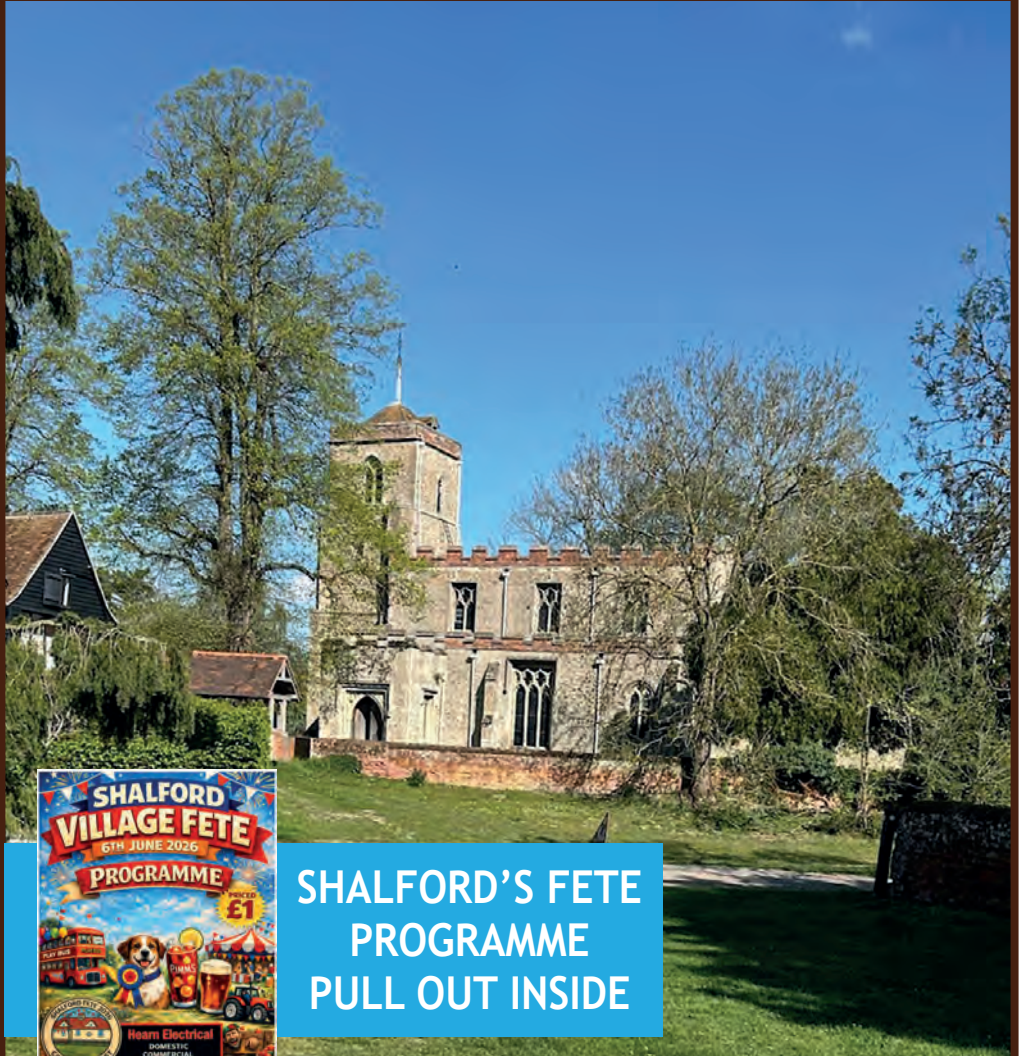


SHALFORD

Village Magazine June 2026

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



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PROGRAMME
PULL OUT INSIDE**

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Hall Church End
CM7 5EZ



The George Inn The
Street CM7 5HH

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Shalford Village Magazine can be downloaded or viewed from www.hendlowe.co.uk

FRONT COVER

**CHUCH OF
ST ANDREW'S**

**Wednesday,
22 April 2026**

Photo: Alice Cox



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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 Patient

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 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

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

SHALFORD CRAFT GROUP

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

At 2pm onwards. Please bring along any craft projects you are working on. Share ideas and learn new crafts.

Chat and craft over tea/ coffee and cake. For dates of when and where please contact.

Caroline Ottley
07734140478

Marianna Marriott
07450251525

JOIN OUR FRIENDLY GROUP OF BELL RINGERS

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

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:

ROY THREADGOLD
Tel: 01371 850481

RE-ENGAGE (Formerly Contact the Elderly)

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



For more details:
Contact:

Sarah Cunningham
Sarah8750@hotmail.co.uk

Or

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

WHAT'S ON - SHALFORD VILLAGE FETE FLOWER FESTIVAL

FLOWER FESTIVAL AT
St. ANDREW'S CHURCH
6TH - 18TH JUNE

A flower festival titled

"ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL"

is being held at St. Andrew's Church
starting on

Saturday 6th June for 2 weeks

The hymn is divided into 12 sections.
Each flower arrangement depicts a section.
Walk around the Church in an anti-clockwise
direction and the hymn is complete at the
12th arrangement.

The refrain is depicted at the
screen and memorial board.

Refreshments will be served 10 – 12
Monday 8th to Friday 12th ONLY

Donations welcome for the CREAMER fund

All are welcome to enjoy our displays in
celebration of the Shalford fete

Entry is free

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

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

A Celebration Service for the Shalford Fete

St Andrew's Church, Shalford

Sunday 7th June at 6:00pm

Join us as we bring the *Shalford Fete Weekend* to a joyful close with a special service set among our beautiful

"All Things Bright and Beautiful" Flower Festival

- 🎵 Popular songs and uplifting hymns
- 🎵 Music celebrating the fun and spirit of the fete
- 🎵 A warm, welcoming community atmosphere

Plus:

Grand Fete Prize-Giving

Followed by a celebration drink!

Everyone is warmly welcome!

- 🎵 Have a favourite hymn or school assembly song?
We'd love to include it!

Please contact: Revd Canon Janet Nicholls

✉ jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org



**SHALFORD
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Celebrating 80 years

The Shalford Fete

6th June 2026

Floral Art Displays

Former Prize Winners

Historic Photos of Vegetable displays

Plant Sale

Cookery Competition

(recipe in April magazine, local websites, F/B)

Shalford History Association

Display of Memorabilia

Build a Scarecrow with

Shalford Craft Group

WHAT'S ON

A DAY AT THE SEASIDE

“THE HUT” ON THE PROMENADE

Felixstowe IP11 7LR

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

WEDNESDAY, 19th AUGUST, 2026



The Hut is an extremely popular venue situated on the promenade at Felixstowe. Fitted with access ramps and disabled toilets in addition to standard WCs

Fully-equipped kitchen and comfortable lounge



Stay comfortably indoors with a sea view or take a walk in the sea air and visit the sea-front gardens. The Hut holds a stock of 8 wheelchairs for those finding it difficult to walk.

- Price** - £25 (Coach, Fish & Chips, teas/coffee - Sandwiches can be arranged)
- Pick Up/Drop Off** - Shalford Village Hall
- Times at Village Hall** - Leave: 9.30 a.m. prompt Return: 4.30 p.m. approx
- Transport** - Coach
- Contact** - Marianna mobile: 07450 251525

Bendlowe's - People Working For People

WHAT'S ON

SAVE THE DATE



Donations of cakes..Raffle Prizes..Bricabrac

Gratefully received

Tel: Caroline Ottley 07734140478

TOPPESFIELD SCULPTURE & WINE FESTIVAL

TOPPESFIELD VINEYARD, HARROW HILL, TOPPESFIELD,
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FRIDAY 12th JUNE 7pm - 10pm
Charity night for Kids Inspire.



www.kidsinspire.org.uk

£20 entrance per person to include
first glass of wine and canapés.

