

SHALFORD

Village Magazine July/August 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.

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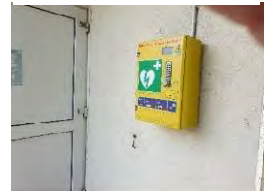
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Shalford Village Magazine is a non-profit organisation, run by volunteers and funded by advertising, the Parish Council, the Parochial Council, villagers, local organisations, and donations. Contact by email: shalford_village_magazine@btinternet.com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

**Shalford Primary
School Pupils and
Headmaster**

See page 23

We Send Our
Condolences and Gratitude to

DAVID KAY

Who Has So Generously Funded
July/August's
Shalford Village Magazine

In Loving Memory
Of his wife

JUNE KAY

Rest in Peace Darling
Glamorous, Courageous, Kind & Gentle
Always in my heart
David



WE WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

**DAVID
ALASTAIR
CAMERON
SARAH**

**HAMISH
ISABELLA
ANGUS
ANNA**



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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.cfcsalford.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>

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

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



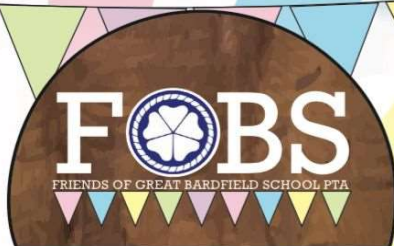
For more details:
Contact:

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

Or

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

WHAT'S ON



Presents

BARDFEST

SATURDAY 6TH JULY 2024

3:00PM - 8:00PM

at Great Bardfield Primary School

Shop at the Bardfield Market Stalls

£4 ENTRY | under 12's go FREE!

**Live Bands, DJ, Food, Bar, Kids Entertainment,
Festival Hair and Makeup, Bouncy Castle's
and more...**

For a healthy, happy job

FOSTAC

Saturday 13th July 2024 —
7.00pm

Talk by Cherish Watton

Join the
**WOMEN'S
LAND
ARMY**

Tickets—£5

Available from Shalford Village Store

WHAT'S ON

Let's celebrate Summer in
Support of
The Bendlowe's Charity



Doors Open
19:30

Ticket Price
£5

Rock and Roll

Ballads

Standards

Love Songs

Country

Swing

G&T

Classics

**FRIDAY 26TH JULY, 2024 AT
SHALFORD VILLAGE HALL**

IT'S PARTY TIME

SO BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS, AND NIBBLES

Tea/Coffee/Biscuits will be available

PLUS RAFFLE



WHAT'S ON

Event: **Heli-bration! Sky-High Family Fun**

Date: **Sunday, 14 July 2024**

Time: **12:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

Venue: **Hatfield House, AL9 5HX**

Entry: **Register for free entry**

Embark on Sky-High Family Fun!

You're invited to our epic Heli-bration event – where the thrill of flight meets unforgettable family moments.

Get ready to celebrate as we showcase the newest addition to the **Essex & Herts Air Ambulance** fleet, the awe-inspiring AW169 helicopter!

Set against the stunning backdrop of Hatfield House, join us for an afternoon packed full of excitement. Meet the crew and see the new helicopter up close... even taking a peek inside!

With activities for all ages, there's something for everyone to enjoy, plus don't miss the opportunity to learn life-saving CPR techniques!

To secure your place simply register for tickets to this thrilling, free event. Prepare to lift off into an unforgettable day of sky-high family fun and celebration!

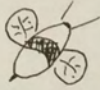


Register now
ehaat.org

Charity Number: 1108989

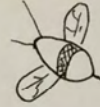


WHAT'S ON



BRAINTREE BEEKEEPERS

Present



ALL ABOUT BEES



SHALFORD VILLAGE HALL

Monday 15th July

At 7pm

£4.00 Entry

Refreshments included

WHAT'S ON

A DAY AT THE SEASIDE

“THE HUT” ON THE PROMENADE

Felixstowe IP11 7LR

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

MONDAY, 12TH AUGUST 2024



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

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

Fully-equipped kitchen and comfortable lounge



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

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



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

Bendlowe's - People Working For People

Shalford Horticultural Society 2024

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



Schedule available Online @ www.bendlowe.co.uk

Or call **01371 850390** for a printed copy

<https://www.facebook.com/SHSEssex>

WHAT'S ON – WETHERSFIELD CLUB

WETHERSFIELD FLORAL ART

NAFAS AFFILIATED

OPEN EVENING

WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING WITH

Rachael Barnard

NAFAS Demonstrator

WHO SAYS

**'LET'S GO TO THE
FLOWER SHOP'**

ALL WELCOME

WETHERSFIELD VILLAGE HALL, THE GREEN,

WETHERSFIELD, BRAINTREE CM7 4BS

7.30 PM, GUESTS ON THE DOOR £6.00

Includes wine and light refreshments

Julia Broad, 01371 851422/07712 674929

Or by e-mail : broad.julia@yahoo.co.uk

WETHERSFIELD FLORAL ART

NAFAS AFFILIATED

OPEN EVENING

WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER 2024

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING WITH

LEE BERRILL

NATIONAL DIPLOMA FLORIST

WHO BRINGS US AN

'AUTUMN TAPESTRY'

ALL WELCOME

WETHERSFIELD VILLAGE HALL, THE GREEN,

WETHERSFIELD, BRAINTREE CM7 4BS

7.30 PM, MEMBERS £5.00, GUESTS £10.00

Includes wine and light refreshments

Julia Broad, 01371 851422/07712 674929

Or by e-mail : broad.julia@yahoo.co.uk

WHAT'S ON – WETHERSFIELD CLUB

(CAMRA North West Essex Club of the Year 2024)

We will be open for England games on the big screen for Euro 2024, running from **14 June to 14 July**.

The Club is also holding a BBQ and pop up bar at the Wethersfield Pavilion over the weekend of **20 and 21 July**.

More details to follow on these and other events, so please keep a watch on our Facebook Page for all the information you need!

We hope to see you soon.

Contact : broad.julia@yahoo.co.uk

WETHERSFIELD CLUB – OPENING HOURS

(CAMRA North West Essex Club of the Year 2024)

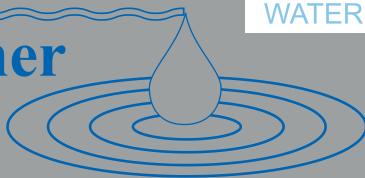
NEW OPENING HOURS

MONDAY	5.00 - 11.00 PM
TUESDAY	5.00 - 11.00 PM
WEDNESDAY	5.00 - 10.00 PM
THURSDAY	CLOSED
FRIDAY	5.00 - 12.00 PM
SATURDAY	4.00 - 9.00 PM
SUNDAY	4.00 - 7.00 PM

Follow our Facebook page for more information

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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:

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. Activities to include stone painting (please wear old clothes) and quilling. Children & grandchildren (under your supervision) welcome too. Tea & cake served of course!*

Suggested donation £3

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

Suggested donation TBC

Ideas for future activities would be very welcome.

Donations of cakes welcome at all events.

For more information please contact Sally on 07785235000 or sallymwelsh@outlook.com or www.bendlowe.co.uk



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City & Guilds



SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SHOW CLASSES - 7TH SEPTEMBER

2023



2023



Horticulture - Vegetable Classes 1 - 28

1. Beetroot, Three, round (guideline 15)
2. Carrots, Three, (guideline 15)
3. Chillies, Five, with stalks
4. Courgettes, Two, 10-15cm
5. Cucumber, One, with stalk
6. Dwarf Beans, Five
7. Edible Flowers, Three
8. Exotic Vegetables, Two of a kind
9. Garlic Bulbs, Three, with roots
10. Lettuce, Two, with roots
11. Marrow, Largest, judged by weight
12. Onions, Three, 250g or under (guidelines 15-16)
13. Onions, Three, over 250g (guidelines 15-16)
14. Peas, Five pods on a plate
15. Cabbage, One
16. Potato, One, judged for quality
17. Potatoes, Five coloured, one variety on a plate
18. Potatoes, Five white, one variety on a plate
19. Rhubarb, Three stalks, no leaves
20. Runner Beans, Five
21. Runner Bean, Longest, tied to a baton, judged by length

22. Shallots, Eight large, judged for quality, displayed in dish of sand
23. Shallots, Six, for pickling, displayed in dish of sand (guideline 11)
24. Spring Onions, Five, with foliage & 3cm of roots, grown where sown
25. The Most Amusing Home-grown Vegetable
26. Tomatoes, Five, cherry, one variety with stalks
27. Tomatoes, Five, standard, one variety with stalks
28. Vegetable, One – A kind of vegetable not mentioned in classes 1-27

Vegetable Collections

29. Collection of Three Salad Vegetables from the following list:
2 x Beetroot, 1 x Cucumber, 1 x Pepper 5 x Radishes, 5 x Spring Onions, 2 x Tomatoes
30. Potatoes Collection, Three Varieties, three of each, displayed in a tray
31. Vegetable Collection, Six kinds, number as specified previously, displayed in a tray

Horticulture - Fruit Classes 32-36

32. Berries (One kind), 12 x berries, with stalks
33. Apples Dessert, Five, on a plate
34. Pears Dessert, Five, on a plate

SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SHOW CLASSES - 7TH SEPTEMBER

35. Apples Cooking, Five, on a plate
36. Any other fruit not mentioned, Three, in a dish / or six strigs (strings)

Horticulture - Flower Classes 37-52

37. Cactus or succulent, One
38. Cluster flowered roses, Three stems
39. Dahlias, Three blooms. Any variety
40. Flowering pot plant excluding orchids. One, See rule 5
41. Flowers, Eight different kinds
42. Flowers, Five of one kind
43. Fuchsia heads, Six of the same or mixed
44. Geranium, Three, any colour
45. Gladioli, Three Spikes
46. My Best Bloom, One
47. Non Flowering Pot Plant, One, See Rule 5
48. Pansies, Five
49. Perennials, Three kinds
50. Potted Orchid, One, see Rule 5
51. Rose, One
52. Sweet Peas, Five stems, any variety or colour

Horticulture - Floral Art Classes 53-56

53. An All Foliage Arrangement, Accessories may be used
54. Do as you please, Exhibit of flowers and foliage
55. Miniature exhibit, Not greater than 10cm overall
56. A Hanging Basket, Maximum 12 inches wide

