

PARISH NEWS

covering
SHILLINGTON, PEGSDON & HIGHAM GOBION

ALL SAINT'S PRESENTS

QUIZ NIGHT

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN

Saturday 25th March 7.30
at Shillington Village Hall

Tickets £10
For tickets, please contact:
Liz 01462 713978
Denise 07414513683

SUPPER INCLUDED
RAFFLE TICKETS ON THE NIGHT
BRING YOU OWN DRINK AND GLASSES

All Saints' Church
Shillington

Issue 164 – February 2023
Deadline for April edition - Friday, 24th March 2023

PARISH COUNCIL

SITING OF NEW CONTAINER ON FORMER OLD PLAY AREA:

We were pleased to receive confirmation that planning permission has been granted for the siting of a new container on the edge of the old play area to provide additional storage for the new cricket equipment and other sporting items that we purchased with S106 monies for sporting activities. The container should hopefully be delivered to site shortly.

POTHOLES!

Although good business for local garages and tyre depots, potholes around the parish continue to increase both in volume and depth! Repairs are apparently being delayed due to the worldwide shortage of bitumen, which is coming from Russia. We were pleased to see the one outside Bowles Garage was quickly repaired, although the list of others requiring attention continues to grow. If you would like to report ones that you are particularly concerned about there is a CBC phone app called "Fix my street", which when used at the problem area, picks up current location and you can take a photo and detail the problem and it all gets logged in for the attention of CBC Highways.

PEGSDON WATER SUPPLY:

Pegsdon residents have raised serious concerns about the 9 unplanned interruptions to their water supply since January 2022. Many complaints have been made to Anglian Water and local MP, particularly taking into account the amount of elderly residents, local businesses and those working from home. Anglian Water have cited a number of reasons for the interruptions ranging from dry spells causing ground movement resulting in leaks and burst pipes; Pegsdon being at the end of the water main and burst mains caused by someone operating valves on the network causing transient pressure waves. The latter reason probably resulting from the Bedfordshire & Luton Fire & Rescue team attending the Apsley End fire on 17th September 2022, which was a giant haystack and burned for 3 days.

Given the regularity of water disruptions, residents have requested a water tanker as soon as an outage happens as on the last occasion they had to wait 10 hours before getting a supply. AW advise they can leave residents without a supply for up to 12 hours, which is not viable.

Residents have now been advised by Anglian Water Network Managers that they are investigating the unprecedented amount of bursts over the last 17 months and will see how they can reduce and prevent these.

Parish Council has now written to AW supporting the residents' concerns and asking for urgent action and Cllr. Alison Graham has spoken to CBC's Head of Sustainable Communities to find out who would be best placed to resolve the issues identified.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – 4 MAY 2023:

Why not get involved in local community issues and see what a difference you could make? We meet once a month, have a good range of items for discussion on the agenda ranging from planning applications to pot holes, street lighting to verge cutting, supporting village organisations to planning community events, to looking after our War Memorial. It would be great to get some new keen folk actively involved. Come along to a meeting and see what we're all about...

For **all** Parish Council issues please contact:

Mrs. Helen Smith, Clerk to the Parish Council

11 Hillside Close, Shillington, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 3NN. ☎ 01462-713224

email: clerk@shillington-pc.gov.uk <https://shillington-pc.gov.uk>

ANNOUNCEMENTS / ITEMS / NEWS IN BRIEF



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION COLLECTION, 2022.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2022 Poppy Appeal for Shillington, Gravenhurst and Pegsdon. The amount collected so far is £1,294.67, with some wreath donations to come.

The schools did very well; Shillington requested a second collecting tin.

Shirley McGrath
Poppy Appeal Organiser EAB29

SHILLINGTON CARE

Do you need help with transport from Shillington?
We can get you to the surgery, hospital and collect your prescriptions.
Shillington Care is an informal group of people able to give help.
Give us a call and we will arrange for someone to pick you up and bring you back.

Initially, speak to **Liz** on **01462-711594** or leave a message.
If there is a delay on this number then call **07930-812940**



CLOTHING BANK AT VILLAGE HALL

A huge thank you to everyone making use of the clothing bank at the Village Hall. So far 220kg of clothing/items have been donated and a payment of £66 raised for Village Hall funds 😊.

SHILLINGTON SPITFIRES CRICKET CLUB

We're very pleased to report that Shillington will be hosting its own cricket team from this summer. Following a recent meeting with the Playing Field Committee we are now planning to start training on the Playing Field in lighter evenings from April and hope to form a team for the coming year playing at established cricket venues around the county as we develop the team. We will be working with the PF committee to hopefully have our own Shillington pitch by 2025.

We were delighted to hear that Shillington Parish Council have already purchased cricket practice nets and 2g pitch as well as bats and balls, which is a great start to get younger people involved in the game. Also that we will have a storage container on the Playing Field. Thank you !

We already have sponsorship for cricket kits so ready to go. The Social Club have also very kindly offered to run a BBQ for us to raise funds during the summer which will encourage membership.

Looking forward to your support. If you would like to join the Club, help in any way or require further details please don't hesitate to contact me..... alancordt@gmail.com



Kings Coronation: Plans for a "Picnic in the Park" on Sunday afternoon, 7th May. Bring your own blanket, picnic or afternoon tea and enjoy some family fun at the playing fields. More details to follow. As with the Jubilee, Parish Council will be sponsoring mugs as designed by our school children.

REVD. RICHARD'S LAST SERVICE



All Saints' Church has said farewell to Revd. Richard Winslade. He has retired after serving as the Rector of our Parish of *Gravenhurst and Shillington* for nearly ten years. Richard and his family have now departed to start their new life in Northumberland. We wish them all well.

Richard presided over his last service at All Saints on Sunday 8th January. It was a joint service, with the congregations of both Shillington and Stondon present, plus many friends and supporters. It was lovely to see the church almost full for what was to be a very moving occasion. Richard's final address, laden with emotion, looked back over his 25 years as an ordained priest. There was some beautiful singing from the Choir of three hymns during the taking of Communion which, because of the numbers there, took quite a long time. At the end of the service the Sunday School children did a "turn", giving a delightfully expressive rendering of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands", with all the hand gestures. Richard has long been keen on Celtic forms of worship, so he was very appreciative of the Choir's concluding offering, the anthem "Irish Blessing".

Richard was presented with a number of parting gifts, from representatives of all three villages under his care, Gravenhurst, Shillington and Stondon.

All Saints' Church is now in *Vacancy*, which means that, for the time being, we do not have our own designated priest. It may be many months before a new Priest-in-Charge is appointed. The church will carry on, however, as we did back in 2011, when Revd. Jane Wheatley retired. We shall be relying, for the most part, on visiting clergy (mainly retired vicars) to conduct our services. On those Sundays when we find ourselves without a priest we will manage with "DIY" services of *Morning Prayer* or, perhaps, *Songs of Praise*, to replace Holy Communion. The start time of Sunday morning services will remain 9.30am.

If, during the *Vacancy*, you need the assistance of the church and you would normally have spoken to the Rector, please get in touch, in the first instance, with the Churchwardens - **Dick & Liz Brewer** and their telephone number is **01462 711594**.

All Saints Church Parochial Church Council

SHILLINGFEST 23 – Saturday, 24th June 2023 @ The Playing Fields from 12 noon

As reported in the last edition of the Parish News, plans are now underway for the above community event involving all organisations. If you would like a stall to promote your particular business or hobby we would love to see you too.