Book on:
TicketSource.co.uk

SATURDAY 13th JUNE 12noon - 6pm

SUNDAY 14th JUNE 12noon - 6pm

£15 entrance per adult, £7 entrance per child to include
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WHAT'S ON - WETHERSFIELD

SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Wethersfield Pavilion
Hedingham Road, CM7 4EQ

Saturday 20th June

1PM UNTIL LATE • FREE ENTRY



- ★ Fire Engine ♦ Tractors ♦ Food Stall & BBQ ★
- ★ Popcorn & Candy Floss ♦ Dog Show ★
- Traditional Stalls ♦ Cream Teas ♦ Licensed Bar ★

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★ *of our wonderful village!* ★

Contact broad.julia@yahoo.co.uk

PROGRAMME FOR THE SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

SATURDAY 20th JUNE

**WETHERSFIELD PAVILION
AND PLAYING FIELD**

- 12.45 pm** Parade from Wethersfield Green up to the Pavilion, led by our very own Town Crier. Come and join the parade bring out the flags and walk with us
- 1.00 pm** Arrive at Playing Field for the start of celebrations
Entertainment by Bardfield Brass Band
- 1.30 pm** Children's dancing
- 2.00 pm** Children's games
Open Mic Stage open, feel free to come along and give us a tune through the afternoon
- 3.00 pm** Dog Show on the Tennis Court, judged by the RSPCA Danaher team, bring your canine friend along, £2 entry.
Dogs allowed on the Playing Field on the day :
Cutest Puppy (under 12 months)/Golden Oldie (over 8 years)
Waggiest Tail/ Most like their owner
- 4.30 pm** Tug of War
- 6.00 pm** BBQ starts
- 7.00 pm** Live Music with Loran. S on the Stage
- 10.30 pm** Lighting of the Wethersfield Beacon

**If you have a car or bike that you would like to enter
please let us know - £2 per car, all welcome
Licensed Bar, Pimm's Bar, Food, Cream Teas, Cake, Ice Creams
and plenty of other refreshments available
Bouncy Castle and a wide selection of stalls and games
Feel free to bring your picnic tables and chairs**

See you there!

(all timings subject to change!)



**COACH TRIP TO THE
RHS SANDRINGHAM FLOWER SHOW
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WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2026

**COACH FROM DUNMOW AT 8.00 AM,
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RETURN TO WETHERSFIELD 6.00 PM /
RETURN TO DUNMOW 6.30 PM**

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COACH TRAVEL APPROX : £20.00

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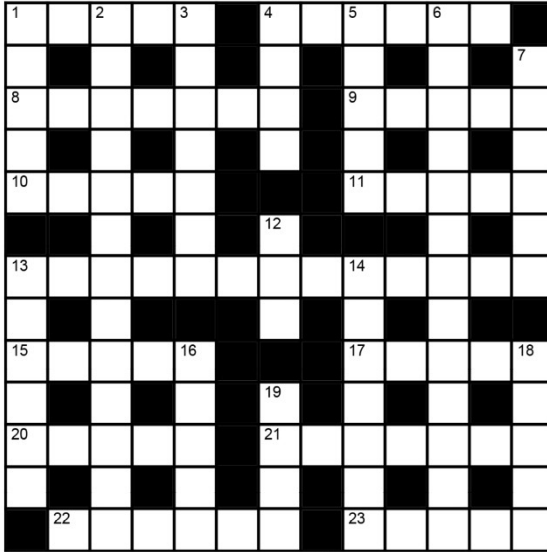
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01376 320582

Haslers Lane ~ **Great Dunmow**
01371 874518

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Crossword 97 by Robert Burrows



O Chad (2,3)

11 Recuperation place in some rare habitat (5)

13 Believe the story? It's in the black (6,7)

15 Hey, Financial Times is crumpled and heavy (5)

17 Overturn, not to the downside (5)

20 Rum he mixed made bodily fluid (5)

21 Badly aligned, but ahead (7)

22 Didn't move, but maybe set day (6)

23 Good style from broken cleat (5)

Cryptic Down

1 UK bra needed for this garment (5)

2 Essex town house bent left, sadly (5,8)

3 Using lichi, Bach, I cook with grill (7)

4 Outback president? (4)

5 Refuse cooked bread? (5)

6 High place to find job here (9,4)

7 Big mat rumples for chess opening (6)

12 Despite some embargo, find drinking spot (3)

13 Like-minded group could make Thor CO (6)

14 Dutch in the bottle (7)

16 My, my, you are inside - delicious (5)

18 One of five on hand (5)

19 Earthy lump could be cold (4)

Down

1 Dutch painter (5)

4 Soak with drops of moisture (6)

8 Dances (7)

9 Now Myanmar (5)

10 For this purpose (2,3)

11 Dry out, so to speak (5)

13 Bank account (6,7)

15 Weighty (5)

17 Invert (5)

20 Nose drip (5)

21 Be ahead (7)

22 Remained (6)

23 Brilliant display (5)

Down

1 Muslim attire (5)

2 Essex town (5-8)

3 Oriental cooking object (7)

4 Abundant hair (4)

5 Exclude (5)

6 Essex suburb (13)

7 Opening move (6)

12 An obstruction (3)

13 Roman army infantry (6)

14 Bravery (7)

16 Tasty (5)

18 Numeral (5)

19 Coagulated mass (4)

Cryptic Across

1 He partly painted hobo's church (5)

2 Dampens beds we made up (6)

8 Dances at lively rum bash? (7)

9 Don't rob Ma in this country (5)

10 As needed, maybe



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Finchingfield and District Branch

Upcoming Events

60s 70s and 80s Dance Music from Jack the Lad band. This has been postponed until **18 July**. Watch out for more details.

Our Branch would always welcome new members. Membership is £22 per year and anyone can join. RBL Membership Line is 0800-307-7773. (Apologies for incorrect number in last edition).

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**

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

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

Flu Vaccination Requirements for 2026

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

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.

12th July 2026

Ashfields Carriage and Polo Club, Gt Canfield, Dunmow, CM6 1JU Ride on private headlands and local bridleways. This is a 10-mile route. For Sat Nav users do not follow if it tells you to go into high cross lane (west or east) this is a single-track road and is unsuitable for horse boxes or trailers. Members Price £20 Non Members £25

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Telephone Kiosk, Jaspers Green CM7 5AU

Time: 12:45 - 13:15

Dates: 8/6 29/6 20/7 10/8 21/9 12/10



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15.30**

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SHALFORD LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION



Meetings take place monthly
For date and more information

contact: Sally
07785 235000

or visit
<https://shalford-essex-pc.gov.uk/history-society/>

SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



For more information

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

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

FOSTAC

Friends of St Andrew's
Church



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



MEET & GREET 1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

SHALFORD
VILLAGE HALL

11 am to 2 pm

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

MEET & GREET – 1ST MAY 2026 – Photos by Derek Holland



Another really enjoyable Meet & Greet. My thank-yous: everyone who helped to set up and clear up; the team for yet another fantastic feast, everyone who brought along home-made “goodies” – cakes, sausage rolls.

Trust me: You are all appreciated!

Alice

The Bells, The Bells!

By: Sally Welsh

Arrangements were made on Wednesday 22 April to take down number 2 bell from the tower at St Andrew's Church. The bell has a crack in it and it needed to be repaired. A company from Bridport in Dorset, Nicholson Engineering were called in to do the job with volunteers, Andrew Hull and Phil Blumfield providing assistance.

The bell, which was made in 1690 in Norwich and has 'Samuel Husband Churchwarden' engraved on it weighs around 250 kilos and is made from 'bell metal' and it is likely to have been made in one piece in a mould. They would have 'chipped' bits of metal off to get the correct sound.

The bell was brought down through a trap door using just a block and chain and gently lowered onto a trolley. The bell was then measured at 29 ½ inches and the doorway in the screen into the main church was also measured - 29 inches. Oh dear! Luckily with some careful thought and delicate maneuvering, the trolley with its load was tilted slightly and passed through without any damage caused.

