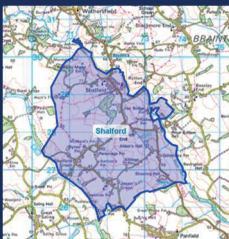


SHALFORD

Village Magazine February 2024
showcasing our community
Produced by the People for the People



Neighbourhood Plan
See Pages 32-33



- **WHAT'S ON**
- **CHURCH NEWS**
- **PARISH COUNCIL**
- **SHALFORD SCHOOL**
- **LOCAL CHARITIES, ORGANISATIONS**
- **ARTICLES**
- **NATURE**
- **& MORE**



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Page No. INDEX

- 5 Our Financial Supporters – A HUGE THANK YOU
- 6 What's On
- 11 Local Organisations & Charities
- 13 Remembrance Lilies 2024 – Heather Smith
- 14 Shalford Craft Group Christmas Fair – Caroline Ottley
- 16 Christmas Meet & Greet – Alice Cox
- 17 A Little Christmas Music by G & T – Marianna Marriott
- 18 Shalford Horticultural Society Annual General Meeting
- 19 Shalford Horticultural Society – Raffle
- 19 FOSTAC – St Andrew's Coffee Mornings
- 20 FOSTAC – Winter Newsletter
- 21 At Last New Bell Ropes for St Andrew's – Mandy French
- 22 150 Years of Shalford Primary School – Jennifer Penney
- 23 Re-Engage – Sunday Tea – Sarah Cunningham
- 24 Wethersfield Club & Floral Art – Julia Broad
- 24 Wethersfield's Children's Church
- 25 Unsung Hero – Isabelle Bradley – Mel Fray/Amy Metson
- 26 Getting to Know Barbara Mavis – Carol Prail
- 28 Colouring Page – Goldfinch – Graham Silvester
- 29 Crossword 73 – Robert Burrows
- 30 Shalford Parish Council – Samantha Batt
- 32 Shalford Neighbourhood Plan
- 34 Christmas Light Switch On Photos
- 38 The Hawthorns, Braintree
- 44 From the Vicarage – Rev'd/Fr Alex
- 45 Pant Valley Church Services for February 2024
- 46 Church Warden's Report – Hilary Penney
- 47 Contacts for Shalford Church of St Andrew's
- 48 Let's Grow Better Vegetables – The Theoretical Gardener
- 49 Calling All Farmers – Alice Cox
- 50 Buzzing News From the Hives of Jillie Woolcock
- 53 Nature Notes – Birds of Prey – Mac Beanland
- 54 Great Notley parkrun – Len Marten
- 59 The Hundred Parishes – Ken McDonald
- 60 6 Practical Ways You Could Use Gifting to Reduce Your IHT Liability – HarperLees
- 62 Crossword 73 Solution – Robert Burrows
- 64 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

FRONT PAGE

**Photos of Shalford
Parish Council's
Christmas
Light
Switch On**

Shalford Village Magazine is a non-profit organisation, run by volunteers and funded by advertising, the Parish Council, the Parochial Council, villagers, local organisations, and donations. Contact by email: shalford_village_magazine@btinternet.com
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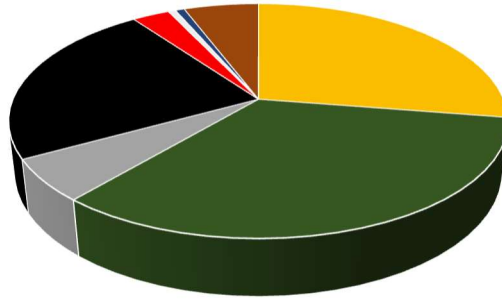
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A HUGE THANK YOU



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.

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

Booking Tel: 07732 313530
Between 9am to 5pm

www.shalfordvillagehall.co.uk

<p>SHALFORD TENNIS CLUB</p> <p>Membership Annual Family of 4 Adult Junior (U17 or full-time Education U20)</p> <p>Casual Hire Cost To book the court and for further information:</p> <p>Contact: 07732 313530 Between 9am to 5pm</p>	<p>SHALFORD FOOTBALL CLUB</p> <p>Located at Shalford Village Hall</p> <p>For more information visit: http://www.cfcshalford.co.uk</p>	<p>ADC Dance & Fitness</p> <p>Shalford Village Hall Every Monday 16.45 to 19.45</p> <p>Tel: 07852 505153</p>
<p>PETANQUE (BOULES) LOCATED AT SHALFORD VILLAGE HALL</p>  <p>No Need to Book</p>	<p>PLAYING FIELDS</p> <p>Football Cricket Tennis Children's Playground Pétanque</p>	<p>ART CLUB</p> <p>Shalford Village Hall Every Tuesday 11.00 to 13.00</p> <p>Tel: 07505 282374</p>
<p>Meet & Greet every 1st Friday of the month 11am to 2pm</p>	<p>SHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING</p> <p>EVERY THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH HELD AT SHALFORD VILLAGE HALL TIME: 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.</p> <p>For more information https://shalford-esssex-pc.gov.uk</p>	<p>TODDLER GROUP</p> <p>Shalford Village Hall Every Wed 9.00 to 15.00</p> <p>Tel: 07764 204027</p>
	<p>Indoor Carpet Bowls every Tuesday Contact Vic 07773 707404</p>	<p>PILATES CLASS</p> <p>Shalford Village Hall Every Thurs, 19.45 to 20.45</p> <p>Tel: 07969 557845</p>

Plant Share

& Coffee Morning

Sat 13 April 10:30_{am} - 12:30_{pm}

Wethersfield Parish Church



Want to share your love of gardening, and can spare some surplus plants, seedlings etc with our community?

Want to pick up some new plants? Optional donation

Like a cuppa and a slice of cake?

Don't really want to drive to an overpriced garden centre?

Want to help our Grade 1 listed Church?

Then this event is for YOU!

**Please bring any of the following:
yourself, plants, cakes**

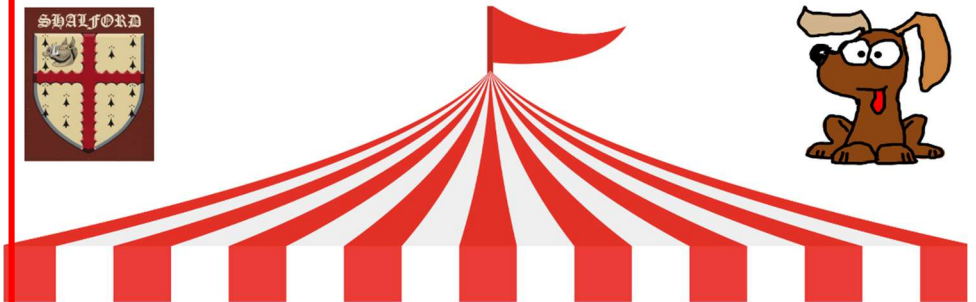
SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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



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

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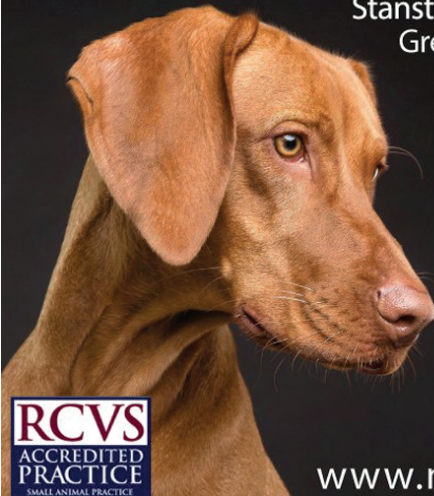


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All ages are welcome to our friendly club. Come along and enjoy a game of bowls, a chat, plus tea, coffee and biscuits

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>

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REMEMBRANCE EASTER LILIES 2024



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

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

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

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

Monies to be received by Sunday 10th March 2024 latest please.

I am happy to collect **or**
You may phone me 01371 851378 **or**
Deliver to my address Stag Lodge, Church End, Shalford
(between the school and the shop)

Heather Smith (organiser of Church flowers)

SHALFORD CRAFT GROUP CHRISTMAS FAIR



Saturday 25th November 2023 saw the second of our Christmas Craft fairs..

The day was a huge success ...we had a lovely new banner for the occasion and were also proud to be sponsoring EACH...(East Anglia Children's Hospice) for the first year..



It was great to see so many people steadily flow through the doors, and to welcome returning as well as new talented craft stallholders.