We have a couple of musical items for your entertainment during the afternoon, as well as the Letchworth Morris Men, but would be pleased to hear from anyone in the village, either local band or musician, dance/sporting group who would like to put on an arena display or do a turn at the microphone. Also any local facepainters? (yes we've already asked Helen!)

*Our next two meetings will be at the **Social Club** on **Monday, 27th February** and **Monday, 27th March** at **8pm**. Contact **Sally S (07711-504489)** or **Gavin (07826-518667)** if you would like to be involved.*



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SHILLINGTON & GRAVENHURST

www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk



WHAT'S GOING ON

On 8th January Rev. Richard Winslade retired, please see separate report for more details. The main point of contact on church matters is now the Churchwardens **Liz & Dick Brewer** on ☎ **01462 711594**. Visiting clergy will lead services until a new priest is appointed.

SERVICES:

Our Sunday Morning Service is still at 9.30am mostly with Communion with normally live feed on Facebook. Sung Evensong is on the 1st Sunday in the month at 6.00pm

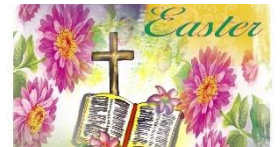
LENT AND EASTER SERVICES:

7.30pm - 22nd February - Ash Wednesday Sung Holy Communion.

9.30am - 2nd April - Palm Sunday Sung Holy Communion.

2.00pm - 7th April - Good Friday service for the last hour.

9.30am - 9th April - Easter Sunday Service.



ALL SAINTS CHURCH - SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Our Sunday School meets most weeks and is open for children of all ages starting from 4 years old. For more information please **Adam Lockey** on **01462 712464**.

FUNERALS/BURIALS/THANKSGIVING SERVICES:

✠ 26th November - Peter Alan Smart – Burial of Ashes.

✠ 1st December - Vincent Lyn - Burial of Ashes.

BAPTISMS:

✠ 4th December - Sophie Rebecca Thyne

200 CLUB – LUCKY WINNERS: (prizes 1st £50, 2nd £25, 3rd £10)

December 2022:

1st no. 038 – Jim Marshall 2nd no. 035 – Nevoji Moon 3rd no. 187 – Elaine Shadbolt

January 2023:

1st no. 175 – Sean Randall 2nd no. 143 – C E Simkins 3rd no. 015 – Hannah Lovell

Tickets for This Year's 200 Club, with the first draw on Sunday 2nd April 2023, are now on sale – please Contact Liz Brewer 01462 711594

OTHER NEWS FOR 2023:

Quiz Night - 7.30pm - Saturday 25th March in the **Village Hall**. Supper included in the £10 ticket price, bring your own drinks & glasses. Tickets available from **Denise** on **07414-513683** or **Liz 01462-711594**

Best wishes

Liz Brewer (Church Warden) lizbrewer313@gmail.com

CBC WARD MEMBER'S REPORT

for Shillington, Higham Gobion and Pegsdon

alison.graham@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk ☎ 01462-713543



And so, into the new year. Fierce frosts, and later, floods. Potholes galore as a result – the worst being filled rapidly, if not permanently. (Only 36 hours before the huge one alongside Bowles Garage was filled). But a quick fix now is better than no fix, I think our shock absorbers would say. Underneath all this mud lies extremely faded road markings; the good news is that CBC is going to repaint all roadway markings, red, yellow, white, whatever... this year.



In May we shall have our local CBC elections, for the new ward boundaries. Meppershall, Shillington and Gravenhurst will become a single member ward. An important change to these elections will be the necessity to provide a photo ID in order to vote, even if you have a voting number. The government has given a list of documents containing a photo, which are valid; it is a longlist, which includes passports, driving licences and bus passes – however, bus passes only for the elderly. Bus passes for young people are NOT valid. So if you are young and want to make your voice heard you need to act fast, if you don't want to be turned away on the day, because as I write this, there are fewer than 100 days left to polling day. The government has just set up a website where you can download the new Voting Authority Certificate (VAC). It is free, but you'll need a recent digitalized picture. Because CBC is aware that many of us do not have photo ID, nor access to the internet, it is sending out letters to every residence in the area explaining all this, as it seeks to identify those of us who will need assistance to deal with this change. CBC, voting this May, is one of the first councils to deal with this, and although it knows there may be hiccups, it is trying to foresee them...

Next; these early months are always about money in the coming year. As you will know, CBC is not raising the council tax. It has robust reserves, kept for the difficult times which it foresaw. Now they are here and this year it's decided to draw, short term, upon these reserves to fill the deficit. (Other precepts, the Police, Fire & Rescue, and town & parish precepts, may go up, however). £3.07 million will go to the highways budget for road, pavement and verge maintenance, with £6 million for highways capital improvements, such as bridges, dualling, and roundabouts.

Other news: the funding for a £2 a trip bus ticket promised by central government has not materialized, sadly. CBC waste services will see no cuts, this year. And the Local Council Tax Support scheme, begun in 2014, where the lowest level income residents could get their council tax 25% discounted, is now being raised to 100% discount – so, no council tax at all for those on the lowest income, in these difficult times.



For those of us who worry about the environment and climate change, the revised CBC Design Guide has a new chapter (12) specifically dealing with the needs of future housing – it deals with drought, heat, cold, trees, water, spaces – everything. It's out for consultation now, if you wish to check chapter 12! And another piece of interesting news; the RAF has recently successfully trialled a plane which was fueled totally by recycled cooking oils. Does this mean that in the future we can fly with a clear eco conscience? Let's hope so.

And so, we come to hope. I've seen snowdrops in January, in the churchyard, and hazel catkins blowing in the breeze. That's a sign of things to come. Warmer days, and robins researching upper class nests. Soon we'll be sitting outside. And moaning about the weather. (And there really was very little local news!) – I am in the Crown on Fridays, 6 to 7 pm, if you want to talk to me, otherwise, good wishes,

Alison Graham



Our members really enjoyed our Christmas Cheese and Wine with a fantastic performance from the Phoenix Chorus as well as lunch/dinner at Discolicious.

We welcomed in the New Year with a glass of bubbly, refreshments and a Quiz as well as a talk about this year's Resolution choices. Each year the WI select from a short list of worthy causes, by vote, something that we can get behind and make a difference – previous efforts have included the well-known Keep Britain Tidy and Fair Trade to name just two! Members were invited to place their votes after hearing about this year's options. Members were also able to take away a Programme for this year's monthly meetings.



In February we will be having our AGM followed by “Flower arrangement Tips - how to make the most of a mixed bouquet”, from Member Sandra Hare and a talk on how to make the most of WI membership from Member Jo Carroll.



Our Knitting Group are currently knitting “hats for the homeless” for the Bedfordshire based charity “SMART”.

We have a range of other Clubs available for Members including Lunch/Supper Club, Walking Group and Book Club.

Our Meetings take place on the first Thursday of the month at the Congregational Church at 8.00 p.m.

If you would like further information or want to come along as a visitor (cost £4) please contact:

***Myself: Jill Russell, Secretary on 01462 711533 or
Julia Bruce, President on 01462 712412***



RESTORING NATURE – WE CAN DO IT

By Annie Palmer (WI Ambassador for Climate Change) anniejpalmer@hotmail.com

Back in October 2021, I mentioned the little Indian state of Sikkim, which had banned the use of pesticides and artificial fertilizers. As a consequence, the abundance of insects and wildlife had returned at an amazing rate. Sikkim is 100% organic and sets an example for the whole world. What I didn't realise was that there is another inspiring example right on our doorstep in West Sussex.

