

# SHALFORD

Village Magazine April 2024

*showcasing our community*

*Produced by the People for the People*



## SHALFORD

**WE ARE PROUD OF OUR  
COMMUNITY**

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

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



## Page No.

## INDEX

- 3 Thank you to John Earp for funding April's magazine
- 5 What's On
- 20 150 Years of Shalford Primary School – J Penney
- 22 Shalford Fete Weekend
- 24 Local Organisations & Charities
- 25 Bendlowe's Extra Events – Bees! – Sally Welsh
- 27 World Day of Prayer – Mike Chumbley
- 28 Shalford Village Carpet Bowls Club – Vic Goodey
- 30 Essex Bridleways Association – Mandy French
- 30 Shalford Village Hall – Playing Fields
- 31 Recycling Calendar
- 33 Sue Heavers
- 34 1<sup>st</sup> Finchingfield Scout Group – Mark Wells
- 36 Iris Dorothy Beard
- 36 Mobile Library Dates/Food Bank Collection/Post Office
- 38 Shalford Parish Council
- 43 Blooming Dahlias – The Theoretical Gardener
- 45 Colouring Page – Spring Flowers – Graham Silvester
- 46 Crossword 75 – Robert Burrows
- 48 Buzzing News from the Hives of Jillie Woolcock
- 50 Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Charity
- 52 Nature Notes – River Fish – Mac Beanland
- 53 Neighbourhood Watch News – Mel Fray
- 54 Something I Just Remembered from a Holiday–Carl Muir
- 54 Crossword 75 Solution – Robert Burrows
- 55 The Hundred Parishes Society
- 56 From The Vicarage – Rev'd/Fr Alex
- 57 Pant Valley Church Services for April 2024
- 58 Church Warden's Report – Hilary Penney
- 59 Contacts for Shalford Church of St Andrew's
- 61 Coping With Grief
- 62 Winners & Losers 2024 Spring Budget – HarperLees
- 66 Essex Police – Spring Garden Crime Prevention Part 1
- 68 Business Directory

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](mailto:shalford_village_magazine@btinternet.com)  
Shalford Village Magazine can be downloaded or viewed from [www.bendlowe.co.uk](http://www.bendlowe.co.uk)

## ***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**  
**Shalford Indoor  
Carpet Bowls Club  
playing for**  
***Diana Hulkes'***  
***Memorial Shield***  
***Vic Goodey***  
***presenting the***  
***Winner Tony Bray***  
***with the Shield***

We Send Our  
Condolences and Gratitude to

**John Earp**

Who Has So Generously Funded  
April's Shalford Village Magazine  
In Loving Memory

Of his wife  
Carmelina Earp

18th March 1960 - 25th December 2023

Rest in Peace Carmelina

Every Day You live on in your family



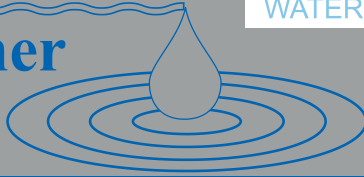
*As each tomorrow starts without you,  
though you are not there for me to see,  
I tell you how much I love you  
as much as you loved me.*

*I miss you so very much but  
do not think we are far apart.  
For every time I think of you I know  
that you are right there in my heart.*

*You will be  
forever loved and Never forgotten.*

# IAN HOLMES

## Water Softener Services



**TOUCAN**<sup>TM</sup>  
WATER SOFTENERS

**Suppliers & Installers of DOMEXTRA & TOUCAN Water Softeners**

• **Service & Repair** • **Filters** • **Taps** • **Salt Tablets**

We are a family run business, established in 1994 by Ian & Alicia Holmes.

Our Director, Ian Holmes, has been working in the  
Water Softening industry for over 30 years.

**Tel: 01371 810406 E-mail: iholmeswss@aol.com**

**[www.ianholmeswatersofteners.co.uk](http://www.ianholmeswatersofteners.co.uk)**

# DEERSBROOK FARM BUTCHERY & FARM SHOP

Tucked away down Littles lane, Shalford Green. Deersbrook is a hidden gem, offering an array of local produced food and drinks.

The full butchery is a showcase of their own award winning 100% pasture fed, dry aged beef and rare breed pork alongside local free range lamb, poultry & wild game.



**DEERSBROOK FARM**  
Littles lane  
Shalford green  
CM7 5AZ

Opening Times: Tuesday,  
Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday  
9-4pm. Friday 9-5pm

**Tel: 01371 851271**

**[www.deersbrookfarm.com](http://www.deersbrookfarm.com)**

## 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](http://www.bdac.co.uk)

**COFFEE MORNING – ST ANDREW'S CHURCH**  
**EVERY 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:Sarah8750@hotmail.co.uk)

Or

The Charity Website:  
[www.reengage.org.uk](http://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](http://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**

**NOTE: OUR AGM IS  
WEDNESDAY  
10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
ALL WELCOME**

**Please be respectful of  
our Playing Fields and  
Pick Up after your dog**

**Be considerate of others  
especially children and  
those with impaired  
vision**

### 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

**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)

### ART CLUB

Shalford Village Hall  
Every Tuesday 11.00  
to 13.00  
Tel: 07505 282374

### PILATES CLASS

Shalford Village Hall  
Every Thurs, 19.45 to  
20.45  
Tel: 07969 557845

**Meet & Greet  
every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of  
the month 11am to  
2pm**

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

WHAT'S ON

# On Board!



## FREE dementia friendly board game club at Braintree Museum

*Meet new people, catch up, have a cuppa and play games*

**Spring dates;**  
**Saturday 2, 9, 16, 23 March**  
**Saturday 6, 13, 27 April**

**11am - 1pm**

*No booking required*

*This club is aimed at those living with dementia and their companions/carers*

For more information please contact us

01376 328868

[museum.info@bdmt.org.uk](mailto:museum.info@bdmt.org.uk)

Braintree Museum, Manor Street, Braintree, CM7 3HW



# WHAT'S ON – TRACTOR RUN – 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024



The tractors will be making their way through Shalford in aid of the Air Ambulance on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May** this year so make a date in your diary to come out and support them. Above is a photo of the three organisers presenting last year's cheque in the sum of £11,662 to the crew of the air ambulance



# Scam & Fraud Aware

## EVENT

Come along for help and advice on keeping safe & secure online and spotting scams and fraud.



**Event Details:**

Fraud Awareness / Prevention Talk

**Location:**

Shalford Village Hall, Church End, Braintree, CM7 5EZ

**Date & Time:**

Saturday 20th April 2024 at 3pm (doors open at 2.30pm)

You can also find tips and advice on property security on our website: [essex.police.uk/secure](https://essex.police.uk/secure)

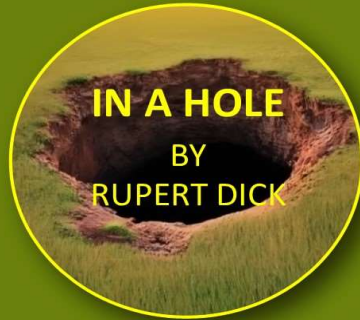




WHAT'S ON



**the  
BaRDfieLD  
pLayERS**



**Great Bardfield Town Hall, CM7 4SA  
May 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 2024  
Doors open 7.00pm**



**Tickets £8.50**

Tickets available from: [www.ticketsource.co.uk /bardfield-players](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bardfield-players)



## WHAT'S ON



# Shalford Fete Weekend

22 – 23 June 2024

**SATURDAY 22 JUNE (13.00-17.30+)**

(Village Hall & Playing Field)

**Fete:** Live music, dog show, morris dancing, bars, BBQ, food stalls, petanque, kids/adults games, dancing, vintage car/tractor displays, local organisation stalls and side shows

**SUNDAY 23 JUNE**

(Playing Field & Shalford Church)

10.00: Organised Village Walk from the Village Hall

18.00: Church service with Fete prize giving

There will be other activities throughout the weekend such as a Flower Festival in the Church.

Watch out for more details on Social Media, Village Magazine, Facebook, Parish Council/Bendlowe websites, posters and leaflet drops



#SHALFORDESSEX



## Cruise along the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation from Papermill Lock



**Wednesday 3 July 2024, 2– 4 pm**

Bendlowes have chartered the Victoria, for a 2 hour round trip from Papermill Lock, Little Baddow through the tranquil Essex countryside. Afternoon tea or a cream tea will be served on board.

Price for the trip is:

£12 for the cruise per person

And in addition either

Cream tea (2 scones, jam & cream & tea/coffee) for £9.50 per person

Or

Afternoon tea (selection of sandwiches with a selection of cakes, scone, jam & cream served with tea or coffee) for £17.50 per person

*Bookings and a deposit of £12 to be taken at Meet and Greet or by contacting Sally on 07785235000 or [sallymwelsh@outlook.com](mailto:sallymwelsh@outlook.com)  
(The boat is fully accessible but you will need to be able to get from the car park to the boat. Car park is currently £5 per car)*

# Shalford Horticultural Society 2024

@ The Village Hall, Church End, Shalford CM7 5EZ



Schedule available Online @ [www.bendlowe.co.uk](http://www.bendlowe.co.uk)  
Or call **01371 850390** for a printed copy  
<https://www.facebook.com/SHSEssex>

**WHAT'S ON – WETHERSFIELD FLORAL ART**



# **WETHERSFIELD FLORAL ART**

**NAFAS AFFILIATED**

**WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL 2024**

# **JANE ELLIS**

**NAFAS AREA DEMONSTRATOR  
AND JUDGE**

**BRINGS US**

**‘A BOX OF DELIGHTS!’**



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

**7.30 PM, GUESTS WELCOME, £6.00 ON THE DOOR**

**Julia Broad, 01371 851422/07712 674929**

**Or by e-mail : [broad.julia@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:broad.julia@yahoo.co.uk)**



## WHAT'S ON - WETHERSFIELD CLUB

(CAMRA North West Essex Club of the Year 2024)

### Centenary Weekend Celebrations

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April

**During this weekend there will be a Billiards Tournament running and a small exhibition showing the history of the Club from 1924 to the present day**

#### Friday 12 April

Open 5pm

Live Music with the Old Skool Band, 8.30 pm  
Come and party the night away as we celebrate 100 years of the Club's history

#### Saturday 13 April

Open 7.00 pm

8.00 pm, 1920/1930's themed night with live music from Dan Shute, the Singing DJ taking us from back then to right now!  
Dressing for the occasion encouraged!  
To include Adrian's legendary cocktails!

#### Sunday 14 April

2.30 pm

Family race afternoon, horses at the ready and no TV in sight!  
Children and adults' races – it has to be seen to be believed!

