

SHALFORD

Village Magazine April 2026

*showcasing our community
Produced by the People for the People*



ENQUIRIES & ADVERTISING:
Email: shalford_village_magazine@btinternet.com



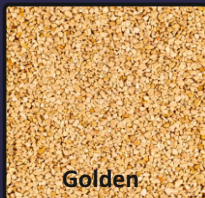
COUNTRYSIDE DRIVEWAYS

**START OF
THE SEASON**

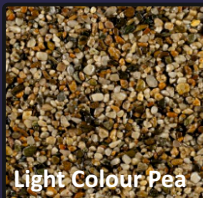
£20 per
sq
mtr

Discount For Larger Areas

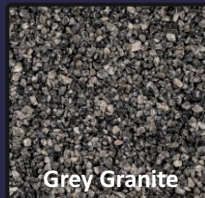
HOT TAR & CHIP



Golden



Light Colour Pea



Grey Granite

**CAN BE APPLIED TO OLD TARMAC SURFACES
HARDCORE, ROAD PLANINGS, CONCRETE, GRAVEL**

IF NO SURFACE IS PRESENT, WE CAN INSTALL A SUB-BASE

**THE AGGREGATE IS EMBEDDED INTO THE HOT BITUMEN &
THE STONES STAY IN PLACE UNLIKE A GRAVEL DRIVE**

OUR DRIVEWAY SERVICES INCLUDE

- **BLOCK PAVING**
- **RESINBONDED**
- **SURFACE DRESSING**
- **DRIVEWAY REPAIRS**
- **PRESURE WASHING**
- **TARMAC**
- **TAR & CHIP**
- **POT HOLES**
- **DRAINAGE**

FREE ESTIMATES



SEE OUR WORK & REVIEWS ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM



www.countryside driveways.co.uk

01787 860045 OR 07393 989560

Page No.

INDEX

- 5 Shalford Neighbourhood Plan Update
- 6 What's On
- 22 Dates For The Diary
- 23 Thaxted Festival 40th Anniversary
- 24 Essex Bridleways Association – Mandy French
- 26 Local Organisations & Charities
- 27 William Bendlowe Charity – New Trustees - Alice Cox
- 28 Meet & Greet – Alice Cox
- 29 Shalford Fete Update - Fete Committee
- 30 Shalford Petanque Team – Mel Fray
- 30 Shalford Horticultural Society – Mel Fray
- 31 Shalford Parish Council – Neil Birks
- 34 Shooting Stars: Pruning Clematis – Theoretical Gardener
- 37 From The Vicarage – Rev'd/Fr Alex
- 38 Pant Valley Church Services For April
- 39 Church Warden's Report – Hilary Penney
- 40 Contacts For Shalford Church Of St Andrew's
- 42 Nature Notes – Deer and Trees - Mac Beanland
- 44 Buzzing News from the Hives of Jillie Woolcock
- 47 Amanda's Adventure – A Children's Story Written By Susan Brunskill
- 53 Crossword 95 by Robert Burrows
- 54 The Hundred Parishes Society – Ken McDonald
- 56 Donate Your Stamps to Farleigh Hospice – Michael Mason
- 58 Mobile Library Dates/Stops/Times
- 58 Foodbank Details
- 58 Crossword 95 Solution – Robert Burrows
- 58 Post Office Details
- 59 Recycling Calendar
- 61 Spring Statement Update – HarperLees
- 65 Shed & Garden Crime (Spring/Summer) – Essex Police
- 66 Cllr Graham Butland – Braintree District Council
- 68 Business Directory

Shalford Village Magazine is a non-profit organisation, run by volunteers and funded by advertising, the Parish Council, the Parochial Council, villagers, local organisations, and donations. Contact by email: shalford_village_magazine@btinternet.com
Shalford Village Magazine can be downloaded or viewed from www.bendlowe.co.uk

**KNOW WHERE
YOUR NEAREST
DEFIBRILLATOR
IS LOCATED**



Jaspers Green
CM7 5AU



Shalford Village
Hall Church End
CM7 5EZ



The George Inn The
Street CM7 5HH

FRONT COVER

A Few of
Shalford's
Daffodils Welcome
Spring

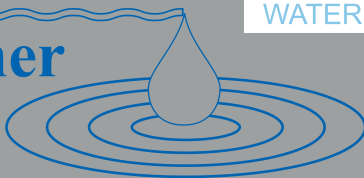
Monday
16.3.2026

Photo: Alice Cox

IAN HOLMES

Water Softener Services

TOUCAN™
WATER SOFTENERS



Suppliers & Installers of DOMEXTRA & TOUCAN Water Softeners

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

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

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

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

www.ianholmeswatersofteners.co.uk



R.Wheeler

Roofing Services

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

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

Tel: 01371 811308

Mob: 07951 349837

E-mail: RWheelerRoofing@gmail.com

**COMMUNITY
CONSULTATION**



**Your Voice Matters
In shaping our future**

Have your say

Shalford Neighbourhood Plan Update

Design Code / Call for Sites / Draft Plan

Join our drop in session

We invite you to attend the upcoming Community Consultation Event to provide your valuable feedback on the draft Plan, Call for Sites and Design Code. Your opinions matter in shaping the future of our community!

- Sunday 19th April 2026**
- Shalford Village Hall**
- Drop in between 10:00 and 15:00**

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

EASTER LILY DISPLAY IN REMEMBRANCE OF LOVED ONES LOST

The flower arrangers will be making arrangements with the sponsored “lilies in remembrance of loved ones lost” on Good Friday (3rd April).

At present, St. Andrew’s Church is open for private prayer every day from 9-4.

In the light of the significance of the lilies, we are hopeful the people of Shalford will visit the Church during the Easter period, stay awhile to enjoy the display and have a moment of reflection.

The display will be on show for 2-3 weeks depending on the weather.



HEATHER SMITH

(Organiser of Church Flowers)

WHAT’S ON – TRACTOR RUN – 10TH MAY 2026



The tractors will be making their way through Shalford in aid of the Air Ambulance on **Sunday 10th May** this year so make a date in your diary to come out and support them.

WHAT'S ON



FOSTAC

Friends of St Andrew's Church

President
Sir Roger Singleton OBE

MYSTERY OF BORLEY RECTORY

Talk by Bryan Thurlow



**The Most Haunted
House in England**

Saturday 25th April 2026—7.00pm
St Andrew's Church, Shalford CM7 5HH

Tickets £10

Available from Shalford Village Store
or on the door

Refreshments Available

www.fostac.co.uk

Affiliated to Charity No 249505

Shalford Local History Association presents

British Post Box Design and Use from 1853 to the Present

A talk by Steve Knight

Steve Knight, a man with 166 post boxes in his Essex garden, explains how these iconic pieces of street furniture came to be, where to find the rare ones and how the postal service has evolved over that time. Fully illustrated with images from Steve's own collection and around the UK, you will never look at a post box in quite the same way again!

Shalford Village Hall



WHAT'S ON

SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL COACH TRIP
TO
WISLEY GARDENS

On Wednesday 20th May

Leaving from Shalford Village Hall at 9:00am (prompt)

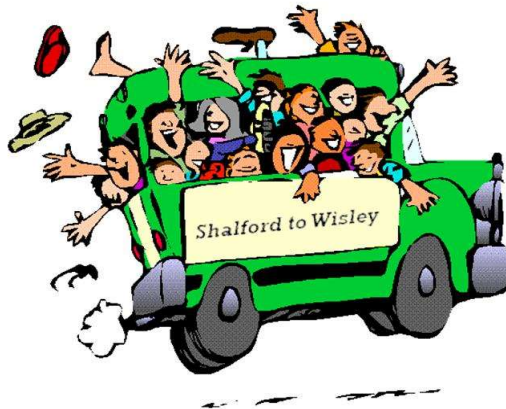
Returning to Shalford at approximately 6:30pm

£20 per person

Please contact Caroline Ottley on

07734140478

Limited availability—book now to secure your place!



WHAT'S ON

SHALFORD VILLAGE FETE

6TH JUNE 2026

STARTS 1PM - UNTIL LATE!

Little Legs Fun Bus

★ Softplay

★ Ball Pond

LITTLE LEGS BUSES

★ Slides

★ Bouncy Castle



WHAT'S ON WETHERSFIELD

WETHERSFIELD CHAMBER CONCERTS

www.wethersfieldchamberconcerts.org.uk



Sunday 12 April 2026, 3pm

KAMMERPHILHARMONIE EUROPA

Corelli, Rachmaninov, Ponchielli, Bach, Faure, Mozart

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

Sunday 26 April 2026, 4pm

MAXIM CALVER – cello

JAMS COLEMAN – piano

Debussy, Beethoven, Schumann, Boulanger, Shostakovich

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

Sunday 10 May 2026, 4pm

JACKY ZHANG - piano (BBC Young Musician of the Year finalist)

Chopin, Ligeti, Brahms

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

Ticket price: £20 (concessions £18)

Season ticket: £54 (concessions £48)

Children under 16: free

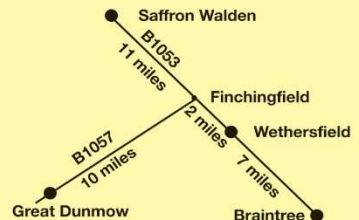
All seats unreserved

Complimentary refreshments during interval
and after concert

VENUE: WETHERSFIELD CHURCH

Further information:

www.wethersfieldchamberconcerts.org.uk



WHAT'S ON WETHERSFIELD



Plant Share



& Coffee Morning

Saturday 25th April 10.30am – 12.30pm

Wethersfield Parish Church

Want to pick up some new plants?

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



Like a cuppa and a slice of cake?

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

Want to help our grade 1 listed church?



Then this event really is for YOU!!



Please bring any of the following:

Yourselves, plants, donation money



Stand by your beds please:

Let's Sow Share

Spring will soon, I hope, be knocking. Our annual plant event in the church will take place on Saturday 25th April morning (10.30am-12.30pm). Flyer above.

For the uninitiated, this event is an opportunity for you to pick up a swathe of FREE plants, and likewise to bring along the stock of "buckshee" plants you may have to facilitate all of this. To get the idea, imagine the pews full of pots of tomato plant seedlings, herbaceous divisions, blackcurrant bush cuttings, herb plants, houseplants, strawberry runners etc and you simply help yourself to as much as you can carry. The quantity and breadth of plants is limited only by our imagination.

The church's donation plate and sum-up contactless payment machine will, as ever, be in **cat-like** readiness for you.

Hope to see you there and do, please, onward distribute both this message, and the seeds liberally as you see fit!!!!

With thanks

Ben Walmsley



Summer Solstice Event

**Join the village fun at the Pavilion, Wethersfield,
on Saturday 20th June from 1pm until late**

Live music - food - stalls - cream teas - licenced bar - classic cars - games
bouncy castle - ice creams - fete games - fire engine - tractors - raffle

More details to come

If you would like a stall or get involved contact: broad.julia@yahoo.co.uk

Don't forget the big Wethersfield Summer Solstice Celebration on **Saturday 20 June** at the Playing Field, raising funds for the Village Organisations.