I am reading 'Wilding' (The return of nature to a British farm) by Isabella Tree and it's really uplifting. It's the story of the wilding of the Knepp Estate (3,500 acres) in the Low Weald of Sussex. Forced to accept that intensive farming of the heavy clay soils of their farm at Knepp was driving it close to bankruptcy, Isabella Tree and her husband handed it back to nature. Over the years fallow deer, Exmoor ponies, longhorn cattle, Tamworth pigs (they are a lovely pale gingery to dark mahogany red), and red deer were introduced into the Knepp Estate. Within ten years surveys revealed astonishing wildlife successes including breeding skylarks and other endangered British birds. Thirteen out of the UK's seventeen bat species and sixty invertebrate species of conservation importance were recorded at the farm. Knepp now has lapwings, nightingales, all five UK species of owl, turtle doves, many species of earthworms, bees and wasps and so much more. Populations of common birds are "rocketing".



Give nature lots of space, let it take the driving seat and the above is what happens. Regarding the project at Knepp, Professor John Lawton, author of the 2010 report 'Making Space for Nature', said: "It's truly wonderful and it fills me with hope". Nevertheless, this astounding transformation of nature will only happen if those who want to control it or build on it are sent packing. We can do this – we might have to get out of our comfort zone and do some direct action but it would be so worth it!

We can't rewild everywhere as good agricultural land will always be needed for food production. The ecological interdependence of rewilded areas and the farms around them is crucial – it is of vital importance to stop using pesticides, artificial fertilizers and GMOs in the latter or it will adversely affect the former. There's got to be a total approach here. It's also problematic to have a rewilded area next to an urban one as it will be in what's known as 'the urban fringe'. There are problems inherent with the urban fringe including the disturbance of wildlife and direct damage such as increased litter, fly-tipping, noise and light pollution and the impact of domestic pets. A



study published in April 2022 estimated that UK cats kill on average 160 to 270 million native animals (reptiles, birds and mammals) every year. Keeping all our lovely moggies inside in the evenings and at night will halve the number of animals killed. That's something like 80 to 135 million creatures saved that's a lot.

Regenerative farming (with livestock, reinstating of hedgerows and meadows, crop rotation and banning of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers) alongside the rewilding of poorer quality land will give nature a chance to flourish. The wildlife will come back amazingly quickly. To enable this to happen, developers must use brownfield sites only or, with regard to our existing housing stock, builders could 'make do and mend' – there are so many empty, derelict houses in Britain.

We can restore nature – it really is up to us.

Annie x

Do you need a Warm space?

Just come along to...

Shillington Congregational Church
11.00 - 2.00 every Monday



Soup • Tea & coffee • biscuits
Friendly welcome and a Warm Space.

You can bring your own activities if you wish eg knitting, reading, drawing.
Just come and chat or enjoy some quiet space.

A happy place to meet up and socialise

Sponsored by Shillington Congregational Church and All Saints Church Shillington



1ST SHILLINGTON GUIDES AND RANGERS

Last summer we extended our unit to become a joint Guide and Ranger unit – for girls aged 10-18. We now have 6 Rangers and 18 Guides and had a busy and fun filled Autumn term!

We started the term with a visit to Big Rock in Bedford to have a go at indoor rock climbing with the Girlguiding Bedfordshire climbing club. The Guides, Rangers and even one of our leaders had a great time, with lots of girls getting to the top.



This was followed by a residential weekend, staying in the guide centre in Bromham. The Guides' favourite activities were foraging, tie dying T shirts, "warrior training", celebrating Samhain, rock and acorn painting, making candles and pots, and of course the campfires with s'mores, dampers and our storyteller. The Rangers also made charcoal, brewed their own nettle tea, tried to attract moths (unsuccessfully), and had a go at pyrography. The activity everyone liked the least was washing up!



Thank you to Beth for organising the weekend and congratulations on successfully completing her 'Going Away' licence. We hope she'll take us on more camps and holidays in the future.

The Guides also enjoyed celebrating Day of the Dead in October. They decorated skull masks, made paper marigold flowers, played a game in the dark and smashed a *piñata*. The Rangers, on the other hand, decided that they would like to have their meeting at Ikea. They were given a budget and had to choose items to furnish an imaginary bedroom and living room. They did really well, apart from forgetting that they needed a mattress for their bed!

The Guides ended the term by creating their own mocktails, designing their own menus and holding a mocktail party in their patrol "bars". There were some wonderful concoctions, and everyone achieved their Mixology interest badge.



Our unit is currently full, but if you are interested in adding your daughter to our waiting list for joining our friendly unit, or would like more information, please email:

shillingtonguides@gmail.com

Guides are aged 10-14 years, but younger girls can be on our waiting list.

Rangers are aged 14-18 years.

Our Guides and Rangers come from Shillington and the surrounding area, including Gravenhurst, Meppershall, Stondon, Clifton and Shefford.



ALL SAINTS ILLUMINATED

To celebrate or commemorate your special occasion please contact:

Catherine on **07710-823384**

or e-mail catherine.scleater@btinternet.com

It only costs £25 to sponsor a whole week's illumination - a perfect way to commemorate a special family occasion or loved one's anniversary.

Sponsor	Message	From	To
DeWick Family Sally, Andy Shaun & Thomas	<i>In loving memory of dad & grandad Ken who left us on 30th January 2020 and mum & grandma Joan, who left us on 13th February 2017. Always in our thoughts xx</i>	Sunday 29 January	Saturday 4 February
Marion, Kay, Phil, Jade, Ryan, Lindsey, Archie, Jack, Tom and all the Butts family	<i>Tony Butts (Tug) Remembering a wonderful husband, dad, granddad, great granddad, brother and uncle on his birthday on the 5th February. Always in our thoughts will love you forever xx</i>	Sunday 5 February	Saturday 11 February
Mum, dad, Jamie- Leigh and grandparents xx	<i>In memory of a wonderful son, brother and grandson. Love you so much, miss you every day.</i>	Sunday 19 February	Saturday 25 February
Pamela and Darren Bakewell	<i>In memory of Julia West's birthday on 20th February. Remembered always. Love Pamela, Darren and all the family.</i>	Sunday 19 February	Saturday 25 February
David & Fiona Howarth	<i>Margaret Howarth - remembering your birthday on the 11th March</i>	Sunday 5 March	Saturday 11 March
Jackie and all the Bowles Family	<i>Bryan Bowles - happy birthday to you for 17th March 2023. We all send our love to you.</i>	Sunday 12 March	Saturday 18 March
Lynn & Richard Harris & Family	<i>In loving memory of Ann Hare. Remembering her birthday on Sunday 19th March. Loved and missed more than words can say. Forever in our hearts.</i>	Sunday 19 March	Saturday 25 March
Catherine Scleater and family	<i>In loving memory of Mavis Ingram, who died 17 years ago on the 4th April, missed every day, with love</i>	Sunday 2 April	Saturday 8 April
David & Fiona Howarth	<i>Kathleen MacKinnon - remembering your birthday on the 30th April</i>	Sunday 30 April	Saturday 6 May



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

by *Revd. Angus McCormick* ☎ 01462-712096

Minister of Shillington Congregationalist Church

Many years ago I was quite enthralled watching the TV series of Great Expectations. It was full of the usual wonderful real life descriptions I associated with Charles Dickens. It was scary and poor little Pip had a hard time. Miss Havershaw was well really scary. Thankfully all turned out well and I could rest easy after all.

