

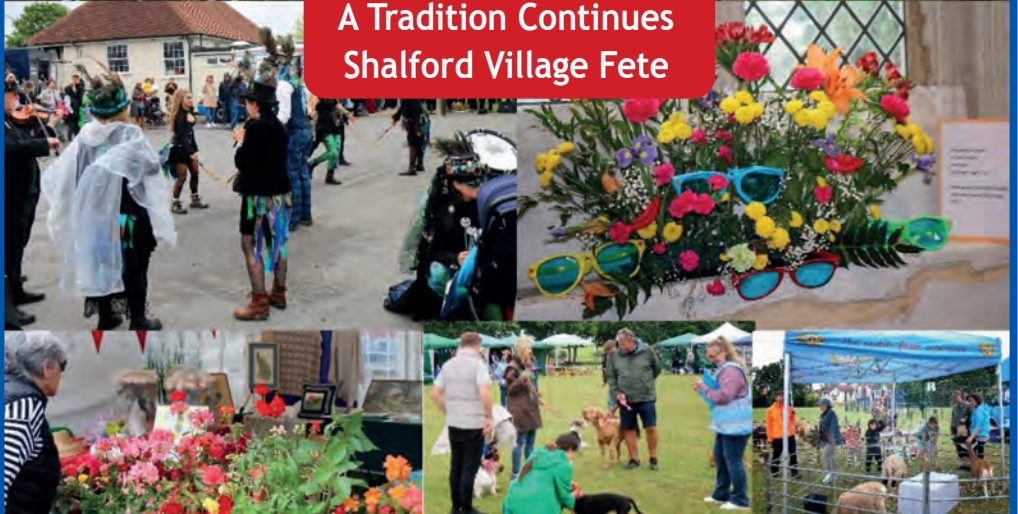
SHALFORD

Village Magazine July/August 2026

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



6th June 2026
A Tradition Continues
Shalford Village Fete



**SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
AUTUMN SHOW
12th September 2026**

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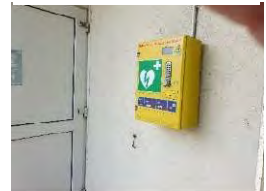
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Shalford Village
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The George Inn The
Street CM7 5HH

FRONT COVER

**Shalford
Village Fete**

**Photos:
John Smith**

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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**

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**WE MEET EVERY
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FRIDAY at
Shalford Church, 7 p.m.**

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CONTACT:**

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Contact:

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Sarah8750@hotmail.co.uk**

Or

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

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

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WHAT'S ON



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AND A FUNERAL**

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AND THE GLORY**



Saturday 19th September—7.00pm

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Tickets £10

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and on the night

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WHAT'S ON

SAVE THE DATE



Donations of cakes..Raffle Prizes..Bricabrac

Gratefully received

Tel: Caroline Ottley 07734140478

WHAT'S ON



Braintree
District Council

AgeWellFair

Thursday

16th July 2026

10.00 – 13.00

The Institutue
15 Bocking End, Braintree
CM7 9AE

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

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TO REGISTER**



If you prefer to
book over the phone,
please call

01376 552525

You can also reserve
your space by emailing
**communityservices@
braintree.gov.uk**

WHAT'S ON – WETHERSFIELD COACH TRIP



**COACH TRIP TO THE
RHS SANDRINGHAM FLOWER SHOW
(THIS IS A FULL RHS SHOW OVER 5 DAYS)**

WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2026

**COACH FROM DUNMOW AT 8.00 AM,
PICK UP FROM WETHERSFIELD 8.30 AM
RETURN TO WETHERSFIELD 6.00 PM /
RETURN TO DUNMOW 6.30 PM**

**SHOW TICKET PRICE : £35.10
COACH TRAVEL APPROX : £20.00
(DEPENDING ON FINAL NUMBERS)**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
JULIA BROAD ON 0771 267 4949
OR BY E-MAIL, 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

OPEN MIC NIGHT



THURSDAY

16th JULY 2026

From 7.30 pm

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

WORLD CUP



We will be showing the World Cup
games as they fit in with our
opening hours, finishing with the
World Cup Final on

Sunday 19 July, 8.00 pm kick off.

THURSDAY 23 JULY

7.30 FOR 8.00 PM

WETHERSFIELD CLUB
HOSTS RSPCA DANAHER
FOR THEIR REGULAR

? ? ? ? ? ?
QUIZ
? ? ? ? ?

TABLES OF 6,

£5 PER PERSON

Raffle on the night, all
proceeds to Danaher



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Finchingfield and District Branch

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 16 July 7.30pm

Talk on Essex Air Ambulance by Terry Nunn at Finchingfield Guildhall. Free entry. Everyone welcome. SEE POSTER.

September 12th and 13th

Battle of Britain 85th Anniversary Display. Finchingfield Guildhall. 11 am to 4pm each day. **If you have any suitable WW II artifacts you would like us to display, please contact Ivan.**

Saturday 12 September

A return visit of the fabulous Galaxy Big Band. Finchingfield Village Hall 7.30 to 11. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles. Raffle. Tickets: £20 each or £30 for two. Dressing up welcomed.

18 November 7.30pm

Annual General Meeting at Finchingfield Guildhall. All welcome.

Saturday 5 December 3pm

We are again hosting our "C" Group Carol Service. Further details later.

LOOKING AHEAD

November 9 2028

will be our Branch's Centenary. We'd love you to help us celebrate this momentous occasion. Let us know if you have any ideas about events you would like to see.

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS

We are hoping to compile a record of people's memories, from the Second World War onwards. Have a think and let us know if there is anything you would like to tell us.

Our Branch would always welcome new members. Membership is £22 per year 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



A Talk With Essex and Herts Air Ambulance

Led by Mr Terry Nunn

Finchingfield Guildhall

Thursday 16th July 2026

Free Entry

7:30pm Start

Everyone welcome

Light refreshments will be provided

This event is free and has kindly been sponsored by Finchingfield and District Royal British Legion



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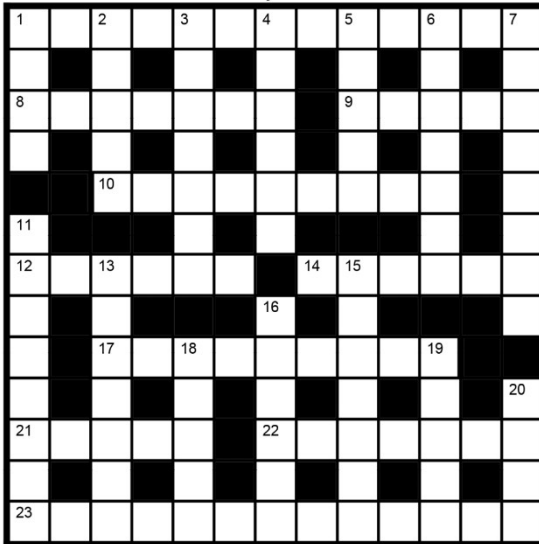


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Crossword 98 by Robert Burrows



Across

- 1 Money balance (4,9) (3-2-3)
- 8 Characteristic (7)
- 9 Repeated occurrence (5)
- 10 Essex Village (6,3)
- 12 Reply (6)
- 14 Living organism (6)
- 17 Essex village (9)
- 21 Indian garment (5)
- 22 Please, pray (7)
- 23 Sweet fruit (8,5)

Down

- 1 Natural (4)
- 2 Muslim official (5)
- 3 Gratify (7)
- 4 Ship holder (6)
- 5 Eagle nest (5)
- 6 Noble rank (7)
- 7 Discernible (8)

11 Affectedly genteel

- 13 add to the end (7)
 - 15 Chemical element (7)
 - 16 Capital city (6)
 - 18 Friendship (5)
 - 19 Chemical (5)
 - 20 Hammer head (4)
- Cryptic Across**

- 1 Broken tent stank, beam gives your balance (4,9)
- 8 Coot rib cracked in mechanical style (7)
- 9 Play it again (5)
- 10 Bend a cone, maybe, in this village (6,3)
- 12 Respond to Hans Werther in part (6)
- 14 Mal, Ian, sadly not human (6)

17 Block mare perhaps in this place (9)

21 Hi, Dot, arranging this garment? (5)

22 Ancient term, please good sir (7)

23 Fruit comprising sweet water? (13)

Cryptic Down

- 1 Née, Barb or Norma, in part (4)
- 2 Some banana Bob ate, a Muslim official (5)
- 3 Does AI state completely fill? (7)
- 4 Get some branch or stick for ship essential (6)
- 5 Resting place for high flyers (5)
- 6 Real mud churned for nobleman and his estate (7)
- 7 Awful gnat bile you can touch (8)
- 11 Two notes for Di, pretentiously posh (3-2-3)
- 13 Working Uni jobs? Add notes at the end (7)
- 15 Superconducting element (7)
- 16 Friendship for May? It could be (6)
- 18 PS, joke about capital (5)
- 19 Cooking the fuel, Ly? (5)
- 20 Look, little Bo! (4)

ESSEX BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

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

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

16th August 2026

Brocks Farm, Twitty Fee, Danbury. CM3 4PG.