WHAT'S ON

# Plant Share

*& Coffee Morning*

**Sat 13 April 10:30<sub>am</sub> - 12:30<sub>pm</sub>**

**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**

# Wine Tasting

*in aid of*

Wethersfield Parish Church

Tickets £20  
to include wines  
+ a simple supper



For Tickets please transfer the ticket price to

Name	St Mary Magdalene Wethersfield
Sort Code	60-03-22
Account No.	96304227
Type of Account	Business

and email your name and number of tickets bought to  
[community@wethersfieldchurch.org.uk](mailto:community@wethersfieldchurch.org.uk)

**Wethersfield Pavilion**  
**Friday 19 April**  
**7:30pm PROMPT**

## WETHERSFIELD CHAMBER CONCERTS

[www.wethersfieldchamberconcerts.org.uk](http://www.wethersfieldchamberconcerts.org.uk)



**Sunday 14 April 2024, 4 pm.**

### **HATHOR DUO – flute and harp**

Bach, Gluck, Sibelius, Saint Saens, Ravel and others

=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=

**Sunday 28 April 2024, 4 pm.**

### **KAMMERPHILHARMONIE EUROPA**

A chamber group of 8 musicians

Vivaldi, Albinoni, Bach, Holst, Delius, Mozart

=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=

**Sunday 12 May 2024, 4 pm.**

### **CHARLOTTE SPRUIT - violin**

Bach, Pisendel, Berio

=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=0=

Ticket price: £20 (concessions £18)

Season ticket: £54 (concessions £48)

Children under 16: free

All seats unreserved

Complimentary refreshments during interval  
and after concert

VENUE: WETHERSFIELD CHURCH

Further information:

[www.wethersfieldchamberconcerts.org.uk](http://www.wethersfieldchamberconcerts.org.uk)





## WETHERSFIELD – WHAT'S ON



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

### Upcoming Shows 2024 (April - July)



**Weds 24th April**  
**SISTER ACT - £75**



**Fri 17th May**  
**MAMMA MIA! THE PARTY**  
**- £175**



**Tues 4th June**  
**OPERATION MINCEMEAT - £80**



**Sat 29th June**  
**NEWMARKET RACES - £55**



**Tues 9th July**  
**MRS DOUBTFIRE - £79**

[www.wethersfieldtheatretrips.co.uk](http://www.wethersfieldtheatretrips.co.uk)

Feel free to get in touch & remember to book your place early to avoid missing out.

T: 07975 735882

E: [wethersfieldtt@outlook.com](mailto:wethersfieldtt@outlook.com)

f: [Wethersfield Theatre Trips](#)

## WHAT'S ON

### *A DAY AT THE SEASIDE*

#### *“THE HUT” ON THE PROMENADE*

*Felixstowe IP11 7LR*

<http://fopwa.onesuffolk.net/the-hut/>

*MONDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024*



*The Hut is an extremely popular venue situated on the promenade at Felixstowe.*

*Fitted with access ramps and disabled toilets in addition to standard WCs*

*Fully-equipped kitchen and comfortable lounge*



*Stay comfortably indoors with a sea view or take a walk in the sea air and visit the sea-front gardens.*

*The Hut holds a stock of 8 wheelchairs for those finding it difficult to walk.*



- |                              |                                                    |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Price</i>                 | - £25 including Fish & Chips                       |
| <i>Pick Up/Drop Off</i>      | - Shalford Village Hall                            |
| <i>Times at Village Hall</i> | - Leave: 9.30 a.m. prompt Return: 4.30 p.m. approx |
| <i>Transport</i>             | - Coach                                            |
| <i>Contact</i>               | - Marianna 07450 251525                            |

*Bendlowe's - People Working For People*

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> June. We know the pupils will really enjoy learning about the rich history and importance of their school.

# DPS PLUMBING

Domestic Plumbing  
Including Bathroom Installation  
& Wall Tiling

**Steve**

Telephone 01371 856029

Mobile 07850 942120

E-mail: [steveatdpsltd@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steveatdpsltd@hotmail.co.uk)

**Peter**

Telephone 01371 879103

Mobile 07850 942121

E-mail: [peterjnorman@btinternet.com](mailto:peterjnorman@btinternet.com)

Registered Office: Green Ley Mill Lane Stebbing CM6 3SL

## DANIEL ROBINSON & SONS

INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

- ◆ Fully trained & qualified staff
- ◆ Prepaid funeral planning
- ◆ Lady & gentleman conductors
- ◆ Warm & welcoming funeral homes with Chapels of Rest
- ◆ Limousines, horse-drawn carriages & bespoke vehicles
- ◆ Full range of memorials in fine stone

EST.  1892

*Traditional & contemporary funerals, as unique as the lives celebrated*

*always here when you need us...*

31 High Street ~ **Halstead**  
01787 475533

7 Manor Street ~ **Braintree**  
01376 320582

Haslers Lane ~ **Great Dunmow**  
01371 874518

[www.drobinson.co.uk](http://www.drobinson.co.uk)





# SHALFORD FETE WEEKEND – JUNE 22 – 23

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**BY: ANDREW MERRYWEATHER**

*Another Fantastic Weekend to Look Forward to!*

Remember the heat of the last Fete weekend in June 2023, and what a couple of days that was! Talk about fun in the sun!

So, Mel Fray and the Fete Committee have a challenge to make the 2024 Shalford Fete even better, which they are already working hard on to deliver !

Please make sure you've got the dates Saturday June 22 & Sunday June 23 written in your calendar and you don't miss out on what we hope will be another amazing weekend!

## The Overall Timings

### Saturday June 22

- Fete 13.00 – 17.30 (and later): at the Village Hall & Playing Field

### Sunday June 23

- Village Walk 10.00 (tbc): meet at the Village Hall
- Church Service 18.00: to close the weekend with Fete prize giving



**Shalford Fete Weekend**  
22 – 23 June 2024

**SATURDAY 22 JUNE (13.00-17.30+)**  
(Village Hall & Playing Field)

Fete: Live music, dog show, morris dancing, bars, BBQ, food stalls, pétanque, kids/adults games, dancing, vintage car/tractor displays, local organisation stalls and side shows

**SUNDAY 23 JUNE**  
(Playing Field & Shalford Church)

10.00: Organised Village Walk: from the Village Hall  
18.00: Church service with Fete prize giving  
There will be other activities throughout the weekend such as a Flower Festival in the Church.

Watch out for more details on Social Media, Village Magazine, Facebook, Parish Council/Bendloxe websites, posters and leaflet drops.

#SHALFORDESSEX

## What's Being Planned?

On Saturday there will be plenty of 'to do' activities for kids and adults (including traditional games), food stalls, plenty of drink areas, the dog show with new categories, Take Cover (the popular local live band), local societies/organisations, Morris Dancing, Ukelele band, sponsored events with prizes, classic cars/tractors, police cars/fire engines, dancing demonstrations, pétanque competition and more to be added in the coming weeks!

On Sunday, the day kicks off with an organised local walk ahead of closing at St Andrew's Church with a service and Fete prize giving, plus an ongoing Flower Festival 'Floral Fantasia' within the Church through the weekend.

## What Should I Do Now?

- Get the dates in your calendar! It's before main holiday timings, so no excuses!
- If you'd like to get involved as a volunteer on the Fete day or in a support capacity, then contact Mel Fray - [melfray@hotmail.com](mailto:melfray@hotmail.com)
- Watch out for more information about what's going on and how to get involved over the coming weeks!



## Shalford Fete Service

St Andrew's Church,  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024,

6 pm



St Andrew's Church is delighted to invite everyone to a service to celebrate and close the Shalford Fete weekend. The service will provide the opportunity to give thanks for the fun and friendship of the weekend, sing some of our favourite hymns and present the winners of the competitions with their prizes. And of course, following the service, it will be our pleasure to make sure that all our hard-working organisers and participants, are rewarded with a glass of something cold and bubbly!

For more information, please contact Revd Canon Janet Nicholls  
[jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org)

## SHALFORD FETE FLORAL DISPLAY

AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

“FLORAL FANTASIA”

A flower festival titled “Floral Fantasia” is being held at St. Andrew's Church starting on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June for 2 weeks.

All are welcome to enjoy our displays in celebration of the Shalford fete. Entry is free. At present, St. Andrew's Church is open every day from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.





## 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 1<sup>ST</sup> 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](http://www.fostac.co.uk)**  
or  
<https://shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk>

## BENDLOWE'S EXTRA EVENTS – BEES! – Sally Welsh



We have decided to trial some additional activities for our supporters to complement our Meet and Greet lunch on the first Friday of each month. These will take place on the third Friday of the month, 2 pm to 4pm and will run at the Village Hall as follows:

**19 April** Film Afternoon – *film to be chosen at next Meet & Greet. Will include an intermission for refreshments.* Suggested donation £3

**17 May** Chair Pilates *Try some gentle exercise from the comfort of your chair with qualified Pilates teacher Ingrid. Suitable for all ages/abilities. Session from 2.15-3 pm followed by tea and cake.*  
Suggested donation £3

**21 June** Table/board games, coffee and cake. *Drop in at any time and join in a game or just come for a chat!*  
Suggested donation £3

**19 July** Pétanque *What a lovely way to spend a summer's afternoon on our very own terrain! Have a go at pétanque for the first time or hone your skills. Refreshments will also be served.*  
Suggested donation £3

**16 August** Craft Afternoon *Try your hand at making something crafty – all abilities catered for. Further information to follow. Children & grandchildren (under your supervision) welcome too. Tea & cake served of course!*  
Suggested donation TBC

**20 September** Bingo! *Eyes down for a fun afternoon. No big prizes but hopefully lots of laughs!*  
Suggested donation TBC

Donations of cakes welcome at all events. For more information please contact Sally on 07785235000 or [sallymwelsh@outlook.com](mailto:sallymwelsh@outlook.com) or [www.bendlowe.co.uk](http://www.bendlowe.co.uk)



# CAPITAL GLAZIERS

UK Ltd



- Double Glazed Units
- Replacement Misted Double Glazing
- Glass Cut To Size
- Table Tops
- Cat & Dog Flaps Installed
- Greenhouse Glass
- Shelves
- Splash Backs Any Colour
- Emergency Boarding
- Emergency Glazing

## SAME DAY DOUBLE GLAZED UNITS



# 01376 388511

[www.braintreeglazier.co.uk](http://www.braintreeglazier.co.uk)

[info@capitalglaziers.com](mailto:info@capitalglaziers.com)



# Bell Fencing

Equestrian Agricultural Commercial Domestic

## [www.bellfencing.com](http://www.bellfencing.com)

[enquiries@bellfencing.com](mailto:enquiries@bellfencing.com) | 07786 914823



## World Day of Prayer

By: Mike Chumbley

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, in St. Andrew’s Church, just over 30 of us joined a 24-hour world-wide chain of prayer. This is an ecumenical Christian service held every year and for many years was called the “Women’s World Day of Prayer”. As this was seen as exclusive, it is now just the “World Day of Prayer” and is inclusive of all genders. Each year, after many

years of preparation, a different nation group of women produces the order of service around a theme. This year the theme was “Peace, justice and freedom of religion”. Having been many years in preparation it was very appropriate that this year it was the turn of the Christian women of Palestine.