So looking back, Tom said he had enjoyed many kindnesses and friendships. I would add I also have been thankful for the still available greenspaces inside the village envelope especially in my case, Thomas's Meadow.

Sandra said, "Yesterday is history and tomorrow is a mystery." Indeed, the memories of friends now at rest, names on benches, an orchard gone and now houses, allotments changing hands, beautiful scenes from the top of the hill or on the green spaces on the edges of the village. The dog walkers sometimes with a new dog all ready to chat.

More footpath on Upton End Road, wow! Still dangerous with fast traffic. More benches are planned thankfully. Still difficult to walk on upper Church Street with no pedestrian margins to warn motorists, but if you manage it you can maybe call in at one or both churches, or carry on and find a bench at the top in the graveyard and reflect on that beginning in Great Expectations.



Someone else said don't get your expectations too high. Well thank goodness those researchers in medical and other areas to benefit us keep on doing their best; think of those explorers in space ... still more to find, peacemakers who give their lives

So keep up the expectations, personally, locally, further afield and for world peace and better times. Expectations that our cherished green spaces, noise free and unpolluted air with its natural beauty can be kept, especially what's left inside our village community.

Support our local shops and businesses, our clubs and their volunteers...20 years ago in expectation at a meeting in my house Shillington Men's Club began and now look at it.

Use the buses and use what rights of way you are able to... There will be a new safe path in the playing fields too, so I can get to the zip wire easier! Expectations that the dreaded covid is something we can live with and survive. Expectations that our wonderful health service and our emergency services continue.



Just as the new bulbs are appearing and giving us new hope maybe it's not too great an expectation that no one in our village should feel either alone or lonely in our village community. I was so happy that comments were made from people at the Christmas Tree Festival to say it was their first going out and how they enjoyed it.

We don't have to organize anything to be a caring community but just get on and show it each of us in our own warm way.

Every blessing,
Rev. Angus

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NEWS

47 Church Street, Shillington
www.shillingtoncong-church.org.uk

SERVICES:

All services commence at 10.30am unless otherwise stated. Should you need to contact our Minister with any enquiries his telephone number is **01462-712096**.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL:



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Christmas Tree Festival, those who came to see the display of trees and enjoyed being able to meet up once again. It was lovely to share time together with refreshments and chat to friends and neighbours.

Special thanks to Maggie and friends Nicky, Kim, Emma, Kat and Catherine who covered refreshments on the Friday and Saturday. Also thank you to the Guide Leaders and the Guides who helped on the Sunday afternoon. This support and help was greatly appreciated.

A cheque for £1,3000 was handed over to a representative of the charity 'Blood Runners' - Beds & Herts Group on Sunday 15 January.

UNITED SERVICES:

United services were held in January - two at the Congregational Church and one at All Saints. The one at All Saints was the farewell service that Rev Richard Winslade took before leaving the village and moving up to Northumberland.

BEDFORD FOODBANK:

Demand on the foodbank is greater due to the current economic situation. Thanks to the generous donations made by the local community of both goods and monetary donations, regular deliveries continue to be made to help those most in need. Items may be left at 1 Bells Close or at the church when open. Thank you.



Items currently in short supply:

Tinned Meat	Tinned Potatoes	Long Life Sponge Puddings
Tinned Carrots	Tinned Tuna	Cup-a-Soup
Tinned Fruit	Tinned Sweetcorn	UHT Fruit Juice
Tinned Soup	Tinned Rice Pudding	Jars of Pasta Sauce

WARM PROJECT:



A 'Warm Space' project is being trialled in the church which started on Monday, 9 January 2023. Two ladies who attend All Saints have volunteered themselves to provide tea/coffee/biscuits and serve soup and a roll between 11.00am and 2.00pm on a Monday. If you are able to help on a Monday please come and join us. This is open to anyone who may come for company and a chat, to meet other people, save on the fuel bills, or to enjoy some hot soup and a roll. No charge is made but donations are welcome.

CHRISTIAN AID:

A coffee morning has been arranged for Wednesday, 17 May between 10.00am – 12.30pm during Christian Aid Week.



SHILLINGTON MEN'S CLUB

(Now in its 18th year)

We finished off 2022 with our Christmas Party event at the Golf Club at Lower Stondon on the 14th December. Members enjoyed a 3 course meal of traditional Christmas fayre complete with crackers, party hats and beverages of their choice. It was a well-attended event as always, with 27 members enjoying the occasion and was a great prelude to Christmas itself. Thank you to Paul Bruce for organising the event and Brian Pettifer for again providing his unique raffle prize which on this occasion was a wood turned fruit bowl made by himself!



Our first evening outing of the New Year took place on the 11th January at the Raven at Hexton. Here 22 members enjoyed a great 2 course meal of either Fish & Chips or Ham, Egg & Chips followed by Treacle Pudding & Custard or Chocolate Brownie and Ice-cream. Thank you to Colin Smith for organising this very enjoyable event.

Our first afternoon get together of the New Year was on the 25th of January, 15 members enjoyed lunch at our very own Musgrave Arms at Shillington.

We are now looking forward to our Annual General Meeting, which is taking place on the evening of the 1st February at the Congregational Church, Shillington, commencing at 7.30 p.m. After the meeting members will receive a short speech by our Chairman Kevin Johnson and then enjoy some drinks and refreshments. On the night our treasurer Rob East will be taking this year's subs and new members are very welcome.

Future Events:

- * 1st February 2023 - Annual General Meeting at the Congregational Church.
- * 8th February - meal at the Greyhound at Haynes.
- * 22nd February - lunch at the Musgrave Arms.
- * March - to be arranged.
- * 26th April - Royal Gunpowder Mills, Enfield.
- * 31st May - Partners event Kathy Brown's Garden, Stevington including tea and cakes

Membership:

Remains stable at 42 members. There are 8 elected Committee members who meet every 12 weeks to review and evaluate past events, plan future events and review the Club's Finances. The Club offers members a bi-monthly opportunity to socialise and enjoy friendly conversation and comradeship over a good pub meal and beverages or a visit to a place of cultural or historical interest. This is the essence of the Club.



New members are warmly welcomed, so any new residents to the village, please take the opportunity to embrace village life, meet local people and come along and see what the Club has to offer! Membership is £5 to join with an Annual Membership of £15.

Contacts:

Events Co-ordinator - Michael Bradley
(01462 711162)

Email - michael894bradley@btinternet.com

Chairman – Kevin Johnson
(01462 712768)

Email – kevinjohnson360@msn.com

SHILLINGTON SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

MEET AT

SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Monday afternoons – 2.00-5.00pm // Friday evenings – 7.00-10.00pm



Our Internal Triples League is in full swing with only 2 points difference between the first four teams.

In the Barnet League we have two teams in Division 1 and they are currently 4th and 5th in the league table. In Division 2 we have one team taking part and they are currently top of the league with a 7 point lead.

In the Inter County Championship we have members participating for Hertfordshire and out of the six games played so far Hertfordshire have won 4, Drawn 1 and Lost 1 and are currently top of the League Table.

Members from Shillington Short Mat Bowls also participated in the County Pairs Championship and Julia Bruce, along with Jan Rogers from Northiam Short Mat Bowls Club, were runners up. Congratulations to them both.

Our Internal Championship for Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours will shortly be commencing and these games will be taking place commencing on Saturday 18th March with the Singles game.