Cookery Classes 59-73

57. spare
58. spare
59. Any other fruit jam, One jar, 2024 – minimum 340g
60. Fruit curd, One jar, 2024 - min 340g jar
61. Marmalade, One jar, 2024 - min 340g jar
62. Raspberry jam, One jar, 2024 – min 340g

63. Strawberry jam, One jar, 2024 – min 340g
64. Honey, One jar, – Dated, min 340g
65. A Cake using a vegetable ingredient, One, please list vegetable used
66. Sweet Muffins, Two
67. A Loaf of Bread, One – Any kind
68. Fruit Scones, Three
69. A Trifle for one, One
70. Home-made Wine/Fruit Spirit, One bottle, dated. May be made from kit (guideline 23)
71. Sausage Roll, Three, Can be vegetarian, must be labelled
72. Pear Cheesecake, One (See recipe)
73. Victoria Sandwich, One (with raspberry jam filling)

Handicraft Classes 74-79

74. A Wrapped Present
75. Any crocheted article
76. Any drawing or painting
77. Any hand knitted article
78. Any handicraft
79. One metre of Bunting

Photography Classes 80-82

80. A Colour Photograph, Unmounted – My Favourite Family Member!
81. A Colour Photograph, Unmounted – A Shalford Village Event
82. A Colour Photograph, Unmounted – Water

Children's Exhibits Classes 83-91

83. A Painted Stone (Under 5)
84. An Autumn Collage (Under 5)
85. Find The Biggest Weed (Under 5)
86. A Painted Stone (Age 5-7)
87. An Autumn Collage (Age 5-7)
88. Find The Biggest Weed (Age 5-7)
89. A Painted Stone (Age 8-11)
90. An Autumn Collage (Age 8-11)
91. Find The Biggest Weed (Age 8-11)

RECIPE - PEAR CHEESECAKE

Topped with sliced fresh fruit, this light, creamy yoghurt cheesecake with a crisp biscuit base makes a sensational dessert.

Crumb Base

200 g / 8 oz Digestive Biscuits

125 g / 6 oz Margarine

Filling

225 g / 8 oz Cream Cheese

4 Teaspoons Gelatine

125 g / 5 oz Natural Yoghurt

60 ml / 4 Tablespoons Water

15 ml / 1 Tablespoon Lemon Juice

150 ml / 1 Quarter of a pint of Double Cream

2 Eggs

100 g / 4 oz Pears (Chopped)

100 g / 4 oz Light Soft Brown Sugar

Prepare the crumb base by crushing the biscuits. This is best done in a plastic bag using a rolling pin. Melt the margarine in a pan, stir in the crushed biscuits, and cook for a few minutes. Press this into an 8 Inch round tin and chill in a refrigerator.

Filling

Beat the cream cheese and yoghurt with the lemon juice until smooth and creamy. Separate the eggs and combine the yolks with the sugar and gently cook over a low heat for a few minutes, stirring occasionally. When thickened remove for heat. Dissolve the gelatine in the water, place in a cup and stand in a pan of hot water, heat gently until dissolved. Add the gelatine to the thickened sugar and egg mixture. Add the yoghurt and cheese. Whip the cream and fold in. Whisk the egg whites until stiff and also fold in. Mix in the chopped pears and pour the mixture onto the prepared biscuit base and chill well for about 3 hours.

IS IT TME FOR A SMILE?

The Cat Rules – By: Oscar & Millie

1. I'm spoiled - so get over it.
2. If you want someone to fetch ... get a dog.
3. All guests must be approved by the cat.
4. I don't need your attitude...I have my own.
5. Dry food will not be tolerated.
6. No dogs allowed.
7. Do not disturb when napping.
8. Sneak attacks are to be expected.
9. Fresh catnip must be grown on the premises.
10. I live here... you are just visiting.

Dog Property Laws – By: Roxy & Jet

1. If I like it, it's mine.
2. If it's in my mouth, it's mine.
3. If I can take it from you, it's mine.
4. If I am chewing something up, the pieces are mine.
5. If I saw it first, it's mine.
6. If you are playing with something and put it down, it's mine.
7. Every seat in the house is mine.
8. The garden is mine
9. All beds (upstairs or downstairs) are mine
10. If it's broken, it's yours.
11. ***Put simply – the house and gardens are mine – not yours!***

SHALFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

BY: TIM ARDING, HEADMASTER

As the school approaches its sesquicentennial celebration, we've taken the opportunity to reflect on the proud history of the pupils who have attended the school and explored the ebbs and flows of village life. The pioneering (if somewhat castigatory) spirit of the first headteacher in Victorian times; the way the school has been shaped by the farmland that surrounds it; the open-heartedness and generosity of spirit in the local community that supported the evacuees sent to Shalford during the Second World War. It's been a powerful reminder of the sanctity of community and the way we can work together to create something greater than any individual.

This focus on the past has led to a period of pause and reflection. At Shalford, we've given the space to reflect on the anniversary of the D-Day landings, which alongside the wider historical conflict, we will study further next year as a school project. Like many of us, it brings to mind those family members who lived through the war. My grandfather, like many of his generation, was very reticent to share his experiences; I only wish now that I had asked him more. This has taught me the importance of sharing our stories from the past. It has been a privilege coming to Shalford at this point in its history, as it has allowed me to hear and read the very personal recollections that the community has shared with the school. I look forward to continuing to hear those stories.





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



Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Parish Meeting. This meeting is a bit different to our normal monthly meetings, being a meeting of the Parish, its organisations, groups, societies and parishioners. It is an opportunity for us all to come together, review the last year and look forward to the next year's opportunities. We had many interesting and informative presentations that are included here as part of this month's update.

St Andrew's Church – Hilary Penny (Church Warden)

This has been a year in which we were able to look ahead with some confidence that "normal service" could indeed resume and I am glad to report that life at St Andrew's has done just that. Our pattern of services on a monthly basis includes a Eucharist with hymns and two services of Morning Prayer, all at 9.30am, and a BCP Holy Communion at 8am, followed by breakfast in the summer months. In addition, we have Choral Evensong on the second Sunday of the month, at 4pm in winter and 5pm in summer, greatly enhanced by the presence of singers from Halstead and organist Andrew Beaton.

The Prayer Group continues to meet on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursdays of the month at 10am, and on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays we have a communal Coffee Morning at 11am, organised and lovingly presented by Diana Forrow and greatly appreciated by all who attend. The proceeds of the Coffee Morning go to various local charities such as the Essex Air Ambulance or the Creamer Fund.

Advent '23 and Lent '24 saw discussion groups take place in the meeting room at the church; the Lord's Prayer was examined in detail in Advent and the importance of the Eucharist to

our faith in Lent. We welcomed not only members of our own congregation to these groups but also those from other churches in the benefice and non-churchgoers too.

In March, St Andrew's hosted the World Day of Prayer service, devised this year by the Christian women of Palestine; at this time of conflict in the Holy Land it was a memorable and moving tribute to their faith and courage.

Our informal association with Shalford School has continued and we were delighted to host their Harvest thanksgiving and Christmas services, very well attended by parents, friends and relatives who gave generous support to the church and also to the Food Bank collection.

FOSTAC has continued its programme of entertainment and fund-raising events throughout the year and I am, as ever, very grateful to Sue Morton, the committee and all volunteers for their hard work which brings in much-needed income for the church's ongoing maintenance.

Many members of the congregation regularly attend various village events including the monthly Meet & Greet at the Village Hall and special events such as the Coronation Village Fete last summer. We have a good working relationship with the Parish Council and the trustees of Bendlowe's Charity, so important in a village of this small size. St Andrew's contributes financially to the monthly village magazine as well as providing information about the church's life.

At Remembrance-tide a stunning installation of poppies and figures representing local members of the armed forces in both World Wars was set up in the churchyard with a further historical exhibition in the church, by members of the local History Society and friends. It attracted visitors from afar, including a local news team from ITV and we are very grateful to all who contributed in any way.

St Andrew's has benefitted this year from the generosity of present members of the congregation and the relatives of past worshippers. Our thanks go to Robert Burrows for his gift of music-copy hymn books and Mandy French for her gift of new bell ropes in memory of her late husband, David. We also installed a beautiful bespoke votive candle stand, gifted to us by his daughter in memory of David Hammond. I am pleased to report that a local calligrapher, Caroline Ottley, is now able to add names of departed loved ones to the Book of Remembrance on display in the church.

Since the last Annual Meeting there have been five funerals or memorial services held in church as well as three interments of ashes in the churchyard.

My fabric report for St Andrew's follows this general overview of the church's year. The next Quinquennial report is due in 2026.

As sole churchwarden I am incredibly grateful for the willing assistance of so many people – many of the tasks undertaken are largely unseen and taken for granted but I know who you are and I also know that without our PCC members, flower arrangers, bell-ringers, choristers, grounds-men, cleaner, candle-maker, Food Bank organiser, lockers-up and un-lockers, IT consultant, after-service coffee-makers and ad hoc handy(wo)men, St Andrew's would not be the object of the pride and affection in which it is held by the village.

Finally, my gratitude to our clergy, Alex, Janet and Sheila and our Reader, Mike, is unbounded, for their dedication, patience, scholarship and leadership, helping us to grow as a congregation and into a closer communion with our fellow worshippers in our extended benefice.

Fabric report

Heating since the last APCM in 2023 - under-pew heating has been installed throughout the church, with the exception of the north aisle seating. It is zoned for extra flexibility and seems to work reasonably well although it doesn't provide that feeling of warmth when one enters the church and doesn't cope too well in very cold weather. The remaining oil for the central heating has been used for special services when we expect a larger than usual congregation and it may be that we have to buy in more oil to see us through next winter – assuming that the ageing boiler keeps going. It was last serviced in November 2023 but spare parts are no longer available.

Electrics - Mobile appliances were PA Tested in November 2023.

Fire equipment - All fire extinguishers and fire blankets were tested and replaced as necessary to present required standards in December 2023.

High-level gutters - These were cleared in June 2023 and again in January 2024.

Roof alarms - The annual test was carried out in July 2023.

Organ - Tuned in April 2023 and checked in October 2023.

Stonework repairs - Work began on the repairs to the masonry of the west window of the tower in early March this year; it should be completed by the end of April.