The theme of the service reflected on the experience of three generations, (likening it to the trunk, branch and leaf of an olive tree), and their lives since 1948. This year is known as the Nakba (Catastrophe) when 750,00 Palestinians were expelled when the state of Israel was created. Particularly the difficulties of women refugees coping with homelessness, sickness, dying and grieving.

It was a moving service and humbling to think that for 24 hours, as the world rotated on its axis, we were part of a continuous chain of thought and prayer. Next years’ service is being prepared by the women of the Cook Islands, with a theme of God’s wonderful creation. Why not come along?



*God of Unity, you bear with us all in our difficulties,*

*when we are struggling to get along with one another in love, you are willing and able to help us. Heal your church wherever we are divided.*



At the end of the service, we all shared refreshments with a Middle Eastern flavour, except we stuck to English Breakfast tea.

## SHALFORD VILLAGE CARPET BOWLS CLUB – VIC GOODEY



I am pleased to report that Shalford Village Carpet Bowls Club continues to entertain and engage people of all ages and physical abilities. Whether we go for the excitement generated by the game itself or to be with our friends, whilst we attempt to master the game we do enjoy ourselves.

Each game requires a maximum of two teams of eight players and with two carpets sixteen players may take part. We, typically, play three games per evening and are obliged to rotate the players when more than sixteen club members turn up. However, when sitting out there are normally friends to chat with.

In February 2024 we were able to arrange, organise and run the Diana Hulkes' Memorial Shield. Sponsored by the Village Hall Committee. The tournament is in the form of "Random Triples", in which the players are drawn at random, to play in teams of different players. Each player has three games and scores two points for a win and one point for a draw. At the end of the play the player holding the most points and has recorded the most shots is deemed the winner. Richard Tite and Tony Bray both posted six points by winning all three of their games. Tony (holding the Shield) is this year's Champion scoring more shots over his three games. The Shield will be suitably engraved and displayed in the Village Hall for all to see and admire. We all enjoyed ourselves and look forward to doing it again next year.

This year, the Essex County Carpet Bowls League restarted after COVID and Shalford Carpet Bowls voted to apply. We have played home and away matches against Braintree Catholics, Finchingfield, Gosfield, Helions Bumpstead, Hunters (based in Saling) and Swards End. All of whom have some pedigree in the League. Although we have not won the League, we have held our own and wrested some points from the opposition. We know that we have a lot to learn but are keen to improve and give the other clubs a run for their money. I would like to thank our opposition for their hospitality when playing the away games, their encouragement to keep playing, the banter and friendship engendered during the games.

Some of us are off to Potters for this year's Festival of Bowls organised and run by the England Carpet Bowls Association. The all-inclusive break includes the opportunity to compete in Singles, Pairs and Fours competitions. This is our first trip to Potters and we



## SHALFORD VILLAGE CARPET BOWLS CLUB – VIC GOODEY

hope to do well against some of the best carpet bowls players in the UK.

As ever we hope local people will come in to find out what we do and have a go. Remember the first two visits are free and there will always be someone to “show you the ropes”.

Once you decide to join, club fees are £2.50 per night with an annual subscription of £2.00 per year. I think you will agree that it is good value for money even if it’s just for the half time Tea/Coffee and biscuits.

We play Tuesday evenings starting around 7:30pm with some friendly games against local opposition home and away in addition to the League matches.

The Village Hall Committee is very supportive of the club and our activities. The hall hire fees helps to provide some of the revenue required to keep the Hall open. We think this is important for the Village and we hope to be invited, again, to make a presentation for the Bowls Club as part of the Parish Council Annual General Meeting along with other users of the Village Hall.

Keep a look out for the dates of the Parish Council AGM and come along for a chat and learn more about your community. Did you know that the Village Hall and Sports Field was donated to the Village by the Gold family back in 1925. This heritage needs to be used and supported by the People of Shalford.

Carpet Bowls is just one of the activities offered by Shalford Village Hall. Come and find out more.



## 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.

Our policy regarding the requirement for flu vaccinations for 2024 is that all horses attending our rides and holidays must be up-to-date with their annual flu injections (ie the last booster is no more than a year old). On top of this we will implement any extra stipulations that our host may request (ie passports check, 6 month booster etc.). We will not know what these extra requirements are (if any) until we open each ride for entries.

We will also be following the new rules which are now in place for horses having new or restarted vaccines from 01.01.24 and any equine must not attend our events within 7 days of receiving any vaccination including boosters. Please speak to your vet if you require any further information or clarification.

**BHS new hat requirements** - Please ensure that your hat meets the required standard.

### Rides

**12th May 2024.** Berwick Farm. Berwick Lane, Chipping Ongar, CM5 9PY

A mixture of bridleways, byways, headland tracks, and minor roads to provide a lovely 9 or 12 mile ride in the countryside with fine views.

**Saturday 15th June 2024.** Elgins car park. Hatfield Forest. Takeley CM22 6NE

Routes to be confirmed, but we are hoping for a long and short route. The short route will stay in the forest avoiding any road work.

*Mandy French*



**NOTE: OUR AGM IS 10<sup>TH</sup>  
APRIL ALL WELCOME**



### PLAYING FIELDS

We are so fortunate in Shalford to have such wonderful playing fields used constantly by many adults and children. Many sports are played on these fields, children use the play area and many adults park their cars or simply go for a walk

Sadly a thoughtless few who walk their dog(s) on the fields without picking up after them are threatening to spoil this wonderful amenity. Please pick up after your dog - after all, your dog may tread in the next heap and walk it into your own home. Nobody likes treading in dog excrement and it is an extremely upsetting and sickening thought that children may tread/fall into it, get it on their hands, in their mouth and perhaps rub their eyes or eat food.

To the few who do not pick up please respect this wonderful picturesque area, be thoughtful not thoughtless. Be respectful. Be courteous. But most of all **PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG.** **Be considerate of others especially children and those with impaired vision!!**

For All Your Marketing Needs...



**WEBSITES**



- Website Design
- Website Marketing
- SEO
- E-commerce

**PRINTING**



- Leaflets
- Brochures
- Booklets
- NCR Sets

**SIGNS**



- Sign Boards
- Banners
- Feather Flags
- Decals

Tel: 01376 342580  
support@appliedimage.co.uk

www.appliedimage.co.uk

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](http://www.recyclenow.com/recycling-locator)

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**

<b>OCTOBER 2023</b> 3 10 17 24 31	<b>NOVEMBER 2023</b> 7 14 21 28	<b>DECEMBER 2023</b> 5 12 19 27 WED
<b>JANUARY 2024</b> 3 9 16 23 30 WED	<b>FEBRUARY 2024</b> 6 13 20 27	<b>MARCH 2024</b> 5 12 19 26
<b>APRIL 2024</b> 3 9 16 23 30 WED	<b>MAY 2024</b> 8 14 21 29 WED	<b>JUNE 2024</b> 4 11 18 25
<b>JULY 2024</b> 2 9 16 23 30	<b>AUGUST 2024</b> 6 13 20 28 WED	<b>SEPTEMBER 2024</b> 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](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/gardenwastesubscription)

**MY COLLECTION CHECKLIST:**

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



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

# The George Inn

**OPEN ALL DAY  
EVERY DAY**

**Serving traditional Essex huffers  
filled with our delicious  
home-smoked meats**



**Opening Times: Sunday – Thursday 12-11 pm  
Friday – Saturday 12 – midnight**

**Call us: 01371 850 207**

**Find us on Facebook:**



**<https://www.facebook.co/thegeorgeinnshalford>**



## **SUE HEAVERS**

It is a year since Sue Heavers left us on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023, so we thought a few words in the magazine would be a good way to remember her.

She had a successful career working for Courtaulds, also as lead designer for Marks and Spencer lingerie and in 1990 Paul, Sue and Ben, moved into “The Thatched Cottage”, Cherry Gardens, Wethersfield.

Paul then commuted to Southend to work, and Sue set up her studio in the garden of the cottage. She joined various village organisations in Wethersfield and Shalford raising money for the Parkinson Society, Farleigh Hospice, and the churches of both parishes, joining FOSTAC when it first started.

Sue was a multi-talented woman, an accomplished designer, artist, cook, flower arranger, a marvellous hostess and organiser.

So many people have said what a wonderful friend she was, such a good listener, very generous, non-judgemental, and ready to help anyone who needed a hand.

She was a great asset to FOSTAC, as she was a stickler for our standards remaining high, no matter what!

She was a most agreeable travelling companion and “absolute” fun to be with.

She and Paul are both much missed.

(Thanks to Carol, Sue’s friend from the 60’s for much of the information)





## ***1ST FINCHINGFIELD SCOUT GROUP***

**By: Mark Wells  
Group Scout Leader**

The Group was formed in 1959 and has worked with local young people ever since. Following the Covid shut down 1st Finchingfield Scout Group is pleased to confirm that it has reopened all three sections:-

**Beavers 6-8 years**  
**Cubs 8-10.5 years**  
**Scouts 10.5-14 years**

All three sections meet weekly during term time and participate in at least two camps a year plus taking part in other adventurous activities.

Scouting is a fully diverse organisation open to all genders, races and backgrounds. We have had Girl members since 2007 in all sections. We currently have just over 40 members across the age ranges, but have in the past had nearly double that. We have a large catchment area that covers the areas around Finchingfield, Great Bardfield, Wethersfield, Shalford, Great Samford.

Scouting provides opportunities to take part in adventurous activities like camping, hiking, climbing and



kayaking, but they also get to join in every week with their friends having fun, playing games, working in a team and tackling new challenges.

We provide young people with skills for life that they can use for school, college, university, job interviews and life in general. It is the largest Youth Organisation in the UK, with almost half a million members joining in every week.

Locally we have availability in all our sections and new members are welcome to come and try-out our meetings at our Headquarters in Finchingfield.

To continue our growth, we are also looking for additional adult volunteers to assist in our sections to help organise meetings and activities. All volunteers need to be over 18 and undergo a Scout Association DBS check. Experience is not necessary as training will be provided - a lot of which is now done on line or during weekly activities. Leaders often join in with the adventurous activities and get great pleasure in teaching and developing young people.

Weekly activities are normally fun and games, cooking, team work and challenges, all sections learn First Aid, do arts and craft and work towards gaining Scout Badges. Adventurous activities like hiking, camping, climbing and kayaking are normally done during the year. Our Scout Group recently participated in a Scuba diving evening.



