

SHALFORD

Village Magazine

December 2024 & January 2025

showcasing our community

Produced by the People for the People



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

- **WHAT'S ON**
- **CHURCH NEWS**
- **PARISH COUNCIL**
- **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**
- **LOCAL CHARITIES, ORGANISATIONS**
- **NATURE**
- **& MORE**

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**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
G&T
REMEMBRANCE
SING-A-LONG**

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

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)

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and for further
information:

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



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

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

SHALFORD FOOTBALL CLUB

Located at Shalford
Village Hall

For more information
visit:
<http://www.cfcshalford.co.uk>

PLAYING FIELDS

Football
Cricket
Tennis
Children's Playground
Pétanque

**PETANQUE
(BOULES)
LOCATED AT
SHALFORD
VILLAGE HALL**



No Need to Book

SHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING

**EVERY THIRD
WEDNESDAY OF THE
MONTH
HELD AT SHALFORD
VILLAGE HALL**

TIME: 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

For more information [https://
shalford-esssex-pc.gov.uk](https://shalford-esssex-pc.gov.uk)

ART CLUB

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

PILATES CLASS

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

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

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

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

WALKING GROUPS

From SHALFORD The George Pub every Wednesday at 10 a.m.
From FINCHINGFIELD Green every Friday at 10 a.m.

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

EVERY MONDAY at Wethersfield Church, 7 p.m. &

FRIDAY at Shalford Church, 7 p.m.

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:

ROY THREADGOLD
Tel: 01371 850481

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

CONTACT JAMES
TEL: 07704 070498



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

Christmas Meet and Greet



FRIDAY 6th December 2024

**11 am to 2 pm at Shalford
Village Hall**



To celebrate - it will be FESTIVE

So join us – all welcome

A light festive lunch

A glass of bubbly

Christmas carols

For further information contact:

Alice: Tel 07850 264518 or 01371 851146

or E-mail: alicecox53@btinternet.com

BENDLOWE'S – PEOPLE WORKING FOR PEOPLE

WHAT'S ON

**CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER
& SING-ALONG**

*In Support of
The Bendlowe's Charity*

Doors Open
19:30

Ticket Price
£5

Rock and Roll

Ballads

Standards

Love Songs

Country

Swing

Classics

**FRIDAY, 13th DECEMBER 2024 AT
SHALFORD VILLAGE HALL
8 PM to 10 PM**

BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS, AND NIBBLES
Tea/Coffee/Biscuits will be available

PLUS RAFFLE





tHe
BaRDfieLD
pLayeRS
pReSent



A PANTO

Cinderella &
THE GREEN GOBLIN



Great Bardfield Town Hall, CM7 4SA

19th, 20th, 21st December 2024

Doors open 7.00pm - Show Starts 7.30pm

(Matinee 21st December 1.30pm for 2.00pm Start)

Tickets: Adults £11.00. 12 & Under £4.00

Tickets available from:

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

For more info contact Ian Ruffle 07980 960082



Join Us For

Finchingfield Primary
Academy School

Christmas MARKET

FOOD | STALLS | GROTTO
RAFFLE | MUCH MORE

13TH DECEMBER

3.15 - 5.15PM

FREE ENTRY

SPONSORED BY HILL, EDEN
GREEN FINCHINGFIELD



TOYS & Treats 2024

Sunday 8th December
11am - 3pm

Danaher Animal Home
Wethersfield, CM7 4EP

FATHER CHRISTMAS • STALLS • CAKES & OTHER REFRESHMENTS

HELP ANIMALS WITHOUT FAMILIES CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS
BY LEAVING TOYS & TREATS IN THEIR STOCKINGS!





Christmas Market

Monday 2nd December 2024

6pm-9pm

Hosted inside our pub!

Mulled wine, churros and delicious hot baguettes, Christmas Music and the bar serving all evening!

MERRY Christmas

FROM THE EMPIRE THEATRE

All Christmas Films £1

11/12 **Love Actually**

18/12 **The Holiday**

18/12 **Its a Wonderful Life**

19/12 **Elf**

22/12 **The Muppet Christmas
Carol**

57 BUTLER ROAD, HALSTEAD, CO9 1LL
WWW.EMPIRE-THEATRE.CO.UK
enquiries@empire-theatre.co.uk

E

Christmas Market

SAT 16TH NOVEMBER - TUE 24TH DECEMBER

**BIGGER AND BETTER
THAN EVER**

**OLIVERS PLANTS,
COGGESHALL ROAD,
EARLS COLNE, ESSEX,
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EVERYDAY**



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FOOD**

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HOT DRINKS**

**WINE TASTING*
FACE PAINTING***

**CHRISTMAS TREES
FESTIVE DECORATIONS
TABLE ARRANGEMENTS**

+ MUCH MORE

FREE ENTRY

FREE PARKING

*selected dates, see website



GET ACTIVE WITH

Pickleball



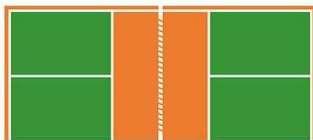
5-7pm
Fridays
Gosfield School



Halstead Road CO9 1PF

For More Info:
pickleball.gosfield@gmail.com

Lee 07713 911200
Jane 07932 185589



1st Session Free
All Abilities Welcome
Equipment Provided
Fun & Social

Pickleball is a fun paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis. The rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn, but can easily develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for all.

What is Pickleball?

What do you get if you cross tennis, badminton & table tennis... pickleball! The fastest growing sport in the US and becoming popular in the UK.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdC_WixnESQ

Come along and find out all about the 'kitchen' or no volley zone, learn about the 'double bounce rule' & how to 'dink'

Facebook: Gosfield Pickleball

www.pickleballengland.org



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3rd Prize £50 cash



Find out more

<https://braintreeandbockinggardens.co.uk/raffle-tickets/>

ST. ANDREW'S CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



St. Andrew's Church will be bedecked with Christmas floral arrangements ready for the Christmas Eve service and will be on view for the following 2 weeks.

All are welcome to enjoy our displays in celebration of Christmas. Entry is free.

At present, St. Andrew's Church is open every day from 9-4.



SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held in

THE MEETING ROOM, CHURCH OF ST ANDREW'S

TUESDAY, 14TH JANUARY, 2025 - 7 pm

We are in need of more members so please do come along to help us ensure the continuance of the Horticultural Society In Shalford.

SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Our **ANNUAL QUIZ** will be held at

SHALFORD VILLAGE HALL on

SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY 2025 – 7.30pm START

COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN

Dunmow and District Stroke Group

Dunmow and District Stroke Group is a friendly group which meets weekly for seated exercises followed by coffee and chat, not forgetting a few giggles. We meet at Banks Court, Dunmow, every Tuesday morning and for games alternate Monday afternoons. Each session lasts for approximately 90 minutes.

We also enjoy a Summer and Christmas lunch for Members, Carers and Volunteers.

New members and volunteers are more than welcome.

For further information contact Philip Milne 01371 875370

philip.milne@talk21.com

Essex Bridleways Association

The Essex Bridleways Association was formed some years ago to protect and enhance Bridleways. Membership costs £15 to join and runs for a year. Under 16s can join free.

Our policy regarding the requirement for flu vaccinations for 2025 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.

Area reps are required in Harlow, Rochford and Southend and Tendering. If you know any riders in these areas, please encourage them to apply. Training is given. The association can only succeed if ordinary riders are willing to give up their time and energy.

Ride Marshalls are needed for every ride. Volunteers are entitled to a free ride entry or free EBA membership for a year for helping.

The 2025 rides are now shown on our website. The first ride of the year will be at Highwood Fingrith on the **25th May 2025**. More details will be given nearer the time.

