



SHALFORD

Village Magazine December 2023 & January 2024

showcasing our community

Produced by the People for the People



**WISHING YOU A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW
YEAR**



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Page No. INDEX

- 4 Our Financial Supporters
- 5 Local Organisations
- 6 What's On
- 17 Community Defibrillator Training – Parish Council
- 23 Unsung Hero – Hilary Penney
- 24 Friends of Shalford Primary School Scarecrow Trail
- 26 Calling all Farmers – Alice Cox
- 26 Essex Bridleways Association – Mandy French
- 27 Wethersfield Floral Art – Julia Broad
- 28 Shalford Remembers – Shalford Local History Association
- 30 Holly (Ilex Aquifolium) – Theoretical Gardener
- 31 Nature Notes – Black Heron – Mac Beanland
- 32 Shalford Parish Council – Samantha Batt
- 36 William Bendlowe Charity Celebrating its 450th Anniversary
- 40 Crossword 72 – Robert Burrows
- 42 Samantha's Vineyard - Steve Brady
- 44 Buzzing News From the Hives of Gill Powell
- 46 The Institute, Braintree (Bocking Arts Theatre) – Vic Goodey
- 51 Colouring Page - Graham Silvester - Merry Muntjac
- 52 FOSTAC – Autumn Newsletter and Thanks
- 53 From the Vicarage – Rev'd/Fr Alex
- 54 Pant Valley Church Services for Dec 2023 Jan 2024
- 56 Church Warden's Report – Hilary Penney
- 57 Contacts for Shalford Church of St Andrew's
- 59 Hundred Parishes – Ken McDonald
- 60 Hundred Parishes – Ken McDonald
- 61 Photograph Correction – Sally Welsh & Trevor Beal
- 62 Crossword 72 Solution – Robert Burrows
- 65 Pension Scams are on the rise – HarperLees
- 67 Twelve Tips For Christmas...And After – Essex Police
- 68 Business Directory

**KNOW WHERE
YOUR NEAREST
DEFIBRILLATOR
IS LOCATED**



Jaspers Green
CM7 5AU



Shalford Village
Hall Church End
CM7 5EZ



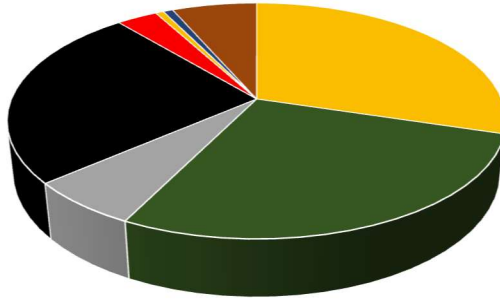
The George Inn The
Street CM7 5HH

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Shalford Village Magazine can be downloaded or viewed from www.bendlowe.co.uk

FRONT PAGE

**Rev Alex & Alison
Gurnett meeting
Anglia News TV
Team Reporting of
the History's Group
Remembrance
Poppy Installation**

Our Financial Supporters



- Advertisers
- Parochial Council
- Bendlowe's
- Horticultural Society
- Villagers
- Parish Council
- Craftnoon Club
- Fete Committee

A HUGE THANK YOU



to **ALL** those mentioned in the pie chart above.

Without you we would not have been able to continue issuing the Shalford Village Magazine.

Should you wish to help strengthen the finances of the magazine we would welcome with great appreciation your donation – large or small it all helps!

Should you wish to donate by BACS please contact myself Alice by telephone 07850 264518 or email

shalford_village_magazine@btinternet.com and I will give you our bank details. Cheques made payable to Shalford Village Magazine or, of course, we can accept cash. Again many thanks.

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
Fri	1st Dec	Bendlowe's	Christmas Meet & Greet	Shalford V. Hall	11.00	
Fri	1st Dec	Dunmow Theatre	It's Quiz - Mas!	Rowena Day Centre	19.00	
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	
Sat	2nd Dec	W/field Club	Live Music Take Cover	Wethersfield V. Hall	19.00	Julia 07712674929
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
Sun	31st Dec	W/field Club	New Year's Eve Party Live Music Revival	Wethersfield V. Hall	19.00	Julia 07712674929
	2024					
Tues	9th Jan	Shalford Horticulture	Annual General Meeting	Shalford V. Hall		
Sun	14th Jan	Thaxted Church	Plough Sunday	Thaxted Church	11.00	Rev'd Janet Nicholls
Wed	17th Jan	Shalford PC	Defib Training	Shalford V. Hall	17.30	Shalford Parish Council
Sat	27th Jan	Shalford Horticulture	Quiz Night	Shalford V. Hall		
Sun	17th Mar	Shalford Horticulture	Daftodil Weekend & Country Fair	Thriplow		Shalford Horticulture Soc
Sun	12th May		Tractor Run			
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



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>

PLAYING FIELDS

Football
Cricket
Tennis
Children's Playground
Pétanque

ADC Dance & Fitness

Shalford Village Hall
Every Monday
16.45 to 19.45

Tel: 07852 505153

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

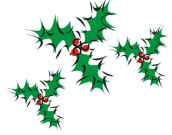
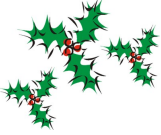
Indoor Carpet Bowls
every Tuesday Contact
Vic **07773 707404**

PILATES CLASS

Shalford Village Hall
Every Thurs, 19.45 to
20.45

Tel: 07969 557845

WHAT'S ON



Christmas 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

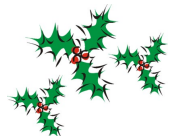
Christmas carols

For further information contact:

Alice: Tel 07850 264518 or 01371 851146

or E-mail: alicecox53@btinternet.com

BENDLOWE'S – PEOPLE WORKING FOR PEOPLE



WHAT'S ON

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.french@shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk



SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Shalford Horticultural Society will again be running the raffle at the Christmas Lights event organised by Shalford Parish Council on Saturday 2nd December 2023 from 5:30pm in our Village Hall.

Please come along and try to win one of the wonderful Hampers packed full of goodies.

WHAT'S ON

AN EVENT ARRANGED BY THE VILLAGE FOR THE VILLAGE.
THIS YEAR IN-SUPPORT OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, WETHERSFIELD



Wethersfield **BIG** SWITCH ON!

WETHERSFIELD GREEN

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2023

4.30PM - 7PM

CONTACT JULIA ON -
BROAD.JULIA@YAHOO.CO.UK
01371851422

STARTING WITH OUR LIGHT PROCESSION
FROM THE CHURCH AND AROUND THE GREEN
• LEAVING AT 4.45 -
• (GLOW STICKS, TORCHES ECT ENCOURAGED)

FOLLOWED BY...

- CAROLS WITH BARDFIELD BRASS BAND -
- FATHER CHRISTMAS -
- GRAND RAFFLE -
- BBQ -
- CHRISTMAS MARKET -
- BAR & HOT DRINKS -
- BEST DRESSED HOUSE COMPETITION -

**LIVE MUSIC FROM 'TAKE COVER'
IN THE WETHERSFIELD CLUB AFTER!**



WHAT'S ON



DUNMOW
THEATRE
COMPANY

P R E S E N T S

IT'S QUIZ- MAS!

**1ST
DEC**

**DOORS OPEN AT
7PM, QUIZ
COMMENCES AT
7.30PM**

**£8 PER PLAYER - MAXIMUM 10 PLAYERS PER TEAM
FULL LICENSED BAR AVAILABLE
PRIZES TO BE WON**

The Rowena Davy Centre, Great Dunmow, CM6 1EQ

Tickets available at eventsdunmowtheatre@gmail.com

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER

**JOIN US AT THE CLUB
AFTER THE WETHERSFIELD
BIG SWITCH ON
LIVE MUSIC WITH
TAKE COVER**

CLUB OPEN FROM 7.00 PM





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

WHAT'S ON

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY AT WETHERSFIELD CLUB

ALL TICKET EVENT

COME AND JOIN US TO

SEE IN THE NEW YEAR

FREE ENTRY FOR MEMBERS

£10 FOR GUESTS

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE CLUB

CLUB OPEN 7PM -1.00 AM

LIVE MUSIC FROM

REVIVAL

MUSIC FROM THE 60's ONWARDS



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

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

**Fostac
Bell Ringing
Bendlowe's (Meet & Greet)
History
Horticulture
Bowls**

Contact

**Sue - 01371 850626
Roy - 01371 850481
Alice - 07850 264518
Sally -
?
Vic - 07773 707404**

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY



Community Defibrillator Training

Wednesday 17th January 2024
5.30 to 7.30 pm

Shalford Parish Council have invited the Community Heartbeat Trust to visit us at the village hall to demonstrate the use of defibrillators and explain how the equipment works and its benefits to the community in saving precious minutes in the treatment of sudden cardiac arrest.

The more people that know how to use the portable defibrillator installed in our community, the more chance there is of saving the life of a victim of Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Everybody is welcome, and no special skills are required, just your willingness to play an important role in the event of a medical emergency. If you would like to attend please email your details to: clerk@shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk

Plough Sunday Sunday 14th January 2024,

11.00am, Thaxted Church

There's nothing like Plough Sunday for beating the mid-January blues! In times past, farm workers needed something to motivate them back to the land after Christmas and Epiphany. The



Plough Sunday blessing of the plough and ploughmen, accompanied by feasting and festivity, seemed to do the trick! They returned to the fields inspired by God's blessing to begin a new year of producing food for their communities.

It's a tradition that continues to lift spirits for those working with the land in the harsh January weather. Farming holds considerable stress and anxiety. Levels of depression amongst farmers contribute to one of the highest suicide rates of any occupational group. Rural isolation and loneliness can be additional contributory factors. Our rural churches have a crucial role in providing support and care to farming families.

Plough Sunday 2024 will, of course, reflect changing agricultural practices. As the UK agricultural industry embraces methods of food production that reduce the carbon footprint of our food, farmers plough their land less frequently. But offering God's blessing to those who work with the land remains at the forefront of Plough Sunday.