Refreshments went down a treat and despite having more mulled wine available, we still ran out !!! Luckily our wonderful village store was able to provide us with more...so all in all, a wonderful day was had by all !!



Look forward to an even better event this year

CAROLINE OTTLEY



SHALFORD CRAFT GROUP CHRISTMAS FAIR



CHRISTMAS MEET & GREET (5-star rating)
WILLIAM BENDLOWE CHARITY'S 450TH BIRTHDAY

BY: Alice Cox

2023 Christmas Meet & Greet did not disappoint. Excellent turnout, good company, scrumptious food, a small tippie (or was it two?), fantastic ambiance and atmosphere – what more could we ask for?

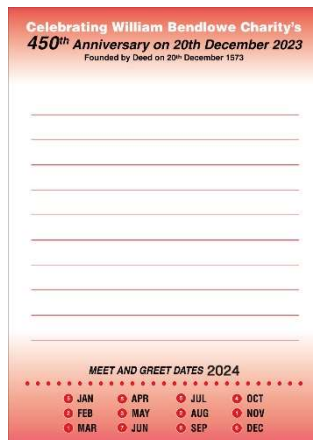
But we did have more; we were very fortunate to receive a visit from Diana Garrod, the 2023-2024 Chairperson of Braintree District Council. We are grateful to Diana for giving her time to visit Bendlowe's and chatting to the Community. Thank you Diana.



We also enjoyed having a very special additional helper to the team *Sienna* - Marianna's granddaughter. She was an absolute delight and an enormous help. Marianna – please book her up for future Meet & Greets!



In celebration of Bendlowe's 450th, we distributed to those present a purposely-designed Christmas Card and Notepad. We still have a few left, so if you would like one for a "keepsake" simply let me know. Alice Tel 07850 264518.



Our first Meet & Greet of 2024 on 5th January got us off to an excellent start setting the standard. So what are our plans for the future you may ask? Answer: *More of the same!!*

Well done team

A LITTLE CHRISTMAS MUSIC BY G & T

BY: MARIANNA MARRIOTT



On 15th December 2023 Bendlowe's presented a festive evening of Christmas Music by G & T (Marion and Vic). This has become an annual event on the Bendlowe's calendar and is one of our fund raisers for our charity. Although this year did bring last minute circumstances on whether it would take place. Marion injured her arm at home which required a visit to A & E on the morning of the event. Vic assumed that he would have to perform on his own and made the necessary adjustments to his repertoire. Who should walk through the door half hour before the evening was to commence but Marion herself all glammed up but with a hard plaster cast from her hand to her elbow. **WHAT A HEROINE!!!** We all looked at her in amazement. She assured us that the

SHOW MUST GO ON!!!

Everyone had brought their own drinks and snacks and were ready to be entertained. There was a buzz of anticipation as the evening commenced. Marion and Vic sang a variety of popular music from Neil Diamond, Petula Clark, Doris Day, Adam Faith to name a few artists interspersed with their humorous banter. James was the sound engineer. The audience were encouraged to join in and they did with gusto. There was the usual raffle and people were very generous indeed.

The second half of the evening brought Christmas music. We sang songs and carols ending with the '12 Days of Christmas'. Each table was assigned a day. There were some timid voices to begin with but for some the competitiveness came out and this encouraged others to stand and sing and raise their arms when their turn came to sing their line. No one wanted to be outdone by the others. It was a great way to end a most enjoyable evening.

We thank Marion, Vic and James for their support of Bendlowe's and, of course, the audience who attended.

*We wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2024 and
look forward to seeing you at one of our future events.*

SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 9TH JANUARY 2024

Below is a transcript of the Chairperson's report presented on 9th January 2024

Good evening everyone.

Thank you for supporting us this evening, later we'll thank the Bowls club for sharing the hall with us this evening.

I'd like to formally welcome back and thank Heather to chair our AGM as President for the second year.

Once again our small but very robust team has kept a Horticultural Society and show alive in Shalford.

On that note we opted to run just one show last year, in Spring, Claire took on the task of condensing the schedule for two shows into one, she has had to send her apologies this evening but her technical support and advice are only a phone call or text away. We again took the decision not to print and deliver schedules to every household, but unexpectedly Alice was able to include it in the centre of the magazine and it went to every household, that's another huge thank you.

Historically our popular quiz evening has funded the schedule and our show expenses, last year following another enjoyable evening with Debbie and Gary as quiz masters we were able to purchase the green tablecloths for show day, they made the show so much more attractive and will remain durable for many years to come, thanks to Caroline for sourcing and hemming those, not a small task.

We had another very pleasant evening with local willow weaving expert Deb Hart, a superb obelisk was made during the evening and raffled for our funds.

Caroline and Carol together organised the annual coach trip to Anglesey Abbey, I wasn't able to go but a lovely day out.

Then our show, beautiful new cloths produce and exhibits, and a village feel with friendly atmosphere with added stalls to view outside in the afternoon.

Following on with some of those bring and buy ideas we had a stall at the Macmillan coffee morning and where the largest pumpkin competition was also hosted last year.

Last but not least the PC invited us to run the hamper raffle and we had fun preparing and organising for the second year running.

It's so difficult to thank everyone personally but alongside our committee there are many regular helpers who without them running any show or event would be impossible and as with all village events we couldn't achieve any of this without the guidance and organisation from that we receive, a huge thank you to you Mel. I would also like to thank Christine for all her hard work with the Planter outside the Village Hall this year.

SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - RAFFLE



There were many prizes including two hampers. We would like to thank everyone who donated prizes towards making the raffle such a success.

The Christmas Light up was held in the village hall at the beginning of December. It was a popular evening and well attended. The Horticultural Society sponsored the raffle which proved very popular.



FOSTAC – Friends of St Andrew’s Church

ST ANDREW’S COFFEE MORNINGS

STOP PRESS!! And a HAPPY NEW YEAR



May we wish all our Coffee Drinkers a Very Happy New Year and welcome to 2024 Coffee Mornings

Last year we had excellent support from you all – lots of Coffee/Tea Drinking, Cakes and ‘gossip’!!! It is always good to meet up and have these mornings where we all catch up with each other. Not only do we have Coffee but donations are made and we are pleased to let you all know that last year we donated £351 to Essex Air Ambulance and £407 to The Creamer Fund. So well done everyone!

Again we are continuing with two Coffee Mornings each month - that is the 2nd Thursday and the 4th Thursday in the month beginning **Thursday 11th January!**

This year we are going to continue to donate to a local Charity which as yet has not been chosen. If you are able to make a cake or cakes these would be very welcome – so far we only have one ‘cake-maker’!! If you can bake a cake please do, but let Diana know, it will be very much appreciated.

For more details contact Diana Forrow on 01371 850110 or Sylvia Lester 01371 850211 We look forward to seeing you all and any new friends in the coming months.



*President
Sir Roger Singleton, CBE.*

FOSTAC

Friends of St Andrew's Church

WINTER NEWSLETTER

Hello FOSTAC Members

Happy New Year to you all

Last year we arranged a good number of events to which we know everyone enjoyed and we hope to plan more for 2024

The last event of 2023 was an Evening with Mac and John held in the church.

John Burrow was giving us a very exciting talk of his life as a Policeman. He was not really your average 'bobby' but was commissioned by the Police Force to represent our system to a number of different forces around the world! His travels took him to New York, China, Europe and many other countries. Some of his travels developed into most hilarious trips. We thank John for giving us an insight to his life as a policeman

Mac Beanland was to give us a talk on Turkeys but unfortunately circumstances prevented him from coming along. However, Janet Nicholls (Rev Canon responsible for Agriculture) his daughter very kindly offered to take his place.

Janet did give us a small insight into the breeding and farming of turkeys as she was involved with the turkey farm with her father when she was young but did not wish to give away any of Mac's tales but leave it for when he does come along sometime in the future to Talk Turkey!!

Janet gave us an extremely interesting talk on the work she does as Agriculture and Pastoral Minister. She meets up with farmers and is able to advise on many aspects of their pastoral care. Farming is a lonely way of life very often and to have someone who understands and is able to give support is an asset. There were many laughs of appreciation at Janet's reminiscing - we thank Janet for standing in and giving us such an entertaining evening..

We now look forward to 2024 and hope you will come to all the events we have planned – more news soon.

FOSTAC
Committee

AT LAST NEW BELL ROPES FOR ST ANDREW'S CHURCH BY: MANDY FRENCH



My late husband David (French) was one of St Andrew's bell ringers. Just over a year ago I learnt that new ropes were needed and spoke to Hilary about replacing them.