Mandy French



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IN LOVING MEMORY OF LES MOUNTAIN

We send our condolences to the family of Les Mountain, especially Keith, his son, and are honoured to print below the words written by Keith to his Dad

As I held your hand
The angels above descended
With each breath they drew closer
but I was not ready to let go
of your guiding hand held in mine

I could feel your life ebbing
as the angels beckoned
your spirit and soul
With a tear in my eye
I knew I had to let you go
You were my hero
My inspiration
My guiding light
You will forever live on in my heart

Now your guiding light
will shine from the stars above
May you forever

REST IN PEACE DAD

I could not have hoped for a better dad



**You were the best
Dad in the world**

Keith





CONDOLENCES

We send our sincere condolences to the family of

CAROLE SMITH

who has passed away. Carole was a well-respected and admired member of the community. She and her husband Smudger (before he passed away) were regular supporters of Meet & Greet.

A lovely lady who will be missed.



CONDOLENCES

We send our sincere condolences to the family of

CLAIRE TAYLOR

who has passed away. Claire was a well-respected and admired member of the community. She enjoyed being a committee member of Shalford Horticultural Society putting many hours of hard work into the society.

Claire was much valued and will be hard to replace.



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!*

REMEMBRANCE SING-A-LONG WITH

G & T (Vic Goodey & Marion Taylor)

By: Alice Cox

WHAT A TREAT



I joined Vic & Marion Saturday afternoon to help in setting up the Village Hall for our Remembrance Sing-A-Long. I remember clearly entering a bland, cold, bare hall, but left with my mood lifted especially as I looked back seeing a fittingly-decorated hall for Remembrance Day - oozing with atmosphere awaiting arrival of the audience.

Not only had Vic & Marion put in hours learning the songs but also Marion had made the table decorations including lights and flags. No excuse for not singing along as the technical help was there on the screen. A play list of the next songs plus the words which highlighted as they were sung. ***This was not all though!*** Research had resulted into the downloading of various famous speeches made by people such as Winston Churchill which immensely added to the mood. A bugle (which was played and enjoyed) was also on display.

What can we improve for next time – nothing! A mammoth thank you to Vic, Marion and of course the technical genius James. ***G & T - Bendlowe's No. 1 Fund Raisers -***

YOU DID US PROUD!

**Monies earned will be split between Bendlowe's
& Royal British Legion.**

Join us 13th December for our Christmas Sing-A-Long





WILLIAM BENDLOWE CHARITY

Founded 20th December 1573

(By: Alice Cox, Trustee & Chairperson)

**COMMEMORATING ITS 450TH
ANNIVERSARY**

CHAIR CHALLENGE UPDATE



*I will be placing a second order shortly for another 11 chairs which will bring the total to **61** chairs purchased for Shalford Village Hall.*

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to the challenge

CONGRATULATIONS TO SALLY WELSH



At the annual Braintree District Volunteer and Active Awards ceremony sponsored by Braintree Village, our Sally won the category

“Going the Extra Mile Award”

Well done Sally – well deserved

FOOD BANK COLLECTION POINTS Tel: 01376 330694

1 West Drive, Wethersfield – Anytime
St Andrew’s Church Last Friday of the Month - 9 to 11 a.m



SHALFORD SCHOOL 150TH ANNIVERSARY

By: Sally Welsh

(continued from November's magazine)

NATIONAL EVENTS

These excerpts show how national events affected the School

May 21 1900

Official news of Relief of Mafeking (Boer War). Holiday given in afternoon by arrangement with Chairman of the Board.

April 12th 1912

Play time was extended for 10 minutes to allow children to witness partial eclipse of sun, each child being provided with a piece of smoked glass for the purpose.

4th May 1926

Owing to the coal and railway strike (part of the General Strike of 1926), Ivy Candler PT (Pupil Teacher) returned from the Centre, the teacher finding it impossible to travel.

AN AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY

Being in a poor rural area has provided many challenges for school staff, particularly around attendance.

June 9th 1874

Several Mothers have come and begged for leave for their eldest child to stay at home and mind the baby while they (the mothers) go out in the fields and pull weeds. Many of them are very poor so I could not refuse.

September 7 1874

Reopened School today – 74 present. Many are still out gleaning and hop picking.

July 5th 1880

Received notice from Attendance Officer that children above 8 yrs of age to be excused attendance at school until July 18th, pea picking season being now on.

March 8 1882

Many of the children irregular this week – the majority employed in stone picking.



Potato picking

April 6th 1886

Have this week experienced one of the difficulties inseparable from a school in an agricultural district – viz the absence of children employed either by parents or farmers at this season in bird-scaring, seed planting etc



Shalford School pupils with
Headteacher Mr Quick c.1897



Shalford School pupils with
Headteacher Mr Hiscock c.1913

ACCIDENTS

Accidents happened at school and home as these excerpts show.

February 18th 1907

Grace Nicholls. Infant Dept, had collar bone dislocated by runaway horse; absent in consequence.

May 18th 1910

A scholar, Edith Pasfield, accidentally sat on a darning needle during needlework lesson in consequence of which Miss Lanham, one of the needlework teachers was asked by Head Master to investigate locality of needle, & remove it. She succeeded in removing needle. Case was reported to the C of Ms and local doctor.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

The School closed on a number of occasions outside of normal holidays as this was down to individual school management boards in the early days of education.

June 22 1897

Her most gracious majesty Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday. Village fete in Abbots Hall Park. No School.

May 20th 1910

School closed on account of national mourning for late King Edward VII

July 18th 1910

School closed at noon today on account of Sunday School treat.

July 21st 1910

School closed today, both sessions, on account of local flower show.

July 22nd 1910

Poor attendance this week owing to closure of school on two separate occasions & indisposition of children as a result of festivities

11th May 1937

The School closed today for the Coronation (12th) of their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (3 days)

December 17th 1937

School closed for the afternoon for the children's Christmas party provide by the Village Whist Drive Committee.

Some School reports.....

Maurice Bright 1933

Shalford Council School
Report for Third Term Examination July 1933

Name Maurice Bright Std II
Age 9yrs 1mth. Aver age of class 9yrs.
Times Absent 2 half days Pos in class 3rd No in class 11

Subject	Position	Remarks
Arithmetic	3rd	Very good
" (Mental)	1st	Excellent
Reading	1st	Excellent
English	1st	Very good
Composition	1st	Excellent
Writing	5th	Very good.

V.C. Thorogood
J.F. Park, Headmistress

STAFFORD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL
REPORT.....

Report for
Age Group
Position in Group

Examination Results.

SUBJECT	MARKS	MARKS GAINED
READING	10	8
WRITING	10	7
ARITHMETIC	10	6
ENGLISH	10	7
GENERAL	10	7
TOTAL	50	39

Attendance - 4 Good Conduct - Good
Remarks - Pupils has made satisfactory progress, some but needs more independent work as a increasing more responsibility, and I think should do well in the future.
Date.....
Teacher N. G. ...

Trevor Beal 1964

Shalford Council Junior School.
 Second Term Examination.
 March 1942.
 Margaret Wright Sta. IVa.
 No. in class (group) # Position I.

Subject	P	Position
Arithmetic	70	1
Mental Arithmetic	16	1
Lumpification	18	1
English	20	4
Spelling	18	2
Writing	17	1
Poetry	18	1
Reading	17	2

Margaret's work has shown considerable improvement, despite absence due to illness.

J.F. Porter

Above: Margaret Wright 1942

Essex Education Committee.
 SHALFORD COUNCIL SCHOOL.
 EXAMINATION end of February 1909.
 Name Gwendoline Root

SUBJECT	MARK	REMARKS
READING	24	Very good.
ARITHMETIC	9	
COMPOSITION	10	
GRAMMAR, SPELLING, &c.	20	
WRITING	20	CONDUCT: 9/10
LECTURE	18	
GEOGRAPHY	16	a P. Blacklee
HISTORY	14	
SCIENCE	16	Head Teacher.
TOTAL	159	
PERCENTAGE	100	

No. in Class. 31. Place 7.
 W. Root

Right: Gwendoline Root 1909



R.Wheeler

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SEEKING ANCESTRAL LINKS WITH THE MILLER OF SHALFORD

BY: CAMILLA JARVIS



George and Sally looking at an ancient map from 1605 which showed, marked, the route to the Mill

Mr George Sawin from Boston, Massachusetts, USA, contacted us at Shalford Local History Society seeking information on his forbear who had been the Miller at Shalford Mill and had passed away in 1574. His Grandson later emigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, in 1640 and due, to his skill in being able to build a Mill, was granted special permission to live in an area reserved exclusively for Native American people. This Mr Sawin actually built two water mills for the local people, who welcomed him for all the technological help he brought to them, one a ‘grist mill’ for grinding corn into flour and one a ‘saw mill’ for cutting up logs. The family were in the milling business for two centuries, so until 1820.