We have our own Facebook page which will show some of the activities that we have done. Volunteering can provide a number of benefits; it promotes confidence and responsibility and is recognised by most employers as a positive attribute. ***But above all working with young people can be fun and rewarding. If you think you might like to help, please contact us.***

**To find out more about Places for young people or about  
Volunteering opportunities for adults. Please contact us at  
[finchingfieldscouts@outlook.com](mailto:finchingfieldscouts@outlook.com)**

## Iris Dorothy Beard

11 July 1929 – 23 January 2024



Shalford Local History Association were saddened to hear of the recent passing of Iris Beard. Iris, along with her husband Brian, was an active member of the Association and she assisted with publications such as *A Walk Around Old Shalford*. A familiar figure around the village on her tricycle, she was also very involved with the Women's Institute and the Worker's Education Association. Iris lived with Brian in Shalford Green and they had one son called Simon. Originally coming from London, Iris was a very active and important member of the Shalford community.

### ECC MOBILE LIBRARY 2024

**Saturday - 6<sup>th</sup> April, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> June, 29<sup>th</sup> June,  
20<sup>th</sup> July**

**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>**

### 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.**

### POST OFFICE

**EVERY  
FRIDAY  
AFTERNOON**



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



01376 342111  
sales@januslimited.co.uk

## JANUS Contract Services Limited



### ANIMAL FEEDS

Horse Feed  
Pet Foods  
Beddings & Shavings  
Wild Bird Foods  
Bird Feeders  
Chicken Feed  
Free Local Delivery



### FENCING SUPPLIES

Field & Garden Gates  
Posts & Rails/Stakes  
Concrete Posts & Panels  
Electric Fencing  
Rabbit Netting  
Sleepers  
Delivery & Installation

Mounts Farm, Shalford Road, Rayne, CM77 6XA

[www.januslimited.co.uk](http://www.januslimited.co.uk)



## R.Wheeler

### Roofing Services

Tiling, Slating, Leadwork, Flat Roofs,  
Chimney Work, Guttering

- Free Estimates
- All Work Guaranteed
- Over 30 Years Experience
- Fully Insured
- References available

Tel: 01371 811308

Mob: 07951 349837

E-mail: [RWheelerRoofing@gmail.com](mailto:RWheelerRoofing@gmail.com)





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



## Speed reduction



Hopefully, many of you will have seen and driven past our new Vehicle Activated Sign.

Close to Stoneley Park is our first location and we are already collecting data from the passing vehicles. We have also applied for licences to be able to locate the sign near The George and in Jaspers Green.

speed limit at this location.

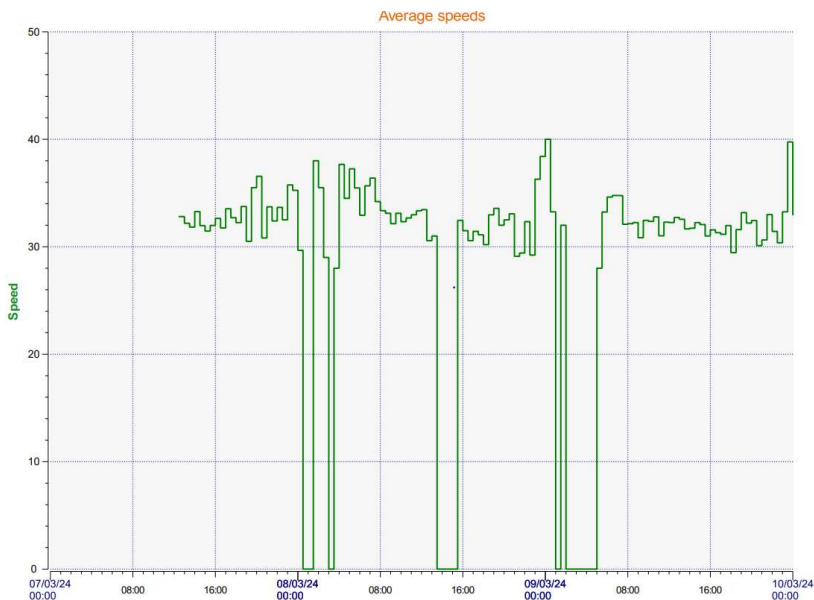
The unit will allow us to gather data on traffic volumes and speeds. Initial findings are that 95% of the traffic is travelling under the

There will be regular updates on our website, Facebook and in this magazine reporting our findings.





The graph below is an example of the data we are able to collate.



## Dog Fouling



Sadly, we have seen an increase in owners not picking up after their dogs. Dog fouling is not only deeply unpleasant, it is dangerous. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause toxocarasis – a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness or seizures.

It's no wonder dog fouling is such a problem – there are estimated to be more than 8 million dogs producing more than 1,000 tonnes of mess every day in the UK alone.

The law states that being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag is not a reasonable excuse.

Please be considerate of others and pick it up! Free bags are available across the parish, and we have many bins. Thank you to all the responsible owners out there.

## Bus 9/9A to be Replaced by DigiGo

After the Essex CC Bus Network Consultation process, they have announced that the 9/9a service through Shalford will be replaced by DigiGo from **28 July 2024**.



DigiGo is a shared service, which means you may pick up other passengers on the way to your destination. This helps reduce emissions and congestion in the operating area. The vehicles are fully electric, powered by Gridserve, with wheelchair accessible vehicles available too.



It is easy to book a DigiGo journey via the Travel Essex.

**Book** - Select your pick-up and drop-off points within the operational areas and pay on the app.

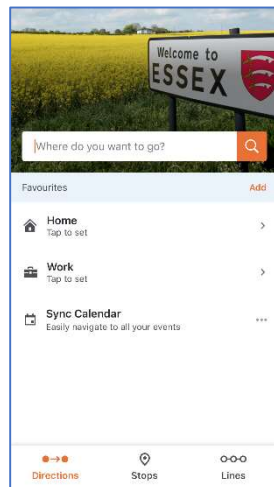
**Track** - Watch on your smartphone as your designated vehicle makes its way to you in real-time.

**Ride** - Hop on and off you go!

A journey can be booked to travel on-demand or up to 7 days in advance. All DigiGo drivers are enhanced DBS checked.

This service is made for everyone... so, whether you're a commuter, a student, a weekend tripper or a key worker, DigiGo can get you to where you're going. DigiGo operates 7 days a week, from 7am until 10pm every day. (Excluding bank holidays.)

Alternatively, there is a telephone booking option for those unable to use the app **03330 137 138** This is available Monday to Friday, 10am till 12pm (excluding bank holidays)



## Grant awarded

We are pleased to be supporting the Shalford Fete with a grant of £158.40 to provide St John Ambulance First Aid attendance at the Village Fete 2024.



It looks sure to be an enormous success, see you there!

## Parish Ranger



Lol has refitted the Shalford Green bus stop window, cleaned up some of the village signs and is keeping the village tidy of rubbish.

Please report any street signs that need a clean, Lol did a great job last month giving plenty of signs a fresh clean look but we need your help to make sure we haven't missed any! Easy to read road signs can help to make travelling safer for all.

Anything you spot that needs attention around the parish, please do report it via Fix it. The more information you can provide, photos, locations, the better. Many thanks



[fix.it@shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk](mailto:fix.it@shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk)

April's meeting will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

We look forward to seeing you there,

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



## Great Bardfield

Your **LOCAL** Estate Agent



**Valuations Sales Mortgages  
Letting & Management**

[www.grayandcompany.co.uk](http://www.grayandcompany.co.uk)  
[enquiries@grayandcompany.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@grayandcompany.co.uk)  
01371 810154



# FEETWISE

♥ PENNY JAMES ♥  
FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER

**ARE YOUR FEET LETTING YOU DOWN?**  
TREAT THEM TO MY PROFESSIONAL  
FOOT HEALTH + SPA TREATMENTS

**WWW.FEETWISE-PJ.CO.UK**  
**PENNY@FEETWISE-PJ.CO.UK**  
**07947 364 551**

WETHERSFIELD CLINIC  
1 WEST DRIVE, WETHERSFIELD,  
BRAINTREE, CM7 4BT

## coop Funeral Directors

We are here when you need us **24/7**

**Independent & Local Co-operative**  
**Award Winning Customer Service**  
**FREE Aftercare & Support Groups**  
**FREE Online Memorials & Tributes**  
**Monumental Masonry available**  
**Pre-paid Funeral Plans available**

4 George Yard (Unit 9), Braintree CM7 1RB  
☎ **01376 528408**

6 Clare Road, Braintree CM7 2PA  
☎ **01376 551951**

Call us 24/7  
or use our online  
quote builder

[www.coopfuneraldirectors.coop](http://www.coopfuneraldirectors.coop) Part of Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society Limited

# Hearn Electrical

**DOMESTIC  
COMMERCIAL  
INDUSTRIAL**

[aadan@hearnelectrical.co.uk](mailto:aadan@hearnelectrical.co.uk)  
**T: 07972 624171**

**City & Guilds**

**APPROVED  
CONTRACTOR**



## BLOOMING DAHLIAS!

Dahlias are some of the lowest maintenance, highest production cut flower and garden plants that you can grow. In a favourable year they will flower from late June to early December and are available in all shapes, sizes and colours. Dahlias are tender tubers with their root structures looking like a bunch of salamis gathered together on a central stem. In March or early April, plant

the dormant tubers in a pot large enough to accommodate the tubers without cramping and fill to the top with the central stem proud of the compost.

### Increasing your stock – Basal Cuttings

Water and place in a warm bright spot at about 16<sup>o</sup>C. When the shoots have 2 or 3 pairs of leaves or are 10-12 cm tall, cuttings may be taken by severing a shoot as close to the rootstock as possible. This is called taking basal cuttings and each cutting is a clone of its parent. Strip off the lower leaves and pinch out the growing tip to encourage root formation. Around the edge of a pot, which has been filled with gritty compost, plant the cutting firmly up to the base of its lowest leaves. Top with grit and water well keeping the cuttings at 16<sup>o</sup>C. When roots appear from the base of the pot, replot the cuttings into individual pots. As soon as the plants are established either pot on again or plant out once the possibility of frost has passed, usually late May.

### Planting in the garden

Dahlias thrive in a sunny situation and grow best in a fertile soil with moisture and good drainage. Dig a generous planting hole and cover the base with compost or manure and water well. Before planting, hammer in a stout stake to support the generous amount of flower and foliage a dahlia supplies. Plant deeply, so the top of the root ball is 5-8 cm below the soil surface which helps to support the brittle stems then back fill the hole settling the soil by giving a good soak.

### Growing on

Encourage larger flowers by removing sideshoots on a regular basis. These are the buds which come from the 15cm of stem below the top bud and can be pinched out using your fingers. If you prefer lots of smaller flowers this job can be ignored. Dahlias are greedy feeders and need a balanced liquid feed every 2 weeks to help them grow and develop good flowers. Deadhead regularly to encourage more blooms to form and to prevent grey mould. Cut the dead bloom off along with its stem to keep the plant tidy.

