

PARISH NEWS

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Issue 167 – August 2023

Deadline for October edition - Friday, 29th September 2023

PARISH COUNCIL

Shillington Parish Council allocates part its budget each year to provide grants for local organisations. At the June meeting, the Councillors discussed an application from the Congregational Church for a grant towards the cost of repainting the railings, gates and notice board. Councillors were sympathetic but were concerned that not enough quotations had been obtained for the work and noted that no attempt had been made to raise money or seek funding from elsewhere. Furthermore, the amount requested would have used up much of the available budget, leaving little for other applicants. Councillors decided to postpone making a decision until these issues had been addressed. Since then, several volunteers including Andy & Cheryl Gibbs have come forward to help with the work and made excellent progress.

The June Parish Council meeting was unusual as there were no new planning applications to discuss. However, Councillors had noted that some alterations were underway at the front of the shop and post office in High Road, which might require planning permission as the building is in the Conservation Area. Since then we have heard that Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) planners are investigating the situation.

It was back to normal in July when the Parish Council discussed seven planning applications. Before making a decision on whether to support each one, Councillors take into consideration the aspirations of the applicant and the impact on neighbours and other villagers. There are many other factors that may be taken into account including the impact on Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, the Settlement Envelope, highways safety and whether it is a site that CBC has already allocated for more housing.

The Village Hall Committee has asked the Parish Council to provide match funding for an application that they are making to CBC's Community Asset Grant Scheme to cover the cost of repairs to the flat roof which is leaking and installing solar panels. Councillors were concerned that the Parish Council was being asked to pay a significant proportion of the costs and that not enough quotations had been sought. They agreed to make £20,000 available from funds that had been accumulated for use on the new community building which has now been shelved.

With a new Parish Clerk in post, it was agreed to pay for her membership of the Society for Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and training for the Introduction to Local Council Administration (ILCA). To make her job easier, council are providing a mobile phone and a pre-paid debit card that can be used for small transactions. The Council has also welcomed four new members and the Chairman would be liaising with all Councillors to identify their strengths and weaknesses to see if working groups could be set up to improve council efficiency, whilst respecting the principles of democracy and openness.

The Parish Council heard from a parishioner who was concerned that building work on some of the houses in Greenfields might adversely affect the swifts nesting under the eaves of many of the roofs. The issue was passed to Grand Union Housing for urgent attention.

The agenda for September's meeting will feature a discussion about speeding. A recent Speedwatch session had found that 57 out of 85 cars were speeding in High Road.

For all Parish Council issues please contact:

Ms. Lauren Darnell, Clerk to the Parish Council
45 Tiger Moth Way, Lower Stondon, Hitchin, Herts. SG16 6GN. ☎ To be confirmed
email: clerk@shillington-pc.gov.uk <https://shillington-pc.gov.uk>

ANNOUNCEMENTS / ITEMS / NEWS IN BRIEF



CHURCH HILL ALLOTMENTS

The Annual Rents are due at the end of September for the Allotments at Church Hill. Please advise us if you wish to terminate an agreement or wish to take on a new Allotment.

Hayley ☎ 07802-359495

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**



Jenny Kingsnorth would like to thank her friends for their help and kind donations towards a seat which has been placed in Hanscombe End Road in memory of Geoff.

He so enjoyed the countryside and living in Shillington.

I hope everyone will be able to enjoy the pleasure of the seat when visiting the Village.

DON'T FORGET TO SAVE THE DATE:
ANNUAL FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR (20 minute show)
Saturday, 28th October @ 7.00pm
on The Playing Field



Gates open at 5pm – so come along, visit the stalls, grab a special burger from our great catering team and decent beer (or wine...) at the Social Club or WI cake and coffee or Discolicious soup.

Hope to see you there.... *Enquiries to Gavin or Sally.*



Happy 40th Birthdays to Krystal & Vicky
from ALL at The Social Club





ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SHILLINGTON & GRAVENHURST

www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk



UPDATE

As previously reported All Saints Church is still in 'Vacancy' and as such we do not have our own designated priest. It will still be some time before a new Priest-in-Charge is appointed, however the church is carrying on. We continue to welcome a number of visiting clergy including the Revd. Roger Wood - the former Vicar of St. Margaret's Church, Streatley who continues to support us together with Lay Ministers - Keith Callard from Meppershall and Ruth Gray from Stondon churches.

July and August have been a busy two months at the church with two weddings, a wedding blessing and two Baptisms. On those Sundays when we find ourselves without a priest we will manage with services of Morning Worship with Prayers & Hymns, sometimes taken by a 'Reader' or a member of the congregation. The start time of Sunday morning services remains at 9.30am.

We are hopeful that our third round of recruiting, due in late September, will produce a suitable candidate for the post of 'Priest-in Charge' and I will keep you informed of progress. Other activities like Bell ringing, Choir and Bible study continue as normal.

The combined Churches 3C's (Coffee, Cake and a Chat) mornings are held at the Congregational Church between 10.00am and 12.00 noon, each Monday. All are most welcome, this is not a fund raising event.

Since the last edition the church has run several successful events including 24 Hours of Live Music in the Church - 'Rock around the Clock' in early June and the annual 'Flying Teddies' in mid-July. Both events organised by the 'Friends of All Saints Shillington'. Other events have been the church stalls and sideshows at 'Shillingfest 23' on the Playfield in late June and Strawberry Cream Teas in the church in early July.

Sunday Tea and Cake continues at the church from 3.00pm to 5.00pm until Sunday the 24th September.

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

Dick Brewer on behalf of **All Saints Church PCC**



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SHILLINGTON & GRAVENHURST

www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk



WHAT'S GOING ON

Main point of contact on church matters is now the **Churchwardens - Liz & Dick Brewer**
☎ **01462 711594**. Visiting clergy will lead services until a new vicar is appointed.

SERVICES:

Our Sunday Morning Service is still at 9.30am mostly with Communion. Sung Evensong is on the 1st Sunday in the month at 6.00pm normally at All Saints, Shillington but on Sunday 3rd September it will be held at St Mary's Church, Lower Gravenhurst.

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**.