Thanks to excellent research carried out by a former member of our Society, Ms Dorothy Gardiner, in her amazing book entitled ‘The Story of Shalford’, we were able to cross-link the Will of Miller Sawin to the research done by George himself. This was the first incredible thrill of the day. The second was when we took George to see the Mill at Codham, which has been beautifully restored by the present owners. This was a real ‘Who do you think you are?’ moment for us all. Sally and I were very proud to show George his ancestral Mill in such wonderful repair. We found evidence of the Mill in an ancient map from 1605.

We then went on to tour Shalford Church, much aided by the excellent written guide that is kept there. George was most fascinated by the ‘Piscina’, the little bowl in the wall beside the altar, which exists from the 1100s and is the oldest part of the building. George remarked “We just don’t have anything this old in the States”. George was also interested in the Memorial to the crew of the Dry Gulcher, the WW2 bomber, which had come down near the church in 1942.

The final part of our visit was, of course, to the wonderful village pub, also called ‘The George’. This pub also fascinated our guest, dating as it does from the time when his forbear would have been the Miller in the village. We sat beside the roaring fire and talked of life here in Shalford over the years and also life in Boston, Massachusetts, the area in which George’s forbear had landed in 1640 and in which George and his family still live. George’s own house is the family residence which was built in 1680, a rare vintage for the US. Such a wonderful day came to a close as George had to drive himself back to where he was staying in the daylight but we hope to stay in touch and George was happy to have a copy of the book telling the story of Shalford by Ms Dorothy Gardiner and a copy of the ‘Tales from a Shalford fireside’ to take home with him



CARPET BOWLS

BY: VIC GOODEY CHAIRMAN

We played our opening league game of 2024 - 2025 season against Hunters Carpet Bowls Club. A club with a winning track record and good league and county level players.

The final score was Shalford 2 Points to Hunters 6 points. The two points came from a good Pairs game, in which Shalford was represented by Derrick and Richard.

A good plus for us was that we held the shots tally to 34 to Hunters and 22 to Shalford. The games were played in the usual good nature with a high level of competitive spirit.



SHALFORD PETANQUE TEAM

Our Shalford Pétanque team played at home today,
Sunday 10th November 2024 against Bocking Dyers

Triples 13-5

Doubles 6 – 13

Singles 13 – 7

SHALFORD WERE THE WINNERS 2 – 1

CONGRATULATIONS



CFC Shalford FC and Shalford Village Hall have been awarded the Essex Playing Fields Association Best Kept Football pitch award for 2024. This is the third time they have won the award having previously won it in 2021 and 2016.

It's a great credit to the football club and village hall management committee who have worked together over many years now to achieve several grants from the Football Foundation and committing their own funds to keeping the pitch and the overall playing field in excellent condition.

Ian Butcher
Chairman,
CFC Shalford FC



**GETTING TO
KNOW
HILARY
PENNEY**

By: Carol Prail



Golden Anniversary 2020

Hilary was born in Belfast, the eldest of 4 children. Her father served in the RAF as a Flight Sergeant. Her mother came from a musical family and her mother, aunt and uncle all sang and played the piano and other musical instruments. Hilary remembers her uncle singing “She wears red feathers and a hooly skirt”, a popular song at the time.

When her father left the RAF, he decided to become a vicar; this meant staying and studying at Trinity College Dublin and travelling between Belfast and Dublin for a three-year period until he was ordained into the Church of Ireland in 1955 and became a curate. The family lived in a house in south Belfast owned by Hilary’s grandfather during this time.

Hilary attended the local primary school and then went to Victoria College grammar school. Hilary was active in music at school, could sing and play the piano and also learnt to play the violin. She became the Leader of the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra and at University, the Leader of Queen’s University Orchestra. Hilary also played and sang in quartets and in many concerts.



Hilary met her husband Stewart at University when he was studying for a post graduate qualification. By 1969, the couple had moved to Little Horwood in Buckinghamshire. Hilary did temporary work but also joined the Aylesbury Orchestra continuing her love of music.

In 1971, the couple had moved to Southall. There Hilary joined British Telecom and worked in an office doing the accounts. She left before she had the first of her three children, two boys and one girl.



In 1980, Stewart and a friend called John both got new jobs in the west of England, Bristol and Tewkesbury. They decided to, jointly, buy a large Georgian house in Stroud for both families and their children to share - a very forward thinking arrangement at the time! They all had their own living areas and lived happily together for 8 years. Hilary taught piano at home at this time as well.

In 1988, after Hilary's father-in-law died, Hilary and Stewart decided to buy a new property with an annexe for Stewart's



mother near to where they lived. The Georgian house was sold and the two families went their separate ways. They are still in touch.

Hilary decided to do a course in word-processing and Office Management. A part-time vacancy became available at Church House in Gloucester in 1990 and later a position there in Accounts. Hilary's experience led to her being offered, in 1995, the Pastoral EO role in the Diocese which involved diverse areas such as parish reorganisations and also became the assistant to the DAC Secretary in the work of looking after the church buildings. There used to be monthly meetings whereby conservation work, architectural, archaeological or the restoration of artefacts were discussed with experts in their field to decide what course of action

needed to be taken. Decisions had to be made and Hilary was responsible for making things such as site visits happen.

Hilary worked in the busy Diocesan Office at Church House in Gloucester for 18 years. During this period, she also played and sang in the Forest of Dean Orchestra and The Stroud Choral Society and in Uplands church choir in Stroud. After retirement she became the Church Warden of All Saints' church in Stroud.

When Stewart retired, they decided to move to Scotland where Hilary had relatives and build their own house. Hilary's brother was the Coastguard for the Western Isles, and Dumfries and Galloway was handy for the ferry to N Ireland so they started looking in this area. Although they found a suitable plot in a lovely rural area to build a house, sadly the cost of supplying electricity proved prohibitive so the idea was cancelled. By this time, their children and grandchildren were all living in the South of England. Their youngest son and his wife were living in Shalford so they decided to move there in 2018 and spent the next year in making various alterations to the bungalow on The Chase.

When Hilary visited St Andrew's Church for the first time, she was made very welcome. After Covid, Hilary became Church Warden in 2021. It was a natural position due to her experience in another Diocese.

These days due to an old shoulder injury, Hilary no longer plays the violin but does play the Church organ every month and continues to take an active part in Choral Singing. She was instrumental in inviting Felsted Church Choir to come to St Andrew's Church once a month. Felsted Choir sing on the second Sunday of the month at 5pm. All are welcome.

The Church is clearly a major part of Hilary's life. When Hilary moved to Shalford she immediately offered to help and support the Church in any way she could. As Church Warden, it was Hilary who has organised the restoration of the Western Window and is now focusing on roof repairs to ensure the actual building is waterproof.

Hilary believes that most people are Spiritual but as the congregation dwindles she feels the Church may close and become a museum. That would be a great shame as St Andrew's Church has stood in Shalford Village for over 700 years. It is a timely reminder to us all.

Thank you Hilary for all you do at St Andrew's Church

Remembrance Day Display Created by Colin Barber



LEST WE FORGET

COLIN BARBER'S GARDEN DISPLAYS

BY: ALICE COX

Driving through Shalford, my eyes were drawn to an eye-watering Remembrance Day Display



I had noticed it in previous years, but this year was even better – stunning! I just had to know more.

So, knocking on the door, I introduced myself to Jane and made arrangements to meet the creator Jane's husband Colin. On meeting Colin, I detected an accent, Colin had originally come from the Midlands but moved to Essex many years ago settling in Shalford approximately 11 years ago.