### Caring for Dahlias after the first frost

Once the first frost has blackened the foliage, cut the top growth down to about 7.5cm from ground level. If you prefer to leave the tubers in the ground over winter they need to be protected. Cover the ground above the tuber with a dry mulch of leaves, shredded paper, or straw, keeping in place with fleece, netting, or a plastic Victorian cloche, firmly pinned in place. Overwintering dahlia tubers need to be kept dry as opposed to warm.

If you prefer to lift your dahlias, remove tubers and brush off surplus soil, keep upside down in a cool dry place to allow water in their hollow stems to drain. Return them right side up and store in dry compost, sand, or shredded paper. Remember to label the tubers, ready for replanting and increasing your stock the following year.

Happy Gardening

The Theoretical Gardener



**graham's  
Crackers**

*Caricatures \* Pet Portraits \* Homes*

07810448747 gr8.crackers

## Nails & holistic therapies by Nicci

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

CALL 07740359146

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

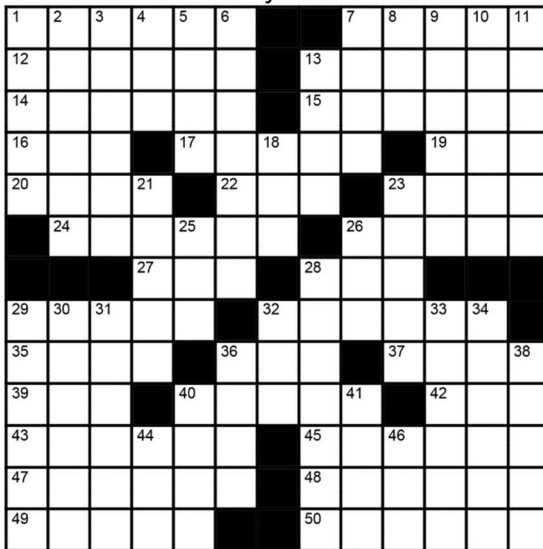


Find me on facebook @ Nails by Nicci



TIPS: Colour within the lines & choose your colours wisely. We would love to see your finished article – email to [shalford\\_village\\_magazine@btinternet.com](mailto:shalford_village_magazine@btinternet.com)

## Crossword 75 by Robert Burrows



### Across

- 1** Half the diameter (6)  
**7** Hoods (5)  
**12** Restless (6)  
**13** 12 Constellations (6)  
**14** Sailors (6)  
**15** Benefits derived from wealth (6)  
**16** Former measure of length (3)  
**17** Each day (5)  
**19** Metal can (3)  
**20** Pip (4)  
**22** Wildebeest (3)  
**23** Hereditary factor (4)  
**24** Entrance-way to tomb (6)  
**26** South African mountains (5)

### Down

- 27** Droop (3)  
**28** Put on (3)  
**29** Ascended (5)  
**32** Norwegian estuaries (6)  
**35** Etching fluid (4)  
**36** Distress signal (3)  
**37** Greek god of love (4)  
**39** Witness (3)  
**40** Coarse grass for thatching (5)  
**42** Biblical high priest (3)  
**43** Jean of "Bombshell" (6)  
**45** Village: (Anag.) Bender (6)  
**47** Wading birds (6)  
**48** Puzzle (6)  
**49** Consumed again (2,3)  
**50** Inhabitant of Yemen (6)

- 1** Strategems (5)  
**2** Anointed (6)  
**3** Trader (6)  
**4** Braggart (Colloq) (1,2)  
**5** Secondhand (4)  
**6** Jewish house of worship (7)  
**7** Snug (4)  
**8** Room within a harem (3)  
**9** Cold season (6)  
**10** Thrashing (6)  
**11** Vistas (6)  
**13** Bantu tribesman (4)  
**18** \_\_\_ and outs (3)  
**21** Gave medicine to (5)  
**23** Genus (5)  
**25** Human race (3)  
**26** Jeer (3)  
**28** Refuse to obey (7)  
**29** Bacon slice (6)  
**30** Glacial epoch (6)  
**31** Mountain chain (6)  
**32** Thick mist (3)  
**33** Harbour excavating vessel (6)  
**34** Grave (6)  
**36** Female pigs (4)  
**38** Mountain where Moses received the law (5)  
**40** Bird shelter (4)  
**41** Hawaiian goose (4)  
**44** Allow (3)  
**46** Edge (3)



Mercer & Hughes  
Independent Veterinary Surgery



Saffron Walden Veterinary Hospital | 01799 522082  
Stansted Mountfitchet | 01279 813780  
Great Dunmow | 01371 872836



Bocking Braintree  
175-179 Church Lane  
Essex CM7 5SG  
01376 743893



[www.mercerandhughes.co.uk](http://www.mercerandhughes.co.uk)



Lose  
weight and feel great!



Contact Dawn &  
Nicola to start your  
weight loss journey in  
time for summer.

Dawn 07957857031  
Nicola 07740359146  
Based in Shalford  
Green CM7

THE 1:1 DIET

by Cambridge Weight Plan®



## Buzzing News from the Hives of Jillie Woolcock



### DISASTER

Hello Shalford

Well, it is with great sorrow and not a little embarrassment that I write to you this month bee-less! Yes, bee-less. Both my colonies of bees have died. When we went into the winter



Scrubbed  
and re-  
painted for  
the next  
season

months I was optimistic about the survival of 'Hearts'. (Both hives have playing card symbols painted on them - the theory being it helps the bees find their own hive.) It was the colony I had endlessly crowed about: kind, calm, perfect for a beginner, bountiful in their production of all things bee including, most importantly, honey. I had left them a box of honey so I thought they would be good to go until late winter/early spring. Opening the hive in the winter months is best avoided but if you gently tap on the side you can usually hear the bees.

I went to check on them one morning - silence - and realised something was up. On inspection the entire colony was dead - a really sad sight to behold: 1000 upon 1000 of dead bees at the



bottom of the hive. It happens apparently but as I'd taken all the necessary steps to keep them healthy, well fed and dry it was more than a little upsetting.

The second hive: 'Diamond' was, from day one, never a success and so I had no expectations of it making it through the winter as the colony was too small. So, imagine my irritation to discover that while 'Hearts' had perished 'Diamond' was still going. But not for long. A few weeks later when I went to check they too had died.... You can imagine, how confidence in my beekeeping skills has been sorely bruised. But the nice man who supplied 'Hearts' initially was very sanguine and will, I hope, be able to supply me with a couple of new colonies in the spring. In the meantime I have washed and disinfected all the various hive components ready for the spring arrivals and like Gill mentioned in her piece last month I am about to have a go at building new boxes as I plan to have a third colony in the future so as to help prevent being in this bee-less situation again!



**Frames waiting to be made having been boiled with soda in an old fish kettle to sterilise them**

And finally, as if the poor bees don't have enough to cope with (me

**This is an invasive species a threat to our wildlife**  
**REPORT ANY SUSPECTED SIGHTING**

Not to be confused with other species:  
 Asian Hornet European Hornet Wasp

Large Turb body Large Yellow body Small Yellow body

Abdomen - black/brown segments bordered with a yellow band on the 4<sup>th</sup> segment

Body - velvety black/dark brown

Head - black with an orange /yellow face

Legs - brown upper segment with yellow lower segments

Picture by: Isle of Wight Awareness Group

**For further info & to report sightings**  
 Search your App store or use the QR code for [bit.ly/asianhornetreport](http://bit.ly/asianhornetreport)

**ASIAN HORNET WATCH**

[www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk) **THANK YOU!** Designed by @mieldelucie

included) they now have this little fella making inroads. There have been sightings along the south coast and nests destroyed. Whether we like it or not, the Asian Hornet is our next big problem and it probably won't be long before we have sightings in this area. These charmers can destroy a colony of bees in a matter of days. But their appetite isn't restricted to honey bees. Any of our pollinators are fair game. It really is a SERIOUS problem and we must all do what we can to help restrict the impact they have on our wildlife.

Please Shalford, be aware and keep your eyes peeled.

I'm sorry this hasn't been a barrel of laughs but I hope that next time we meet I shall once again have bees and that my adventures with our little buzzy friends will bring a little light relief.



# ESSEX & HERTS AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY

## YOUR LOCAL LIFE-SAVING CHARITY

Did you know that your local air ambulance service is a charity, run solely on donations? You would be forgiven for thinking that the helicopters of Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) often seen flying overhead, is part of the NHS. But this free life-saving service provided 24/7 by helicopters and rapid response vehicles (RRVs) receives limited government funding and no National Lottery grants. The charity relies on the goodwill of local people and businesses across Essex and Hertfordshire to raise enough funds to cover the significant operational costs involved in providing such a vital medical emergency service.



Last year, their critical care team treated just over 1,900 patients, operating from two strategically located airbases, Earls Colne and North Weald. Each critical care team consists of a pilot and co-pilot, a pre-hospital care doctor and a critical care paramedic who can be rushed to the scene of a medical emergency with life-saving equipment to deliver advanced clinical care, usually only available in the hospital emergency department. Many patients

have received blood transfusions from the blood carried on board the helicopters and RRVs. There are many volunteers who lend a helping hand to support the charity, and all play an important part and are very highly valued as part of the team. Jane Morton, EHAAT Volunteer Manager explains: “The core of our operations extends beyond our fleet of helicopters and advanced medical interventions, it’s the spirit of our supporters and volunteers that drive us forward. From helping in our charity shops to sorting treasures in our warehouses, picking up collection tins, giving engaging visitor centre tours and supporting events,



every hour of volunteering makes a meaningful difference. Yet, it's more than the tasks at hand – it's about making connections and lasting friendships. Whether it's sharing experiences, learning new skills, or stepping in to support community events, our volunteers not only impact our operations as a charity but inspire others and create positive change across our local communities.”

If you're looking to give back to your local life-saving charity in the most meaningful way, please visit [chaat.org/volunteer/](http://chaat.org/volunteer/) and discover how your contribution can support their mission. If you prefer to discuss how you can get involved or have any questions, EHAAT Volunteer Manager, Jane Morton, is just a call or an email away at 0345 2417 690 or [jane.morton@chaat.org](mailto:jane.morton@chaat.org).