The opportunity was also taken to refurbish the bearing and wheels for all the bells, there are 5 in total. Not an easy job in such a confined space and so high up! This job was last done in 1969 and should be good for another 50 years.





The use of tower bells associated with Christian worship probably reached Britain in the 8th century. Bells were an important means of communication in earlier times, different chimes announcing various events such as fairs, curfews, etc as well as church services.

On joyful occasions like weddings, they probably rang several bells at once, and swung them higher to make a louder sound. This required quite a bit of strength so local men would be paid to ring for such secular occasions and it became quite a sport. People also rang for their own pleasure, and in towns with several churches they would pay the sexton to open the tower of whichever church's bells they chose to ring.

Despite the reformation, due to its social role, bell ringing survived and ringers became largely independent of the church, forming their own

organisations. The Ancient Society of College Youths was founded in 1637, and continues to this day as a premier ringing society.

Pleasure ringing must have been popular because in some places there were orders to restrict it and it was even mentioned in a puritan act of parliament, which in 1643 forbade sport on the Lord's day, including '*ringing of bells for pleasure*'.

Over time bell ringing developed with the introduction of bell wheels which allowed the bells to be swung much higher and change-ringing, i.e. systematically varying the order of a sequence of a bells. The first mention of the phrase 'ringing the changes' is made in a sermon in 1614.

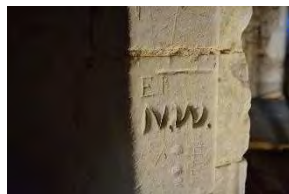


Having had its ups and downs during the 18th and 19th centuries, bell ringing began to prosper again in the 20th century despite two world wars and today benefits from the use of technology and support from ringing societies.

Many everyday expressions still echo the world of bellfounders, ringers, and the folklore surrounding them such as:

'Ring the changes',
'Rings a bell',
'Ring hollow',
'to bell the cat', and many more.

We are very lucky to have our dedicated group of bell ringers in Shalford and we look forward to hearing that joyous sound emanating from St Andrew's in the Autumn when the bell is returned. Meanwhile our bell ringers will continue to ring in other churches in the Benefice.



COLOURING – BUTTERFLY
GRAHAM SILVESTER



Where was this photo taken and what time of year? Email: shalford_village_magazine



No prizes just your name in the magazine



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STEBBING VINTAGE TRACTOR RUN 10TH MAY 2026



Photos taken by Derek Holland

graham's



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Shalford Village Fete 2026 —

A Tradition Continues

There's something timeless about a village fete. The hum of conversation across the green, children darting between stalls, the smell of tea, cake and freshly cut grass — it's a scene that has played out in Shalford for generations.

The Shalford Village Fete has long been one of the highlights of the village calendar. In years past it brought together "practically the whole village," with games, stalls, raffles and the kind of cheerful competition only a friendly rural community can produce. Whether it was the white-elephant stall, skittles, a lucky dip, or simply catching up with neighbours, the fete has always been about one thing — community.

Like many traditions, it has ebbed and flowed over the years. There were periods when the fete paused, only to be revived again by enthusiastic volunteers determined to keep the spirit alive. Most recently, a new committee breathed fresh life into the event, proving that while times change, the heart of Shalford remains the same.

Today's fete continues that story. It blends the best of the old — homemade cakes, local crafts, friendly competitions — with new ideas and new faces. It's a chance to celebrate the village, welcome newcomers, and reconnect with friends old and new.

From Church End to Jaspers Green, from long-time residents to first-time visitors, the Shalford Fete is a reminder of what makes village life special: people coming together, sharing laughter, and creating memories that become part of local history.

So whether you're here for the tombola, the tea tent, the music, or simply the atmosphere — you're part of the tradition.

Here's to Shalford Village Fete 2026... and many more to come.



FAIRGROUND GAMES

F1	Lynne	Harris	Lucky Dip
F2	Lynne	Harris	Ping Pong
F3	Carol	Hussey	Coconut Shy
F4	Sonia	Burnard	Splat the rat
F5	Katherine	Whaymand	Tombola
F6	Marianna	Marriott	Vegetable Machine
F7	Terry	Savage	Bingo game
F8	Lloyd	Brown	Braintree Lions train giving rides
F9	Mac	Beanland	Tractor show
F10	Maggie	Isbell	Name the teddy
F11			Classic Cars - Max 30
F12	Gemma's Farm	Gemma	Children's Petting Farm
F13	Chris	Moore	Double decker soft play bus and inflatables
F14	DEL		Medieval Stocks
F15	Shalford	Pétanque Team	PETANQUE

NOTICES

We invite you to join in the fun and games and have a wonderful time today, but we must remind you to take care around the Showground. At certain times vehicles will be entering the showground , please make sure you keep an eye open, especially for children.

We would also advise you that there will be official photographers taking pictures from time to time.

If you have need to seek medical help there is a St Johns station in the middle of the showground. If you have a lost child please report it to the Tannoy announcer situated outside the Village Hall, and if you need any other assistance please ask a team member wearing a blue Tee shirt.

BE SURE TO HAVE FUN!

We are delighted to welcome Cllr Michael Staines, who has kindly agreed to open the Fete. We would like to thank the many villagers who joined the fete committee, giving hours of their own time working to make today happen, many thanks to many local people who have paid for certain attractions so we don't have to charge entry to Gemma's Farm, we are grateful for Hearn Electrical for programme sponsorship, Archie's Pet food supplies for sponsoring the dog show, Michael Chumbley for the Tannoy announcements and the local farmers and veteran car owners, who have given up their time for our enjoyment.

★ Dog Show ★
SPONSORED BY
Archie's PET SUPPLIES

Is your dog a handsome chap or a beautiful bitch?
Have you a dog classified as a Golden Oldie (over 7)
Or a rescue dog with a wonderful personality?
Then be sure to enter the Shalford Fete Dog Show!

Shalford Fete Committee
Supporting
BOOMERANG
Pet Food Charity

SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CELEBRATING 80 YEARS!

SHALFORD FETE

A Celebration for the Whole Community!

SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Celebrating 80 Years!

Step into the SHS tent and discover
LOTS TO SEE!

- Stunning flower and plant displays
- Vegetables & produce
- Gardening advice
- Competitions
- And much more!

CHILDREN'S CRAFT STALL
LOTS OF FUN FOR ALL AGES!

Why not make a **SCARECROW?**

SHALFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Discover our fascinating past!

LOTS OF EXHIBITS INCLUDING:

- Local archaeological finds
- Vintage farm tools and implements
- A unique glimpse into Shalford's history

LIVES IN SHALFORD
PLUS - A special book available about locals who lived their life in Shalford.
A must for keen historians!

FUN FOR ALL AGES • COMMUNITY SPIRIT • PLENTY TO EXPLORE!
Come along, bring your friends and family, and enjoy everything the Shalford Fete has to offer! ♥

ARENA EVENTS

Start	Finish	Minutes	Event Ring 2026
12:45	16:40		Dog Show Registration Opens
12:55	13:00	00:05:00	Cllr Michael Staines to announce the Fete is open and introduce Singing 4 All
13:00	13:20	00:20:00	Singing 4 ALL – Stage 20 mins
13:20	13:50	00:30:00	Tractor Procession /Introduce Tractor Competition and Entries
13:50	14:20	00:30:00	UKELELE Stage
14:20	14:50	00:30:00	HELLS BELLS MORRIS 1st SET – CAR PARK
14:50	15:10	00:20:00	Dog Show Class One Golden Oldie-
15:10	15:30	00:20:00	Dog Show Class Two Prettiest Bitch -
15:30	15:50	00:20:00	Shalford School Choir – Stage followed by Shalford History Association Shield Presentation
15:50	16:20	00:30:00	HELLS BELLS MORRIS 2nd SET – CAR PARK
16:20	16:40	00:20:00	Dog Show Class Three Most Handsome Dog-
16:40	17:00	00:20:00	Dog Show Class Four Best Rescue Dog -
17:00	17:20	00:20:00	Line Dancing - 1st Set Music
17:20	17:30	00:10:00	17:20 Prize Winner Announcements
17:30	17:50	00:20:00	Line Dancing – 2nd Set
17:50	18:30	00:40:00	BREAK Set up for evening
18:30	19:15	00:45:00	Supporting Acts
19:15	20:30	01:15:00	TAKE COVER Band 1st set
20:30	20:45	00:15:00	BREAK
20:45	22:00	01:15:00	2nd set TAKE COVER