During our chat, Colin recollected that his first display for Remembrance Day dated back to lockdown 2020 when, as a country, we were encouraged to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day with cream teas in the garden. He started small with one soldier but has now progressed to his "own regiment"! I'm looking forward to next year – being a horse lover, I'm hoping for a military horse (hint Colin when you read this).

Jane had mentioned that Colin loves displays. He decorates for Christmas (looking forward to this Christmas) but doesn't decorate his garden for Halloween – he decorates his son's garden. Yep, on talking to Colin he does not go without his "decorating fix", he loves decorating his son's garden for the grandchildren who absolutely love it. Colin makes headstone and puts a little story on them – my favourite: "In loving memory of SLEEP so suddenly taken from us by The Alarm Clock". Enjoy the photos Colin sent to me.



Colin, I am sure there are many neighbours who appreciate your hard work and wish to join me in saying "Thank you".

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By: Andrew Merryweather

As part of the Shalford Neighbourhood Plan development, we will have a regular feature in the Shalford Magazine to keep residents updated on progress and request actions where required.

Shalford Neighbourhood Plan Application



Background

Shalford Parish Council canvassed approval from the residents to develop a Neighbourhood Plan (NP), which is a legal document that records residents' aspirations for their community over the next 15 years.

It needs to demonstrate support from our community through surveys and a Referendum and it forms a key part of planning decisions. This makes it less likely that developments can be imposed upon a community or the lack of a plan be exploited by developers.

Whilst the Parish Council initiated the process, a Working Group has been formed to involve the wider community in the formulation of the plan:

residents, businesses, local groups, landowners and developers. A grant has also been obtained to engage the services of an expert NP consultant to guide the Working Group through the process.

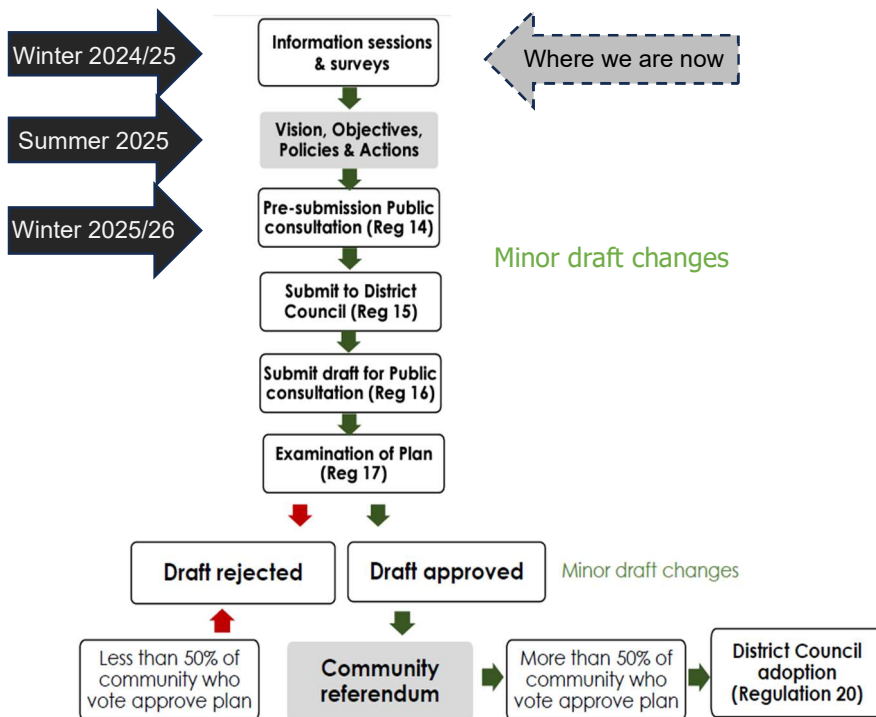
Other local Parishes already have approved NPs (eg Panfield, Saling) or are well into producing a Public consultation document Reg 14 (eg Finchingfield & Wethersfield). We are in discussions with them to ensure synergies, alignment and to utilise existing information.

Working Group Members

Kevin Welsh	Project Lead	Alison Eardley	Consultant
Sam Batt	Parish Councillor	Jill Boot	Parish Clerk
Neil Birks	Parish Councillor	Amanda French	Parish Councillor
Peter Havelock	Resident	Andrew Hull	Parish Councillor
Andrew Merryweather	Parish Councillor	Peter Mitchell	Parish Councillor
Richard Norman	Resident	Tom Price	Resident
Jarrold Spencer	Resident		

Process

The initial process was kicked off in Autumn 2023 and, based on other Parish Neighbourhood Plans, can take between 2 and 3 years to get to an approval position. So we will be working through 2025 to get the majority of the information sessions, surveys and resident feedback completed to produce the vision, objectives, policies & actions that form the basis of the pre submission Public Consultation document (Reg 14). The outline process is shown below:



What We've Done So Far

- BDC approval granted to complete a Neighbourhood Plan
- Grants approved for Consultant support, Housing Needs Assessment & Design Guidance Study
- Working Group established
- Housing Needs Assessment completed and approved by BDC
- Design Guidance Study completed and approved by BDC
- Initial Public consultation events at Bendlowe's Meet & Greet and Shalford Fete June 2024

Next Steps

- Send out surveys to all households – leaflet drop, SurveyMonkey* and face to face.
- Hold further public consultation events – at existing meetings and specific NP events
- Hold regular Working Party meetings
- Consult with Finchingfield & Wethersfield NP team to maximise synergies and utilise existing information
- Set up Resident communications tools using Facebook, email, household drops & Shalford Magazine
- Develop initial Vision, Objectives, Policies & Actions

*SurveyMonkey = an online survey process

How you can help

1. When requested, please complete Feedback surveys & attend NP meetings – it's important to have your voice and a say in the process.
2. If you would like to join the Working Group or get involved, please contact any of the existing members or use the NP specific email address shown below.
3. If you are interested in what type of document we are working towards, the Finchingfield & Wethersfield NP team have just produced the Pre-submission Public Consultation (Reg 14) document which can be viewed at <https://www.fw-np.org/>

How to contact the NP team

Email: shalfordneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com



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



2024/2025

Recycling does not end at your kerbside collection

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

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

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

SIGN UP for bin and recycling collection updates straight to your phone at www.braintree.gov.uk

My Recycling Calendar

TUESDAY ROUTE 2

OCTOBER 2024	NOVEMBER 2024	DECEMBER 2024
1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24
JANUARY 2025	FEBRUARY 2025	MARCH 2025
2 8 14 21 28 <small>THURS WED</small>	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25
APRIL 2025	MAY 2025	JUNE 2025
1 8 15 22 29 <small>WED</small>	7 13 20 28 <small>WED</small>	3 10 17 24
JULY 2025	AUGUST 2025	SEPTEMBER 2025
1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 27 <small>WED</small>	2 9 16 23 30

- Grey bin and food bin
- Different collection day
- Clear sacks and food bin only (green bin suspended)
- Different collection day
- Green bin (subscribers only), clear sacks and food bin
- Different collection day

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



FOOD BIN



Correct at time of publication 5/9/2024. Please check www.braintree.gov.uk for any changes.



Beautiful new planters for the Winter

A huge thank you to Neil, Stephen and Lol, for refreshing our planters for the season ahead. A huge thank you for this work.

Ranger update

Lol has been busy litter picking across the parish and filling up the dog poo bag dispensers. He has also been regularly clearing the fallen apples in Clifffield and cutting back brambles here and there. He cut back some growth to ensure signs remain visible along Hulls Lane. Thank you Lol for keeping our parish looking its best!

Shalford Neighbourhood Plan



**YOUR VILLAGE
YOUR VOICE**

There will be a specific section in the magazine each month just for the Neighbourhood plan. Please check the index for the page number.

Digigo

We are aware of some issues with the digigo service. Please can you send any examples to the Clerk and we can collate and feedback. Positive experiences welcome too!



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.' When reporting please attach a picture of the issue and ideally a what3words location as this makes it much easier for Lol to find.



what3words

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

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

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





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Nature Notes

Tales of the River Bank

By: Mac Beanland



Last month I mentioned that I had depended on local nature watchers telling what they had seen on their walks for ideas for my notes. It was a comment that invited ‘Tall Tales from the Riverbank’....a hippopotamus swimming in The Pant?! Thankfully global warming hasn’t changed

habitats to that extent. On my trip to South Africa some thirty years ago, I learned that those lazy innocent looking animals are extremely dangerous and are responsible for more human fatalities each year than lions!

