

SHALFORD

Village Magazine May 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 Congratulations & Thankyou to Madeline & David
5 What's On
20 150 Years of Shalford Primary School – Mrs J. Penney
21 Local Organisations & Charities
22 Bendlowe's Extra Events – Sally Welsh
23 Meet & Greet – Alice Cox
23 ECC Mobile Library Dates/Food Bank/Post Office
24 Shalford Local History Ass – An Appeal & Thankyou
24 Essex Bridleways Association – Mandy French
26 Bendlowe's Commemorating 450 Years – Chairs – Alice Cox
28 Crossword 76 – Robert Burrows
29 Benefice Ringers' Outing – Roy Threadgold
31 The Bardfield Players – Ian Ruffle
33 Colouring Page Titania – Graham Silvester
35 Wethersfield Chamber Concerts – Marijke Curtis
36 Same Plot – More Crops – The Theoretical Gardener
37 Recycling Calendar – BDC
38 Getting to Know John Burrows – Carol Prail
41 Nature Notes – Woodpeckers – Mac Beanland
42 Buzzing News from the Hives of Gill Powell
44 Shalford Parish Council
50 Wethersfield Theatre Trips – Matt Suckling
52 From The Vicarage – Rev'd/Fr Alex
53 Pant Valley Church Services for May 2024
54 Church Warden's Report – Hilary Penney
55 Contacts for Shalford Church of St Andrew's
56 News from the Fields Association – Alan MacKenzie
60 5 Incredible Women Who Have Made History in the Finance World – HarperLees
63 When Words Are Not Enough – Sharon Barbour
66 Crossword 76 Solution – Robert Burrows
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
Shalford Village Magazine can be downloaded or viewed from 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

MEET & GREET
5th April 2024
Celebrating
Dr Peter Jones

90th
Birthday

Madeline & David Eversden

Diamond Wedding Anniversary
30th May 1964 – 30th May 2024



All young and innocent without a care in the world, both 21 years of age and living in East London, we stuck a pin in a map of the UK showing where new houses were to be built and moved to a flat in Bristol, the day after our wedding.

We managed to place a deposit of £50 on a new house being built and moved in within 12 months, with just a bed and one carpet.

Calamity! 7 years later the Concorde project contract was cancelled with 1,000's becoming unemployed in Bristol including David, and with no income and a small child, we decided a change of direction was needed and therefore approached Prudential Assurance to become a salesman, although accepted locally - no vacancies available. So then telephoned their London Head Office from a phone box and told of a vacancy in Braintree and to report the following Monday morning 9.00am - hence our arrival in Shalford in 1971.

WE SEND OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO

♥ MADELINE & DAVID ♥

ON THEIR 60TH WEDDING

ANNIVERSARY 30TH MAY 2024

**TOGETHER WITH OUR THANKS AND
GRATITUDE FOR FUNDING MAY'S EDITION OF
SHALFORD VILLAGE MAGAZINE**





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

info@capitalglaziers.com

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

WHAT'S ON

TABLE TENNIS IN FINCHINGFIELD



The group comes to the village hall on Monday evenings to play table tennis 7.30 pm for 2 hours. If you would like to have a chat beforehand, please call me on 07775 531781 - Brian

SHALFORD ROADSIDE & CHURCH FISHING LAKES



are affiliated to Billericay & District Angling Club
The river Pant in Shalford is also covered by the Club
For further details contact:-
Fishery Officer: Derrick Marriott, or www.bdac.co.uk

**COFFEE
MORNING –
ST ANDREW'S
CHURCH**
**EVERY 2nd & 4th
THURSDAY OF
THE MONTH**
**10.00 a.m. to 12.00
p.m.**



SINGING 4 ALL – LORRAINE PATIENT

This new singing group, which is held every Tuesday at Cornish Hall End Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. has become very popular. If you would like to try out this special group or join, please call 07775 531 781

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

**ENVIRONMENT
CONTACT: JAMES
TEL: 07704 070498**



SHALFORD CRAFT GROUP

Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

At 2pm onwards.

Please bring along any craft projects you are working on.

Share ideas and learn new crafts.

Chat and craft over tea/ coffee and cake.

For dates of when and where please contact.

**Caroline Ottley
07734140478**

**Marianna Marriott
07450251525**

JOIN OUR FRIENDLY GROUP OF BELL RINGERS

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

**FRIDAY at
Shalford Church,
7 p.m.**

**FOR MORE
DETAILS
CONTACT:**

**ROY
THREADGOLD**

**Tel: 01371
850481**

WALKING GROUPS

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

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

RE-ENGAGE (Formerly Contact the Elderly)

Arranging monthly get togethers over a cup of tea for the elderly



For more details:
Contact:

**Sarah Cunningham
Sarah8750@hotmail.co.uk**

Or

The Charity Website:
www.reengage.org.uk
Freephone: 0800 716543

WHAT'S ON



Booking Tel: 07732 313530
Between 9am to 5pm

www.shalfordvillagehall.co.uk

SHALFORD TENNIS CLUB

Membership
Annual Family of 4
Adult
Junior (U17 or full-
time Education
U20)

Casual Hire Cost
To book the court
and for further
information:

**Contact: 07732
313530 Between
9am to 5pm**



**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

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

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)

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

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

WHAT'S ON – TRACTOR RUN



The tractors will be making their way through Shalford in aid of the Air Ambulance on **Sunday 12th May**. We will be having our comfort break at Hubbard's farm by kind permission of the Smiths family arriving at approximately 11-47 from the Panfield direction we will leave 12-20 and head down through the Village along The Braintree Rd past the George and down Hulls Lane.

DEERSBROOK FARM

BUTCHERY & FARM SHOP

Tucked away down Little's 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
Little's lane
Shalford green
CM7 5AZ

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

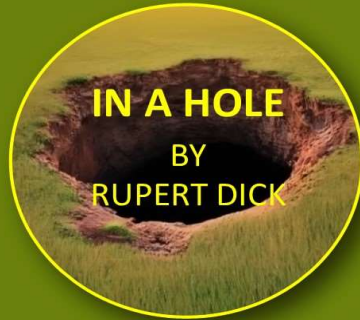
Tel: 01371 851271

www.deersbrookfarm.com

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



Present

LERNER & LOEWE'S



My Fair Lady

Book and Lyrics by **ALAN JAY LERNER** Music by **FREDERICK LOEWE**

Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's play and
Gabriel Pascal's motion picture "PYGMALION"

Original production directed and staged by Moss Hart

15th -18th May 2024

7.30 pm nightly

2.30 Saturday Matinee

Book Online: www.chelmsfordtheatre.co.uk

Ticket Office 01245 606505

noda
Be inspired by amateur theatre

 **Chelmsford
Theatre**

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk

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



WETHERSFIELD CHAMBER CONCERTS

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, Pisenadel, 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



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

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

T: 07975 735882

E: wethersfieldtt@outlook.com

f: Wethersfield Theatre Trips

SHALFORD FETE WEEKEND – JUNE 22 – 23

Darling Buds Of Fray ~ XIG Dog Walking & Animal Care ~ Simply Spaniels

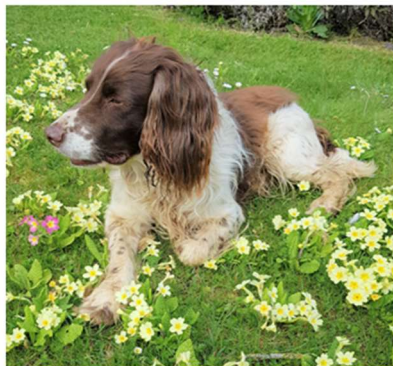
Bumbles Dog Boarding ~ Codham Park Animal Feeds ~ Sid & Ivy Dog Treats ~ Pursuit Recruitment

Honeycomb Storage ~ Stella Crautiy Fitness ~ Hornsea Animal Feeds ~ Always Raw Pet Supplies Ltd

Shalford Village Fete Dog Show Saturday 22 June 2024 1–5pm Registration from 12.45pm

First class approx. 2.25pm £1 per entry per class

Rosettes sponsored by Mandy French



Classes:

1. **Gorgeous Golden Oldie (7+ yrs)**
2. **Best Large Dog (25kg+/55cm+)**
3. **Best Small/Medium Dog (under 55cm)**
4. **Junior Handler (up to 12 yrs/ special relationship)**
5. **Waggiest Tail/Happiest Dog**
6. **Musical Sit (dog and owner)**

At Home Dog Boarding ~ Jen Jen's Pet Services ~ Skinner's Dog Food

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



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
- 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 23rd 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

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 22nd 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.





Bell Fencing

Equestrian Agricultural Commercial Domestic

www.bellfencing.com

enquiries@bellfencing.com | 07786 914823

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



Hearn Electrical

**DOMESTIC
COMMERCIAL
INDUSTRIAL**

aadan@hearnelectrical.co.uk

T: 07972 624171



City &
Guilts



Shalford Local History Association

presents

The Home Guard

A talk by Will Burrows

Wednesday 26 June 7.30pm

Shalford Village Hall



On 14 May 1940, Secretary of State for War Anthony Eden made a broadcast calling for men between the ages of 17 and 65 to enrol in a new force, the Local Defence Volunteers (LDV). By July, nearly 1.5 million men had enrolled and the name of this people's army was changed to the more inspiring Home Guard.

Will Burrows will tell us the story of the men of the Home Guard, how the force grew and developed, the training and the roles they performed and will make reference to the Shalford Home Guard. On display will be his extensive collection of military memorabilia including kit and uniforms.

Doors open 7pm. Tickets including refreshments are £3 available at the door.

WETHERSFIELD



WETHERSFIELD FLORAL ART
NAFAS AFFILIATED

WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2024

Our Good Friends

JANET AND JANE

BRING US

‘A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ...’

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

WETHERSFIELD CLUB

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE ABOVE MEETING SHALL BE CONVENED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE CLUB

SATURDAY 11 MAY 2024

8.00 PM

MEMBERS ONLY

PLEASE NOTE THE CLUB WILL OPEN AT 7.00 PM AND
DOORS WILL BE CLOSED ONCE THE MEETING HAS BEGUN

(CAMRA North West Essex Club of the Year)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2024

(due from 1 April 2024)

If you are a current Member of the Club you can renew your membership at the bar. If you wish to renew your membership by BACS then please contact the Club Secretary on broad.julia@yahoo.co.uk for details.