Everyone is welcome to this year's Plough Sunday celebrations. The service will take place at Thaxted Church at 11.00am and will include the joyful participation of the Thaxted Morris Men.

The festivities will continue in the churchyard with mulled wine providing winter warmth as we're treated to the spectacle of a grand Tractor Drive-Past courtesy of Essex Young Farmers!

***Revd Canon Janet
Nicholls***

***Rural Adviser and
Agricultural Chaplain***



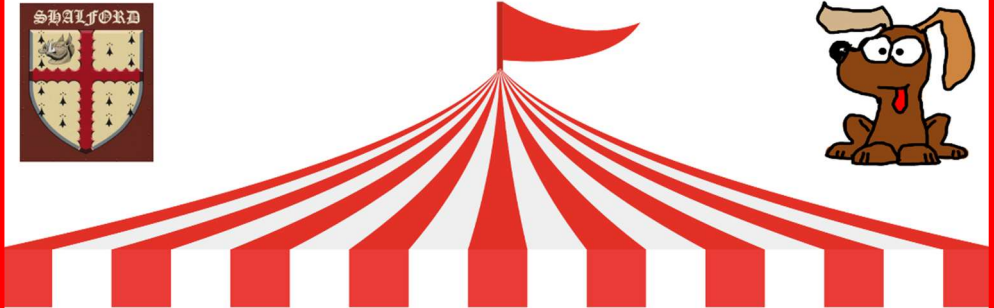
SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Shalford Horticultural Society are hoping to get a group together to visit Thriplow Daffodil Weekend on Sunday **17th March 2024**.

Please contact one of the Horticultural Ladies if you are interested in joining us so that we can look into the possibility of a minibus/coach for the day.



SHALFORD FETE – SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2024



We held our first Shalford Fete 2024 meeting last night 1st November, which was well attended, thank you all for coming.

Our newest and youngest ever volunteer baby Phoebe attended and kept everyone smiling and cooing.

Date: Saturday 22nd June 2024

If you would like to be part of this and volunteer your time please contact me.

If you are a local business and would like to have a stall at this event please contact me.

If you have a great idea again please contact me.

melfray@hotmail.com

ECC MOBILE LIBRARY 2023

Saturday - 2nd December, 23rd December

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

FEBRUARY 2024

6 13 20 27

MARCH 2024

5 12 19 26

APRIL 2024

3 9 16 23 30

MAY 2024

8 14 21 29

JUNE 2024

4 11 18 25

JULY 2024

2 9 16 23 30

AUGUST 2024

6 13 20 28

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 (SUBSCRIBERS ONLY), clear sacks and food bin

Different collection day



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/gardenwastesubscription

MY COLLECTION CHECKLIST:

- ✓ Out for collection on the right day by 7am **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 biofuel and soil improver. A single recycled banana peel can generate enough electricity to charge your phone twice!



Correct at time of publication 16.8.2023

MERRY CHRISTMAS

WETHERSFIELD CLUB

OPENING TIMES FOR THE FESTIVE PERIOD

Christmas Eve	Open 4.00 pm-7.00 pm
Christmas Day	Open 12.00 pm-2.00 pm
Boxing Day	Open 12.00 pm-2.00 pm
Wednesday 27 th December	Open 4.00 pm-10.00 pm
Thursday 28 th December	CLOSED
Friday 29 th December	Open 5.00 pm-11.00 pm
Saturday 30 th December	Open 7.00-11.00 pm
New Year's Eve	7.00 pm-1.00 am
Tickets available at Club	Members Free Entry with ticket Guests £10 per ticket
New Year's Day	CLOSED
Tuesday 2 January	Normal hours



CHILDRENS CHURCH

for 3–11-year-olds



Now meets on the FIRST Sunday

afternoon of each month at 3pm

usually in Wethersfield Parish Church

ALL WELCOME

Arts, crafts, stories and songs on a Christian theme

No charge – bring a coin for the collection

Enquiries to Sarah Pilgrim. Tel: 07788411360

Email: pilgrim511@btinternet.com



Nails & holistic therapies by Nicci

The Cabin, Orchard Barn, Shalford Green, Braintree CM7 5AY

CALL 07740359146

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- Gel polish pedicure
- ELim luxury Pedicure
- Elim callus peel
- IBX nail treatment
- Hopi ear candles
- Reiki
- Indian head massage



Find me on facebook @ Nails by Nicci

Why Not Have Your

Oven.....	£50 single
Grill	£20 single
Gas Hob.....	£16 4 ring
Microwave	£15
Fridge Freezer.....	£30 small
Dishwasher	£32
Washing Machine	£35

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using non-caustic, non-toxic products in your home

Repair Service Also Available



Member of
The Association of
Approved Oven Cleaners

Call: 01376 337 442

www.washtumble.com



UNSUNG HERO

Churchwarden Extraordinaire

HILARY PENNEY

By: Rev Alex

There are some jobs which are easily defined, with clear lists of tasks and responsibilities. The job of being a churchwarden of a Parish Church is not one of them! As well as sharing with the Vicar in being the public face of the church, there are any number of behind-the-scenes tasks which might come your way: working out what to do about a leaking roof, how to find the grave of someone's ancestor, or finding someone to do

the readings on a Sunday morning. Such are the many potential tasks which might fall to a churchwarden, that in the normal course of events there should be two for each church. Particular mention is therefore deserving when someone has to undertake this role on their own.

Everyone who knows St Andrew's here in Shalford will know Hilary. The way in which she goes about being churchwarden is particularly remarkable because it doesn't just focus on one of the aspects of what a churchwarden often does, but encompasses the whole potential breadth of the role. Our congregation know that she now plays a crucial part in ensuring that the church has a service every Sunday, by taking the lead once a month, and she has nurtured the parish's prayer group and run discussion and study groups for the church (something which is definitely over and above the usual expectation for a churchwarden!). But alongside the spiritual part of the role is the work of sorting out with the architect what works need to be done, and then working to find suitable grants to cover them. She's also someone that will be familiar to all the many people who make their way through the churchyard day by day, being ready to stop for a chat and find out how they're doing. But she will equally be found out in other parts of the village, raising the church's profile, and offering what we have to support the village community.

The fact that the church in Shalford continues to be such an important focus for the community is in no small part due to Hilary's time and effort. I, for one, am very grateful for the way in which her knowledge of what's going on can help me to focus the time I have to give where it is most needed. I know many people are grateful for the care and concern she has shown them personally. Not only is Hilary's work as churchwarden an asset to St Andrew's – it's something which brings great benefit to the whole village.



THANK YOU HILARY - YOU ARE ONE IN A MILLION



What a pleasure to walk around our Village



All the children of Shalford Primary School would like to thank the whole village for embracing the Friends of Shalford Primary School Scarecrow Trail during the October half term.

The effort put in to every single scarecrow up and down the village was just awesome.

And also a huge thank you to everyone who took part, in the rain and wind, to help us raise money for the school and educational experiences for the children, such as visits from local authors, hoodies for our leavers, and improvements to class book corners.



Shalford – A Talented & Generous Community To Be Proud Of



Hopefully everyone has enjoyed seeing the children exploring the village, as well as the creativity on show!

If anyone would like to make a donation to our lovely school, either by donating for our Christmas Raffle, or with a cash donation, please contact the FOSPS committee at

FOSPS1@yahoo.com





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

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 these rides are that all horses attending must be up-to-date with their annual flu injections (i.e. the last booster is no more than a year old). Random checks may be made so please remember to bring along your horse passport.

EBA rides will start again spring 2024.

Where to ride.

EBA have a list of rides in Essex on the website. Local rides include Gt Notley Discovery Centre CM77 7FS. Others in Gt Notley.

Ride 1. The Flitch Way, a 13 mile there and back ride along part of the disused railway which is surfaced, route includes a bridleway bridge over the A120. A good ride for the winter as the surface stays good all year round.

RIDE 2. White Notley 13 mile there and back with loop. The ride starts in the park and then into the countryside. 50% is on minor roads. Parking available week days and non-school holidays. Parking fee applies.

EBA wishes everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.

Mandy French



WETHERSFIELD FLORAL ART

By: Julia Broad

On 27th September Wethersfield Floral Art held its Open Evening, and we were delighted to welcome back Neil Birks to show us some of the wonderful arrangements and designs that he creates through his florist NB Flowers, based in Covent Garden. He was joined by his assistant, Fanny, and it was lovely to see them work so well together to create some amazing arrangements, most of which we would never get a chance to see normally. We had a stunning array of orchids in one, a wonderful autumn wreath, and various other spectacular flowers, including some of his roses, in the others that he did. You can see from the photo attached that they were truly amazing, although some of us would have had difficulty fitting this one into a normal fire place or window sill! The wreath went to the Church in Wethersfield for the Harvest Festival - it was displayed on an easel and enhanced the displays well.

Neil entertained us with many stories from his work up in London and elsewhere, with some photographs to show off the designs. It was a great night all round, with 68 people attending, our thanks go to Neil and Fanny for a lovely evening.

Our programme starts again next February, so keep an eye out for details for 2024.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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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
Tuesday		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

Shalford Remembers 2023 – Shalford Local History Association

Back in September 2022, Shalford Local History Association member and Treasurer, Alison Gurnett shared with us her vision about a poppy art installation at the Church for Remembrance 2023. Thus began the collaborative journey of Shalford Remembers – an exhibition in the Church and display in the grounds which we hope everyone in the village got to see between 4 and 17 November 2023.

Our first job was to collect enough plastic bottles to make the poppies and the community really helped with this part. Almost 700 bottles were collected, and these were turned in to poppies by Alison's family and other members of the community at special making days throughout 2023. Alison and husband Adrian also made the wonderful soldier silhouettes that completed the installation. We are grateful to those who came to help 'plant' the poppies on the day.