A very popular ride. This year there will be a longer route of 9 miles and a shorter route of about 5 miles. Ride round field edges, on surfaced bridleways, hilly tracks through woods and country lanes.

AGM

Keene Hall, Galleywood, Chelmsford. CM2 8PT **10th September 2026** Please note this year the AGM is on an earlier date. More details to follow including who the guest speaker will be.

Mandy French

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- **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.



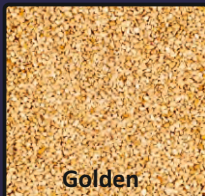
COUNTRYSIDE DRIVEWAYS

**START OF
THE SEASON**

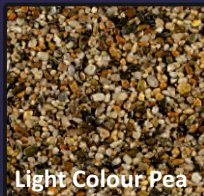
£20 per
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Discount For Larger Areas

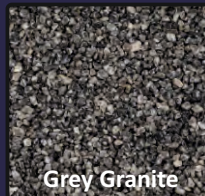
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CROSSWORD 98 SOLUTION – ROBERT BURROWS

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	A		I		T					J		U		Y					
23	H	O	N	E	Y	D	E	W	M	E	L	O	N						

POST OFFICE
EVERY
THURSDAY
AFTERNOON



SHALFORD
Village Hall 14.30
The George 15.00 –
15.30

Shalford Carpet Bowls

By: Vic Goodey

Shalford Village Hall Carpet Bowls is pleased to announce our **2026 Singles Champion** for the second year running. **Richard Tite** won his trophy beating Rob Kent in the final.

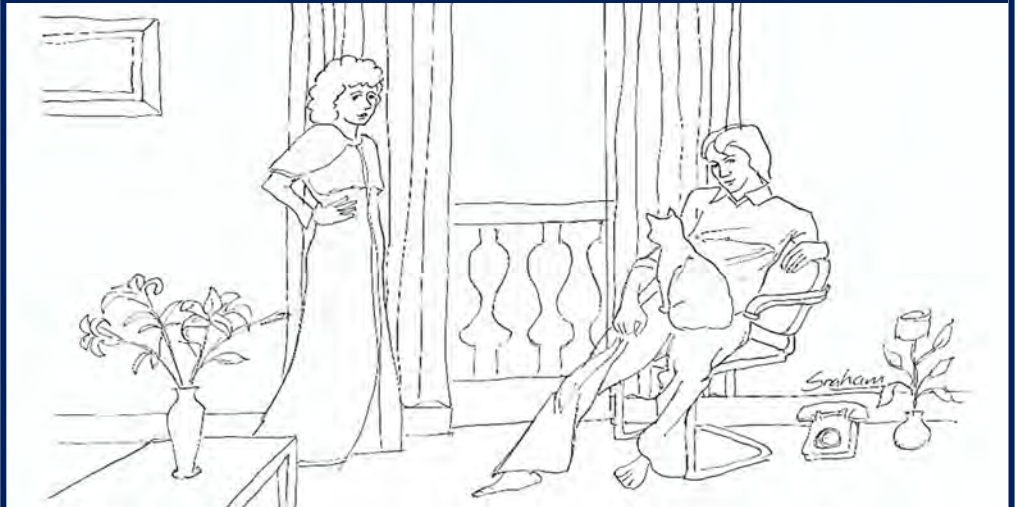
The Shield and prize is sponsored by John Johnson shown here presenting Richard's reward. The tournament provided competition for fifteen players and entertainment for spectators. Susan Johnson generously kept us going with savoury and sweet refreshments throughout the day which was a lovely way to spend a day in excellent company.

Our next Competition is the Random Triples to be held in October. The Tournament for a Shield donated by The Village Hall Committee is in memory of Diana Hulkes, who served on the committee as the Carpet Bowls representative.



Photo By: Derrick Marriott

Colouring – Homage to Hockney - Graham Silvester



CFC Shalford FC

By: Ian Butcher



CFC Shalford FC Crowned Champions in Remarkable Double-Winning Season

CFC Shalford FC have completed one of the most successful campaigns in the club's recent history, securing a league and cup double while also reaching the final of a third competition and making a strong run in county football.

Under the guidance of manager Steve Gooch, Shalford were crowned champions of the Braintree and North Essex Sunday Premier Division, losing just once throughout the entire league season. Their consistency, determination and team spirit, proved too much for their rivals as they deservedly claimed the title.

The team's success did not stop there. Shalford added further silverware by winning the prestigious Andy Livermore Premier Division Cup, completing a memorable double and underlining their status as one of the leading Sunday sides in the area.

There was further success in cup competitions, with the club reaching the final of the Gordon Snell Trophy before finishing as runners-up after another impressive run.

On the county stage, Shalford represented both the village and local football with distinction, reaching the quarter-finals of the Essex County Sunday Premier Cup and competing against some of the strongest teams in the county, losing against the eventual winners of the competition.

A key figure in the club's success was leading goal scorer Jack Neale, whose 14 goals provided crucial contributions throughout the campaign. However, this season's achievements were built on a true team effort, with every member of the squad playing their part in a season to remember.

Manager Steve Gooch deserves enormous credit for assembling a committed and competitive squad capable of challenging on multiple fronts. His leadership, together with the dedication shown by the players, has helped establish CFC Shalford as one of the area's most successful Sunday football clubs.

Behind every successful football team is a network of volunteers, supporters, families and sponsors, and the club would like to extend its sincere thanks to the local businesses that supported the club through player sponsorship during the season. The backing of Deersbrook Farm, Shalford Village Store and Coney's Fish and Chips, has been greatly appreciated and demonstrates the strength of community spirit within the village. Their support has helped the club continue to grow and compete successfully both locally and across the county.

The club would also like to thank all supporters who followed the team throughout the season. Whether cheering from the touchline, helping behind the scenes, every contribution has played a part in this year's success.

To win the Braintree and North Essex Sunday Premier Division, lift the Andy Livermore Premier Division Cup, reach the Gordon Snell Trophy Final and make the quarter-finals of the Essex County Sunday Premier Cup would be an outstanding season for any club. To achieve all of this while suffering just a single league defeat makes the accomplishment even more impressive.

The timing of this success is particularly fitting as the club prepares to celebrate its 40th anniversary next season. Reaching such a significant milestone is a testament to the dedication of generations of players, managers, volunteers and supporters who have helped sustain village football in Shalford over four decades.

Everyone connected with CFC Shalford FC can look back on the 2025–26 season with immense pride. It has been a campaign defined by commitment, success and community spirit—one that will be remembered as a landmark year in the club's history and the perfect way to begin the countdown to the club's 40th anniversary celebrations.

SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

TRIP TO RHS WISLEY

By: Carol Prail

Shalford Horticultural Society organised a trip to RHS Wisley, near Woking in Surrey. The gardens are beautiful with many types of areas to enjoy including woodland paths, trails to follow, wildlife and wellbeing areas, the lake and gardens. The rock garden, bonsai and alpine house were worth seeing as well.