If you would like to join us as a Member we would be delighted to welcome you, please contact by e-mail, broad.julia@yahoo.co.uk

Single Adult membership :	£20.00
Couple/Family membership :	£35.00
Senior Citizen (66 and above) :	£10.00
Junior Members (16-18) :	£10.00

We hope to see you soon!

150 YEARS OF SHALFORD

PRIMARY SCHOOL

By: Jennifer Penney, Head of School



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

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

ALL ARE WELCOME

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

Can you help us?

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

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

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

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

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://www.facebook.com/SHSEssex>

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

FOSTAC

**Friends of St Andrew's
Church**



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

MEET & GREET

**1ST FRIDAY OF
THE MONTH**

**SHALFORD
VILLAGE HALL**

11 am to 2 pm



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

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:

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 or www.bendlowe.co.uk

MEET & GREET FRIDAY, 5TH APRIL 2024



At Meet & Greet last Friday, we all enjoyed helping **Dr Peter Jones** celebrate his **90th**

Birthday by singing Happy Birthday, downing a tipples of wine and, of course, eating cake!!

Our next Meet & Greet Is Friday, 3rd May 11.00 am to 2.00 p.m.

ECC MOBILE LIBRARY 2024

Saturday - 18th May, 8th June, 29th June, 20th 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

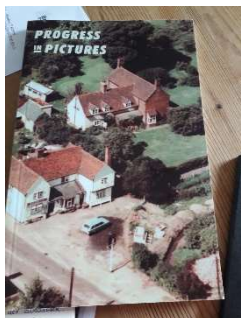
**EVERY
FRIDAY
AFTERNOON**



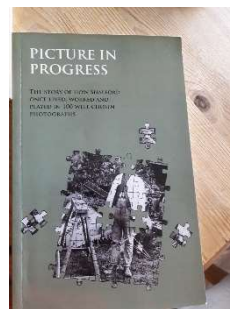
**SHALFORD
Village Hall
3.00 – 3.30 pm
The George
3.30 – 4.00 pm**

SHALFORD LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

AN APPEAL & A THANK YOU



If you're having a bit of a spring clean and come across any books or items relating specifically to the Shalford area, the History Association would be only too pleased to accept them from you. We are looking in particular for the books *Picture in Progress* and *Progress in Pictures* to help with our research. Please contact us at historyshalford@gmail.com or 07785235000 (Sally)



We would also like to say a big THANK YOU to Wayne from Bespoke Oak Signs for providing us with the wood for our set of stocks for the Shalford Village Fete.

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.

6th September to 9th September

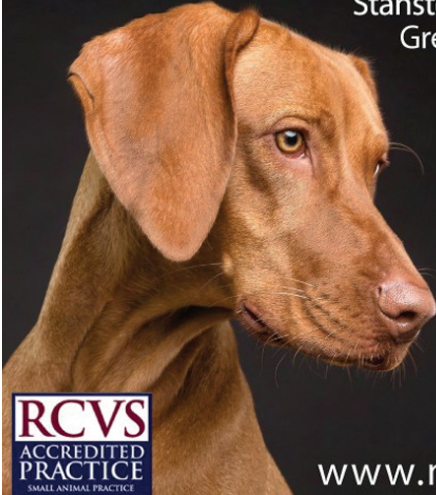
Thetford Forest members only weekend. Little Lodge Santon, Downham Brandon, Suffolk, IP270TX. This holiday is now open for members only. Staying at Little Lodge in the heart of Thetford Forest. Ride out each day on sandy tracks between the trees. This ride event cannot be entered on line and is on a first-come-first-served basis. To book and for more information please email Alison Craigmile at ebamemsec@yahoo.co.uk.

Mandy French

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



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



WILLIAM BENDLOWE CHARITY

(By: Alice Cox, Trustee &
Chairperson)

**COMMEMORATING
ITS 450TH
ANNIVERSARY**

**BY PURCHASING 20
NEW CHAIRS FOR THE
LOCAL COMMUNITY**



You may have read Bendlowe’s article in December’s magazine regarding the Charity celebrating its 450th Anniversary on 20th December 2023. The Committee has been waiting for an appropriate project to present itself to commemorate this milestone and it was suggested that new, more comfortable, chairs stored at the Village Hall, especially for Meet & Greet but also for the community as a whole would be a suitable way.

William Bendlowe’s does not have its own income. It relies on donations and fund raising activities. Meet & Greet which was started in January 2017 and is still going strong now attracting some 50+ villagers operates at just above breakeven. However, the Charity has benefitted over the years from villagers naming Bendlowe’s as a Charity to benefit from donations given at their funeral. The Committee has kept this money to one side awaiting a suitable project which would benefit the Community as a whole and now we have found it. We are convinced that everyone who has named Bendlowe’s as a charity to benefit from their funeral donations would wholeheartedly agree with our decision.

Ideally, we would have liked to have bought 45 chairs – one representing each 10 years of the 450th Anniversary but sadly our funds will not stretch to this. We can however buy 20 chairs (15 without arms and 5 with arms).

**Commemorating
Bendlowe’s
450th Anniversary
Remembering
Diana Hulkes**

It is our intention to fix a plaque to the back of each chair. The wording has yet to be agreed but it will recognise Bendlowe’s 450th Anniversary and one chair will remember each of those who kindly mentioned Bendlowe’s in their funeral arrangements as the example shown left.

WE ARE SO PLEASED that Shalford Horticultural Society stepped forward to support us by offering to buy a further 8 chairs without arms bringing the total ordered to 28.



SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

JOINS WILLIAM BENDLOWE CHARITY

**BY PURCHASING 8
NEW CHAIRS FOR THE
LOCAL COMMUNITY**

“The Shalford Horticultural Society’s committee felt it was important to support the Bendlowe’s Charity in their 450th anniversary year by encouraging and celebrating the community spirit within our village by donating the income received from the annual quiz evening to purchase further chairs.”

BENDLOWE’S CHALLENGE

IS NOW TO RAISE THE FUNDING

TO PURCHASE A FURTHER

25 CHAIRS (minimum)

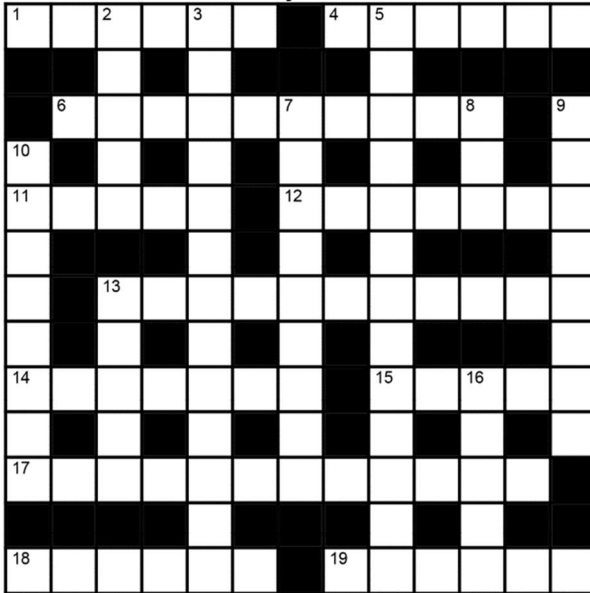
Understandably we have submitted various Grant Applications, but as at today’s date we have been unsuccessful so our “thinking caps” are firmly on.

**Remembering
A N Other
?/?/??**

It is our intention to have a plaque available if required. So should you wish to purchase a chair in remembrance of a loved-one, or if you have an idea regarding fund raising please get in touch with me, Alice, on 07850 264518 or alicecox53@btinternet.com. The current cost of a chair without arms is £72 and the cost of a chair with arms is £96 plus the cost of a plaque (yet to be established) should one be required.



Crossword 76 by Robert Burrows



12 Put Lina out for wedding (7)

13 Well-protected vehicle (8,3)

14 Syrup Pa mixes to make paper (7)

15 No time for paper hanky, children? (5)

17 School item for PE or writing? (8,4)

18 On the way! (6)

19 Explosive when sex met mix (6)

Cryptic Down

2 Use it to follow the hounds (5)

3 DoubleAnationality?(5-8)

5 Not worth thinking about (13)

7 Shining light rubs and stuns sadly (9)

8 Lie about the garland (3)

9 Idle, Sara? But could be earning wages (8)

10 Separate peacekeeping pair (8)

13 Lots of maple maybe (5)

16 Ale -what it could make you! (5)

Across

1 Monetary term (6)

4 Essex Hamlet (6)

6 Essex town (10)

11 Medical average (5)

12 Relating to a wedding (7)

13 Combat vehicle (8,3)

14 Aquatic plant (7)

15 Outcome of evidence (5)

17 School notebook (8,4)

18 Arriving (6)

19 Plastic explosive (6)

Down

2 Hound's trail (5)

3 Pertaining to two countries (5-8)

5 Not significant (13)

7 Shinings of light (9)

8 Garland (3)

9 Paid position (8)

10 Disconnect (8)

13 Abundant (5)

16 Strong beer (5)

Cryptic Across

1 Calf is hurt – to do with money (6)

4 Large drink is found in this hamlet (6)

6 Lo, egg clash found in historic Essex town (10)

11 Ron and Mo are medically average (5)

Benefice Ringers' Outing

By: Roy Threadgold

On March 16th, bellringers from our Pant Valley Churches spent a happy day ringing at villages along the Stour Valley. First stop was at Nayland where we rang the six bells, the tenor bell weighing some 15cwt.

Then on to a somewhat lighter ring of six at Higham (9 cwt), where the steep and narrow spiral staircase proved a challenge to some of us. At home, of course, we are spoilt with our ground-floor rings, with just Shalford having a very short ladder.

Lunch was in The Anchor, Stratford St Mary where we received efficient, punctual service and really enjoyable food.

The church at Stratford St Mary was our third ring of the day, once again with a spiral staircase leading to the ringing room and the 16cwt six.

The final visit was to East Bergholt, not to ring, but to watch the ringing, because the five bells here are unique in that they are rung directly by hand, rather than with a rope and wheel. They are the heaviest ring of five in the world, with the tenor of 25cwt, and housed in a cage in the churchyard. We were thrilled that the Bergholt ringers turned out to give us a demonstration of their frightening-looking, and very noisy, skill.