At the same time, knitters and crocheters from the village craft group began to make the poppies which decorated the rood screen of the church. Special thank you to Marianna and Derrick for helping to put this part of the display together.



The flower displays in the Church were beautiful too, so many thanks to Heather and her team.

It was great to be able to speak to a few of our locals to find out about their family members from both the First and Second World Wars. It was a real pleasure for me to talk to Bob Porter about his Dad, Robert Porter, who was a Royal Marine in World War II and hear about some of his stories. Sue Martin was also able to tell me a bit more about her Uncle,

Shalford Local History Association



Royal Marine
Robert Porter

Albert Dawson, who was killed when his Wellington Bomber was shot down in 1944. Both families had some wonderful photographs which we were able to display at the exhibition (see next page).

We were also able to obtain information about another local Royal Marine from his daughter, Celia who also happens to be one of our SLHA members. John Tarbin was a driver for 'Doc Forfar and thankfully survived the war.



John Tarbin, Royal
Marine

The Exhibition in the Church also featured items belonging to the late Lawrence Rawlinson, a staunch Royal British Legion supporter. Information about the RBL was on display and the Standard that Lawrence carried is on permanent display in the Church.



Sergeant
Albert Walter
Dawson

As news of the Exhibition spread, we were delighted to receive contributions from other members of the community. Will Burrows kindly attended the Remembrance Service in full World War One uniform and brought along a number of interesting items including a trench periscope and army great coat. One of the bell ringers, Peter Carman, loaned his collection of military headgear. We also received a copy of an amazing photograph from Phil Brown of his



Grandmother, Fanny Brown, selling poppies to an American pilot at the Wethersfield Airbase in the 1960s.

On the Friday before the Remembrance, a call was received from ITV Anglia News to say that they had heard about what was going on and would like to do a live piece for the news that evening! Alison bravely faced the camera along with Rev Alex and both delivered great performances. It certainly encouraged more visitors to the Exhibition.

The Remembrance Service on Sunday 12th November was especially poignant this year considering all the strife in the world. The Church was packed and the service was led by the newly ordained Archdeacon of Stansted, Kate Peacock. The Standard Bearer was Gordon Roach who did a sterling job. It was particularly lovely to see pupils from Shalford Primary School. They read excerpts from their work based on the book Carrie's War and sang a beautiful rendition of Somewhere Over the Rainbow.



The Shalford Local History Association would like to thank all members of the community for their support with this project. Particular thanks go to Hilary, Michael and Rev Alex at the Church for their support and guidance.





HOLLY (ILEX AQUIFOLIUM)



Christmas time embraces the holly, the ivy and all the evergreens, and it is at this time of year that holly becomes a significant plant in our lives.

Holly occurs naturally in Western, Central and Southern Europe and is a broadleaved, evergreen tree with over 400 species worldwide. It has a smooth, grey bark which becomes fissured with age and has deep, green leaves with a paler underside.

Holly is dioecious which means that individual trees are either male or female. Pollination is usually by bees, therefore, a female tree needs a nearby male tree to produce berries which are initially green ripening to bright red. These berries provide a rich food source for birds at a time when food is scarce. The foliage is eaten by deer and rabbits and is a food plant of the holly blue butterfly. Trees can live up to 250 – 300 years.

There are many myths surrounding the holly and in distant times it was brought into the house to protect against malevolent fairies whilst providing a place for the good fairies to play. Celtic mythology tells of the Holly King who ruled half the year from the Summer solstice to the start of Winter solstice at which time the Oak King defeated him and ruled until the Summer solstice. These two aspects of the nature gods were later incorporated into Mummers plays traditionally performed around Yuletide. The Holly King was depicted as a warlike giant covered in holly and wielding a holly bush as a club. Christian symbolism connects the prickly leaves with Jesus' crown of thorns and the berries with the drops of blood shed for humanity's salvation.

There are ancient taboos against cutting down a whole tree and hollies were frequently left uncut. One unusual reason was to obstruct witches who were thought to run along the tops of hedges. A more practical reason was that farmers often used the evergreens to establish lines of sight during winter ploughing. The taking of boughs for decoration and the coppicing of trees to provide winter fodder was allowed. Coppicing also enabled the holly's hard, white, close grained wood to be used for inlaid marquetry and to make chess pieces and tool handles. The white wood takes stain well and was traditionally known as English ebony.

Hollies self-seed easily and a small plant may be potted on to be planted away from the parent. Growing from seed is a lengthy process as the seed needs to be subjected to the cold for one or two winters before germination takes place.

Happy Christmas from the Theoretical Gardener



NATURE NOTES

BLACK HERON

BY: MAC BEANLAND



Yesterday afternoon on my dog walk down by the lakes, I spotted a very strange sight I could not believe my eyes. There was this strange thing gliding smoothly but quickly over the water very much like a swan or a goose would move but it looked like a heron with its long straight beak, but it was all black and I have never seen a heron move on water like that; they just wade on their long legs in shallow water or fly as do all the egret

family of birds. So home to do some research. Out with the books on water fowl and Google, and low and behold there is a black heron but it lives in Sub-Saharan Africa from Senegal and Sudan to South Africa but found mainly on eastern half of the continent and Madagascar, but it has been seen in Greece and Italy. Have I seen a Black Heron or was it something else? I can't be sure, I wonder if anyone else has seen it. I wasn't able to get a photo due to the fact I was wearing wet weather gear and my phone was under two layers of clothes I remain convinced that is what it was. It may easily have been a black heron after all, we are witnessing strange things - possibly due to global warming.

We had Wally the walrus doing a sightseeing tour, and Killer Whales up the Thames so nothing should surprise us. It has been a very interesting exercise learning something about the Black Heron; one remarkable feature is the fact that it has a unique fishing technique. Living in a hot sunny place, it stands up to its knees in the water, forms its wings into a circle casting an area of shade on the water. Fish swim into the shade so making easy picking for the long pointed beak, most of the other features of this bird are pretty much the same as the rest of the egret family i.e. nests up in a tree, likes shallow water, diet consists of fish and small crustaceans. Well as interesting as finding out about the black heron was, I am feeling a little bit silly as there have been more sightings on the lake and it was in fact a Cormorant! Compare the two pictures it was a dull wet afternoon.



Can I be forgiven? Please.



Shalford Parish Council - Essex

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



Samantha Batt



Neil Birks



Amanda French



Andrew Hull



Andrew
Merryweather



Peter Mitchell



Kevin Welsh

Tommy Statue

The Parish Council has purchased and put a Tommy up at the triangle by the Village Hall as part of this year's remembrance. Recognition also needs to go to the SHALFORD HISTORY ASSOCIATION for their excellent display at the Church, an immense amount of time was invested to do this and the result is absolutely splendid, many thanks to everyone involved.

Ranger report

Lol has been busy again this month! He's cleared obstructive hedging at the corner of Hull's Lane as well as tidying up the corner of Barryfields and litter picked.



Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS)

At our October meeting, Councillors voted unanimously to purchase a mobile vehicle activated sign for use across the parish. Three posts will be installed initially at The George, Jaspers Green and Church End with more sights planned. Being a mobile unit there will be the option to move the illuminated sign between these locations. The signs also record data, this will allow us to see traffic levels, the speed of the traffic both before and after the sign and to be able to see this by day of the week and time of the day.



Shalford's Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council have voted to create a Neighbourhood plan for Shalford. This affects everyone in the Parish and allows the Village to state its wishes in respect of development in a documented plan. Once approved it becomes a powerful document to help shape the future of the village and protect what we hold dear.

We will be looking for volunteers to join the Neighbourhood plan team. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk. And we will be holding events during the coming months as well as visiting key events in the village such as Bendlowe's to explain what is happening and gain YOUR thoughts on the village's future.

Defib awareness course

We have arranged for a free training course on Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 5:30pm in the Village Hall. This will be delivered by the Community Heartbeat team and is open to all parishioners. You will be able to learn how to use the defibrillators located in the village as well as ask relevant questions. If you would like to attend, please contact the clerk so we can manage numbers.



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

For Shalford Essex



HAVE YOUR SAY IN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR VILLAGE

Launch Event Information

A Neighbourhood Plan is a statement of how the community sees itself evolving over the next few years.

It reflects the views of all sections of the community, identifies which features and local characteristics people value, identifies local problems and opportunities.

identifies needs, aspirations and priorities,

Neighbourhood planning provides the opportunity for communities to set out a positive vision for how they want their community to develop.

Over the next few months we will be communicating via the parish web site, meetings, visits to clubs, groups and events more details of the Neighbourhood Plan process. This is the communities Plan and your involvement, thoughts and wants are critical to its success.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF THE COMMITTEE DELIVERING THIS THEN PLEASE CONTACT CLLR WELSH AT kevin.welsh@shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk

The Neighbourhood plan affects everyone in the parish of Shalford. We need your participation through surveys and public meetings over the coming months. Your views matter. Please take every opportunity to have your say.

For more information scan here



- Whole Community Involvement**
- Creates Community Spirit**
- Plans for the Future**
- Improves Access to Funding**
- Increases Local Voice**

<https://shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

Nov 2023



It's Christmas!!!!

Don't forget about our Christmas light switch on event on Saturday 2nd December at 5:30pm, there will be lots going on and we look forward to seeing many of you there!

Garden Waste

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

December's meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th December at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

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



William Bendlowe Charity

Founded By Deed 20th December 1573

CELEBRATING ITS **450th** ANNIVERSARY ON 20TH DECEMBER 2023

CHARITY COMMISSION.

In the matter of the following Charities, in the Parish of SHALFORD, in the County of ESSEX:-

1. The Charity of WILLIAM BENDLOWE, founded by deed dated the 20th December 1573;
2. The Charity of an UNKNOWN DONOR; and

In the matter of the Charitable Trusts Acts, 1853 &



Portrait by kind permission of the Master and Fellows of St John's College, Cambridge.