**Embark on Sky High Family Fun!**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 12-4pm at Hatfield House, AL9 5HX**

Following a successful campaign of fundraising to ‘build their future fleet’, the charity is looking forward to welcoming its second AW169 helicopter later this spring. To help them celebrate, you are invited to their Heli-bration event on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July. Set against the stunning backdrop of Hatfield House, it will be an afternoon packed full of excitement. Meet the crew and see the new helicopter up close...even taking a peek inside! With activities for all ages, there's something for everyone to enjoy, plus don't miss the opportunity to learn life-saving CPR techniques! **To register your place at this free event visit:**

<https://chaat.org/heli-bration>

# 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	

## Cleaned by us!

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](http://www.washtumble.com)



## NATURE NOTES RIVER FISH

BY: MAC BEANLAND



Over the last couple of months the river Pant has been in flood through Shalford and the surrounding district and we have seen it rushing over the bridge in the fields below the church and as we all know lots of roads have been impassable. But as I write these notes the water has receded. It has rushed away at high speed and there is no way you could stand up against that current. It has

torn huge trees out of the river banks and brought them with it. Several have become jammed

at the bridge and had to be removed. This sort of thing has been happening all over the country, we have seen it on the news night after night. The cost of sorting the damage out has cost millions and a lot of people will never recover. Although the weather may be beyond our control, the result was that our rivers have been neglected. Not too many years ago we had the river authorities who used to do a great job of maintaining our rivers and used to remove dead trees or trim any which were in danger of becoming a problem. They also even dug some ponds at the side of the river with an inlet from the river where fish could breed or shelter when rivers



were in flood. Sadly the river authorities were replaced with the so-called Environment agencies with lots of “experts” advising the government what to do but no body doing it, so things like removing dead trees and trying to remove debris is being done by public-spirited farmers and land owners, the ones whom I call the custodians of the countryside and wildlife. But they have to be careful not to upset the so-called experts. One farmer has been taken to court for removing silt from the river which ran through his land which was blocking one arch of a bridge under a road. Fortunately the case was thrown out. Now that I have got that off my chest I can get down to writing what I intended to talk about and that is, how do the fish and little residents of the river banks survive not getting washed away and carried downstream? Well fish are very resilient, most of them find a spot where there is a deep spot



in the riverbed which causes ebbs, this means the water is swirling round which eventually enlarges the hole and also makes it deeper. There must be some big ones along the river through the fields below the church because dear old Molly told me they used to come swimming down there so a lot of fish survive there but the ones which do get washed down stream will swim back when things calm down. Fish have this remarkable instinct to return to where they were born; after all we know that salmon return to where they were born after years at sea, to lay eggs in order to start the next generation.



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS

By: Mel Fray

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR

**PLEASE PUT IN YOUR DIARY:-**

### BRAINTREE DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**TUESDAY 30TH APRIL**

MAURICE ROWSON HALL,  
GOSFIELD (where parking is so easy)  
DOORS OPEN 14:15 HRS

**Everyone is welcome.** What is great news is that our guest speaker is Essex Police Superintendent Naomi Edwards Head of Local Policing Support Unit. This is a great opportunity to hear from Superintendent Edwards and to ask any questions.

After the AGM formalities there will be refreshments when you can have a chat with Terry Fowles Essex Watch Liaison Officer and Diane Pasfield Essex Fire & Rescue Service and PC James Draper who will have tables to give information and advice. Full details will be sent nearer the time.....just make a date in your diary please.

**SPEAK UP ABOUT CRIME.** Crimestoppers 0800 555111 Tell Crimestoppers what you know without revealing your identity – by phone and online, 24/7, 365 days a year. [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org)

100% anonymous. Always **CRIMESTOPPERS:** You may wonder why there is this article in the weekly newsletter? Well, we have an agreement that we will distribute each other's information as we work together to reduce the opportunity of crime in Essex !! Clive Stewart Chairman Essex County NW Association



# SOMETHING I JUST REMEMBERED FROM A HOLIDAY

BY: CARL MUIR

It was late one Saturday. We'd had a long hot day driving up from the Costa Brava, now approaching the Bordeaux region. The countryside for miles had been completely empty of towns, villages – it was pre-motorway and I was getting increasingly anxious as there seemed nowhere to stay. Pamela sensed this and she said the children cooped up all day, had been very well behaved but were now tired hungry and thirsty. I said “Me too.”

Just then there was a solitary country inn, a promising Relais Routier place, quite big but a lot of cars around. I hoped there was one room left, but a gleaming big silver Mercedes with children in the back swept past my Vauxhall Viva into the carpark and the driver got out instantly. I got out as well and ran for the entrance just beating the big German. There was a large bar room and a matching long bar running the room's width. The startled Inn Keeper standing behind its middle stared at us two running together up to him. The back wall behind him was covered by a line of some kind of huge posters, and I said “Une grande salle pour ma famille monsieur.” He looked impassive, took the solitary key on a string hanging behind him and dangled it from his finger between us and didn't say a word.

I knew I was tired but I had to convince myself I was not dreaming. I was having visual messages from the stuff on the back wall. There we were out in the depths of the French countryside, but the whole length of the back wall was a continuous series of huge colour photographs of a rugby international match between a red jerseyed team and a blue jerseyed team – yes, it was between Wales and France, yes the photos were of the Wales National Stadium Cardiff. I recognised the Welsh players and a couple of the French, and yes it was of the recent match of only about 4 months ago, and I was at the game!

I think I shouted at the Monsieur “Je suis Gallois!”, and at the posters “J'etais la”. I was there!! He remained impassive and solemnly handed me the key. I felt sorry for the German gentleman who naturally looked dejected and walked off.

We had an excellent meal with delicious vin Bordeaux. I intended to chat to Monsieur about the match but the vin rouge sent us to bed first.

CROSSWORD 75 SOLUTION – ROBERT BURROWS																						
1	R	2	A	3	D	4	I	5	U	6	S		7	C	8	O	9	W	10	L	11	S
12	U	N	E	A	S	Y						13	Z	O	D	I	A	C				
14	S	E	A	M	E	N						15	U	S	A	N	C	E				
16	E	L	L				17	D	A	18	I	L	Y					19	T	I	N	
20	S	E	E	D						22	G	N	U					23	G	E	N	E
				24	D	R	O	M	O	S				26	B	E	R	G	S			
								27	S	A	G			28	D	O	N					
29	R	I	30	S	E	N					32	F	I	O	R	33	D	S				
35	A	C	I	D						36	S	O	S			37	E	R	O	S		38
39	S	E	E							40	C	O	G	O	N				42	E	L	I
43	H	A	R	44	L	O	W						45	B	E	R	46	D	E	N		
47	E	G	R	E	T	S							48	E	N	I	G	M	A			
49	R	E	A	T	E								50	Y	E	M	E	N	I			



## THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)

**BY: TRICIA MOXEY  
TRUSTEE**

Chilly conditions often greet us as we step outside in the early months of the year. The old saying - “When the wind is out of the East, tis never good for man nor beast” - certainly rings true. Before the advent of broadcast weather forecasts, people had to rely on checking nearby weathervanes for the wind direction. These were usually found on tall buildings such as church spires, while Audley End House has gilded weathervanes mounted on eight corner turrets. Today, a variety of designs can be seen.

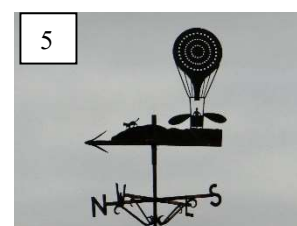
Robert McFarlane’s books of old words include about fifty that describe winds, storms or clouds. One Essex term he mentions is aigrish, used to describe a sharp cutting wind. The East Anglian word for a strong sudden gust is gussock, or twitchy for an unsteady wind.

Forecasting the weather for those who till the soil is helpful as weeks of westerly winds can bring relentless rain causing waterlogging of the ground, while cold easterly winds dry out the soil and retard growth.

Currently, the UK Meteorological Office operates over 200 official automated sites, each recording accurate measurements of temperature, wind speed and direction, and the amount of precipitation. These readings are processed by powerful computers and the results enable forecasters to make predictions about future weather conditions. Local recording sites include the Cambridge Botanic Gardens and Stansted Airport. By searching the Met Office website <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk> you can check the local weather forecast to help plan your day.

Many individuals or schools are interested in operating a personal weather station and the Met Office is keen to enhance the weather observations network; it asks those who have a personal weather station, manual or automatic, to send data to its Weather Observations Website, WOW, at <https://wow.metoffice.gov.uk>.

Photos 1 – Audley End House turrets 2 – Braughing 3 – Clavering 4 – Great Waltham\_5 – Standon\_6 - Wethersfield



**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...**

As the calendar page changes to April, the sun will have just set on Easter Day, heralding a season in church for thinking about resurrection and new life. It remains to be seen whether this will be reflected in greater amounts of sunshine or warmth, but whatever the weather does, farmers and gardeners alike across our parishes will be watching eagerly for green shoots.

Green is a colour we associate strongly with spring, being the colour that we see return to plants and trees alike. This shared colour comes from the means by which plants use energy from the Sun to provide themselves with the nourishment which they need to grow. The interesting thing is that the green light which gives them their colour is the colour which the plants don't use – it's the reflected part of the sunlight, rather than what is absorbed. We don't see what the plants keep for themselves, the part which gives them that energy for life – we see what is left.

It is so often the case that what's really important in our lives are the things which we don't see. I think we consider that particularly when life has come to an end, and we sense that the part of someone which we might call their soul now has its own existence, separate from the body. The 'invisible' part of life is often what we talk about when we address matters of faiths.

It might be tempting to think that, because this side of existence isn't visible in itself, it is somehow less 'real' than other things which we can see and touch. But it is often the case that we can see the visible imprint of that which we cannot see. Just as the green light reflecting off the spring leaves and shoots reminds us that other parts of the sunlight are going about their work of fuelling that growth, so what happens under the surface in our souls can be perceived by seeing what visible reflections scatter into the wider world. For Christians, Easter is the visible imprint of the promise of resurrection, and it gives us real hope in the promise which this great feast celebrates.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

## SERVICES FOR APRIL IN THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES

### **Sunday 7 April – Second Sunday of Easter**

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

### **Sunday 14 April – Third Sunday of Easter**

**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**

### **Sunday 21 April – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

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 28 April – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

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**

9.15am Eucharist – Great Bardfield  
(preceded by Morning Prayer at  
8.45am)

*New from 9 April... 10am Baby & Toddler Group in Great Bardfield 'St Mary's Munchkins'*

Story & song time with refreshments

#### **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**

If you have walked through the churchyard in March you'll have seen the stonemason at work on the masonry of the west window, an item of repair that has been outstanding for a few years now. Ray has cut out all the old, spalled limestone and the historic cement repairs that contributed to the deterioration of the limestone and has installed the new stones that he carved over the winter in his workshop. This should ensure the stability and integrity of the west window for a long time to come and we are fortunate to have had the services of a Master Mason to carry out the work. I recently watched a programme on TV "How to build a cathedral" and marvelled anew that, apart from modern scaffolding, the masonry methods and tools of a thousand years ago are the ones still in use today.

The repairs, including scaffolding, fees, VAT etc amount to around £21,000. We have secured grants for about 60% of the total and we hope to reclaim most or all of the VAT, eventually, from the government's Listed Places of Worship Scheme. The remainder will be covered by St Andrew's own fabric fund and a donation from FOSTAC. I cannot thank our community enough for your support of FOSTAC, not to mention other donations received; your help enables us to keep this Grade 1 listed building standing and, more or less, watertight! (But I still have a long list of Things That Need Attention). Many people believe that the government supports repairs to listed buildings. Well, apart from the aforementioned LPW Scheme, it doesn't, and even that relief is not guaranteed from year to year. Also, the Church Commissioners have been in the news lately as they consider awarding many millions to overseas recipients in reparation for slavery. I wish that they would throw a fraction of that in the direction of small, rural parishes!