We will have a bar, BBQ, a food truck, popcorn and candyfloss, ice creams, games for the kids and adults, and a whole range of stalls to browse round. There will be a dog show and Danaher will be joining us on the day to help with that. We have our own town crier helping us get things underway, and Bardfield Brass Band will be joining us as well.

We are having a car show, so if you have a classic car or bike, then do let us know so that we can have them displayed on the Field. We'll also be joined by a Fire Engine from Wethersfield, Police Cars and tractors amongst others.

There will be live music during the afternoon from some of our open mic entertainers, including Vic and Marion and we have the fabulous Loran S performing for us in the evening from 7pm.

Come and join the celebrations, finishing off with the lighting of the Wethersfield Beacon at 10.00 pm.

**For more information, or if you would like to get involved,
please contact Julia by e-mail on broad.julia@yahoo.co.uk**

WETHERSFIELD CLUB

(CAMRA North West Essex Club of the Year 2025
CAMRA East Anglia Regional Club of the Year 2024)

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY	5.00 - 11.00 PM
TUESDAY	5.00 - 11.00 PM Ladies night (gents welcome too!) Scrabble, chess, cribbage
WEDNESDAY	5.00 - 11.00 PM
THURSDAY	5.00 - 10.00 PM Free pool available all night
FRIDAY	5.00 - 12.00 PM
SATURDAY	4.00 - 11.00 PM
SUNDAY	4.00 - 8.00 PM

**Pool table, snooker table and dart boards
available every evening we are open
(Event permitting)**

Wethersfield Club keeps busy as we head towards Spring and hopefully Summer! Come and join us for some of the events that are coming up, including our Darts 12-Hour Marathon in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. Our two darts teams (and those who might like to join in!) are aiming to score 100,001 points on the darts board between 10.00 am and 10.00 pm, quite a challenge, but raising vital funds to support MacMillan for those who need it. See poster (next page) for details and QR Code, so if you are able to donate to the charity in any way - that would be amazing! There will be food during the day, and anyone who would like to throw a dart or two is most welcome.

On **Saturday 2 May**, we have a new one for the Club, with local band The Foggy Dais' Upbeat Orchestra coming to bring us a night of reggae and ska music. Should be a great night, so do come down to support them, Club open from 4.00 pm.

The Club AGM is on **Saturday 16 May**, open to those who are current members, Club open at 7pm.

Our next Open Mic night is **Thursday 21 May**, so come down and play, sing and entertain us, or just come and watch those that do. From 7.30 pm.

On **Saturday 23 May** we have our good friends the Beer Valley Drifters returning, live music with them from 8pm.

As a heads up, this year's World Cup begins on **Thursday 11 June**, with the opening game between Mexico and South Africa at 8.00pm. We will show all the England games as they occur, and then other games as they fit into our normal opening hours, so keep track of what's on when via our Facebook page. The final itself will be on **Sunday 19 July**, at 8.00pm, let's hope England (and Scotland!) have a successful tournament!

A reminder too that Club Memberships are now due so if you would like to renew then please see our staff at the bar, or contact Julia at broad.julia@yahoo.co.uk

See you soon!

The Club Committee



Wethersfield Dart Teams

12 hour

Darts Marathon

100,001 to Zero

@ Wethersfield Club

Saturday 25th April

10am - 10pm

All welcome to come and throw some darts or just cheer us on 😊

Donate here 🙋

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



WETHERSFIELD CLUB

OPEN MIC NIGHT



THURSDAY

21st May 2026

From 7.30 pm

**PLAY, SING
OR JUST LISTEN
TO THOSE WHO DO!!**

WETHERSFIELD CLUB

SATURDAY 23 MAY 2026

**AN EVENING WITH OUR
GOOD FRIENDS**

**BEER VALLEY
DRIFTERS**

**PLAYING LIVE FOR US AGAIN FROM 8.00 PM
JOIN US FOR A GREAT MUSIC NIGHT!**

WETHERSFIELD ANNUAL FINE & AFFORDABLE ART EXHIBITION

Saturday 9th May 5-7pm drinks

Sunday 10th May 10-3pm

Free entry St Mary's Church, CM7 4BY



PROUD SPONSOR

JACKSON-STOPS

Art Exhibition St. Mary's Church, Wethersfield

Saturday 9th May and Sunday 10th May

By: David Pullen

They say a picture is worth a thousand words! Hopefully those following will paint an image in your mind that will prove irresistible.

This is a unique opportunity to see some fine and affordable art by 14 locally-based artists. As well as professional artists, including a Royal Academy exhibitor, there will be others equally talented but who rarely exhibit these days. So, do not lose this opportunity and come along to this wonderful exhibition which has grown in status and popularity over recent years and perhaps join us for drinks and nibbles on Saturday 9th May between 5 and 7 pm and on Sunday 10th May between 10 am and 3 pm.

Please note that this dovetails with the final Wethersfield Chamber Concert of music of the very highest calibre, between 4 and 6 pm

www.wethersfieldchamberconcerts.org.uk

WHAT'S ON WETHERSFIELD



SOUP AND CHAT

COME ALONG TO WETHERSFIELD'S
VILLAGE HALL FROM 12:00 TO 14:00 AND ENJOY
HOMEMADE SOUP WITH BREAD AND HOMEMADE CAKES



ON THE FOLLOWING TUESDAY DATE

28th April 2026

This is a self-funding meeting relying on cash donations to cover costs.
We rely on your generosity to ensure its continuity

This is an adult only event



THE SALINGS

Plant Sale

MONDAY MAY 4TH

VILLAGE HALL,
PICCOTTS LANE,

GREAT SALING CM7 5DW

10_{am} - 2_{pm}

PLANTS SHRUBS
TREES REFRESHMENTS
SALINGS ART GROUP

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE SALINGS CHURCHES





AgeWellFair

Thursday
9th April 2026

10.00 – 13.00

Halstead Leisure Centre,
Colne Road,
Halstead CO9 2HR

No need to book and
admission is **FREE***

Getting older can be difficult to navigate. Come along and find out how local services can support you and those you care for.

30+ local organisations will be attending to offer you advice, support and help.

*If you do choose to register, you will receive a FREE goody bag

SCAN HERE
TO REGISTER



If you prefer to
book over the
phone, please call
01376 552525

Parking is limited at the Leisure Centre so we are running a FREE shuttle bus for everyone. It will run from Butler Road Car Park for the duration of the event, no need to book just wait at Butler Road.

NEW FOR 2026

Thinking of joining us? Braintree District Walkabout

A walking group with something for everyone



We run three regular walks each week:



Mondays - Great Notley

Starting from Panners Coffee Bar at 10.30am




Wednesdays - Braintree


Starting from Marks Farm Tesco car park at 10.30am





Saturdays - Witham

Starting from Morrison's car park at 10.00am

 **Friendly and social**

 **Walk at your pace**

 **No booking needed**


 **Free to join**

 **Led by walk leaders**



Multiple weekly walks - see Facebook for details

Facebook: /groups/BraintreeWalkabout

 **Email:** tonydfrazer53@gmail.com

Scan to join us
on Facebook:





ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Finchingfield and District Branch

Chairman's Award

We were honoured and delighted to receive this award which is presented annually by the RBL Essex Chairman. G W Hardy have kindly agreed to display it in their window.

Upcoming Events

60s 70s and 80s Dance on **18 April 7.30pm** in Finchingfield Village Hall. Music from Jack the Lad band. Tickets £10 each. (See poster below).

Our Branch would always welcome new members. Membership is £22 and anyone can join. RBL Membership Line is 0800-307-7773.

The Crafty Community Group meets every Tuesday from 2 to 4 in Finchingfield Guildhall. Our present project is making knitted or crochet poppies to (hopefully) decorate our War Memorials in Finchingfield and Cornish Hall End. If you would like to help, please drop in on Tuesday afternoons, or work at home. Patterns and wool can be provided. Please get in touch with Janet.

Contacts: Ivan Fleming (Chairman): 07525 751179 isskhs@googlemail.com
Janet Ridgewell (Secretary): 01371 810051 janet.ridgewell510@btinternet.com

FINCHINGFIELD AND DISTRICT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION PRESENTS

JACK THE LAD

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY TO MUSIC FROM THE 50'S, 60'S, 70'S, 80'S AND 90'S

18TH APRIL 2026
7:30PM START
FINCHINGFIELD VILLAGE HALL

TICKETS £10 PP

Bring your own drink and nibbles

Tickets can be bought from Ivan 07525751179 or Janet 01371810051

CALLING ALL
PHOTOGRAPHERS
AUTHORS
& FARMERS

I would love to hear
from you re:-

Front Page Photos
Articles & Stories
Farming Diaries

For entry into
Shalford Village Magazine

TO TAKE PART

Contact ALICE email:
shalford_village_magazine
@ btinternet.com

Tel: 07850 264518

DATES FOR THE DIARY

FOSTAC

Friends of St Andrew's Church -Shalford

FOSTAC was formed in 2006 and since then has raised a good amount of funds towards projects within St Andrew's Church beginning with the Kitchen. FOSTAC continues to raise funds and bring the community together by arranging interesting events

Help celebrate FOSTAC's success, come along and enjoy the variety of entertainment organised by this enthusiastic group

PROPOSED EVENTS 2026

Saturday 25th April – 7.00pm

MYSTERY OF BORLEY RECTORY

Talk by Bryan Thurlow

Thursday 14th May – 7.00pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Drinks & Nibbles

Saturday 6th June – 2.30pm

TREASURE HUNT

At the Village Fete

Saturday 19th September – 7.00pm

HENRY VIII

Talk by Tony Harris

Saturday 10th October – 7.00pm

REMINISCENCES OF A JUDGE

Talk by John Woollard

Saturday 7th November – 3.00pm

EASTEND TO ESSEX

Talk by Sharon Gould

Sunday 6th December – 3.00pm

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

With Nancy May

All dates are correct at time of printing but please check before booking or go to our website www.fostac.co.uk

Events held in St Andrew's Church
Tickets available from Shalford Village Stores
or On The Door

Affiliated to Registered Charity No 249505



Church End Shalford CM7 5EZ

NOTICE

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF

SHALFORD VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 8TH APRIL 2026

commencing 7:00pm at
SHALFORD VILLAGE HALL

Hear at first hand our achievements
and our future plans for the hall.



BRAINTREE DISTRICT NW

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 27TH MAY 2026

DOORS OPEN : 14:00 HRS

AT MAURICE ROWSON
HALL, GOSFIELD

Where parking is brilliant!!



THAXTED FESTIVAL 40TH ANNIVERSARY

St Martin's Voices, performing with Zeb Soanes on Friday 26 June

Welcome to the 40th anniversary of Thaxted Festival — four decades of world-class music in the heart of this historic town, continuing a tradition begun by Gustav Holst in 1916.