STALLHOLDERS

S1	Alan	MacKenzie	The Fields Association
S2	Lisa	Gooday	Cakes/brownies/cookies
S3	Ruth	Phipps	Honey and preserves
S4	Graham	Silvester	Caricatures, pet portraits and so on
S5	Kirsty	Dyer	Traditional sweet stall selling prebagged sweets
S6	Sandra	Hobbs	Handcrafted soap and skincare oils
S7	Karen	Savage	Craft work
S8	Bridie	Watson	To show what Mill Court has to offer and raise funds for charity
S9	Marianna	Marriott	Selfie Pod
S10	Sally	Welsh	SLHA - guess the mystery object (farming theme)
S11	Sally	Welsh	SLHA - book sales Shalford Characters
S12	Ros	Metson	Jewellery
S13	Emma	Kempster	Resin art, homeware, hair accessories, jewellery
S14	Ellie	Beckett	Natural dog treats and and leads, lick mats and toys
		Callister-	
S15	Stephanie	Jarrod	Owls and Birds of Prey Rescue - Suffolk and Essex
S16	Susan	Brunskill	All for local charity. Preloved clothes(smart)
S17	Wayne	Morris	Solid oak house signs and oak products
	Shalford		
S18	Parish	Council	Shalford Parish Council
S19	Mel	Fray	Neighbourhood Watch Table with leaflets
S20	Sally	Welsh	SLHA - table of metal detecting finds
S21	Gordon	Roach	WW1---WW2 Royal British Legion
S22	Doug	Sillett	Artistic drawings inspired by J S Lowry
S23	Sue	Morton	A treasure hunt on the map of Shalford
S24	Samantha	Mendez	Temporary Tattoos
S25	Natalie	Meese	Bakes and Cakes
S26	Wendy	Reynolds	Programmes& Lucky Draw Raffle
S27	Nicola	Savage	Discounted Books







SHALFORD FETE 2026

Free Prize Draw



Win yourself a prize! Just enter your name, email address and phone number and enter the draw on the **6th June 2026!** Good luck!

Name:

Email:

Phone:



Draw on **6th June 2026!** Good luck!



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...

One of the many things I have been delighted to see happen over the time I've been Vicar of our churches here in the Pant Valley is the continuation and establishment of existing and new joint ventures with other groups in our village communities. It's great for our churches to be places where people come for concerts (although we've just finished this year's series of Wethersfield Chamber Concerts, we have two more concerts in June, this time in the Bardfields); and Wethersfield hosted the fantastic work of local artists too last month. It's a wonderful thing that we have members of the Bardfield Community Choir singing for a service once each month in St Mary's, and two of our churches are locations now for community pantry schemes. We have wonderful relationships with our local schools, not only our church schools in Finchingfield and Wethersfield, but also the schools in Shalford and Great Bardfield who come and use our churches at significant moments in the year. We even venture out into other locations, with our monthly book club in Between the Lines, the occasional lunch trip out to one of our local pubs, and please do save the date for our Harvest Celebration this year at Bardfield Vineyard: **Sunday 20 September at 4pm.**



**Wethersfield
St Mary
Magdalene**

None of this is, of course, particularly revolutionary – the Church has always been a natural partner to other groups in the community. Indeed, in previous chapters of history, many of these kinds of activities would have been run by the Church, so the difference now is that we provide hospitality and partnership, rather than always being the controllers, which is not necessarily a bad change! Whilst we hope that everything we do of this kind benefits the community, it also benefits the Church, as it widens the group of people who value and support the particular kind of presence which we are able to offer. This kind of support is hugely valuable to rural churches in a time when there are lots of challenges to face. So if you are involved with running a group or organisation in our villages, and would be interested in doing something in one of our churches, or working together on a joint project, please do get in touch – we would love to hear about new ideas!

Rev'd/Fr Alex



**Finchingfield
St John the
Baptist**

Concerts in June

Saturday 6 June, 5pm – Songs of Devotion and Reflection, a recital for voice and organ, St Katharine's Little Bardfield, tickets £10 on the door

Saturday 27 June, 7.30pm – Concert by the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, St Mary's Great Bardfield, tickets £15 available from

www.ticketsource.com/between-the-lines-bookshop-great-bardfield



**Gt Bardfield
St Mary The
Virgin**



**Little
Bardfield
St Katharine**



**Cornish Hall
End
St John the
Evangelist**

SERVICES FOR JUNE IN THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES

Sunday 7 June – First Sunday after Trinity

9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Cornish Hall End

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Family Eucharist – Great Bardfield

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

5pm Evening Prayer & Benediction for Corpus Christi – Great Bardfield (*joint with Thaxted*)

6pm Fete Weekend Service – Shalford

Sunday 14 June – Second Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

11am Family Eucharist – Wethersfield

5pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 21 June – Third Sunday after Trinity

9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield

11am Family Service – Wethersfield

Sunday 28 June – Fourth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Parish Communion – Shalford

10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

11am Festal Eucharist for the Patronal Festival of St John the Baptist – Finchingfield

11am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

5pm Sung Compline – Little Bardfield

Regular Services and Events during the week

Monday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield

1.30pm ‘Faithful Fiction’ book club (this month will be the second Monday because of the Bank Holiday) – 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**

The bells saga is now well under way and we are still coming to terms with – silence – before Sunday services. That takes a bit of getting used to! I'm extremely grateful to those who helped Chris, the bell hanger, for their invaluable assistance, especially Andrew, Phil and Demetrius. It was hard and dirty work lasting two days and I'm just glad that it wasn't the tenor bell (38.25" diameter and weighing just under half a ton) that had to be removed! So, we look forward to the early autumn when the #2 bell comes back and joins its fellows.

If you have visited the churchyard recently you'll have noticed that it's looking quite "lush", to put it mildly. This is partly down to "No Mow

May", that allows the grass and wildflowers to grow, blossom and set seed, and partly down to the non-availability for a few weeks of the team from Community Payback, due to other calls on their time and talents. However, they will be back at work in June and July and the churchyard should return to its usual reasonably manicured state. I don't actually mind too much if it looks a bit overgrown for a while; isn't, after all, a city cemetery. Many village churches in the Cotswolds pasture sheep in their churchyards but maybe they don't have as many dogs passing through as we have.

At our Annual Parochial Church Meeting recently I was elected Churchwarden for another year which I think that brings me up to the 6-year limit on the period one is allowed or supposed to serve. I'm a bit hazy on the actual date I was first elected because it was during the Covid time when everything was rather scrambled. So, if anyone fancies training up as a churchwarden in the near future, do let me know.

In the meantime there's plenty to keep the PCC and me occupied – the inevitable roof repairs to try to stop some wandering leaks and the now urgent remedial work needed to the south porch. There is a long-established resident bee colony on its roof which, understandably, worries roofing contractors who need to do their work in the spring and summer. We may have to buy or borrow some beekeeper suits for them as I don't think the bees are going anywhere any time soon! We look forward to seeing you all at St Andrew's for a celebratory service on the Sunday evening of the Village Fete weekend.

Hilary Penney



SHALFORD CHURCH OF ST ANDREW'S CONTACTS

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Treasurer, Peter Havelock, Tel: 07721 371017,
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Churchwarden, Hilary Penney, Orchard View, The Chase, Shalford, CM7 5HH
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Safeguarding Representative, Sarah Pilgrim, Fieldside, Lombard Street
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Ringling Master, Roy Threadgold, Plumley, Braintree Road, Wethersfield
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Friends of St Andrew's Church (FOSTAC), Chairman Sue Morton 42 Hereward
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- Collection of cremated remains.