However, as we come to the end of the season of Lent and look forward to Easter there is much to be thankful for, not least the generosity of the institutions and charities that provide us with grants; I'll mention them again when the west window work is completed. You will see elsewhere in this issue that the World Day of Prayer service went well and brought the issues of Christian women of Palestine today into focus. Thank you to all who attended.

The church will be decorated for Easter with lilies in memory of "all those we have loved but see no more" and I hope that you will have an opportunity to come and sit for a while and admire the creativity and love that our team of flower arrangers put into their display. I wish you all a very happy and blessed Easter.

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

#### Vicar

**Revd Dr Alex Shannon**  
The Vicarage, Finchingfield  
Tel: [01371 810309](tel:01371810309)  
Email:  
[rev.alex.shannon@gmail.com](mailto:rev.alex.shannon@gmail.com)

#### Associate Minister

**Revd Canon Janet Nicholls**  
Park House, Braintree Road,  
Shalford, CM7 5HQ  
Tel: [01371 851317](tel:01371851317)  
Email: [jnicholls@  
chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org)

#### Treasurer & Reader

**Michael Chumbley**  
Redwing, Church End,  
Shalford, CM7 5EZ  
Tel: [01371 851101](tel:01371851101)  
Email: [mike.chumbley@btinter  
net.com](mailto:mike.chumbley@btinternet.com)

#### Churchwarden

**Hilary Penney**  
Orchard View, The Chase,  
Shalford, CM7 5HH  
Tel: [01371 851762](tel:01371851762)  
Email:  
[spsware@copper12.co.uk](mailto:spsware@copper12.co.uk)

#### Safeguarding Representative

**Sarah Pilgrim**  
Fieldside  
Lombard Street  
Finchingfield  
Tel: [01371 850781](tel:01371850781)  
Email:  
[pilgrim511@btinternet.com](mailto:pilgrim511@btinternet.com)

#### Parochial Church Council Hon Secretary

**Mrs Sylvia Lester**  
Wades Garden, Ewen Bridge  
Lane, Shalford, CM7 5JA  
Tel: [01371 850211](tel:01371850211)  
Email:  
[sylvia.wades79@gmail.com](mailto:sylvia.wades79@gmail.com)

#### Ringing Master

**Roy Threadgold**  
Plumley, Braintree Road,  
Wethersfield  
Tel: [01371 850481](tel:01371850481)  
Email: [roy@boydellsdairy.co.uk](mailto:roy@boydellsdairy.co.uk)

#### Captain of the Bell Tower

**Michael Mason**  
6 Clifffield, Shalford, CM7 5HP  
Tel: [01371 850125](tel:01371850125)

#### Friends of St Andrew's Church (FOSTAC)

**Chairman Sue Morton**  
42 Hereward Way, Wethersfield  
CM7 4EG  
Tel: [01371 850626](tel:01371850626)  
Email:  
[suebeazleyend@gmail.com](mailto:suebeazleyend@gmail.com)

# Coping With Grief

## Life After Loss

*This article has been sourced from NIH News in Health <https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/>*

Losing someone you love can change your world. You miss the person who has died and want them back. You may feel sad, alone, or even angry. You might have trouble concentrating or sleeping. If you were a busy caregiver, you might feel lost when you're suddenly faced with lots of unscheduled time. These feelings are normal. There's no right or wrong way to mourn. Scientists have been studying how we process grief and are learning more about healthy ways to cope with loss.

The death of a loved one can affect how you feel, how you act, and what you think. Together, these reactions are called grief. It's a natural response to loss. Grieving doesn't mean that you have to feel certain emotions. People can grieve in very different ways.

Cultural beliefs and traditions can influence how someone expresses grief and mourns. For example, in some cultures, grief is expressed quietly and privately. In others, it can be loud and out in the open. Culture also shapes how long family members are expected to grieve.

"People often believe they should feel a certain way," says Dr. Wendy Lichtenthal, a psychologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre. "But such 'shoulds' can lead to feeling badly about feeling badly. It's hugely important to give yourself permission to grieve and allow yourself to feel whatever you are feeling. People can be quite hard on themselves and critical of what they are feeling. Be compassionate and kind to yourself."

### **Adapting to Loss**

Experts say you should let yourself grieve in your own way and time. People have unique ways of expressing emotions. For example, some might express their feelings by doing things rather than talking about them. They may feel better going on a walk or swimming, or by doing something creative like writing or painting. For others, it may be more helpful to talk with family and friends about the person who's gone, or with a counsellor.

"Though people don't often associate them with grief, laughing and smiling are also healthy responses to loss and can be protective," explains Dr. George Bonanno, who studies how people cope with loss and trauma at Columbia University. He has found that people who express flexibility in their emotions often cope well with loss and are healthier over time.

"It's not about whether you should express or suppress emotion, but that you can do this when the situation calls for it," he says. For instance, a person with emotional flexibility can show positive feelings, like joy, when sharing a happy memory of the person they lost and then switch to expressing sadness or anger when recalling more negative memories, like an argument with that person.

Grief is a process of letting go and learning to accept and live with loss. The amount of time it takes to do this varies with each person. "Usually people experience a strong acute grief reaction when someone dies and at the same time they begin the gradual process of adapting to the loss," explains psychiatrist Dr. M. Katherine Shear at Columbia University. "To adapt to a loss, a person needs to accept its finality and understand what it means to them. They also have to find a way to re-envision their life with possibilities for happiness and for honouring their enduring connection to the person who died."

Researchers like Lichtenthal have found that finding meaning in life after loss can help you adapt. Connecting to those things that are most important, including the relationship with the person who died, can help you co-exist with the pain of grief.

## Types of Grief

About 10% of bereaved people experience complicated grief, a condition that makes it harder for some people to adapt to the loss of a loved one. People with this prolonged, intense grief tend to get caught up in certain kinds of thinking, says Shear, who studies complicated grief. They may think the death did not have to happen or happen in the way that it did. They also might judge their grief—questioning if it’s too little or too much—and focus on avoiding reminders of the loss.

“It can be very discouraging to experience complicated grief, but it’s important not to be judgmental about your grief and not to let other people judge you,” Shear explains.

Shear and her research team created and tested a specialized therapy for complicated grief in three NIH-funded studies. The therapy aimed to help people identify the thoughts, feelings, and actions that can get in the way of adapting to loss. They also focused on strengthening one’s natural process of adapting to loss. The studies showed that 70% of people taking part in the therapy reported improved symptoms. In comparison, only 30% of people who received the standard treatment for depression had improved symptoms.

You may begin to feel the loss of your loved one even before their death. This is called anticipatory grief. It’s common among people who are long-term caregivers. You might feel sad about the changes you are going through and the losses you are going to have. Some studies have found that when patients, doctors, and family members directly address the prospect of death before the loss happens, it helps survivors cope after the death.

## Life Beyond Loss

NIH-funded scientists continue to study different aspects of the grieving process. They hope their findings will suggest new ways to help people cope with the loss of a loved one.

Although the death of a loved one can feel overwhelming, many people make it through the grieving process with the support of family and friends. Take care of yourself, accept offers of help from those around you, and be sure to get counselling if you need it.

“We believe grief is a form of love and it needs to find a place in your life after you lose someone close,” Shear says. “If you are having trouble moving forward in your own life, you may need professional help. Please don’t lose hope. We have some good ways to help you.”

## Wise Choices

### Coping With Loss

- **Take care of yourself.** Try to exercise regularly, eat healthy food, and get enough sleep. Avoid habits that can put your health at risk, like drinking too much alcohol or smoking.
- **Talk with caring friends.** Let others know if you need to talk.
- **Try not to make any major changes right away.** It’s a good idea to wait for a while before making big decisions, like moving or changing jobs.
- **Join a grief support group in person or online.** It might help to talk with others who are also grieving. Check with your local hospice, hospitals, religious communities, and government agencies to find a group in your area.
- **Consider professional support.** Sometimes talking to a counsellor about your grief can help.
- **Talk to your doctor.** Be sure to let your healthcare provider know if you’re having trouble with everyday activities, like getting dressed, sleeping, or fixing meals.
- **Be patient with yourself.** Mourning takes time. It’s common to feel a mix of emotions for a while.

## ALL THE WINNERS AND LOSERS FROM THE 2024 SPRING BUDGET

With one eye on a forthcoming general election, the chancellor has announced a Budget aimed at generating long-term growth, with “more investment, more jobs, better public services and lower taxes”.

While the headlines will inevitably focus on Jeremy Hunt’s cut in National Insurance contributions (NICs), many less headline-grabbing messages will affect millions of families and businesses. Read on to find out who were the winners and losers from the 2024 Spring Budget.

### WINNERS

#### *Working people*

The chancellor said that his Budget gave “much-needed help in challenging times”, adding “if we want to encourage hardwork, we should let people keep as much of their own money as possible”. Calling NICs a “penalty on work”, Hunt announced a cut in Class 1 NICs, from 10% to 8% from 6 April 2024. These cuts follow a similar reduction in the rate of NICs announced in the 2023 Autumn Statement. The chancellor says that these cuts, in conjunction with the reductions announced in the 2023 Autumn Statement, would mean the average worker on £35,400 would benefit from a tax cut of more than £900 a year. He also announced that, instead of falling from 9% to 8% as previously announced, Class self-employed NICs would fall from 9% to 6% from 6 April 2024. This is in addition to the removal of the requirement to pay Class 2 NICs from the same date. He added that 2 million self-employed people would benefit, with the average self-employed person earning £28,000 seeing a tax cut of around £650 a year. The Treasury say that this means UK taxpayers face the lowest combined basic rate of Income Tax and NICs since the introduction of the modern structure of National Insurance in 1975.

#### *Parents earning Child Benefit*

The chancellor highlighted the “unfairness” in the current Child Benefit system that means a household with two parents each earning £49,000 a year will receive Child Benefit in full, while a household earning less overall but with one parent earning more than £50,000 will see some or all of the benefit withdrawn. Consequently, he announced a plan to move the High Income Child Benefit Charge to a “household” system from April 2026.

In the interim, from April 2024, the High Income Child Benefit Charge threshold will rise from £50,000 to £60,000 while the top of the taper will rise to £80,000. This means that the full amount of Child Benefit will not be withdrawn until individuals earn £80,000 or more. The government estimates that nearly 500,000 families will gain an average of £1,260 in 2024/25 as a result.