Gt Bardfield, Wethersfield, Finchingfield and Shalford ringers at East Bergholt bell “cage”.



Live well, *your* way

Start your home care journey with Home Instead® today.

- ♥ Home Help
- Personal Care
- ♣ Companionship
- ◆ Dementia Care

01376 319100

mike.sheehy@Braintree.HomeInstead.co.uk

Each Home Instead franchise is independently owned and operated. Copyright © Home Instead® 2021.

DPS PLUMBING

**Domestic Plumbing
Including Bathroom Installation
& Wall Tiling**

Steve

Telephone 01371 856029

Mobile 07850 942120

E-mail: steveatdpsltd@hotmail.co.uk

Peter

Telephone 01371 879103

Mobile 07850 942121

E-mail: peterjnorman@btinternet.com

Registered Office: Green Ley Mill Lane Stebbing CM6 3SL



tHe BaRDfieLD pLayeRS

BY: IAN RUFFLE (Chairman)

Email: ian.ruffle@gmail.com

The earliest reference that I am aware of to the Players, is from some old programmes given to me by the late Michael Hitchcock from the 1950's, and there is a reference to there being an 'am-dram' group in Finchingfield as well, although it may well have been going for much longer. How active it was between the 1950's and 1991 is unclear to me, and it may well have had a lull in its activity. In 1991 Trish Williamson and her husband John decided to revitalise the group from scratch. They were able to get several others interested and began putting on productions again.

We moved to Bardfield in 1992, and being keen to support local events, bought tickets to a couple of their earlier efforts, namely 'The Farndale Avenue Townswomen's Guild' production of 'Macbeth', and 'the Understanding' - These productions will never be forgotten by 9 people in the audience!

I was asked to join by Trish in 1994 because (and I quote), "we need a small male part".

Since 2001 we have moved on from the early reincarnation of the Players, and if I say so myself, we put on really good shows, having won many awards. They are of course entirely dependent on the people who give up their time and talent, to put the plays on. We are still very much an amateur group, but we try very hard not to behave like amateurs. Having said this we like to have as much fun as we can, otherwise there is little point!



We put on two shows a year, personnel and pandemics allowing, our next being a comedy/farce, 'In a hole' to be performed on 2nd, 3rd and 4th May at our home, the Town Hall in Gt Bardfield.

I hope that you can come. If we get it right, you will have a lovely time. If we get it wrong – you will still have a lovely time!!



Elevate Solar

Noticed an increase in your energy bills?

TAKE BACK CONTROL WITH SOLAR ENERGY

SAVE
£250
WITH THIS
LEAFLET

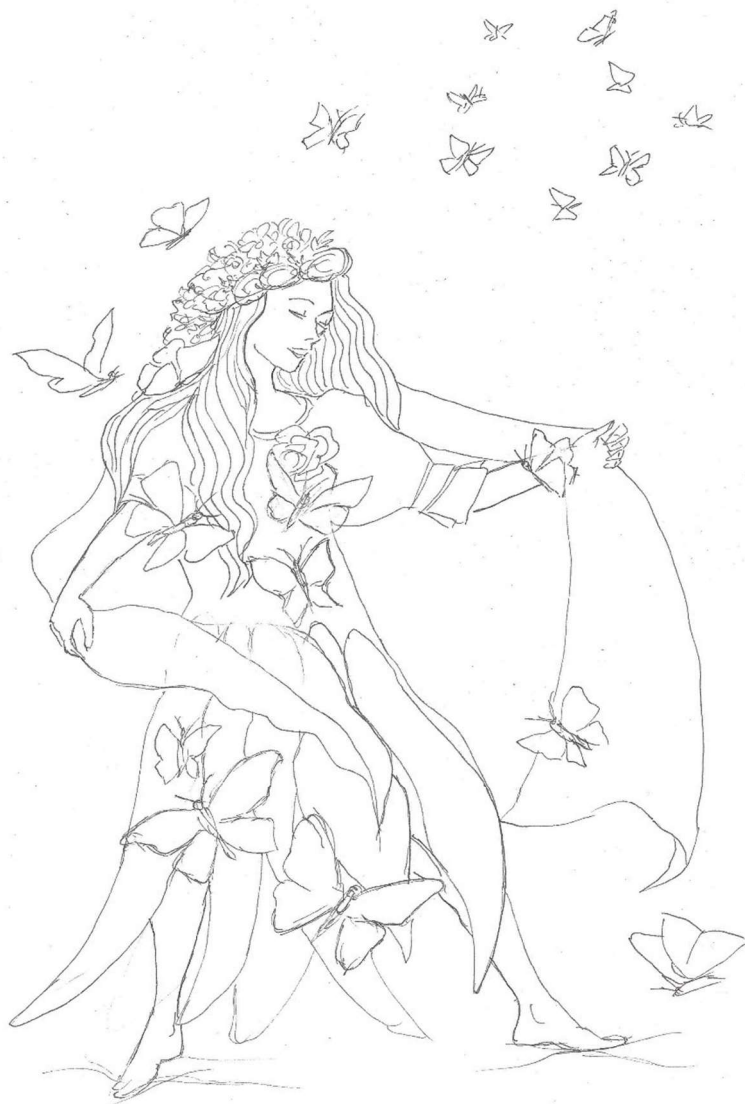
CURRENTLY VAT FREE

BOOK YOUR FREE CONSULTATION

www.elevatesolar.co.uk

01371 875222





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

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>



WETHERSFIELD CHAMBER CONCERTS

By: Marijke Curtis

These concerts have now been going since 2012, with, of course, an interruption during the covid years. The idea behind these concerts is to introduce outstanding young musicians, most of whom are still studying, but have already embarked on a career. It is so important for these young musicians to play in a relatively small environment, but with a sympathetic and appreciative audience. And that is certainly what we have.

For 20 years I ran the Thaxted Festival and moved to Wethersfield in 2010. One day I went into the church with a friend and we wanted to see what the acoustics were like. So we clapped our hands and spoke from one end of the church to the other end and found the acoustics very good. This made me want to start organising some concerts again, bearing in mind the above idea of young musicians. I had worked for many years with an organisation called YCAT (Young Concert Artists Trust) and apart from the selections from their own auditions, they also look after the winner and finalists of the BBC Young Musician of the Year. This takes place every other year and I have been able to make very good use of that. Some of the outstanding young musicians who have performed for us have already become very well-known and some even world famous. We can say “well, you heard them here first”. Examples : Martin James Bartlett, piano, who has now been here three times. Sheku Kanneh-Mason, cello. Isata Kanneh-Mason, piano, twice. Jess Gillam, saxophone. Ben Goldscheider, horn.

It is particularly encouraging to see that there are still many young people interested in making music, and not only “pop” or “rock”. The music schools in London (i.e. Royal Academy, Royal College, Guildhall, etc.) attract many pupils from overseas. It is such a shame that music education is neglected in many schools and it is infuriating to hear classical music being called “elitist”. One of the meanings of “elite” is “the best” and don’t we all want to hear that?

The frequency of the concerts is 3 per year, normally 2 of which are in April and 1 in early May. This year the dates are 14 and 28 April and 12 May. The first on 14 April is a flute and harp recital – a very dreamy combination. The second one on 28 April is a group from Germany, something which we have not done before. However, they contacted us and were very keen to perform – so let’s give it a go. The last one on 12 May is a single violinist, still very young, but an incredible talent. Have a look at our website for more details:

www.wethersfieldchamberconcerts.org.uk.

Later this year there will be another BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition and I am waiting to see what the outcome of that will be before making decisions for 2025. These concerts are not profit making – all musicians are paid a normal fee and so is the church. The attraction is the quality of the performers, the ambience, and afterwards you can stay for a glass of wine and talk to the musicians. All performances take place on a Sunday afternoon at 4pm. We look forward to welcoming you!



SAME PLOT MORE CROPS

If managed well, a small vegetable plot can be just as productive as a larger one. You may think that you do not have space for hungry crops which need to be in the ground for a long time. However, you just need to use your available space more creatively.

The trick is to combine crops with contrasting growing needs and even sowing two different crops in the same drill. Growing intensely like this has several advantages; (a) it gives you more harvests, and (b) you will save time, because beds overflowing with bounty have less room for weeds and smaller gaps between plants means less water evaporation.

Intensive Cropping

The key to getting more harvests from your plot is not to cram crops on top of each other which would be counterproductive as they would struggle to get enough light and water. Instead, you need to combine vegetables that will not compete, because they grow at different rates or in different ways.

Most vegetables offer scope for bonus harvests with the exceptions of climbing beans and courgettes. These plants need bare soil around them so they can absorb enough nutrients and water to crop well.

For intensive cropping to succeed, your soil must be in good condition by mulching thickly with organic matter before sowing in Spring and again in Winter. Keep notes of what and where you have sown so that you can maintain a crop rotation regime.

One Drill, Two Crops

There is a long wait between sowing and harvesting parsnips and carrots. However, this provides the chance to sow quick growing radishes in the same drill at the same time. Once the radishes mature, they can be pulled out of the ground easily without disturbing the slower crop. Sow one radish seed every 3cm, sow other seeds as normal spacing and thin out after cropping the radish.

In-between Rows

Brassicas, broad beans and celeriac grow slowly and must be spaced widely apart. The space between the rows can be used to grow small fast maturing crops that will not compete, so, add young plants or sow seeds between the rows. Try coriander between broad beans, lettuce between brassicas and spring onions between celeriac. You can also grow sweetcorn between squash plants as their light and moisture needs are complimentary.

Young between Mature

New sowings and young plants need little light and water as do crops which are nearly ready to harvest. Therefore, it makes sense to put new crops in shortly before pulling up

the mature ones. Between rows of garlic in May sow carrots, beetroot, chard or lettuce. Between onions and shallots in July plant kale, broccoli and salads.

Out with the Old, in with the New

Each day of growing in Summer equates to a week in October, so get crops in quickly to make full use of valuable summer growing time.

As soon as you clear an old crop such as early potatoes, early peas, broad beans, carrots, beetroot or salads, plant a new one in its place.

For the second crop, choose vegetables that mature before the frosts or which will grow over winter. To save time and to help hold in moisture, simply clear the surface debris but leave the roots of the old crop in place to feed soil organisms. Then plant broccoli, kale, beetroot, leeks, chard or dwarf French beans.