The Glasshouse was full of tropical plants such as tree ferns, palm trees, cacti and succulents. In the Orchard House were many varieties of orchid for orchid lovers to see.

The Old Laboratory exhibited old artefacts and information showing the techniques used in the past for scientific research. It was interesting to see how experimentation helped develop gardening techniques.

RHS Hilltop is the new research centre with interactive displays showing current RHS work.

The Garden Centre is full of houseplants, shrubs and plants as well as a lovely selection of gifts and homewares.





The cafes and food halls had a good selection of sandwiches and hot food and there was plenty of choice for everyone.

It was a great trip, the weather was kind and everyone clearly enjoyed themselves. It was impossible to see everything and we ran out of time.

A good excuse to go back and see more of lovely RHS Wisley



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



**Shalford
St Andrew's**



**Wethersfield
St Mary
Magdalene**



**Finchingfield
St John the
Baptist**



**Gt Bardfield
St Mary The
Virgin**



**Little
Bardfield
St Katharine**



**Cornish Hall
End
St John the
Evangelist**

From the Vicarage...

This month's magazine issues present an opportunity again for me to share more of what is taking place in our churches over the summer. While these months are traditionally quieter in terms of activity, and they don't have quite the same round of festivals which take place at other times of the year, the hope (whether fulfilled or not!) of summer weather means there's more of an opportunity to enjoy some social time together.

With that in mind, I would like to draw your particular attention to the fact that, in July and August, we will be serving cream teas at 3.30pm before the evening service on the fourth Sundays at St Katharine's, Little Bardfield. When 5 o'clock arrives, we will then gather together for a short (roughly 20 minute) service of Compline, or Night Prayer – one of the most ancient and beautiful forms of service which the Church possesses.

We also have a fifth Sunday this year in August, which customarily sees us gathering from across the six parishes for a single service, which this August will be at St John the Evangelist, Cornish Hall End. We will have with us as our preacher for the service the Rev'd Katy Hacker Hughes, who leads our chaplaincy at the Wethersfield Base, holding services for those who are resident there, many of whom have faced persecution for their Christian faith in their home countries. This will be an excellent opportunity to hear from her about the realities of these men's experiences, and what has shaped and strengthened their remarkable faith. Afterwards, we will be gathering for a benefice lunch – for information about this, and indeed for questions about other aspects of church life, do get in touch with our administrator, Mrs Caroline Shingleton, on pant.valley.churches@gmail.com.

With six churches all working together, keeping in touch with everyone who might want to know what's going on can be challenging, so here's a reminder that we have a weekly email newsletter, to which you can subscribe via the following link: <http://eepurl.com/ifMMHz> or QR code below. Also this month, don't miss the fact that we are advertising for two employed roles within the churches, so please either consider applying, or passing details to anyone you think might be interested. And, of course, as well as the seasonal or one-off events mentioned above, we continue to have a number of regular monthly or bi-monthly coffee mornings at several of our churches, not to mention our toddler group and book group, so there are many opportunities to come and meet at church events, and you will be assured of a warm welcome.

Rev'd/Fr Alex



**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**

What an amazing festival of flowers was on show in St Andrew's in June and what an enjoyable evening service, led by Canon Janet, there was to round off the Village Fête weekend. I do hope you were able to come to the church to see the work of our multi-talented flower arrangers and to see the various fête prizes being distributed on Sunday 7th June. It makes me glad that this church is truly part of our own community and also a welcoming space for visitors from further afield.

St Andrew's is, as you know, set some way back from the road through Shalford and, although there are several dwellings on its south side, much of the church remains unseen except by folk who follow the public right-of-way beside the stream. There are numerous reports in the ecclesiastical press about churches everywhere that have been vandalized or broken into by some who have no regard for the ancient and beautiful. May I just ask you, if you are a regular walker through the churchyard, to keep your eyes open and if you notice anything that you think is not normal – even a broken “quarry” in one of the windows – or evidence of a door being forced, that you let me know?

The task of keeping our Grade I listed church in good order has been made even more expensive now. Up until March this year it was possible for churches (of all denominations) to reclaim some or all of the VAT on repairs under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme. However, in the New Year the government announced that this scheme would be ended in March or when the existing allotment of money was used up, if earlier. In fact, the money ran out well before March, leaving many churches forced to find an extra 20% for repairs and projects that were already underway or well on in preparation. Strangely enough, art galleries and museums are exempt from paying VAT. Another fund has been announced, £92 million over 4 years (if I remember aright), for all places of worship to access, but if you count the number of possible applicants every year the prospect of a successful bid is not very encouraging. However, thanks to the generosity of the people of this village we will have enough in the bank to cover the final payment to the bell hangers when September comes! After that, the budget for future repairs will have to be very carefully planned indeed.

But now summer beckons, and I hope that everyone who will be away on holiday will travel safely and those who stay at home will enjoy the beauty of our surrounding countryside. I wish you all a happy and peaceful summer season!

Hilary Penney

SERVICES FOR JULY/AUGUST IN THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES

Sunday 5 July – Fifth 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

Sunday 12 July – Sixth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford *(with breakfast served afterwards in church)*

10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

11am Family Eucharist – Wethersfield

5pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 19 July – Seventh Sunday after Trinity

9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield

11am Morning Worship – Wethersfield

Sunday 26 July – Eighth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Parish Communion – Shalford

10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

11am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

11am Morning Worship – Finchingfield

5pm Sung Compline – Little Bardfield
(with cream teas served beforehand from 3.30pm)

Sunday 2 August – Ninth 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

Sunday 9 August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford *(with breakfast served afterwards in church)*

10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

11am Family Eucharist – Wethersfield

5pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 16 August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield

11am Morning Worship – Wethersfield

Sunday 23 August – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Parish Communion – Shalford

10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

11am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

11am Songs of Praise – Finchingfield

5pm Sung Compline – Little Bardfield
(with cream teas served beforehand from 3.30pm)

Sunday 30 August – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Benefice Eucharist – Cornish Hall End
(followed by Benefice Lunch at the Horse & Groom)

SERVICES FOR JULY/AUGUST IN THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES

Regular Services and Events during the week

Monday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield
1.30pm 'Faithful Fiction' book club –
Between the Lines, Great Bardfield (not
meeting in August)

Tuesday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Great
Bardfield
10am Baby & Toddler Group – Great
Bardfield 'St Mary's Munchkins' story
& song time with refreshments

Regular Services and Events during the week

Thursday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Wethersfield
10am 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

Do you know someone who would like to work for our churches?

The Benefice of the Pant Valley Churches is looking to recruit to two new posts. The Pant Valley Churches are six Church of England parish churches in rural north west Essex: Cornish Hall End, Finchingfield, Great & Little Bardfield, Shalford and Wethersfield.

Children & Families Worker

We are looking for an enthusiastic new member of our ministry team to help grow our work with local children and their families. There are a number of areas covered by our group of churches which have new families moving in, and we would like to reach out to them and to those who have already had some contact with the churches through Christenings or services on special occasions. The successful candidate will be enthusiastic about communicating the Christian faith to young people, will be able to build on good existing links with our local schools, and will help facilitate a range of activities, including baby & toddler groups, after school clubs and Sunday morning worship or Sunday school provision. The role will largely be based in Finchingfield & Cornish Hall End, but will involve contact with the other parishes too as we work closely together across parish boundaries. It is an occupational requirement that the postholder be a practising Christian under part 1 of Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010, and the appointment will be subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check. Our churches are fully committed to the safeguarding of children, and indeed all who have contact with us, and the postholder will be expected to undertake Church of England safeguarding training and adhere to the relevant policies. The role will be part-time, 12 hours per week, which will include a regular Sunday morning element (not necessarily every week). We are offering a salary of between £8,700 and £9,200 per annum depending on prior experience, with additional pension contributions. The term of employment will be one year, but there is a possibility of extending this if we are able to secure additional funding.