WEDDINGS and BAPTISMS

- ♥ 28th May - John Dobson - Baptism
- ♥ 28th May - Leo Dobson - Baptism
- ♥ 23rd July - Samuil Nicholson – Baptism
- ♥ 23rd July - Wedding of Ian Reddall to Tammie Lawson

FUNERALS/BURIALS/THANKSGIVING SERVICES:

- ✝ 30th May - Joel Hudson Burial of Ashes.
- ✝ 22nd June - Peter Page – Burial of Ashes
- ✝ 5th July - John Carter – Funeral Service followed by cremation.

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

June 2023:

1st no. 14 – Trish Humphries 2nd no. 8 – Liz Carboni 3rd no. 47 – John Catton

July 2023:

1st no. 135 – Lene Brewer 2nd no. 120 – Jim Marshall 3rd no. 64 – Michael Bradley

OTHER NEWS FOR 2023:

- * Come and join us for afternoon tea, cake and a chat every Sunday from 3.00pm to 5.00pm in the Church until the end of September.
- * Our Harvest Festival Service will be at 9.30am on Sunday 1st October followed at 12.30pm by our Harvest Lunch and Auction of donated produce proceeds from the auction is for the Bishops' Harvest Appeal. Both events will be held in the church and tickets will be available by early September.

Best wishes

Liz Brewer (Church Warden) lizbrewer313@gmail.com ☎ **01462-711594**

REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BLAKE STEPHENSON

- July 2023 -

Our network of footpaths are used heavily this time of year and it's great to bump into so many of you whilst out walking. Rights of way have dominated the agenda throughout our villages, but I'll also touch briefly on highways, schools for the future, and development; far too much for a short article ...



Footpath 19 (from Hanscombe End towards Hexton) - is overgrown! I took our Officer on a walk to see for herself, and contractors should now be ensuring that the growth is cut back to 1.5m per the contract, maintaining access along the length of the footpath. More work needs to be prioritised (in competition with other Highways works!) to tackle the over-grown Willow Trees along the route. If you haven't walked over to Hexton, with a pit stop at The Raven, I'd recommend it.

Highways – The Parish Council has been pressing me, quite rightly, about the speed of traffic through the village, and on improvements they think are necessary to our road network, particularly at Marquis Hill. I'm meeting the highways team in August to run through a very long list of issues throughout the entire ward, and I'll also be questioning our PCC about speeding (plus promises on community policing) at the next Police and Crime Panel meeting.

Schools for the future put on hold! – I'm sorry to report that the Independent administration at Central Bedfordshire has paused the programme to move from three tier to two tier schools. It's a bad decision, unnecessary, and I find the reasons given misleading. I'm working with colleagues to scrutinise the decision and we're trying hard to get the programme back on track. I'm happy to talk with any parents worried about this so do get in touch if you would like.

Greenwoods - Some of you may be at a loss as to why the Greenwoods application has not yet been determined. The target date has been repeatedly delayed and it appears that the delay lies with the applicant rather than the Council, with much of the information supplied considered inadequate. We'll keep a watching brief!

And finally ... for the golf fans out there - I was pleased to approve (at Development Management Committee) plans to invest millions of pounds into the Luton Hoo golf course, which is hoped will help the venue secure the Ryder Cup in 2031.

If you have Facebook, please follow my page for more updates:

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

Blake



Time certainly flies fast when there's a lot going on; I can't believe that it's August already.

Guy Lambourne of Wassledine was our speaker at the beginning of June. He told us about 'Making a Living from Selling Sticks' and his talk was most interesting. He brought along some beautiful plant supports which he had made from willow grown at Wassledine. His talk was followed up by an evening walk around his wildlife-friendly woodland (July). After a captivating walk through the woods, we were treated to tea, cake and storytelling in a tranquil clearing amongst the trees.



The WI's cake stalls proved very popular at both the 'Rock around the Clock' and 'Shillingfest' events. A small group of members provided a fifteen-minute musical interlude at the former - they were most impressive. They are now thinking of taking up new careers! July's 'American Supper' buffet was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We certainly have a lot of great cooks amongst our members.

The WI has a break during August. Our first meeting after the summer will be a jigsaw puzzle evening on Thursday the 7th September. It will be a great relaxing opportunity to have a chat and to catch up with everyone after the break. Please note that we are trialling an earlier start time of 7.30 pm. As always, visitors are very welcome to all our meetings (£4).

Due to unforeseen circumstances, our October speaker has had to cancel her talk. We are very fortunate that David Duker (I had planned to book him next year) was available on the 5th October. He's an excellent speaker. He'll tell us about the remarkable story of Battle of Britain pilot Squadron Leader Victor Ekins DFC.



Theatre trips are a new introduction to our list of clubs and activities. Members went to see HMS Pinafore in Hitchin in April and a trip to Cambridge to see Agatha Christie's 'And Then There Were None' has been arranged for November.



We are enjoying the evening walks (Walking Club), exploring the many footpaths around Shillington. We have also had some lovely meals (with the Lunch Club and the Supper Club) at different pubs, restaurants and bistros. The Book Club meets once a month as well.

Our meetings take place on the first Thursday of the month at the Congregational Church at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are very welcome (£4).

For further information please contact:

Julia Bruce, President on 01462 712412 or

Jo Carroll, joxcarroll@btinternet.com

HEDGEHOGS & GOING GENTLY

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

When one of my children rings me at 7.30am, I usually think “Uh-Oh”. This particular morning, it was my daughter and she sounded upset. She’d just found a badly injured hedgehog; she thought it had been hit by a car. She’d put it in a box and when I first lifted the towel covering the little creature, I thought it was no longer with us. Then it flinched slightly. The injury on its side was horrible. It didn’t look as if it had been caused by a car, it looked as if the hedgehog had been injured by a strimmer. I said I’d drop it off at the vets in Stondon; we both thought it would be euthanized.



About an hour later, the phone rang. The cheerful voice on the end of the line was that of the vet. She told me that the wound had been deep but hadn’t damaged any vital organs. They’d flushed it out and stitched it up - the prickles were a challenge! They had also given the hedgehog antibiotics and a pain killer. It was a “big boy” and he was already up and about. I was surprised at how emotional I felt when I heard the news. This was partly because it was lovely to hear that he was alive and doing well but it was also, I think, down to the fact that the vet and her team had been so wonderfully caring and kind.