***We know seeing a hearse at a funeral can be upsetting, therefore with this service the coffin will be placed in the crematorium before the congregation arrives. A full service will then take place with no hearse or bearers required.**



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- Crematorium fees.
- Collection of cremated remains.

Funeral Cost Estimator

We all know a passing is difficult, that is why at Michael J Walsh Funeral Directors and Dunmow Crematorium we like to be as transparent as possible, by giving you the reassurance that the funeral cost will be kept to a minimum, with no unexpected surprises when it comes to receiving the bill. Which is why we have included a cost estimator on our website. You can find this under the funeral tab on walshfunerals.com

Please see our website walshfunerals.com for more details or phone us on **01371 856274** or email info@walshfunerals.com


**DUNMOW
 CREMATORIUM**



CARNIVOROUS PLANTS

SINISTER OR SERENE?

Carnivorous plants are a remarkable group of species that attract, trap, kill, and digest insects and other small invertebrates in order to obtain essential nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. They thrive in nutrient-poor, acidic, waterlogged environments — bogs, fens, and marshes — where most plants struggle to survive. Their modified leaves form ingenious traps, from sticky pads to snapping jaws, enabling them to flourish where others cannot. *Globally, there are an estimated 630–700 species of carnivorous plants.*

How Carnivorous Plants Feed

The traps of carnivorous plants are always modified leaves or specialised organs such as the urns of *Nepenthes* or the bladders of *Utricularia*. The flowers, however, are never involved in trapping prey. They must remain accessible to pollinating insects to ensure seed production, while the traps capture entirely different species to feed the plant.

Like all plants, carnivores require oxygen, carbon dioxide, water, mineral salts (notably nitrogen, calcium, potassium, and phosphorus), as well as vitamins and hormones. Most plants obtain these through their roots, but carnivorous species have evolved to supplement their diet by digesting prey. They still photosynthesize for energy, but their habitats lack the nutrients needed for growth and reproduction. Once prey is captured, the plant secretes digestive enzymes to break it down and absorb the resulting nutrients.

Capture Mechanisms

Carnivorous plants are extraordinary in their ability to move rapidly - a trait not usually associated with the plant kingdom. Their traps are precise, swift, and often highly sophisticated.

ACTIVE TRAPS

Steel Traps

Dionaea (Venus flytrap), Aldrovanda

These plants possess hinged leaves resembling steel traps, formed of two toothed lobes that snap shut along a central axis. When trigger hairs are touched, the trap closes in as little as 1/30th of a second, interlocking the teeth and imprisoning the prey.

Mouse Traps

Utricularia (bladderworts), Genlisea

These aquatic plants use tiny, transparent bladder traps. Each bladder has an orifice surrounded by outward-pointing hairs. When microscopic prey brushes against them, the trap is triggered, and the bladder inflates inward in 1/500th of a second, sucking in both water and prey. It reinflates within about 30 seconds, ready to capture again.

Fly-Paper Traps

Drosera (sundews), Pinguicula (butterworts)

Sundews are edged with glistening, glandular hairs that secrete sticky mucilage. Insects attracted to the shine become trapped, and their struggle stimulates the tentacles to curl inward, enveloping and suffocating the prey. Enzymes then digest the soft tissues.

PASSIVE TRAPS

Pitfall Traps

Sarracenia, Darlingtonia, Heliamphora

These plants form tall, trumpet-shaped leaves. Nectar glands along the lid and inner walls lure insects inside, where slippery surfaces and downward-pointing hairs prevent escape. The victims eventually drown in the liquid at the base and are digested.

Lobster-Pot Traps

Nepenthes, Cephalotus

These species produce pitchers or urns topped with a protective lid. Nectar attracts prey to the rim, where they lose their footing and slide into the fluid below. A rolled, inward-curving edge prevents escape, and the prey is digested much like in pitfall traps.

One of the most famous species is the Giant Malaysian Pitcher Plant (*Nepenthes rajah*), native to Borneo. Its enormous pitchers can hold up to 3.5 litres of water and more than 2.5 litres of digestive fluid, and it is reputed to trap small vertebrates such as frogs, lizards, and even rodents.

HOME CARE

Carnivorous plants make fascinating additions to kitchens, conservatories, and greenhouses, where they help control unwanted flies and small insects. They require little care, but what they do need is specific:

Water: Always use rainwater or, in emergencies, distilled water. Tap water and softened water are harmful due to dissolved minerals.

Containers: Terracotta pots are ideal, placed in a saucer kept topped with rainwater.

Maintenance: Remove dead foliage as it appears.

Propagation: Many species can be grown from seed after flowering. *Sarracenia* flowers are particularly striking, resembling umbrellas. Plants can also be divided easily in spring.

Carnivorous plants may look and act in a sinister way but their diversity of shape, colour and form are fascinating, perhaps enough to lure you into making a collection.



Happy Trapping

The Theoretical Gardener



NATURE NOTES

MAINTAINING OUR HEDGES

By: Mac Beanland

The Enclosure Act 1773 says land owners should enclose their land and put an end to much of the common grazing rights. Most of the hedges and field boundaries date back to that time. Some parts of the country have stone walls and we have our hedges all of which need maintaining. None of them look after themselves, they all need some sort of maintenance. We can forget dry-stone walls as far as Essex is concerned but we do still have hedges and these do need looking after. The way farmers maintain them depends on two things: the type of farming; and legislation. In the case of livestock farms, they contain the livestock and provide shelter, for arable farms hedging provides boundaries and help to keep unwelcome visitors out. And for all farmers and land owners they provide much needed wildlife habitat.

These days we are told they contribute to our carbon footprint. Much of the legislation depends on any of the environmental schemes a farm is involved in. Some years ago, we were all told to only trim hedges every other year to allow lots of berries to remain to feed the birds. This may have worked well on hedges which were one hundred percent hawthorn but on mixed species with things like field maple, ash, elm, hazel, and dog rose, all of which can put on a lot of growth in two years, it was a disaster with flail hedge cutters leaving ugly split damaged branches allowing rot and disease to get in. Now the rules tell us to trim the hedges in late winter when most of the berries have been consumed or dropped off.

My favourite method of hedge maintenance is hedge laying. We were taught hedge laying at Brackenhurst, my agricultural college, and being in Nottinghamshire we were taught Midland's style which is designed to keep livestock in and produce a healthy hedge with little thought given to the cosmetic effect. We are now seeing increasing amounts of hedge laying taking place locally but this is southern style and places more importance on "looking pretty". But both have the same longtime objective: *to rejuvenate the hedge and help wildlife*. Hedge laying is very skilled labour-intensive and expensive, and the reason we are seeing more is because there are some grants now available due to hedge laying's enormous benefit to small birds and wildlife. The ideal hedge for laying is a hawthorn hedge which has been left to grow for 5 to 10 years. If hedges are left to their own devices, they become tall wide and open which allows predators and raptors to get inside the canopy and so becomes useless for nesting birds with Wood Pigeon being the only bird daft enough to use them. Once a hedge reaches this state the preferred method of management is coppicing; this entails cutting everything off close to the ground. This sounds and looks drastic but, in fact, the result is fantastic; nature fights back and each stump which has been cut off will send up a number of new shoots and in the first summer we will have a nice young vigorous hedge in a few years.

Those of us who have travelled the road from Shalford towards Braintree during the last couple of months can't help but notice that a long length of badly overgrown roadside hedge

has been coppiced. It does look very messy as the owners have left a lot of branches and rubbish on top of the stumps. This is what prompted me to write these notes to defend the practice. We have far too many deer about and they would just love to graze the new shoots and the hedge would not survive so leaving the stumps covered is one way of protecting the new growth. On the other side of the same road is another example of coppicing but this time they have erected a wire netting fence on each side of the stumps to keep the deer off – a very expensive way of doing it and which is the most environmentally friendly?