William Bendlowe was born in 1516 and died 1584 at the age of 68. According to the Governing Document dated 11th May 1954, The Charity of William Bendlowe was founded by deed dated the 20th December 1573.

In an Edited and Paraphrased version of William Bendlowe's Last Will and Testament published by the Great Bardfield Historical Society; reference is made to several alms-houses he had set up in local parishes including Shalford and it was his wish that these alms-houses for the poor be maintained. However in 1944, according to a hand-written note in the files, a demolition order was imposed upon the Shalford alms-houses by Braintree Rural District Council. Following exchange of correspondence between The Trustees, Solicitors, Charity Commission and Shalford Parish Council, the alms-houses were sold in 1951 and demolished. The monies received was invested in War Loan Stock. The selling of the alms-houses prompted

a revision of the original Deed and a revised Scheme written, approved, and sealed, by the Charity Commission dated 11th May 1954. Section 4 of this document: Trustees. The body of Trustees shall consist of The Vicar of Shalford for the time being and by virtue of his office and two representative Trustees appointed from time to time by the Parish Council in Shalford. Section 8: Application of Income: The Trustees shall apply the clear income of the Charities in each year for the benefit of not more than four poor old persons resident in the Parish of Shalford either in the supply of clothes, boots, blankets, fuel, food, or other articles in kind or in grants of money, provided that income of the Charity shall in no case be applied in relief of rates, taxes or other public funds.

The files are unclear, but it would appear that by now, the only other income the Charity received (being annual rent charges from three farms totalling £2 10s per annum) had become difficult to collect and in 1967, the Charity Commission raised and sealed a document agreeing

for the remaining rent charge(s) to be sold leaving the Charity with no income except interest received. However, this interest provided the needy of the parish (2 men and 2 women) with several hundred weight of coal each year to heat their homes. Subsequently in later years, when cooking and heating no longer relied on coal, the fuel allowance was changed to stamps for electricity.

In 1989, the Parish Council looked at scant funds which were insufficient to provide for the needy as laid down under the Charity's original terms. The Council organised the first of several successful annual Christmas Carol Concerts in the Village Hall, which always ended in a generous collection being made in aid of the Charity.

In 1990, the Trustees felt that the time had come to re-look at the Charity's role and to bring it up to date and more relevant to the time. With the Charity's fund eventually growing to approximately £2,000, it was felt that the interest from this sum should be used in some way to benefit more of the older members of the Parish. A decision was taken to give a gift of an attractive arrangement of pot plants to anyone who had been ill, in hospital or bereaved during the year. Since then many men and women have been delighted to receive one of these cheering and thoughtful presents.

In the Millennium Year, 2000, the Charity looked again at its role and realised that there was more need to cater for the social wellbeing of retired villagers in this ever changing and hectic world. An opportunity for newcomers to meet with older residents would be ideal, and so the first Bendlowe's Tea Party was organised.

In 2002, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Year, a lunch for the Golden Oldies was arranged and the Charity generously paid for the wine to accompany the meal and to toast Her Majesty's health.

On 5th July 2016 new Trustees were appointed and again reviewed the role of the Charity in today's society. Little had happened in recent years and so the new Trustees issued a newsletter promoting the Charity and organised a table top sale to raise funds. The Trustees recognising that there are other ways of being "poor" other than financial (i.e. loneliness and quality of life) decided to promote community life and social interaction.

16th December 2016 Bendlowe's were approached by Vic and, Sentimental Journey, the first musical evening performed by Vic and Marion (free of charge) took place to raise funds. Over 60 tickets were sold and an excellent evening was enjoyed by all.

2016 had been a short year but William Bendlowe's funds were healthier and its Trustees energised.

In January 2017 the new Trustees organised their first Monthly Meet & Greet with a view to encouraging social interaction, community spirit and a feeling of belonging and wellbeing. In addition in June 2017 the Charity's first outing was enjoyed by a full minibus of people to Americana Day, 95th Bomber Group, Horham. 2017 also saw the resignation of one Trustee and the appointment of Sally Welsh as Trustee. We were extremely fortunate to enjoy the performances of Vic & Marion twice in 2017.

We finished 2017 on a high, We had more supporters, We had our team of helpers. We had sufficient funds. We had learnt a great deal!

2018 saw the first Bendlowe's Christmas Meal held at Weavers take place in January. This has now become a regular annual event. 25 people attended enjoying a wonderful meal and an afternoon of good company.

So 2018 comes to a close. It was a very full and busy year indeed. Have we peaked? The count is:- 11 Monthly Meet & Greets; 7 Outings; 3 Supplying of teas & coffees; 13 Newsletters/Articles Monthly Magazine; 2 Excellent Music Evenings with Vic & Marion

2019 proved to be another energetic year with outings to Weavers for our now "annual Christmas luncheon". Visit to Bulmer Bricks, Hyde Hall, Suffolk Punch Trust, Seal Watching, and Sounds of the Past. We also held a Variety Evening to celebrate Christmas.

By 2020 (Covid Year) the nucleus of the Charity had grown and it was flourishing. The year started well with our luncheon at Weavers, monthly Meet & Greets together with a fund raiser for Alzheimer's held at Wethersfield. However, Covid hit March 2020 bringing everything to a standstill. We wanted to do something. But What?

May 2020 saw the first circulation of Bendlowe's Newsletter which grew from 1 page to 64 pages and a change of name to Bendlowe's Bugle by the last issue which was June 2021.

June 2020 saw the distribution of a single yellow rose and friendship card to our supporters.

Aug 2020 saw the appointment of Rev. Alex Shannon as Trustee.

Dec 2020 saw the raising of funds to build a pétanque terrain at the Village Hall and the year was ended by the distribution of a Christmas Card and Christmas Cacti to our supporters.

15th February 2021 brought the acceptance and approval of the Charity Commission to a significant change in the Charity's objectives. The revised objectives brought the Charity's work into the 21st Century by focusing on promoting social inclusion and fighting loneliness. The revised objectives also widened the Charity's scope to include neighbouring villages. William Bendlowe himself listed in his last Will and Testament benefactions to 20 villages: namely, Great Bardfield, Little Bardfield, Bardfield Saling, Bocking, Chappel, Debden, Finchingfield, Great Maplestead, Great Sampford, Halstead, Hatfield Peverel, Little Sampford, Panfield, Shalford, Sible Hedingham, Stebbing, Stoke-by-Cle, Thaxted, Toppesfield, Wethersfield

2021 despite still be under the restraints of Covid-19 saw the launch of our website www.Bendlowe.co.uk. Calendar Sales to raise funds for the pétanque terrain which officially opened later that year. A single white rose and Hope card was distributed to supporters.

August 2021 saw the restart of monthly Meet & Greet, our first visit to The Hut at Felixstowe and a visit to Hill Farm, Great Bardfield.

2022 and 2023 have seen the growth of Meet & Greet to approximately 50 + attending. Achieving a 5-star hygiene rating at Meet & Greet. Our Christmas Luncheon number rising from 25 to 48 and an annual trip to The Hut at the seaside.

15th December 2023 we give a warm welcome back to Vic & Marion who will be performing for us again. We are so grateful to Vic & Marion who have proved to be Bendlowe's No. 1 fund raiser over the years.

Note 1

Please note that the above information has been taken from incomplete records currently held and regretfully cannot be guaranteed as being 100% correct.

Note 2

Throughout these records the name changes – either William Bendlowes (with an s) or William Bendlowe (without an s). The Trustees have taken the name stated on the Sealed Charity Commission’s Governing Document dated 11th May 1954 of “William Bendlowe Charity” and that registered with the Charity Commission.

Trustees: A E Cox, S Welsh, Rev. A. Shannon.
Charity Number: 241285

We are now looking forward to 2024



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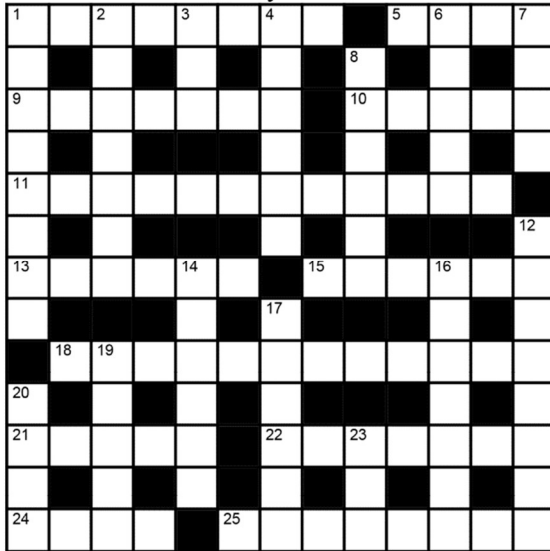


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Crossword 72 by Robert Burrows



13 Could oaf fly? Stop! (3-3)

15 A pleat could be found in the mouth (6)

18 A thorny bend maybe here (9-3)

21 Reg maybe, but fierce look (5)

22 Fruit actors talk about (7)

24 Vessel in some newer café? (4)

25 Colourful in the garden (8)

Cryptic Down

1 Sad ringtone in found in the forest (8)

2 On your feet - be ready (7)

Across

1 Diligent labour (8)

5 Tiny bit (4)

9 Without armour (7)

10 Dye (5)

11 Essex Hamlet (7-5)

13 Desist from (3-3)

15 The roof of the mouth (6)

18 Essex Hamlet (9-3)

21 Fierce look (5)

22 Tasty plant (7)

24 Jug (4)

25 Vegetation (8)

Down

1 Woodland plant (8)

2 Ship held in reserve (7)

3 Game for two players (3)

4 Deriving pleasure from inflicting pain (6)

6 Grammatical term (5)

7 Complain (4)

8 Medical condition (6)

12 Youth affecting Edwardian looks (5,3)

14 Shackle (6)

16 Artificial fibre (7)

17 Intense loathing (6)

19 Words of wisdom (5)

20 Lecherous look (4)

23 Employ (3)

Cryptic Across

1 Unis Bess attends to study commerce? (8)

5 E.g a cat, very small (4)

9 Lacking limbs (7)

10 Hair colour for Nan, he ordered (5)

11 Blade's right maybe with veg colour (7-5)

3 High level computer language (3)

4 Ad miss ordered, enjoying hurting others (6)

6 Tight verbal term (5)

7 Grumble about Ma on a boat (4)

8 Illness, or each may be jerky (6)

12 60s culture lad with favourite toy (5,3)