Churchyard - Since October 2023 Community Payback teams have attended on 6 occasions to date to carry out mowing, strimming and general maintenance in the upper and lower churchyards, including clearing the ground gutters around the church.

The hedge parallel with the path to Cliffield on the western boundary of the upper churchyard was professionally laid by David Beanland in January this year, a great improvement to this aspect of the churchyard.

In March this year **4 lime** trees by the turning circle of the drive were thinned and crown-lifted, to reduce wind damage and shading of the neighbouring paddock.

The notice board at the entrance to the church drive, blown over in a gale, was repaired and re-installed.

FOSTAC Friends of St Andrew's Church - Sue Morton (Chair)

Over the last 12 months we've helped pay for the new under pew heating, the sign at the top of the drive and of course for the repair of the West window, too.

We've taken part in the village Christmas festivities at the village hall and also the fete, when we ran a rather chaotic bottle stall. We blamed the heat! We supplied refreshments for the school concert at the church, too.

The BBQ and tabletop sale were both a success.

We had a visit to Easton Lodge and the Chelmsford choir paid us another visit.

Various other events took place, so all in all it was a good year.

This year we're helping at the fete again and also with mulled wine at Christmas and no doubt the school will ask for our assistance too.

We had an interesting talk about scamming on the 20th April, which was quite enlightening and a talk about the land army will be on the 12th July.

Nancy May wants to come and sing for us again and we have other events planned, so keep an eye out for information.

It's your church and it needs looking after!

Essex Association of Change Ringers - Tim Peckham (Shalford Bell Ringer)

Who are we? I am Tim Peckham and Roy Threadgold is our Ringing Master. Other ringers include Cherry Threadgold his wife plus the rest of the Threadgold clan, Michael Mason (Tower Captain), Marianna Mariott, Adrian, and Alex Gurnett. We are also helped by other ringers in the Pant Valley Benefice.

What do we do? We ring the bells at St Andrew's, Shalford for Sunday services both in the morning and at evensong. In addition, we are available to ring at weddings and at funerals. We practice on Fridays from 7.30-9.00pm when our ringing may not be quite as tuneful as we hope. Some of us support Sunday ringing at the other towers in the Pant Valley Benefice and attend practices at these towers.

How many bells are there at St Andrew's? There are five bells, all of which need to be rung. So, we are always on the lookout for new bell ringers to cover for holidays etc. Many villagers who have learnt to ring but who are not current ringers are more than welcome to start ringing again. Ringing is like riding a bicycle, you never forget!

Social events: If you notice gaps between the ringing it means we are having a good gossip. Ringing at Shalford is sociable. We have an outing every year to ring at other towers with a pub lunch. You can try your hand at hand bells at the annual picnic at Boydells Farm. And there is a meal before Christmas with a quiz and raffle.

The Association: Once you are ringing for Sunday services you are eligible to join the Essex Association of Change Ringers who organise teaching and training. We celebrated Michael Mason's 50th year of membership this year. He is now a life member and no longer needs to pay his annual subscription.

Shalford Local History Association - Sally Welsh (Secretary)

Starting in June last year, the Association supported the Shalford Village Fete with a stall of traditional toys and games including 'hook a duck' raising £53.60 and in the same month the Committee plus a few interested villagers visited Bocking Windmill for a very interesting guided tour followed by a delicious afternoon tea at Petersfield Antiques.

1st July saw the first poppy making session by members of the committee and local community as we worked towards our big Remembrance exhibition later in the year.

In September the Association handed over an oven peel for loan to the George to display. The oven peel was donated by Margaret Sparks and was originally made by local man Archie Cowell.



Later in the month, members of the committee and other villagers enjoyed lunch at the Blue Egg followed by a talk by Dr Janet Dyson about the village of Great Bardfield and its artists. The talk included an opportunity to look at the Village's own archive of art and a guided tour of the Village itself. The day culminated in a visit to Brick House, home to artist Edward Bawden.

In November the Association's exhibition 'Shalford Remembered' was held at St Andrew's Parish Church - an event honouring the people of Shalford who fought for their country. This included stories of those who served, flower displays (both real and knitted), a reflection area and children's craft activities as well as the stories of some of the "Shalfordians" who served. Outside the Church an evocative poppy installation using around 700 community-made poppies as well as beautiful wooden soldiers created a moving display.

The event culminated in a Service of Remembrance on Sunday 12 November and this included an RBL Standard Bearer, presentations, singing and presentations from local school children. Shalford remembered was very well supported by the local community and even attracted the attention of Anglia ITV News. It's always very rewarding when the community and its groups come together and support each other at events such as this.



At the Christmas lights event in December the Association manned a table for children (and adults) to make wartime Christmas decorations and we finished the year with a Christmas lunch at Sconch.

Throughout the year steady progress has been made to organise and update the Village archive. The cupboard is slowly being tidied and the addition of new shelving and strengthening of the current shelving has helped as has the removal of unnecessary items of furniture. The digital archive is beginning to come together and items are continually being added at special 'archiving' sessions. The Association has been awarded a grant from the Parish Council to help with storage for which we are very grateful. Carol continues to interview residents to add to our records.

We have been pleased to welcome Phil Brown to the committee and hope to attract more members soon. If anyone is interested in history they don't have to be a committee member as there are plenty of jobs to do outside of it such as interviewing residents, scanning documents, etc. The SLHA Facebook group has 133 followers and has been a useful form of communication as has the Village Magazine.

We are looking forward to joining with the School for its 150th Anniversary with an exhibition on Wednesday 19 June at the School and then transferring this to the Village Hall for the fete on the 22nd.

On a final note, we have a talk on Wednesday 26 June by Will Burrows here at the Village Hall. Will, 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. We look forward to seeing you there.

SLHA can be contacted at historyshalford@gmail.com or 07785 235000 (Sally)

Shalford Horticultural Society - Jane Mills (Chair)

We are a small committee keeping the running of a traditional village show alive in Shalford. Just recently we've been trying to establish exactly how long the SHS has been in the village but we haven't come up with an exact date yet. Additionally our enthusiastic team run occasional outings and evening talks, and Christine keeps the planter outside the village hall looking good.

We run an annual quiz evening, it's always popular in January when people have recovered from Christmas and are looking for an evening out. This year we hope to keep our show expenses lower, we have donated our profit from the quiz evening and more towards the Bendlowe initiative of buying comfortable chairs for the village hall.

You might already have read in the magazine, we have also purchased a water butt for rainwater from the roof for the planter and possibly hanging baskets.

In July we have a talk by the Essex Bee Keeping Association and our show will be on September 7th. The schedules will be ready just as soon as the fete is over. We do hope you will exhibit or browse the show or just come along for a cup of tea and a chat. If you have any questions in the meantime, do ask us.

William Bendlowe Charity – Alice Cox (Trustee & Chair)

Bendlowe's is celebrating its 450th Anniversary this year, having been formed by Deed on 20th December 1573 and is going from strength to strength benefiting from its brilliant and hardworking team – namely - Sally, trustee – Marianna, Mel, Nora and Derrick.

In addition to holding monthly Meet & Greet which currently attracts in the region of 45 to 50 people each month, Bendlowe's has been holding two annual events. Christmas meal usually at Weavers held in January which was a great success again this year and a coach trip to The Hut located on the promenade at Felixstowe – a trip to the seaside usually in August. This year Bendlowe's has also chartered Victoria for a cruise from Papermill Lock along the Chelmer & Blackwater in July which currently has a waiting list as it is so popular.

Sally, supported by the team, has been a "busy bee" trialling additional events on the 3rd Friday of the month at the Village Hall which are, again, proving to be very popular. To date we have seen a film afternoon and chair Pilates. We still have board games, pétanque craft and bingo to look forward to.

As you may already know, Bendlowe's chose to commemorate its 450th year by purchasing some new – hopefully – more comfortable chairs. Currently, we have 49 new chairs on order and we are immensely grateful to Shalford Horticultural Society, the Parish Council and various individuals of the community for stepping up and responding to our Chair Challenge.

Shalford Village Magazine – Alice Cox (Editor, Fund Raiser)

Shalford Village Magazine is in a much stronger position this year than it was last year. Mainly, attributable to so many villagers loving the magazine and volunteering to help fund it.

We print 410 copies in full colour a month which are distributed across the village free of charge. The cost per month for a 68-page magazine in full colour is £1.42 per copy. Compare this against the cost of popping a copy second-class in the post £2.10. This low cost of printing is achievable by using Litho printing and not digital.

However £1.42 x 410 x 10 months doesn't leave much change from £6,000 per year and we are grateful to the Parish Council for agreeing to a £2,000 grant and to our advertisers who provide in the region of another £2,000 a year leaving our incredibly generous villagers/organisations funding the balance. The only costs of the magazine is printing and insurance so all funds received go to the printing of the magazine. Every other cost of producing/distributing the magazine is covered by unpaid volunteers. Which nicely brings me to saying a huge thank you to those who take time out of their busy lives to submit articles for the magazine and to those who walk from one house to another distributing it. Without them, we would not have a magazine!!

Every month I complete a magazine, I shiver thinking “what have I got for next month”, so trust me, I am always open to new ideas for articles. Please do contact me – don't keep the idea to yourself and, best of all, write an article outlining the passion you hold for your own club/organisation perhaps covering its past/present/future or, perhaps, promoting it OR, indeed on another subject.

Community 360 – Philip Rawlinson (Assistant Engagement Officer) – Report provided as not able to attend on the night.

Community360 is an independent charity operating across Essex with over 50 years' experience supporting community action and providing direct services to tackle inequalities. We have a strong track record of bringing people together, developing innovative approaches, and of delivering improved outcomes.

Predominantly we work with communities in Colchester and Braintree areas, but also run Community Transport schemes in Colchester, Maldon (and soon Chelmsford) and manage the Essex Family Support Service in Essex (except Southend and Thurrock)

BRAINTREE

Our Braintree Community Development team provides a wide variety of support in the community including:

- My Social Prescription: providing non-medical support to make positive changes to improve health and wellbeing, including keeping active, connecting with others and practical support (e.g. carer and dementia support and employment support). Run an 'On Board' group in Braintree, to meet and play games and provide social interaction.
- Falls Prevention: providing free anti-slip slippers and advice and guidance to people who are at risk of trips, slips and falls.
- Green Prescribing: providing walks across the Braintree district for physical and mental health and to provide social interaction. Walks currently held in Braintree, Coggeshall,

Finchingfield, Witham, Shalford, Sible Hedingham, as well as walks supported and set up to be managed by Roundwood Care Home and Rethink (mental health support group). There are also 2 weekly online walks.