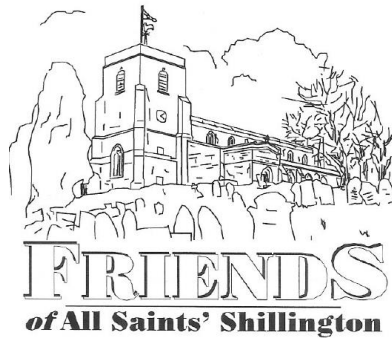
Short Mat Bowls is a fun game, as well as a competitive sport but you can meet and make some good friends in the process. Taking part in National and/or Hertfordshire County Games is only part of the picture and we always welcome new members.

Experienced members provide support and guidance for new and developing players and members can join in with regular County playing and learning activities at the County venues in Hatfield and Potters Bar.

For further information please contact

Derek Lewison (01462 711504) or Jeanette Waller (01462 622737)

HOLDING ON..... TO OUR PRECIOUS CHURCH ON THE HILL



Happy New Year.

Whenever I am out and about, I try to call into Churches and always have a good old “nose”. I make a bee-line for the organ, always look up to see incredible craftsmanship on the ceiling and generally enjoy the peace and quiet.

The local history is usually documented in the form of plaques and tombs and often one particular family name stands out. It is not a religious or a morbid thing, just totally fascinating thinking of how many people have walked where I stand. My last stop is to pick up a leaflet and investigate how “they” do their fund raising. These magnificent buildings don’t look after themselves and it is interesting to see how other villages and towns fund raise to preserve our wonderful social history.

We, the Friends, try to organise events to please everyone and vary our programme throughout the year. We are working hard to ensure the survival of this historic structure that has stood through two world wars, the black death and numerous extreme weather conditions.

If you would like to become “A Friend”, help in any way or just simply enjoy one of our events – please use the form on opposite page or contact me direct – thank you.

Have a look at our new Web-site

[Home - Shillington Village Hub \(shillington-hub.org.uk\)](http://shillington-hub.org.uk)

Pop the link into your browser and scroll down to see The Friends.

Events for 2023 :

- Horse racing - February 4th
- AGM - April 20th
- Hog Roast - May 13th
- 24 hour non-stop music - June 10th-11th
- Flying Teddies - July 16th
- Bike & Hike - September 9th
- Sunday afternoon tea - from May – September



Details of all events will be on Facebook, on posters throughout the village, on our new Web-site or simply email me for more info.

Greetings,

JOY ROBERTSON
Membership Secretary for
The Friends of All Saints
Email: Foass@outlook.com

If you would like to make a donation and receive regular updates on the work of

Friends of All Saints' Church, Shillington

THERE ARE 2 EASY WAYS TO PAY:

1. You can make a donation by cheque/post

I/we enclose a donation of £..... to Friends of All Saints' Church, Shillington for the current year.

Name

Home address

.....

email address

I would like Friends of All Saints to be able to reclaim tax on my donation (see below):

(Yes / No) (Please delete as appropriate)

Signed..... Date

Please return this form, signed, together with your donation, to the Membership Secretary of Friends of All Saints' Church:

Joy Robertson, 18 Vicarage Close, Shillington SG5 3LS

Or

If you'd prefer to pay online:

HSBC, Friends of All Saints Church, sort code: 40 24 20, a/c No. 71596985

How we can ADD 25% to your donation. Under tax legislation, the Friends can recover some of the income tax you pay on any of your taxable income. In allowing us to recover this tax, you must have paid, or be due to pay, an amount of income tax at least equal to that we will be able to reclaim on your donation, this being 25p for every £1 you give.

In order for us to reclaim this very valuable bonus to our income, you need do nothing at all except sign and tick the box above to confirm that you are a taxpayer. We thank you in advance if you are able and prepared to do this.

Alternatively, donations can be made via the QR code below.



RAMBLING ON with DEREK TURNER

☎ 01462-712462

derek.turner@phonecoop.coop



As the NHS appears to be crumbling around us, I envy my parents even though they were born before it was created when healthcare came at a cost. They benefitted as they got older and their own health began to fail. The NHS was there when they needed it and they were treated promptly. Despite paying National Insurance all my life and like many others, I have been caught up in lengthy waiting lists for consultations, tests and treatment. When I have received them, the staff have been brilliant. We rightly clapped them during Covid when they soldiered on despite the extra risks and workload. Now, their wages have fallen way behind inflation and waiting times soar. It isn't fair.

You don't have go back many generations to reach a time when most Shillington people were worse off than now. The likes of William the Conqueror and Henry XIII had left a handful of individuals and organisations owning most of the land. If you lived here, you had to work for the landowners or their tenants and most work was in farming. Conditions were tough and you had to accept whatever they were prepared to pay you. As the cost of food rose, parents struggled to feed their families and many people were under-nourished and frequently ill. The chance of a new born baby making it to five years old was less than 50%. That wasn't fair.

At times, there was not enough work for everyone and if you lost your job, you lost your home as well. Some moved to towns to try their luck but most of the jobs there were menial or dangerous, wages were peanuts and homes were slums. Those who stayed in Shillington were punished by being sent to live in the workhouse where conditions were atrocious and inmates spent long, gruelling hours picking stones off the fields to earn their keep. They received no wages. They became slaves through no fault of their own. That doesn't sound fair to me.



Things reached boiling point in January 1827 when 4 men were charged with damaging the parish wheelbarrows used to cart away the picked stones and tip them in potholes in the roads. They were found guilty and fined 10 shillings each - a lot of money in those days. In the following October, four were fined a shilling each for "riot and tumult". In December, the parish overseer, William King, was confronted by rioters. He described how "they assembled in front of my farmhouse in a most riotous and noisy manner, and with many oaths and threatening gestures demanded money..... Their conduct was so violent and disorderly as to cause much fear and alarm to me and my family for the safety of our persons". Having vented their frustrations, the protesters drifted away but five leaders were identified and bound over to keep the peace, in the sum of £20 each. People being punished for trying to get a better life for their families isn't fair in my book.

Dissent eventually fizzled out when food prices fell and jobs became easier to find in towns. The poor and anyone who is unemployed are still demonised as lazy or as scroungers today. Among all the tawdry gossip and half-true stories in the Daily Mail, a recent headline proclaimed: "Shocking rise of 'something for nothing Britain'". It failed to explain adequately that most of those they referred to couldn't work because they had physical and mental health problems, which wasn't fair either.



A few weeks ago and before the annual World Economic Forum where politicians and business people met in Davos, 205 millionaires and billionaires called for governments around the world to “tax us, the ultra-rich, now” to raise funds that would help people struggling with the rising cost of living. “The current lack of action is gravely concerning” they said in an [open letter](#). “There’s only so much stress any society can take, only so many times mothers and fathers will watch their children go hungry while the ultra-rich contemplate their growing wealth. The cost of action is much cheaper than the cost of inaction, it’s time to get on with the job.” They recognised that current taxation systems are unfair.

Neither is the rising use of food banks which hard-working families have to use because their wages are so low. Meanwhile, members of government are so busy trying not to pay taxes, obtaining government contracts for family members and friends, bullying staff, reading porn, eating exotic parts of exotic animals when they should be serving their constituents or breaking the Covid and seatbelt laws that they aren’t up to fixing anything. I think that’s very unfair.

In the past, I’ve mentioned in *Rambling On* that ordinary people had to struggle for decades to get the vote. In May, use yours to elect members of Shillington Parish Council. Since I became one, I’ve seen many people from different backgrounds come and go and more will be retiring this year. There have been times, though, when the majority have been old blokes like me. I know that a lot of you young and female residents are very busy but if any of you can spare an evening a month, dealing with problems and opportunities in the parish, can be very rewarding. Having your participation would make the Parish Council more representative of the local population, which would be fair.