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Buzzing News from the Hives of Jillie Woolcock



Hello Shalford

Run for the hills!

I had noticed a change in the temperament of one of my colonies (let's call it B for ease) when I wanted to remove a super that had been on the hive all winter. The super was full of honey in the autumn and left for the bees to feast upon during the winter months when little else was available to them. I had treated for Varroa whilst the super was on last autumn and so any honey left in the frames was unsuitable for human consumption and had to be removed before the bees started filling it with this year's honey. Are you with me so far?

I took the super away intending to add a slab of fondant for them to sup on until the main nectar flow started. When I returned to add said fondant they were not very pleased to see me. Usually when I arrive at my apiary I can light the smoker and then put my gloves and veil on within a very short distance of the hive. I was a goodly distance away when I started being bombarded by cross bees. So I added the fondant to the hive, closed it up and set off home. Unusually, I was followed on my return journey by some bees and, thinking the coast was finally clear, I removed my veil only to get bees stuck in my hair...who then stung me several times on the bonce! Yaroo!!

On my next visit and here it is at last: this month's complete and utter, idiotic gaff; I murdered the queen (Her Maj) in order to requeen and create, in time, a better tempered colony. Oh boy, that was a mistake. From mildly irritated they became completely incensed. What I should have done is found and caged Her Maj and left her with the colony until receipt of the new queen and then, and only then, 'done the old queen in' to quote Eliza Doolittle. Leaving the queen caged means the colony has the pheromones from her but she is unable to lay any more eggs and thus produce more grumpy bees and more importantly drones - the bees that will pass on the bad tempered genes.

The resulting panic brought on by my idiocy was placated by the sanguine and well-judged advice of my friend, fellow beekeeper and bee landlord. Disaster averted, bees pacified and novice beekeeper's confidence regained and lesson well and truly learnt.

To recap: having started the year with four colonies I am down one through 'Colony Collapse'. Another was a swarm I had collected last year. I gave this to my landlord as thanks for my lovely apiary. I am now left with two colonies: one that I thought bad tempered and who I thought needed re-queening are behaving sweetly, so no requeening necessary (for now). The fourth colony are the bees that turned into the bees from hell.

The new queen arrived a few days after all the chaos of the previous week and, having left her caged for a couple of days, the bees happily accepted her and all was well but not yet

calm.

May 14th - That all took place about a month ago, since when the colony has become calmer and much less grumpy. There are still a few remaining offspring from the grumpy queen but they will eventually die out and leave a much gentler colony.

I don't know why they became so hostile initially but I do know that between two visits I had failed to wash my suit and without doubt they smelt me long before they could have seen me and made (and here it comes) a 'bee line' for me. I do usually wash my suit, gloves and hive tools between visits. Firstly to remove any pheromone but also as a hygiene precaution.

And as if the bees didn't have enough to deal with we now have an outbreak of the disease European Foul Brood locally. It is highly contagious and can be transmitted by, among other things, the beekeeper. So beekeeper hygiene is even more important now.

I know, what a time to be a bee or beekeeper, especially in my apiary!

So Shalford, you can take a deep breath now. All is calm and well.

I am back up to three colonies The grumpy colony as was, is now a joy and is ruled by The White Queen. (Every year the queens are marked with a colour corresponding to the year and this year it's white. Done so the beekeeper knows how old the queen is, it also makes her a darn sight easier to find).

I haven't been over to check the bees this week so am mighty hopeful they haven't swarmed it being swarming season and all fingers crossed until the next time.

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MY PASSION LINE DANCING

By: **Lisa Kendal**

I first discovered line dancing at the age of ten. Before that, I had trained in tap, ballet and modern, from the age of 4, spending hours in dance classes perfecting technique and learning choreography. Dance has always been part of my life. But it was country music that truly captured my heart. There was something about the storytelling, the

rhythm, and the energy. Naturally, line dancing became the perfect meeting point between my love of movement and my love of country music.

Back then, line dancing wasn't nearly as popular as it is today. Country music certainly didn't dominate the charts in the way it does now. Fast forward to 2025 and the country music industry is booming, filling arenas and festival fields across not only the UK but the world. Alongside that rise has come a renewed love for line dancing, not just in traditional country circles, but across all ages and backgrounds. What was once seen as niche has become something vibrant, current and wonderfully inclusive.

That inclusivity is, without question, what I love most about line dancing. It has no age boundaries. It doesn't matter whether you're 8 or 98, if you can move to the beat and enjoy yourself, you belong on that dance floor. My nan is the perfect example. At 89 years old, she's still happily boot scooting, proving that joy, rhythm and a love of music don't retire with age.

Setting up my own line dancing class wasn't part of my plan at the beginning of 2025. In fact, it wasn't on my radar at all. But when my mum rediscovered her own love for line dancing, something sparked in me again too. I found myself itching to get back out there and dance to those feel-good country tunes. The only problem? I couldn't find a class locally that felt quite right for me, the right level, the right atmosphere, the right energy.

That's when my mum had what I initially thought was a slightly wild idea:

“Why don't you start your own?”

At first, I laughed. Could I really do it? Would anyone come? Would it even work? The doubts crept in, as they always do when you step outside your comfort zone. But I've always believed that sometimes the best things happen when you take a leap. So I did exactly that, I jumped in head first and gave it everything I had.



*And the rest,
as they say,
is history*

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open and the music starts*

From the very first class, I knew we had created something special. The people who come along each week are warm, welcoming and full of enthusiasm. Some are complete beginners, others have danced before, but everyone shares the same goal: *to have fun!*

The atmosphere is upbeat and full of laughter. We cheer each other on, we occasionally go the wrong way, we start again, and we celebrate when we nail

a routine. There's something incredibly powerful about a room full of people moving in sync, smiling, clapping and singing along. For one hour, the outside world fades away.

For me, it's the people who truly make the class. Line dancing might bring us together, but it's the friendships, the encouragement and the shared joy that keep us coming back. Every single Thursday, I leave that hall with the biggest smile on my face, tired, maybe, but completely fulfilled.

What started as a childhood passion has grown into something much bigger than I ever imagined. Line dancing isn't just steps and counts; **it's community, confidence and connection.** And I feel incredibly lucky to now be the one leading the floor, sharing that love of country music and dance with others.

Boots on, music up
and we're only just getting started

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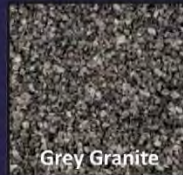
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GETTING TO KNOW

FRANK EASTON

By: Carol Praille

Frank Easton was an only child born in Tennyson Road, Chelmsford in 1938. He remained in the town until 1978, lived briefly in Rayleigh and came to Shalford in 1980.

His mother was from Crook Co Durham and his father from Forest Gate. Frank and Sandra met in 1965 and married in 1968.

In 1941/1942 the Easton family moved nearer the town centre which was close to the Marconi and Hoffmann's factories. These large concerns were major contributors to the war effort with the latter producing critical components for Spitfires and Lancaster bombers. Together with the railway station they were constant targets for the Luftwaffe and inevitably put homes such as those of the Easton's at risk. Frank remembers sleeping every night for a





week under a Morrison table air-raid shelter. In reality, these shelters would have been little protection from a direct hit. Later V1 and V2 missiles were used by Hitler and Frank recalls a doodlebug narrowly missing his house and a rocket landing nearby. He used to listen to the news bulletins and his family had a map of Europe on the kitchen wall, where

paper flags showed the positions of the warring armies. As the allies retreated, the map suddenly disappeared! He was interested in politics from an early age and in his early teens he was reading three daily newspapers.