Veterinary practices across the country have issued a stark warning after they have been inundated with hedgehogs being seriously injured as a result of people using strimmers to cut hedges, long grass and vegetation (May 2023). A couple of days before Big Boy was found, the council had been cutting the grass. Is the price for being really neat and tidy, or short on time (strimmers are quick and easy to use), to inflict pain and suffering on creatures which mean us no harm? Many of them do so much good. Hedgehogs, frogs, toads, slow-worms and ground beetles are great to have in the garden as they eat slugs and snails. Bumblebees like long grass and they are essential pollinators.



Earlier this year, it was upsetting to see the damage done to the hedge along Shillington High Road. It hadn’t been trimmed back; it had been smashed and chewed. Nature nurtures us - this is why it is known as Mother Nature. For many decades we have been wounding her, burying her under concrete and tarmac and poisoning her with chemicals, etc. This is definitely not the way to treat a mother. She is now seriously fighting back and is giving as good as she gets; the more we damage her, the more she is damaging us. We need to change tack here as we can’t carry on like this – we’ve got to go gently with her, and treat her with respect, or we’re up the creek without a paddle.

If you have enjoyed reading my articles in the past, you might be interested in a little book I’ve written. It’s called ‘Pulling the Wool Over our Eyes’ and contains these articles and lots more. The powers that be have been pulling the wool over our eyes (hence the title) for decades about housing, etc., and the state of nature in the UK. This book gives you the information, and the knowledge, to question and to fight back.

Annie x



THANK YOU..... THANK YOU.....

by *Revd. Angus McCormick* ☎ 01462-712096

Minister of Shillington Congregationalist Church

Some years ago I was a chauffeur to my wife as she delivered the drugs or prescriptions to local residents in Shillington. Each week we would have quite a long list of people to deliver to as part of Shillington Care service to the community. My memories remind me of so many wonderful characters not least in what was Scyttels Court where I could leave the car and help deliver the drugs and then spend some lovely time with the residents of the home. A former clerk to the council, Joan Wilson, was one of many such lovely people there. The young Joan English (92 ?) moved to a bungalow nearby and still enjoys life elsewhere but loves to hear about the village and her time at the Congregational church. Shillington Care was really the idea of Margaret & John Webster and sadly John passed away but his legacy continues. The volunteers had full time jobs and family care but then and now keep an essential service going.

THANK YOU TO SHILLINGTON CARE.

Two lovely Christian volunteers have kept a warm and friendly session going at the Congregational church along with other help and support. It has been helpful to those who want a chat, coffee and maybe cake...Just drop in. Someone might even be playing the organ! Monday is such a good time to have a break before the week becomes too much for some or just a help to keep going. These volunteers give so freely of their time and a listening ear. I have personally valued such an opportunity and welcomed new friends in the village. Great to have a place that helps enhance our sense of community. Not raising money, not having to buy anything but you can make a donation for the cake and drink, but essentially enjoying company and usually a laugh.



THANK YOU FOR THE CAKE, COFFEE AND OPEN SESSIONS.

“Do they take cat food?” “What about 2 dozen bottles of water?” “Sorry but I can only buy so much now with the weekly budget I put aside for the Food Bank”. “The best I can give or do now is to make a donation so is that OK”? So much thought goes into what many people are doing to help others who need the food bank. Many people make a covenanted donation. Many give their time as volunteers at the collection and delivery centres. It is the anonymous giving in all its generosity that so often makes me feel humbled but uplifted. Yes everything is needed and more sadly. All age groups and backgrounds benefit. Sometimes more than one journey a week is needed to deliver what the village and the church has donated. That has been going on for over 6 years now and I am still so please we are helping.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE FOOD BANK.

Doesn't it look lovely ? I mean look at the colours. Look at the tidiness and how well kept it is. At times of special reflection there is extra effort made to show how we reflect as a village on these important times such as the late Queen's death or at Remembrance. Yes the village War Memorial garden is something to be proud of! The railings are freshly painted, the memorial is up to date and it is always there for all of us. Of course it needs care and attention. There are two especially busy volunteers now who keep this special place in order for all of us. Sadly this memorial reminds us too that such sacrifice on our behalf still continues though many of the names are not known to everyone now, such is the passage of time. We will remember not to forget that our freedom and village life has not been easily won.



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO KEEP THE WAR MEMORIAL IN ORDER.

Thanks Sally for the flowers around our village always cheerful and beautiful!

Every blessing and so good to be able to say ' THANK YOU.'

Rev. Angus



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NEWS

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

SERVICES:

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



HARVEST FESTIVAL:

We will celebrate our Harvest Festival on Sunday, 3rd September at 10.30am. Donations of non-perishable groceries or monetary gifts would be welcome for the Bedford Food Bank.

FORWARD NOTICE - CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL:



Plans are in hand to hold our Christmas Tree Festival once again this year over the weekend of Friday, 1st to Sunday, 3rd December. Please put this date in your diary. Further details will be available in the next issue of the Parish News.

BEDFORD FOODBANK:

Thanks to the generous gifts made by the local community of both goods and monetary donations, regular deliveries continue to be made to help those most in need.

Items currently in short supply:

UHT Fruit Juice	Large tins of Potatoes	Tinned Ham/Chicken – 250gm
Jars Curry Sauce	Tinned Rice Pudding	Cup-a-Soup
Jars of Jam	Jelly	Bags of Rice 500gm
Biscuits		Cream Crackers

FUNERALS CONDUCTED BY REVD ANGUS MCCORMICK:

- † Robert Henry Harger Nellist
- † Marion Pamela Butts
- † Janet Butts

“Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted”.

SHILLINGTON MEN'S CLUB

(Now in its 18th year)

On the evening of the 14th June 17 members enjoyed a meal at the Fairway Bistro at the Lower Stondon Golf Club. Members enjoyed a two course meal of Pork Stroganoff, Mash and Veg followed by Vanilla Cheesecake this was well received by the members. George Knight won the Raffle and a great night was had by all. Thankyou to Paul Bruce for organising this event.



Our June cultural visit took place on the 28th June at the Didcot Railway Centre for the "Steam Day". Here 14 members enjoyed short rides on two steam locomotives travelling First, Second or Third Class depending on your preference, it really was like travelling back in time! There were also static engines, carriages and a complete control centre to see. The small Artifact Museum on site featured a host of Great Western Railway memorabilia which rounded off our visit. A big thankyou to Michael Bradley for organising this splendid event.