- My Weight Management support: working in partnership with Provide, we facilitate weekly weight management sessions (My Weight Matters) in Witham. This additionally supports healthy lifestyle choices.
- Funding advice and support: support provided to set up e.g. as a C.I.C. or charity, regular newsletters sent out advising on funding available and regular funding meetings with guest speakers.
- Dementia Support: supporting Braintree Dementia Action Alliance as vice-chair and provide information, support and advice on reducing risk of dementia as well as support in the community to become more dementia friendly e.g. setting up Dementia Friends sessions for shopping centre staff and Dementia Awareness stands.
- I.T. Support: providing I.T. sessions to help increase digital skills and provide social interaction.
- Children's Holiday Activity Clubs: supporting JAM (Just About Managing) families during school holidays with free clubs for children who are eligible for benefits based free school meals or from low income working families.
- Volunteering: volunteering opportunities for a wide range of roles and projects. We are also one of 14 Volunteer Centres across Essex and are part of Volunteer Essex and Essex Time Bank network, working with other charities and organisations to support their volunteer needs.
- Children's visits to care homes: inter-generational work with local schools and care homes so children can visit and interact with care home residents on a regular basis.
- Winter Resilience: providing winter packs which include a guide to local support services and staying safe, as well as practical items such as a torch and blanket.
- Active Rewards: exercise referrals in partnership with Fusion Leisure across the Braintree District. Pre-loaded Fusion card that can be used in any of the Fusion Leisure Centres.

For further information please contact the Braintree Team on 01376 550507 or email information@community360.org.uk

Shalford Fete Committee - Mel Fray

The 'Fete Committee' was set up in 2022 to organise the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Events. We then ran last year's Fete which was also successful. So here we are again for 2024. This year's fete is on Saturday June 22nd with the annual walk and Church service on Sunday 23rd. We haven't needed so many meetings this year as our team of happy volunteers all know what they're doing.

Many of our stalls are run by villagers individually or as part of the local group they are members of. This year we have a couple of extra, different stalls which hopefully will slot in very well to ensure a successful fun day.

We were able to set up our own bank account and we'd like to thank Alice Cox for all her help in doing this and helping me to look after the money. I regularly send out the statement listing all transactions to some of the committee to ensure I am being transparent and I am

happy to show this to anyone that is interested. A large amount of money raised last year has been spent on electric cables which we have Vic Goodey to thank for investigating and purchasing what was needed.

Again this year after all our expenses are paid out, we will discuss within the committee what we would like to purchase for the community.

We must thank all of our sponsors and donators; too many to name individually now, but hopefully they are happy with the amount of publicity we have done on social media and in our literature, which I have Andrew Merryweather to thank for taking on board this task.

Roll on 22nd June; looking forward to it.

Neighbourhood Watch - Mel Fray

I have been involved with Neighbourhood Watch for Shalford since August 2023. I live in Jaspers Green and we have a 'ladies' WhatsApp group to help and inform each other of events, road closures and anything interesting or suspicious! I wanted to expand this so enquired online and here I am.

I am supported by Braintree District Steering Group; Clive Stewart is the Chairman and they meet every three months or so. The last meeting was the AGM on 30th April in Gosfield which I attended and everyone was made so welcome. Clive has been involved for over 35 years and during that time was employed by Essex Police for over 5 years based in Braintree Police Station until he retired. The Steering group has a six-monthly newsletter, available in hard copy and by email and also a weekly newsletter.

Incidents from social media are NEVER published; only the information direct from Essex Police. The information is available free to EVERYONE. This is a shortened extract of a speech from the Braintree area co-ordinator.

Recently a person said, "Nothing happening where I live, so why should I be interested what happens in Shalford or other places"

My reply was to say, without being rude, that this person did not understand what Neighbourhood Watch is all about.

Members are very keen to know what crimes are happening all around them and not just on their doorstep. It is important to be aware of such crimes and then it may be possible to help prevent them happening where they live, especially to those who may feel vulnerable, whatever their age! We need to help these people; our neighbours, our friends.

One thing we do our very best on is not just reducing the opportunity of crime, but also to reduce the fear of crime. We do this by caring about the person we talk to. We care about all victims of crime wherever they live. We advise everyone to take extra care of belongings and also do what you can to help those who may feel vulnerable to do the same. That is our role in the community. If the roads were icy or flooded, we would say to our family and friends to be careful, and that is how NW works.

I can hear someone say "I do that anyway so I don't need to be part of NW". You are right, you don't need to be involved or be part of it to care about family and friends. BUT, like

being a member of a Club or Association, if you are a member, you will receive local information and details on crimes not always in the public domain.

It is important to note that the main task is to distribute information from reliable sources such as Essex Police, The Police Fire & Crime Commissioner's Office, Crimestoppers, Victim Support and Essex Fire & Rescue Service, all of whom work with Neighbourhood Watch every week to help reduce the opportunity of crime.

If you would like to be included in the regular newsletters and have any free items such as window stickers and wheelie bin stickers, please speak to me at the end and ask me to add you to my list.

[Shalford Village Hall Committee - Andrew Merryweather](#)



[Chairman's Annual Report 2023/24](#)

The Village Hall and recreation ground exist thanks to the hard work of the Management Committee. Circumstances have meant that some members have gone above and beyond to ensure that these facilities are available for the villagers to use and the viability of the charity is assured for many years to come.

For example: **Duggy Turner** has spent many a cold wet morning up here ensuring that the various contractors who maintain the recreation ground, cutting the grass, spraying the weed killer and worm control do a good job along with preparing the cricket pitch so once again we can have cricket here this summer.

And **Nicola Walton**, along with controlling the bookings, has ensured that the hall is kept clean and tidy and keeps a watchful eye on the hirers to ensure the facilities are not abused.

However we have been hit by some unforeseen issues. The high winds earlier in the year brought down a huge bow of the oak tree that is on our boundary with Grubbs Cottage and as it fell it damaged the fence and shed in Grubbs Cottage. **Andrew Hull** stepped up to the plate and arranged for the fallen bow to be removed and the shed repaired.

The ongoing saga of the settlement cracks has continued. The arborist appointed by our insurers said that the conifers either side of the hall had to come down and some remedial work to the oak tree on the road frontage had to be undertaken all at our cost. So we have had some significant unplanned expenditure.

The subsidence claim seems to be on its way to being resolved as the 6-weekly crack monitoring by the insurers has shown no further movement and they have put the remedial works out to tender.

All did not go to plan with the bungalow 74 Shalford Road Rayne that was left to us by Lawrence Rawlinson. It was reported at the last AGM that we planned to keep the bungalow, carry out the refurbishment ready to let it out in order to provide the Hall with a guaranteed income and an asset that would continue to increase in value. However once the refurbishment work started it became apparent that the loft extension had been built to a very poor standard, including the main roof ridge beam not being supported properly and the front wall was bowing out by several inches to name just two of the issues.

So we had a decision to make; either to sell the property at a discounted price or invest in having the problems rectified. We chose the latter which meant that it was not ready to rent out until March this year. The decision appears to be justified because the valuation of the property once the work was completed was significantly in excess of the additional money we spent.

All this additional work meant that we needed someone to oversee the project and we are very grateful that **Ian Butcher** volunteered, assisted by **Andrew H.** So we thank them for all the hours spent making sure we ended up with a bungalow that is a fitting legacy to Lawrence and Pauline.

Irrespective of this we are still waiting for Holmes and Hills to complete the registration of the property in our name at the Land Registry and then finalise Lawrence's estate.

As I said we have had some significant unplanned expenditure and along with rising costs for oil, electricity, insurance etc meant that our expenditure significantly exceeded our income last year and we have had to eat into our reserves.

Looking forward we have lost the dance class which was a good contributor to our income but we will be having cricket this year which should boost our funds and we will start to see the benefit from the rental income from the bungalow.

This year we are adopting a quite stringent budgeting process and project planning so we can monitor our surplus as it grows and decide how we should spend this, firstly to ensure the facilities are safe and secondly to improve them for the benefit of the community.

So thank you to all the committee members for their time and support, and thank you to the villagers who use this facility, an asset we can all be proud of.

Re-Cycle – Andrew Merryweather



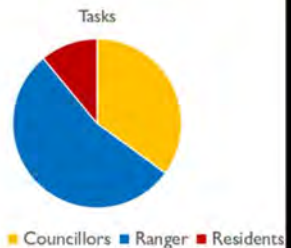
**RE-CYCLE
(BIKES FOR AFRICA)**

- Held a joint SPC/Re-cycle event in Oct 2022
- This can't be repeated every year, as not many left in garages & sheds, but I still get requests!
- Contact me to arrange drop off at my house

Parish Council Ranger – Andrew Merryweather

**PARISH
RANGER**

- The SPC decided to get a Parish Ranger in 2023 – Lol!
- Objective: to ensure action taken on smaller issues around Parish
- Over 60 tasks since July 23 with 10+ ongoing items.
- We need more resident requests – contact SPC via Fix-it or contact Jill



Footpaths – Andrew Merryweather



FOOTPATHS

- Track each FP for reported issues and fix where we can:
 - Ranger
 - Contact landowners
 - PROW
 - Flich Way volunteers
 - Legal with BDC
- Issues: Email via Fix-it or contact Jill

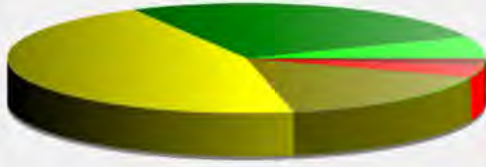
Parish Council Vehicle Activated Speed Update – Kevin Welsh

VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN

- Solar powered VAS purchased
- Licence granted for:
 - The George Pub
 - Barryfields
 - Stoneley Park (operational for 2 months)
 - Jaspers Green main road x 2
- Quotes requested for pole installation
- Community Speedwatch next



VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN- DATA



Incoming vehicles

	<= 25 Mph : 5,207 - (6.39 %)
	26 - 30 Mph : 21,536 - (26.43 %)
	31 - 35 Mph : 36,956 - (45.36 %)
	36 - 40 Mph : 13,123 - (16.11 %)
	41 - 45 Mph : 3,096 - (3.80 %)
	46 - 65 Mph (and more) : 1,559 - (1.91 %)

- 94.3% are not speeding at this site
- 1.91%, 1559 vehicles over 2 months are significantly over with 45 vehicles doing over 60 mph
 - Some of these are Blue Light vehicles
 - Speeding occurs early morning (05:00) or at night (23:00)
- Police are working with us to target these times

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- Process started (2 year project)
- Successful grant funding of £12k
- Studies commenced
 - Housing Study
 - Planning Consultant
 - Design support
- Working group to start June 24
- Presence at the Fete
- Volunteers needed



Update from Independent District Councillors for Three Fields

Dear Residents of Three Fields,

We are honoured to serve as your representatives on the Braintree District Council, having been elected last May. Mark Ault and Michael Staines have been actively engaged in a wide range of district-wide activities to gain valuable knowledge and experience in supporting our volunteer Parish Councils, residents, and community groups.