Both Hilary and Roy spent time in speaking to various firms and an order was placed. After chasing them up several times, it was discovered that the firm was no longer trading.

A new firm Avon Ropes were chosen who kindly made the ropes very quickly.

The ropes arrived over Christmas and went up on the 29th December with Adrian overseeing the work.

Myself, St Andrew's bell ringers (with some of their family members) and Hilary met on the 1st January to enjoy a chat, tea, coffee and food when the bells were rung for the first time with the new ropes.

You may notice that the colours of the ropes have changed. In loving memory of my David they are now in his favourite football team's colours "Chelsea".



150 YEARS OF SHALFORD

PRIMARY SCHOOL

By: Jennifer Penney, Head of School



According to records, our school opened its doors in 1874, so in 2024 we will be marking 150 years of our wonderful little school. We hope that local people can help us to gather information and celebrate this occasion.

We will be holding an open afternoon in the school hall 3-5pm on 19th June.

ALL ARE WELCOME

and refreshments will be available (to note - if it is a hot June - we have fabulous air conditioning!). By the time we get to 19th June, we are hoping to have gathered as much history about the school as possible.

Can you help us?

We are particularly interested in seeing any old photographs, newspaper articles, names of staff, anecdotes, school reports or anything else of interest you might have at home.

We are going to make displays in the hall under 3 broad categories:

1. The early days/Victorian Era
2. World War 1 and World War 2 Era (1914-1945 approx)
3. Post war Era to 2024

You can drop into school with your items (we will happily photocopy them if you do not want to leave originals with us) any time before 19th June. We know the pupils will really enjoy learning about the rich history and importance of their school.

SUNDAY TEA



Are you over 75 and feel a bit lonely on a Sunday afternoon?

We have space for new guests to join our friendly tea parties.

We hold afternoon tea once a month on Sunday
between 3pm - 5pm at a lovely hosts home.

It is very informal and everyone is very welcome to
come along and join us.

This is a free service and transport is provided.

**Please give me a call or email if you are interested
in giving it a go for 2024!**

Sarah 07505241237

sarah8750@hotmail.co.uk

WETHERSFIELD CLUB EVENTS

Saturday
10th February

Chelsea Afton performing **Soul and Motown** for an early Valentine celebration, Club Open at 7.00 pm, music at 8.30 pm

Keep an eye out for dates for our next Quiz night and another Bingo extravaganza soon!

WETHERSFIELD FLORAL ART GROUP

Wednesday
28th February

Club AGM, all welcome for cheese and wine and our traditional Beetle Drive! Membership renewals available, still £25.

Wednesday
27th March

Our first demonstration with Lorraine Gagen, who will be bringing us 'Sweet Memories', 7.30 pm start, guests still £6.

Full programme to be circulated soon



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





UNSUNG HERO

Isabelle Bradley

By: Mel Fray and Amy Metson

We would like to nominate our lovely delivery lady Isabelle (AKA Belle) as Hero of the month.

She is the most amazing, kind and thoughtful person. Anyone who has deliveries will know her.

Her company receives a lot of bad press but if anyone ever writes anything negative on local social media, the whole of Shalford and surrounding villages write in her defence telling all that we are lucky to have her.

She grew up in Panfield and knows the area and many residents very well. She still has family here in Shalford.

She's obviously dog mad and has had boxers all her life. If tested, she probably knows all the Shalford dog residents' names as well!

Quote from her niece Amy "She's the kindest, sweetest person I know"

A *few* comments from Facebook

"Isabelle Bradley you are the only (one) I trust, you are great providing an update."

"Carry on being bionic and ... keep on delivering"

"Thanks Belle, you're such a gem xx"

"Never had a problem with the lovely lady who delivers to us. Her name is Belle and she is always very obliging."

"Yes we have Belle too in Panfield and she's lovely x"

"She is a wonderful lady and we have never had issues with deliveries. x"

"Happy New Year Belle! Thanks for always being a highlight of our day 🍷😊"

"Happy New Year Belle, we are so lucky to have you "

"Happy New year Belle - what would we do without you ? X"

"Happy New Year . Thank you! You always have a smile on your face! We all need to be more like Belle 😊"

Thank You BELLE – You are One In A Million

A well-deserved "Unsung Hero"



**GETTING
TO KNOW
BARBARA
MAVIS
BY:
CAROL
PRAILL**



Barbara Mavis moved to Shalford in August 2015 to be nearer her daughter and son-in-law. As Barbara says 'another chapter'.

Barbara thinks that Shalford is one of the nicest villages you could live in, the countryside is fantastic and the people are so friendly, kind and helpful. (I agree)

Barbara loves being around people and quickly got to know some locals. She went to the Church, joined Bendlowe's and the History Group and quickly made friends as an active member of each group. She likes meeting people and getting to know them.

Barbara enjoys nature, gardening and painting. She has a good eye and has some of her watercolours hanging in her house. She has also sold quite a few paintings. Barbara also loves owls and has quite a collection.

Barbara was born in Colchester Military Hospital as her father Henry Frank Gillette was in the Essex Regiment. She lived in Brentwood as a child as her father did not want to move from base to base. She became Head Girl at Doddinghurst Senior School where she particularly enjoyed History and Geography.

After school, Barbara joined Rotary Hoes Ltd doing administration work and telephone relief work if required. When she married Don, they were based in Germany before moving to RAF Dishforth in North Yorkshire.

Barbara subsequently moved to Bridlington. The Priory was her local church and Barbara quickly asked to help in the Priory. She started to work in the shop and before long did tours of the Priory for locals and tourists alike. She worked there for 18 years.

In 2012, the Queen, who was celebrating her Diamond Jubilee, came to York to commemorate the 800th Anniversary of the City with a service at York Minster and to distribute the Royal Maundy. The Queen had asked for representatives from all over the United Kingdom to be included in the service in recognition of their service to their community and Church and Barbara was selected!

Traditionally, the number of representatives receiving Maundy coins is related to the Monarch's age. In 2012 the Queen was 86 so 86 men and 86 women received 86 silver coins in a white purse and a £5 coin and a 50p coin in a red purse.

Barbara was honoured and delighted to accept the invitation.

When Barbara arrived at York Minster, she was led to the main aisle while Don, her husband, had to sit elsewhere. As the Queen approached by car, the cheers grew louder and louder. Over 15,000 people came to greet her. Accompanying the Queen were the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Beatrice. Barbara's first impression of the Queen was how tiny she was, her tiny feet and sensible shoes!



After the service, invited guests sat down to a sumptuous meal in nearby Mansion House. The meal consisted of Aromatic Duck Salad, Chicken Pimento Roulade and coffee with chocolate mints.

Later, Barbara and Don met members of their family at Betty's Tearoom, a famous tearoom in York. Barbara recalled that it was a memorable day - to actually meet the Queen! She will always remember her smile, twinkly eyes and skin!

Barbara showed me the two purses received from the Queen containing the silver coins.

She also has two porcelain figurines which were bequeathed to her by her sister, one to commemorate the Queen's Diamond wedding Anniversary and the other to commemorate her 80th birthday.

On a personal note, Barbara has six children, thirteen grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren. She visits them or is visited by them often to discuss something where Barbara can offer advice or support. Zoom calls are a weekly occurrence as some family members are in Australia.

Barbara has fond memories of life in North Yorkshire where she still has family. She also likes to visit the Priory when she can. She is also partial to curd tart which her grandson brings with him when he visits.

Barbara continues to be busy even as she enters her 92nd year in February or as she is fond of saying - I have only had 22 real birthdays! Well next February 29th she will have the opportunity to celebrate her 23rd!