Lately, I have managed to walk to the river a few times to see it for myself and have noticed the increased amount of vegetation on the riverbank. There are times when we have excessively wet seasons causing the river to flood repeatedly. When this happens, the banks are washed free of vegetation and become exposed earth. But in its present state, lots of broad-leaved plants like comfrey and docks are forming a blanket of cover. This has become a wonderful haven for lots of river-side dwellers, creating a hidden world, protected from large feet.

Last month I wrote of the Kingfisher, a riverside resident with its nest in a tunnel. Additionally, this increased cover should provide protection for the water vole. We are told that water voles, after struggling for years, are returning to our rivers in growing numbers. Their problem had been that they make a tasty meal for so many predators. One of the worst predators on the Pant and many other rivers had been the mink. They were introduced into the UK by mink farms to be bred for their skins for the fashion trade. Occasionally mink may have escaped but the problem increased significantly when well-meaning but misguided people broke into well-secured fur farms to release the mink. Unfortunately once in the wild, the mink devastated wild life. They had equally destructive effects when they got onto poultry farms. Mink kill for pleasure not for food.

This problem to our native wildlife has now been recognised and Mink have been listed as an evasive species. It is legal to trap and destroy them. In most places this programme has been successful including the Pant Valley. Without this predator, the riverbank is becoming a safer place for wildlife.

Other riverbank residents include the slugs and worms which often venture a bit too far, fall into the river and become natural fish food. After all it would be a waste of time for anglers to bait their hooks with worms and maggots if fish were not used to eating such things!

I hope my ramblings have highlighted how one or two small factors whether they be manmade or natural, can soon upset or rebalance the life of the riverbank.

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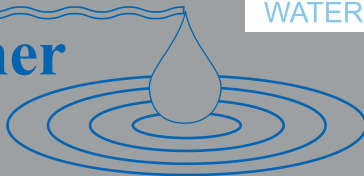
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THE ESSEX & HERTS AIR AMBULANCE TRUST

YOUR LOCAL LIFE-SAVING CHARITY

Did you know that your local air ambulance service is a charity, relying on residents' donations?

You might think that the helicopters of Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) often seen flying overhead, are part of the NHS. But this free life-saving service provided 24/7 by helicopters and rapid response vehicles (RRVs) receives limited government funding and no National Lottery grants. It is thanks to local people and businesses across Essex and Hertfordshire raising funds for EHAAT that the charity can provide its vital medical emergency service.

Last year, their critical care team treated just over **1,900** patients, operating from two airbases in Earls Colne and North Weald. Each critical care team consists of a pre-hospital care doctor, a critical care paramedic plus a pilot and co-pilot who rush their clinical colleagues to the scene of medical emergencies within minutes, carrying life-saving equipment to deliver advanced clinical care. Usually, this equipment is only available in the hospital emergency department. Thanks to EHAAT and local people's generosity, patients have received life-saving transfusions from the blood reserves carried on board the helicopters and RRVs.



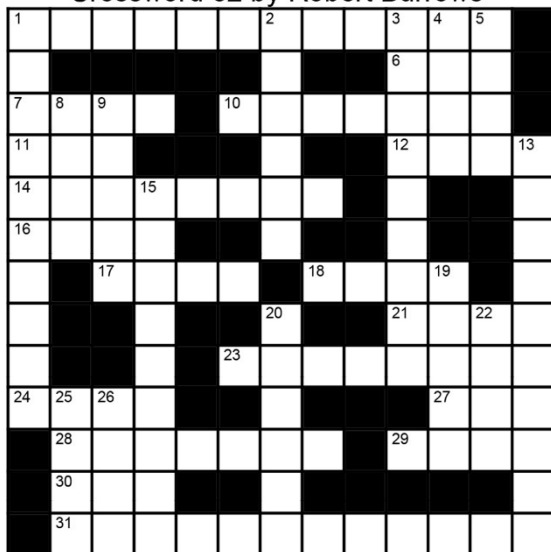
Many volunteers lend a helping hand to support the charity, all playing an important part. Jane Morton, EHAAT Volunteer Manager says their time is hugely valued by the charity. She explains: "The core of our operations extends beyond our fleet of helicopters and advanced medical interventions, it's the spirit of our supporters and volunteers that drive us forward."

"From helping in our charity shops to sorting treasures in our warehouses, picking up collection tins, giving engaging visitor centre tours and supporting events, every hour of volunteering makes a meaningful difference. Yet, it's more than the tasks at hand – it's about making connections and lasting friendships. Whether it's sharing experiences, learning new skills, or stepping in to support community events, our volunteers not only impact our operations as a charity but inspire others and create positive change across our local communities."

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



Crossword 82 by Robert Burrows



Across

- 1** Essex Village (7-5)
6 Water made alkaline (3)
7 String (4)
10 Cervus elaphus (3,4)
11 A glance (3)
12 Upper part of a whip (4)
14 Keen internet user (8)
16 Stern (4)
17 Impressive (4)
18 Cutting stroke (4)
21 Facial organ (4)
23 Verdict (8)
24 Injury (4)
27 Old currency of Latvia (3)
28 Persuaded to take part (5-2)
29 Insect phrase (4)
30 Skill (3)
31 Essex Hamlet (12)

Down

- 1** Standard of speech (3-7)

- 2** Faculty of vision (6)

- 3** Subatomic particles (9)
4 An observer (4)
5 Roman emperor (4)
8 Legal term (4)
9 Fix shoelace (2-3)
13 Proportion (10)
15 Extemporaneous (9)
19 American stew (5)
20 Repeat aloud from memory (6)
22 Cleansing agent (4)
25 Middle East person (4)
26 Abbreviation: roll on - roll off (2-2)

Cryptic Across

- 1** Ben, Reg, Amber's out in this village (7-5)
6 Soap ingredient from Ely maybe (3)
7 Rope in décor design (4)

- 10** Colourful creature (3,4)

- 11** I, reportedly, see with it (3)

- 12** Cut part of the whip (4)

- 14** Those who live on-line? (8)

- 16** Harsh pilgrim ending (4)

- 17** Long story about E pic (4)

- 18** Watch operation, including cut (4)

- 21** No compass direction on face (4)

- 23** Toss coin side on for verdict (8)

- 24** Hurt Sarah, amour needed (4)

- 27** Some later or old currency? (3)

- 28** Pine rod ordered, reeled people in (5-2)

- 29** Oddly insect phase became a pup! (4)

- 30** Some impart skill (3)

- 31** Bounce rubber, Gideon, in this hamlet (12)

Cryptic Down

- 1** Correct media pronunciation (3-7)

- 2** Noticing EE sign (6)

- 3** Somehow Ron elects these tiny particles (9)

- 4** Hey, Erlinder, some looker! (4)

- 5** Fiddling Roman Emperor (4)

- 8** Legal term of yore maybe (4)

- 9** Fasten again (2-3)

- 13** Hundreds ratio (10)

- 15** No notes for this speech (9)

- 19** Mix oil up for chicken stew (5)

- 20** Could be Crete, I repeat (6)

- 22** Cleanser - Brasso appears! (4)

- 25** Some vicar able to find horse (4)

- 26** Freight loading method, abbrev. (2-2)



GREENHOUSE WINTER PROTECTION

So many greenhouses (GH) are abandoned during the winter months, when they can become a useful resource. They can protect tender perennials dug up and potted; store house plants which are resting and past their best at this time of year, and with a little effort, become a nursery for seedlings waiting for the warmer weather when they can be planted out and provide an early show of flowers or vegetables.

Heating

It goes without saying that if your GH is not warm enough, all your initial outlay and efforts will be wasted. An economical way to keep the GH warm is to insulate it by draping bubble wrap from the top of the GH and holding it back to the sides with batons. Usually, a frost-free GH is a minimum of 5°C and is sufficient to keep most plants comfortable during the colder months.