Throughout the past year, our primary focus has been on establishing a strong foundation for our role as District Councillors. We have diligently attended Braintree District Council and Parish Council meetings, striving to be a highly visible and accessible team of Independent Councillors. Our commitment to actively listening to residents and advocating for the interests of Three Fields at all levels, including Full Council sessions, has been unwavering.

Our efforts have been directed towards addressing pressing issues such as flooding, infrastructure improvements, public transport enhancements, local taxation decisions, and planning matters. We have actively supported multiple Parishes in opposing large-scale developments at Public Hearings and have championed sustainable rural businesses, including initiatives in Wethersfield.

The challenges we face require constant effort to stay informed and advocate for the best interests of our residents and communities. We deeply appreciate every interaction with residents, whether it be in person, through calls, texts, emails, or social media platforms. Your support and engagement are invaluable as we strive to better serve you.

Looking ahead, we are committed to furthering our support for local businesses to attract visitors and stimulate economic growth in our beautiful Three Fields communities and the wider Braintree District. We believe in promoting a vision of sustainable economic

development that prioritises community well-being over excessive housing and traffic congestion.

In addition to supporting our Neighbourhood Plan teams in shaping the future planning direction of our communities, we are dedicated to facilitating connections among various community groups to foster collaboration and synergy for the benefit of all residents.

As we prepare for the Essex County Council elections next May, we seek your support to amplify the voice and priorities of Three Fields at both the County and District levels. Your feedback and input are crucial to our efforts to represent you effectively.

For any inquiries or feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out to us as we are here to serve you and ensure that your voices are heard and your needs are met.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.



Warm regards,
Mark Ault and Michael Staines

Mobile Library Update



Stop Name:
Barryfields, Shalford CM7 5HJ
Time: 11:20 - 11:50

Stop Name:
Telephone Kiosk, Jaspers Green CM7 5AU
Time: 12:45 - 13:15

2024 Dates:
13-Jan, 03-Feb, 24-Feb, 16-Mar, 06-Apr, 27-Apr, 18-May, 08-Jun, 29-Jun, 20-Jul, 10-Aug, 31-Aug, 21-Sep, 12-Oct, 02-Nov, 23-Nov, 14-Dec

Further information can be found at libraries.essex.gov.uk



Ranger Update

Lol has been busy cutting back our growing footpaths as well as repairing and painting this bus stop.

Great work LOL!



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

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

Our next Parish Council meetings will be held on Wednesday 17th July and Wednesday 18th September both at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there,

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

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Morris Dancing at The George

By: Sally Welsh



As part of the Thaxted Morris Weekend, Morris dancing took place at The George on Saturday 2 June. Four different teams: Thaxted Morris, Men of Wight, Saddleworth (all the way from West Yorkshire) and

Dolphin, danced various dances in the pub car park. The sounds of their clogs and jingling bells along with the traditional instruments and colourful hats and decorated waistcoats made for a glorious sight. How very English! Once finished they were whisked away on a bright pink bus to Finchingfield before joining with around 20 other groups in Thaxted to Morris Dance away the evening.

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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 (i.e. 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 (i.e. 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

Sunday 14th July 2024.

Little Easton Manor, Park Road, Gt Dunmow CM6 2JN

Starting and ending at Little Easton Manor. Ride across open fields on a lovely hack in the Essex countryside. The route is around 8.5 miles (to be confirmed) no short option. Food and drink available. There is a lovely Tearoom and the surrounding countryside is picturesque. See website littleeastonmanor.co.uk for more details.

Thetford Forest members only weekend. Little Lodge Santon, Downham Brandon, Suffolk, IP270TX

6th September to 9th September.

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

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Michael Mason Bell Ringer

By: Tim Peckham

Michael Mason is Tower Captain at St Andrew's Shalford. He rings for every service and at every Friday evening practice session. Having been a villager all his life he has rung for many years becoming the life and soul of the tower and its five bells. This year was his 50th as a member of the Essex Association of Change Ringers. He was presented with a certificate of Life Membership by Simon Ward, the Northern District Ringing Master.



Simon Ward, Northern District ringing master presenting Michael with a certificate of Life Membership of the Essex Association of Change Ringers

Michael – Many have marvelled at your dedication to the voluntary work you carry out for St Andrew's Church and I have been asked to pass on to you their gratitude and appreciation for all your hard work in and around the church. So here goes:-

THANK YOU MICHAEL FOR ALL YOUR HARDWORK

Alice Cox



PICK, EAT, ENJOY

July and August are the most productive months to enjoy the fruits of our labours on the vegetable plot. Sometimes, gluts can be overwhelming but with a little imagination these can become a tasty addition to lazy summer lunches (**LSL**).

TOMATOES need to be checked daily and picked when fully and evenly coloured to be eaten or served straight away. Gently squeeze each one to check it gives slightly, then lift carefully with your finger on the knuckle of the stem and lift. Tomatoes need weekly feeding with a liquid feed which is high in potassium, to continue cropping. **LSL:** Mix halved cherry tomatoes with chopped spring onions, olive oil, wine vinegar and cooked pasta. Add a splash of tabasco for a gentle kick.

NEW POTATOES are ready to dig up once the first flowers appear. Harvest on a warm sunny day (whenever that will be). Carefully remove from the ground with a fork or tip from a bag or pot. Cook as soon after harvest as possible for the best flavour. **LSL:** Combine boiled, cooled new potatoes with radishes, peas and cucumber then drizzle with a herby dressing.

PEAS need to be checked daily, feeling the pods which need to be well filled. Snip from the vines to avoid pulling up the plants. Shell and eat as soon as possible for the sweetest flavour. Any excess peas may be open tray frozen then bagged. **LSL:** Make a salad by mixing fresh peas, shallots, watercress, and a mustardy dressing.

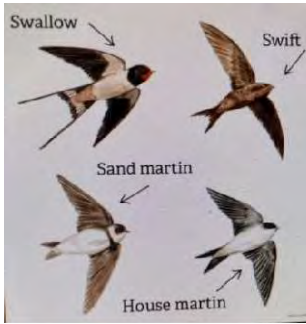
BEANS are picked little and often. Check daily, if possible, but at least twice a week. Picking encourages more pods to develop. French and Runner beans which are missed will become big and tough. **LSL:** Steam briefly, then combine with your favourite dressing, for a delicious side.

CARROTS are best lifted as required. For baby carrots, pull when the roots are 1 cm thick or leave to grow full size. If the ground is dry use a fork to ease them out. **LSL:** Roast whole baby carrots in olive oil and red wine vinegar with garlic and thyme to eat with a jacket potato.

COURGETTES are harvested when the fruits are small (10-13 cm long). Use a sharp knife to harvest. Pulling or twisting the fruits will damage the plant. Courgettes mature rapidly, so pick several times a week. **LSL:** Use raw and thinly sliced in salads or with dips or grated with pasta and basil.

STRAWBERRIES are picked when fully ripe. Checking daily for over ripe berries which develop mould and spoil nearby fruits. Keep strawberries coming by removing runners to keep the plant's energy producing fruit. Allow a few runners to form later in the summer for new plants. **LSL:** The only way to enjoy Strawberries is sliced and drenched with thick double cream. Perhaps for a special treat, halve and soak in rose wine for an hour, before using to top a pavlova.

Happy Harvesting
The Theoretical Gardener



Nature Notes - Swallows and Swifts

By: Mac Beanland

One thing which I miss since leaving the farm is the Swallows and Swifts, after watching them return each year for the last 48 years, they always arrive on about the 15th of May each year they just arrive take a look at their old nests then perch on the overhead wires and then take a well-earned rest for 24 hours before starting to repair and clean out nests ready for the breeding season.

They have just flown non-stop all the way from Africa. Most of the ones arriving at Frenches Farm were Swallows. I am often

asked how to tell the difference between Swifts and Swallows, it is easy the Swallow is slightly larger. It has a much longer tail which forms a long narrow V shape. It is dark blue almost black plumage with a white under side and a chestnut throat, whereas the Swift is brown all over apart from a little bit of white on its throat; they have much shorter wider v shaped tails and wide pointed wings. Another distinct feature is the fact that Swifts don't roost they rest on the wing, they have very badly designed feet which won't allow them to roost but they can cling onto vertical surfaces. With the Swallows, it's the males who arrive first they clean the nest out and do any necessary repairs which are needed before their mates return. We had one nest in a stable for many years at the side of a fluorescent light it was attached to the diffuser the bulb went one winter and I had to take the diffuser down to change the bulb and the nest fell down and smashed to the ground. I was so upset but I saw the Swallow return that May. It took a look in the stable, it rested overnight and the next day set about building a new nest in the very same place without planning permission! How I wished I could have helped it. The nests are a work of art they are built out of short pieces of straw dipped in mud and stuck together the old wattle and daub principle. I wonder who was the first to use it man or birds! I have not been able to establish the life expectancy of Swallows but the same nests at Frenches were in constant use for years. I can only assume that young males may return to the nests where they were reared and take it over if Dad is not around and hope to attract a mate to join them. After mating the female lays 4 or 5 white eggs with red and grey spotting. Both parents feed the young and the diet consists entirely of flying insects which are caught on the wing. If it's a good season with lots of food about they will often rear a second brood, but sadly the young birds of the second brood don't always manage to build up enough body reserves to sustain them for the long flight to over winter in sub-Saharan Africa and they perish on the way. Swifts like to build their nests much higher and in fact fly and feed on small flies which get carried on high altitude winds. They can often be seen wheeling about heights of more than a 1000 meters just specs in the sky they have a very distinct flight pattern three or four flaps of the wings then glide, you may have seen in the Anglian news recently a very tall water tower which was being refurbished and they took the opportunity to attach some swift nest boxes to the underside of projections near the top.