On the evening of the 12th July 19 members enjoyed a great meal at the Green Man in Great Wymondley. Here members tucked into a two course meal of Steak Pie or Chicken & Leek Pie, Chips or Mash and Gravy followed by Pavlova or Apple Pie & Cream. This was as usual washed down by copious amounts of Real Ale or Wine. Graham Williams won the raffle. A Big Thankyou to Colin Smith for finding this excellent venue and organising this event.

On the 26th July 8 members travelled into London by train to visit the British Postal Museum in Mount Pleasant. First we visited the underground Mail Rail which was built in 1927 and used right up to the 1970'S to deliver mail underground all over central London as this was deemed the most efficient way of doing so. We took an interactive train ride on the small scale locomotive route, stopping strategically to enjoy informative short films along the way explaining what work went on to deliver the mail through the decades, including the war years. Mail delivery never stopped throughout these years.



Afterwards we crossed the road to the Postal Museum where we had lunch in the cafe and then visited the viewing gallery, here there were exhibits of Mail Transport vehicles from the Stage Coaches to the present day. There was also a great display of different post boxes used over the decades. The final theme was the advent of the Postal Stamp from the "Penny Black" in 1840 right to the present King's stamps of today. It was a great day out and well worth the visit. Thankyou to Michael Bradley for organising this very enjoyable and interesting visit.

The Committee would like to thank our Chairman Kevin Johnson and his wife Nicola for their tremendous effort in manning our Promotional Tombola stall at the "Shillingfest" along with some help from one or two members. They raised an incredible amount of £333 for our designated Shillington Charity. Well done to all who contributed.

Finally, the Club would like to welcome our new member Mr Alan Little from Shillington. Welcome Alan, and we hope to see you at our next planned event!

Future events:

- * 9th August- Barbeque at the Greyhound Pub at Haynes.
- * 23rd August – Musgrave Arms Summer Lunch Social.
- * 10th September- Open Gardens at Howbury Farm Flowers (Partners Event).

Membership:

Remains stable at 41 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:

<p>Events Co-ordinator - Michael Bradley (01462 711162) Email - michael894bradley@btinternet.com</p>	<p>Chairman – Kevin Johnson (01462 712768) Email – kevinjohnson360@msn.com</p>
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SHILLINGTON WIVES GROUP

The Wives Group enjoyed a good 2022/2023 session with excellent Speakers, Demonstrations, Social afternoons and Outings. We were pleased when 4 new members joined us and we were pleased to welcome them.

The Wives Group concluded their programme in May with their A.G.M. and are now on a Summer Break.

We will be starting our new planned programme on 14th September 2023 at 2pm in the Congregational Church where we will be having a Social afternoon when we will be welcoming back old Members and hopefully some new ones who would like to join us. We will be serving light refreshments and drinks.

Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month from 2pm to 4pm from September 2023 to May 2024, with the exception of December and April. We have outings arranged for Christmas and in April we celebrate 60 years of the formation of the Wives Group when we will be organising a Celebration Outing for members.



Come and join us in September.

SHILLINGTON SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

MEET AT

SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Monday afternoons – 2.00 - 5.00pm // Friday evenings – 7.15 - 9.15pm



We are now on our summer break, but before our short mat bowls season ended we had a very competitive and exciting “in-house” competition finals day.

After some excellent games where members showed off their short mat bowls skills, and supporters watched on with nervous anticipation.

The winning teams/individuals were:

- ☺ *Fours: Clive Mark, John Clark, Alan Huddy and Julia Bruce*
- ☺ *Triples: Paul Bruce, Michelle Conlon, Bill Gearing*
- ☺ *Pairs: Brenda Huddy and Trevor Knight*
- ☺ *Singles: Bill Gearing*

Congratulations to all who took part in the “in-house” competition. We also concluded our Aussie pairs league, with the final taking place after this year’s AGM. Congratulations to Julia Bruce and Bill Gearing.

As you will see there are many disciplines within the sport of short mat bowls, so can be of interest to those who like to play as an individual as well as those who enjoy the idea of team competition. The club is not only about playing bowls we are also a social group and finished off the season with a final’s day meal at the Three Horseshoes in Norton. The members enjoyed a fantastic three course meal, washed down with their tipples of choice. A great evening was had by all.

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. Club members also have the opportunity to play at Hertfordshire county or National level.

Anyone interested in joining the club is welcome to come and have a try to see if they like it. We have spare sets of bowls available and you only need to have a flat pair of shoes with you to enable you to play. 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.

We open again after our summer break week commencing 11th September 2023

For further information please contact
Michelle Conlon (01462 713426) conlonmichelle@sky.com
Or **Derek Lewison (01462 711504)**

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



We did it! She did it!

A huge thank you to Joy Robertson who came up with the idea of **24 hours of Live Music in the church** and made it happen in June. Thank you to all the musicians of all kinds, to the village organisations that helped with refreshments and all the people that helped in any capacity. And to everyone who supported by coming along at different times (in large numbers during the day, and the stalwart few through the small hours!), by tuning in to the live feed and by donating.

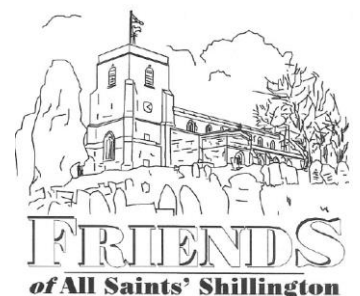
Over £2,700 was raised towards our church maintenance and restoration projects. A great result!

Children and families were out in force again in July enjoying the spectacle and adventure of their **'flying teddies'** and soft toys riding the zip wire down from the top of the church tower across the churchyard. It was a windy day - just two teddies had to be rescued from the church roof - but the views, and the cakes were as special as ever! Another reminder of the value of our ancient church building at the heart of our community.

We are fortunate to have eight mediaeval churches within walking distance of Shillington, and many more within cyclists' range. Sadly two, in Upper and Lower Gravenhurst, are closed. On Saturday 9th September we will be joining in the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust sponsored **'Bike & Hike'**.

The Trust regularly gives us grants for our restoration projects, so we are keen to support their major fundraiser and role in keeping churches open. There will be groups setting off from the church at 10:00 doing walks of 6, 8 and 10 miles to local churches. Or you can do your own walk or bike ride. If you are unable to take part, you can sponsor others! See the poster on the front cover or visit the Friends' website (<https://foas-shillington.org.uk>) for more details.