TIME TO GET WALKING AGAIN!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Bedfordshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/beds> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said “There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Bedfordshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you”.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

john@walkinginengland.co.uk



Voters and candidates: advice on how to get 'vote ready' for local and parish elections



In preparation for the local and parish elections which will be taking place on 4 May 2023, we are encouraging all eligible residents to make sure they are registered to vote and have their voices heard in the democratic process.

Full details about how to register or to check if you're already registered can be found on our website

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

We're also reminding residents that, following a change in government legislation, voter ID will be mandatory at polling stations. Acceptable forms of ID include a government-issued ID, such as a driving licence, passport, as well as travel passes and proof of age ID cards.

A comprehensive list of acceptable forms of identification can be found on [our website](#). For anyone that doesn't have any of these forms of ID, they can apply for a postal vote or the new Voter Authority Certificate. Details of how to do this can be also found on our website.

Make sure you look out for a household notification letter soon to be dropping through your letter box. This will advise you who is currently registered to vote at your address and will also contain a leaflet on voter ID.

For anyone interested in standing as a councillor, nomination papers must be delivered by hand to Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands SG17 5TQ.

Nomination papers can't be accepted before 14 March 2023. The deadline for handing in completed nomination forms is 4pm on Tuesday 4 April. A meeting for candidates and agents has been arranged for 6pm on Tuesday, 21 February 2023 at the council offices in Priory House in Chicksands. This session will cover the processes and requirements for nomination, arrangements for polling day and the count.

More information is available on our website or by emailing electoral.registration@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.



Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity Celebrates Its 70th Anniversary Year

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (Beds RCC) is the leading community development agency working across Bedfordshire, with a proven track record built over 70 years. 2023 is the 70th Anniversary Year of Beds RCC and it is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the charity's achievements during this time.

Beds RCC have a wide range of projects and services that benefit local communities across Bedfordshire. The work is carried out in four main areas: Supporting Communities, Rural Development, Community and Wellbeing, and Community Transport. The charity also owns three non-profit businesses: The Barn – Cardington, Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre and Tea Room, and Warden Abbey Community Vineyard.

Over the past 70 years, both past and current staff and volunteers at Beds RCC have been an integral part of improving the lives of those living in Bedfordshire.

Beds RCC was originally set up in 1953 as part of the Rural Community Councils set up across the United Kingdom. During the first three years, they became associated with many social aspects of rural life – such as playgrounds and playing fields; clubs and services for the elderly; village halls and Parish Councils - which promoted improvements to their local communities. Much of this work still continues today, alongside new projects and services which have evolved over the years.

Chief Executive Tracy Cowan said:

“I am incredibly proud of our wonderful staff and volunteer teams – both past and present - for all their hard work over the past 70 years. The fact that we can celebrate the year as the SME Awards ‘Community Business of the Year’ makes the achievement even greater and I’m looking forward to celebrating the year!”

2023 will be a busy year for the Charity as they celebrate their anniversary. Plans for the year include a ball, staff celebration, 70th Anniversary AGM, and more commemorative events. Keep an eye out on Beds RCC's Social Media for more information on these.

If you'd like to find out more about Beds RCC, please contact us:

The Old School, Cardington, Bedford MK44 3SX (registered office).

Tel: 01234 838771 / Email info@bedsrcc.org.uk

www.bedsrcc.org.uk

Follow us on Social Media:

Facebook: [@bedsrcc](https://www.facebook.com/bedsrcc) Twitter: [@bedsrcc](https://twitter.com/bedsrcc)

Instagram: [@bedsrcc](https://www.instagram.com/bedsrcc) LinkedIn: Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity



Shillington Baby & Toddler Group



We have a new team leading Shillington Baby & Toddler Group this term, but we still need additional volunteers to ensure the Group can continue to run each week. This doesn't need to be a week-in, week-out commitment! Ideally we'd like to have a pool of helpers who can commit to helping, e.g. once a month.

If you are interested and would like to know more, please email us at shillingtonbtg@outlook.com, message us on Facebook (@Shillingtonbabyandtoddlergroup) or come and chat to us at one of our Friday morning sessions in the Village Hall (9.30am - 11.30am in school term time).

 Find us on
Facebook

Registered Charity 1054966



We have started the new year in school with a visit from The Dogs Trust who delivered a special assembly, and the children have been able to learn when it is and isn't safe to approach dogs, and what to do if approached by an unfamiliar dog. They then took part in special workshops and learnt about dogs behaviour and what is suitable and safe for us to do when we are around dogs to help keep them safe and happy.

Together with Year 4 from Stondon Lower, our Year 4 class travelled to the O2 Arena in London to participate in the Young Voices concert. Young Voices was founded in 1997 and has been performing at the O2 since 2007. It is the largest children's choir in the world and our Year 4s joined in with approximately 9000 other school children to create one massive choir to perform to their parents and friends. The children were amazing and really did us proud.

Year 3 are due to visit the Natural History Museum at Tring during February to support their learning about animals and we are busy organising trips for the summer term for other classes to enjoy. We are pleased to be supported by our wonderful PTFA who generously contribute every year to the costs of class trips.

We will support Chums, a mental health and emotional wellbeing support for children, young people, and their families, again this year in school during mental health week which commences on 6th February. We are planning to have a non-uniform day wearing bright colours to shine a light on mental health awareness.

In Pixies, our popular Pre-school, we are now enrolling for September 2023. Please ring the school office to arrange to tour our fantastic new building and setting, and to meet the team to discuss starting your child's school journey with us.

If you, or anyone you know, are looking for a Reception year place in September please give us a ring to discuss our admissions process.

During January we said a sad farewell to Reverend Richard, he came into our weekly celebration assembly and was awarded his own Shillington Superstar certificate! We will miss him but wish him lots of happiness in his new adventure.





PIXIES Pre-School



FOR LITTLE LEARNERS WITH BIG IDEAS!

Pixies Pre-School is run and managed by the school, we take children from 2 years until they start in Reception class, and we work closely to provide a smooth transition into school.

Children can start in Pixies class when they are ready to be in a pre-school environment.

We offer:

- ☺ A vibrant and fun classroom
- ☺ Qualified, dedicated, and experienced staff
- ☺ Fantastic outdoor area providing stimulating learning experiences
- ☺ We provide a range of imaginative and stimulating learning activities
- ☺ 15 & 30 hour funding

Come and see our fantastic new building. Tours are available, contact the school office.



Outdoor Explorers

Outdoor Explorers is our Monday morning adventure where we encourage all children to appreciate the natural world whilst developing their confidence, self-esteem and help create more independent learners inspiring our children about the great outdoors.

The sessions are run outside on the school field by our staff, come rain or shine.

Limited spaces are available.
Please contact the school office
for more information.