14 Fret about ET -could be held by shackle (6)

16 Tea Cate brewed to get unnatural fibre (7)

17 Movie genre (6)

19 Could aged - a saying (5)

20 Stare rudely at broken Lego (4)

23 Put Sue out to work (3)



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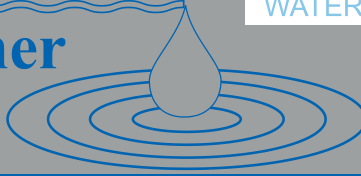
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Samantha's Vineyard

By: Steve Brady

In late September of this year, several gracious and hardworking members of the community came together to harvest a bumper crop of grapes from Samantha's Vineyard, a three-year old vineyard tucked away in Shalford



Green on the banks of Pods Brook. The family-run venture represents a long-held dream of Toni Brady, brought to fruition through her history in horticulture and the help of husband, Steve, and their youngest son, Joe. The vineyard is named in honour of their late daughter Samantha (aka Sam). Sam was a vivacious, young blonde of 25 when she fell victim to cancer in 2014. Today, she watches over her family and her vineyard, guiding Toni, Steve and Joe to produce only the best possible wine in her name.

Toni, whose maiden surname is, most appropriately, Vineyard, grew up in America in the Mississippi River Delta. The flat Delta region is farming country, and the family grew crops like cotton, rice and soybeans on her grandfather's 80 acre farm as well as fruits and vegetables in the large family garden. It was there that she fell in love with nurturing and growing things.



A lady of many talents, Toni earned university scholarships in medicine and music but her life took a very different turn when she met Steve who was studying for an Engineering degree at another University nearby. After graduating, Steve had a 40-year career in the oil and gas business which took the family from New Orleans to Alaska to Houston, as well as Norway, Scotland, Dubai and finally London. Toni's passion for plants never waned as she improved the garden of every home they lived in, perhaps most notably in Dubai where she single-handedly dug up and replumbed the irrigation system in their garden under the relentless desert sun. To call Toni determined is an understatement.

As part of their roaming, the Brady's have spent over 20 years in the UK between Aberdeenshire, Hertfordshire and now North Essex. Along the way, the four Brady children put down roots in Britain

Toni Brady



Samantha's Vineyard Pinot Noir

and, when it came time to retire, naturally Toni and Steve chose to make the UK their permanent home.

With a vineyard in mind and several other priorities, Toni set about searching for a property with all of the right conditions for grape growing plus a home where they could entertain visiting children, grandchildren and friends. Their place on the slopes above Pods Brook has proven to be ideal. In the spring of 2020 (and the onset of the Covid epidemic) the family planted 4,500 vines comprised of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Grigio and Pinot Meunier and the following year they planted 1,700 vines of Bacchus, a German variety particularly suited to our climate and with a style similar to Sauvignon Blanc.

Except for the months of November and December, Toni, Joe and Steve can be found with their two Labradors, Lando and Leia, working in the vineyard, pruning and training vines, imploring Samantha for help and occasionally swearing at a vine which may not be meeting expectations.

In only its second harvest, Samantha's vineyard produced 6.4 metric tons of grapes. These are being vinified by an expert wine maker in Suffolk, under whose watchful eye they will produce both sparkling and still wines.

The still wine will be made from Pinot Grigio and Bacchus grapes. Early indications are that the Pinot Grigio should be especially tasty.

The sparkling wine, made from French varietals Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier, will be matured for 3 to 4 years before being offered for sale.

The Brady's wish to thank the community for the wonderful welcome they have received and especially the enthusiasm and support of their neighbours and friends who have made this possible.



Samantha's Vineyard Chardonnay



Buzzing News from the Hives of Gill Powell



Now that all my bees are snug and tucked in for the winter down in the apiary, I have been busy making candles from the wonderful wax that the bees produce.



Young worker bees in the hive produce wax from a series of wax glands at the end of their abdomens. From these glands the bees produce tiny paper thin scales of wax, which are kneaded together to create a workable ball of wax putty. This is used to create the hexagonal cells in which the queen will lay her eggs, these will then be capped in a mix of wax and pollen (making a membrane through which the growing pupa can breathe). Cells in other parts of the hive will be filled with honey and eventually capped in pure wax making a water and air-tight seal. Beeswax has a long and fascinating history and it has been used for a wide range of purposes since ancient times.

The earliest known uses date back to ancient Egypt, where it was used in the production of cosmetics, balms and ointments. It was also used to make miniature mummies and as a form of currency.

In Ancient Rome, beeswax was used for making candles, waterproofing objects and as a base for medical ointments.



During the Middle Ages beeswax candles became an important part of daily life, lighting homes, churches and public buildings. Their widespread use made them a valuable commodity and were eventually taxed by the government.

Beeswax continued to be used for a wide range of





purposes in the 19th Century for the production of soap and other personal care products.

Nowadays beeswax candles are popular for their natural, honey-like scent and long burning properties, including ambiance, aromatherapy and even as a natural insect repellent.

When uncapping the honey on the super frames, the cappings are collected washed until free of all honey and then dried. This wax is then melted and filtered, producing blocks of wonderful golden yellow wax. This can be used for many different products including soap, polish, lip balms and of course candles.

Recently Braintree Bee keepers held a ‘Wax Day’ where we demonstrated making different types of candles. One activity showed how dipped candles were made, one of the oldest methods of candle making. This method required a great deal of patience to get the finished candle a perfect size.

We also made shaped candles using silicone moulds, firstly melting the wax and pouring into the prepared casing. When the wax was set the moulds are carefully peeled off revealing your chosen shape.

At our bee keepers honey show back in October, members enter lovingly polished samples of wax to be judged and also wax candles.

Last year Joyce Wells, one of our members, asked us to donate any wax we had as she was making special candles to send to the Ukrainian battle front. These were not only for light but to cook over and give some warmth. She made a huge number of candles which were sent to Ukrainian earlier this year.

The tradition of lighting candles has many significances such as Birthdays, Halloween, Advent, Divili, Hanukkah and many more.

So when you light a candle this festive season may its warm glow bring you comfort and hope for the coming year.



Fun fact : It takes 8 lbs of food (honey/pollen) to make 1 lb of wax .



THE INSTITUTE, BRAINTREE

(Bocking Arts Theatre Trust)

By: Vic Goodey

Last month I had the pleasure of visiting the Bocking Arts Theatre Trust, located in the building that many of us have known locally as “The Institute” which is how the building and company has currently been “rebranded”. I met two Trustees of the charity Jim Hollands and Lewis Codling who took over the charity with the ambition to “*focus on the community*”.

It has not all changed as the Antiques business continues to display and offer all sorts of interesting items for sale. However, the Main Hall and Bar (see below) have been transformed to accommodate performance arts including music and theatre as well as comedy nights; dance classes; meetings and even auctions.

Jim and Lewis have experience in running their own Theatre Group and are keen to engage touring theatre groups to provide a variety of entertainment opportunities. As part of their focus on community initiative the Institute continues to offer the venue for Blood Donor sessions and is the meeting place for the Braintree U3A and Real Ale enthusiasts. The Institute is one of the venues for “Star Struck” an organisation offering acting classes to young people aged 8 to 18.

They have carried out a great deal of work in their short time in charge. Launching an excellent website is just one of the things which, I have to say, has made my task of writing this article so much easier as, in order to inform you of the Institute’s very interesting history and the amazing work the new Trustees have undertaken, all I needed to do was download from their website www.theinstitutebraintree.co.uk. So starting with The Institute’s history:-

HISTORY

Built in 1862, The Institute holds a rich history that resonates with the local community. This Grade II listed building was a gift from the Courtauld family to the people of Braintree. Affectionately known as The Institute by the locals for many years, it has been a cherished gathering place for generations.

In 2011, The Bocking Arts Theatre Trust took over the management of this treasured establishment and renamed it The Bocking Arts Theatre. Since then it has hosted various shows and events, including a yearly pantomime and the popular Braintree Comedy Club.

In 2023, a new chapter began with the arrival of two new directors, Jim Hollands and Lewis Codling. Drawing from their extensive experience in the theatre industry, Jim and Lewis stepped forward with a bold vision to renovate and revitalise The Institute,

transforming it into a premier theatre destination that will attract high-calibre shows and events.

The Institute continues to be a home to artistic expression, community engagement and cultural experiences. Alongside its role as a theatre, this magnificent building is also home to the Braintree Antiques Centre, adding an additional layer of charm and fascination. With its versatile spaces, The Institute is available for hire, providing a unique and memorable setting for a wide range of occasions.

The Institute remains deeply committed to its role as a vibrant community hub. It plays host to various community events, offers space for local dance schools, and hosts the annual Real Ale Festival. The Institute also proudly supports the NHS by providing a regular venue for blood donations.

*As of 2023 the theatre is returning to the name that resonates with the people of Braintree —**The Institute**. Under the guidance of its new directors and with the support of the local community, The Institute will once again become a thriving cultural hub, where exceptional performances, creative endeavours and community connections intertwine.*

During my visit I found myself becoming fully engaged and excited as Jim and Lewis explained with great enthusiasm their plans for renovating the Institute – again they have made this task so much easier by carefully recorded this on their website (and facebook) as follows:

THE INSTITUTE RENOVATION PROJECT

Starting in Summer 2023, The Institute is undergoing exciting renovations and improvements. The venue will be open during this period and is still available for private hire and community events, as well as a select number of shows taking place.