Happy Growing

The Theoretical Gardener

2023/2024

Recycling does not end at your kerbside collection

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

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

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

Did you know

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

RECYCLING SACKS

My Recycling Calendar

TUESDAY ROUTE 2

<p>OCTOBER 2023</p> <p>3 10 17 24 31</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 2023</p> <p>7 14 21 28</p>	<p>DECEMBER 2023</p> <p>5 12 19 27</p> <p style="font-size: small;">WED</p>
<p>JANUARY 2024</p> <p>3 9 16 23 30</p> <p style="font-size: small;">WED</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 2024</p> <p>6 13 20 27</p>	<p>MARCH 2024</p> <p>5 12 19 26</p>
<p>APRIL 2024</p> <p>3 9 16 23 30</p> <p style="font-size: small;">WED</p>	<p>MAY 2024</p> <p>8 14 21 29</p> <p style="font-size: small;">WED</p>	<p>JUNE 2024</p> <p>4 11 18 25</p>
<p>JULY 2024</p> <p>2 9 16 23 30</p>	<p>AUGUST 2024</p> <p>6 13 20 28</p> <p style="font-size: small;">WED</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 2024</p> <p>3 10 17 24</p>

■ 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

GREEN BIN

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

FOOD BIN

MY COLLECTION CHECKLIST:

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

Did you know

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

Correct at time of publication 16.8.2023

GETTING TO KNOW

JOHN BURROWS

BY: CAROL PRAILL



John – A guest at the Annual dinner of the Essex Regiment 1996

John was born in Lancaster in 1935 into a Military family.

His father and grandfather were in the King's Own Royal Regiment so it was natural for John to be commissioned into the King's Own Royal Regiment as well.

During National Service, John served in Kenya having been seconded to the King's African Rifles during the Mau rebellion between 1953 and 1955. He guarded areas of Aberdare forest and Hunting Lodges in the area.

After National Service, John joined Glaxo Laboratories working on antibiotics such as penicillin but his experience in Kenya made him think about a career change and contemplated joining the Colonial Police Service. The 'wind of change' was blowing through Africa and John was advised to gain experience in a British Police Force while considering an overseas appointment.

John joined the Police in 1958 and was a Constable in Paddington for four years. In those days, in order to rise through the ranks, you had to pass exams. John

was awarded a scholarship to University College London where he studied law and obtained an LLB Honours Degree. John became an Inspector in 1967 and quickly moved up the ranks becoming Chief Superintendent in 1975 working at Saville Row Police Station in the West End of London.

To further his career, John needed to work outside the Metropolitan Police, so applied for a job in Merseyside and became Assistant Chief Constable and subsequently Deputy Chief Constable in 1983. In 1987 two vacancies occurred as Chief Constable, one in Cumbria and one in Essex. John became Chief Constable of Essex having accepted this position first but found out later that he would have been offered the Cumbrian position.

It was a situation that caused a "what if?" moment but John and Ruth were very happy and felt that they had made the right decision to move to Essex and Shalford. They were soon

involved in village life and became members of St Andrew's Church. One of their early memories of that time is the American servicemen visiting The Fox pub nearby.

As Chief Constable, John travelled extensively giving lectures in New York, Mexico, Swaziland, Venezuela, Brazil, China as well as France and Germany. John was responsible for the launch of the first Essex Police website in 1998 created to give members of the public the opportunity to find out about the police.

John received an OBE from the Queen in 1987 and six years later received a CBE in 1993 and the Queen's Police Medal in 1998. In 1994 John was awarded an Honorary degree of Master of Arts by Writtle University College for his work in fostering education and training in the Police service as well as promoting training between Essex Police and the University.

John somehow found the time to be actively involved in many organisations whilst still working but also when he retired. John

became a volunteer for St John Ambulance and after fifteen years was appointed Commander of the Order of St John in 2002. He helped to raise funds for Moulsham training centre for people with learning difficulties in Chelmsford including the purchase of a people carrier. He was also involved with Essex Community Foundation which provides grants to charities and voluntary organisations in Essex. John is a member of SSAFA which is a charity that supports the armed forces, their families, veterans, disability support, mental well-being and when people leave the armed forces.

John and his wife became active members of St Andrew's Church and John became Church Warden. He is currently a member of FOSTAC and a member of the Benefice Council group which seeks to unify the six Pant Valley churches.

John loves travelling and when he retired he travelled extensively with his wife Ruth, enjoying holidays in Syria, India, USA, Mexico, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Canada plus the UK. John has many happy memories holidaying in Arizona with good friends for many years. Many people have enjoyed John's recollections at FOSTAC evenings.

He also enjoys visits with his three children and grandchildren.

I'm sure we would all agree that John has had a marvellous, busy and rewarding life and wish him well.



John being commissioned into the
King's Own Royal Regiment
1953.



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



Great Bardfield

Your **LOCAL** Estate Agent



Valuations Sales Mortgages
Letting & Management

www.grayandcompany.co.uk
enquiries@grayandcompany.co.uk
01371 810154



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



Chelmsford Star Co-op Funeral Directors
Best Funeral Services Provider - Essex



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 part of Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society Limited



NATURE NOTES - WOODPECKERS

BY: MAC BEANLAND

There are three breeding species of woodpeckers native to this country the Green, the Greater Spotted, and the Lesser Spotted. I am very fortunate as I have two of them as visitors in my garden, both the Green Woodpecker and the Greater Spotted. They are by no means residents, they just pop in from time to time to check up and to see if I am okay and have a feed.

The Greater Spotted goes on the nut feeders eating peanuts whereas the Green is a ground feeder, feeding on ants, other small insects and vegetation. All woodpeckers are, of course,

woodland species and I am very fortunate in so far as I have a strip of woodland just over the road about 75 yards from my kitchen window. I find the names of the two spotted species very confusing (but it doesn't take much to confuse me these days) The lesser and greater is a reference to the size of the bird but it seems to imply that it is a reference to the spots or flecks of white on the plumage. So let's put it straight the Greater Spotted is the size of a thrush and the Lesser Spotted is the size of a sparrow. The Greater Spotted is all black on its back and the top side of its wings, but the Lesser Spotted has lots of white specks on both wings and back. Both have crimson vents and the males of both have crimson naps or caps.

I have never had the privilege of seeing a Lesser Spotted woodpecker in the flesh. The thing which prompted me to write about the woodpeckers this month is the fact that I had three in my garden at the same time one morning this week, two Greater Spotted females feeding on my nut feeders at the same time, with a Green one on the grass. The Green one is very wary if I move a muscle, it's off but the other two are quite brazen, almost tame until I reach for my phone. I think they are camera shy. One thing that amuses me about them is the way they use their strong thick tails as a perch when they are feeding. It is a well-documented woodpecker feature, they do it all the time. The tails of most birds are made up of a few nice straight feathers which are used to steady the bird in flight and they can present quite a problem when damaged. But not so the woodpeckers, they have a great wedge of feathers and they are used extensively as a means of sitting comfortably whilst working away excavating holes in dead trees or trees with dead boughs. They only excavate dead or decaying wood to feed on the insect and larvae that live in decaying wood. There is a well-documented case of a Vicar complaining that a woodpecker was damaging his church but when a joiner climbed up to look at the damaged woodwork he found it was riddled with death watch beetle and he was able to stop it from spreading, so the woodpecker did them a big favour. They also nest in holes that they have excavated the only nesting materials are small wood chips. Another interesting feature of woodpeckers is their mating call once heard never forgotten, best described as a series of rapid clicks. It is quite loud and it carries a long way. They find a loose flap of bark and bang it against the tree using their beaks at the same time having their voice box full of air which helps to create an echo effect.





Buzzing News from the Hives of Gill Powell



The first flush of Spring flowers has awakened and fed many different insects in the garden. Now that they have begun to go over the blossom has come into its own, filling the trees and hedges with nature's own confetti.



As the weather warms the bees have become more active, going on longer trips returning with pollen laden legs. There are several fields of rape nearby and I expect that is where they are returning from.



Once the bees find a good source of forage they will return to the hive and let the rest of the bees know where the food is to be found, once inside the hive she will do what is called a 'Waggle Dance' wagging her rear end describes the angle from the sun the other bees should take to find the same patch of food.



As you may remember from last time, I intend to re-house the bees in new hives this year, it is essential to do this every few years to illuminate bugs and germs that accumulate over time.

This process is called a Bailey Frame Change, which we started

last week when there was a break in the weather.



After removing the winter covers it was good to look to see how things were going, each one was in a different stage of development but all looked ok. We began by removing all the old parts of the hive leaving just the old brood box which had the bees and queen in. We then added a new brood box on top of the old one, on each hive finishing with a feeder of sugar syrup to help the bees draw out the new wax, this should happen within the next few weeks.

Hopefully by then the workers will have moved up into the new brood box and begun to draw out the wax in preparation for the queen to move in and begin to lay her eggs.



By the time I write again the bees should be fully operational in their new hives.

The weather this year has not been to the bees liking but hopefully it



will soon improve because they will not fly in the rain or until the temperature is above 10 - 12 degrees.

Talking to a friend the other day, she mentioned her lawn was full of dandelions and that her husband had just acquired a great tool for removing every last one! Well you can imagine my heart sank and I just had to tell her that she was removing a very important early food source for, not only bees but many other pollinators. I must admit, I used to feel the same way about lawn flowers until bees came into my life. I do draw the line at thistles growing in the grass but apart from that everything else is welcome.



Since writing last time, we have been fortunate to have had a tour of Northern India.

When visiting a new place I am always on the look-out for signs of bees. Whilst we were in Udaipur visiting a royal palace I noticed a huge cluster of bees on a comb living under enormous eaves.



Also whilst driving through the countryside we noticed a field full of hives unfortunately I didn't get to my phone in time! The countryside in India is intensively farmed normally giving two or more crops a year. From this, it is easy to see how India manages to feed itself.

Fun fact: *There are many different types of honey but there is one that comes from the Himalayas near the border between India and Nepal. The bees feed exclusively on Rhododendron flowers which grow high in the mountains. The bees build their nests on vertical cliff faces in the mountains, the collector must abseil down the cliff using a narrow rope ladder to hack out the comb on the cliff face, while being attacked by swarms of, what is, the largest honey bee on earth. This honey is prized for its medicinal properties and its hallucinogenic effects. However the limit of two teaspoons full is there for a reason as an over indulgence will cause an untimely death.*

It is called 'mad honey'.