Swifts only lay two or three small white eggs and they only rear one brood, they even mate in flight, in cold summers when food is in short supply the young respond by growing more slowly, Swifts spend the winters in southern Africa. There are two other birds which are summer visitors here in the UK and over winter in Africa and have many of the same characteristics as the Swifts and Swallows but are in no way related, they are the Martins - House Martins and Sand Martins. I think they could well be a subject for the next lot of Nature Notes.



A SCHOOLBOYS' MEMORIES OF THE D DAY TIMES AND GENERAL MONTGOMERY

BY: CARL MUIR

The 80th Anniversary has now gone but the memories are still fresh. I was ten. On the 8 a.m. news 6th of June 1944, we heard the Second Front had started, which my friends and I mentioned casually on the way to school. It is difficult to convey in these days of instant news including live moments from battlefields, that in 1944 apart from people living near the south coast and airfields, due to a 100% news blackout, nobody knew what was going on. Nobody travelled about. After the Battle of Britain miracle there was defeat after defeat: the retreat to Dunkirk and evacuation; 30,000 people across the country killed by the blitz; hundreds of our food carrying supply ships sunk; our Armies retreating wherever they fought from North Africa to Singapore. Yet we sensed things were easing – air raids and the blackout stopped. There were no flowers anywhere, every garden was solid vegetable, and every iron railings had gone.

Earlier that year, the country became excited at last by the new General Montgomery winning the Battle of Alamein, North Africa, and more excitingly still, he was coming home to organise the Second Front. The day after it began, there were some photos in the paper. If you paid to go to a cinema, you could see a Pathe` newsreel five days later.

By about a year after the War ended, General Montgomery had reached celebrity status, comparable to Admiral Nelson on beating the Spanish Armada. He was to tour the country. My school buildings and sports fields had a main road built across them, bisecting the site. Amazingly he was to travel literally through our school. Our School, strongly traditionalist had a Head Master formal in etiquette. He relished the occasion.

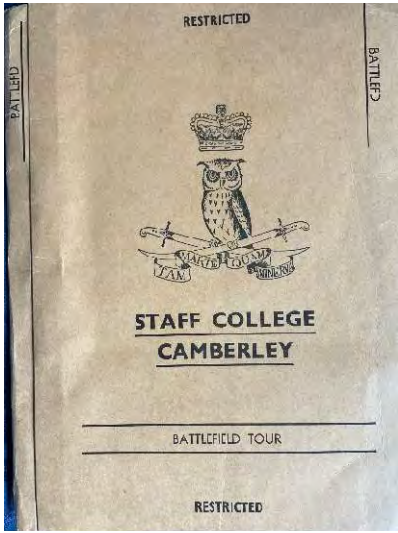
It was a crisp sunny morning and three hundred blazered and capped boys lined each facing pavement, with masters gowned and wearing a mortarboard alongside. We waited ages staring up the empty road, and suddenly three police cars swept by quickly followed by an open-topped military vehicle, going equally fast. It slowed on approaching us. A slightly built uniformed middle-aged man of medium height, wearing a beret was standing stiffly to attention, right arm raised in salute. The Head Prefect shouted “Now” and six hundred boys and Masters yelled “Hip Hip Hooray” three times, doffing caps and mortarboards each time. Our Head Master performed a Walter Raleigh style bow. The General turned a few degrees towards him and gave a slight nod of his head.



In three seconds and another police car, it was all over and lessons recommenced.

**THOUGHTS ON D DAY AND OUR DEBT OF GRATITUDE
TO THE INCREDIBLY BRAVE COMBATANTS
AND TO THOSE WHO LOST LOVED ONES**

BY: PETER JONES



Each year since the conflict, the annual intake of The Army Staff College (its most talented young Officers), make a five-day D Day Battlefield Tour, carrying out a close study, each segment of the Battle story conducted on its exact location by the actual commanders, all giving their unforgettable witness accounts. By 1974, many of these heroes, having been badly wounded, were now frail and doubtful attendees. Such importance was given for these brave men to be seen and heard, made the Army provide a doctor to be on the spot at all times through the tour. With luck that year, I was chosen. Truly unforgettable and humbling was to see and hear first-hand the stories of chaos, choking smells, deafening noise from continuous gunfire, cries from friends, comrades falling alongside and around you, having to go on and not stop for them as you are leading the advance which would otherwise stop. What was equally chilling were the casualty figures recently made

worse by modern updating. In spite of months of hugely detailed surveillance and intelligence of the enemy's defences, the Allies almost entirely failed to suppress their defences of the beaches. The men, many retching from seasickness, tumbled out of the landing crafts to face a hail of bullets while carrying a heavy pack and then to wade through very cold water maybe waist high. It was slaughter. At Omaha Beach where the Americans landed, Official Figures stated the dead throughout the day were about two thousand. It is now agreed to be actually between five and a half and six thousand young Americans died on that first day on one beach! Probably most aged in their early twenties.

Our tour party was billeted amongst the rebuilt coastal villages, all flattened at D Day. The stay was not without its lighter moments. I had been given a small helicopter to visit in case of a famous visitor's medical emergency. On the last evening, the wife of the now elderly Field Marshall commanding the D Day Parachutists, was accompanying her husband and had collapsed in her hotel about ten miles up the coast. It was a beautiful evening as the pale blue bereted smart Army Air Corps Captain piloted us skimming the empty beaches. I had been worried about what drugs and equipment I would need to take into France. I did take a bottle of kaolin mixture, tablet remedies were then unavailable. It transpired the lady had eaten the local shellfish, so I was able to supply a bottle with a Newport chemist's label.

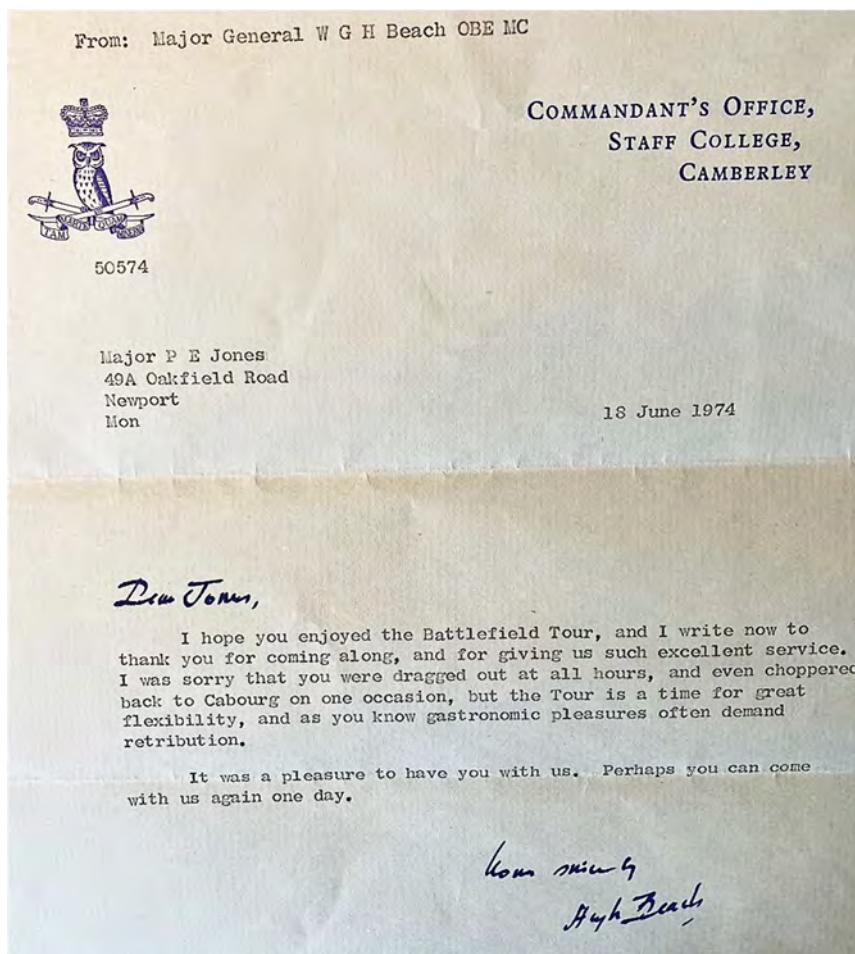
I got back to my hotel to join the VIPs for the final dinner. The windows of our dining room faced a courtyard alongside a bus terminus. Long tables were carried out onto the courtyard, and impressively laid with silver and glass. The officers dined formally and

splendidly, impressing the curious locals alongside in the bus queue. We then had a cloudburst and continuous heavy rain. To a man, the cream of the young Officer Class of the British Army did not flinch. The multi-course meal was completed by toasts and speeches. The locals watched from inside their buses, shaking their heads at the diners calmly eating through the downpour.

On the return cross Channel trip the next day, I met the Field Marshall's wife, now much better. She was charming and described how their Army Housing quarters had improved over her husband's career. I was pleased to hear they had been given a governmental Grace and Favour Residence in recognition of his wartime's distinguished record. They now lived in Hampton Court Palace.

Her last words were "Thank you for your cement!".

The NHS filled every moment on my return home, but I never forgot!



Wethersfield Airfield Museum

By: Ross Stewart, Curator



WE HAVE A NEW HOME IN FINCHINGFIELD

We have started to move in and hope to open to the public in mid-August. The plan is to open every weekend to October providing there are enough Host Volunteers to cover Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm.

If you think you would be a good host, be able to talk to people about the Airfield, pop in for a chat or email wethersfield.museum@gmail.com if you can spare two to six hours a month to fill a space on the roster.

It will always be our intention to try and get the museum back on the airfield. This building allows us to reach charity status, train volunteers, keep our profile high, while we continue to try and get back on base. It is not ideal because it is upstairs and we have no wheelchair access. If the landlord allows and we can raise the funding; a stair lift is on our wish list.

We have a new 70-minute “Wethersfield at War” Documentary and plan to hold a screening at a venue in the village soon as a fund raiser.

We have hosted American visitors while setting up and around twenty more have plans to visit this year.