Sunday Teas will continue to be served 3pm-5pm until the end of September in and outside church when weather permits. Watch out on Facebook for the dates when there will be live music.



Meanwhile, if you'd like to donate, join the Friends, or just find out more you can use the form on the next page.

Best wishes,
Peter Lambert
Friends of All Saints church,
pglambert@fastmail.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.





SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Registered Charity No: 300066



*On the 29th January 1921 Mrs. Hanscombe and others donated a 'Deed of Gift' to the Trustees of the site of the Hanscombe Memorial Hall, Shillington in the county of Bedford.
Once constructed the Hall was called "Hanscombe Memorial Hall".*

The Village Hall continues as a community resource and, through a small team of volunteers, we're keen to make sure it delivers on its promise and to provide a warm and welcoming venue for our local community.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?

The Shillington Village Hall Committee is currently looking for new volunteers/Trustees to join us. We meet at the Village Hall every two months and would love to hear from you if you would like to learn more! Please reach out initially via shillingtonvillagehall@yahoo.com

Just to remind you the Village Hall is available for hire for one-off, or block bookings. It's very popular for birthday parties so we would recommend giving lots of notice. For a quote and to check availability, please get in contact via the email above or call our Booking Secretary - **Margaret ☎ 07376-682935.**

Currently, we have the following regular bookings who are always looking for new joiners.

- ✳ Bowls Club: Monday, 14.00 - 17.00 and Friday, 19.00 - 22.00
- ✳ Sewing Group: Monday & Tuesday: 19.00 - 21.00
- ✳ Painting Group: Tuesday, 10.00 - 12.00
- ✳ Karate Club: Thursday, 18.30 - 20.30
- ✳ Children's Dance Class: Friday, 16.15 - 19.00.

If you are thinking about setting up a new community group and need a hall, do get in touch! Having full utilisation of our hall will allow us to improve and complete much-needed renovations to provide the best community experience we can.

We have projects we would like to complete, including a new village hall roof/solar panels and are looking for external funding to support us. If you would be able to provide any financial support, or have any great fund raising ideas, please get in touch.

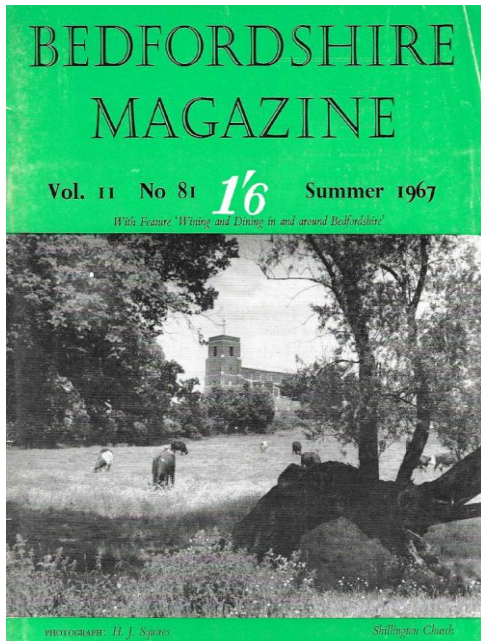
We would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to Rev'd Angus McCormick for his support as the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee over recent years and have pleasure in extending a warm welcome to Cllr. Mark Thyne with effect from 19th July 2023.

With best wishes and we look forward to hearing from you!
Shillington Village Hall Management Committee.

RAMBLING ON with DEREK TURNER

☎ 01462-712462

derek.turner@phonecoop.coop



From 1947, the charming Bedfordshire Magazine was published regularly. Describing itself as a “quarterly miscellany and review of Bedfordshire life and history”, it contained a variety of articles from the specific (Basking making in Biggleswade) to the more general (Geology of North Bedfordshire) along with the latest news and puzzles that required local knowledge to solve as well as Eric Meadow’s wonderful photographs. Compiling it must have been a real labour of love for the editor and it thrived for many years with no shortage of contributors and occasional mentions of Shillington. Unlike the local magazines of today, the articles were the main features and not just padding between the adverts. However, it came to an end after edition 208 was published in 2009. You can still find copies in libraries and I have a few in my possession which I treasure.

John Dony, a Luton teacher, was also an authority on the county’s wildlife, and wrote for the magazine from the start. Even then, he had noticed that wildlife habitats were often being destroyed by development or changing farming practices and made a strong case in issue no. 1 for setting up nature reserves in Bedfordshire. Although the post-war government is remembered principally for establishing the NHS, the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act was a major piece of legislation that paved the way for recording public rights of way and setting up National Parks, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and nature reserves. Dony got his way in 1953 when the first Local Nature Reserve in Bedfordshire was designated at Knocking Hoe in Pegsdon. Seventy years on, it’s still a wonderful place to visit and a tribute to the forward thinking that the politicians of the day showed in making it possible.

More recently, our MP announced that she was standing down “with immediate effect”. It was a complete surprise as it’s unusual for an MP with such a large majority to throw in the towel in mid-Parliament but Nadine Dorries has never been the usual kind of MP. For a start, she came from a council estate in a deprived part of Liverpool, her parents separated when she was young and she claimed that a vicar had abused her. She became a nurse for a few years but appears to have raised her aspirations after meeting her husband, Paul, and ran a community school in Zambia where he was working. Back in the UK, she established a company offering child care.



From the time she was elected in 2005, she has attracted controversy, initially by wanting to make life more difficult for women seeking abortions. She has always been prominent on social media and wrote a blog where she stated “I am here to represent everyone in Mid Bedfordshire and will continue to do so whilst always carrying with me the knowledge that it is the hugest privilege and honour to do so”. However, the MP's standards watchdog criticised her in 2010, saying her blog misled constituents about how much time she was spending in her constituency. Dorries replied that her “blog is 70% fiction and 30% fact! It is written as a tool to enable my constituents to know me better and to reassure them of my commitment to Mid Bedfordshire”.

How much of a commitment is doubtful as she lives in the Cotswolds and nobody seems to have seen her here much and not at all for over a year.

In 2013, she was employing one of her daughters as her "office manager" at a salary and cost to the taxpayers of over £40,000. She was among the highest-earning staff member employed by an MP who was also a close relative. She must have been good at the job as she lived 96 miles away from the office. Subsequently, Dorries took on another daughter as a "senior secretary" with a salary of least £30,000.