Shalford Parish Council - Essex

For all general comments or queries please email: clerk@shalford-essex-pc

Shalford Annual Parish Meeting

***Wednesday 22nd of May 24
Starting at 7.00pm at
Shalford Village Hall.***

***Presentations from
Local Groups & Societies***

***Followed by Soft Drinks,
Wine and Nibbles***

***All residents of the Parish of
Shalford welcome***

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Save the date for our Annual Parish Meeting. There will be presentations from local groups and societies followed by soft drinks, wine, and nibbles.

All residents are welcome.

COUNCIL TAX RISE

The Council takes its responsibility with regards to precept setting very seriously as well as the implications on Council Tax rates for parishioners. The decision to increase this year was not taken lightly and was unanimously supported by all Councillors.

On average (Band D) the increase is 23p per week, £12.03 per year. This is to cover increasing costs and to continue to provide the services our parishioners tell us that they want which include projects to help reduce speeding,

more accessible footpaths, the return of verge/grass cutting and helping to fund the Parish Magazine amongst many other things.

In respect of the Neighbourhood Plan this is still in its infancy and is initially supported by a grant from Braintree District Council. We do however have to plan for the possibility of any shortfalls in the later stages of the plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan is not owned by the Parish Council and will be entirely moulded by the input of parishioners. It is YOUR plan for your village. More events will be being held over the coming months to understand your views and aspirations for your village. We will then produce a plan that will be put to a referendum that you will be able to vote on. Please do get involved and look out for more information coming soon. Thank you for your ongoing support. Any questions or concerns please email the clerk on: clerk@shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

As the weather improves, the grass will grow, so please do report any overgrown footpaths or routes and we can get them addressed. Also on your travels, if you see any missing way markers or signs, do let us know.





Lol continues to work hard to fix as many of the issues you raise as possible. The more you report, the more we can achieve. He can't however deal with anything highways-related and we would encourage you to report anything like this to Essex County Council at www.essexhighways.org/tell-us where you can also track the progress of any reported issues.



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

Tell us about road or highway issues

We carry our regular inspections of roads and pavements on our network, but we know that issues may come up between these inspections. These could be potholes or other road surface issues, damaged street lights, overgrown trees or missing lit bollards.

You can tell us about maintenance issues online by using our highways reporting tool.

If you think there's a risk to public safety, do not report it online, please call us immediately on 0345 603 7631 or if you have hearing problems you can use our text phone service on 0345 758 5592.

Issues we don't look after

You need to contact:

- your [local council](#) for abandoned vehicles, street cleaning, street name plates and road spillages
- [National Highways](#) using [their reporting tool](#), info@nationalhighways.co.uk or 0300 123 5000 for issues on A12, A120 between the M11 junction and Parkstone roundabout in Harwich, M11 and M25
- [Southend-on-Sea City Council](#) and [Thurrock Council](#) for issues in those areas
- [CountyRoute](#) for issues on the A130, between A12 (Chelmsford) and A1245 (Fairgreen Interchange)
- [Parking Partners](#) about paying parking fines and parking enforcement in Essex
- residents of each private road or landowners for private roads or roads on private land



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

VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN UPDATE

Back on the 6th March the Parish Council activated their new VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign). Following requests from many residents to address speeding issues we applied for several licences to put up VAS around the parish and purchased a VAS unit.

We had an existing site approved by Stoneley Park and applied for several more, of which four were approved. These are:

1. Outside the George looking towards Wethersfield direction
2. At the Barryfields junction looking towards Churchend direction
3. Jaspers Green at each end looking at traffic coming into the village.

We did look at other areas of the Parish, however, the siting did not meet either Essex Highways' requirements or the sight lines of the VAS unit so for these areas we will use the Community Speed Watch to tackle the issue.

We have been notified by Essex Highways that the four sites above are approved but are still waiting for the licences to be finalised.

The signs will be on removeable poles, so when the VAS is sited somewhere else there will be no poles cluttering the Parish.

Regarding the Speed Watch, we have an existing membership we will use and need to upgrade the Speed Gun. We also have the support of the local Community Police. We plan

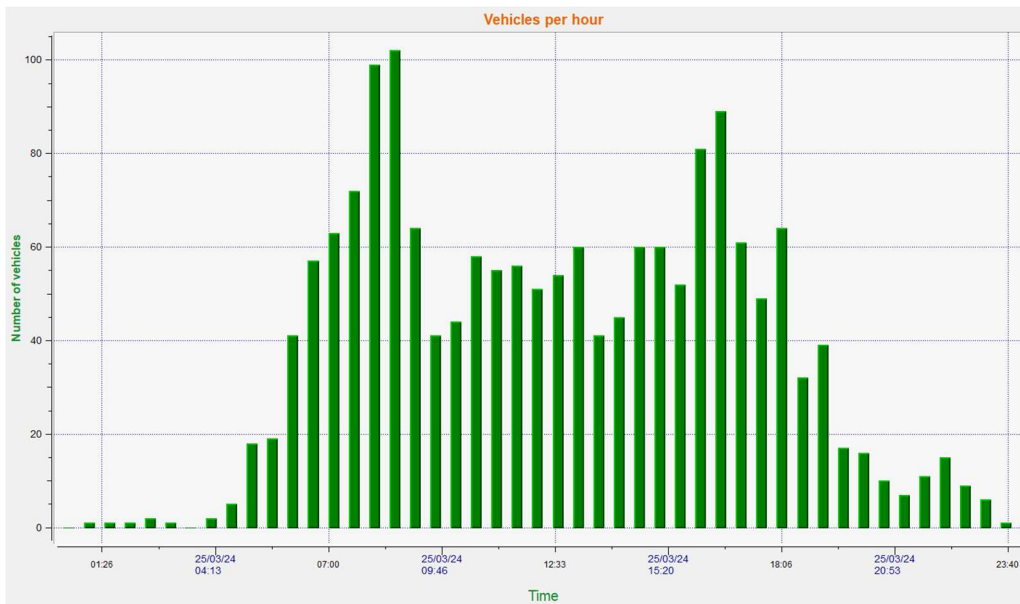
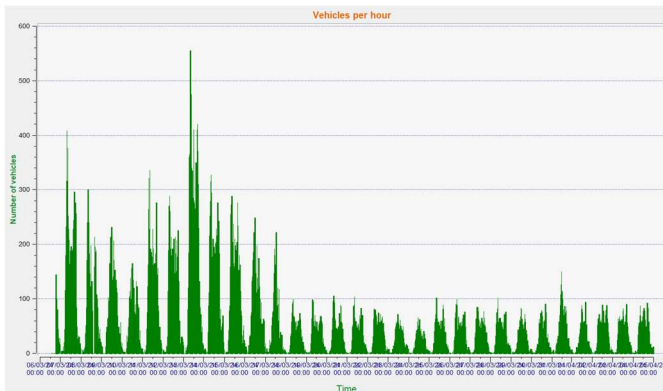
to start the Speed Watch up again in June and will be looking for volunteers. Both the Community Speed Watch and Community Police are very keen to work with the data we are getting from the VAS to maximise the effectiveness of this activity.

The VAS unit is proving a valuable source of information, we will share this on a regular basis.

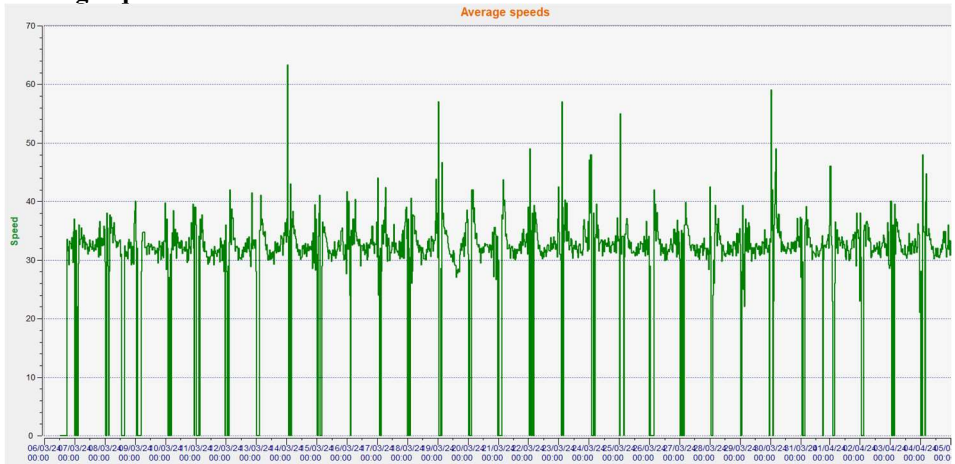
The current data from the Stoneley location shows the following for the month it has been in operation.

Number of Vehicles

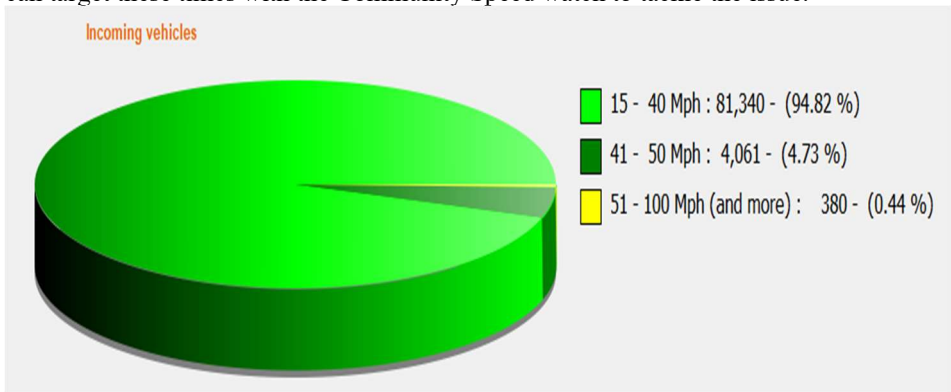
This shows the number of vehicles per hour, interestingly we saw a peak in the first week, most likely due to the three road closures locally and this road being used for the diversion. Looking at a typical day we see:-