Church Buildings Maintenance Officer

We are looking for a dedicated person to assist with the maintenance of our church buildings. The successful candidate for this role will take on some of the administrative and practical tasks associated with three of our churches, in Finchingfield, Cornish Hall End and Great Bardfield. This will include liaising with Church Councils, contractors, volunteers and Church authorities to plan and execute necessary work, both regular and one off. We are privileged to have such beautiful and ancient buildings, which are important as places of worship not only for our congregations but the whole local community, and so we are looking for someone who is able both to manage the complexities of organising work within the context of a historic building and appreciate and respect their particular significance. The role will be part-time, 10 hours per week, which can be worked flexibly; the successful candidate will, however, need to be available for meetings with contractors and church officers, and will need to have a means of transport to allow them to reach the relevant churches. We are offering a salary of £7,800 per annum, with additional pension contributions and expenses for travel. The term of employment will be two years, but there is a possibility of extending this if we are able to secure additional funding.

To find out more about either of these roles, please email our administrator, Mrs Caroline Shingleton on pant.valley.churches@gmail.com, who will be able to provide you with a complete job description. The deadline for applications is Friday 17 July, and we hope to interview candidates at a convenient time the following week. If you would like to apply, please send a CV and covering letter to our administrator at the email address above. Rev'd Alex is also happy to talk informally if you would like to know more about either role.

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, 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

Ringings 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



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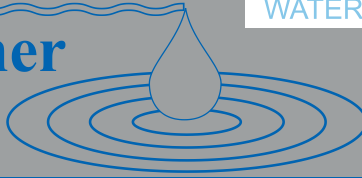
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**Shalford
Horticultural Society
2026
Autumn Show
at
The Village Hall
on
Saturday September 12th
Open to the public
at 2:30 pm
Prize giving
at 4pm**

Schedule available Online at www.bendlowe.co.uk
Or call **01371 850390** for a printed copy
<https://www.facebook.com/SHSessex>

SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 2026

Honorary Vice Presidents: Mrs A Tanner, Mr G Sim, Mrs S Martin, Mr J Smith

Judges will be appointed for the following: –

Vegetables, Fruit & Flowers, Floral Art, Cookery, Handicraft, Photography

Points for Vegetable and Salad Collections

Collection boxes are awarded points by the Judge as per Royal Horticultural Society handbook.

The Awards

The John Bahr Cup	Most Points for Horticulture	Classes 1 - 56
The Bentley Cup	Best Exhibit in Vegetables (not Collections)	
The Jessie Hicks Tankard	Heaviest Marrow	Class 11
The Arthur Bright Cup	Longest Runner Bean	Class 21
The Peter Monk Cup	Best Exhibit for Salad Collection	Class 29
The John Bright Cup	Best Exhibit for Potato Collection	Class 30
The Vera Smith Perpetual Challenge Cup	Most Points for Vegetable Collection	Class 31
The Aldworth Rose Bowl	Most Points for Fruit Section	Class 32-36
The Nan Stevenson Trophy	Most Points for Flowers	Classes 37-52
The Goodchild Cup	Most Points for Floral Art	Classes 53-56
The Hornsby Trophy	Most Points for Cookery	Classes 59-73
The Sally Prime Cup	Most Points for Preserves & Honey	Classes 59-64
The David French Trophy	Homemade Wine/Fruit Spirit	Class 70
The Perry Cup	Most Points for Handicraft	Classes 74-79
The Len Chinnery Trophy	Most Points for Photography	Classes 80-82
The Banksian Coin & Certificate	Most Points across entire show	Classes 1 - 92
Recognition Certificate	SHS Committee's Award.	
Children's Prize	Most Points Age under 5	Classes 83 - 85
Children's Prize	Most Points Age 5 - 7	Classes 86 - 88
Children's Prize	Most Points Age 8 - 11	Classes 89 - 91
Bob Reiman Tankard	The Largest Pumpkin by Circumference	Class 92

RULES & GUIDELINES

1. The Committee, whilst taking all possible care of exhibits, is not responsible for any loss or damage that may occur.
2. Every specimen exhibited in Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Classes must have been grown by the exhibitor.
3. Exhibitors to provide dishes or vases where necessary for presentation. No exhibitor may enter more than one exhibit in any class, neither can two or more persons exhibit separately from the same garden in any one class.
4. The Committee reserve the right to examine the garden or greenhouse of any exhibitor, either before or after the Show.
5. Pot plants should have been in the exhibitor's possession for a period of three months.
6. Photographs must not exceed 8 inch x 6 inch and must be shown unmounted (i.e. not in or on a separate card).
7. The Judge's decision is final.
8. The number of prizes in each class is at the Judge's discretion.
9. The Village Hall will be open for staging exhibits from 8.00 a.m. on the morning of the Shows and **STAGING OF ALL EXHIBITS MUST BE COMPLETED BY 10.15 a.m. when you will be asked to leave.**
10. Please read the Guidelines under each section carefully to ensure the correct quantity of specimens.
11. Shallots for pickling must not exceed 3cm diameter.
12. Please wash but do not scrub vegetable roots.
13. Tomatoes, peas, beans and cucumbers should be shown with stalk attached. Do not polish.
14. By covering potatoes, cauliflowers and celery with thick paper until judging time, the exhibitor will prevent greening.
15. The foliage of carrots and beetroot to be trimmed to 15cm. The foliage of onions and leeks must be trimmed to half-length and the roots trimmed to 3cm.
16. Onions and Carrots may be tied. Remove the loose skin only from an onion.
17. It is perfectly in order to remove damaged petals from your blooms, but please do so cleanly and re-arrange other petals to fill the gaps.
18. Uniformity is most important. Do not spoil your exhibit by adding an odd size specimen.
19. Cookery exhibits should have cooled before being placed for judging and covered with cling film or suitable alternative.
20. Check all bottles and jars for sealing. All exhibits should be well filled and perfectly clean.
21. Jam & Chutney should be covered with a wax disc. Then either a cellophane top or a plain screw top at the time of bottling. All labels must be plain white. Month and Year to be displayed.
22. Any exhibit with vinegar should have a screw top or snap lid, and be airtight.
23. Home-made wines & fruit spirits must be shown in clear glass bottles, and a tasting glass should be provided.
24. Points are awarded for exhibits upon the basis of: Condition, Size, Colour, Uniformity and Presentation. Avoid overcrowding your exhibits.
25. Submit your Entry Form, Exhibit and Exhibitor's Ticket on the morning of the Show; prepare your exhibit in good time. Where appropriate small exhibits may be displayed on a plate or dish.

HORTICULTURE - The John Bahr Cup-Classes 1-56

Horticulture – Vegetables – The Bentley Cup – Best Exhibit

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Beetroot | Three, round (guideline 15) |
| 2. Carrots | Three, (guideline 15) |
| 3. Chillis | Five, with stalks |
| 4. Courgettes | Two, 10-15cm |
| 5. Cucumber | One, with stalk |
| 6. Dwarf French Beans | Five |
| 7. Edible Flowers | Three |
| 8. Exotic Vegetables | Two of a kind |
| 9. Garlic bulbs | Three, with roots |
| 10. Lettuce | Two, with roots |
| 11. Marrow | Largest, judged by weight |
| 12. Onions | Three, 250g or under (guidelines 15-16) |
| 13. Onions | Three, over 250g (guidelines 15-16) |
| 14. Peas | Five pods on a plate |
| 15. Cabbage | One |
| 16. Potato | One, judged for quality |
| 17. Potatoes | Five coloured, one variety on a plate |
| 18. Potatoes | Five white, one variety on a plate |
| 19. Rhubarb | Three Stalks, no leaves |
| 20. Runner Beans | Five |
| 21. Runner Bean | Longest, tied to a baton, judged by length |
| 22. Shallots | Eight large, judged for quality, displayed in dish of sand |
| 23. Shallots | Six, for pickling, displayed in dish of sand (guideline 11) |
| 24. Spring Onions | Five with foliage & 3cm of roots, grown where sown |
| 25. The Most Amusing Home-Grown Vegetable | |
| 26. Tomatoes | Five, cherry, one variety with stalks |
| 27. Tomatoes | Five, standard, one variety with stalks |
| 28. Vegetable | One – A kind of vegetable not mentioned in classes 1-27 |

VEGETABLE COLLECTIONS

Points awarded by the Judge as detailed by RHS handbook.