The forties had been very drab years, with rationing continuing, and 1947 the coldest winter for years, coupled with a coal shortage leaving many with no form of heating (a temperature of -20C was recorded at Writtle). Frank remembers wearing shorts as he walked to school in the bitter winter. He was a pupil at St Peter's Infant School, then Kings Road Primary School. Frank passed the 11+ and went to King Edward VI Grammar School in Chelmsford where he secured good 'O' levels before leaving in 1954 at the age of 16. He immediately began work at the Borough Library in Chelmsford but soon moved on to the larger Countywide service at Goldlay Gardens which, at the time, was a key resource for students, holding specialist book stocks, and providing Headquarters for the County service which was to grow to 92 libraries.

In 1958, Frank studied at the North West Polytechnic in Camden Town passing the exams which permitted entry to the register of Chartered Librarians. This enabled him to apply for promotion and in 1960, he went to Brentwood as Deputy Branch Manager where he continued his studies (part time) for a further 3 years and qualified as a Fellow (equivalent to a higher degree). Two posts at Goldlay Gardens followed. Three years in charge of rural service and nine as Manager of Information Services (the job he most enjoyed).

In 1976, he became the Chief Librarian at Southend with a staff of 144 people. He soon returned to Goldlay Gardens as a member of the Management Team and shortly afterwards he was appointed to the post of Deputy County Librarian. Essentially this was a senior management role and had limited direct involvement in the public service. From time to time he acted in the Chief Officer role in what was probably the best library service in the country with 1,000 staff (many part time) and lending 20 million books annually. His responsibilities involved Finance, Information Systems, Health & Safety, Labour Relations, Human Resources and New Buildings. Capital funding was in short supply but the building stock in the post-war years comprised largely temporary buildings and conversions, requiring

replacement and in 1977 a programme was launched to provide purpose-designed facilities. Frank advanced this and libraries were built at S. Benfleet, Pitsea, Chelmsford, Brentwood, Frinton, Maldon, North Melbourne, Earls Colne, South Woodham Ferrers and Braintree. The requirement at Braintree was identified in 1980 but it took until 1998 to find the money and build. It was necessary to exploit any opportunities to keep down the cost to the tax payer and in one case, by selling the freehold, a new library was built at no cost to the Council. Other similar schemes were devised to limit set-up costs.



In the early Nineties he oversaw the installation of a new £1 million management system which dealt with the catalogue, loans and other functions with more than 45 million transactions annually. This was a time of high stress, since failure would bring reputational damage and risk of closure of libraries which was rarely contemplated. Happily, this was averted.

In the mid Nineties, government imposed outsourcing on local authorities and Frank played a significant role in this process across all County Council services, in particular the transfer of architectural and computer mainframe operational staff, under the Tupe regulations. He was dubious about the cost effectiveness of these changes and similarly about the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) which he felt was not in the public interest.

The variety of tasks was very stimulating and there was no time for boredom. In addition to his main duties, in 1988, as part of the County Council's Centenary celebrations, Frank arranged a Book Fair at Cressing Temple. This was so successful that the police had to turn out to control the traffic. He led a process which established a Consultative Committee for Museums in Essex, was a founder member of the National Jazz Archive and Vice Chairman of the Gibson Library at Saffron Walden. After his retirement in 1998, he continued in these roles and also took an interest in local matters. His three children Thomas, William and Abigail attended Shalford School where he became Chairman of the PTA and later a Governor. He was involved with FOSTAC from its inception and undertook fund raising from grant making trusts, managing projects such as the organ refurbishment, largely without cost to the Church. Similarly he directed a major refurbishment of the Gibson Library.

Unsurprisingly Frank has always read and is interested in literary fiction reading 50 to 60 books annually. He played football for the Chelmsfordians for over 20 years as centre-half. In

one of his matches in 1955, he played at Shalford against the village side which probably included David Smith who was, 30 years later, to become a close friend.



He played tennis up to the age of 87 and also used to enjoy squash, badminton, jogging and cycling.

When he was about 7, a family friend who worked as a stage hand at The Regent Cinema, Chelmsford, took him to see 6 successive performances of 'The Winslow Boy'. This captured his imagination and instilled a love of the theatre. He saw the production of 'Oklahoma' in 1947 at Drury Lane and later 'Westside Story' at Her

Majesty's Theatre. For decades he went to London to see plays featuring many of our great actors such as Simon Russell Beale and Kenneth Branagh, principally at the National Theatre but also the West End, the Arcola, the Almeida, the Old Vic and more. His first date with Sandra was in 1965 at the Royal Opera House for Tosca and he has seen performances in Beijing, Prague, Budapest and at the Caracalla baths in Rome. He recalls seeing ballet at the Mariinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg and Sylvie Guillem and Darcy Bussell dancing in London.

Moving from the sublime to the ridiculous, in the interest of fund raising, he was prepared to set aside his dignity and join in village concerts:

'Carmen Rollers', 'Three Little Maids from School', a two hander with Pam Medcroft are remembered as is his playing Jack Worthing in a scene from 'The Importance of Being Ernest' at the Guildhall, Finchingfield. Brenda Hanley played Lady Bracknell.

He remains a member of The Fields Association, Prisons Sub Committee, and continues to try to persuade the Ministry of Justice to drop the Wethersfield proposals.

Frank is keen to stress the value he puts on the support of the very able middle managers and other staff who played an important part in the success of the Library service over the years, before the internet changed everything.





THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

By: Ken McDonald, Secretary

Although the Society is not a religious organisation, we encourage visits to parish churches as they are often the oldest and most interesting building in any community. Inside, you may find images of angels in some form or another. These winged creatures are considered to be messengers of God. They also represent goodness, with a promise of heaven if you live a good life.

Angels in churches are depicted in paintings, on stained-glass windows, suspended from ceilings, carved into corbels that support roof timbers or on poppyheads at the end of pews.

Clavering church displays several angels in its medieval glass windows as well as a series of wooden angels suspended from the rafters - they have feathers all over, including on their legs.

It is easy to miss Clavering's angels, but not those at Furneux Pelham. Their bright colours come from a repaint in the 1960s. Some play a lute and others hold a shield with a family crest, presumably of their sponsor. Furneux Pelham also has a series of angels on windows that were painted in the 19th century by renowned artists William Morris and Edward Byrne-Jones.

Radwinter has a series of stained-glass windows with angels featuring prominently. At Elmdon, one peeps out from under the lectern from which the vicar preaches. In Linton, one of the carved poppyheads depicts a scribe resting his book on the wings of an angel.

Some churches have carvings on the corbels that support major roof timbers. Hildersham's chancel has especially colourful decoration, including angels on each of its corbels.

Over the last couple of years, I have given an illustrated talk to many local organisations, taking a peek inside some of our parish churches and including photos of angels in many guises.



Photos: A – Braughing – church ceiling B – Clavering – medieval glass window
C – Elmdon – lectern D – Furneux Pelham – ceiling E – Hildersham – corbel
F – Ickleton – poppyhead G – Linton – poppyhead H – Radwinter – stained glass window



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SCAMS

Although this is a real-life story and is shared with full permission, we've used the name "Sabrina" as a pseudonym for our client.

Stage one

Sabrina received a telephone call from a man identifying himself as a detective constable at the Metropolitan Police in London. He explained that a man had been arrested attempting to buy a television with a cloned debit card in Sabrina's name.

The fraudsters claimed to be investigating a rogue bank employee and convinced Sabrina to withdraw money from her bank account to "safeguard" her finances, promising it would be returned after the inquiry.

While Sabrina was initially very sceptical that this was a genuine call, the fraudsters led her to believe they had detailed knowledge of her financial affairs. They then used that knowledge to extract further information from Sabrina.

Regarding how the fraudsters obtained details of Sabrina's financial arrangements, she noted they claimed to have access to all her financial records and asked questions about her investments and knowledge of precious metals.

Stage two

The fraudsters continued to call and email Sabrina over a three-month period, each time claiming that they needed to safeguard more of her money as the individual they had arrested was part of a wider criminal gang that had gained access to Sabrina's accounts and investments.