The sign on the building is photoshopped in case you look and think it’s fallen down.

We look forward to meeting many of you once we open.

D DAY DANCE – FINCHINGFIELD ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



LINE DRAWING – THE GEORGE BY GRAHAM SILVESTER



Then



BLAKE HOUSE CRAFT CENTRE

The history behind a local hidden gem

Blake House Craft Centre has a rich history with records dating all the way back to 150 AD, when Romans were the first known inhabitants. The Earls of Essex owned Blake House Farm alongside other farms, totalling about 5,000 acres, from 1549 until 1901 when the whole estate was sold.

In 1901, the farm was bought by a Mr Bayley who farmed it until his death; then it was inherited by his brother, a rubber planter in Malaya, who let it until it sold in 1934. It was then purchased by Sir Follet Holt, a shipping magnate, as a speculation and sold to WH Harvey just six months later... and the same Harvey family still own and work Blake House Farm to the present day.

The site was once a traditional farmyard with a thatched Essex corn barn in a courtyard alongside other now-restored 18th and 19th century listed buildings of stables, cattle sheds and cart lodges. If you visit the craft centre today, you can find out more from the small signs dotted around the walls, detailing what could once be found in each barn. One of the barns here once even played host to the television series *Lovejoy*, where an auction scene was filmed for the programme.

In 1987, John Harvey began renting out the barns to small businesses and Blake House Craft Centre was born! From the early days, it housed a range of craft shops, antiques, tea rooms and an art gallery in the old donkey shed, with a range of artists each exhibiting in their own area and taking turns to man the space for visitors.

Today, this wonderful site has been transformed into a vibrant and flourishing craft centre which houses a wide range of small local businesses, from fabric supplies and yarn to hand-painted furniture. You can find Art Nouveau inspired designs in the gallery and a wide range of gifts and crafts from independent local artisans in the recently expanded 'Artisan's Hub'. Explore the miniatures at Lin's Little Dolls House Shop, pop into the cycling and motorbike shops or visit the inspiring zero waste shop.

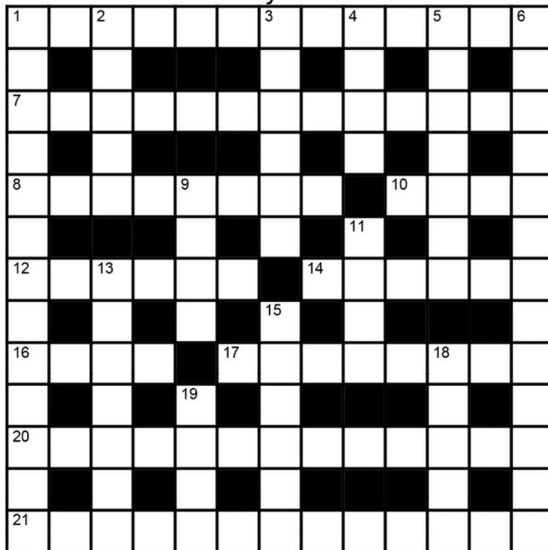
The popular Sconch Tea Rooms offer a range of breakfast, brunch or lunch options, plus a selection of delicious homemade cakes. During the summer, you can bring the family and entertain the kids in our wooden play area or challenge friends to a round of crazy golf on our nine hole minigolf course.

Blake House Craft Centre, Blake End is situated just off the A120 between Braintree and Great Dunmow. Visit their website:

***www.blakehousecraftcentre.co.uk
or follow their social media pages.***



Crossword 78 by Robert Burrows



Across

4 Cut (4)

- 1** Essex village (6,2,5) **5** Cooking area (7) **3** Add-on (4-2)
7 Type of government (13) **6** Substance of protein and nucleic acid (13) **4** Pins maybe used for cut (4)
8 Change for something new (8) **9** Written farewell (4) **5** Gear Chen needed for food prep room (7)
10 Footwear (4) **11** Tablet (4) **6** Complex bodily substance (13)
12 Dispute over price (6) **13** Ruminant mammal (7) **9** Latin valley goodbye (4)
14 Abduct for ransom (6) **15** Structure with a view (6) **11** Medication in spillage (4)
16 Filly's father (4) **18** Door joint (5) **13** Give ref a fig for this animal (7)
17 Rubbish (8) **19** Slang, Aussie egg (4) **Cryptic Across**
20 Process of flowering (13) **21** Essex hamlet (8,5) **1** Shop token reel broke in Essex village (6,2,5) outbuilding (6)

Down

- 1** State of amnesia (8,5) **7** Old measure for this system of government (13) **18** Neigh about the door fixture (4)
2 A stonecrop (5) **8** New start for VE nation (8) **19** Go and go back for breakfast item (4)
3 Temporary shelter (4-2)

10 Hose out for footwear (4)

12 Argue about egg price, Hal (6)

14 Pink? An awful way to take a child (6)

16 Father might rise off (4)

17 Much ado about nothing! (8)

20 Reference C Flo, could be for flowering (13)

21 Prong indeed Glen in this hamlet (8,5)

Cryptic Down

1 Evening snooze? (8,5)

2 Stonecrop found Thorp Inn (5)



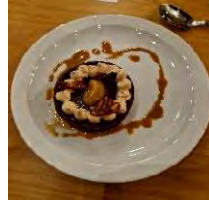
A Delicious Evening at Deersbrook Farm

By: Sally Welsh

My husband Kevin and I were very excited to attend a Gloucester Old Spot pork tasting menu with cider pairing at Deersbrook back in May. Having been to the same event the year before with the same Chef Alan Paton (who also cooks at Wimbledon!) we were very much looking forward to it and we were not disappointed!

We arrived at the Farm, which is in a beautiful rural setting, to a friendly welcome and a glass of 'Sassy' cider which set the tone for the evening. A table was set in the magnificent grade

2 listed thatched barn which encouraged a sociable atmosphere and allowed us to chat to both locals and others from such far flung locations as Wickford and Chelmsford!



The feasting began with a selection of porky snacks and breads. I particularly enjoyed the won-ton and the pork crackling. This was followed by a very tasty pulled terrine with a green tomato chutney, cider and green peppercorn vinaigrette. Although slightly full by now we were then treated to a very generous serving of rack of Deersbrook pork loin, bacon'aise potato, fennel with cider and stuffed courgette. The menu was completed by an absolutely delicious muscovado custard tart, espresso meringue, baked apple puree and smoked bacon and peanut brittle. Yum!

Each course was served with a different cider. Unfortunately the original local cider company was unable to attend but Anna from Deersbrook had managed to source some fabulous ciders which were fairly local – except for the French Sassy! All Kevin and I had to do now was to stagger back on foot to Jaspers Green without falling in any ditches or getting run over! The evening is a fantastic advert for local produce. We had also attended a beef-tasting evening, a few years ago and would certainly recommend these evenings. Great food, lovely company and beautiful surroundings!

For more information and to pick up some of their home produced 100% certified grass-fed beef and rare breed pork as well as other local products it's best to visit their butchery and farm shop or look online at www.deersbrookfarm.com or follow them on Facebook Deersbrook Farm, Littles Lane.





Buzzing News from the Hives of Gill Powell



By the time you read this, we will have passed the 'longest day' and as usual we haven't been able to make good use of the long summer evenings, hopefully these are yet to come. So far this year the bees have had a tough time dodging showers and strong winds whilst searching for forage and as yet only producing a small bucket of rape honey, which is going rock solid! (That will be another challenge for me later this year).

Last month, unfortunately, three of my queens absconded or were killed, which meant drastic actions were needed (because without the queen the hive is doomed) so I decided to re-queen using several different methods. One method I chose was to buy a queen on line which may sound odd but it is big business as I found out. Many bee keepers use this method so I thought it was worth a try. As she would be arriving by post I informed my postie who was as excited as I was when she arrived. After opening the cardboard package there she was in her little box with a few worker bees. I took her straight to the allotted hive to introduce her to the rest of the bees, this is done by placing the box in between two frames and leaving it there for 48 hours so the bees can get used to her smell, after the allotted time she can be let out to get on with her life in the hive. Thankfully she is laying really well and the hive is building up its strength again. The next job I had was to retrieve a swarm that had left one of my hives, unfortunately it had settled high in an old pear tree in the garden. Having never collected a swarm before I enlisted the help of a fellow bee keeper to get them down. Luckily for all it was a quick shake of the branch and down they came into a bucket, they were then tipped into a small temporary hive, all being well they will soon build themselves up into a good colony. Over the bank holiday weekend I got a message saying there was a swarm that needed collecting in Wethersfield, as nobody else responded I decided to be brave and go and get them! So suited and booted I arrived at the house to find the swarm about two feet off the ground (I was suitably relieved) so with bucket and brush in hand and a shake of the bush the swarm was in the bucket. So glad it was an easy one for my first collection, this is how it is possible to increase the number of working hives.



Braintree Bee Keepers attend a number of outside events over the year including the Essex Young Farmers show at Roxwell just outside Chelmsford, I have been going along to help for several years now which is always fun. We get to meet all sorts of people who are keen to find out all they can about bees and honey and how it's done. We have a stand right by the entrance where we sell honey and children can make candles out of the foundation wax. But primarily we are there to inform the visitors



about the importance of bees as pollinators. To help us explain the process we take an observation hive which has glass sides so the bees can be seen in all their glory. The children love to spot the queen who is marked with a colour denoting in which year she was born. This is always a very long day but I enjoy every minute of it. I was asked recently by a school in Braintree if I would start their 'Eco week' by giving the children a talk about bees. So I took along the observation hive and several pieces of kit, needless to

say they were very excited about the whole thing especially seeing the bees up close which provoked many questions. I left them with a couple of jars of honey to sample at a later date! As I mentioned earlier it has been a slow start for the bees this year on honey production. Luckily yesterday our local farmer popped in to buy some honey and we got talking about the lack of forage at the moment. He mentioned that he had not long planted out a large field of Borage nearby and said we could put some hives in the field if we liked. So in a couple of weeks my ladies will be taken over to enjoy the delights of the magical blue flowers. He was saying to me that when the Borage is in full flower and you walk through the field it is one mass of insects! Borage produces seeds that are turned into oil for the pharmaceutical industry, without all the pollinators this wouldn't be possible. In addition we hope the bees will make us plenty of clear fragrant honey during their time in the Borage field.