The Peter Monk Cup – Class 29

29. Collection of Three Types of Salad Vegetable from this list:

2 x Beetroot, 1 x Cucumber, 1 x Pepper,
5 x Radishes, 5 x Spring Onions, 2 x Tomatoes

The John Bright Cup – Class 30

30. Potatoes Collection Three varieties, three of each, displayed in a tray

The Vera Smith Perpetual Challenge Cup – Class 31

31. Vegetable Collection displayed in a tray Four kinds, number as specified previously

Horticulture - Fruit

The Aldworth Rose Bowl – Classes 32 – 36

32. Berries (One kind)	12 x berries, with stalks
33. Apples (Dessert)	Five, on a plate
34. Pears (Dessert)	Five, on a plate
35. Apples (Cooking)	Five, on a plate
36. Any Other Fruit not mentioned	Three, in a dish/or 6 strings

Horticulture - Flowers

Nan Stevenson Trophy – Classes 37 - 52

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

Horticulture - Floral Art

Flowers need not be grown by exhibitor

The Goodchild Cup – Classes 53 - 56

53. An All-Foliage Arrangement, accessories may be used
54. Do As You Please, Exhibit of flowers and foliage
55. Miniature Exhibit not greater than 10cm overall
56. An Arrangement in a Watering Can

COOKERY (Please see guideline 21 for jams)

The Hornsby Trophy – Classes 59 - 73

Preserves & Honey – The Sally Prime Cup – Classes 59 – 64

Homemade Wine/Fruit Spirit – The David French Trophy – Class 70

59. Any other fruit Jam	One jar, 2026 - minimum 340g jar
60. Fruit Curd	One jar, 2026 - minimum 340g jar
61. Marmalade	One jar, 2026 - minimum 340g jar
62. Raspberry Jam	One jar, 2026 - minimum 340g jar

- | | |
|---|--|
| 63. Strawberry Jam | One jar, 2026 - minimum 340g jar |
| 64. Honey | One jar, dated - minimum 340g jar |
| 65. A Cake using a vegetable ingredient | One, please list vegetable used |
| 66. Meringues | Three |
| 67. Loaf of Bread | One |
| 68. Cheese Scones | Three |
| 69. Dessert for One | One |
| 70. Homemade Wine/Fruit Spirit | One bottle, dated. May be made from kit (guideline 23) |
| 71. Sausage Roll | One, meat or vegetarian, must be labelled |
| 72. Lemon Drizzle Cake (see recipe) | One |
| 73. Victoria Sandwich | One (with raspberry jam filling) |

HANDICRAFT (Please see guideline 7)

The Perry Cup – Classes 74 - 79

- 74. An invitation card
- 75. Any crocheted article
- 76. Any drawing or painting
- 77. Any hand knitted article
- 78. Any handicraft
- 79. Needle Felted Item

PHOTOGRAPHY (Please see rule 6)

The Len Chinnery Trophy – Classes 80 - 82

- 80. A colour photograph, unmounted – Shalford Fête 2026
- 81. A colour photograph, unmounted – All things bright and beautiful
- 82. A colour photograph, unmounted – Architecture

CHILDREN'S EXHIBITS (Age must be stated on all exhibits)

Age: under 5 Prize for most points

- 83. A bug (insect) hotel
- 84. Draw a picture of your family
- 85. Miniature garden in a seed box/tray

Age: 5-7 years Prize for most points

- 86. A bug (insect) hotel
- 87. Draw a picture of your family
- 88. Miniature garden in a seed box/tray

Age: 8-11 years Prize for most points

- 89. A bug (insect) hotel
- 90. Draw a picture of your family
- 91. Miniature garden in a seed box/tray

PUMPKIN

Class 92 – The Bob Reiman Tankard

- 92. The largest pumpkin by circumference

ENTRY FORM

Entry Forms together with Exhibits must be brought between 8.00 am & 10.00 am on the morning of the Show and all entries must be staged by 10:15 am at the latest.

One Entry Form for each person in each household.

Please put an 'X' against all classes that you wish to enter for

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92								

I have read the Rules and undertake to comply with them.

Please print

NAME Age (if under 16)

ADDRESS

Phone/email

Signature



INGREDIENTS

For the cake:

- 225g unsalted butter
- 225g caster sugar
- 4 eggs
- 225g self-raising flour
- 1 lemon

For the drizzle topping:

- 1½ lemons juiced
- 85g caster sugar

METHOD

1. Heat the oven to 180°C/ 160°C fan/ gas 4.
2. Beat together the butter and caster sugar until pale and creamy, then add the eggs, one at a time, slowly mixing through.
3. Sift in the self-raising flour, then add the lemon zest and mix until well combined.
4. Line a 2 lb (about 14 x 24cm) loaf tin with greaseproof paper, then spoon in the mixture and level the top with the spoon.
5. Bake for 45 – 50 mins until a thin skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean.
6. While the cake is cooling in its tin, mix together the lemon juice and caster sugar to make the drizzle.
7. Prick the warm cake all over with a skewer or fork, then pour over the drizzle – the juice will sink in and the sugar will form a lovely, crisp topping.
8. Leave in the tin until completely cool, then remove and serve. *Will keep in an airtight container for 3 – 4 days, or freeze for up to 1 month.*

SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - The Committee

President	Mrs H Smith	07969 207320
Chair	Tim Gowers	07969 207320
Vice Chair	Carol Praill	07749 113756
Treasurer	Jane Mills	01371 850390
Secretary	Mel Fray	07855 494624
Social Secretary	Caroline Ottley	07734 140478
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A TRADITION CONTINUES - SHALFORD VILLAGE FETE 6TH JUNE 2026



Thank you Committee Members for your hard work. Photos by: John Smith

A TRADITION CONTINUES - SHALFORD VILLAGE FETE 6TH JUNE 2026



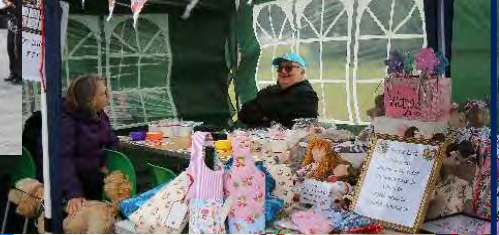
Thank you to all volunteers for your help: Photos by: John Smith

A TRADITION CONTINUES - SHALFORD VILLAGE FETE 6TH JUNE 2026



Thank you to all stall holders for your support: Photos by: John Smith

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Thank you to all flower arrangers: Photos by: John Smith

A TRADITION CONTINUES - SHALFORD VILLAGE FETE 6TH JUNE 2026



Thank you to everyone who supported Shalford Fete: Photos by: John Smith



FOSTAC

Friends of St Andrew's Church

President

Sir Roger Singleton, CBE.

SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER

FOSTAC held their Annual General Meeting on Thursday 14th May and was attended by many of our supporters

Sue welcomed everyone and mentioned that we have lost one or two supporters recently but we appreciate all those who have helped us in the past. Although we are low on members of the committee – they still have high enthusiasm to continue with arranging events to come.

The Committee was re-elected en bloc and Sue thanked them all for their continued support and thanks to David Eversden who maintains our website and Madeline Eversden as our Membership Secretary. Sue also thanked Hilary and Stewart Penney for their help and advice

Sylvia reported on the past events which had proved very successful and we are pleased to continue with more entertaining events over the next few months including a talk on Henry VIII, a talk about moving from the East End to Essex and a return of Nancy |May

Although Sir Roger and Lady Singleton were unable to attend Roger confirmed that is honoured to continue as Patron of FOSTAC.

The Meeting ended at 7.35 and everyone joined in the normal FOSTAC drinks and nibbles

We hope to see many of you at our future events

FOSTAC
Committee

www.fostac.co.uk

Affiliated to Registered Charity No 249505



St Andrew's Coffee Mornings

NEWS!!