#### *The hospitality industry and their customers*

In a move designed for “backing the Great British pub”, the chancellor has extended the freeze on alcohol duty. The freeze was due to end in August 2024 but has been extended to

February 2025, benefiting 38,000 pubs across the UK. The Treasury says that this results in 2p less duty on an average pint of beer than if the planned increase had gone ahead. This measure will cut costs for breweries, distilleries, restaurants, nightclubs, pubs, and bars.

### ***Motorists***

The chancellor argued that lots of families and sole traders depend on their cars and so wanted to continue supporting motorists. Consequently, he maintained the temporary 5p cut in fuel duty and froze the duty for another 12 months. Hunt said that this would save the average car driver £50 in 2024/25.

### ***Small businesses***

In a boost to small businesses, Hunt announced that, from 1 April 2024, the VAT threshold would increase from £85,000 to £90,000 – the first increase in seven years.

### ***ISA and National Savings and Investments savers***

To encourage investment in small British businesses, the chancellor announced his intention to launch a new “UK ISA”. This will enable savers to invest an additional £5,000 in a tax-efficient wrapper, increasing the total ISA subscription limit to £25,000 – assuming these additional monies are invested exclusively in UK firms. The government will consult on the details. The chancellor also announced that National Savings & Investments (NS&I) will launch a British Savings Bonds product that will offer consumers a guaranteed interest rate, fixed for three years. This new NS&I product will be brought on sale in early April 2024.

### ***Creative industries***

From film to theatre and music to art, UK creative excellence is unmatched. To support the UK’s creative industries, the chancellor announced a further £1 billion package of additional tax relief over the next five years, to boost inward investment and attract production companies from around the world. Hunt also confirmed £26.4 million of support for the globally renowned National Theatre.

### ***Pensioners***

The Spring Budget also committed to supporting pensioner incomes by maintaining the State Pension “triple lock”. In 2024/25, the Treasury say that the full yearly amount of the basic State Pension will be £3,700 higher, in cash terms, than in 2010.

### ***Sellers of second homes***

Capital Gains Tax (CGT) is often due when an individual sells a second home – such as a buy-to-let property or holiday home. In a move designed to increase the number of transactions, and consequently increase the revenue from the tax, the chancellor announced he would reduce the higher rate of property CGT from 28% to 24%. The lower rate will remain at 18% for any gains that fall within an individual’s basic-rate band.

## **LOSERS**

### ***Vapers and smokers***

In an attempt to discourage non-smokers from taking up vaping, and to increase revenue for the NHS, the chancellor announced a new duty on vaping. The Treasury says this will raise £445 million in 2028/29.

There will also be a one-off tobacco duty increase of £2 per 100 cigarettes or 50 grams of tobacco from 1 October 2026 to maintain the current financial incentive to choose vaping over smoking. The government say this will raise a further £170 million in 2028/29.



### ***Non-economy airline passengers***

The chancellor announced that rates for individuals flying premium economy, business, and first class and for private jet passengers will increase by forecast Retail Prices Index (RPI) and will be further adjusted for recent high inflation to help maintain their real-terms value.

### ***Some “non-doms”***

In a move borrowed from Labour, the chancellor announced the abolition of the “remittance basis” of taxation for non-UK domiciled individuals (“non-doms”) and a replacement simpler residence-based regime. Individuals who opt into the new regime will not pay UK tax on any foreign income and gains arising in their first four years of tax residence, provided they have been non-tax resident for the last 10 years. This new regime will commence on 6 April 2025 and applies UK-wide – and transitional arrangements will apply. The Treasury says that this measure will raise £2.7 billion in the year 2028/29.

### ***Owners of holiday lets***

The chancellor said that the current tax regime creates distortion, meaning there are not enough properties available for long-term rental. Consequently, he intends to abolish the Furnished Holiday Lettings (FHL) tax regime from 6 April 2025, meaning short-term and long-term lets will be treated the same for tax purposes.

### ***Anyone subject to fiscal drag***

Freezing tax thresholds increases the amount of tax that individuals and businesses pay without nominal tax rates actually increasing. Called “fiscal drag”, this results in additional revenue to the government as more taxpayers are “dragged” into paying tax, or into paying tax at a higher rate. Freezes in a range of thresholds mean that millions of individuals and businesses will face “fiscal drag” in the coming years. For example, while the increase in the threshold at which small businesses and self-employed people have to register for VAT will be welcome to many businesses, the fact that the threshold had been frozen for seven years means that more businesses will likely have been forced to register for VAT than if the threshold had risen each year in line with the cost of living. Similarly, freezes to the Income Tax Personal Allowance and thresholds mean more people will either start to pay tax, or pay more tax at a higher rate, than if these thresholds had risen in line with inflation.

### **Get in touch**

If you have any questions about whether you are a winner or a loser from the Spring Budget, and how it will affect you and your finances, please get in touch.

All information is from the **Spring Budget document** published by HM Treasury.

The content of this Spring Budget summary is intended for general information purposes only. The content should not be relied upon in its entirety and shall not be deemed to be or constitute advice.

While we believe this interpretation to be correct, it cannot be guaranteed and we cannot accept any responsibility for any action taken or refrained from being taken as a result of the information contained within this summary. Please obtain professional advice before entering into or altering any new arrangement.

Please email [info@harperlees.co.uk](mailto:info@harperlees.co.uk) or call 01277 350560.



**HarperLees**  
FINANCIAL PLANNING



Chartered

Whatever life stage you are in, knowing how much money you need to maintain your lifestyle is crucial to you feeling comfortable and in control. By prioritising you and your objectives, we take the guesswork out of what tomorrow looks like – so you can go forward with confidence, knowing your financial strategy is there to support you.



**IN RETIREMENT**

After a lifetime of work, this time is all about you. We're here to help you enjoy this next stage, without having to worry about money.

**PLANNING RETIREMENT**

With our lifestyle planning services, our expertise and our excellent track record, we can help you live the retirement you want.



**A BUSINESS OWNER**

We know that, when you run your own business, life can sometimes be too busy to focus on the future, especially in terms of your finances. We can help.

**LOOKING FOR LATER-LIFE CARE**

As we get older and our needs change, we may need to think about how we'll manage those changes financially. We can help you and you family do just that.



**HarperLees**  
FINANCIAL PLANNING

**We're Top Rated in  
2023!**

**Unit 4 Rays Farm Barns, Ingatstone, Essex, CM4 9EH**

**01277 350 560**

**info@harperlees.co.uk**

**harperlees.co.uk**



## Essex Police Crime Prevention Tactical Adviser

### Spring Garden Crime Prevention (Part 1)

Now is a good time to look around your garden; are your fences and gates in good condition do you have good quality locks on gates, will they keep the unwelcome intruder out? To the front of your property where possible keep fencing, planting, and hedges to about 1.2m in height so that an intruder is not hidden from view. Protect your rear garden with 1.8m strong fencing, close boarded wooden fencing, and gates are a good choice and this can be topped with trellis or a plastic spiky topping such as [www.defendastrap.com/](http://www.defendastrap.com/) (warning signs needed). Panels should not be able to be lifted out of the posts and avoid your fencing becoming a ladder by ensuring that the horizontal cross battens are facing into your garden.

**Defensive planting:** Security does not have to be just about locks, bolts, and spiky fence toppings; nature provides some excellent plants to keep people away. There are a number of attractive, fragrant plants of a spiky nature such as climbing roses, pyracantha, berberis and others and planting of a dense nature that can work quite well. Have a chat at your garden centre or with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) for the right plant for the right location. We actively work with the RHS at Hyde Hall and there are a number of mature examples of defensive planting that can be viewed there, and some very knowledgeable people that can advise you. **Date for your diary – 31/7/24 – 4/8/24 RHS Hyde Hall Summer Flower Show**, we hope to be there within our show garden demonstrating how plants and good garden design can help protect your home.

**New plants:** larger plants etc. can be secured to land or rootball anchors or plant through chicken wire covering the area with soil. Cement or bolt down containers to the ground. The RHS or your local garden centre or DIY store should be able to help.

**Working in the garden:** It is easy to get engrossed in what you are doing when working in the garden, if the house is empty, it is wise to close and lock the door (don't forget the key though!). Remember when you stop for a break put your tools away, and at the end of the day as well as putting tools away put the wheelbarrow and wheelie bin away too. "It will add insult to injury" if your tools are used to break into your house, a neighbour's, nearby building such as a church, or provide a climbing aid or method of carrying things away. If you are not using your lawn mower, jet washer or other, put it away out of sight from prying eyes.

**Property marking:** It may deter a thief if your property or flower pots are visibly security marked with your house number and post code or labelled if a forensic (hidden) property marking system is used such as [www.smartwater.com](http://www.smartwater.com), [www.selectadna.co.uk](http://www.selectadna.co.uk) or [www.datatag.co.uk](http://www.datatag.co.uk). You can also record the serial numbers of any tools at [www.immobilise.com/](http://www.immobilise.com/). If your property does get stolen with property marking and/or recording, there is a greater chance of you getting it back.

For suitable security products look for the Secured by Design or Sold Secure logo's and for further garden security advice see the following webpages:

[www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/](http://www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/)

[www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/crime-prevention-advice](http://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/crime-prevention-advice)

[www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com)

[www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=606](http://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=606)



# Elevate Solar

Noticed an increase  
in your energy bills?

TAKE BACK CONTROL WITH SOLAR ENERGY

SAVE  
**£250**  
WITH THIS  
LEAFLET

CURRENTLY VAT FREE

BOOK YOUR FREE CONSULTATION

[www.elevatesolar.co.uk](http://www.elevatesolar.co.uk)

01371 875222





# SHALFORD VILLAGE MAGAZINE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Service	Company	Advert Page No.
Animal Feeds	Janus	37
Electrician	Hearn Electrical	42
Estate Agents	Gray & Co	42
Farm Produce	Deersbrook	4
Foot Health	Feetwise	42
Fencing	Bell Fencing	26
Fencing Supplies	Janus	37
Financial Planners	HarperLees	65
Funeral Directors	Co-Op	42
Funeral Directors	Daniel Robinson	21
Glaziers	Capital Glaziers	26
Kitchen Appliances	Wash & Tumble	51
Lose Weight	The 1:1 Diet	47
Nails	Nails by Nicci	44
Plumbing	DPS Plumbing	21
Portraits	Graham's Crackers	44
Pub	The George Inn	32
Roofing	R Wheeler	37
Solar Energy	Elevate Solar	67
Veterinary	Mercer & Hughes	47
Water Softener	Ian Holmes	4
Websites/Printing	Applied Image	31

## Contacts

Alice Cox Editor

Tel: 07850 264518

Email: [shalford\\_village\\_magazine@btinternet.com](mailto:shalford_village_magazine@btinternet.com)

Gary Thomas Applied Image Ltd

Long Meadow, 3 Jaspers Green, Braintree, Essex, CM7 5AU

Tel: 01376 342580

Email: [support@appliedimage.co.uk](mailto:support@appliedimage.co.uk)

SHALFORD A COMMUNITY TO BE PROUD OF