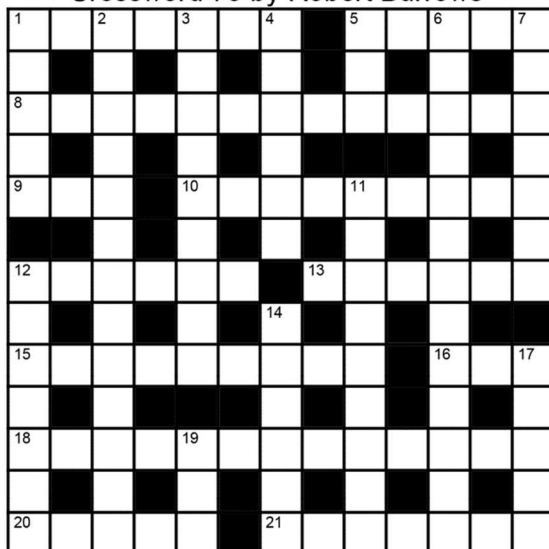


COLOURING PAGE BY GRAHAM SILVESTER - GOLDFINCH



TIPS: Colour within the lines & choose your colours wisely. We would love to see your finished article – email to shalford_village_magazine@btinternet.com

Crossword 73 by Robert Burrows



10 Do too much ere
vortex breaks (9)

12 Carafes lose point in
melee (6)

13 Write 'hot' inside and
twist (6)

15 About the bike-sport
– re-using resources (9)

16 No affection holds
boorish lout (3)

18 Don's neat house could
be in resort town (8-2-3)

20 Trees make
compound (5)

21 Change tyres, EI (7)

Cryptic Down

1 Leans over to get
catalogues (5)

2 Believe story to get
financial aid (6,7)

3 She came to a fiery
end (4-2-3)

4 Arrange wet dig to get
program device (6)

5 Eastern horse food (3)

6 Spent ious? Rely
haughtily maybe (13)

7 Let tune be ordered
for horse blinker (7)

11 Very bad, Reg, e.g.
with debts (9)

12 Plan ahead? (7)

14 There can be only
one! (6)

17 Could be old or hot (5)

19 Nautical pronoun (3)

Across

1 Trismus tetanus (7)

5 Cause to depart (5)

8 Epping Forest hamlet (8-5)

9 Snow sport (3)

10 Try too hard (9)

12 A disturbance (6)

13 Twisting movement (6)

15 Return to a previous
stage (9)

16 Rude and boorish
person (3)

18 Essex resort town (8-2-3)

20 Organic compound (5)

21 New designation (7)

Down

1 Catalogues (5)

2 Business help for client (6,7)

3 French heroine (4-2-3)

4 A device (6)

5 Bird-to-be (3)

6 Over importantly (13)

7 A blinker for a horse (7)

11 Remarkably bad (9)

12 Make provision (7)

14 Victor (6)

17 Visible combustion (5)

19 That ship (3)

Cryptic Across

1 Fasten face-bone
–having disease (7)

5 Some index Pell
could force out (5)

8 Reg send water somehow
to this hamlet (8,5)

9 Winter sport in riskier
pursuit (3)



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



Speeding/Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS)

The Council are very aware of the issue of speeding within the parish. A number of residents have raised their concerns with us, and we are making progress in purchasing our VAS signs which we will be able to move around the parish. We will soon be looking to restart our speed watch group. If you would like to be involved, please contact the clerk. In the meantime, we would encourage everyone to report any issues to Essex Highways and or the police. The more data that is reported and logged, the stronger any case to challenge speed limits or increase traffic calming, is likely to be.



Lol has been busy keeping the parish litter free this month as well as beginning to clean some road signs.





The Council were delighted to see the basketball area finished with lines painted. It has been a long time coming but a great result working with the Village Hall team and Braintree District Council.

Grant policy.

We would like to remind everyone in the parish of our grant policy. Each year we set aside some money to support local causes and groups. To qualify for an award the applicant must be able to demonstrate that any funding from the Parish Council will benefit the Parish, or residents of the Parish. Please see the policy on our website for information of whether your cause qualifies and to apply. This can be found under Parish Council>Policies & Procedures>Grants policy.



Please do keep your issues coming by email to the Fix It email address. We can then allocate the jobs to Lol or report to those who can 'fix-it'



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

Finally, thank you for all your support at the Christmas light switch on (see photos pages 34 – 37). We hope you had a great time and look forward to seeing you again this year!

February's meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

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

Braintree District Council (BDC) has given the go ahead for Shalford Parish Council (SPC) to develop a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). In addition the Parish Council has been successful in obtaining a grant with help from the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) to fund the first phase.

What is a Neighbourhood plan?

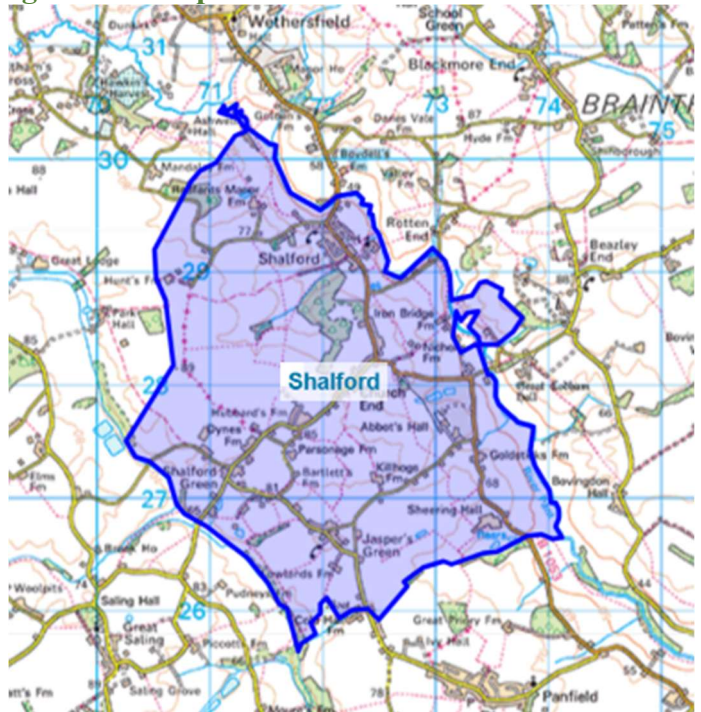
A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is a legal document that records residents' aspirations for their community over the next 15 years. It is subject to a local referendum and forms a key part of planning decisions. This makes it less likely that developments can be imposed upon a community or the lack of a plan be exploited by developers. Numerous Braintree parishes have completed their own plans (including Coggeshall, Salings) and those of Bardfield, Toppesfield, Finchingfield and Wethersfield are well under way.

What is a Shalford Neighbourhood plan?

We are all a little weary of attempts to change our village in various ways but this is our opportunity to take back some control by creating a positive vision for where we all want to live.

A NP is collecting the vision of the community and presenting a plan that encompasses this for the community to vote on.

To create our NP will require a great deal of effort. By bringing the residents of Shalford together, we can shape a bright, positive and sustainable future to meet community needs for generations to come.



What has it got to do with me?

This is YOUR plan. It is not written by outside consultants or policy makers.

Our NP will be developed through an open inclusive process that will engage all local residents and businesses. Our approach and objectives will centre on the people at the heart of our community.

A NP team of volunteers is now being set up to co-ordinate the process which anyone is welcome to join. Even if you know nothing about planning, you can get involved in helping to shape your community's future. If you are worried about the footpaths, crime or traffic, or have ideas about renewable energy, jobs or affordable housing across either parish, then our NP is of interest to you. Everyone is welcome to join the team or help out in any way including helping to organise events or collect information; complete the residents' survey or join in community discussion groups. If you are interested in joining the team please email the Clerk at Clerk@shalford-esssex-pc.gov.uk.

How does the plan get written?

Our NP cannot simply be a wish list of ideas. We need to understand the direction in which strategic planning policy guides us, the issues and challenges facing this area, decide on a community vision and objectives and collect evidence (for example housing needs) to support our proposals to realise that vision.

Our Vision needs to be consistent with the Local Plan of Braintree District Council (BDC) and national policy guidance (National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), as well as any regional strategic policies (such as Essex County Council's (ECC) Levelling Up and Net Zero strategies). Within these boundaries, our NP can design specific policies that form part of planning decisions.

How do I find out more?

Over the next few weeks, we will set up a NP website and Facebook page and organise events to provide information and listen to people's questions. Alternatively, please contact:

- Jill Boot - Clerk@shalford-esssex-pc.gov.uk
- Kevin Welsh- Kevin.Welsh@shalford-esssex-pc.gov.uk

Shalford Parish Council – Christmas Light Switch On



Many thanks to all our helpers & everyone who came along

Shalford Parish Council – Christmas Light Switch On



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Shalford Parish Council – Christmas Light Switch On



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Shalford Parish Council – Christmas Light Switch On



Many thanks to all our helpers & everyone who came along

THE HAWTHORNS, BRAINTREE

The Hawthorns in Braintree is a retirement community for active and sociable retirees. We are supporting the Government campaign to combat loneliness and cordially invite you to our monthly complimentary events. There will always be Tea Dances, Line Dancing, Talks and our Saturday Night at The Hawthorns – a lovely evening with cocktails and a variety act. Occasionally there will be a charge as we fund-raise for our Charity of the Year – currently the Rainbow Trust Children’s Charity.