For more information, please contact us at:

Shillington Lower School

Greenfields, Shillington, Nr Hitchin, SG5 3NX

Tel: 01462 711637 Email: office@shillingtonlower.co.uk

www.shillingtonstondon.co.uk

SHILLINGTON - WANDERBUS

Bookings & Info Tel : 0300-123-3023

www.wanderbus.org.uk E: thewanderbus@gmail.com



NEW TIMETABLE – VALID FROM 5th March 2023

Valid from 5th March 2023 “Stops at all Bus Stops on Request”

Valid from 5 th March 2023 “Stops at all Bus Stops on Request”			
W2 BEDFORD	- 2nd & 3rd Wednesday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Marquis Hill (W bound)		09.10	RR
Hillfoot Rd / Bury Rd all stops		09.12	RR
Interchange Retail Park		09.40	12.15
St Pauls Sq / Corn Exchange		09.55	12.00
W3S BIGGLESWADE	- Every Monday	OUT	RETURN
Bury Road, / Hillfoot Rd - all stops (S bound)		09.26/09.27	RR
Marquis Hill (E bound)		09.29	RR
Biggleswade - Retail Park		10.05	12.10
Station / Town Centre – pickup Church St bus stop o/s Asda		10.10	12.05
W5 BIGGLESWADE	- Every Friday	OUT	RETURN
Hanscombe End Rd		09.47	RR
High Rd. – all stops to Marquis Hill		09.51	RR
A1 Retail Park - Station / Town Centre		10.25 / 10.30	
Pickup - Church St., bus stop o/s Asda / A1 Retail Park			12.10 / 12.15
W6A CAMBRIDGE	- 4th Wednesday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Bury Rd / Hillfoot Rd – all stops		08.54	RR
High Rd / Marquis Hill (E bound) – all stops		08.56	RR
Downing St. o/s John Lewis		10.05	14.10
W8A ST ALBANS	- 1st Wednesday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Marquis Hill / High Rd – all stops		08.58	RR
Hanscombe End Rd.		09.01	RR
St Peters St. – o/s Santander Bank / pickup opp Santander		10.15	14.00
W10 ST NEOTS	- 2nd Thursday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Bury Road,/ Hillfoot Rd – all stops		09.23	RR
High Rd / Marquis Hill (E bound)		09.27	RR
St Neots - Market Place		10.15	12.20
W11 MILTON KEYNES	- 3rd Thursday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Marquis Hill (W bound) / High Rd		09.18	RR
Hillfoot / Bury Rd. – all stops		09.21	RR
MK - Midsummer Blvd / M&S (Stop J3)		10.10	
/ John Lewis (Stop E3)			13.15
W12 HITCHIN	- Every Tuesday	OUT	RETURN
Marquis Hill (W bound) / High Rd – all stops		09.23	RR
Hanscombe End Rd		09.27	
Hitchin – Bancroft Stop D - arrive		10.05	
Hitchin – Bancroft Stop G – depart (o/s Paperchase)			12.10
W14 WELWYN GARDEN CITY	- 1st Thursday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Bury Rd, / Hillfoot – all stops		09.00	
High Rd, opp Village Hall / Marquis Hill (E bound)		09.03	
WGC Central Bus Station – Stops A/B		10.00	12.15
OR = Stops on Request	o/s = Outside	opp = Opposite	RR = Return Stops on
	Request		

EXCURSIONS – BOOKINGS ONLY - 4TH THURSDAY OF MONTH

FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN by Donna Cameron

Donna's Garden Designs - ☎ 07833-670934



Happy New Year to all my lovely readers and customers!

As I worked in my own garden this crisp winter's morning, getting my daily fix! For I miss it terribly if I don't get in my garden, even if it's in passing, on my way to put the bins out! To escape the hustle and bustle, sitting and reflecting, immersing myself in nature for a few minutes. Watching a bee busily buzz into a snap dragon or a Robin scanning a newly dug patch for a tasty snack! Or taking in the scent a newly opening rose as I pass to feed the fish is for me, bliss!

I tidied up a rather depleted garden, for the snow we had before Christmas had given it quite a battering. Plants had clung on so long with the mild Autumn and I fear we were lured into a false sense of security! All of a sudden to be plunged into what seemed like the Ice Age! I trudged through the snowy fields, imagining I was in Narnia. It was magical. With the snow encompassing every branch and leaf as if sprinkled with glitter.

As I worked I peeled away the soggy leaves and brown stems of plants, thinking how sorry for itself everything seemed. Bare brown soil exposed instead of the teeming colour of the hot Summer, a distant memory! Reminding myself that this is why I love the seasons. Appreciating everything that they bring with their variety of different flowers, scents and shapes. On closer inspection not everything was as dormant as it first seemed. To my joy, bulbs had started to just break the surface!

So you see gardening helps you to look forward to an array of delights with all the plants having their moments of glory! There is always something, however small to lift our spirits in the garden every day.

'Slow Gardening' is as a friend reminded me now 'on trend' as they say! It has long been recognised as to the health benefits mentally and physically of being in a garden surrounded by Mother Nature. To enjoy the seasons and to wait to watch a garden develop and evolve. Long may it last as there really is no better place to be for body, mind and soul.



So I wish you all a Happy New year of enjoying your gardens. If stressed with the fast pace of daily modern life take five minutes in your garden or out on a walk and I assure you that you will feel uplifted.

Keep an eye out for the first snowdrop as it heralds in hope of new life and is nature's fanfare of the start of spring and warmer days ahead.

JOBS IN THE GARDEN

* Order seeds	* Clean pots and greenhouses	* Cut back ornamental grasses
* Feed birds and make sure they have a water supply	* Trim leaves off any infected Hellebore as they can suffer from blackspot.	* Protect any vulnerable plants from frost and snow
* Prune apple and pear trees	* Deadhead plants	* Chit potatoes
* Plan ahead for what you would like to grow this season	* Prune large flowered clematis	* Prune winter flowering shrubs that have finished flowering
	* Keep watering pots if in a sheltered location	* Prune wisteria
		* Prune hardy evergreen hedges

VILLAGE FACILITIES



SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

All enquiries please contact:
the **BOOKING CLERK** on ☎ **07376-682935**
e-mail: shillingtonvillagehall@yahoo.com

Large Hall - Stage - Small Meeting Room - Kitchen & Bar Facilities - Disabled Access & Toilet.

* **Children's Parties** * **Discos/Dances** * **Meetings** * **Toddler Groups** *
* **Indoor Bowls** * **Exhibitions** * **Circuit Training** * **Karate** *

The Car Park (when not in use by hall bookers) can be hired for events where village parking is limited.

The Village Hall Committee would politely request residents making use of the Car Park for overnight parking to please note (see booking sheet on Notice Board) that Hall Hirers take priority for parking for their bookings, if you could ensure you are not occupying the car park during these times.

Thank you ☺

SHILLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB

Greenfields, Shillington

☎ **07826-518667** (Gavin)



Current Opening Times:

* **Mondays: 7.30pm-11.00pm** * **Thursdays: 7.30pm-11.00pm** *
* **Fridays: 7.30pm-11.30pm** *
* **Saturdays: 12 noon - 8.00pm** * **Sundays 12 noon-8.00pm** *

⇒ *Licensed bar with variety of beers, wines and spirits at social club prices – £1 a pint less than most pubs.*

⇒ *Regular monthly live music and fund raising events and a great pool table.*

WILL ALSO BE SHOWING THE SIX NATIONS RUGBY ON THE BIG SCREEN.....

Don't forget to look out for updates on the Shillington Village & Shillington Social Club Facebook Pages.

Licensing Policy:

Children aged 16 and under are welcome with an appropriate adult until 9pm on any day we are open

Social Club Committee



SHILLINGTON CHILDMINDERS

Childminders provide safe, friendly home environments for children to play and have fun whilst gently learning through their play. We take children on outings to farms, play centres, splash parks, museums and libraries, as well as teach them life skills such as helping to do shopping, gardening and cooking.