The Coffee Mornings are still very well supported by many local villagers each 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month and we are pleased to report over the last six months of 2026 we collected more than £440 which we donated to **Essex and Herts Air Ambulance**

The next Coffee Mornings we will be collecting for **Farleigh Hospice**. As many may be aware Farleigh Hospice gives a wonderful service to our community with not only in-care assistance but with a wonderful team of in-your-home care professionals

Our thanks go to you all for your support and hope to see you in the coming months where there is plenty of Coffee/Tea Drinking, Cakes and 'gossip'!!! It is always good to meet up and have these mornings where we all catch up with each other.

Not only do we have Coffee but donations are made and as mentioned above, we will be supporting **Farleigh Hospice**

Again we are continuing with two Coffee Mornings each month . that is the 2nd Thursday and the 4th Thursday in the month

If you are able to make a cake or cakes these would be very welcome – so far we only have one 'cake-maker'!! if you can bake or bring a cake please but let Diana or Hilary know as it will be very much appreciated

For more details contact Diana Forrow on 01371 850110 or Sylvia Lester 01371 850211 or Hilary Penney 01371 851762

We look forward to seeing you all and any new friends in the coming months


MICHAEL J WALSH
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
A DIGNIFIED AND CARING APPROACH

Michael J Walsh Funeral Directors is a local family run business that have been providing a professional and caring service to the Great Dunmow area for over 100 years.

As well as providing traditional burial and cremation packages, in June 2022 we completed the building of Dunmow Crematorium, which we run alongside our established Funeral services.

Michael J Walsh, with our dignified and caring approach, offers the expertise and experience necessary to ensure you give your loved one the perfect send off.

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FUNERAL INCLUDES:

- Our professional services.
- A standard oak veneered coffin.
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- Full service at Dunmow Crematorium with 2 hours between services.
- Officiant fees.
- 50 copies of the order of Service.
- A single image on screens and music throughout the service.
- 25 photo music tribute.
- Seasonal coffin spray.
- Wake after the service at Dunmow Crematorium Chapel Barn with sandwiches and cake for 50 people.
- 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.**



**Direct Cremation
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- A standard oak veneered coffin.
- Transport of deceased to Crematorium.
- Attendance of funeral director.
- Cremation fees for an unattended cremation at Dunmow Crematorium.
- 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**



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

By: Tricia Moxey, Trustee

Last year's Royal Horticultural Society's State of Gardening Report revealed that gardens cover three times the size of the UK's National Nature Reserves. They support over 50 million trees and thousands of species, providing habitats for over half of the UK's butterflies, amphibians and reptiles, and more than 40% of birds.

Many of the listed buildings within the Hundred Parishes are surrounded by a private garden which enhances their setting, reinforcing their sense of place. They support a great variety of trees, shrubs and flowers - some native, others introduced - providing havens for assorted wildlife.

Gardens associated with such older properties will have been tended by many generations of residents, evolving over time as owners were influenced by fashionable trends.

Initially, they were stocked with native trees and shrubs, selected for their ability to provide fuel, timber, fence posts or fruits, while vegetables helped feed the family.

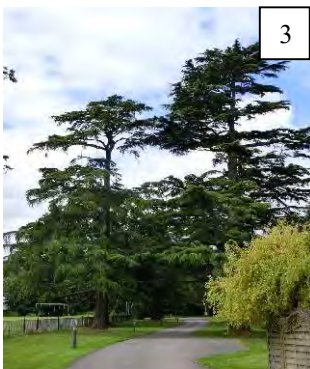
From the mid-17th century onwards, non-native tree species began to appear such as Cedars and Horse Chestnuts, these being planted initially within the estates of trend-setting wealthy landowners. By the mid-19th century, gardeners were able to source an increasing number of exotic species as diligent plant hunters discovered them in various parts of the globe and the precious seeds or small saplings were grown on in nurseries and then released for sale.

Engaging with a garden improves mental, physical and social wellbeing, with 77% of gardeners reporting positive impacts on their mental health. Local residents have access to wonderful, extensive gardens such as Easton Lodge, Audley End House or Saffron Walden's Bridge End Gardens, but enjoying a private garden brings a great deal of pleasure too.

Our website www.hundredparishes.org.uk includes an Article on Gardens and the What's On page shows dates of specific local open gardens.

Photos

- 1 - Saffron Walden – Bridge End Gardens.
- 2 – Saffron Walden – Audley End House garden.
- 3 – Stansted Mountfitchet – Cedar trees at Hargrave House.
- 4 – Steeple Bumpstead – Horse Chestnut tree in Moyns Park.
- 5 – Much Hadham – Cedar at The Old Rectory.





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



New County Councillor

Shalford Parish Council would like to welcome our new Essex County Councillor Carl Johnson

Annual Village Meeting



We had the great pleasure to host the Annual Parish Meeting in May where over 20 clubs and societies representatives gave a talk on their organisation. The meeting was a wonderful opportunity for the residents of Shalford to be updated on the activities of our local clubs, societies, and organisations. Shalford has always had an incredibly solid community spirit, which is underpinned by the fabulous people who run these groups and voluntarily invest their time, helping to keep the lifeblood of our village alive and well. Many thanks to all those who contributed with speeches, and those behind the scenes, to make this evening such a fabulous event.

Chairman's Report

Neil was re-elected as Chair for another year. Here is a snapshot of the last year at the Parish Council.

As Chair of the Parish Council, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on a few of our main activities over the last year.

First, we were delighted to welcome a new Parish Councillor, Frankie Ricci, who joins us with extensive experience and is already a great asset to the team. Our wonderful councillors—Peter Mitchell, Andrew Hull, Amanda French, Martin Gould, and last but by no means least, Peter Havelock—are tirelessly supported by our honorary villager and fabulous Parish Clerk, Jill Boot. I would like to publicly thank them for their hard work, time, and dedication to both the Council and the wider village. We are also supported by District Councillors Michael Staines and Mark Ault, who fight tirelessly for ours and wider local issues, and the newly elected County Councillor for Three Fields and Great Notley Carl Johnson.

Our characterful rural village, surrounded by beautiful countryside and the Pant Valley, is a true gem of North Essex. As a Council, over the last year, we have been working tirelessly to keep it that way. The pressure of housing development across the Braintree District is considerable and seemingly never-ending. The Council remains entirely united in its determination to preserve the rural character of Shalford—which directly reflects what you, our residents, have told us you want us to do—to protect our local countryside.

Planning applications keep us incredibly busy. In the last few months, the "West of Braintree" development, which would have a significant impact on Shalford, reared its head again as part of the Braintree Local Plan. To combat this, we invested in a joint fighting fund led by Saling Parish Council, and also supported by Rayne Parish Council, to obtain expert legal opinions reinforcing exactly why this should not be a development site.

Currently, we are also facing pressure from yet another planning application on the Towerlands site for 150 houses, despite it only recently being dismissed on appeal. This unrelenting pressure shows just how close development is creeping to our boundary.

Part of our defence is, of course, our Shalford Neighbourhood Plan, on which Kevin will update you shortly, and I am delighted to say this is making excellent progress. As part of creating this plan, we invested in several independent reports defining the landscape within which Shalford sits. Together with our neighbours in Wethersfield, Finchingfield, and Bardfield, we share the beautiful Pant Valley landscape. Our goal is to shore up Shalford by legally defining and protecting this broader landscape in its environmental, cultural, and historical contexts. By protecting our surroundings, we will be protecting our village.

Another major focus has been the DigiGo Bus service, funded in substantial part by a grant overseen by Shalford Parish Council. We are releasing these funds to DigiGo in instalments, holding them strictly to account, and doing everything we can to ensure the service actively improves.

We also look to support the Village Hall, and we are fortunate as a village to have such a proactive and dedicated village hall committee. On a festive note, our Christmas tree and light switch-on was the best we've ever had—and by all accounts, the Shalford tree was the best decorated for miles around, though I do say so myself!

Finally, we continue to oversee the village defibrillators, manage the dog poo bins, report highways issues, and do what we can to address speeding. We are actively looking to form a Speed Watch volunteer group. If anyone is interested in helping keep our roads safe, please do let me know after the meeting. We also continue to keep a close eye on matters arising from the Wethersfield Asylum Centre and remain in close contact to support Wethersfield Parish Council.