In October 2013, she showed her generosity by calling a fellow Conservative MP "one of parliament's slimiest, nastiest MPs" on her Twitter account. While supposedly representing us, she has also written what I'm told are trashy story books and made appearances on tawdry TV shows. For this, she also got reprimanded for failing to disclose how much she'd been paid which broke the MP's Code of Conduct. Boris Johnson made her Culture Secretary where she showed her ignorance about how Channel 4 was funded. She now hosts a talk show on a minor TV channel where, I'm led to believe, she continues making huge gaffes. She hasn't been seen in Parliament recently. Indeed, she only voted 6 times during the year to June. She is clearly in a huff that the committee that scrutinises nominees for honours decided that she didn't merit the peerage that her pal, Boris Johnson, had recommended and may yet be in trouble for a strongly-worded letter demanding to know why. I know what I'd tell her.



The rags to riches story of Nadine Dorries should have been an inspiration to anyone from a disadvantaged background, but she has regularly disgraced herself and continues to do so. Everyone expected she would no longer be our MP by now but as I write, she hasn't yet resigned.

All the political parties have geared up for a by-election but it won't surprise me at all if she hangs on until a general election is called. In the meanwhile, we, her constituents, are left in limbo. We are not being served but she is continuing to draw her salary and there is no way of forcing her out. It's an utter disgrace. If only the politicians of today had the vision and generosity of those in the post-war years and put the interests of others above their own, the world would be a better place. Let's hope that our next MP is one of former.

Make sure that you find out as much as you can about the candidates and use your vote when the time comes. Check that you're on the electoral register and what ID you need when you go to vote. There's more information at:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/32/electoral_registration_and_elections



Festus Akinbusoye
Conservative



Dave Holland
Reform UK



Emma Holland-Lindsay
Liberal Democrats



Gareth Mackey
Independent



Cade Sibley
Green Party



Alistair Strathern
Labour



Alan Victor
True and Fair Party



SHILLINGTON SPITFIRES CRICKET CLUB

IN FULL SWING

Shillington's very own cricket club, the Spitfires is now up and running with a full squad and games under its belt. Since announcing an intention to bring back cricket to the Memorial Field at Shillington back in January the team has now had regular training sessions and managed to compete in several games over the early part of summer.

The team had never met before a nets session in early April and now is a solid unit with a squad of more than 20 players – but we're always on the lookout for more! At the time of writing, the team has competed in four games against other nearby villages. These have all been 20Twenty games and the Spitfires have done well in all of them. The opening game for the club was against Offley & Stopsley Cricket Club and was lost in the last bowl of the game.



Since then, the team has faced Hexton Cricket Club and Pirton Cricket Club, twice. Although, and every game was a good contest between the two teams, the Spitfires are still searching for their first win. The Club would like to thank the teams who have hosted the team this season, as currently the Spitfires don't have a home ground...

Moving Forward



Speaking of grounds, the team's committee has had fantastic support from the Playing Field Committee in terms of trying to set up a cricket square on the playing fields. We hope to have a home ground for next season, but the work to create a cricket square is intense and time-consuming, however everyone is pulling together to ensure it happens in the near future.

The club has also been very fortunate so far with fantastic support from its two main sponsors: The Ethical Wealth Project and FPM Facility Services. Both have helped to ensure these first few steps in the club's creation has been smooth and the club would like to thank both sponsors for their continued support.

*The club currently has two remaining fixtures, the first is against Henlow on **Sunday 27th August** and the other is a rematch against Offley & Stopsley CC on **Thursday 31st August** at **18:00**, so come and support your local cricket team. More are being arranged all the time, so keep an eye on the club's social channels*

And if you want to get involved, the club always on the lookout for more talent, so come and find us on the Playing Field on Thursday evenings from 18:00 or find us on Facebook and Instagram (search for Shillington Spitfires CC) to get in touch.



ALL SAINTS CHURCH SHILLINGTON

THE CHURCHYARD

All Saints' churchyard is a truly beautiful place, used by many to walk in or sit and enjoy the peace. What many don't know is that it is looked after entirely by a *team of volunteers*, who regularly give up their time to cut the grass and take part in working parties to care for the churchyard.

In 1990 Shillington All Saints churchyard was designated a “**County Wildlife Site**”. This was in recognition of the great diversity of wild plants growing there, most of which are now absent from nearby improved pastures and arable fields. This is why many areas of the churchyard are left to grow long in the summer and *is not due to neglect*. Our aim is to preserve the richness of plant, bird and insect life and to balance this with the needs and feelings of people tending graves.



The maintenance team's work includes taking care of the Garden of Remembrance, and we try to keep the memorial plaques clear of leaves and weeds. Only where mementos have been left for some time and are clearly past their best, do we remove them, particularly if glass or plastic are involved.

Improvements which are at the planning stage are the removal of the remaining trees just below the tower, and the large self-set laurel. The other trees in the avenue were blown down in the storms of February 2022 and we would like to open out the view from the base of the tower.

New volunteers are always welcome. It's a great way to keep fit, have fun and meet like-minded people. Whether you can make a regular commitment to mowing a section of the churchyard or keeping old graves tidy, or whether you are happy just to be called upon to help with one-off projects, your contribution will be much valued. You don't have to be young or super fit – just interested and willing to be involved.

*Our next churchyard working party will take place on
Wednesday 16th August from 9.30 am to around 12 noon.*

Please call **Liz Allan** on **01462-711084** or email lizallan@freeuk.com to find out more. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

**MND WALK TO D'FEET - "RUBY WALK FOR MND"
SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2023
KEMPSTON TO SHILLINGTON - the long way!!!!**

Shillington residents Krystal Burroughs, Keeley Lewis, Mick Newman, Vicky Wallace and Mandy Walker will be joining Carole Pullinger (nee Jenkins) who grew up in the village on a "Ruby Walk for MND".

Carole's husband John lives with Motor Neurone Disease and this year they will be celebrating their Ruby Wedding anniversary, 40 years. In recognition of this occasion Carole along with lots of family and friends, who have been inspired by John, will be doing a "Ruby Walk for MND" completing 40kms for 40 years in a day to continue raising awareness and essential fund raising for research into MND. This will be happening on Sunday 24th September 2023, their wedding anniversary.