Main Hall

Excitement is building at our beloved theatre as the main hall undergoes a remarkable transformation. A full revamp is in progress, bringing forth a new and captivating colour scheme that breathes fresh life into the space. The historical charm is being preserved, particularly with the hardwood floor receiving a meticulous renovation, including sanding and finishing to retain its original allure. Enhancing the audience experience, state-of-the-art, tiered, and retractable seating is being installed, perfectly melding modern comfort with traditional theatre ambiance. These improvements promise to elevate the theatre's atmosphere, making it the ideal venue for a wide range of captivating and unforgettable theatre events.

Bar

Introducing Braintree's newest bar, set to be a gem within the theatre's vibrant atmosphere! The bar area is undergoing a magnificent transformation, becoming a

beautiful and ambient space where patrons can enjoy a drink before or after a show. As a tribute to its history, the original wood panelling is being lovingly exposed, offering a nostalgic glimpse of the past (sneak peak in the picture). A new, modern colour scheme sets the perfect backdrop for a chic and inviting ambiance. The highlight of the renovation is the installation of a brand new custom-built bar, complete with draught beer. And here's the best part - the bar is eventually set to be open on non-show days too, transforming into a bustling, standalone destination where people can gather, unwind, and revel in the magic of a truly unique theatre bar experience.



Technical

A theatrical revolution is underway as the theatre's technical facilities receive a cutting-edge upgrade, guaranteeing an unparalleled experience for all patrons. Modernisation efforts are in full swing, making way for a higher calibre of theatre acts to grace the venue's stage. The addition of state-of-the-art LED lighting promises to transform the ambiance and enhance the visual spectacle of every performance. Accompanying this, a new, modern sound system is being meticulously installed, ensuring crystal-clear audio. The transformation includes dedicated technical and

control areas, designed to streamline operations and maximise efficiency behind the scenes. To orchestrate this symphony of technology, brand new control surfaces, mixing, and lighting consoles are being integrated, placing cutting-edge control at the fingertips of the talented technicians. With these technical improvements, the theatre is primed to deliver an extraordinary and immersive theatre experience.

SO WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Jim spoke of many developments for the future including a drop in coffee bar when the kitchen has been refurbished. They have achieved a lot in a short space of time but have plenty more to do – they certainly won't be bored!

They offered an open invitation to all to join them on their remarkable journey and would welcome the local community to come and say "hi" and see what is going on for themselves. The Institute promises a future brimming with creativity, inspiration, and entertainment.

I enjoyed my visit and the time spent talking to Jim and Lewis enormously and have no hesitation in encouraging people to contact them to say "hi", and see for themselves the

exciting future of The Institute. We are so incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful facility so close by, run by dedicated and energetic people.

Thank you Jim and Lewis for the time you spent with me making my visit immensely enjoyable and worthwhile. *Probably didn't do my blood pressure too much good as I became more and more excited about the future of The Institute under your control!!* I wish Jim, Lewis and their team well and look forward to many years of entertainment.

I do hope wholeheartedly that we, the community, support the Arts and Theatre Group. They most certainly deserve it and I don't think we will be disappointed. Their programme for December 2023 is:

Friday, 1 st December	Forbidden Nights
Saturday, 2 nd December	NOASIS
Thursday 14 th December to 24 th December	Cinderella

The Institute will be announcing its 2024 events calendar soon and we will try to keep you informed but in the meantime: **For more information on the upcoming events and how you might engage visit their website: www.theinstitutebraintree.co.uk**



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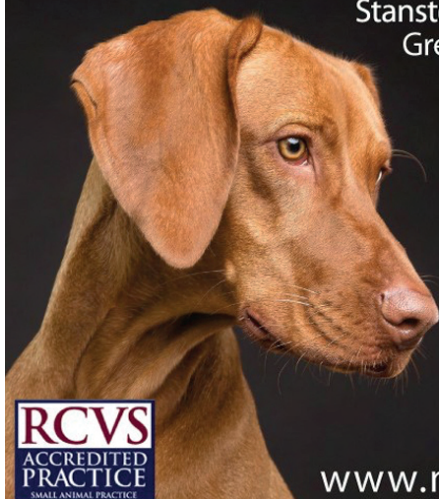
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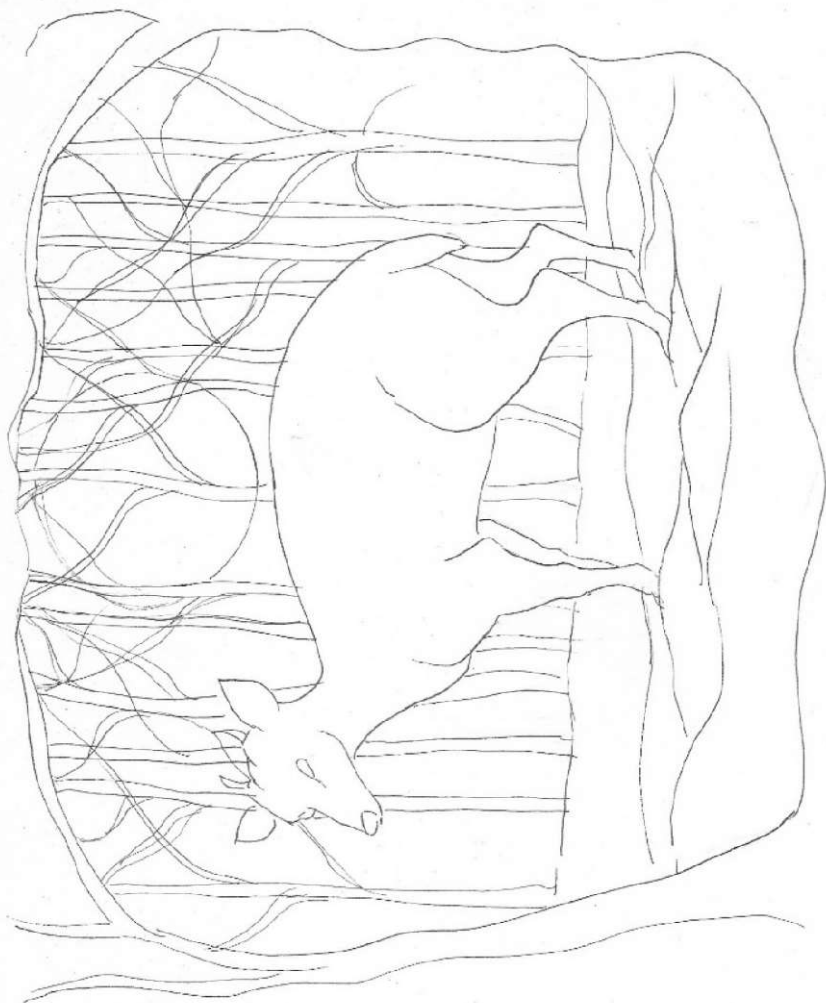
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TIPS: Colour within the lines & choose your colours wisely



President
Sir Roger Singleton, CBE.

FOSTAC

Friends of St Andrew's Church



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER and THANKS

Hello FOSTAC Members

We are now at the end of our year for 2023 and looking back we seem to have had a good number of interesting events which everyone has enjoyed!

Our first was in February with Nancy May – the local singer who entertained us with such a medley of different styles of music. *Concert by Candlelight* – with the church lit by candles and a capacity audience of more than 100. An excellent selection of music with the theme of 'Love'. Many songs were familiar to the audience ending with 'We'll Meet Again!' Hopefully we will as Nancy would like to sing for us again in 2024.

The next event was a Talk by Gary Matthews from Easton Lodge. This was a most interesting and enlightening talk giving the history of the Manor House (which is no longer there) and Daisy Countess of Warwick. Gary spoke of the work the Friends had done over the years and from that a number of our members enjoyed a tour of the Gardens the following month.

In September FOSTAC organised a BBQ and Table Top Sale in St Andrew's churchyard. It was the hottest day of the year and some of the tables were inside the church. Not only was there a BBQ but wine and beer stalls, piazzas and handcraft and gift stalls.

October welcomed the return of Chelmsford Cathedral Choir – in fact it was The Clerks and Scholars of the Cathedral under the leadership of James Davy. They sang a selection of music mostly a cappella – some by Thomas Tallis and William Byrd with a mix of songs by Cole Porter and Arthur Sullivan. All in all a very varied selection of music for all to enjoy – again we had an excellent audience who all expressed their pleasure of the evening.

Our last event for the year was *An Evening with John & Mac* – two of our local people giving amusing talks on their own particular subjects! John's escapades as a policeman not just locally but internationally and Mac's experience as a turkey farmer – all well received by the audience!

FOSTAC has a very interesting website – www.fostac.co.uk which includes all the events both past and future – if you open the section Gallery – you will see everything we have organised from the beginning – have a look!

In the meantime, FOSTAC thanks all our members and supporters who have over the years enjoyed our events and we hope you will continue to come along and support us.

We wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to your support in 2024.

FOSTAC
Committee

www.fostac.co.uk



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...

I recently happened upon a discussion amongst some clergy colleagues about Christmas Carols, and particularly whether there were any which might strike a raw nerve when considered alongside the continuing fighting in the Holy Land. The 'little town of Bethlehem' doesn't lie still and peaceful, but finds itself close to one of the worst periods of unrest in that part of the world in recent years. At first sight, it might seem insensitive to sentimentalise such a troubled region, and disregard its suffering by repainting it with the serenity of a Christmas card image.

Whatever your answer to that question, it is worth us remembering that, at the time of Jesus' birth, Bethlehem also found itself surrounded by uncertainty and unrest. The uneasy relationship between the Romans and the Jewish people resulted in various outbreaks of violence, and we have evidence of how insecure those in power felt, from King Herod's reaction to the news of a new king born nearby, to the brutal way in which the Roman authorities treated those who rebelled against them.