Please feel free to contact Michaela on 01376 335500 for more information or to receive our regular event guide, listing the complimentary events.

We look forward to seeing you there.



THE HAWTHORNS EVENT GUIDE – FEBRUARY 2024



TEA DANCE

SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY
3PM - 4PM

Dance the afternoon away with instructor Hayley Kiff and enjoy a scrumptious complimentary afternoon tea.

ANGIE RUTLAND PERFORMS

SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY
11AM - 12PM

Enjoy a delightful morning at the Hawthorns with guest artist Angie Rutland, who will be happy to play your requested songs.



OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY 3RD FEBRUARY
11AM - 4PM

Visit the Hawthorns Braintree and discover our unique retirement living community. Enjoy complimentary refreshments, meet our residents, and take a guided tour with a friendly team member to see how happy your retirement with us could be.



MONTHLY TALK

FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY
7.30PM - 8.30PM

Listen to a fascinating talk from Prison Governor Lindsay Whitehouse. Discover more about the role, test your criminal knowledge and take part in a psychological test to measure your unconscious bias.

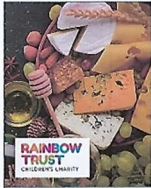


BIG QUIZ

SATURDAY 10TH FEBRUARY
7.30PM - 9PM

Join us for the return of our Big Quiz Night in aid of Rainbow Trust Childrens Charity and indulge in a delightful selection of cheeses and wines.

Please note that there is a £5 entry fee per person.



WAR STORIES

SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY
10AM - 11AM

Join us as Joe Sovereign and fellow residents take us back in time to tell their version of events during the war.



LINE DANCE

SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY
3PM - 4PM

Put on your dancing shoes and get ready to groove and move like never before with the expert guidance of dance instructor Hayley Kiff. With her innovative line dancing techniques, she'll show you how to effortlessly work the floor.

OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY
5PM - 8PM

Visit the Hawthorns Braintree and take a guided tour with a friendly team member to discover our unique retirement living community.



SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE HAWTHORNS

SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY
7PM - 8.30PM

We are thrilled to present the Bel Canto Sopranos to perform at the Hawthorns. Whilst you are here, meet our residents and enjoy complimentary refreshments.



The Hawthorns
BRAINTREE

FEBRUARY EVENT GUIDE

"At the Hawthorns, we are proud to support the campaign to combat loneliness. We would be delighted to welcome you to meet new people and join our welcoming community at our upcoming complimentary events."

Paul Tripney, General Manager

Call 01376 385600 | hawthornsretirement.co.uk

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ECC MOBILE LIBRARY 2024

Saturday – 3 Feb, 24th Feb, 16th March, 6th April

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



NO GLITTER

My Recycling Calendar

TUESDAY ROUTE 2

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

- Grey bin and food bin
- Clear sacks and food bin only
- Green bin, clear sacks and food bin
- Green bin (SUBSCRIBERS ONLY), clear sacks and food bin
- Different collection day
- Different collection day
- Different collection day
- Different collection day



Braintree District Council



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



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 - 07785 235000
Mel - 07855 494624
Vic - 07773 707404**

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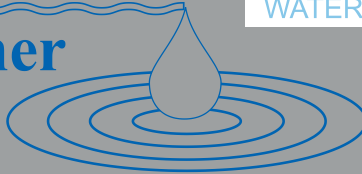
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IN THE UNITED BENEFICE
of Finchingfield, Cornish Hall End, Shalford,
Wethersfield, Little And Great Bardfield
THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES



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...

Every year, the date of Easter shuffles around the calendar, affecting a great many things in my diary. In the Church, it's not just the position of one bank holiday weekend which changes, but a whole collection of other Holy Days, not to mention the effects which come from different Sundays in the month being affected. Sometimes, this throws up interesting coincidences (like the year recently when Easter Day fell on April the First!), and this year, the particularly early date of Easter means that Ash Wednesday (which marks the beginning of Lent – the season of preparation for Easter) falls on 14 February.

Whether Valentine's Day (or perhaps more properly St Valentine's Day, as its name comes from the early Christian martyr who is commemorated on it) is something you observe or ignore, it's relatively unlikely that your plans would involve having your forehead smeared with ash while you are reminded of your mortality. I think it is a vanishingly small number of people who would consider that to be particularly romantic!

The message of Ash Wednesday perhaps seems like something of a 'hard sell' at the best of times, even when it's not competing for attention with the encouragement to enjoy flowers, chocolates, meals out, etc. Being reminded of both our human tendency to mess things up and how each of our lives is but a finite contribution to the human story might appear rather weighty, and not particularly comforting. And yet, Ash Wednesday was traditionally the time when those who were new to the Christian faith would begin their journey of being received into the fellowship of the Church.

The thing is, if we look a little bit deeper at the meaning of Ash Wednesday, we find a great source of comfort. Whatever our flaws and mistakes, both collectively and individually, we acknowledge that we will need help sorting them out. We allow God to take from our shoulders the burden of having to fix everything, and place ourselves in his hands. We express and affirm our trust that, even though we are far from perfect, we are still loved by God, because he has chosen to love us – perhaps not so far away from a Valentine's Day message after all!

So if you would like the space to think about the difficult questions the world poses, and about the place of our own lives within it, why not come and join us on Ash Wednesday, and place your questions in God's hands?

Rev'd/Fr Alex

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY IN THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES

Sunday 4 February – Second Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Parish Communion Service – Shalford

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

11am Celtic Morning Prayer ('Prayer & Pilgrimage') – Wethersfield

3pm Children's Church – Wethersfield

Sunday 11 February – Sunday Next before Lent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little Bardfield

10.45am Communion Service – Finchingfield

11am Family Service – Wethersfield

4pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Wednesday 14 February – Ash

Wednesday, the beginning of Lent

(All services today will include the opportunity to receive imposition of ashes.)

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

5pm Reflective Service for Ash Wednesday – Wethersfield

8pm Said Communion Service – Finchingfield

Sunday 18 February – First Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

10.45am Family Service – Finchingfield

4pm Evensong – Cornish Hall End

Sunday 25 February – Second Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10am Morning Prayer with Sunday Café – Cornish Hall End

11am Family Communion Service – Wethersfield

Regular Services and 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**

I take the Church Times every week, partly for old times' sake, going back to the days when I needed to know what was going on, and partly because it can be a very good read. Sometimes, however, it inspires frustrated dropping of the jaw, as in "whatever are they thinking of!" But recently there was published a quote from A N Wilson in The Times which I thought worth sharing:



**Wethersfield
St Mary
Magdalene**

"Churches do not only exist for those who are pious or those who know themselves to be saved. Churches exist for those who do not go to them at all, or who do not go very often. And this is what is surely so beautiful about the Midnight Mass or the Christmas morning service in which the pews are filled by those who would not necessarily know how to define their religious position".



**Finchingfield
St John the
Baptist**

And when I look back at the Christmas Eve carol service and Christmas morning Communion service in St Andrew's when we welcomed large congregations I can only agree wholeheartedly with A N Wilson and say a huge "thank you" to all who came, sang lustily and contributed so generously to the collection for the Friends of Essex Churches Trust. My thanks are also due to our clergy at Christmas, Janet and Alex, all who provided and arranged the magnificent flowers in the church and to Michael Mason for making and setting up the wonderful candle display.



**Gt Bardfield
St Mary The
Virgin**

What's new in St Andrew's? Well, in December our long-awaited new bell ropes were delivered and installed and rung for the first time on New Year's Day. They are the gift of Mandy French in memory of her late husband David, a ringer in Shalford and the surrounding area, and they are in the colours, blue and gold, of his favourite football team, Chelsea! Thank you, Mandy, and may David's memory live on every time a rope is pulled.



**Little
Bardfield
St Katharine**

If you take the path from Clifffield to the church you will notice that the untidy hawthorn hedge between the path and the burial ground has been professionally "laid" by David Beanland, a massive improvement both in the appearance and health of the hedge. I'm looking forward to the first shoots of spring. If you would like to avail yourself of David's expertise, whether in hedge-laying or in wooden sculpture, you can find his contact details on Google.

Work on the west window masonry repairs is in hand, although nothing to be seen on site as yet. The mason has made templates of all the stones to be replaced and is carving them in the workshop over the winter with a view to installation in the early spring, weather, of course, permitting.