The route will see them leave Kempston and walk to Shillington via Haynes, Shefford, Clifton, Henlow, Stondon, Pirton and finally Shillington where they got married at the church on the hill! Training is well underway and all can be seen walking the local footpaths clocking up the miles!

The walk will be finishing at Shillington Social Club and all are welcome to see them come over the finish line, where the famous burgers will be available. Huge thanks go to the Social Club for their continued support.

If you would like to sponsor the walkers, please use the QR code or website link below, there is also a sponsor form available at the Social Club. Every donation helps and is very much appreciated, thank you.



<https://jp-fightback-fund.muchloved.com/Fundraising/Events/666490683>

Maulden Walking Football Club



*A walking football club for men and women of all ages
and abilities in Central Bedfordshire*

Affiliated to The Walking Football Association



What is walking football?

Walking Football is a unique small-sided ball game created by John Croot in 2011. It has similarities to Association Football which makes it such a great sport. It's the game you love and remember played in a new way.

Who are Maulden Walking Football Club?

MWFC was established in June 2021. We are a friendly group of mixed ability players. We welcome both men and women of all ages.

Why join MWFC?

- *Make new friends and have fun at our training sessions and social events*
- *Play in local friendlies and regional matches (optional) Get a team shirt - free for regular members*
- *Give back to the community and raise money for charity through easyfunding and our other fundraising initiatives*
- *Play on a 3G artificial grass pitch – a safe surface that can reduce injury and be played on in most weather conditions*

We meet in Flitwick on the following days:

Mens: Tuesday 8-9pm and Sunday 6-7pm

Womens: New Tuesday session starting in September

To find out more

Call Martin Wright, Chairman - 📞 07496 287628

Email: OBMauldenWalkingFootball@outlook.com
www.pitchero.com/clubs/mauldenwalkingfootballclub2

SHILLINGFEST ROUNDUP



It was great to see so many of you come along to the Playing Fields at the end of June to enjoy the great food; good music from David Foster and our own Andy Neaves; stalls and sideshows provided by village organisations and fund raisers, as well as entertainment from the Letchworth Morris Men. A big THANK YOU to the volunteers who manned both BBQ and Bars – you are, as always, much appreciated.

The one disappointing note for the afternoon was that the Spitfire flypast couldn't take place due to engine problems. We hope that Mark T will be on the case to try and get one booked for next year.

The classic vehicles brought back good memories and we hope to involve other groups too for next year, particularly old tractors.

We have held a follow up meeting and the Committee have agreed that this event should continue so the date for next year's 'FEST' will be **Saturday, 29th June 2024** on the **Playing Fields**. We're now looking at adding more stalls and sideshows as well as a children's entertainer.

For those interested... The "Count the Stones" competition on the WI stall was 143 and little Evelyn from Hanscombe End won the mini Bee Mug as her mum's guess was dead on.

Sally ☎ 07711-504489

SHILLINGTON & DISTRICT CLASSIC VEHICLE GROUP

Tuesday fortnightly summer meetings at

THE MUSGRAVE ARMS, APSLEY END ROAD, SHILLINGTON, SG5 3LX

Arrive anytime, most enthusiasts congregate from 6pm onwards and stay until late.

Meetings take place on Tuesdays every 2 weeks until the end of September.

Bring along an interesting car, motorcycle, light commercial or 3-wheeler.

If you don't have a suitable vehicle, come to have a look and a chat.

These get togethers are informal and for all the family, the aim is to have a fun evening with like-minded people.

Why not join our lively WhatsApp Group? Just contact **Zara** on **07860-646323** with your name & phone number and you will be added to the list.

Dave Malins Email: TornadoRegistrar@aol.com

REMAINING DATES FOR 2023:

August - 15th & 29th // September - 12th & 26th



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
AT THE SOCIAL CLUB



Shillington Social Club

With

DJ Elliot

Friday
25.08.23



9pm
until late

LEECH

Live Covers Band At

Shillington Social Club

Saturday 30th September

On Stage 9pm



LEECH Will Be Performing Songs By:



Oasis • The Rolling Stones • **theKILLERS**

The Who • Pink Floyd • The Jam • **T.REX**

REM • The Beatles • *David Bowie* • **KINGS OF LEON**



www.lemonrock.com/leech



LEECH Covers Band



As we end another school year we say goodbye to our year 4 children who leave us to move onto their middle schools. In the last week of term they performed their leavers performance and enjoyed an end of year party. We will miss you all and wish you the very best as you move to your next schools. Good luck!

Pixies Pre-schoolers who are leaving our Pre-school and transferring into Reception class held their graduation ceremony and received certificates from Miss Woodham watched by their parents, we cannot wait to see you continue to grow in our main school.

During the last couple of weeks of term we have enjoyed a year 3 and 4 production of 'Wonderland-The Musical' and the children performed beautifully to their parents and carers. Thank you to all the staff involved for their hard work creating this production.

At Shillington Lower we have been experiencing lower intakes for the last three years and this has had an impact on our school budget which means we are no longer able to maintain a class structure of 5 classes (single age, Reception to year 4). Therefore, because of fewer children coming into school, we have made the decision to move to mixed-age classes in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 1. EYFS and Key Stage 1 children will be taught in two classes, we will have a mixed Reception/Year 1 class and a mixed Year 1/Year 2 class. Year 3 and Year 4 will remain as single year groups for the next academic year. This will mean a change to our school but not to the detriment of the children. It is an exciting time moving forward and gives us the opportunity to improve our provision.

In school we enjoy the privilege of having a swimming pool onsite. Current and past pupils have all had the enjoyment of using this facility and it is fantastic to witness the children's excitement at the first swimming session of the season, and to see them in the pool during the summer. Unfortunately, we do experience trespassers onto our property who use our pool out of school hours. Not only is this dangerous to the users, but it is also a real shame that these trespassers often appear to be past pupils of the school and we would be grateful for any residents who know or are aware of people breaking into our pool to ring the police to report the incident. We really would like to continue to provide this provision for all our current and future pupils to enjoy as previous pupils have done so before them.



The Governing Board of the Shillington and Stondon Federation



Could you make a positive contribution to the local schools?