This year's programme is bigger and bolder than ever. Celebrate in style at our opening gala with LMP Orchestra, experience Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* with Wild Arts Opera, and enjoy electrifying performances from jazz star Emma Smith and *West End Swings* from high-energy Sam Every "Little" Big Band. From inspiring chamber music to powerful vocal concerts, we showcase today's finest artists — alongside rising stars you'll be hearing about for years to come.

Beyond the main stage, our much-loved Festival Extras bring us closer than ever: free community events, choir mornings, windmill tours, and brand-new 'Sound Explorers' sensory workshops for babies and toddlers.

Bring the whole family! Enjoy *Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers* with live brass band at Saffron Screen, and our thrilling closing concert of Ultimate Film Music! with Docklands Sinfonia. Plus, don't miss a beatboxing-meets-opera mash-up with OperaBeatz! at Audley End Enchanted Railway — fun for all ages.

General booking opens Monday 16 March at 9.30am. Tickets start from just £10 for under-30s and £5 for under-18s.

Join us this summer — and be part of something unforgettable

19th June to 12th July 2026

For Further Details Visit: www.thaxtedfestival.co.uk.

Membership is still only £15 and free for under 16yrs. Save £5 on every ride entry by being a member.

Our policy regarding the requirement for flu vaccinations for 2026 is that all horses attending our rides 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.

Rides

17th May 2026 Highwood Fringrith Hall, Writtle Park Estate, Highwood. CM1 3QF
A varied route which takes in wide grassy tracks of Fringrith Hall on the long route.

IMPORTANT - Do not follow sat nav or google maps. Only approach from the A414 from Ongar direction or from Chelmsford, Widford Church roundabout. **Do not take ivy barns lane.**

13th June 2026 Elgins Car Park, Hatfield Forest, Takeley, CM22 6NE Member £20, non-member £25. A chance to ride in an ancient forest. The route has yet to be confirmed due to ground conditions. Hopefully there will be an 8-mile route and shorter 5-mile route. The shorter route is totally within the forest, the longer route will have some minor road work. Please be aware that there may be cattle in the forest at the time of the ride.

We have had to increase the ride price to cover additional costs which are being subsidised by EBA. This ride is only open to members initially and non-members after a couple of weeks if there are spaces left as we are restricted to 100 entries only.

Mandy French



LMB
Lashes

LASH
ARTIST



SPECIAL OFFER
Brow Wax & Tint
£15

SPECIAL OFFER
Lash Lift & Tint
£30

07342 892548 maybeaney@icloud.com



Bell Fencing

Equestrian Agricultural Commercial Domestic

www.bellfencing.com

enquiries@bellfencing.com | 07786 914823



From scruffy to fluffy
in one tail wag!

Grooming services
For all
sizes and breeds.

Puppy Groom - 12 weeks to 6 months

Full groom Bath & Brush De shedding

Hand stripping Teeth cleaning

Nail cutting Ear cleaning

Any specialist requests, please contact us!

07543 499 900

doggroomingall4paws@gmail.com

all4paws.co

26 Church End, Panfield,
Essex, CM7 5AJ

City & Guilds LEVEL 2 & 3
Certificate in Pet Grooming

FULLY INSURED

FIRST AID TRAINED



Hearn Electrical

DOMESTIC
COMMERCIAL
INDUSTRIAL

aadan@hearnelectrical.co.uk

T: 07972 624171



City & Guilds



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/>

MEET & GREET 1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH



SHALFORD
VILLAGE HALL

11 am to 2 pm

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

FOSTAC

Friends of St Andrew's
Church



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

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR
NEW TRUSTEES & VOLUNTEERS!**

**Join a, historic, local charity that has been
supporting people in Shalford and surrounding
villages for over 450 years**

We are seeking community-minded volunteers to help guide our work, in supporting local residents to fight loneliness and isolation by meeting and socialising. It is our mission to carry forward the legacy of William Bendlowe, who founded the Charity in 1573, for many more years to come.


Previous trustee experience an advantage but not essential - just time availability, enthusiasm and a passion for helping others.

We're looking for people who:

- ✓ care about their local community
- ✓ are willing to organise or help organise local events/coach trips etc
- ✓ bring relevant skills such as community work, social/life skills, organisational, communicative skills coupled to an empathy and understanding of the Charity's goals and objects
- ✓ Can help with decision-making and good governance

If you'd like to get involved or want an informal chat about the role, please contact:

 **Alice Cox: email alicecox53@btinternet.com**

 **Join us and help continue a 450-year tradition of
supporting local people**

**BENDLOWE'S – PEOPLE WORKING FOR PEOPLE
ENRICHING LIVES**

www.bendlowe.co.uk

MEET & GREET – TASTY PLAIN FOOD - Alice Cox

Our objective at Meet & Greet (funded by donations) is to supply tasty *plain* food catering for Diabetics, Gluten Free and Freshwell Plan whilst being aware of allergies. We label the food as we like you to know what you are eating but we don't like you going home hungry! The food is fresh, having been bought the day before and we are so grateful to the home bakers who donate scrumptious cakes and sausage rolls.



Thank You Catering Team who all possess
Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificates - Photos By: Del Holland

SHALFORD VILLAGE FETE – SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2026, FROM 1PM



Preparations for this year's Shalford Village Fete are well underway, and the organising committee is delighted to report that plans are coming together beautifully. An exciting list of attractions has already been confirmed, with even more still to be announced, promising a wonderful afternoon and evening for residents and visitors alike.

The fete will feature a fantastic range of craft stalls, offering homemade gifts, local produce and unique creations from talented local makers. Alongside these will be a host of fun stalls and traditional carnival games, perfect for families and anyone looking to try their luck.

No village fete would be complete without great food and drink, and this year's line-up is sure to tempt everyone. Visitors can enjoy Coneys Fish & Chips, a delicious BBQ from Deersbrook Farm, freshly made pizza, homemade cakes, and barista coffee. For those looking for something refreshing, there will also be a Pimm's tent, real ales and ciders, and wine available throughout the afternoon.

The arena events will keep the crowds entertained with a lively programme including the ever-popular Dog Show, performances from the Hells Bells Morris Dancers, local choirs, and even line dancing.

There will also be plenty to enjoy around the fete grounds. Families can hop aboard the Braintree Lions Fun Train, while younger visitors will love the fun bus, complete with soft play and bouncy castles. Gemma's Farm will be bringing along a delightful petting farm with live animals, and children can also get creative at the children's craft activities.

For visitors of all ages there will be a Farmers' Tractor Parade, a display of classic cars, horticultural exhibits, and a chance to learn more about the village through displays from the local Historical Society.

And the fun doesn't stop there. In the evening, everyone is invited to the Village Hall where live entertainment will be provided by Take Cover, promising a great way to round off the day.

Meanwhile, St Andrew's Church will be hosting a beautiful flower show, with a special service on the Sunday to follow the celebrations.

The Shalford Village Fete is entirely organised and run by local volunteers who generously give their time to create a day the whole community can enjoy. It promises to be a full day of entertainment with something for every visitor and every Shalford resident.

Be sure to save the date
Saturday 6th June, from 1pm.
You won't want to miss it!

Shalford Village Fete Committee

Shalford Pétanque Team – Mel Fray



22nd February 2026 Away to the lovely Bocking Millers losing 2-1 in a fun closely fought match in the sunshine.

Triples lost 13–9
Doubles lost 13-3
Singles win 13-5

Shalford pétanque Away 8th March against another lovely Bocking team, The Bocking Dyers. Unfortunately a 2-1 loss but well done Christina winning the singles

Triples lost 13-8
Doubles lost 13-7
Singles Win 13-7



SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY – Mel Fray

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS AT THE SHALFORD FETE 2026

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW IN A LATER MAGAZINE

SHS Competition – Baking a Boiled Fruit cake

Here's the recipe if you want to start practising

Recipe

4oz Margarine	1 cup cold water	1 cup Plain Flour
1 cup sugar	1 tsp Bicarbonate of Soda	1 cup S.R. Flour (1 cup = 1/2pint)
12oz Dried Fruit	1 tsp Mixed Spice.	
1 or 2 Eggs	½ tsp Nutmeg	

Method

Put into saucepan fruit, sugar, water, margarine, spices and bicarbonate of soda. Boil gently for 10 mins. Allow to cool, add beaten eggs and sifted flour and mix well together. Put into a 7inch cake tin and cook in a moderate oven for 1.1/2 hrs. More fruit may be added if liked. This makes a nice moist cake.



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



New Parish Councillor:

Shalford Parish Council would like to welcome our new councillor **Frankie Ricci** who was co-opted to the Council in February. Please take the time to congratulate Frankie and make him welcome.

A Message from the Chairman about St Andrew's Church:

St. Andrew's Church is one of our village's greatest assets. Whether you attend regular services or simply value the presence of a historic sanctuary in our midst, enjoy the sound of the church bells, or admire the beautiful flowers within, St. Andrew's belongs to all of us.

The Parish Church Council is run entirely by volunteers whose dedication keeps the church functioning, maintained, and clean. It is a testament to their hard work that the doors are unlocked every morning and evening, providing a space for private reflection, prayer, or a quiet look into our local history. We know from the many visitors who stop by outside of service times just how much this space is cherished for its peace and heritage.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting with our Churchwarden, Hilary Penney, to ask if any help is required. Her answer was a resounding "Yes!".

Currently, St. Andrew's is in need of "helping hands" to ensure it can continue to serve the village. The requirements are practical and varied. For example, the church bells will soon be removed for essential restoration, and manual labour is needed to assist with the heavy lifting. They also need people they can call upon during large funerals or weddings to act as ushers or assist with guest coordination, not to mention many of the day-to-day tasks as well.

Many of the current volunteers have served faithfully for decades, but now there is a call for a new generation of helpers to step forward. You don't need to be a regular churchgoer to help; you simply need to care about keeping this historic heart of Shalford beating. Whether you can offer a few hours as a pair of hands or a friendly face, your contribution will make a profound difference.

If you would like to support our village by helping St. Andrew's in any capacity, please do get in touch. To offer your help, please contact:

Churchwarden: Mrs. Hilary Penney Tel: 01371 851762

Dates for your Diaries:

Neighbourhood Plan Drop-In Event – Sunday 19 April, 10am–3pm (Shalford Village Hall):

Shalford Parish Council is working on a Neighbourhood Plan for our Parish – and we'd love you to be part of the next important step.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a planning document that sets out local policies for how land should be used in Shalford. Once adopted, it will sit alongside Braintree District's Local Plan and help guide decisions on future planning applications. In short, it's our opportunity to shape how Shalford develops and to be clear about what matters most to residents.

The draft Plan focuses on protecting and enhancing the things that make our parish special: safeguarding valued green spaces and the wider landscape, preserving local heritage, supporting and improving community facilities, and setting out expectations for local character and good design.

The Plan is being prepared by the Parish Council, supported by a Steering Group made up of local councillors and community volunteers. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed through surveys and other community activities – your input has helped bring us to the stage where an initial draft is now taking shape.