**Cornish Hall
End
St John the
Evangelist**

Finally, we now have the services of an excellent local calligrapher who can inscribe the names and dates of our departed loved ones in the Book of Remembrance on display in St Andrew's. Please contact me for further details. A small donation to St Andrew's for this memorial is always appreciated. The leaves of snowdrops are already pushing up in the churchyard so by the time you read this the flowers should be showing too – hopefully without any snow!

Hilary Penney

SHALFORD CHURCH OF ST ANDREW'S

PANT VALLEY CHURCHES

CONTACTS



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

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Redwing, Church End,
Shalford, CM7 5EZ
Tel: 01371 851101
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LET'S GROW BETTER VEGETABLES

Growing your own vegetables and harvesting them and, within the hour, enjoying them on your plate, is a delight. However, growing your own food brings its frustrations, from pests and diseases to droughts and frosts but we still do it as it gives us a sense of satisfaction and achievement.

The art of success is to try and reduce the chances of things going wrong. Any garden can produce vegetables whatever its size, provided the conditions are right. Where space is at a premium, salads can be grown in pots and tubs, in fact almost any container, provided it has drainage holes punched into the bottom and metal containers are not placed where they are constantly heated by the sun.

There are two important things to remember: first, it is a waste of time and effort growing vegetables which the family do not enjoy eating and secondly, ensure no crop goes short of water. You must be prepared to water your vegetable patch day after day during the hottest months of the year. Dryness at the roots will bring growth to a halt and may cause plants to run to seed. Evenly moist soil is the best way to ensure success with any vegetable you choose to grow.

February is a good time to start preparing the soil and order seed. Never, ever, sow any seeds when the ground is too cold or too wet. However, buying seeds can be done any time and then stored in a cool dry place. The soil can be prepared whenever it's not frozen or soggy adding well-rotted manure and a good general-purpose fertiliser; those essential helpmates in food growing.

FRUITING VEGETABLES

Tomatoes and cucumbers need full sun to do well, while marrows and courgettes can cope with a little shade but not dense gloom. All enjoy free-draining soil that has been enriched with well-rotted compost or manure. Pumpkins and squashes need the richest soil, growing happily in pure manure, relishing the ample supplies of nutrients and moisture.

Plant out once the weather and soil are warming up and all risk of frost is passed, usually the end of May.

ONION FAMILY

Onions may be started from seed, although sets (small onions) are an easier option. Sets are planted just below the soil surface (the birds will uproot them if the tips are sticking out). Hoe the rows regularly as onions do not like competition from weeds and never let them go short of water, as they will stop swelling and probably start flowering.

Sow Spring onions in short rows every 3-4 weeks for tender young plants.

ROOT CROPS

Sow in soil which was manured for a previous crop. Freshly manured ground will attract slugs to potato tubers and can sometimes encourage the roots of carrots, parsnips, and radishes to fork. Do not let them go short of water as it slows down or stops growth, potatoes stop swelling and the roots of carrots and parsnips turn woody.

PEAS AND BEANS

Ideally these need full sun and a rich well drained soil and never sow the seed in cold wet ground. Broad beans may survive but French and Runner beans will most likely rot. Sow under cover in small pots and plant out once the weather warms.

Peas and beans are greedy and enjoy enriched soil. During the winter months, dig a trench where the runner beans are to be grown and gradually fill with all kinds of moisture-retaining material such as compost, manure, and shredded paper.

Good growth, flowering and cropping is maintained by keeping the soil moist.

LEAFY VEGETABLES

Salad crops such as lettuce and rocket are perfect for growing in containers. Sow once the ground has warmed but not during hot spells. Sow lettuce in short rows to keep a continuous supply. As soon as one batch of lettuce is pricked out sow another batch. Leafy vegetables need consistently moist soil and temperatures that do not fluctuate too much. Very hot or cold weather are likely to lead to crop failure. Cover with insect proof mesh to keep out leaf eating pests such as flea beetle.

Wishing you a bumper crop for 2024.

Happy New Year Gardening

The Theoretical Gardener



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



Buzzing News from the Hives of Jillie Woolcock



Happy New Year, Shalford!

I hope you had a very happy festive period. Initially, I thought I was writing this for January's magazine, not February's, and so much of what follows was written before Christmas, before the delights of Storm Gerrit and the M25, the present unwrapping (bee cushion, beekeeping book, bee placemats, honey jar) and the usual over-indulgence before the January diet.

As I write the bees are cosied up in their respective hives. And nary a sight nor sound is to be heard from them, although on a sunny day they may make a dash outside for what is called a 'cleansing flight' (or what we may call a 'comfort break') and also to take advantage of any flowering winter shrubs such as Mahonia.

We have, after all, stolen the food they so carefully collected and stored, so it must be replaced. I chose not to take all their honey but left them instead with one super. I took the other three.

I am hopeful that the remaining super (full of supplies) will sustain them through the winter months. A simple way of checking if they have sufficient to keep them going is to lift the hive. Simply put, if by lifting the hive, it feels as though it's nailed to the ground the bees have done their stuff and all available space is stuffed with supplies which should keep them going. But, if, as the winter months draw on, the hive begins to feel light it's time to feed the bees with fondant until the first nectar and pollen becomes available to them.

But before we get to next season's beekeeping I must conclude the last one by showing off the honey my wonderful bees produced! As I have mentioned before, my bees are angels in bee suits so they weren't too grumpy about sharing their honey with me. Indeed I have no mishaps to report. The bees gave up their honey quietly and with the aid of 'Muscles Woolcock' (husband) the boxes (supers) of honey were transported home in the wheelbarrow, where, between us and the honey extractor, we managed to extract about 40 jars of honey and one 15lb bucket.

A honey extractor is a tall, plastic bucket with an internal frame that holds two of the wooden hive frames. 'Muscles' then spins the handle and centrifugal force pushes the honey into the bottom of the tall bucket where there is a tap to allow the honey to be drained through a sieve - see photos. The extractors vary in size, construction and materials from my small two framer to massive ones that take multiple frames.



The colour difference between the earlier and later honey was remarkable. The earlier being much lighter in colour and delicate in flavour to the later honey which was darker in colour



Shown L to R:
Super containing frames of honey, uncapping bucket, honey extractor, double sieve and storage bucket (also with tap).



and stronger in flavour. Once the honey had been extracted, I put the empty frames back in the supers and the supers back on the hives and the bees cleaned the remaining honey off so the frames were ready for winter storage. The same was true of all the wax capping which were scraped from the frames. The wax we scraped off was also given back to the bees who kindly cleaned all the honey from it leaving me the simple task of washing the wax ready to melt down. Did I say no mishaps? Well, maybe one.

We were triumphant about our harvest and were able to give friends and neighbours a jar or two to sample. However I was left with the wax. There wasn't enough to make candles so I planned to swap it when I went to a beekeeping supplier who would exchange my wax for new sheets of wax foundation for the frames. The bees had done an excellent job of cleaning it up for me so all I had to do was melt it and make one solid lump of wax. It went as follows:

Melt wax: check.

Place large bowl in sink: check.

Pour melted wax into large bowl to allow to cool and set: check.

Miss-aim and pour quantity of hot wax down plug-hole: check.

Result: Extremely blocked drain... 'Muscles' feigned ignorance so Mrs Woolcock opened up the drain-pipe under the sink and found, to her delight, a gigantic wax replica of the inside of the said drain-pipe! Drain cleared Result: Happiness.

Technically the honey harvest is the end of the beekeeping year and once the bees have been treated for the beastly varroa mite and secured for the winter against a) mice - who will nest inside the hive given the chance - and b) Woody Woodpecker - who will break in, he being particularly fond of the contents of the hive - all has been done that can be done to over-winter the colonies. Now all I can do is cross my fingers.

Next time I write we'll be gearing up for the Spring. Hurrah!

**Happy New Year again dear reader and best wishes to you
and yours for a very peaceful 2024. JW**



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NATURE NOTES - BIRDS OF PREY

BY: MAC BEANLAND



Two things I often mention in my Nature Notes - Farmers are:- 1: Custodians of the Countryside and 2: Responsible for keeping nature in balance. You must get fed-up with me “banging on” about these two points but I refuse to apologise if you get fed-up with me labouring these points because they are true facts.