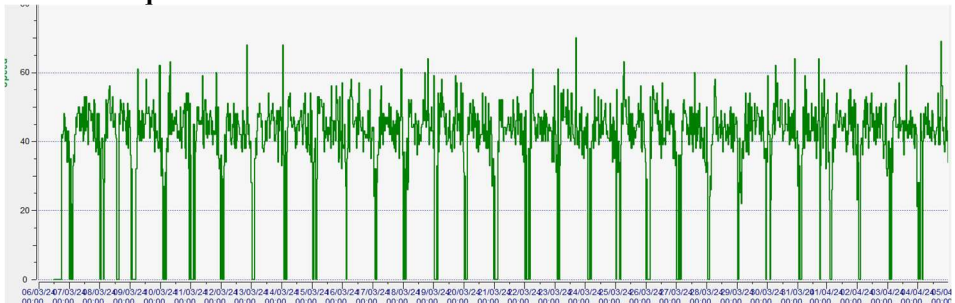
Average Speeds



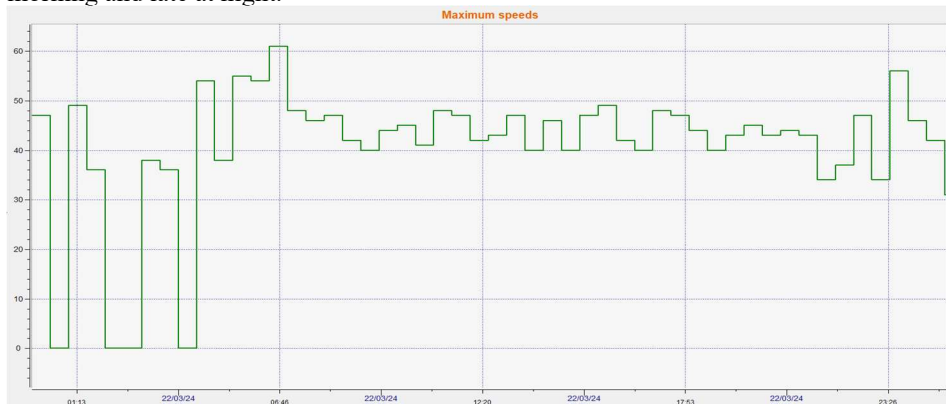
This shows the vast majority of the time the majority of people are obeying the speed limit. As you will see later there is a very small minority that are causing the issue, and this is where we need to target our actions in this area. The pie chart below shows 95% of the traffic being below the speed limit, with 5% causing the issue. Using the data we have we can target these times with the Community Speed watch to tackle the issue.



Maximum Speeds



The foregoing graph shows the maximum speed any single vehicle did in each half hour segment, again this shows the issue, with some one-off drivers doing 60mph in a 40 zone and one or two doing 70. Below shows the daily view and shows a peak early in the morning and late at night.



Please remember that this shows worst case, 94.82% are travelling below the speed limit.

NEXT STEPS: We will continue to push to get the licence issued for the other areas and start rotating the VAS site, we will also re-start the Community Speed watch with the Community Policing and try to find a grant to fund the new speed gun required as ours is now out of date.

Our ANNUAL Parish Council meeting in May will be held on Wednesday 15th at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.



Sam



Neil



Mandy



Andrew H



Andrew M



Peter



Kevin



Jill

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



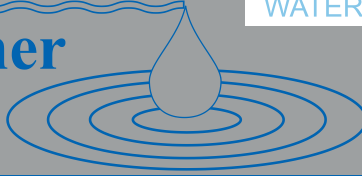
Member of
The Association of
Approved Oven Cleaners

Call: 01376 337 442

www.washtumble.com

IAN HOLMES

Water Softener Services



TOUCANTM
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

WETHERSFIELD THEATRE TRIPS

By: *Matt Suckling*



Wethersfield Theatre Trips is a company who are passionate about theatre and live events, so what better way to enjoy it than with a group of likeminded people. With our expertise in event planning and customer satisfaction we strive to bring you the best shows at exceptional prices, whether they be in the heart of the Westend or at a local theatre in Essex.

What started out as a bit of a hobby has since grown into a busy schedule of shows throughout the year. In 2023 we organised over 20 trips for everyone to enjoy which featured a wide range of shows, so there's bound to be something that you'll like. We predominantly organise theatre trips but now and again we offer a few different excursions, these range from live music events to days at the races.

Just some of the shows we attended last year included Mrs Doubtfire, Moulin Rouge, Matilda, We Will Rock You and Mamma Mia! The Party. All of which went down really well and due to this they have been added once again this year! We always listen to our clientele and if there's ever a show we haven't thought about or you'd like to see then please let us know.

We understand that a trip to London isn't always the easiest thing to do and with many people finding the added stresses of driving, parking, congestion fees and the cost of fuel becoming too much, our trips since day one have always been very well received. With all those factors taken away it means that travelling to see a show couldn't be easier, it's almost a door-to-door service that we offer! When you join us on one of our trips they are always inclusive of a top priced seat in the theatre, which these days can be quite expensive on their own and luxury coach travel. We endeavour to get the best seats



possible on our trips, which enables everyone who travels with us to have a great time out at the Theatre. There are no hidden costs or extra fees, everything is included!

We also offer a selection of pick up points on our way to the show with initial departure from Wethersfield, further stops include one just outside Rayne and another in Dunmow. We always try and accommodate everyone, so if you're looking to join us for a trip in the future and you don't live near these places then please contact us as we can try and work something out. Once the final pick up has been completed we then head into London and aim to arrive in good time, you will then have some time to relax and do what you enjoy before the show starts, whether that be grabbing a drink, having some food or doing some shopping. On the day there's always a group leader who looks after everyone and makes sure they know where to go if unsure.

This year is looking exceptionally busy once again as we've lined up some of the best shows on the Westend to go and see. Over the summer there are a number of shows which will have a limited run and we're so pleased to have these secured already. Our website is always kept up-to-date with the latest information and if you'd like to join our mailing list for the latest news then do let us know. From beginning to end your experience with us will be as pleasant as possible, which means there's less hassle & more enjoyment when you book with us. We hope to see you on a trip in the near future whether you're a returning customer or a first timer, give it a go.

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

T: 07975 735882

E: wethersfieldtt@outlook.com

f: [Wethersfield Theatre Trips](#)

**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...

One of the joys of second-hand books is that one finds, from time to time, a note which has been folded carefully and used, perhaps as a bookmark, perhaps as a reminder of who gave the book. Clergy particularly like passing on books to one another, and it's interesting sometimes to get some insight into where previous owners of a book ministered. Sometimes the writing is on the inside cover pages of the book itself – a mark of a particular occasion when it was given as a present. In any case, all these things give the book a story of its own, and one can feel the privilege of being part of a new chapter of that story.

Some particularly special books get treasured for a very long time. One of the oldest books I've had the privilege of seeing (but definitely not touching!) is the book of Gospels which is thought to have been brought to England by St Augustine in 597. A number of families have traditions of family Bibles where names of new generations are added as the years pass. In some of our churches, I have the experience of leading services from prayer books where prayers for the monarch have been adjusted from 'King' to 'Queen', which already puts a lower limit on their age. Perhaps as we read more and more on screens, we will learn in a new way the significance of having a physical printed book which can connect us with previous generations of readers.

Perhaps though, the most exciting thing about these connections to previous owners of books is the fact that there will often by many things we don't know about them. Our imaginations have some freedom to wonder about how they might have felt reading the book, compared to us. And when we let our imaginations loose on that question, we really start to get a feel for a whole community behind a book, much like the communities which have left their marks and their prayers on our churches. These are real communities, albeit separated by spans of time, and it is a delight and a privilege to recognise when we become a part of them too.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

SERVICES FOR MAY IN THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES

Sunday 5 May – Sixth 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

3pm Children’s Church – Wethersfield

Thursday 9 May – Ascension Day

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

8pm Said Communion Service –
Finchingfield

Sunday 12 May – Sixth 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

5pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 19 May – Pentecost

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)
– Wethersfield

10.30am Benefice Communion Service –
Great Bardfield

Sunday 26 May – Trinity Sunday

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)

10am Baby & Toddler Group – 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

April and May are generally the months during which every Church of England parish must hold its Annual Parochial Church Meeting (“the APCM”), when a review of the church’s past year, including its finances, is published and nominations for the office of churchwarden and members of the Parochial Church Council (“the PCC”) are received. Importantly, the Electoral Roll is brought up-to-date as the number of names on it governs the number of people who may serve on the PCC, for example. **The APCM at St Andrew’s** this year will take place on **Sunday, 12th May** after the 5pm Evensong, so probably beginning at 6pm-ish. Sounds really boring, you may think!

Actually, it isn’t, and everyone resident in the parish is entitled to attend and hear how your parish church has weathered (literally) the past year. The office of Churchwarden is a legal position lasting for one year at a time and every serving churchwarden must be nominated afresh – or not, as the case may be – at every APCM. If more than two people are put forward for nomination a ballot is held by the residents, or any non-residents who are on the Electoral Roll, who attend the meeting. I have, in the past and far away from here, known that to be quite an exciting, if not very Godly, occasion! Ideally, a parish will have two churchwardens but such is the lack of volunteers that the full complement of two churchwardens is a bit of a luxury nowadays. All new or serving churchwardens must then attend a special service at a later date to be sworn into their office at an Archdeacon’s Visitation service. This year, one of the **Visitation services** for the Stansted Archdeaconry is to be held in St Andrew’s on the **20th June at 7.30pm** and you are all most welcome to attend.

I have enjoyed serving as your churchwarden for the past couple of years, getting to know Shalford and its people and loving the privilege of looking after its beautiful church. It is the sort of job that repays many times over the amount of effort you put into it but, being “solo” I can only do what I can do. Anybody out there fancy being nominated to work with me? Full training given, but, unfortunately, no salary!

However, having said that about being “solo”, of course I’m not really. There are many, many kind folk, who may or may not be regular churchgoers, who take on a myriad of routine tasks and commitments, often unseen and un-thanked; but I know and I am truly grateful to you all.