An electric thermostatically controlled fan heater not only will keep your GH warmer but will control the air humidity removing the usual condensation found in a heated GH. In general, greenhouse air tends to be too dry for many plants in summer and too damp in winter. A cold GH is just that – without any heat it will heat up in the sun and cool dramatically at night. However, depending on the construction material and site, an unheated GH should just keep a minimum temperature, in a mild winter, to overwinter any citrus. The greatest use of an unheated GH is to extend the growing season.

Once a touch of heat is used to keep the GH frost free, it becomes a cool GH. This will allow overwintering of citrus, fuchsias and so on. The heat makes it possible to grow earlier crops, and all year-round salads and flowers.

The greater the temperature the GH is kept at the greater the range of plants that will flourish. However, this comes at a cost.

Ventilation

In winter, ventilation will waste heat and the problem in winter is that damp air encourages moulds.

In general, if it is not too cold and windy, open the ventilation early in the day and close in the late afternoon. If you have the opportunity add automatic vent openers which will repay you many times over. How often do we forget the door/window has been opened, remembering as we are about to step into bed? If you miss closing the GH, do it as soon as you remember, even after midnight, as the coldest time is usually at four or five o'clock in the morning.

Hygiene

Prompt action is important to prevent any pest or disease contaminating other plants. Daily inspection is vital when growing plants undercover. Bacterial and viral diseases spread quickly in warm, damp conditions which can bring about rot and decay. Remove any dead/dying foliage and cut back to healthy tissue if a stem succumbs to any disease.

Do check your greenhouse at least once a week.

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Evangelist**

From the Vicarage...

Christmas is a time of year when tradition plays a starring role. Not only do we have widely-held traditions which suggest what we might eat, sing and display, but we also have traditions which emerge and evolve within our own family groupings: who hosts, who comes, the order of food and presents and who gets to choose what to watch when all those other things have been done! Most of us will have some elements of how we 'do Christmas' which owe something to our upbringing, and the way we remember celebrating it in our childhood. What that means is that Christmas is a great opportunity for us to help shape a more long-lasting vision of what is important than we can normally hope to do. We have the opportunity at Christmas to embed, as parts of our family traditions, things such as voluntary work, charitable collections or giving, and time to reflect on how best to make use of the particular blessings we have received. Of course, merry-making and jollity have an important part to play in all of this – they help us to count our blessings, but also to make them count.

The best parts of our Christmas celebrations have in common that they can be shared with others, which is why we gather together in so many places – including in church, where we enjoy singing favourite carols together, but also listen together to words which have been passed down over hundreds of generations. Those words suggest to us that the force of life behind all that exists (for so we might describe what we mean by God) desired nothing more than to enter into what had been created, and share the life of us, the creatures which inhabit it. This is a vision which, if we choose to keep it at the heart of our Christmas celebrations, has the power to inspire and transform us, turning our hearts outwards, to share our joy and love with one another, in happy imitation of the God of which we sing in our carols. I hope that vision will bring light to your Christmas celebrations, and that you will find warmth of fellowship in our churches' keeping of this great festival.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY IN THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES

Sunday 1 December – Advent Sunday

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)
– Finchingfield

10.30am Benefice Communion Service – Shalford

4pm Advent Carol Service & Benediction –
Great Bardfield

Saturday 7 December

3pm RBL District Carol Service –
Finchingfield

Sunday 8 December – Second Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little
Bardfield

10.45am Parish Communion Service –
Finchingfield

11am Family Service (Toy & Christmas Tree
service) – Wethersfield

4pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 15 December – Third Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)
– Wethersfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great
Bardfield

10.45am Family Service – Finchingfield

4pm Service of Lessons & Carols – Cornish
Hall End

6pm Service of Lessons & Carols –
Wethersfield

Sunday 22 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)
– Great Bardfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10am Communion Service – Cornish Hall
End

11am Family Communion Service –
Wethersfield

3pm Joint Carol Service – Great
Bardfield Catholic Church

Tuesday 24 December – Christmas Eve

3pm Crib Service – Finchingfield

3pm Christingle Service – Great
Bardfield

5pm Carols by Candlelight – Shalford

9pm Early Midnight Mass – Little
Bardfield

11.30pm Midnight Mass –
Finchingfield

Wednesday 25 December – Christmas Day

9am Family Communion Service –
Cornish Hall End

9.30am Family Communion Service – Shalford

10.30am Family Communion Service
– Great Bardfield

11am Family Communion Service –
Wethersfield

Thursday 26 December – St Stephen, First Christian Martyr

10am Communion Service with hymns
– Little Bardfield

Saturday 28 December – The Holy Innocents

10am Communion Service – Great
Bardfield

Sunday 29 December – Sunday after Christmas

10.30am Benefice Communion Service
– Cornish Hall End

2.30pm Carols in the Cowshed –
Boydells Dairy Farm

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY IN THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES

Sunday 5 January – The Feast of the Epiphany (transferred)

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)
– Finchingfield

9.30am Parish Communion Service – Shalford

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

11am Prayer & Pilgrimage (Celtic morning prayer) – Wethersfield

Sunday 12 January – The Baptism of Christ / Plough Sunday

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

9.30am Benefice Communion Service – Little Bardfield

All welcome at the Plough Sunday service in Thaxted Parish Church at 11am

4pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 19 January – Second Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)
– Wethersfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

10.45am Family Service – Finchingfield

4pm Evening Prayer – Cornish Hall End

Sunday 26 January – Third Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (traditional language)
– Great Bardfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10am Communion Service – Cornish Hall End

11am Family Communion Service – Wethersfield

Regular Services and Events during the week

Monday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield

1.30pm ‘Faithful Fiction’ book club (1st weeks) – Between the Lines, Great Bardfield

Tuesday

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

10am Baby & Toddler Group – Great Bardfield ‘St Mary’s Munchkins’ story & song time with refreshments

Thursday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Wethersfield

10am Prayer Group (1st, 3rd & 5th weeks)

Coffee Morning (2nd & 4th weeks) – Shalford

Coffee Morning (3rd week) – Cornish Hall End

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

Friday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Shalford

Saturday

10.30am (3rd weeks) Coffee Morning – Wethersfield

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



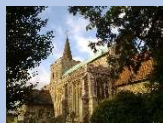
Shalford
St Andrew's



Wethersfield
St Mary
Magdalene



Finchingfield
St John the
Baptist



Gt Bardfield
St Mary The
Virgin



Little
Bardfield
St Katharine



Cornish Hall
End
St John the
Evangelist

The last months of the Church's year are largely given over to "looking back" – thinking of the Harvest Thanksgiving in October, the remembrance of our own departed loved ones and their committal to God in the All Souls' service and, finally, the national remembrance of all those who gave their lives in past conflicts, their "tomorrow" for our "today".

But December sees the beginning of the church's "looking forward", beginning with the Advent season that leads on to Christmas and Epiphany. There is, I think, great comfort in the *reliability* of the Church's seasons in the midst of all the uncertainty that besets our own lives, not to mention the turmoil of events both national and international. As the present churchwarden of St Andrew's it gives me a great sense of continuity when I think of all those who have held the office throughout many centuries, including times of great fear and change, but who have still upheld the discipline of the ecclesiastical seasons.

But – churchwardens are not invincible! And I have so much reason to be thankful in the last weeks for everyone who has stepped up to make sure that St Andrew's functions as it ought while I've been housebound and out of the way. The knee is doing all right, thank you, if too slowly for my liking, but then patience doesn't come easy! Thank you too to all who have sent me kind messages and encouragement. I may not actually be dancing by Christmas but you never know!

So, do keep an eye open for events at St Andrew's from Advent onwards, including a joint benefice service on 1st December for Advent Sunday and a short, very informal discussion course based on "My favourite prayer" throughout December, day and time to be confirmed. Then follows our traditional, glorious Christmas Eve carol service when the church is resplendent with flowers and light after the restraint of Advent.

In spite of worldly troubles there is so much to look forward to and I do hope that we will be able to welcome you in the Advent and Christmas season to the house of love and prayer that is St Andrew's.