If we only think of Christmas as a picturesque family scene, we're missing a very important part of what it is about. What Christians celebrate about Christmas each year is that it is a *response* – a response to the cries of a troubled world, of troubled people. Which is why it is important to remember both the unrest into which Jesus was born, and the unrest of our own day, and recognise that they are connected.

So when we sing of the 'little town of Bethlehem', about how it lies still and silent in its dreamless sleep, we are telling a story of how God crept, unnoticed at first, except for a few shepherds, and a few star-gazers from a land far away, into our world. We believe that he does so still, and that the first people to see God's presence among us are often the poorest or most marginalised, the ones who are most deeply affected by the world's troubles.

As we celebrate Christmas this year, we remember that the way in which God enters into our world today is through our actions and words. At the end of 'O little town of Bethlehem,' we sing 'Be born in us today.' Keep your eyes open to see where God is born in us today, beyond the stories of human brokenness and suffering, and hear the echoes of the time, those two thousand or so years ago, when a few witnesses gathered in Bethlehem and saw Emmanuel: God with us.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

Sunday 3 December – Advent Sunday

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)

– Finchingfield

10.30am Benefice Communion Service –
Wethersfield

3pm Children’s Church – Wethersfield

4pm Advent Carol Service with Benediction

– Little Bardfield

Sunday 10 December – Second Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little Bardfield

10.30am Communion Service –

Finchingfield

11am Family Service (Toy Service) –
Wethersfield

4pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 17 December – Third Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)

– Wethersfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Family Communion Service –
Great Bardfield

10.30am Family Service – Finchingfield

*Please see the list of Carol Services for
services in the afternoon and evening.*

Sunday 24 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)

– Great Bardfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Morning Prayer with Sunday Café

– Cornish Hall End

11am Family Communion Service –
Wethersfield

*Please see list of Christmas services for
services in the afternoon and evening, and
for services on Christmas Day.*

The only services in the week after

Christmas are as follows:

Tuesday 26 December – St Stephen

10am Holy Communion – Great Bardfield

Thursday 28 December – The Holy Innocents

10am Holy Communion – Little Bardfield

Friday 29 December – St Thomas of Canterbury

10am Holy Communion – Shalford

Sunday 31 December – Sunday after Christmas

10.30am Benefice Communion Service –
Cornish Hall End

2.30pm Carols in the Cowshed – Boydells
Dairy Farm

**Carol Services & Services for Christmas
Sunday 3 December**

4pm Advent Carol Service – Little
Bardfield

Friday 8 December

2.00pm Christingle Service (led by
Finchingfield Primary School & open to
all) – Finchingfield

Saturday 16 December

2.30pm Carol Singing at Blackmore End
Village Hall

6.30pm Joint Churches Service of
Readings and Carols – Great Bardfield

Sunday 17 December

4pm Service of Readings and Carols –
Cornish Hall End

6pm Service of Readings and Carols –
Wethersfield

Christmas Eve

3pm Christingle Service – Great Bardfield

3pm Nativity Service – Finchingfield

5pm Carols by Candlelight – Shalford

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2023 & JANUARY 2024 IN THE PANT VALLEY

9pm 'Early' Midnight Mass – Little Bardfield

11.30pm Midnight Mass – Wethersfield

Christmas Day

9am Family Communion Service – Cornish Hall End

9.30am Family Communion Service – Shalford

10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield

11am Family Communion Service – Finchingfield

New Year's Eve

2.30pm Carols in the Cowshed – Boydells Dairy Farm

Our churches will also be involved in the lights switch on events in Wethersfield and Shalford (on Saturday 2 December) and Finchingfield (on Saturday 9 December). Please do come along and join in singing some favourite carols!

SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2024

Sunday 7 January – The Feast of the Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Parish Communion Service – Shalford

10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield

Sunday 14 January – Second Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little Bardfield

10.30am Communion Service – Finchingfield

Please note also the Plough Sunday Service at Thaxted Parish Church at 11am

4pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 21 January – Third Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield

10.30am Family Service – Finchingfield

4pm Evensong – Cornish Hall End

Sunday 28 January – The Feast of Candlemas

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield

10.30am Benefice Communion Service with Procession - Finchingfield

4pm Christingle Service – Wethersfield

Regular Services & Events during the week

Monday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield

Tuesday

10am Eucharist – Great Bardfield (preceded by Morning Prayer at 9.30am)

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**

I've been looking back over this last year in the life of St Andrew's, noting the things that have gone well and the things that haven't – or are still pending. On the plus side the installation of the new electric under-pew heaters went smoothly, in budget and to plan, and our lovely votive candle stand was installed in August. And, we finally got permission for the proposed new Incumbents' Board to be commissioned as the present small list that hangs on a pillar in the nave is full up.

In the churchyard we have had several visits from the workers of the Community Payback team who have tackled some of the more challenging maintenance matters in spite of the relentless soggy conditions this autumn. We hope that their assistance will be a regular bonus and take the pressure off our own volunteers. It's an awfully big space to manage and anyway, a country churchyard is not the same as a domestic garden, so we do our best.

On the "pending" list is the repair to the masonry of the west window which should have been well under way by now. However, the mason has been held up by injury and illness so the work will take a little longer than anticipated but should begin before the end of this year.

Still looking back, in October there was a glorious Harvest Festival service and in November a truly remarkable season of Remembrance with a spectacular installation of poppies in the churchyard and an inspiring exhibition in the church, all the work of the Shalford Local History Association and the Shalford community. I do hope that you had an opportunity to visit. And – St Andrew's made it on to the ITV Anglia News! Well done to all of you who worked so hard.

Another small occurrence out of the ordinary: in October I was contacted by an American who asked if a young couple from California could visit the church to see where some ancestors (weavers, name of Loomis) were married in the early 17th century before emigrating to America. Of course I said yes and we fixed a date when I could show them around. Imagine my surprise (shock!) when they arrived, complete with a film crew! Turned out it was a special feature for the Family Search project of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons to you and me). So now St Andrew's will be forever a part of the great database in the Utah archives. I have been promised a copy of the film in due course!

But now I am looking forward as the Church's New Year, Advent, approaches and in due course, Christmas, when we shall hope to welcome you all to our glorious candle-lit service on Christmas Eve and the Christmas Eucharist on the day itself.

Bearing in mind the awful events that are unfolding in so many parts of the world I do wonder what the year 2024 will bring for us all in this parish but it is, as we know, a strong community and I have no doubt that St Andrew's will continue to bear witness to that. May I wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Hilary Penney

SHALFORD CHURCH OF ST ANDREW'S PANT VALLEY CHURCHES CONTACTS



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BY: KEN MCDONALD

Thatch has been used as a roofing material for thousands of years. It was once common in rural areas because the material was cheap and readily available. Now, a thatched roof is much more expensive but the skill of the thatcher can still be seen throughout The Hundred Parishes. A thatcher undertakes a five-year apprenticeship with a master thatcher before becoming a master thatcher himself.

Most properties in the UK use either long straw, wheat reed or water reed. Many thatched properties are listed and when re-thatching is needed there is a requirement to use the same type of material as before.

In medieval times wheat grew to nearly 6 feet tall, while today's modern farming methods produce shorter-stemmed wheat and this has weakened the straw and its longevity. Now specialist growers produce taller-stemmed varieties, grown especially for thatching.

There is some debate about the longevity of a thatched roof. To some extent, life expectancy relates to the material used, but it is also dependent on factors such as pitch, orientation and air circulation. A good thatch will typically last from 20 to 50 years, providing excellent insulation. The ridge, along the top of the roof, will last between 10 and 20 years, so requires more frequent attention.

Traditionally a new layer of material is laid over the seasoned roof; this is called "spar coating". The bundles of straw taken up onto the roof are called "yelms". Twisted hazel sticks known as "spars" or "gads" are used to secure the thatch in place. A thatcher may mark his work by placing a distinctive straw finial on the ridge.

Thatch appears not only on houses. There are several thatched pubs, a thatched church at Duddenhoe End in the parish of Elmdon, and a partly-thatched village hall in Ashdon.

Photos

- 1: Ickleton: long straw being secured by local master thatcher, Mark Treadwell.
- 2: Rickling Green – work in progress.
- 3: Little Hadham – Thatched Cottage
- 4: Thorley – The Olde Thatch.
- 5: Nuthampstead – Woodman pub.
- 6: Hatfield Heath – The Thatchers.
- 7: Elmdon – Hamlet Church.





THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

BY: KEN MCDONALD,
Secretary

Before the 15th century, people attending a church service would stand or kneel. When benches or pews were introduced, they were sometimes decorated by skilled craftsmen. In particular, the top of the ends of some pews were carved with figures called finials or poppyheads.

The word poppyhead comes from Latin via Old French meaning the poop or figurehead of a ship. Poppyheads can be found in churches across the country and they are particularly prevalent in East Anglia. The Hundred Parishes has some fascinating examples.

The carved figures can represent almost anything. Some are of flowers or fruit or animals. Mythical creatures or demons were introduced to remind parishioners that if they led a sinful life they would go to hell. Saints and angels however meant that if you lived a good life you would go to heaven.

You will also find carved creatures depicting saints. In St. Mary's, Hatfield Broad Oak, 300-year-old poppyheads symbolize saints, with a lion for Mark, a bull for Luke and an eagle for John, while Matthew is represented by a 'divine man'.

Ickleton's parish church has some fine examples of medieval carved poppyheads. One shows St. Michael weighing souls of the dead and another features a dragon-like creature.

In Wendens Ambo parish church you will find a fearsome-looking beast which you may meet if your soul goes to hell!

Linton's church has a wide range of subjects including scribes resting their books, one on the back of an angel and another on a dragon.