Before the Plan goes out to formal consultation, we want to share our progress, explain what we've included, and hear your views. This will help ensure our evidence is as strong as possible and that nothing important has been missed.

One key part of the display will cover housing. While the draft Braintree Local Plan does not allocate homes to Shalford, there is an expectation that our Neighbourhood Plan will identify a modest amount of housing development. Taking a proactive approach can help protect the parish from speculative, unplanned proposals in the future. We've been exploring possible options and are keen to hear what you think.

Please drop in at any time on Sunday 19 April, 10am–3pm, at Shalford Village Hall. Displays will be available and members of the Steering Group will be on hand to answer questions and outline next steps.

Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 27 May, 6.30pm-9pm:

Save the date for our annual parish meeting. This is a meeting for our parish residents and hosted by the Parish Council but is an informal event where there will be presentations from local groups and Societies followed by soft drinks, wine and nibbles. All residents are welcome.

Christmas Lights Switch-On – Saturday 5th December, 5pm-8pm:

Shalford Parish Council will be holding the annual Shalford Christmas Light Switch-On on Saturday 5th December 5 to 8pm. Further information will appear in the magazine over the coming months.

Speed Watch Group:

We all love the peace and quiet of Shalford but, lately, some drivers seem to think our village lanes are the final qualifying lap at Silverstone.

Our Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) have been doing a stellar job—flashing their grumpy red faces at lead-footed motorists—but they can't do it alone. While the units have helped, speeding remains a persistent issue, and it's time for a more "human" touch.

We are looking for a few community-minded souls to step forward and help run a Community Speed Watch group. Why join?

- High-tech toys: You get to use a radar gun. Enough said.
- High-vis fashion: Stand out in the latest neon yellow safety couture.
- Make a difference: Help keep our children, pets, and walkers safe.
- Community spirit: It's a great way to meet neighbours (and perhaps give a stern look to a few speeders).

No experience is necessary, and full training is provided. If you have a spare hour or two and want to help keep Shalford safe and slow, we want to hear from you!

Ready to join the squad?

Please contact the Parish Clerk to register your interest. Let's work together to make sure the only thing fast in Shalford is how quickly we can get to the pub!

Goodbye to Barbara:

A Huge Thank You to Barbara Keen.

On behalf of the entire village, the Parish Council would like to say a massive thank you to Barbara Keen for her years of dedicated service. From keeping our bus shelters sparkling to the less glamorous task of emptying the litter bins, Barbara has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to keep Shalford looking its best. We are incredibly grateful for everything she has done for our community!

This task will now be taken on by our wonderful Village Ranger Lol.

Fix IT:

a reminder to please email fix it for any issues or problems you see around the parish. We'll get the ranger, Lol onto it or we'll report it to someone who can fix it!



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

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

Neil, Peter M, Mandy, Andrew, Peter H, Martin , Frankie & Jill



☀️ SHOOTING STARS: Pruning Clematis for Spectacular Blooms

Few plants reward us quite like clematis. With their elegant flowers and generous growth, they can transform even the simplest corner of a garden. To get the very best from them, it helps to understand which pruning group they belong to — and when

to give them a trim. Clematis are divided into **three groups**, each with its own pruning routine. Follow the right method at the right time and you'll enjoy healthier plants and more abundant flowering.

🌿 **Group 1 – Early Stars of Winter and Spring**

These clematis flower from **December to April** on stems produced the previous year. They are vigorous growers and, if left unchecked, can become a tangled mass.

Pruning Tips

- Light pruning only — think “tidy up,” not “cut back hard.”
- Remove about one-third of the oldest stems after flowering to encourage fresh growth from the base.
- Trim remaining stems by a third to keep the plant manageable.
- Always cut 3–5 cm above a pair of buds or leaves.

Best time to prune: March–May

Popular varieties: *C. alpina*, *C. cirrhosa*, *C. montana* (very vigorous), *C. armandii*, *C. macropetala*

🌸 **Group 2 – The Classic Large-Flowered Beauties**

These favourites bloom in **May/June** on old wood and often give a second flush in **July**.

Pruning Tips

- After the first flowering, cut all stems back by half, to a pair of buds.
- Remove pruned material carefully — stems can be fragile.
- Tie in new shoots and spread stems horizontally to encourage more buds.
- A light prune in **February or March**, followed by a second prune in **July**, keeps them in top shape.

Popular varieties: *C. 'Nelly Moser'*, *C. florida 'Sieboldiana'*.

🌸 **Group 3 – Late-Summer Performers**

These clematis flower from **August to September** on new growth made during the current season. They are the easiest to prune and perfect for gardeners who prefer a straightforward routine.

Pruning Tips

- In late winter, cut all of last year's stems back to the second or third node above ground level.
- This prevents bare, leggy bases and keeps flowers at eye level.
- Remove ties, untangle old growth, and chop back the top growth above 50 cm before making your final cuts.
- Never leave a stem without buds at the tip — it can cause dieback.

Best time to prune: February–March

Popular varieties: *C. viticella*, *C. 'Princess Diana'*, *C. 'Étoile Violette'*

Herbaceous Clematis

These die back completely in winter.

- Cut all stems to 15–30 cm above ground level in February/March.

☀️ Cool Roots, Warm Heads – The Secret to Clematis Success

Clematis love their flowers in the sun but their roots in the shade.

Growing Tips

- Plant deeply to encourage a strong, insulated root system.
- Mulch generously, but keep mulch away from the stem to prevent rot.
- Use light-coloured stones or terracotta root protectors to deflect heat.
- Surround the base with shallow-rooted perennials — geraniums, hostas, or ferns make excellent companions.

🌸 Final Thought

With the right pruning and a little thoughtful planting, clematis will reward you with a dazzling display year after year. Whether you favour the early charm of alpinas, the classic beauty of large-flowered hybrids, or the late-summer drama of viticellas, there's a clematis for every gardener — and every garden.

Happy Gardening

**When it stops
raining!!**

**The Theoretical
Gardener**





www.unitfourmotors.co.uk

07834 359313 / 01371 502 404

info@unitfourmotors.co.uk

Servicing & Oil changes

Brakes & Clutches

Breakdown & Recovery

Fault Finding & Diagnostics

Tyres & 4 Wheel Alignment

MOT's (by appt only)

MOT Failures

Air Conditioning

Welding Repairs

Batteries



Unit 4, Gainsford Hall, Toppesfield, Essex CO9 4EJ



[///wonderful.tinsel.plates](http://wonderful.tinsel.plates)

what3words

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



Shalford
St Andrew's

From the Vicarage...



Wethersfield
St Mary
Magdalene

As I come to put down my thoughts for this month's village magazines, what feels like yet another source of uncertainty and anxiety has appeared on the world stage. The intensified conflict in the middle east is the kind of situation which we might normally expect to stand out as unique at a particular moment in its scope and impact, but I'm sure I'm not alone in feeling that circumstances like these – with unimaginable devastation for those caught up in the midst of things, and significant ripples being felt even in places far distant – are no longer quite as singular as we are used to them being.



Finchingfield
St John the
Baptist

In a month which begins with the celebration of Easter, many of us may not feel quite ready to hear a message of hope and new life. Even before considering the effect of world events on our thoughts, I call to mind so many examples of individuals and families bearing the weight of incredibly heavy burdens. We may, though, draw some comfort from the fact that those who witnessed the first Easter were also not at all ready to take in what had happened. Jesus' disciples were wholly unprepared for the empty tomb and his reappearance among them, and their initial reaction was not joyful, but confused, anxious and fearful.



Gt Bardfield
St Mary The
Virgin

To come and celebrate Easter together doesn't mean, therefore, that we need to feel that all is right with the world. In fact, perhaps the opposite is true, because a world in which all was well would not need the kind of dramatic intervention which we proclaim at this great festival. Crucifixion and resurrection are not just about celebrating the arrival of spring, but are medicine for a world in need of healing, whose echoes can then be found in the returning beauty of this season of nature.



Little
Bardfield
St Katharine

So if you're feeling like throwing up your arms in despair and frustration about the state of things, whether close by around you, or on a global scale, or anything in between, then come and find yourself in good company in church this Easter. You will hear of people who came feeling as you do, whose lives were transformed by a new hope – not one that pretends that all is well with the world, but which refuses to accept that its troubles will be the last word.



Cornish Hall
End
St John the
Evangelist

Rev'd/Fr Alex

SERVICES FOR APRIL IN THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES

Sunday 29 March – Palm Sunday

Children's activities and breakfast refreshments in Wethersfield Church from 9am

9.45am Palm Procession sets off around the village – Wethersfield

10.30am Benefice Communion Service – Wethersfield

Monday 30, Tuesday 31 March & Wednesday 1 April

9am Eucharist – Finchingfield (Mon & Wed) / Great Bardfield (Tue)

8pm Compline – Shalford

Maundy Thursday (2 April)

6.30pm Communion Service commemorating the Last Supper – Wethersfield

8pm Sung Eucharist followed by Vigil – Little Bardfield

Good Friday (3 April)

2pm Meditations on the Cross – Shalford

2pm Solemn Service of the Lord's Passion – Little Bardfield

9pm Tenebrae – Cornish Hall End

Holy Saturday (4 April)

8pm Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter – Little Bardfield

Service times on Easter Day (5 April)

Cornish Hall End: 9am

Shalford: 9.30am

Finchingfield: 10am

Great Bardfield: 10.30am

Wethersfield: 11am

Sunday 12 April – Second Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

11am Family Eucharist – Wethersfield

11am Pet Service – Shalford

5pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 19 April – Third Sunday of Easter

9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield

11am Family Service – Wethersfield

Sunday 26 April – Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Parish Communion – Shalford

10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

11am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

11am Scouts' Service for St George's Day – Finchingfield

5pm Sung Compline – Little Bardfield

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

8.45am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

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**

Although there are no floral decorations inside St Andrew's for the period of Lent the churchyard is making up for it with beautiful displays of snowdrops in February, and daffodils and primroses now. Nature has decided that Spring is here!

There is, however, one rather special adornment inside the church, a magnificent new "Incumbent's Board" (a list of all the vicars of the parish since 1332), given by John Burrow in memory of his wife, Ruth. It hangs at the back of the nave and was dedicated on January 25th



by Canon Janet. There being no more space on the existing board of vicars, the new board includes all those who have gone before, with plenty of space for all those who will follow. Thank you, John.

As well as Easter Sunday there is another special event coming up in April – a **Pet Service**, to be held in St Andrew's on **Sunday 12th April at 11am**. All creatures great and small! Do come and bring your precious dogs, birds, rabbits, whatever is dear to you, for a blessing. Horses and donkeys will be blessed outside. Cats optional – their decision.

An update on the bells saga: as things stand at the moment it is possible that work to the bells may begin on 21st April, with the removal of the cracked 2nd bell to be welded and whatever maintenance is necessary on the other bells and apparatus. To comply with Natural England's instruction concerning the resident bats, the bells will not be re-installed until the middle of September so the village will be bell-less for all of the summer months – a pity, but we must conform to the legalities. On behalf of the PCC I would again like to thank all of you who have donated so generously to the bell fund and assure you that your assistance is greatly appreciated.