I well remember more than twenty years ago saying to a local Game Keeper in Great Bardfield that I had seen two large Birds of Prey about the district and much to my surprise he said “Yes, they are Buzzards; isn’t it nice”. I thought he would be horrified at the thought of them taking his baby pheasants but no, he knew there was room for them without upsetting the balance of nature and they would be more interested in carrion (that’s anything dead and injured) so helping to clean up the district.

But, fast forward to the present time; we have a lot of Buzzards in the district and we now have a lot of Red Kites which have been reintroduced, plus many more Kestrels than we used to have. These birds of prey are all competing for the same food and it is getting a regular thing to witness arial battles between them. They are all thriving. Although the Buzzards are the bigger bird, they are by no means as agile as the Red Kites and are coming off badly in these fights. They are scavengers not meant to kill things. As food becomes scarce, they have got to eat so garden birds and ground game becomes an easy option. We are seeing letters in the Farmers Weekly, written by frustrated farmers who are witnessing the problems each day wondering when the so-called experts are going to wake up.

I understand Norfolk has lost all its ground nesting pewits; there used to be thousands of those lovely entertaining farm land birds. The other development which is now beginning to cause concern is the tagged Sea Eagle which the wildlife trust introduced into the Isle of White a few years ago. They have thrived and are breeding very well and have now spread onto the mainland and started to breed there. These are truly magnificent birds the largest of all the Birds of Prey. They are native to Scandinavia and I have had the privilege of seeing them in their natural surroundings in Norway or I should say I saw one. I was on a trip with a party in a small boat. Our Guide pointed it out to us; it was perched in a tall tree. As we looked up at it, it took off and swooped down into the Feud and then took off carrying a very large fish with its feet. This is its normal prey and what a wonderful experience for us on that occasion. Some years ago, Sea Eagles settled in the Shetland Isles. They were no problem but sadly they have multiplied and have started to take lambs and have now become a problem. How long will it take for them to become a problem here?





Great Notley parkrun

by: Len Marten
(a parkrunner since 20.10.2012)

Did you know that on the outskirts of Braintree at Great Notley Country Park people have been gathering from near and far to run, walk or jog 5km (that's 3.1 miles in "old money") since 28th June 2014? This year Great Notley parkrun will be celebrating its **TENTH BIRTHDAY** and what's even more amazing is it's been organised entirely by the participants themselves.

Nobody finishes last, that's the job of the tail walker volunteers!

parkrun has been an enormous success since the very first one, which started in Bushy Park, Teddington on 2nd October 2004 with just 13 pioneering parkrunners and just five volunteers.

parkrun was started when Paul Sinton-Hewitt, who had sustained an injury, wanted to create a free event as a way to catch up with friends on a frequent basis. Back then it was called the Bushy Park Time Trial and it wouldn't be until sometime later it would be renamed parkrun (always written with a lowercase "p"). Since that very first event in Bushy Park nearly 20 years ago parkrun now operates in 22 countries and has had over nine million people from all over the world register, for free, to take part in the free, weekly, timed 5km run, walk or jog.

Whilst parkrun has evolved over those years, replacing those initial numbered washers with barcodes and bits of paper with groovy apps on smartphones, that original ethos about parkrun being a way of catching up with friends for a cuppa afterwards still remains true today.

I helped start Chelmsford Central parkrun, one of the first in the county, with a small group of like-minded individuals who would go

parkrun is not a race, it's about friends and families coming together and enjoying the outdoors.





Mick and Sheila enjoying marshalling and celebrating Sheila's 50th time helping out.

on to become great friends. As the number of enthusiastic volunteers grew so did the number of participants and the number of events. One of those friends is Sarah Davies, a fellow Run Director from Chelmsford Central parkrun who went on to help setup Chelmsford juniors in May 2014. Since moving to *Shalford Green* she now runs at Great Notley parkrun with son Harry.

Essex currently has 23 parkruns and whilst Great Notley parkrun is the nearest to Shalford, there are also parkruns nearby at Great Dunmow and just outside Coggeshall at Markshall Estate. In addition to these there are also 13 junior parkruns in Essex. Junior parkruns are 2km and are for juniors between 4 and 14 years old.

Despite the name, people walk at parkrun, others jog, some run, many volunteer and a few do a bit of everything!

You can take part however you want, at whatever speed you want. Everyone is welcome and nobody comes last - there is a tail walker volunteer for that!

Great Notley parkrun has six enthusiastic Run Directors who take turns organising parkrun events every week, Jane, Michelle, Rob, Nic, Simon and myself.

Run Director Simon, who started doing parkruns to help him achieve fitness goals, quickly found new friendships and a sense of belonging. To anyone thinking about starting parkrun but is unsure he says, "Whatever your ability, you will find a supportive, non-judgemental and welcoming atmosphere at parkrun. Don't be put off by the word 'run' - you can walk, skip, jog, run or adopt any combination. It's a fantastic way to start the weekend."



Mass start and a smiley Stacey



We hosted a special event for Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. So it was all Union Flags for this Marshal!

Run Director Nic suggests, "If you are thinking about giving parkrun a go my advice is just be brave and do it. You will be warmly welcomed and encouraged whether you run, walk or volunteer."

As you may have gathered parkrun isn't just about improving your physical fitness. Volunteering is a great way to help with your personal wellbeing and mental health. Nic goes on to say, "For me parkrun has played a massive role in helping me manage my social anxiety. At parkrun I am accepted for who I am, whether as a runner or volunteer. Being an RD pushes me out of my comfort zone but there is so much love and support from the community that it is not only manageable but I thoroughly enjoy it." Run Director Rob says, "The benefits to my mental health have been significant since I started volunteering and getting involved in the event. Volunteering in all roles, particularly as Run Director, has given me increased confidence and has opened up new life opportunities and friendships that I am so grateful for."

Knowing how important parkrun is to the community it was quite a challenge when parkrun was "paused" for 70 weeks during the Covid lockdown. Through Facebook, email and our website we arranged treasure hunts and gathered people's personal 5k efforts. On 24th July 2021 Great Notley parkrun was able to "restart" to an apprehensive celebration and much relief from the community.

Before lockdown and the start of a new parkrun at the nearby

Run Director Jane hosted an emotional return to normal operations after the Covid lockdown





Markshall Estate in November 2021 Great Notley used to get, on average, 278 finishers per event (2019).

A combination of the new neighbouring event and the drop in numbers during the lockdown, we now see, on average, 165 finishers per event (2023) but this is now steadily increasing (in 2022 we used to get 152 finishers per event on average).

But parkrun is not just about the numbers, the finish times, and the personal bests. parkrun is very much an event where people can look to address and chase their own challenges. Some are looking to do as many parkruns as possible, some are looking to do different parkruns whose first letter completes the alphabet, others are looking to volunteer as many times as possible, some find comfort and support in having a chat. In fact, parkrunners looking just to go “fast” appear to be in the minority!

The parkrun course at Great Notley Country Park is broadly two laps, anti-clockwise and is mostly on gravel trails. During the winter we use a winter course which has been specially designed with the Park Ranger to minimise damage to the park. The summer course is similar but it does use less tarmac sections and includes “the hill” with the “Bird of Freedom” at the top.

To participate in any parkrun you’ll need to register. To do this you can Google “register for parkrun” or enter www.parkrun.org.uk/register/ into your browser.

Print off your barcode or you can order a wristband with it on, or have it on your mobile or even your watch! Whatever you use, bring your barcode along to the parkrun event you’re interested in.

If you want to help out, you’ll need to tell us your “A” number when you email us (greatnotley@parkrun.com). If you’re running or walking, you won’t need your barcode until you’ve finished. Take the finish token, handed to you after you cross the finish line, and your barcode where it can be scanned. You’ll receive a text and an email later in the day with your results or a volunteer “thank you” if you helped out.

So if you feel that being a part of a kind, supportive, safe and friendly community is the sort of thing you might enjoy or benefit from, pop along.

Rob says, “In many ways the running or walking is secondary to the sense of belonging, being part of an inclusive, non-judgemental community, and giving back to society. parkrun really does have the power to improve your life.”

If you’d like to find out more, why not drop us an email to greatnotley@parkrun.com

**Note from the Editor: Have you been to a parkrun?
Would you like to share your story? Drop us an e-mail to
shalford_village_magazine@btinternet.com**



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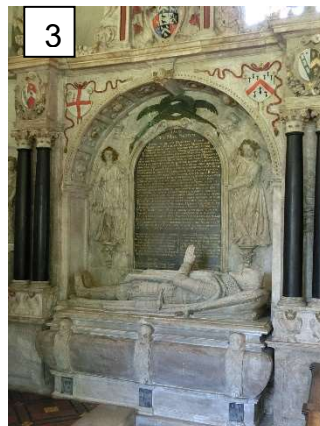


THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

BY: KEN MCDONALD

Two brothers born in north Wales in the 16th century have significant links with The Hundred Parishes. Thomas and Hugh Myddelton were younger sons of Richard, governor of Denbigh Castle. Both came to London to seek their fortune.