Bee fact: The Western Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) The origins of modern bee keeping are rooted in Europe. It was here, in abbeys and monasteries, that bee keepers found more peaceful means of harvesting honey than by destroying nests. One reason why the Western honey bee is the world's dominant species.

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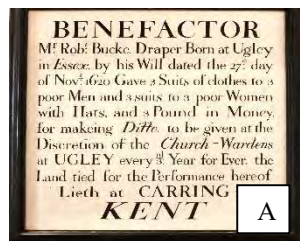


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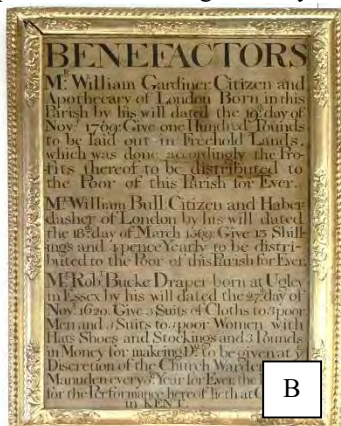
www.hundredparishes.org.uk

**BY: KEN MCDONALD,
SECRETARY**

We are fortunate today that we have a benefit system to help vulnerable people. In the past, the less fortunate relied on parish relief or the generosity of the better-off. Some wealthy benefactors left money for the



provision of almshouses. You can see an article on almshouses on the Hundred Parishes website at www.hundredparishes.org.uk.



Other philanthropists helped the poor by giving money in a variety of ways. Some churches record the benevolence of these donors on large “benefactor” boards. For example, in St. Peters, Ugley we are told on one board that Robert Bucke, a draper, in his will of 1620 gave 3 suits of

clothes to 3 poor men and 3 suits to 3 poor women with hats, to be given every third year “forever”. Just a few miles away in Manuden’s parish church, a



board describes three benefactors, one of whom is the same Robert Bucke. Here he gives the same number of suits to the poor of Manuden, here with additional hats, shoes and stockings.

In Little Hadham the church of St. Cecilia has a board recording that Miss Ann Scott, in her 1865 will, left dividends to the rector and church wardens to distribute bread on Shrove Sunday each year “at their discretion” to the poor of the Parish.

Hatfield Broad Oak’s Church of St. Mary the Virgin has a brass plaque describing the generosity of John Gobert. He left £600 in his will of 1623 for the purchase of land, the proceeds from which were to be distributed in a variety of ways including £4 per annum to the town of Hatfield Broad Oak. His heir Sir John Barrington subsequently bought the manor of Keeres in Aythorpe Roothing to comply with the will. Please look out for more proclamations of generosity.

PHOTOS: A – Ugley B – Manuden C – Little Hadham D – Hatfield Broad Oak

WHEN WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH

(2 more creative ways to explore and transform your grief
continued from May's Magazine page 63)



By: Sharon Barbour, Creative Artist

This month I would like to share with you another couple of creative art pieces and I hope those reading, sharing or even crafting; find some comfort in what they are doing.

SAND JARS

Making sand jars can be a deeply meaningful activity to aid in the journey of grief. This beautiful idea was graciously shared with me by a dear friend when we shared a platform of creative arts and bereavement.

With a friend or loved-one by your side, begin by selecting specific memories or events that hold significance to you and the person you've lost. As you reminisce about these memories each one can be represented by a difference colour of salt. Using coloured chalk, you can imbue the salt with hues that resonate with the emotions and essence of each memory. Together, you'll fill jars with layers of these coloured salts, each layer a testament to a cherished moment shared.

It is a process of reflection and remembrance, allowing you to express your grief in a tangible and creative manner, using salt and coloured chalk you can build jars full of memories

Materials needed

- Table Salt
- Coloured chalk
- Glass Jar
- Card
- String

Putting your sand jars together:

Choose between 6 and 10 significant dates, memories and events that you would like to remember. This may take a while to think about, so here are a few suggestions:

- the person's birthday
- day that you met them
- a family holiday
- an event that was special



Once you have decided how many things you want to remember, then fill a clear glass jar with table salt and tip out the salt onto a table. Split the salt into the number of piles. When you have decided on the number of piles needed, take some table salt and coloured chalk and rub the salt with the chalk until the salt takes on the colour of the chalk, then tip this pile of salt back into the jar.

Repeat this for the difference colours of chalk and you will build up a jar full of memories. Once the jar is full, put the lid on it. Get a small card and punch a hole at one side of it. Write down the list of memories and then tie this to the top of the jar with some string

MEMORY BLANKETS

This creative piece is inspired by my dear friend Una whose mother died alone. The constraints of COVID-19 pandemic compounded the pain, but she wanted to honour her mother's memory and unite her grieving family. Una decided that she was going to make a blanket, something that would represent the whole family. She gathered everyone and asked them to send in a photograph of themselves. Each family member contributed a photograph, weaving together a patchwork of memories and identities. As the blanket took shape, it became more than just a piece of fabric; it became a vessel for their shared grief and love.

When it came to finally bidding her mother farewell, she decided the blanket would not be draped over the coffin, but wrapped around her mother. Each family member was represented, their love and memories woven into every thread.

The blanket became a tangible expression of their love, a testament to the enduring power of remembrance.

Materials Needed

Photographs
Large sheet
Iron on transfers

Making the Memory Blanket

Arrange the photos as they appear on the blanket. Print photos on transfer paper, now arrange as you like to see them on the blanket before ironing on to secure it.



I would like to end with some words of reflection for the reader:

*“ Grief is like the ocean.
It comes in waves, ebbing and flowing.
Sometimes it is overwhelming.
All we can do is learn to swim”*

Unknown

Hope you enjoy these two additional creative art pieces. Do let me know if you have tried any of these so far. Drop me an email barboursharon032@gmail.com.

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



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From the Vicarage...

As this month's magazine issues are being distributed, we will be in the final days leading up to a general election. It always feels a bit risky for the Church to venture into political territory – not just because we often find ourselves being told that it's not our area, but because we take care not to exclude people from the Church on the basis of political views (although there are views on the extremes which we could never condone). No political party is ever going to be directly aligned with the Church, because politics is focused on the things of this world, whereas the Church looks towards life beyond this world. As such, the Church's role at the time of an election is not to tell people whom to vote for!

But we also believe that what happens here on earth matters – God gives us this life to be a blessing to us, and a means by which we can learn more about his love as we make our way back to him. With that in mind, there are things we, as the Church, encourage people to think about when they cast their votes. We encourage them to think of what we call the 'common good' – the wellbeing of all members of our society – and to support policies which provide the right help and support for those who really need it. We encourage them to support policies which ensure a just and fair world, in which the natural resources which we all benefit from are made available to all.

In amongst these ideals, many difficult decisions need to be made about what is to be prioritised, and what are the best means to bring things about. For many of us, the goals we have in mind for our politicians will have many similar features, and it is up to us to decide which proposals for how to get there are most convincing. Above all, I encourage you to use your vote – we all bear an ethical responsibility for taking part in our democratic process – and in doing so to think about how it affects not just you as an individual, but our whole society, and even the wider world. And we will continue, as we have already been doing, to pray for all our candidates, and for all those who are elected once votes have been finally cast.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

SERVICES FOR JULY & AUGUST IN THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES

Sunday 7 July – Sixth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Parish Communion Service – Shalford

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

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

3pm Children's Church – Wethersfield

Sunday 14 July – Seventh Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

followed by breakfast in church

9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little Bardfield

10.45am Parish Communion Service – Finchingfield

11am Family Service – Wethersfield

5pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 21 July – Eighth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

10.45am Family Service – Finchingfield

5pm Evensong – Cornish Hall End

Sunday 28 July – Ninth Sunday after Trinity

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 (celebrating the patronal feast of St Mary Magdalene)

Sunday 4 August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Parish Communion Service – Shalford

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

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

Sunday 11 August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

followed by breakfast in church

9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little Bardfield

10.45am Parish Communion Service – Finchingfield

11am Family Service – Wethersfield

5pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 18 August – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield (celebrating the patronal festival of St Mary)

10.45am Family Service – Finchingfield

5pm Evensong – Cornish Hall End

SERVICES FOR JULY & AUGUST IN THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES

Sunday 25 August – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

(Please check church noticeboards for any variations during the summer months.)

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



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**SHALFORD CHURCH OF ST ANDREW'S
PANT VALLEY CHURCHES
CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT**



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**Finchingfield
St John the
Baptist**



**Gt Bardfield
St Mary The
Virgin**



**Little
Bardfield
St Katharine**



**Cornish Hall
End
St John the
Evangelist**

Once the altar frontal and the pulpit and lectern hangings change to green after Trinity Sunday the churchwarden can heave a sigh of relief because for the two or three months ahead there are no major festivals or events in the calendar and everyone can slack off a bit until Harvest Festival comes round again.

Normal Sunday services continue, of course, but consider: from All Souls' and All Saints' and Remembrance Sunday in November it's full steam ahead through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost. No wonder we're all a little weary come June! But there's still plenty to do and the PCC will be meeting in early July to do some forward planning for the ecclesiastical year ahead.

One of the reasons I love our Prayer Group that meets regularly in St Andrew's (details in the magazine) is that it gives me space and a half hour of peace and, mostly, quiet, to reflect not only on the issues of the day both nationally and locally, but also my own concerns; very often, in fact, my attention wanders far away from the prayers but that seems, in a funny sort of way, to re-jig whatever may be most on my mind. So if you are in need of a bit of spiritual re-jigging please don't be afraid to come along. We meet in the chancel or the meeting-room, depending on the temperature, and you can slip in and take a seat without any fuss or query. For a good deal of the thirty minutes we sit in silence and no-one has to say anything unless they want to, so no pressure at all.

Turning to the churchyard I must say that the weather so far this year has played havoc with the mowing and strimming regime, and the Community Payback Team has had some problems in attending so nature has done what it wants to do and I can only make a mild apology and say we are doing our bit for ecology! However, due to the lack of mowing we have discovered a couple of patches of bee orchids – not terribly rare but protected by law – and you may have noticed some areas that have now been protected from mowing. If you find any other orchid sites in the churchyard please do let me know.

So, I wish you all a happy and peaceful summer, – and surely the sun must shine in July and August! – safe journeys if you are travelling and a warm welcome to any visitors to our lovely village and St Andrew's church.

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
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