Alert Hangars sadly failed to be listed, a disappointing result but an appeal is currently being finalised regarding the Chapel.

The long-awaited Highways report is being finalised by WASC’s chosen consultants. It is a realistic and objective appraisal of the road network. It is a hugely important report and is of major significance, but is unlikely to halt proposals on its own. However, combined with the other impressive reports undertaken by WASC, our evidence as to why Wethersfield Airbase is unsuitable for major development is compelling.

We are pleased to commission a local photographer, Mark Draper, from MD Photography to take photos/drone footage of the beautiful countryside that surrounds the base. This work will encapsulate what words sometimes fail to, regarding the character and beauty of the area, and will be an important addition to WASC’s case. It will also be helpful with the Neighbourhood Plan, started by Finchingfield and Wethersfield.

As mentioned in previous updates WASC is currently represented by Reed Smith, a well-regarded international law firm, who have taken a very keen interest in the proposals for Wethersfield and have undertaken a large amount of work on a pro bono basis with some of their top lawyers. We are working tirelessly to build a case that will help expose the flaws/inadequacies of decisions being made by the Government.

I must end by saying that we cannot believe that things are a ‘done deal’. Contrary to what this current Government thinks, they can't do what they want, there are checks and balances in place and it is up to us, as a community, to hold them to account.

Crossword 71 Solution – Robert Burrows																			
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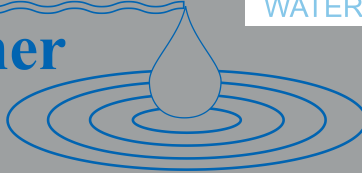
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