When you are out and about, I encourage you to seek out these wonderful examples of ancient craftsmanship. Please let us know of others on either the feedback page on our website, www.hundredparishes.org.uk or share a photo with the Hundred Parishes Group on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/562396892237665

Photos: 1: Barley – acorns 2: Bartlow – possibly an elephant 3: Hatfield Broad Oak – a bull representing St Luke 4: Hatfield Broad Oak – line of pews with poppyheads 5: Ickleton – St Michael weighing souls 6: Linton – scribe and angel 7: Much Hadham – lion 8: Wendens Ambo – beast 9: Widford – floral design



Photograph Correction (Remembrance Section November's Magazine)

By: Sally Welsh/Trevor Beal

In last month's issue of the Magazine the photograph below was captioned as being a Peacetime Tea 1918. Unfortunately, this was incorrect – some inaccurate labelling in a Shalford Local History Association collection photograph album! Trevor Beal kindly got in contact to say that it was in fact a photograph of the 1911 King George V Coronation celebrations which were held on 22nd June 1911. Trevor's grandmother and several members of his family are in the photograph.



Trevor has provided the following information about the photograph.

King George V Coronation celebrations held on Thursday 22nd June 1911 at the Pightle near the Church and Shalford Hall with the almshouses on the left and Shalford Hall barn in the background. A feast was provided for all parishioners comprising cold meats, salads and beer, the farmers had cooked the joints which they carved.

Back row: Fred Byford, unknown, William Wells of Killhogs Farm (facing away), unknown, Happy Byford, Travis Woollard of Sheering Hall (standing, in trilby hat), unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, possibly Fanny Straight, unknown, Mr William of Hubbards Farm (in bowler hat), unknown, unknown, unknown. Three of the unknown men in the back row were Frank Watkinson, Archie Cowell and Mr Holmes.

Front row: Will Turner (shepherd for William Wells), Frederick Thomas Turner (my great grandfather) (who worked for William Wells and lived at Bellows), Ivy Turner, Harry Bright, Hubert Bright, Arthur Bright, Edith Bright (my 2 x great aunt), Sarah Turner (my 2 x great

SHALFORD.

Coronation Day was celebrated with enthusiastic loyalty in this village. A service in the Parish Church at 2 o'clock was conducted by the Rector (Rev. A. J. Law). A good deal of interest was manifested in a cricket match between married and single teams, this taking place in "The Pightle," of Shalford Hall, by kind permission of Mr. Ling. In the afternoon some of the school children went through a series of maypole dances very nicely. A meat tea, to which all parishioners were invited, followed. The festivities were kept up until dusk, when after singing the National Anthem, the company dispersed, having spent a very pleasant time. The collecting which had been made amounted to £25, and all the old and infirm people in the village were sent gitts. The committee who made all arrangements was as under:— Major Marriott (chairman), Messrs. T. G. Brunwin, G. Candler, W. F. Hart, A. J. Blew, E. Tanner, B. Tanner, W. Wells, C. F. Hart, T. Waldon, and A. P. Blacklee, while H. H. Tanner acted as hon. secretary and treasurer.

grandmother), Elizabeth Turner, Edith Turner (my grandmother), pram, unknown, unknown baby, Mrs Gilder, unknown, unknown, unknown, Fred Whipps.

Family members not identified yet on the photo are James Turner (2 x great grandfather, aged 54), Eliza Turner (great grandmother, aged 34), George Turner (great uncle, aged 11), Daisy Turner (great aunt, aged 5), Violet Turner (great aunt, aged 3) and Fred Turner (great uncle, aged 17 months). It may be Eliza Turner and baby Fred Turner, behind and to the right of the pram in the front row)

Crossword 72 Solution - Robert Burrows

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PENSION SCAMS ARE ON THE RISE – WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK OUT FOR?

It's been a difficult few years for savers, with the cost of living crisis leaving many Brits worried about whether they will have enough money during retirement.

Indeed, a study by [Aviva](#) has revealed that around 71% of UK adults are worried about not being able to afford to do all the things they want to do in the years to come. With that in mind, many households are looking at ways they can protect their wealth and boost their retirement income. As a result, [the Pensions Regulator](#) has warned that savers might be at higher risk of being targeted by pension scams.

So, if you're approaching retirement or are worried about your pension, it's important to know exactly what to spot if fraudsters are targeting you. With that in mind, here are four pension scams to watch out for so that you can keep your money safe.

1. Pension liberation

“Pension liberation” is one of the most common types of pension scam.

Typically, you can access your defined contribution (DC) pension after you turn 55 – this will rise to 57 in 2028.

However, fraudsters will often target individuals claiming they can help them release their pension cash early. This will often come with high fees of up to 30% of the withdrawal.

The scammers may attempt to contact you through mass texting, cold-calls, or websites offering pension loans or opportunities to cash in your pension.

Accessing your pension before the required age can result in significant tax charges, so be wary of anyone claiming otherwise. Call your pension provider directly if you ever receive a proposal for pension liberation.

2. Free pension reviews

Another common scam used by fraudsters is the “free pension review”.

Scammers often use the free review to advise you to liberate your pension early or invest your savings in high-risk funds that they promise will deliver high returns.

This type of pension scam is popular with fraudsters because it can be easily confused with legitimate free appointments offered by Money Helper. This service, backed by the government, offers free and impartial pension advice to the over-50s and explain how to take money from any pension pots.

It's important to note that the government banned pensions cold-calling in 2019. So, if you receive a phone call from someone trying to discuss your pension with you, it's highly likely it's a scam.

Moreover, genuine pension providers or advisers will never call you out of the blue or object to you calling them back on a number that you trust.

3. Clone firm scams

The [Financial Conduct Authority](#) (FCA) has warned of a huge rise in “clone firm” scams in recent years.

Fraudsters will set up these firms by using the name, address and firm reference number of real companies authorised by the FCA.

They may even make a replica of any websites belonging to reputable and genuine companies.

Scammers like these often use high-pressure tactics to get you to transfer your savings to this seemingly legitimate company or promote limited-time transfer offers.

If you are unsure about the legitimacy of the person contacting you, visit the FCA’s [warning list](#) of known unauthorised or clone firms. It may also be worth calling the company the scammer claims to be from to check the authenticity of the contact.

4. Claims management companies

While there are some legitimate claims management companies (CMC) regulated by the FCA, scammers will occasionally pretend to be calling from a CMC and claim you have been mis-sold a pension.

They will often tell you to pay a fee upfront so that they can begin an investigation to help you get your money back. However, they’ll take this fee and that will be the end of their contact with you. If you receive a phone call from a CMC, check the regulation credentials of the firm on the FCA services register.

It’s important to be aware that, if you are the victim of a pension scam, it’s unlikely that you will be able to get any of your money back. So, be sure to report any approach to Action Fraud and the police.

If you receive any calls or texts out of the blue that ask to discuss the scam, it’s important to be very wary.

Get in touch

Losing some or all of your pension savings can be a traumatic experience. Fraudsters are using ever more sophisticated techniques to part you from your savings, so it’s important to be vigilant. If you’re unsure about an opportunity you have been offered, or you’d like to double check that a pension review or offer is genuine, get in touch with us. Please email info@harperlees.co.uk or call 01277 350560.

Please note

A pension is a long-term investment not normally 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 individual circumstances. Thresholds, percentage rates and tax legislation may change in subsequent Finance Acts.



TWELVE TIPS FOR CHRISTMAS...AND AFTER

With Christmas rapidly approaching, here are a few seasonal tips to help keep you safe at home, shopping, visiting, and after Christmas too:

If you need to store Christmas food and drink, presents and other goodies within garages and outbuildings, ensure what you are storing is out of sight and that the building is securely locked with good quality well-fitted locks. Treat your shed to a shed alarm.

Avoid tempting window shopping burglars; don't leave presents and valuables on full view in front of a window. Having parcels delivered, and may be out, make sure that you make suitable secure delivery arrangements to reduce the risk of theft.

Whenever leaving the house, always ensure that your windows and doors are closed and locked. Don't attract burglars to your home by leaving it in darkness; leave lights on timers, perhaps treat yourself to a TV simulator too.

Lock gates to keep unwanted visitors from getting to the rear of your home.

When you go to leave the house and find that your car is all iced up, don't leave it unattended with the engine running to de-ice it. It only takes a second to steal your car and it would invalidate any insurance claim.

Park safely; look for a 'Park Mark' accredited car park www.parkmark.co.uk/car-park-finder Check that your car is locked before you leave it and don't leave valuables and gifts on display in your car.

Whether an evening out or Christmas shopping keep your bags, handbags, wallets and mobile safe. Busy places make it easier for the sneak thief, so be alert at all times.

A Christmas get together – make sure that you have considered how you are getting home in advance and avoid using unlicensed taxis. Ensure you drink responsibly, and are aware of your surroundings, whilst keeping your drink and belongings safe.

www.suzylamplugh.org/Pages/FAQs/Category/personal-safety

Watch what you put on social media; check your settings to ensure that you are not broadcasting when you are not at home and the lovely gifts you may have received.

After Christmas don't advertise your nice gifts to the thieves by putting the empty boxes out for collection, disguise them, fold them up inside out or put them inside another non-descript box.

Record your new property free on www.immobilise.com , install tracking and security apps on relevant electrical and computer products. Consider a property marking product.

Have a Great Christmas and New Year!! 😊

For further crime prevention advice see: www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/ or <https://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/crime-prevention-advice>

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Financial Planners	HarperLees	64
Funeral Directors	Co-Op	27
Funeral Directors	Daniel Robinson	2
Glaziers	Capital Glaziers	49
Kitchen Appliances	Wash & Tumble	22
Nails	Nails by Nicci	22
Plumbing	DPS Plumbing	63
Pub	The George Inn	58
Roofing	R Wheeler	41
Veterinary	Mercer & Hughes	50
Water Softener	Ian Holmes	41
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