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
Email:
rev.alex.shannon@gmail.com

Associate Minister

Revd Canon Janet Nicholls
Park House, Braintree Road,
Shalford, CM7 5HQ
Tel: 01371 851317
Email: jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org

Treasurer & Reader

Michael Chumbley
Redwing, Church End,
Shalford, CM7 5EZ
Tel: 01371 851101
Email: mike.chumbley@btinternet.com

Churchwarden

Hilary Penney
Orchard View, The Chase,
Shalford, CM7 5HH
Tel: 01371 851762
Email:
spsware@copper12.co.uk

Safeguarding Representative

Sarah Pilgrim
Fieldside
Lombard Street
Finchingfield
Tel: 01371 850781
Email:
pilgrim511@btinternet.com

Parochial Church Council Hon Secretary

Mrs Sylvia Lester
Wades Garden, Ewen Bridge
Lane, Shalford, CM7 5JA
Tel: 01371 850211
Email:
sylvia.wades79@gmail.com

Ringing Master

Roy Threadgold
Plumley, Braintree Road,
Wethersfield
Tel: 01371 850481
Email: roy@boydellsdairy.co.uk

Captain of the Bell Tower

Michael Mason
6 Clifffield, Shalford, CM7 5HP
Tel: 01371 850125

Friends of St Andrew's Church (FOSTAC)

Chairman Sue Morton
42 Hereward Way, Wethersfield
CM7 4EG
Tel: 01371 850626
Email:
suebeazleyend@gmail.com



NEWS FROM THE FIELDS ASSOCIATION (WHICH ALSO RUNS THE SWAP CAMPAIGN)

By: Alan MacKenzie (Chair)

The Mega Prisons

The Wethersfield Airbase Scrutiny Committee's (WASC) clerk wrote to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) asking for an update on its position regarding the prisons. This is the reply from the MoJ:

“Dear Ms Roder, Thank you for your enquiry of 7 March 2024, addressed to Mr Alex Chalk, regarding the Ministry of Justice’s interest in the Wethersfield site for new prisons. MoJ are currently delivering 20,000 additional, modern prison places, the largest prison build programme since the Victorian era, Of these, 10,000 places will be provided at six new prisons. HMP Five Wells and HMP Fosse Way are now open and HMP Millsike is under construction. We have recently secured outline planning permission for two new prisons in Leicestershire and Buckinghamshire and one, in Lancashire, is subject to an ongoing planning appeal. **We are cognisant that the Home Office plan to use parts of the Wethersfield site for the foreseeable future and we do not anticipate progressing a prison scheme whilst they have a presence on the site. However, we will continue to maintain an interest in Wethersfield as part of our long-term pipeline strategy.** Yours sincerely Prison Supply Directorate.”

Bearing in mind Wethersfield was a back-up site to the 6 new prisons planned, Chorley, in Lancashire (the last targeted site), is due to finish a reopened inquiry on 26 April with the results sometime after that - if the MoJ appeal failed it would open up Wethersfield again. In any case the prison population projections recently released indicate a further need for more prisons, so we cannot be relaxed about the situation.

It seems from Freedom of Information (FoI) requests to Braintree District Council (BDC) and Essex County Council that the MoJ’s consultants did not investigate the difficulties which would be encountered by construction traffic. In normal circumstances, a Construction Traffic Management Plan would be produced after outline planning permission has been granted, because construction is considered a temporary inconvenience. However, we know from the MoJ that two prisons could not be constructed contemporaneously, so there would be a total of 10 years of construction to build two (hardly “temporary”) but more importantly, the Scoping Opinion letter from BDC to the MoJ requires information in the Environmental Impact Assessment on construction traffic amongst which is: The anticipated peak daily construction vehicle movements, construction traffic access and egress, and any temporary closures;- Anticipated construction traffic quantities including estimates of cars/LDV's (for example staff movements), routes, access and traffic management. This information does not seem to have been provided by the MoJ and yet construction traffic routes especially for the large vehicles is fundamental as to whether the project is physically feasible.

RAF Wethersfield Museum

Hopeful engagement had been made between the museum curator, the HO and BDC, which has yet to yield a result despite all the positive comments. If anything deserves funding

from the £1.5m of HO grants already received by BDC, this does, as the museum has been directly impacted by all the shenanigans on the Airbase (thrown off on the basis of the electricity supply to its building, not being provided an alternative). Is the HO stringing things along, or is it going to offer a sensible building on the base for the museum....? We are still waiting.....

The Asylum Centre

Much has happened. The Community's warnings are all coming home to roost.

Cleverly Meeting

It has been evident for some time that the management of the asylum centre was not going well, this was expressed at The Fields Association (TFA) TFA meeting with James Cleverly on 12 January 2024 (notes of the meeting were posted on Facebook). The meeting was prompted by FoI evidence that the MoJ was "full steam ahead on Wethersfield". The meeting covered three main points - eventual return of the site to the local community, prison option for the site to be taken off the table (MoJ letter clarifying position since issued, as above), Special Development Order (SDO) detail for the current asylum centre (including asylum seeker cap/timeframe/detention centre option/decommissioning).

David Neal letter to HO

The Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (since sacked) wrote to the HO on 9 February after a visit to Wethersfield Airbase. He raised concerns about nothing substantive having been done to mitigate tensions which inevitably arise when a sizeable population of men is being accommodated in a remote location. He also stated that a decision due to be made to increase the numbers on site to 800 would significantly increase the risk of a serious incident impacting on the safety and wellbeing of HO staff, contractors and asylum seekers onsite.

HO letter to Cleverly

The Home Office sent a letter on 16 March to James Cleverly in his position as MP stating it had made a decision to cap capacity at a "regular occupancy capacity" of 800 - some realisation of the unmanageability of hundreds of young men being grouped together on one site finally being realised, though still too high a number, as noted by the David Neal letter above.

National Audit Office report

A quite damning report of the costs of asylum accommodation was published on 20 March. Wethersfield's refurbishment and set up costs were revealed to have been expected to cost £5m, they turned out to be £49m. It is unlikely that sites like Wethersfield and Scampton will prove to be less expensive than hotels in accommodating asylum seekers.

Special Development Order

The SDO (along with one for RAF Scampton) which enables the HO to extend the period it occupies Wethersfield Airbase (without going through normal planning permission routes) was subsequently laid before Parliament on 21 March, just a few days before Parliament's Easter recess, reducing the amount of time for scrutiny, similar to the sneaky timing of a SDO the HO previously did for Napier Barracks. Priti Patel and Edward Leigh (the MP whose constituency RAF Scampton is within) have laid prayer motions to object to both SDOs. The

SDOs will probably go through and come into force on 11 April 2024 and last until 10 October 2027 (last 6 months is meant to be a decommissioning period).

However, the Department of Levelling Up (DLUHC), which is responsible for planning, has included conditions within the SDO which the HO has to meet. Conditions which reflect what TFA and WASC have been saying to and writing to, the HO and DLUHC as regards the problems with the site:

- Lighting to be directed downwards and away from the boundary
- No more than 580 asylum seekers on site unless -
 - a foul and surface water drainage report has been submitted and approved
 - a potable water report has been approved
 - intrusive ground investigations to assess contamination risks (shallow soil sampling, ground water sampling and gas monitoring) have been reported
- No asylum seekers on site unless -
 - signage is in place encouraging hand washing before eating
 - a radiological walkover survey has been completed
 - an unexploded ordnance survey has been undertaken

The Judicial Review (JR) Appeal

The JR appeal is due to be heard in the Appeal Court on the 11/12 June. Given the number of conditions included in the SDO by the DLUHC, how could these have been ignored in DLUHC's original Screening Direction given to the HO back in March last year? We hope the necessity of an Environmental Impact Assessment is favourably judged upon and that this will have an effect on the current position at Wethersfield. Question now is whether a JR should also be pursued on the SDO.

Evidence to Parliament

Following the NAO report, the Public Accounts Committee is sitting on 15 April to hear evidence on HO expenditure on Rwanda and Asylum accommodation. TFA has submitted written evidence.

Evidence has also been submitted to the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee (which reviews SDOs) jointly by WASC, TFA, The Helen Bamber Foundation, Humans for Rights Network, Care 4 Calais and Rainbow Migration, emphasising the unsuitability of the Airbase for asylum accommodation.

Alternative Uses

The Finchingfield/Wethersfield Neighbourhood Plan has been moving ahead at a pace. It will still be some time before it is approved, but it is very important for both villages and will also cover aspects of the Airbase.

It would be helpful if Braintree District Council enabled a process to allocate a conservation area on the Airbase. The Community is willing to assist against a feedback of cost and time allocation at BDC.

Following the James Cleverly meeting, a Master Plan to enable the Community to purchase and operate the Airbase at the end of the HO's occupation is underway.

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



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



5 Incredible Women Who Have Made History In The Finance World

Earlier this month, the world celebrated *International Women's Day*, an annual campaign designed to honour women's achievements, raise awareness about discrimination, and encourage everyone to take action to drive gender parity.

To mark the occasion, our team decided to pay tribute to some inspirational women from throughout history whose achievements have had a positive impact on the world of finance. Read on to learn their stories.

1. Madam CJ Walker, the first female self-made millionaire

Madam CJ Walker was the first female self-made millionaire according to the *Guinness Book of Records*. Walker was the daughter of two slaves, so was born into humble beginnings.

In 1906, she founded her business, the Madam CJ Walker Manufacturing Co, selling hair ointment. Within 10 years, she employed 10,000 agents, and trained women all over the country in hairdressing. More than 100 years later, her products are still available in shops today.

As well as running a successful business that made her the first female self-made millionaire, Madam CJ Walker spoke publicly about issues that affected black women at the time. Her brand became synonymous with female empowerment.

2. Janet Hogarth, the first woman recruited by the Bank of England

Janet Hogarth was the first female employee of the Bank of England (BoE). She was appointed in 1894 as the first Superintendent of Women Clerks.

Talking about the environment of the bank when she joined, Hogarth said "Women in ordinary banks were unheard of, and their introduction into the Bank of England, of all places, caused a mild sensation... We were certainly a great innovation and the directors were quite anxious about us."

Hogarth's first act was to employ Mary Elsee, a history graduate from Cambridge University, as her assistant. The two would go on to lead a department of female bank clerks who sorted and listed bank notes. The department grew quickly, paving the way for greater equality at the BoE.

3. Dame Marilyn Waring, DNZM, economist

Dame Marilyn Waring has had an impressive career in economics and politics, and as a feminist and human rights activist. She is best known for her work in feminist economics; her 1988 book *If Women Counted* is considered a revolutionary work in this field.

Her theories and research into invisible labour and the way it disproportionately affects women has influenced economics and governments across the world, including United Nations policies.