And, finally, you are warmly invited to come to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, to be held this year on **Sunday, 10th May at 9.30am** in the church. This is your opportunity to hear what has been going on in St Andrew's in the past year and our plans for the future, and to have your say on any matters that interest you. All are welcome. As I have often said, St Andrew's belongs to you! The Vicar, churchwarden and PCC members are merely the temporary guardians of this special building and House of God in Shalford.

I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Hilary Penney

SHALFORD CHURCH OF ST ANDREW'S CONTACTS

Vicar, Revd Dr Alex Shannon, The Vicarage, Finchingfield, Tel: 01371 810309
Email: rev.alex.shannon@gmail.com

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

Treasurer & Reader, Peter Havelock, Tel: 07721 371017,
Email: peter_havelock@hotmail.com

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

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

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

Captain of the Bell Tower, Michael Mason, 6 Clifffield, Shalford, CM7 5HP
Tel: 01371 850125

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

Shalford Village Store

Your Local Convenience Store



For all your essentials...
We stock a wide range of
fresh & chilled food,
including local produce.

Daily newspapers available in
store or delivered to your home

Opening Hours
Monday - Saturday 7.00am til 9.00pm
Sunday - 8.00am til 8.00pm
Telephone: 01371 850944



CAPITAL GLAZIERS

UK Ltd



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

SAME DAY DOUBLE GLAZED UNITS



01376 388511






www.brantreeglazier.co.uk

info@capitalglaziers.com

Christopher THE LOCKSMITH

ARE YOUR LOCKS BEHAVING BADLY?

We Value Old Fashioned Customer Service
A Local Trusted Family Business Since 1989

-  Specialist in UPVC & Wooden Doors
-  No Call Out Charge
-  No Fix No Fee
-  All Work Fully Guaranteed
-  10% Senior Citizen Discount



For More Advice & Help Call Christopher:

07772 111 222

www.christopherthelocksmith.co.uk



GRAY & CO

ESTATE AGENTS

Your LOCAL Estate Agents

- Valuations
- Sales
- Mortgages
- Letting & Management

Great Bardfield 01371 810154

enquiries@grayandcompany.co.uk
www.grayandcompany.co.uk

Nature Notes

Deer and Trees

By: Mac Beanland



We are all aware that there is a big push to plant large numbers of trees and hedges to try and reduce our carbon foot print. To achieve the targets, tree nurseries are working flat out growing quicks and trees for planting. We are

importing ship loads of plastic tree guards and bamboo from China, which to me seems counterproductive, but the biggest problem in this part of our Country is the fact that a very large percentage of what is planted is destroyed by deer; they just love eating all the new shoots and they are experts at dismantling plastic tree guards to get at them. Deer are nice to look at and I, as much as the next person, love to catch the occasional glance of a deer but not herds of 90 or more rampaging through farmers' crops, and as some of you know they are a hazard on the roads. They seem to delight in playing chicken dashing across the road in front of fast-moving traffic. Not only is it very distressing to the occupants of the cars but it leads to dead or injured deer and very expensive car repairs. The law tells us if we hit a deer and it is dead or injured on the road it is our responsibility to report it to the Police, but if it is dead or injured on roadside land we should report it to the land owner.

It is not many years ago (if we went a decent journey by road), we could guarantee seeing dead foxes and rabbits as road kill. Last week, I drove into Chelmsford and the total road kill was two badgers, one muntjak and the indistinguishable remains of a larger deer, this gives us a good idea of what wild life is about.

We have six different deer in the UK Red deer, Roe deer, Fallow deer, Muntjac, Sika, and Chinese Water deer. Only two of those are native and belong here: the Red deer, and the Roe deer, although the fallow deer have been here a long time. The Normans brought them to breed for food, The Duke of Bedford imported Muntjac for his wildlife park at Woburn and I was always led to believe that they spread all over after escaping but apparently that is not strictly true, security at Woburn is pretty tight. They have lots of exotic and dangerous animals and know how to look after them and keep them secure.

The Duke was very proud of his Muntjac and whenever he was invited to the grand estates of his friends for lavish parties, he didn't take a boring bunch of flowers from Tesco and a bottle of





Prosecco as a gift he took a pair of Muntjac which were allowed to run free on their estates. The Duke's next addition to his collection was his Chinese Water deer and much the same thing happened to them. He was not the first to have them, in fact London Zoo had some before the Duke. Fortunately, we don't appear to have any of them in Essex as far as I know but I may be wrong, they are found mainly in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk; we don't want them. Sika deer were introduced into some deer parks from Japan in the 19th century and some of them escaped, they are found mostly in Scotland and the new forest. Our biggest pest is the fallow

deer; we have large herds of them in all parts of the district. Some of the herds number 90 plus animals and they do have small numbers of roe deer running with them. We have far too many, they have no predators apart from man and we don't eat enough venison, we do have experts who will shoot them they are fully trained and are only too pleased to do it. They will only shoot them in the season when they are allowed to shoot them if there is the demand for the venison, they don't shoot them purely for sport. Most local butchers sell venison and there are game dealers at our local markets. It is extremely healthy meat, the lowest in fat, and is considered a good aid to managing cholesterol. Unfortunately, its big problem is what we call the "Bamby" effect, some people and children visualise deer as pretty dainty cartoon creatures rather than the biggest wildlife threat to farming and forestry.

By putting these notes together, I have realised there are some big gaps in my knowledge of the subject, researching deer is much more interesting than some of the rubbish on TV and keeps me out of mischief, I am hoping to do future notes on the different breeds of deer.

For All Your Marketing Needs... 

WEBSITES	PRINTING	SIGNS
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website Design• Website Marketing• SEO• E-commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leaflets• Brochures• Booklets• NCR Sets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign Boards• Banners• Feather Flags• Decals

Tel: 01376 342580
support@appliedimage.co.uk
www.appliedimage.co.uk



Buzzing News from the Hives of Jillie Woolcock



Hello Shalford

I hope this finds you enjoying the burgeoning Spring. Well, I come bearing some good news and some bad. Firstly the good news. You may recall in my last missive I asked for suggestions as to the name of a much-loved shrub in our garden that for various reasons I had never bothered to identify (mostly apathy on my part). I am delighted to report that a Shalford Village Magazine reader, namely Roger Martin, has identified it for us: *Viburnum bodnantse*. Thank you Roger. I might also add that said *Viburnum bodnantse* is still flowering its heart out and is a worthy contender for Plant of the Year. Now, dear reader, the bad news: one of my colonies has died out, seemingly overnight. During the winter we heft the hives to see how heavy they are. The weight of the hive gives an indication as to the quantity of stores (food) the bees have. I had been to check just a few days before and all seemed fine and dandy, full of bees busy doing bee business with plenty of food. Then you turn your back and next day - all dead. I didn't think a photo included here of said colony would make for good breakfast reading. Suffice to say it's a sad sight. I took some time to check for any disease of which I'm pleased to report there was no evidence.

This so called 'die-out' (also known as 'Colony Collapse') happens all too frequently to beekeepers with lifelong experience and not just to idiot beginners such as my good self. Indeed the frequency of it is now a cause for serious concern. Nobody knows for sure the exact cause: climate change, exposure to pesticides, loss of habitat are a few possibilities. The greatest pity is that it was a mahoesive colony. By far the largest I have handled thus far but also the sweetest tempered. (You may find it hard to believe that a colony of bees can be sweet tempered, but trust me they can.)

One of the three remaining hives is queened by a daughter of the dead queen. So I'm hopeful that this, too, will continue to be a sweet tempered colony. Without wishing to sound callous, the colony I rather wish had been snuffed out is still thriving and is still grumpy.

I am going to have to deal with the grumpy colony as soon as I possibly can. It will have to be re-queened. In other words I've to despatch the current queen and replace her. I can do that several ways. I can buy a new Queen – last year they were upwards of £45 depending



This is how the queen arrives in a plastic cage along with a few attendant bees.

Left: Here are my bees enjoying some early Spring sunshine



on her breeding. Or I can wait for the bees to make a queen cell and place it in the grumpy hive. I want to use a cell from my bees as they are what is known as ‘locally adapted’. In other words they are acclimatised to their current location.

The bees make queen cells for a number of reasons: If their queen has succumbed to beekeeper error (Who me? Never!), if they need to replace a failing or ailing queen, or they are preparing to swarm. The latter is the most frequent reason for the evidence of queen cells and is a fairly reliable signal that your treasured bees are about to go awol! It is then that I shall be able to re-queen the grumpy hive.

In the meantime I shall continue to heft and check the bees until I can do a first full inspection possibly at the end of this month if it’s warm enough. I don’t want to open the hives if it’s not warm enough as the bees are working so hard to keep the internal temperature at a constant 30/35 degrees C (yes you read that right). The rule of thumb is it should be shirt-sleeve weather before you open up the hive. So patience, is a virtue when dealing with the bees.

As for planting more pollinator friendly garden plants, I’ve succumbed to the allure of the glossy, beautifully produced, unsolicited (really?) rose catalogues that keep arriving and have planted more roses, lavender and Verbena bonariensis which the bees love. ‘Have you got room for anymore plants in the garden?’ ‘Absolutely’, came the reply, ‘There is plenty more lawn to dig up’.

I’m going to check with my bees’ landlord before I start planting wild flowers in my apiary and if he’s in agreement I’ll start with Ragged Robin and Meadow Sweet as they are said to enjoy watery places (my apiary is right by the river) and also Borage is a firm favourite for the bees.

So dear reader, that’s me. Still on a huge learning curve with the bees but it helps to keep the little grey cells functioning.

Until the next time



A queen cell



01376 342111
sales@januslimited.co.uk

JANUS Contract Services Limited



ANIMAL FEEDS

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



FENCING SUPPLIES

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

Mounts Farm, Shalford Road, Rayne, CM77 6XA

www.januslimited.co.uk

PLUMBING AND HEATING

- ✓ Central heating installation and maintenance
- ✓ Oil boiler installation, service and repair
- ✓ Oil tank replacement
- ✓ Unvented cylinder installation service and repair
- ✓ All other plumbing work

Call P Burton on: 07906891667



SCALE INVADER

Are you constantly battling with limescale?

Here's the solution



- ✓ Reduces limescale
- ✓ No maintenance, no power
- ✓ Saves money on electric/gas bills
- ✓ Just fit & forget
- ✓ Easy to install
- ✓ Money back guarantee
- ✓ No cutting of pipe work

www.scaleinvader.com 07906891667
info@scaleinvader.com



AMANDA'S ADVENTURE



A Children's story
Written by: Susan Brunskill

Amanda lived in a tall house with a back gate on to a little field where she loved playing. She had a little baby brother and a large cat called Charlie. One day, when her Mummy was very busy, she called to Amanda and said if she put her boots and mac on, she could go and play in the field as long as she stayed where Mummy could see her from the nursery window. Amanda was very pleased as she loved playing on the grass gathering moss and leaves, building houses for the fairies and elves she was sure lived there.