We are registered with Ofsted, have public liability insurance, follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, undertake regular training including Safeguarding and First Aid and receive regular newsletters and bulletins from professional organisations.

We meet up at least once a week to provide children with the opportunity to learn social skills and experience different play resources. The children get to know all the childminders and children which enables us to offer the ability to cover holidays and other absences for each other.

Some of us are able to provide up to 15 hours of free childcare a week for eligible 2 year olds, as soon as care starts, in the same way that nurseries and pre-schools can. We are also able to provide the free sessions for all 3 and 4 year olds; at least 15 hours per week up to 30 hours per week (for 38 weeks of the year) depending on parental eligibility and the childminder's policy.

The free sessions normally start the term after the child's 3rd birthday. There may be additional charges to cover e.g. food and outings.

We each have differing childcare availability such as before and after school care, daytime childcare, overnight childcare, ad-hoc care or flexible care e.g. for shift workers.

Please contact us as below, or via Shillington Childminders on Facebook, if you have any childcare requirements for now or the future

Laura Forgham 01462 713638 lauraforgham@btinternet.com	Katie Brettell 01462 713054 katiebrettell@icloud.com	Deb Pateman 01462 338304 debpateman@msn.com
Carli Mauger 07912 549931 carlimauger@gmail.com		Laura Griffiths 07493 903621 lauralgriffiths820@gmail.com

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DECISIONS from CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL:

CB/22/04294/FULL – 26 Greenfields

Conversion of outbuilding to habitable space, and infill ground floor extension.

GRANTED 14/12/22

CB/22/03683/FULL – Shillington Memorial Playing Field, Greenfields

Siting of a storage container for storage of sports equipment.

GRANTED 22/12/22

CB/22/04617/FULL – 34 Hillfoot Road

Erection of a front porch and single storey rear extension. Replacement of existing concrete flat roof to side with bitumen covered timber flat roof.

GRANTED 23/01/23

NEW/REVISED APPLICATIONS:

CB/22/03692/FULL – Land to the West of Bury Road.

Retention and re-cladding of building for the storage of equine feed and equipment (retrospective).

(PC support)

CB/22/04671/FULL – 9A Hanscombe End Road, Shillington, SG5 3NA.

Change of use of an annex to a dwelling.

(PC support)

CB/22/04723/FULL – Land Adjacent to 141 High Road.

Development of 7 detached bungalows

(PC granted extension to 08/02/23)

FUTURE ROAD CLOSURES AS NOTIFIED BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL (for information only):

Upton End Road (from junction with Meppershall Road to no 75) for installation of piped ditch, footway and carriageway surfacing and verge works. The closure has been extended until 10th February 2023 (0800-1800hrs).

Bury Road outside no. 70 for noisy section 81 repair in carriageway by Anglian Water. The closure to take place on 7th March 2023 from 0930-1530hrs.



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS



CBC's trading standards department has provided the following numbers, to assist residents in identifying doorstep cold callers, purporting to be from energy or water companies, and enable checks with these organization if any reason for concern.

British Gas	General Enquiries	0800 048 0202
EDF Energy	Customer services	0800 096 9000
National Gas	Emergency Service Helpline	0800-111-999
npower	General Enquiries (landline)	0800 073 3000
	General Enquiries (mobile)	0330 100 3000
ScottishPower	General Customer Service (landline)	0800 027 0072
	General Customer Service (mobile)	0345 270 0700
SSE	General Enquiries	0800 980 8831
Anglian Water		0800 145 145
UK Power Networks	To report or get info on power cuts Text POWER and your postcode to 80876 www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk	National number 105

Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford Bedfordshire, SG17 5TQ. (www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)	
General enquiries	0300 300 8000 (customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)
Highways/Emergencies on the roads (fallen trees, etc). 24-hour emergency team	0300-300-8049
Dog Fouling/animal welfare	0300-300-8302
Flooding	0300-300-8049
Planning	0300-300-8307
Recycling/Flytipping	0300-300-8302
Police (Emergency)	999
Bedfordshire Police (non-Emergency)	101
Bus Information	0870-608-2608 or 01234-228337
Shillington Services (Martin Brogan) for washing machine repairs, etc... ..	07975-944394
ShillingtonHelp.....	(ShillingtonHelp@gmail.com) 01438-940160
The Crown Inn.....	01462-711667
The Musgrave Arms (Giuseppe).....	07739-864634 / pub 01462-712789
The View (formerly Live & Let Live).....	01582-882555

Parish Councillors – contact details:

Alison Graham 01462-713543	Tony Howells 01582-881611	John Hyde 07799-537346	Angus McCormick 01462-712096	David Mott 01462-711222
Tracey Petrie via the Clerk	Sally Stapleton 07711-504489	Blake Stephenson 07470-636033	Mark Thyne Via the Clerk	Derek Turner 01462-712462

VILLAGE CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 4 Friends of All Saints – Gold Cup Race Night – Village Hall – 7.00pm
- 5 Congregational Church Service – Mr. Neville Jephcote – 10.30am
- 7 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 8 Men's Club - meal at the Greyhound at Haynes
- 9 Wives Group - History of Hitchin British School by Andy Gibbs - 2pm to 4pm – Congreg. Church
- 11 Social Club – Karaoke with Chris from 8.30pm. *Happy birthday Mandy & Ollie!*
- 12 Congregational Church Service – Mr. Tony Frost – 10.30am
- 19 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Lionel Albon – 10.30am
- 22 Men's Club – lunch at The Musgrave Arms
- 26 Congregational Church joining Pirton Methodist Church for Service – 10.30am
- 27 Shillingfest 23 Meeting – Social Club – 8.00pm

MARCH

- 5 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Peter Hyde – 10.30am
- 6 Playing Field Management Committee Meeting – Social Club – 8.00pm
- 7 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 12 Congregational Church Service – Mr. Tony Frost – 10.30am
- 15 Village Hall Management Committee Meeting – Jubilee Room – 7.30pm
- 19 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Brenda Ballentine – 10.30am
- 25 All Saints – Events Committee – Quiz Night & Supper – Village Hall – 7.30pm
- 25 Social Club – Live Band – JUKEBOX from 9.00pm
- 26 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 27 Shillingfest 23 Meeting – Social Club – 8.00pm

APRIL

- 2 Congregational Church Service (Palm Sunday) – Mr. Andrew Little – 10.30am
- 4 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 9 Congregational Church Service (Easter Sunday) – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 15 Social Club – Live Band – MICE WITH GLASSES from 9.00pm
- 20 Friends of All Saints – AGM – All Saints' Church
- 26 Men's Club – visit to Royal Gunpowder Mills, Enfield

MAY

- 2 Annual Meeting of the Parish – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 4 Local & Parish Councillor elections – Shillington Polling Station @ Village Hall
- 7 Village Coronation Celebrations - "Picnic in the Park" @ The Playing Fields from 2pm
- 8 Playing Field Management Committee Meeting – Social Club – 8.00pm
- 13 Friends of All Saints – Hog Roast
- 16 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 17 Congregational Church – Christian Aid Coffee Morning – 10.00am to 12.30pm
- 17 Village Hall Management Committee Meeting – Jubilee Room – 7.30pm
- 31 Men's Club – Partners' event to Kathy Brown's Garden, Stevington + tea and cakes.

The **PARISH NEWS** is a voluntary community paper produced by **Sally Stapleton** and published by **Lonsdale Print Solutions Limited (01933-233034)** web: www.lonsdaleps.co.uk

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