Shalford Village Fete

Shalford Parish Council was delighted to host a stand at this year's Village Fete and extends its sincere congratulations to the Fete Committee for delivering such a successful event. Despite the rain, the day was a wonderful showcase of community spirit and provided an excellent opportunity for Councillors to engage with residents.

We were pleased to chat with a number of residents regarding various issues, and we received encouraging feedback regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. The Council wishes to formally recognise the hard work and dedication of the committee and volunteers whose efforts ensured a wonderfully enjoyable event.

DigiGo (North Bus User Group) Meeting



July 15th, 5.30pm - 7.00pm at Shalford Village Hall

Shalford Parish Council on behalf of the DigiGo NORTH ZONE were awarded a £48,000+ grant to help improve the existing transport service for our village and are keen to see a North Bus User Group (NBUG) created and would love to have appropriate representation across 3 Fields with a Shalford Division.

Can you help?? Please come and join us on July 15th at 5.30pm in Shalford Village Hall and help us to make a difference!

DigiGo Bus Users Survey

We are also looking for feedback from our residents about their experience using the DigiGo Bus Service.

If you have 5 minutes to tell us about your recent experience then please, please, please, complete the survey form using either the link or the QR code.

[DigiGo Passenger Feedback Survey – Fill in form](https://forms.office.com/r/zhiftZrrb)

<https://forms.office.com/r/zhiftZrrb>



Please email the Clerk if you require a paper copy of this survey.

Dates for your Diaries

DigiGo User Group Meeting - Wednesday 15th July, 5.30pm-7pm.

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

Traffic Warning for Rural Roads

Shalford Parish Council have been asked to bring the following to the attention of our residents:

Be aware that accidents involving agricultural vehicles increase on rural roads in the summer. Collisions are 56% more likely between May and September which reflects the busiest time of the farming year. Silaging and harvesting require a higher number of tractors, trailers and wide machinery to need to use the rural roads.

If you are driving, please stay behind slow-moving machinery unless the way is clear. Agricultural machinery is much larger, wider and slower than other vehicles which can tempt people to try and overtake.

Please remember that they are likely driving only a few miles or to the next field opening, so be patient, give agricultural vehicles room to turn and don't drive too closely to them. We wish to keep all our residents safe on busy rural roads

Speed Watch Group

We are still looking for volunteers to set up a local Speed Watch Group. Please contact the Parish Clerk to register your interest **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 July at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

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

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SUE MORTON

THIS IS YOUR LIFE

By: Carol Prail

Sue Gilbert was born in Renmark near the border of Southern Australia and Victoria on the Murray River on 28th February 1943.

Her sister Andrea still lives in Australia. The family moved to Melbourne in 1944. Her father worked for International Harvester

but sadly died in 1954 when Sue was 11. Sue's mother was a teacher and Sue became a pupil at a Catholic Boarding School and also a day girl in the Senior School. She went to Art College to continue to study oil painting and sketching and tried teaching as a career but didn't enjoy it.

Sue has an adventurous spirit and decided to come to England by ship.

In those days lots of young people from Australia came to Europe to travel.

In 1966, Sue decided to come to England. The ship came via the Panama Canal because the Suez Canal was closed and it took 5 weeks to arrive at Southampton.

Initially, Sue lived in Parsons Green in South London and remembers watching the 1966 World Cup when England beat Germany 4:2.

Sue has an adventurous spirit and travelled to many countries in Europe with a variety of friends for a couple of months. They travelled to France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Sue caught the ferry from Bergen in Norway to Newcastle then travelled by train back to London. She had become unwell when travelling and had to go straight into the Western Fever Hospital with hepatitis probably caught on the ship. Sue had to stay in hospital for a month.

She was offered an opportunity to house-sit for 3 months in Lisbon which she did with



various friends coming and going before starting her travelling again.

This time she went to Casablanca, Algeria and Tunis before travelling around Italy and Spain.

In her travels, Sue met lots of people and through a friend of a friend ended up in Wallingford where she met her future husband Peter. They married in 1968.

Peter worked for ICI and they moved to Old Cottage in Beazley End. They had 2 children, Kate and James.

In 1976, Sue noticed an Essex advert asking for volunteers to do digging in Witham, Kelvedon, Braintree, Colchester and Chelmsford to look for Roman Sites.

Lots of material was found (now in archives). Sue remembers seeing the remains of a temple in Witham and finding Roman pottery there. In Colchester, below where the shopping centre is now, there were lots of burnt areas found during excavations relating to the Boudicca era.

As Sue says herself, she always becomes a member of a group or Committee.

When her children were small, she became a member of the playgroup and later a member of Tabor PTA.

During this time, she had a studio built in the garden to continue her painting.

She went to art lessons in Wethersfield run by Ashley Bryant who was popular for his landscape paintings of the English countryside in the 1980's.

Sue enjoyed painting landscapes and architecture too.



Sue loves to sing and sang in many concerts for many years with the Braintree Choral Society. She now sings with Bardfield Community Choir.

She was Chair of the WEA for 20 years. The WEA provided courses on many subjects to local communities. These days the majority of courses are online.

Sue particularly enjoyed the Natural History and Local courses with their excellent speakers.



She is part of the Church choir and the Church floral group and in her spare time enjoys reading and gardening.

When a local map of Shalford was suggested, which is still available to buy, Sue was involved in drawing The Victoria, the Church and the Chapel as well as some of the animals.

In 1995, Sue had a heart attack while she was singing at Shalford Church.

It was Christmas Eve and Sue, as usual, was having a party that evening.

Although not feeling well, but not realising that she was having a heart attack, carried on with the party. She had to go to Broomfield Hospital on Christmas Day. She found out that she also had high cholesterol as well so decided to stop smoking. Further tests meant that Sue had to undergo a triple by-pass in April 1996.

This year she decided to celebrate 30 years after the triple by-pass with a party for 72 friends at the Pavillion in Wethersfield. A great time was had by all.

Sue was also a member of Wethersfield Amateur Dramatic group.

She was involved with painting scenery, assisting backstage and generally helping out and even going on stage.

Sue still enjoys travelling and these days confines herself to the UK.

Every Tuesday Sue paints at the Art Class in Shalford, sings at Bardfield Community Choir, does Pilates and enjoys the coffee mornings at Shalford church.

When our meeting was about to end, Sue mentioned that she had also been a member of the local NADFAS group of Church Recorders. The organisation has been documenting Church interiors since 1973. The project produces detailed, illustrated inventories of parish church artefacts.





Sue was the Church Recorder at Black Notley, White Notley, Great Waltham and Rayne Churches.

Sue is also the Chair of FOSTAC (Friends of St Andrew's Church). Sue and the other FOSTAC members arrange for a variety of events during the year. Talks are scheduled for September and November and a concert in December. At the fete on June 6th, a Treasure Hunt has been arranged which sounds fun.

We look forward to more events planned by you and your team, maybe an art show of some of your paintings?

Sue, what a busy and interesting life you have led and continue to lead!

It was a pleasure chatting to you





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Barryfields, Shalford CM7 5HJ

Time: 11:20 - 11:50

Telephone Kiosk, Jaspers Green CM7 5AU

Time: 12:45 - 13:15

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

IRRESISTIBLE



Iris, in Greek mythology, was the goddess and personification of the rainbow - the radiant arc linking heaven and earth. It is a fitting association, for irises truly capture every colour of the rainbow, along with the countless tones, tints and hues in between.

Irises fall broadly into two main groups: Rhizomatous and Bulbous.

Rhizomatous Irises

Rhizomatous irises are further divided into bearded and beardless types.

Bearded Irises

Bearded irises are renowned for their large, showy blooms and the distinctive fuzzy, caterpillar-like “beard” that sits on the lower petals (falls). They flower from mid-to-late spring and appear in almost every colour combination imaginable.

These irises grow from surface rhizomes, which must be partially exposed to the summer sun to flower well. Plant rhizomes singly or in groups of three, with the leaf fans facing outward, spacing them 15–30 cm (6–12 in) apart depending on size. They perform best when not overshadowed by neighbouring plants.