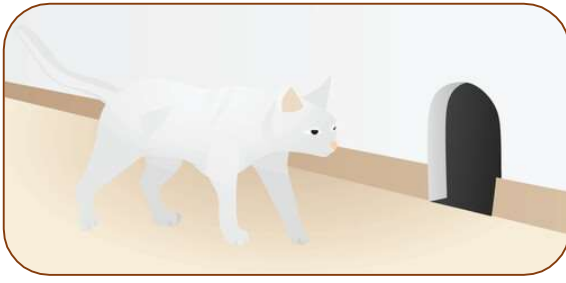
"Stay where I can see you" Mummy said and Amanda ran as quickly as she could and sat on a mossy bank to pile up the leaves. Suddenly a little voice startled her and she looked around to see where it was coming from. She couldn't see anyone at first, then noticed a fat little white mouse at her feet. Surely a mouse can't talk she thought! "Excuse me" said the

mouse, "but would you mind moving along a little bit as you are sitting right in front of my door and the children can't get out to play". Amanda was so surprised that she just stared for a moment then suddenly jumped up as she realised what the mouse had said. "I am so sorry, I'm afraid I didn't notice your door". "No problem" said the mouse in a very friendly way "there's no harm done". Out came the mouse family, six sleek coffee-coloured babies only as big as Amanda's thumb. "What a lovely family you have" said Amanda politely "Yes" said the mouse "I am very proud of them". "It's rather unusual to see a white mouse living outdoors isn't it?" Asked Amanda. "Yes it is" said the mouse "but my story is an unusual one and if you have time to spare I will tell you while the children are playing". "Yes please" said Mandy and quietly sat down again to listen.



This is the story:-

"One day when I was very young, I was put in a pets shop window to be sold. A dear little boy was passing with his Mummy and begged her to buy me as he'd always wanted a pet white mouse. His Mummy agreed and I was very happy to be taken home with him and lived very happily with him and his family. His older sister had always wanted a kitten so when a stray kitten arrived in the garden her Mummy said it could stay. The kitten used to prowl round my cage after everyone had gone to bed but one day she managed to overturn my cage and I was terrified knowing I would have to run for my life! The kitten chased me round the room and I was tired, as living in a cage, I wasn't used to running a lot. Suddenly I noticed a crack in the skirting board that ran around the whole room and thankfully I squeezed in and



was glad I had never been greedy. I looked around to see where I was and it was very dark. Once I was used to the dark, I saw I was in a gloomy corridor and there was a signpost that said “Way Out!”

“How exciting” said Mandy “and was it the way out?”. “Oh yes” said the mouse “Elizabeth! Henry! Stop

arguing! Find another twig to play with!”.

She carried on with the story

“I followed the sign and came across a large turn where from behind a door came a loud noise and shouting, timidly I opened the door and saw a large fat mouse sitting on a red velvet throne and on his head he had a crown of silver tinfoil and around his shoulders a cape made from a striped tea towel. Naturally I was very impressed and sat down quietly to hear what was going on. Many mice were listening to his shouting; their little noses buried in their chests as though they were frightened”.

“And what is more” shouted the King “Unless you bring me twenty pieces of cheese by this evening, I will send two of your prettiest mice to the kitten!”

“Oh my goodness” said Amanda who went quite pale at the thought. “Whatever happened next!”.

“Well, he stormed out followed by a rather sad lady mouse who was also wearing a crown and she was his Queen or so I thought. I was sitting next to a glossy brown field mouse a very smart young fellow with bright eyes and very straight long whiskers so I asked him what it was all about.

He told me that the King was a town mouse who had come to live in the country and had taken over the mouse community entirely. They were not used to his harsh rough ways and tried their best to satisfy all he wanted even to making him a crown out of milk bottle tops. He had stolen the prettiest young mouse who was already engaged and made her his Queen. He was so unkind to her that she was no longer beautiful but sad and her whiskers had drooped instead of being strong. Even her tail was sad and droopy too”.

Amanda interrupted the mouse as she saw her Mummy waving her to come in. “Please may I come back and hear the rest of the story another time?”. “Of course dear” said the mouse “I shall look forward to seeing you again soon”.

Amanda rushed home to tell her Mummy about her exciting morning and Mummy listened with a smile thinking to herself. “What stories Mandy invents”. Mandy could hardly wait for the next day and asked her Mummy if she could play in the field again. Her Mummy looked at the sky and it was a bit grey so told her she could play but to come in if it started to rain. Amanda told Mummy of course she would come straight in, but she would put her boots and mac on just in case. She sat on the mossy bank, being careful to not block the mouse door and soon she heard the patter of mouse feet running outside! A few moments

later Mrs Mouse came out dressed in an apron with a turban tucked round her ears. “Forgive the way I look dear but I am spring cleaning as I do hate cobwebs getting in to my fur!”. Amanda thought she looked sweet and told her so. The mouse swelled with pride and asked if she would like to hear the rest of the story, and Amanda of course begged her to continue.



“The mouse named Edward, next to whom I had been sitting, asked what had brought me there, and when I told him my unhappy story, he willingly agreed to find a home for me with a kind older mouse couple who he knew were lonely as all their children had left home. He took my paw and led me out of the big room along another corridor towards a very bright light. I was afraid, but he said not to be worried as it was only a fireplace and the fire is already alight. It became warmer and brighter until I was almost fainting in the heat then we turned sharply away into a cool passageway where there were many little doors with the names of the mice who lived there. We walked for about five minutes then stopped outside a door which said Mr and Mrs Randolph's house. Edward knocked on the door which was opened by a lovely grey mouse wearing a dress covered with an apron”. “Edward, my dear” she said “what can I do for you?”. “Then she saw me and asked what had happened as I looked exhausted! Until then I hadn't thought about what had happened to me and was worried about how I must have looked after tearing about away from the kitten”. “Come inside” said Claudia for that was her name “I will make a cup of mint tea and you can tell me your troubles”. “I started to cry at these kind words and she put her arms around me and sat me in a little fireside chair and when I had finished my story she told me I could stay with them as long as I wanted to. Edward said goodnight and said he would see me the next day so I went to bed and was tucked in and fell asleep immediately. The next day I felt quite alright and had almost forgotten my adventures from the day before.



Claudia woke me with a cup of mint tea, some cheese crumbs and some breadcrumbs and then I jumped out of bed to look around my new home! I went into the kitchen where Claudia was doing her washing, and there, I met Randolph, who was plump but with a very friendly face and he told me I could stay as long as I wanted to as I was one of Edward's friends. Soon after breakfast Edward arrived to tell us that the whole mouse community had rushed everywhere to find the cheese for the King to save the mice from the kitten. Suddenly I thought how wicked it was to send such a poor little mouse to such an enemy, then I thought I could take her place as I knew the kitten and the house so I had more chance to not be caught! How hard they tried to make me change my mind and Edward who was heartbroken at the thought told me that in the short time he had known me he wanted me to be his wife! He told me that if I did this he would be with me and near me to help in any way he could. How happy I was that my handsome young mouse loved me for I, too, had dreamed of a happy mouse life with him”.

Amanda said “I have to go as it is starting to rain but can I come again and hear some more please?”. “Of course” said the mouse “And please call me Belle as all my friends do!”.

The next day Amanda finished up her porridge and asked her Mummy if she could play in the field again and she could as long as she was in by 10.30 as Mummy wanted to go shopping. Amanda hoped that would be enough time as she knew Belle would never have finished her housework by then. Still, she thought, there is a chance she might hear me coming so off she went to her usual mossy bank.



“Mrs Mouse, Belle” she called out, but there was no reply, when suddenly she saw one of the children called Alfred who asked her to come inside as although his Mama was busy, she could still chat while working. Amanda said “I would love to but I can't get through your door. I'm too big”. “Mama said have a sip of this cowslip wine in this acorn cup and you'll see!” He held out the acorn cup and filled it with a sweet sticky liquid which tasted like honey and Amanda

found herself shrinking fast until she was no bigger than a clothes' peg in her Mummy's peg bag!! “Oh” she said and “Oh” again!! She had never had so many exciting things happen to her since she met Belle. Alfred ran through the grass and she followed him, but realised how tall the grass was and how thick! Soon she saw a sweet little door with a brass knocker on it and the door was open and she could see the mouse children playing on the floor in the front room. “Come in dear” said Belle. “I'm so pleased to see you but you are a little early today!”.

“Yes” said Amanda “but I'll go away if you are too busy”. “Not at all dear” said Belle “sit down and we'll have a cup of buttercup tea”. After a cup of buttercup tea served in a buttercup, Belle settled down to her story again.

After her suggestion to take the place of the other little mouse they went to the large hall where the meeting had been the previous night and there, chained to a chair, was the little mouse who had been chosen for the punishment for only 10 pieces of cheese for the King. She was guarded by a large rat soldier but when Edward explained what she wanted, he agreed to let Belle take the little mouse away. One pretty mouse is as good as another he said. Soon the King came in and signed a paper to say she must be pushed out into the human world and within minutes found herself back in the house where her cage had been. No sooner was she in the room than she heard a noise behind her. A large pebble had been put against the door to stop her getting back in! Gently she tiptoed into the room and saw the kitten was fast asleep in a basket with a ball of wool near its paws. She looked about her for a way out and couldn't see one. Suddenly the kitten woke up and yawned and showed its sharp white teeth. Poor Belle felt herself shaking then the kitten caught sight of her. He sat and stared at her. His nose twitched and he crouched in a ready to spring mode. Belle was thinking wildly and remembered the wool. She pulled the end in her mouth and ran across the room. Of course the kitten ran after the wool as that is what kittens love doing! Belle reached the window and ran up the red velvet curtain to escape. She felt a draught coming through the window and there was a little gap just big enough to squeeze through and there, waiting outside was Edward who had been watching all the time to see if he could help. They rushed into each other's arms and Edward took her home to The Randolph family home where she lived for the next few days until she was married to Edward a week later.



The wedding was very quiet, with a few of Randolph and Claudia's friends there with a lovely wedding breakfast of the best cheddar cheese and cowslip wine which Claudia had been saving for a special occasion. The next thing of course was to find somewhere to live and as there were no homes free in the mouse community, we decided to live out here on the grassy mossy bank. When the children came along we were very pleased because it is so fresh and lovely for the children.

Well it was nearly 10 o'clock and Amanda knew she had to be home but suddenly realised she was still so small but luckily Alfred had remembered and handed her a honeysuckle biscuit which reversed the shrinking of the drink she had tried earlier. Alfred said goodbye and she ran off to get home in time for the shopping trip.

Mummy, Amanda and her little brother in his pram, went off to the big supermarket where there were some rides for children outside. Sometimes if Mandy had been helpful and good with the shopping, Mummy would give her 20 pence to ride on one of them. There was an elephant, a space ship and a squirrel, and she decided on the space rocket, and felt that something very exciting was about to happen.