Finally, my very best wishes to you all for a Happy and Peaceful New Year of 2025.

Hilary Penney

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Ringing Master, Roy Threadgold, Plumley, Braintree Road, Wethersfield
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Captain of the Bell Tower, Michael Mason, 6 Clifffield, Shalford, CM7 5HP
Tel: 01371 850125

Friends of St Andrew's Church (FOSTAC), Chairman Sue Morton 42 Hereward Way,
Wethersfield CM7 4EG Tel: 01371 850626 Email: suebeazleyend@gmail.com



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the mobile library will visit
Barryfield, Jaspers Green &
Panfield

St. Mary's Church

Great Bardfield

MUNCHKINS

Baby & Toddler GROUP



Every Tuesday morning

In Church from 10 am

Come and join us for stories, singing and refreshments

We look forward to you seeing you.



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

BY: KEN MCDONALD, Secretary

Until the 19th century, education in England was mostly linked to religious institutions or funded by wealthy donors. The Education Act of 1870 made a commitment to the provision of education to all on a national scale.

The Hundred Parishes has some fine examples of schools that were founded prior to this time and continue to educate young people today.

Felsted School was founded in 1564 by Richard Rich, the first Baron Rich. Under Henry VIII, he accumulated immense wealth whilst overseeing the dissolution of the monasteries, and he was later appointed Lord Chancellor of England under King Edward VI.

Dame Joyce Frankland, 1531-1588, lived at Rye House in Stanstead Abbots, the wife of the lord of the manor. Her son was killed by a fall from his horse. In her will, Dame Joyce remembered him by providing funds for the education of boys at many locations including the “free grammar schole” in Newport, now The Joyce Frankland Academy.

St, Edmunds College in Standon parish is the oldest Catholic college in England. The main building dates from 1769. The school chapel is Grade I listed, built in the mid-19th century and designed by A.W.N. Pugin whose best-known work is Big Ben, the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament.

Some schools built after 1870 have adopted the names of notable locals. For example Leventhorpe Academy in Sawbridgeworth was established in 1965 and named after the Leventhorpe family. Sir John Leventhorpe died in 1625 and has one of the finest memorials in Sawbridgeworth parish church.

Ralph Sadleir School in Standon was founded in 1971 and named after Sir Ralph who was born in 1507 and knighted in 1543 by Henry VIII. When Queen Mary I came to the throne, Sir Ralph retired to live quietly in Standon.



Photos

1: Felsted School – part of the original 16th-century building.

2: Memorial to Richard Rich, founder of Felsted School.

3: Gatehouse to Rye House, Stanstead Abbots, the home of Joyce Frankland.

4: St Edmund's College Chapel, Standon.

5: Memorial to Sir John and Lady Leventhorpe in Sawbridgeworth parish church.

6: Memorial to Sir Ralph Sadleir in Standon parish church.



Buzzing News from the Hives of Gill Powell



As Autumn draws to a close and Christmas approaches bee keepers around the country reflect on this year's events in the Apiary.

This year along with collecting swarms, having a queen bee delivered by post and a very satisfactory honey harvest, I am very proud of my bees and I thoroughly enjoy being part of the ever growing bee keeping community.



My bees are now safely housed for the winter months in their hives not venturing out very often due to the colder weather. The mouse guards are on preventing mice entering and taking up residence in the warmth of the hives.

Sugar fondant packs have been positioned above the bees to ensure they do not go hungry over the winter.



Lastly, a quilted cover is placed over the fondant and beneath the roof to keep the warmth in.

The queen needs to be kept at 36 degrees until

spring arrives otherwise she will die. The bees vibrate their bodies while surrounding her creating heat to keep her warm all winter.

I have been busy using surplice wax from the bees by making festive candles. Firstly the wax needs to be cleaned, to do this it is melted down in a large pan, as it





melts the debris sinks below the wax, when it has cooled down into a solid lump I scrape the debris off the back. This process removes most of the impurities.

To get clear golden wax, it will need melting again and pouring through a fine muslin cloth to finally set into a block of golden wax, ready for candle making. I melt it one final time before pouring the wax into silicone moulds, at this point essential oils and colouring can be added.

Once the wax has set the mould can be peeled away revealing a beautiful candle.

My family always look forward to receiving bees wax candles at Christmas. I also like to decorate my jars of honey which make festive gifts.

As this time of year tends to be cold and flu season my favourite recipe to ward off symptoms is:

Honey, lemon and ginger elixir

To a mug of hot water add;

2ntbsp of honey, juice of half a lemon and a grated knob of fresh ginger stir and enjoy.

Fun Fact ..

Despite the tough conditions in the cooler months, honey bees actually live longer during the winter due to the fact they are safe and secure in the hive and use less energy than they would whilst foraging in the summer.



I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and look forward to writing for you again in the New Year.



Twelve tips for Christmas...and after

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

1. If you need to store Christmas food and drink, presents and other goodies within garages and outbuildings, ensure what you are storing is out of sight and that the building is securely locked with good quality well-fitted locks. Treat your shed to a shed alarm.
2. Avoid tempting window-shopping burglars; don't leave presents and valuables on full view in front of a window. Having parcels delivered, and may be out, make sure that you make suitable secure delivery arrangements to reduce the risk of theft.
3. Whenever leaving the house always ensure that your windows and doors are closed and locked. Don't attract burglars to your home by leaving it in darkness; leave lights on timers, perhaps treat yourself to a TV simulator too.
4. Lock gates to keep unwanted visitors from getting to the rear of your home.
5. When you go to leave the house and find that your car is all iced up, don't leave it unattended with the engine running to de-ice it. It only takes a second to steal your car and it would invalidate any insurance claim.
6. Park safely; look for a 'Park Mark' accredited car park www.parkmark.co.uk/car-park-finder Check that your car is locked before you leave it and don't leave valuables and gifts on display in your car.
7. Whether an evening out or Christmas shopping keep your bags, handbags, wallets and mobile safe. Busy places make it easier for the sneak thief, so be alert at all times.
8. **A Christmas get together** – make sure that you have considered how you are getting home in advance and avoid using unlicensed taxis. Ensure you drink responsibly, and are aware of your surroundings, whilst keeping your drink and belongings safe. www.suzylamplugh.org/Pages/FAQs/Category/personal-safety
9. When out celebrating don't leave mobile phones on tables in full view, don't leave handbags on the back of chairs.
10. Watch what you put on social media; check your settings to ensure that you are not broadcasting when you are not at home and the lovely gifts you may have received.
11. After Christmas don't advertise your nice gifts to the thieves by putting the empty boxes out for collection, disguise them, fold them up inside out or put them inside another non-descript box.
12. Record your new property free on www.immobilise.com, install tracking and security apps on relevant electrical and computer products. Consider a property marking product.
13. **Have a Great Christmas and New Year!!** 😊

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

AUTUMN BUDGET UPDATE

The Key News From the Chancellor's statement

Given below is a summary of some of the key measures and announcements from this year's Autumn Budget and what they might mean for you.

Extra Investment In Infrastructure

The chancellor argued that “the only way to drive economic growth is to invest, invest, invest.”

In the run-up to the Budget, Reeves announced she was making a technical change to the way debt is measured, which will allow the government to fund extra investment. This wider debt measure will allow for more borrowing to invest in big building projects such as roads, railways, and hospitals. It's important to note that this additional room for manoeuvre for spending on investment projects will not be used to support day-to-day spending, as the chancellor has committed to fund that with tax receipts.

A Rise In Employer National Insurance Contributions

As many analysts had predicted, Reeves increased employer National Insurance (NI) rates by 1.2% from 13.8% to 15%, effective 6 April 2025.

Currently, employers pay NI only above a threshold of £9,100 a year. The chancellor reduced this threshold to £5,000 a year, effective 6 April 2025. The threshold will remain at £5,000 until 6 April 2028 and then increase in line with the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) thereafter.