When planting, apply a low-nitrogen fertiliser, repeating the feed in early spring. Avoid high-nitrogen fertilisers and refrain from mulching with organic matter, as both can encourage rhizome rot.

After three to five years, clumps may become congested or lose vigour. Lift, divide and replant only the active rhizomes - those that have recently flowered - into fresh soil.

A miniature form of bearded iris is also available. Though smaller and with a more limited colour range, these charming plants are ideal for rockeries, the front of borders or pots. Their cultural requirements mirror those of the full-sized varieties.

Beardless Irises

Beardless irises have rhizomes that sit below the soil surface and benefit from a spring mulch.

Feeding requirements are similar to those of bearded irises. Plant small divisions 8–30 cm (3–12 in) apart, depending on eventual size.

This group includes Siberian, Japanese, and Stinking irises.

Siberian Irises (*Iris sibirica*)

These grow from dense, fibrous root systems and form elegant clumps of narrow, grass-like foliage. They remain tidy throughout the season and seldom require division.

Japanese Irises (*Iris ensata*)

Among the most spectacular of all irises, Japanese varieties bear large, flat, dinner-plate-sized blooms in shades of blue, white, purple and pink. They thrive in moist soil and look particularly striking beside a pond.

Stinking Iris (*Iris foetidissima*)

A vigorous beardless iris with an unfortunate scent when crushed, but one that redeems itself in autumn. As the seed capsules split, they reveal striking layers of scarlet seeds. Avoid deadheading, or you will miss this seasonal display.

Bulbous Irises

Bulbous irises are divided into Reticulata and Dutch types.

Reticulata Irises

These dwarf irises grow from bulbs rather than rhizomes and flower from late winter into early spring, producing solitary but beautifully detailed blooms. Bulbs are widely available in autumn from garden centres and catalogues. Because they dry out easily, plant them immediately into shallow terracotta pots topped with grit, and place them in a sheltered corner. They also suit rockeries or the front of a sunny border.

Plant bulbs at a depth twice their own height. After flowering, feed with a high-potash fertiliser to encourage strong bulbs for the following year.

Dutch Irises

Dutch irises are taller relatives of the reticulata group and bloom in early summer. Their colour range is more limited, but they make excellent cut flowers for the home

Enjoy these underrated plants





NATURE NOTES

COPPICING

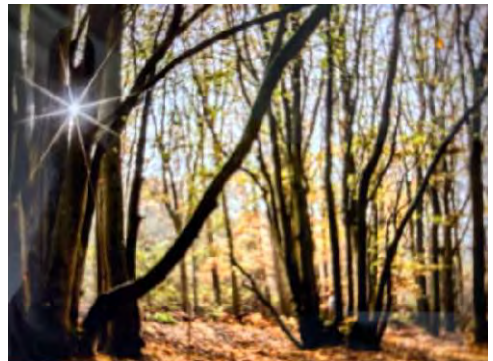
By: Mac Beanland

Last month, I talked about coppicing to rejuvenate overgrown old hedges but coppicing is also a very old traditional woodland craft which dates back many years.

If you take a walk in ancient forests or woodland such as Hatfield Forest, the New Forest, or Thetford Forest, you will find trees such as Hazel and Sweet Chestnut with lots of stems growing around a central stump; this is the result of coppicing. In a well-managed woodland, these would have been harvested every ten years or so and used for making stakes and binders for hedge laying or fence stakes, and rails woven into hurdles, gates, and all manner of things. In some cases they would have been burned to make charcoal which had many industrial and domestic uses long before BBQs caught on.

The life of a Hazel tree left to grow naturally will have a lifespan of approximately 70 years but if regularly coppiced 200 to 500 years. When woodland is coppiced trees such as Oak are left as standards and form a canopy. This type of woodland management has many ecological benefits, by letting shaded light into the ground it encourages the growth of the dormant seeds of bluebell, primroses and wood anemones. By creating vegetational growth at different heights and density it creates habitat for all manner of wildlife like butterflies, nesting song birds, dormice, and bats. So taking everything into account, it is a fantastic form of woodland management. The downside is, it is very labour intensive. I cannot believe it's 70 years since I left agricultural college and went to live in and work as a cowman on a remote farm in a part of north Nottinghamshire which time had left behind. We didn't have the luxury of mains electricity but we had tap water so long as no one in the village (half a mile away) turned a tap on.

The farm was a tenanted farm, one of about six farms all part of a relatively small estate belonging to a Colonel Denison the Squire who lived up at the Hall. There were two relatively large areas of ancient woodland, one at each end of the estate, each was divided into four segments by tracks known as rides leading to a central point. The woodland was coppiced on an 8-year rotation by 4 woodsmen and a game keeper who kept vermin under control as well as keeping the Hall supplied with game. As far as I know there was no commercial shoot. No one living on the estate was allowed to own a shotgun but once a year, the gamekeeper asked us all to join him for a Day's Pidgeon





shooting. I could never work that out. The woodmen spent most of the winter in the woods but the rest of the time was spent in the estate yard which had a steam engine driving saws and machines, making gates, hurdles and all manner of wooden things. The woodland was a perfect mixture of habitats, I only stayed at the job for less than two years and moved back to the modern world, but a couple of years ago I went back to one of the farms which had a big sale of caterpillar tractors. The farm was next to the

old estate yard which now lay derelict and I dare say the woodland is now neglected and overgrown like so much woodland.



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Buzzing News from the Hives of Gill Powell

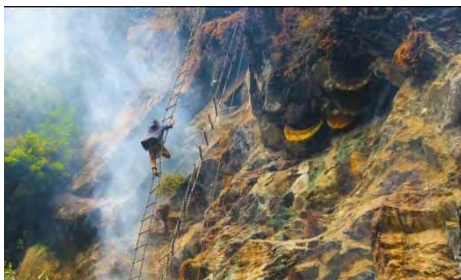


A Taste of History

Most beekeepers think they are having a bad day when they forget their hive tool, discover a queen cell they weren't expecting, or receive the occasional sting during an inspection. Thankfully, today's beekeepers have protective suits, smokers, carefully designed hives and plenty of beekeeping knowledge to help them along the way. But it wasn't always so straightforward.



As our colonies settle into the height of summer and get on with the important business of gathering nectar and raising the next generation of bees, it's the perfect time to pause and reflect on just how different our relationship with bees once was.



This month, let's take a journey into the fascinating world of the original honey gatherers and discover how far people have gone in pursuit of nature's sweetest reward.



Long before modern hives, bee suits and smokers, people collected honey directly from wild bee colonies. It was often a dangerous task requiring courage, skill and a head for heights!

For thousands of years, honey hunters have searched forests, cliffs and caves for wild bee nests. Ancient rock paintings in Spain, thought to be around 8,000 years old, show a person climbing ropes to reach a wild honeybee colony while surrounded by buzzing bees. It is one of the earliest known images of humans interacting with honeybees.

In the Himalayas of Nepal, honey hunters still scale towering cliffs using handmade rope ladders. Suspended hundreds of feet above the ground, they collect honey from the giant

Himalayan honeybee. The sight of these hunters hanging from sheer cliff faces is both breathtaking and nerve-racking.

In parts of Africa, honey hunters work with an extraordinary partner – the honeyguide bird. This remarkable bird leads people to wild bee nests, and after the honey is harvested, the bird enjoys the leftover wax and larvae.

Elsewhere, honey has been collected from hollow trees, caves and rocky crevices. Before the invention of movable-frame hives, finding wild honey was often the only way to enjoy this sweet treat.



Today, beekeeping is far safer and more bee-friendly, but these traditional honey hunters remind us of the long and fascinating relationship between humans and honeybees.

The next time you enjoy a spoonful of honey, spare a thought for the honey hunters of the past. Their courage and determination helped shape one of humanity's oldest relationships with the natural world.

Today, we may harvest honey very differently, but our fascination with bees remains unchanged. Thousands of years later, these remarkable insects continue to inspire and amaze us.

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