But that is another story. . . .

Care starts at *Home*



Start your home care journey with
Home Instead Braintree today.

- Home Help
- Personal Care
- Companionship
- Dementia Care

"We would recommend Home Instead 100%. The management and carers are excellent. Assessment visits are thorough and suggestions taken and acted upon. The carers are matched to Mum's interests and will chat, encourage and gently cajole Mum to exercise and chat. The Home Instead team have Mum's best interests at heart and treat her with immense dignity and kindness."

01376 319100
mike.sheehy@braintree.homeinstead.co.uk



**24/7 MOBILE TYRE
FITTING AND REPAIR
SERVICE**

TURBO TYRES

Turbo Tyres is a mobile tyre fitting and repair service, catering the the **Hertfordshire, Essex and Cambridge** area. If you are in need - roadside or at home - we are here to assist you!

**AGRICULTURAL
CAR
COMMERCIAL**



07713 846 291

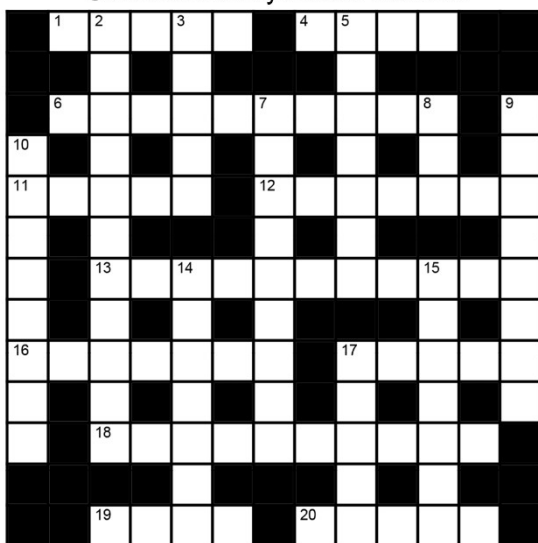


turbo-tyres.co.uk



help@turbo-tyres.co.uk

Crossword 95 by Robert Burrows



Across

1 Throw out (5)

4 A goat (4)

6 Essex Town (10)

11 Related to vision (5)

12 Define boundary (7)

13 Outdo others (11)

16 Bad practice (7)

17 Ornamental headwear (5)

18 Essex Hamlet (7-3)

19 Posture (4)

20 Contagious disease (5)

Down

2 Become a member (4-3-4)

3 Abdominal pain (5)

5 Spore (7)

7 Correcting style (3-6)

8 Tuberos root (3)

9 Far from centre (8)

10 Fine gauze fabric (8)

14 Dress style (7)

15 Adults (7)

17 Rodent (5)

Cryptic Across

1 Reject loses right to throw out (5)

4 A goat, Lib exclaimed (4)

6 Racy Billie could live in this market town (10)

11 Poor topic, to do with the eye (5)

12 Sadly timid, EI? Set decoy puzzle (5)

a boundary (7)

13 Surpass in Glynde? Very much so (11)

16 Film ace made very bad (7)

17 Bird going north to get royal headwear? (5)

18 Needy blaze unfortunately in this hamlet (10)

19 Stance some hippo sees (4)

20 A thousand referees get spotty disease (5)

Cryptic Down

2 Follow others into some joint he clubbed! (4,3,4)

3 Mix oil, cc litres to cure ailment (5)

5 I'll order 1 cab but sadly get bacteria (7)

7 Colourful correction(3,6)

8 May I go back for root veggie? (3)

9 Not in, resting, off the beaten track (8)

10 Moss gear, very fine fabric (8)

14 Garments for untidy cat fans (7)

15 Badly wrong, not down but mature (5,2)

17 Animal found in



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

By: Ken McDonald, Secretary

Horses were once very important in everyday life. This changed quickly with the advent of tractors, trucks and the motor car.

Horses were used extensively in agriculture; they also hauled delivery carts and buses and everything in between. Some of us may remember the horse-drawn milk float or the coalman and rag-and-bone man. There were blacksmiths, smithies and forges in most towns and villages.

We still have blacksmiths who work in metal, making gates, weather vanes, tools and farm implements, as well as shoeing horses. A farrier is a specialist in equine hoof care.

Whilst blacksmiths and farriers are quite rare today, there are reminders of this aspect of our heritage around The Hundred Parishes, for example in the names Forge Green at Hildersham, Anvil Cross in Great Hallingbury and Smith's End Lane in Barley. The area has five pubs called The Three Horseshoes – a name which probably came about because they had a nearby farrier, ready to deal with a customer who arrived with a horse that had lost a shoe.

Today, dwellings with names like The Old Forge or Anvil House often reveal their earlier lives.



Much Hadham Forge is still in use, part of Much Hadham Forge Museum. The museum usually opens Friday to Sunday, April to December, 11am to 5pm. It is housed in a series of listed buildings, dating from the 15th to 19th centuries. The forge itself dates from the 17th century; today's blacksmith runs forge experience days.



Ashdon once had three blacksmiths in the village. Now, one of Ashdon Museum's excellent displays is a representation of a blacksmith's shop with all the tools and equipment that he would have used. The museum is open April to October from 2pm to 5pm on Sundays and bank holidays and is well worth a visit.



Photos:

- 1 - Much Hadham – Forge Museum
- 2 - Barkway – Old Forge
- 3 - Bartlow – The Forge
- 4 - Matching Green – Forge Cottage
- 5 - Braughing – Old Forge
- 6 - Castle Camps – former forge, closed 1989.
- 7 - Aythorpe Roding – weather vane at Forge Cottage
- 8 - High Easter – weather vane at Anvil House



DONATE YOUR STAMPS TO FARLEIGH HOSPICE



HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED HOW YOU COULD HELP FARLEIGH HOSPICE? DONATE YOUR USED OR UNUSED STAMPS

- **How to Donate:** Cut around the stamp, leaving approximately 1 cm of paper around the edges.
- **What to Donate:** Both used and unused stamps are accepted, especially collectable or foreign stamps.
- **Purpose:** These stamps are sorted by volunteers and sold to collectors to raise funds.
- **Additional Items:** Small amounts of foreign currency can also be donated via the hospice reception.
- **Where:** Leave your stamps at either:-

St Andrew's Church, Or Meet & Greet, Shalford Village Hall, Every First Friday Of The Month. These Will Be Collected And Delivered To Farleigh By Michael Mason. Thank You Michael



SUFFOLK LEADWORKS

Heritage • New builds • Repairs

Tel: 07788238167

e-mail: suffolkleadworks@gmail.com

www.suffolkleadworks.co.uk





Delivering complete wastewater solutions

***Installs | Homebuyer/seller surveys
Servicing | Repairs | Emptying***

owlshall.co.uk

Service Department:
01371 504048

service@owlshall.co.uk

Installations Department:
01371 850698

sales@owlshall.co.uk

Visit our
online store:
owlshall.co.uk/shop
or scan the QR code



C J WIFFEN CONSTRUCTION LTD

CARPENTRY & BUILDING SERVICES

Extensions | Carpentry
Renovations & Refurbishments | Property Maintenance

Mob: 07814505274

E-mail: info@cjwiffenconstruction.uk

Web: www.cjwiffenconstruction.uk

Mobile Library - Further information can be found at libraries.essex.gov.uk



Barryfields, Shalford CM7 5HJ

Time: 11:20 - 11:50

Telephone Kiosk, Jaspers Green CM7 5AU

Time: 12:45 - 13:15

Dates: 27/4 18/5 8/6 29/6 20/7 10/8 21/9 12/10



Braintree Area

Foodbank

Together with Trussell

Website:

<https://braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk>

Tel: 01376 330694

SHALFORD COLLECTION POINTS

St. Andrew's Church Open every day 09.00 - 16.00

Collection taken to Foodbank on the Last Friday of the month

Shalford Village Shop

1 West Drive, Wethersfield - Anytime

Download/View Shopping List from:

www.bendlowe.co.uk

CROSSWORD 95 SOLUTION – ROBERT BURROWS

	1	E	2	J	E	3	C	T		4	I	5	B	E	X			
			O			O							A					
		6	B	I	L	L	E	7	R	I	C	A	8	Y		9	O	
10	G		N		I			E		I		A					U	
11	O	P	T	I	C			12	D	E	L	I	M	I	T			
	S									P		L						L
	S		13	E	X	14	C	E	E	D	I	N	15	G	L	Y		
	A		C		A											R		I
16	M	A	L	E	F	I	C			17	C	R	O	W	N			
	E		U		T					I		O			W			G
	R		18	B	E	A	Z	L	E	Y	E	N	D					
					N						P							U
			19	P	O	S	E			20	M	U	M	P	S			

POST OFFICE

**EVERY THURSDAY
AFTERNOON**



**SHALFORD
Village Hall 14.30
The George 15.00 –
15.30**

2025/2026

Recycling does not end at your kerbside collection

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

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

To find out where to recycle these

and lots of other items, go to www.recyclenow.com/recycling-locator or www.loveessex.org

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



FOOD BIN



My Recycling Calendar

TUESDAY ROUTE 2

OCTOBER 2025

7 14 21 28

NOVEMBER 2025

4 11 18 25

DECEMBER 2025

2 9 16 23 31 WED

JANUARY 2026

7 13 20 27 WED

FEBRUARY 2026

3 10 17 24

MARCH 2026

3 10 17 24 31

APRIL 2026

8 14 21 28 WED

MAY 2026

6 12 19 27 WED

GREY BIN AND FOOD BIN



GREEN BIN (subscribers only) CLEAR SACKS AND FOOD BIN



CLEAR SACKS AND FOOD BIN ONLY (GREEN BIN SUSPENDED)



GREY BIN



GREEN BIN



GARDEN WASTE

To subscribe to the garden waste service please visit www.braintree.gov.uk/gardenwastesubscription

If you print this, please recycle it in your clear sack



Braintree
District Council

RECYCLING SACKS



MY COLLECTION CHECKLIST:

-
-
-
-
-

Out for collection on the right day by 7am

All waste is in the bin with the lid shut

Clear recycling sacks are securely tied

All cardboard kept dry in clear recycling sacks

For furniture or bulky items use our collection service

www.braintree.gov.uk/bulkywaste



BY 7AM



HarperLees
FINANCIAL PLANNING



Chartered

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



IN RETIREMENT

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

PLANNING RETIREMENT

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



A BUSINESS OWNER

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

LOOKING FOR LATER-LIFE CARE

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



HarperLees
FINANCIAL PLANNING

We're Top Rated in
2023!

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

01277 350 560

info@harperlees.co.uk

harperlees.co.uk



The key news from the chancellor's speech ...03 Mar 2026

Just over three months after her lengthy Autumn Budget, chancellor Rachel Reeves has addressed the House of Commons and delivered the government's 2026 Spring Statement.