Sabrina recalls the tone as being menacing and the caller always insisted on secrecy, citing that if anyone was told, it would jeopardise the police investigation. They also claimed that Sabrina would be breaking the law if she refused their demands.

Sabrina was "encouraged" to visit travel agents with her debit card and passport to withdraw euros, each time handing the proceeds to a waiting courier.

Stage three

The scam then moved away from cash withdrawals to advising Sabrina to purchase assets for

safeguarding to reduce the risk of financial loss. This was again accompanied by the promise that it would all be returned to her when the investigation was completed.

On the fraudsters' instructions, Sabrina made a very long day trip by road to and from the Midlands to buy gold jewellery, which was later collected by a courier.

The fraudsters then asked Sabrina to apply for a £40,000 loan and to buy an overseas holiday home.

Sabrina questioned these demands and began to realise she had fallen for a very elaborate and sophisticated scam. This was confirmed when she was visited by the local police force, who explained that they had arrested one of the couriers; the police had been able to trace Sabrina because the courier's mobile phone had contained a map showing her home location.

Reflection

If this story was made into a film or TV series, we may get to the end and pass it off as pure fiction, doubting it could ever happen in real life.

Furthermore, we have known Sabrina for many years and would describe her as being intelligent and well-read on financial matters and world events.

However, it becomes more understandable that an individual can be deceived when they're faced with the combination of:

- **Perceived power – the “police”**
- **Manipulation techniques – from the fraudsters**
- **Fear – of the loss of your hard-earned money**

With hindsight, Sabrina described the experience, saying, “I just can't understand how I could be so stupid. Well, I can, but this goes to show how trusting I am.” She added, “The thing that really got me, though, was the menacing attitude. It really is quite frightening. They play to your weaknesses. And the fact that older people are more trusting than younger folk.”

Courier fraud

This type of crime is unfortunately common, and the Metropolitan Police give the following examples:

Issues with your bank account

A criminal calls you saying there is a problem with your bank account and gets you to tell them your bank card PIN. They might say there's a fraudulent payment on your card or that someone has been arrested using your details. They then tell you that a courier will pick up your bank card, so that it can be cancelled. With your card and PIN, they can now use your card.

Helping with an investigation

A fraudulent caller may convince you that there is an investigation where they need you to withdraw cash or buy expensive items. This could be foreign or cryptocurrency, gold bullion, jewellery, mobile phones, or designer goods. They tell you this is required so that they can identify the corrupt person. The criminal may pose as a police officer.

Once you've bought the items or withdrawn the cash, they'll ask you to give them to a courier or post them to an address, claiming they'll transfer them to the police. They'll then take the money or goods.

Transferring money to a "safe" account

A fraudster may also say that your bank account has been taken over and that you need to transfer your money to a new "safe" account. The new account is operated by the criminals, who then steal the funds.

TIPS TO STAY SAFE:

- **If someone knocks at your front door claiming to be from a company, first check their ID. If you're not happy, don't let them in.**
- **Never call the phone number on a salesperson's ID card to check them out. Ask them to wait outside, shut the door, and find the company number on the internet. If they're genuine, they'll understand.**
- **Banks and the police will never call you to verify your PIN. They won't ask you to withdraw money or buy or send items on their behalf for investigations. Hang up if you get a call like this.**
- **Always verify suspicious calls by contacting the organisation using a trusted phone number. Calling 159 will put you through to your bank. If calling back from a landline after a suspicious call, wait a few minutes as criminals may stay on the line after you hang up. Alternatively, use a different phone line to call your bank.**
- **Never transfer money or make purchases on behalf of someone you don't know.**
- **If it's an emergency, call the police on 999.**
- **Report suspicious activity to [Report Fraud](#), the UK's national cybercrime and fraud reporting service.**
- **The Metropolitan Police's '[Little Media series](#)' is a collection of 6 books and 22 videos, created to explain some of the most common types of fraud and provide advice on how to avoid becoming a victim of them.**

We always include a message to share our newsletter with others. This month, we particularly encourage you to share our story so that we can hopefully help others avoid going through Sabrina's experience.

HarperLees Fraud Checking Service

Finally, if you are contacted or ever in doubt over the legitimacy of an email or caller, please feel free to contact HarperLees. We will happily help you to verify if any contact is genuine.

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Please note

This article is for general information only and does not constitute advice. The information is aimed at individuals only.

All information is correct at the time of writing and is subject to change in the future.



New recycling and waste collections start across Braintree District from 1 June 2026

Braintree District Council is reminding residents that a new recycling and waste collection service will begin on 1 June 2026, introducing additional items that can be recycled at kerbside, a weekly food waste collection and new containers to help households recycle more and reduce general waste.

The changes were agreed by Cabinet on 27 May 2025 (to commence from summer 2026). Since then, the council has assessed households, procured containers, redesigned collection routes, expanded the fleet, coordinated deliveries, and shared information with residents about what is changing and why.

The new approach supports Braintree District Council's Household Waste and Recycling Collections Policy and helps meet requirements under the Environment Act 2021 (Simpler Recycling) and the Waste Strategy for Essex. It has been designed to improve recycling, reduce general waste and deliver value for money.

From 1 June 2026, the service will include:

- weekly food waste collections
- alternate fortnightly collections of paper and card
- alternate fortnightly collections of glass bottles and jars, metals, plastics, and food and drink cartons
- three-weekly general waste collections
- fortnightly, paid-for garden waste collections.

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Transformation, the Environment and Customer Services and Deputy Leader at Braintree District Council, said: "We're encouraging residents to embrace the change. We know it may take a short time for households and our crews to adjust as the new service beds in, however, staff will be on hand to support residents throughout the transition. The benefits are clear, you'll be able to recycle more from your door with better bins and better recycling that's better for our planet."

Throughout May, the council will continue delivering new containers and will write to all households with guidance on using the new service, what goes in each bin or box, and their Collection Calendar dates.

Residents are asked to look out for their Welcome Pack, read the guidance carefully and start using their new containers from the day after their last recycling collection in May.

From 1 June, recycling must not be put out in clear sacks – any recycling presented in clear sacks will not be collected. Recycling placed in the new blue and red lidded recycling bins should be kept loose (not bagged) and the bin lids must be fully shut. Additional sacks left by the side of the bins will not be collected.

The new collections will make it easier for residents to recycle more, including introducing kerbside recycling for glass bottles and jars, food and drink cartons, soft plastics and bringing in a weekly food waste collection for residents living in flats which is not currently provided.

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**APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR
NAPPY AND CONTINENCE CARE
PRODUCTS COLLECTION SERVICE**

Residents who meet the eligibility criteria can now apply for a new collection service for nappies and continence care products, which launches on 1 June alongside other changes to recycling and general waste collections. The Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) collection service is being introduced in direct response to residents' feedback and will support the wider changes to recycling and waste services.

The district-wide changes to recycling collections will allow more materials to be collected at kerbside, including glass bottles and jars, food and drink cartons, such as TetraPak, and plastic film and bags. General waste is moving to three-weekly collections.

The 2025 public consultation on the changes revealed residents' concerns about the impact of three-weekly general waste collections on households using nappies and continence care products.

In response, the Council has introduced this service to help households that generate higher levels of nappy and continence care products. It will prevent waste building up over the three-weekly collection cycle and ease worries about odours.

Collections will take place twice in a three-week period, making them more frequent than the current general waste collection.

In addition to absorbent hygiene products, the service will include other personal care items such as disposable gloves, aprons, bedpans and bed pads, feeding tubes and catheter and colostomy bags.

Households can continue using their grey general waste bins for these products if they wish. This service is just one of the options available for those who need extra capacity.

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Transformation, the Environment and Customer Services and Deputy Leader at Braintree District Council, said: "We have listened and responded to residents' concerns, showing that the consultation process really works. We are delighted to have already received positive feedback on the decision taken to offer this additional service and will support all our residents to adapt to the new service coming from 1st June."



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