Thomas Myddelton was born in 1550, the fourth son. He did indeed make his fortune in trade and became Lord Mayor of London in 1613.



In 1615, Thomas bought the manor of Stansted Mountfitchet as his country seat and began the erection of a new Stansted Hall. He died in 1631 and was buried at St Mary's Church. His funeral was lavish; the family even paid for the mourners to be suitably dressed. There is a fine memorial inside the church with a life-size effigy under a decorated arch.

Hugh Myddelton was born in 1560, the sixth son. In London, he was apprenticed to a goldsmith and later became Royal Jeweler to King James I.

Hugh became a self-taught engineer. He was largely responsible for construction of The New River which ran for some 20 miles, taking fresh water from springs near Great Amwell into London. He helped fund the project and also secured financial help from the king.

The New River was opened in 1613, following the land contours so that gravity carried the water all the way to the Clerkenwell area of London. In 1620 a half mile extension was dug to supplement the supply by taking water from the nearby River Lea. After 400 years, the man-made New River still takes fresh water to the citizens of London; it is now operated by Thames Water.

Hugh Myddelton died in London in 1631. A memorial stone was erected on an island in the river at Great Amwell and various roads and properties along the route bear his name.



Photos:

1. New River
2. Hugh Myddelton memorial
3. Thomas Myddelton memorial

6 PRACTICAL WAYS YOU COULD USE GIFTING TO REDUCE YOUR IHT LIABILITY

When it comes to your financial goals, helping your partner, children, or grandchildren out financially, could be incredibly important to you. In fact, you may be looking to leave as much of your wealth to your loved ones as possible. However, it's worth bearing in mind how any inheritance you leave them could affect the tax liability they may face. If you're worried about paying tax on your estate when you die, you're not alone. According to research by [Canada Life](#), 40% of UK adults say they are concerned about paying Inheritance Tax (IHT). However, 70% of Brits have done nothing to reduce a potential bill. This is despite [International Adviser](#) revealing that 41,000 people were liable for IHT in 2022/23, compared to 33,000 the year before. This equates to a rise of 24% and the highest level in 20 years.

IHT is a tax on the estate, including possessions, money, property, and some lifetime transfers, of someone who has died. However, there is normally no IHT to pay if either the value of your estate is below the £325,000 threshold (the nil-rate band), or you leave everything above this threshold to your spouse, civil partner, charity, or a community amateur sports club. There is also a Residential Nil Rate Band (RNRB) of £175,000 which may be applicable to your Estate if you own a house, which is being passed to direct descendants and your overall Estate is below £2 million.

The fact that the nil-rate band is frozen at £325,000 until 2028, and with house prices and asset values increasing, you may find the value of your estate above the IHT threshold. Read on to discover six ways you could gift some of your assets to loved ones to help mitigate any potential IHT.

1. Utilise your gifting allowances

If helping your loved ones out financially is the gift you really want to give them, then taking advantage of your tax-free gifting allowance could be a prudent strategy. You benefit from an annual gifting allowance of £3,000 in the 2023/24 tax year. You will also be able to carry forward any unused allowance from the previous tax year. So, if you haven't used last year's gifting allowance, you could make a gift of up to £6,000 now that could immediately fall outside the value of your estate. You can also combine your allowance with your spouse or civil partner. This means that you could pass on as much as £12,000 in a single tax year, if neither of you has used your allowance from the previous year.

2. Gift to someone getting married

Getting married can be an incredibly expensive affair, so your loved one may appreciate it if you gift them some money on their wedding day. In the process, you could help to reduce any potential IHT liability too. You can make gifts of up to:

£5,000 to a child
£2,500 to a grandchild or great-grandchild
£1,000 to any other person.

So, if someone you love is getting married soon, consider gifting them some money to go towards their honeymoon fund, a house deposit, or a home renovation project and reduce your IHT liability in the process.

3. Make small gifts of less than £250 that are usually tax-free

Some of your relatives may appreciate some money as a present. If that's the case, you could make as many small gifts up to £250 as you like, provided you have not used another allowance on the same person. While £250 is not a significant sum on its own, making small gifts to your children and grandchildren for Christmas or birthdays could, over time, help to reduce the size of your estate.

4. Gift regularly from your surplus income

You could also consider gifting an unlimited amount of surplus income. As long as the financial gift is made regularly and comes from income without negatively affecting your quality of life, the gifts will not be considered for IHT.

For example, you may regularly provide your loved one with some financial assistance to help them cover university costs or contribute towards some home help for an elderly parent. It's important to note that this exemption will only apply where the gifts are made from surplus income after tax.

5. Consider making potentially exempt transfers

Another way to gift is to make a "potentially exempt transfer" (PET). Using a PET allows you to transfer as much of your wealth as you wish and will fall out of your estate for IHT purposes, if you survive for seven years after making it.

Should you die within seven years of making the gift, it may become liable to IHT – but it's all in the timing.

In the first three years after you've made the gift, IHT is taxed at the standard 40% rate if you die. After three years, the rate of IHT tapers on a sliding scale year-on-year until seven years have passed and the gift usually becomes completely tax-free, as shown by the table below:

Years between gift and death	Rate of tax on the gift
3 to 4 years	32%
4 to 5 years	24%
5 to 6 years	16%
6 to 7 years	8%
7 years or more	0%

One of the biggest advantages of using a PET to gift while you're living is that the person receiving the financial boost may receive it when it's financially valuable to them. For instance, gifting to a young adult now could enable them to buy a home, while gifting on your death might mean your children are in their 50s or 60s when they receive their inheritance.

6. Leave a charitable legacy

You may wish to leave some money to a charity that's close to your heart. If so, you're not alone. Indeed, according to data from Investors Chronicle, UK adults leave around £3.9 billion to charities in their wills each year. If you choose to leave money to a charity in your will, you could reduce the amount of IHT your estate is liable for. Gifts to qualifying charities are exempt from IHT, no matter the value. Additionally, you may benefit from a lower rate of IHT (36%) if you leave at least 10% of your net estate to charity. By leaving a charitable legacy, you can help support a cause you care about and help your loved ones pay less tax on their inheritance when you die.

GET IN TOUCH

If you'd like to discuss appropriate ways you could protect your wealth from IHT and maximise what you pass on to your family and loved ones, speak to HarperLees' experienced financial planners. We use sophisticated cashflow modelling to establish how making gifts now could affect your progress towards your own financial goals, both now and in later life.

In fact, knowing the impact of any gift can give you the peace of mind and confidence to give money to your loved ones without damaging your long-term financial prospects. Please email info@harperlees.co.uk or call 01277 350560.

PLEASE NOTE

The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate estate planning, tax planning or will writing.

Remember that taper relief only applies to gifts in excess of the nil-rate band. It follows that, if no tax is payable on the transfer because it does not exceed the nil-rate band (after cumulation), there can be no relief.

Taper relief does not reduce the value transferred; it reduces the tax payable as a consequence of that transfer.

Crossword 73 Solution – Robert Burrows

1	L	2	C	3	J	4	A	W	5	E	6	P	7	E	L
	I		R		O		I		G		R				U
8	S	T	E	W	A	R	D	S	G	R	E	E	N		
	T		D		N		G				T				E
9	S	K	I		10	O	V	E	R	11	E	X	E	R	T
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12	F	R	A	C	A	S		13	W	R	I	T	H	E	
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15	R	E	C	Y	C	L	I	N	G		16	O	A	17	F
	E		O				N		I			U			L
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LOOKING FOR LATER-LIFE CARE

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Farm Produce	Deersbrook	4
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Fencing Supplies	Janus	2
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Funeral Directors	Co-Op	4
Funeral Directors	Daniel Robinson	10
Glaziers	Capital Glaziers	58
Kitchen Appliances	Wash & Tumble	40
Nails	Nails by Nicci	2
Plumbing	DPS Plumbing	52
Pub	The George Inn	12
Roofing	R Wheeler	43
Veterinary	Mercer & Hughes	10
Water Softener	Ian Holmes	43
Websites/Printing	Applied Image	58

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