Ahead of the Statement, Reeves reinforced the government's commitment to "one fiscal event, one Budget, a year". So, it will come as a relief to many, including business owners, that the Spring Statement included no additional tax-raising measures. Furthermore, no changes to pensions or Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) were announced.

Reeves also said that household disposable income is set to grow at twice the rate that was forecast in the Autumn Budget – leaving the average person £1,000 better off each year by the next election.

That being said, previous announcements, including changes to the tax regime, remain in place, and may affect personal finances and business owners in 2026/27 and beyond.

Reeves gave an overview of the Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR) economic forecast for the years to come. Notably, the OBR's forecasts and the Statement as a whole made no mention of the potential economic impact of the unfolding situation in the Middle East, which may contribute to increased oil and gas prices that could prove inflationary and cause stock market volatility.

The chancellor confirmed the changes announced in the 2024 and 2025 Budgets

In an effort to reduce speculation and prevent a chop-and-change approach, the chancellor confirmed that key tax measures, announced in the Autumn Budgets of 2024 and 2025, will remain in place.

Among the key changes that have been reconfirmed and will affect personal finances are:

- Inheritance Tax (IHT) will be levied on most unused pension benefits from April 2027. It's estimated that this change will result in an additional 10,500 estates being liable for IHT in 2027/28. This will contribute to a predicted rise in IHT receipts to £15 billion by 2030.
- Tax on income earned from property will rise by two percentage points from April 2027, increasing tax liability for landlords.
- There will also be a two percentage point increase in the basic and higher rates of Dividend Tax from April 2026, which may affect business owners and investors.
- Key tax thresholds, including those for Income Tax and the IHT nil-rate bands, will remain frozen until April 2031.

The lack of any tax-raising measures in the Spring Statement will be welcome news for many people. However, the previously announced changes could mean a review would still be beneficial.

The Office for Budget Responsibility has updated its forecasts for GDP growth, inflation, and house prices

The OBR has updated its real-terms GDP forecast every year between 2026 and 2029 when compared to the estimates it made in the 2025 Autumn Budget. The organisation now expects the economy to grow by:

- 2026 – 1.1% (a decrease of 0.3%)
- 2027 – 1.6% (unchanged)
- 2028 – 1.6% (an increase of 0.1%)
- 2029 – 1.5% (unchanged)

The OBR expects inflation to be at or around the Bank of England's (BoE) 2% target over the next five years. Inflation easing would improve household spending power, which, in turn, could provide a boost for the economy and businesses. Indeed, real household disposable income is expected to grow by between 0.6% and 0.9% each year until 2030.

The BoE has already cut its base interest rate several times since the current government formed in July 2024, as inflationary pressures eased. If the OBR's forecast is accurate, the BoE is likely to make additional cuts, which would reduce the cost of borrowing for households and businesses.

The OBR expects unemployment to rise from 4.75% in 2025 to a peak of 5.33% in 2026, driven by weaker demand for labour. After peaking in 2026, unemployment is expected to fall to 4.1% in 2030.

It also forecasts that house prices will rise by between 2.4% and 2.9% each year between 2026 and 2030.

The government reinforced its ongoing commitment to two key fiscal rules

In her speech, the chancellor confirmed the two fiscal rules set out in the Budget:

- **Stability rule** – Not to borrow money to fund day-to-day public spending by the end of this parliament (2029/30).
- **Investment rule** – To reduce government debt as a share of national income by 2029/30.

Addressing the stability rule first, although the cost of borrowing has risen during this period of heightened uncertainty, the chancellor vowed that the steps taken in the Statement will restore its headroom.

Turning next to the investment rule, Reeves also stated that this commitment will be met two years early, with net financial debt predicted to be 82.9% of GDP in 2025/26.

4 key Spring Statement measures

1. Boosting defence spending

At a time of growing worldwide tension, the chancellor announced increases to defence spending, aimed at making the UK a “defence industrial superpower”. Defence spending is set to reach 3.5% of GDP by 2035.

Defence innovation will include harnessing AI and drones, creating employment opportunities for engineers in the devolved nations, while a previously announced Defence Growth Board is also being created to support £400 million for defence innovation.

2. Tackling youth unemployment

The chancellor reconfirmed her commitment to getting those in Britain who can work into work. She stated that 1 in 8 young people is currently not in employment, education, or training.

The chancellor confirmed that reforms to the welfare system will produce welfare savings of £4.8 billion between 2026 and the end of the forecast period (2029/30).

3. Increasing property revenue

Previously announced property planning reforms will go ahead.

The reforms are expected to increase real levels of GDP by 0.2%, the equivalent of £6.8 billion for the economy, by 2029/30. Over 10 years, this is expected to increase to 0.4% of GDP (£15 billion). Reeves said this represents the biggest growth forecast for a policy with no fiscal cost.

4. Making government more efficient

The abolition of NHS England was announced back in March 2025 as part of wider efforts to increase NHS efficiency and productivity, and to cut spending. These measures will also include reducing costly agency outsourcing.

More widely, Reeves confirmed the £3.25 billion of investment in a new “transformation fund” that will drive modernisation across the public sector through digital reform and the

adoption of AI. It's hoped that these changes will result in a "leaner" and more efficient public sector.

After announcing a raft of changes in the Autumn Budget, the Spring Statement acts as a fiscal pitstop, upholding the government's commitment to one significant fiscal event a year.

Please note

All information is from the chancellor's speech, the gov.uk website, the [Spring Statement press release](#) and the [Autumn Budget documents](#) published by HM Treasury.

The content of this Spring Statement 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.

The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate tax planning.

The value of your investments (and any income from them) can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount you invested. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

Investments should be considered over the longer term and should fit in with your overall attitude to risk and financial circumstances.

DANIEL ROBINSON & SONS

INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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

EST.  1892

Traditional & contemporary funerals, as unique as the lives celebrated

always here when you need us...

31 High Street ~ **Halstead**
01787 475533

7 Manor Street ~ **Braintree**
01376 320582

Haslers Lane ~ **Great Dunmow**
01371 874518

www.drobinson.co.uk



SHED AND GARDEN CRIME (SPRING/SUMMER)



As spring shows us it's on its way we find ourselves, hopefully, spending more time keeping the garden tidy ready for summer and Police will see an increased number of shed and outbuilding thefts.

Working in the garden: It is easy to get engrossed in what you are doing when working in the garden, if the house is empty it is wise to close and lock the door (don't forget the key though!). Remember when you finish working in the garden or stop for a break put your tools away, "it adds insult to injury" if your tools are used to break into your house.

New tools and lawn mowers: Be mindful of how you dispose of the packaging to your new purchases; don't advertise it to the thieves and burglars with your empty boxes on display outside for roadside collection. Fold boxes inside out or break them up and put them in a bag for collection.

Property marking: It's a good deterrent if your property is visibly security marked with your house number and post code such as www.creproducts.co.uk or labelled if a forensic (hidden) property marking system is used such as www.smartwater.com or www.selectadna.co.uk. You can also record the serial numbers of any property free of charge at www.immobilise.com. If your property does get stolen with property marking and/or recording on Immobilise there is a greater chance of you getting it back.

Shed security: With sheds coach-bolt and plate the padlock hasp sections to the frame and door, use a good quality "Close Shackle" padlock or a key operated mortice lock; don't forget the hinges ensure they cannot be unscrewed. Protect windows with a wire mesh and fit a curtain or white wash the windows to prevent prying eyes. Consider a shed alarm if you do not have one, there are shed alarms available that contact you on the phone when activated and this is a clever device with many applications www.uwatch.co.uk. Products that are fit for purpose can be found by looking for the "Secured by Design" or "Sold Secure" logos, or on their websites www.securedbydesign.com or www.soldsecure.com.

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

Rogue Traders: The rogue trader also takes advantage of the fine weather to con the unsuspecting. Although you may think you would never be taken in by them they can be very convincing especially to the elderly or vulnerable,

"I am laying some gravel up the road and see you need some....."

"I notice your trees or shrubs need a prune..." *so many stories!*

Look after the elderly or vulnerable near you and step in should you need to with a little advice, also another face sometimes puts the rogue trader off. Need a trader and have no personal recommendations, look at www.buywithconfidence for traders checked out by Trading Standards.

Terrie Johnson, PCSO 8143, Essex Police, Mobile 07812 065122
email: terrie.johnson@essex.police.uk



MEDIA RELEASE

Cllr Graham Butland **to stand down as Leader of** **Braintree District Council**

After 22 years as Leader of Braintree District Council, Cllr Graham Butland has announced his intention to stand down as Leader at the Council's AGM on 28th May 2026.

Cllr Butland was first elected to Braintree District Council in May 2003 and represents Great Notley & Black Notley ward. Cllr Butland joined the Council's Cabinet in June 2003 and was appointed as the Cabinet Member for Health and Community. In 2004 he was appointed Leader of the Council.

Cllr Graham Butland, said: "It has been an enormous privilege and honour to be Leader since 2004 and serving our community in this role. After 22 years leading the district through fantastic but also challenging times, and with the Government expected to announce its decision on the future configuration of local government later this month, now is the right moment for me to hand over the leadership, to enable a new leader to guide the council as it merges into the new local government framework for Greater Essex.

I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved in the Braintree district over these years, and it has been a true privilege to meet so many inspiring people who work day in day out to make the Braintree district the amazing place that it is. I am grateful to everyone who has given me such great support over that time. I intend to remain a BDC Councillor until the council ceases to exist and will support the new Leader in whatever way I can."

The process to appoint a new Leader will take place in line with the council's constitution. Cllr Graham Butland remains Leader until this takes place will continue to be a councillor for the Great Notley & Black Notley ward.

The George Inn

OPEN ALL DAY EVERY DAY

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



Telephone: 01371 850 207

Find us on Facebook:



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

SHALFORD VILLAGE MAGAZINE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Service	Company	Advert Page No.
Animal Feeds	Janus	46
Construction	C J Wiffen	57
Dog Grooming Services	All 4 Paws	25
Driveways	Countryside Driveways	2
Electrician	Hearn Electrical	25
Estate Agents	Gray & Co	41
Fencing	Bell Fencing	25
Fencing Supplies	Janus	46
Financial Planners	HarperLees	60
Funeral Directors	Daniel Robinson	64
Garage	Unit Four Motors	36
Glaziers	Capital Glaziers	41
Home Care	Home Instead	51
Lashes	LMB Lash Artist	24
Leadworks	Suffolk Leadworks	56
Lock Smith	Christopher The Locksmith	41
Plumbing & Heating	Phil Burton	46
Pub	The George Inn	67
Roofing	R Wheeler	4
Shop	Shalford Store	40
Tyres Turbo	Tyres	52
Water Softener	Ian Holmes	4
Waste Water Solutions	Owls Hall	57
Websites • Print • Signs	Applied Image	43

Contacts

Alice Cox Editor

Tel: 07850 264518

Email: shalford_village_magazine@btinternet.com

Gary Thomas Applied Image Ltd

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

Tel: 01376 342580

Email: support@appliedimage.co.uk