4. Baroness Helena Morrissey, founder of the 30% Club

Baroness Helena Morrissey has been named one of the world's 50 Greatest Leaders by Fortune magazine and twice voted one of the 50 Most Influential People in Finance.

She founded the 30% club in 2010 with the aim of achieving at least 30% representation of women on all boards and C-suites globally. It aims to do this with three strategic pillars:

- Activate Chairs and CEOs as members
- Influence those with power to drive change
- Enable future women leaders.

The club now operates in more than 20 countries across the globe running events and mentoring to make progress with their mission of improving gender equality for women in business.

5. Funlola Ayebae, founder of Black Women in Finance

Funlola Ayebae has built an impressive career in finance, having worked in high-level positions at Barclays and Goldman Sachs, and most recently as West Africa Coverage at J. P. Morgan.

In 2017, she founded Black Women in Finance, an organisation dedicated to supporting black women to build upon an existing career in, or break into, the world of finance. The organisation has helped black women to overcome barriers both personally and professionally, improve their confidence, and drive progress so that they can access a rewarding career in this competitive industry.

Please note

This article is for information only. Please do not act based on anything you might read in this article.

Get in touch

To speak with our experienced financial planners to help you identify your financial goals and how much you need to achieve them. Please email 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 your family do just that.




HarperLees
FINANCIAL PLANNING

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

Vouched for TOP RATED
ADVICE FIRM
2023

Unit 4 Rays Farm Barns, Ingatestone, Essex, CM4 9EH

01277 350 560

info@harperlees.co.uk

harperlees.co.uk

WHEN WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH

*(10 creative ways to explore and transform your grief
Memory Book & Scrap book this month, more to follow)*

BY: SHARON BARBOUR, CREATIVE ARTIST

‘When words are not enough’, is the title of a new book that I have just finished, it is based on how I see us looking at how we can get through our own or help someone else get through their bereavement journey and grief, using a selection of creative art pieces as a vehicle in which to do so.

Have you ever wondered or asked yourself, how often do we try and find ways to help people through this time, and don’t come up with anything, your thoughts might seem so hard. The words and sentiments can so often be just sayings that roll off our tongues so easily, that at times it just seems so automatic, but what about the person on the receiving end, what does that do to them.

I want the reader of the book to experience within the pages and in particularly the creative art pieces, to enjoy the examples that have been given, and to try and make one of the art pieces. The creation of each piece I hope will help you to enjoy what you are doing for the person on the receiving end of the gift, but you as you collectively put the piece together, find comfort and peace. I hope that it will make the journey easy for you and the person you have lost.

Why **‘When words are not enough’**? I wrote this book because I wanted to share with others the feelings and ‘what now’ moments after the death of a loved one, and to share the experience with you. When talking about death, feelings, emotions may not be the thing that we do, sometimes it is better to steer away from the study, avoid at all cost and to be honest we are not good at it at all. Because to talk about this is to leave yourself open to someone saying you will get over it, this too will pass, and all the other natural saying that we use, but suppose you don't want it to pass, suppose you want to hang on to your grief, emotions, and sadness. You may not be ready to let go of what you are going through, the memory of the person may still be as raw as if they had passed away recently.

How do you cope with the passing of a loved one, who perhaps had been taken so unexpectedly, or someone who has had a prolonged illness, that seemed to have gone on for such a long time, you became accustomed to the person still being there and then one day they are no longer there.

My mind often drifts back to a moment over a decade ago, a moment etched into my memory. My mum passed away over 10 years ago and I can distinctly remember asking myself “what now?”. When the condolences had been offered, and the well-wishers had departed, leaving me alone with my thoughts. I recall sitting at the table, the weight of grief heavy upon me, asking myself, "What now?" In the solitude of that moment, I found some solace in the memories shared with others, yet the ache remained, a silent companion at the table.

The grief suppressed as I listened to words of comfort. The floods of tears eventually became a trickle, I started my journey back to “normality”, hoping the pain would subside just ever so slightly.

I thought I had weathered the worst of it, until the tumultuous events of 2020 unfolded. The insidious creep of Covid across the globe mirrored the stealth of grief itself, leaving devastation in its wake. It was during this time that my aunt passed away, and the landscape of mourning shifted once more. No longer were there crowds of mourners, no extended ceremonies to mark the passing. We were left to navigate our grief in isolation, separated from the familiar rituals and traditions of mourning.

We were forced to learn a new way to grieve. Grieving in isolation felt at odds with my experience of mourning.

I feel as though we have been cheated and forced to grieve in a way that felt unnatural. Temporarily being suspended in time, waiting for restrictions and the pandemic to pass so we could finally grieve with our loved ones.

In the face of such profound loss, I found myself turning to art as a form of comfort and expression. The act of creation became a lifeline, a means of navigating the turbulent seas of grief. It is this journey through art that has led me to write this book, a guide for others who find themselves adrift in the same storm.

"When Words Are Not Enough" is more than just a collection of projects; it is a testament to the power of creativity in times of sorrow. Each piece enables you to explore, reflect and think about how to use creative tools and ideas, as a means of support through your bereavement journey.

These ideas are not new but in the face of loss, have helped me and I am sure many others I know pour that loss into transformative art.

You can choose to complete these pieces alone or in a group. You'll discover how these projects offer a lifeline for those navigating the turbulence of grief.

When we're lost for words or thinking of their last words, my hope is that you find a way to heal in the art of creation.

Two examples of creative art pieces from the book:-

MEMORY BOXES

A memory box can be a comforting gift for someone who's lost a loved one.

Instead of struggling to find the right words, consider giving them a memory box filled with meaningful items and memories of the person they've lost. There's no set time to give a memory box but waiting a few weeks after the funeral when things have settled can be a good moment. This is when the initial support might start to fade, and the person might be feeling the absence of their loved one even more.

When putting together a memory box, there's no strict list of items to include. Each box should be tailored to the individual. You can include items that hold special memories or represent the person's interests. If you're making the memory box on behalf of someone else, it's a good idea to get input or ideas from the person you're giving it to.

Here are some suggestions for items you could include in the memory box:

- Photographs of special moments or places
- Letters or notes written by the person who passed away
- Small mementos or keepsakes that hold sentimental value
- Items that represent the person's hobbies or interests
- Creative additions like artwork, poems, or handmade crafts

Remember, the most important thing is to create a thoughtful and personalised gift that honours the memory of the person who's no longer with us.

Materials needed:

- Wooden box
- Tissue Paper
- Picture frame
- Memorial candle
- Notepad
- Pack of Tissues
- Pack of seeds
- Goodbyes are not forever Plaque (amazon)
- First steps through Bereavement Book (Sue Mayfield)
- Card with listed items (optional) produced on Vistaprint
- Additional items that you think the person would appreciate. Are they coffee lovers? What about adult colouring books? Wellbeing or self-care items etc.

Putting your Memory Box together

When considering what to put in the box, it depends on how well you know the person, and the items you want to add to give it that personal touch. You can be as creative as you like, when putting this box together. Line the box with tissue paper, and then add the items you have. I have always found putting the candle in first, and then building all the other items around it creates height and depth, especially if this is the centrepiece of your box. I suggested a book, but again could be optional. I always include the card, which lists why we put these particular items in the box.



SCRAPBOOK

Creating a scrapbook for someone who is grieving is a beautiful way to cherish and reminisce about shared memories. It's a heartfelt reminder of the moments spent together and the impact the person had on our lives. Making the scrapbook allows us to reflect on the highs and lows of their life, gathering together meaningful items that represent who they were. Each scrapbook is unique, tailored to the individual, so there's no set list of required items. Include whatever reminds you of the person, whether it's photographs, postcards, favourite items, or official documents.



Through the process of crafting the scrapbook, you could be offering comfort and support to those who are grieving, bringing together cherished memories, and celebrating the life of the person lost. It's such a comforting way to support those who are grieving.

Materials Needed

- Scrapbook
- Glue
- Personal items
- Marker - (you might want to add their favourite quote or song or leave little memory notes)

Putting together your scrapbook

There is no right or wrong way of displaying all your items. You might want to feature the fun and adventurous nature of the person. Or focus on a particular hobby or fascination they are most remembered for. Perhaps they were a keen sports person or well-travelled? The idea is that you add the items in the book, so that the person scrolling through the pages will feel comforted knowing that you have taken time to create something so special. So, take your time, and enjoy being creative during the process. Leave some room for the person receiving it. Perhaps they may want to add to it from time to time, so their loved one long remains in their mind and heart.

CROSSWORD 76 SOLUTION
ROBERT BURROWS

1	F	I	2	S	C	3	A	L		4	B	5	I	G	G	I	N
			P		N							N					
		6	C	O	G	G	E	7	S	H	A	L	8	L		9	S
10	U		O		L			U		P		E					A
11	N	O	R	M	O			12	N	U	P	T	I	A	L		
	C					A			B	R							A
	O		13	A	R	M	O	U	R	E	D	C	A	R			
	U		M		E			R		C							I
14	P	A	P	Y	R	U	S			15	I	S	16	S	U	E	
	L		L		I			T		A							D
17	E	X	E	R	C	I	S	E	B	O	O	K					
						A				L		U					
18	C	O	M	I	N	G				19	S	E	M	T	E	X	

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®

graham's Crackers

Caricatures * Pet Portraits * Homes

☎ 07810448747 gr8.crackers

SHALFORD VILLAGE MAGAZINE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Service	Company	Advert Page No.
Animal Feeds	Janus	40
Electrician	Hearn Electrical	16
Estate Agents	Gray & Co	40
Farm Produce	Deersbrook	7
Foot Health	Feetwise	16
Fencing	Bell Fencing	16
Fencing Supplies	Janus	40
Financial Planners	HarperLees	62
Funeral Directors	Co-Op	40
Funeral Directors	Daniel Robinson	59
Glaziers	Capital Glaziers	4
Home Care	Home Instead	30
Kitchen Appliances	Wash & Tumble	49
Lose Weight	The 1:1 Diet	67
Nails	Nails by Nicci	59
Plumbing	DPS Plumbing	30
Portraits/Illustrator	Graham's Crackers	67
Pub	The George Inn	34
Roofing	R Wheeler	25
Solar Energy	Elevate Solar	32
Veterinary	Mercer & Hughes	25
Water Softener	Ian Holmes	49
Websites/Printing/Signs	Applied Image	4

Contacts

Alice Cox Editor

Tel: 07850 264518

Email: 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