These reforms will raise £25 billion a year by the end of the forecast period (2029/30). At the same time, the government is increasing the Employment Allowance. The current Employment Allowance gives employers with NI bills of £100,000 or less a discount of £5,000 on their employer NI bill. From 2025, the Employment Allowance will rise to £10,500. Moreover, the government will expand the Employment Allowance by removing the £100,000 eligibility threshold so that all eligible employers now benefit.

Taken together, the government says that 865,000 businesses will pay no NI contributions at all, and more than half of employers with NI liabilities will either see no change or will gain overall next year.

An End To The Freeze On Income Tax Thresholds From 2028

Back in 2021, the then-chancellor, Rishi Sunak, raised both the Personal Allowance and the threshold at which higher-rate Income Tax is due by £70 and £270 respectively.

Importantly, however, he also fixed these thresholds until 2026. Then, in the 2022 Autumn Statement, Jeremy Hunt extended this freeze until 2028.

Unexpectedly, Reeves decided against extending the freeze beyond 2028. From 2028/29, personal tax thresholds will be updated in line with inflation once again.

Capital Gains Tax Reforms

The chancellor announced several changes to the Capital Gains Tax (CGT) regime.

Firstly, as of 30 October, the main rates of CGT have increased. The basic rate has risen from 10% to 18% and the higher rate has increased from 20% to 24%.

The government will maintain the lifetime limit for Business Asset Disposal Relief (BADR) – formerly Entrepreneurs’ Relief – at £1 million. Meanwhile, the lifetime limit for Investors’ Relief (IR) will be reduced from £10 million to £1 million.

The BADR and IR rate of CGT will continue to be charged at 10%, before rising to 14% on 6 April 2025 and 18% on 6 April 2026.

These measures will raise £2.5 billion a year by the end of the forecast period.

Furthermore, CGT on carried interest – paid by private equity managers – will rise from 18% (basic rate) and 28% (higher rate) to 32% from 6 April 2025. There will be further reforms from April 2026 to bring carried interest within the Income Tax framework, under bespoke rules.

Changes To Some Inheritance Tax Reliefs

As expected, the chancellor made key announcements that could affect estate planning.

Nil-rate bands

The freeze on Inheritance Tax (IHT) thresholds will be extended by an additional two years, to 2030. The nil-rate band and residence nil-rate band will remain at £325,000 and £175,000 respectively.

Pensions

Reeves announced she was closing the “loophole” that gives pensions preferable IHT treatment. She will bring unused pension funds and death benefits payable from a pension into a person’s estate for IHT purposes from 6 April 2027.

The government estimates this measure will affect around 8% of estates each year.

Agricultural Property Relief

Currently, individuals can claim up to 100% relief on agricultural property (land or pasture that is used to grow crops or rear animals).

From 6 April 2026, the first £1 million of combined business and agricultural assets will continue to attract no IHT at all. However, for assets above this threshold, IHT will apply with 50% relief.

Business Property Relief

From 6 April 2026, the government will also reduce the rate of Business Property Relief from 100% to 50% in all circumstances for shares designated as “not listed” on the markets of a recognised stock exchange, such as the AIM.

ISA Subscription Limits Frozen Until 2030

Prior to the Budget, there was speculation that the chancellor may make changes to simplify the ISA regime.

While these did not materialise, the Budget did confirm that annual subscription limits will remain at £20,000 for ISAs, £4,000 for Lifetime ISAs and £9,000 for Junior ISAs and Child Trust Funds until 5 April 2030.

Additionally, the starting rate for savings will be retained at £5,000 for 2025/26, allowing individuals with less than £17,570 in employment or pension income to receive up to £5,000 of savings income tax-free.

A change to business rates relief

The current business rates relief system is set to run until April 2025. It effectively serves as a reduction on business rate bills for eligible businesses, with retail and hospitality firms having been key beneficiaries.

The chancellor announced that, from 2026/27, permanently lower tax rates will be introduced for retail, hospitality and leisure properties.

Additionally, for 2025/26, some retail, hospitality, and leisure properties will receive 40% relief on their bills, up to a cash cap of £110,000 per business.

Corporation Tax Capped At 25%

The government plans to support businesses to invest by publishing a Corporate Tax Roadmap. This confirms that the government will cap Corporation Tax at 25% for the duration of the parliament.

A Rise In The National Living Wage

Reeves announced a 6.7% rise in the national living wage for workers aged 21 and over, from £11.44 to £12.21 an hour, effective April 2025. For a full-time employee earning the national minimum wage, this means a £1,400 annual pay boost and is expected to benefit more than 3 million workers.

In addition, the national minimum wage for people aged 18 to 20 will rise from £8.60 to £10 an hour. Apprentices will receive the biggest pay increase, with hourly pay rising from £6.40 to £7.55 an hour.

The announcement could significantly increase outgoings for businesses, particularly when coupled with reforms to employers' NI.

A Freeze In Fuel Duty

Fuel duty has been frozen since 2011, and the 5p cut brought in by the Conservatives in 2022 has been extended at every subsequent Budget.

Despite speculation that Reeves might increase fuel duty, she confirmed the freeze for another year and extended the 5p cut. This will save the average motorist £59 in 2025/26.

Second Home Stamp Duty Surcharge Increasing

With effect from 31 October 2024, the Stamp Duty surcharge on the purchases of second homes, buy-to-let residential properties, and companies purchasing residential property in England and Northern Ireland will increase from 3% to 5%.

This surcharge is also paid by non-UK residents purchasing additional property.

Reforms To The Non-Dom Regime

Currently, for UK residents whose main residence – or “domicile” – is elsewhere in the world, income and gains are taxed differently, depending on factors such as how long individuals are resident in the UK.

The chancellor confirmed that the tax regime for non-domiciled individuals (non-doms) will be abolished from April 2025, claiming that the rules will ensure that those who “make the UK their home will pay their taxes here”.

Moving forward, there will be a residence-based scheme with “internationally competitive arrangements” for those who come to the UK on a temporary basis.

Over the next five years, Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) figures estimate that these reforms will raise £12.7 billion.

VAT On Private School Fees From January 2025

As they had promised in their election manifesto, Labour announced that, from 1 January 2025, VAT will apply to all education, training, and boarding services provided by private schools.

Additionally, the chancellor announced that she was removing business rates relief from private schools from April 2025.

An End To The £2 Bus Fare Cap

The £2 cap on bus fares introduced by the previous Conservative administration is due to end on 31 December 2024.

Labour has announced that it will extend the cap for a further 12 months but that the cap will rise from £2 to £3.

Changes To Duties For Alcohol, Tobacco, And Vaping

The chancellor confirmed a reduction in the duty for draught alcohol, cutting duty on an average strength pint by a penny. Rates for non-draught products will increase in line with the Retail Prices Index (RPI) from 1 February 2025.

Furthermore, a new vaping duty will be introduced from 1 October 2026, standing at £2.20 per 10 ml of liquid. Meanwhile, there will be a one-off tobacco duty rise designed to maintain the incentive to choose refillable vaping over smoking.

Confirmation Of The 4.1% Increase To The State Pension Under The Triple Lock

The basic and new State Pension will increase by 4.1% in 2025/26, in line with earnings growth, meaning over 12 million pensioners will receive up to £470 a year more.

Please note

All information is from the [Autumn Budget documents](#) on this page.

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

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

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Crossword 82 Solution - Robert Burrows

1	B	A	M	B	E	R	S	G	R	3	E	4	E	5	N			
	B						E				6	L	Y	E				
7	C	8	R	9	D		10	R	E	D	D	E	E	R				
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14	N	E	T	15	I	Z	E	N	S			T					E	
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			30	A	R	T				T								G
			31	B	O	U	R	N	E	B	R	I	D	G	E			

SHALFORD VILLAGE MAGAZINE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Service	Company	Advert Page No.
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Electrician	Hearn Electrical	44
Estate Agents	Gray & Co	44
English Tuition	Kate Harris	44
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Fencing Supplies	Janus	15
Financial Planners	HarperLees	66
Funeral Directors	Chelmsford Star Co-Op	50
Funeral Directors	Daniel Robinson	36
Glaziers	Capital Glaziers	50
Home Care	Home Instead	15
Lock Smith	Christopher The Locksmith	50
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