Being a Governor is a rewarding way of making a voluntary contribution to the lives of local young people. The Shillington and Stondon Federation is looking for new Co-opted Governors to join our team from September 2023.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- an interest in the performance of the schools
- an open and enquiring mind and the ability to look at issues objectively
- the confidence to ask questions and join in debate
- a willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- the ability to work well with others
- some time to spare (4 full board meetings per year plus 4 to 5 committee meetings, held 7pm midweek, visits to school and training)

Being a Governor can be enjoyable, stimulating and rewarding. All Governors must complete safeguarding checks.

If you are interested, please contact Laura Forgham, Clerk to the Governors lauraforgham@shillington.cbeds.co.uk for an Application Form, preferably before **31st August 2023**.

If you are a parent of a child at either school and are interested in becoming a Governor, please note that a Parent Governor election will be held in September 2023.

More information about the Governing Board can be found online at
<https://www.shillingtonstondon.co.uk/web/governors/553524>



"Everyone, every chance, every day"

Are you are still looking for a place for your child in September 2023 or perhaps know of anyone who might be? Give us a call for a chat about joining our fabulous school. We have limited places available in the school and in our Pre-school, Pixies class, where we are currently enrolling for September.

To arrange to meet Mrs Young, our Head of School, please call the office and we will be happy to make an appointment for you to tour our school.



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

www.shillingtonstondon.co.uk



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 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 individually registered to 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 provide the children with opportunities to learn social skills and experience different play resources at baby/toddler groups and other settings. We are able to cover holidays and other absences for each other where possible.

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 or 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.

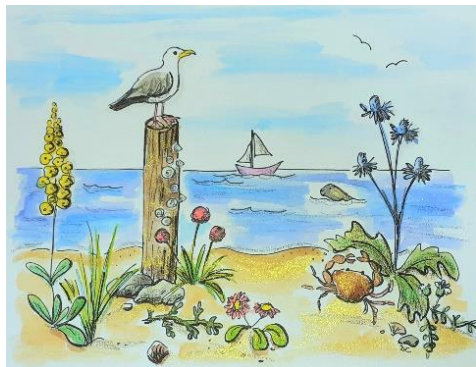
We each have differing childcare availability such as before and after school care, daytime childcare, overnight childcare, ad-hoc care or flexible care e.g. for shift workers.

Please contact us as below if you have any childcare requirements for now or the future:

Katie Brettell 07974-676089 katiebrettell@icloud.com	Laura Griffiths 07493-903621 lauralgriffiths820@gmail.com	Carli Mauger 07912-549931 carlimauger@gmail.com	Deb Pateman 07934-480446 debpateman@msn.com
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“SUMMER DAYS” by Donna Cameron

Donna's Garden Designs - ☎ 07833-670934



Summer holidays! What better time to explore some gardens than on your travels.

I love seeing how in different areas different plants thrive and think it is a good tip when planting a new garden. Look around the neighbourhood and see what's in other people's gardens and doing well. I am a firm believer in not fighting your environment but working with what you have and what will do best with your soil type and location. Right plant, right place!

When holidaying in Norfolk I come across some fascinating plants that seem to grow like weeds with no effort at all, but back home would struggle and that's what's great about exploring places. You get to see such an array of flora.

One particular plant you cannot miss along the Norfolk coast is the *Echium pininana* or 'Tower of Jewels'. They are in the Borage family. Standing up to 2.4 m tall, it is like a triphid. They are very impressive and seem to pop up in lots of gardens. Talk about a statement piece!

Sea lupins line the coastal roads, like the garden Lupin but a gorgeous buttery yellow colour and smaller in stature and more robust. Hydrangeas also do well, laden with masses of mopheads in blues, pinks and whites. They don't seem to mind all the elements being thrown at them.

Norfolk, also like Hitchin is famous for its Lavender farms and Heacham is where you will find Norfolk Lavender. Another less well-known Lavender, is Sea Lavender. This grows in and around inlets. I have seen it growing in Blakeney. It has leathery leaves and smaller, taller flowers than garden Lavender and is used in dried arrangements.

Marsh Samphire also grows alongside Sea Lavender. It is a vibrant green succulent, which is salt tolerant. It is often seen for sale along the coast. To cook boil and serve with a knob of butter, delicious with a Cromer Crab Thermidor!

I love to see how other people design their gardens and put their own stamp on them. In Norfolk you see how people embrace the Coastal theme. I would absolutely love to design a Seaside garden, collect old lobster pots, anchors, drift wood and pebbles and incorporate coastal plants such as Thrift, Sea Holly and Grasses. It would be just wonderful with the sea as a backdrop. So evocative.

Happy Holidays! Dx

GARDENS TO VISIT IN NORFOLK:

- **Felbrigg Hall nr Cromer:** This has a lovely walled garden with many unusual plants and a pond at its centre. Originally where gardeners would take their watering cans to water the plants.
- **Holkham Hall:** a six acre walled garden divided into different themes
- **Sandringham:** King Charles' Norfolk residence
- **Norfolk Lavender, Heacham**
- **Pensthorpe Nature Reserve** and different gardens. One designed by Piet Oudolf

JOBS IN THE GARDEN FOR AUGUST

* Prune wisteria	* Trim lavender	* Net blackberries	* Cut out fruited canes of raspberries
* Deadhead flowers	* Prune rambling roses	* Take softwood cuttings of penstemons	* Keep ponds topped up
* Water regularly	* Sow hardy annuals	* Collect seed	* Lift and pot runners from strawberries
* Keep camellias and rhododendrons well watered.	* Mow area of wildflower meadows	* Harvest sweetcorn	* Sit back and enjoy your hard work!

VILLAGE FACILITIES

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.*

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 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 ☺

THE 3 'C'S' HAVE COME TO SHILLINGTON!

A **WARM** WELCOME FOR
EVERYONE!

Hosted by Linda and Trish of All Saints' Church and Angus and Nola of the Congregational Church Shillington.

For more information or **if you would appreciate a lift** you can call Linda 01462 711761 or Trish on 07754760073

Mondays, 10.00 am to 12.00 noon
At the Congregational Church,
Shillington

Join us for **coffee**, **cake** and friendly **chat**. Voluntary donations of £2 or £3 are welcome.
Bring your knitting, reading, songs, games if you wish.



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Catherine on **07710-823384**

or e-mail catherine.scleater@btinternet.com

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Sponsor	Message	From	To
Val, Lisa & Family	<i>In memory of Michael Fiore. Remembering his birthday on 19th August. We love and miss you so much every day x</i>	<i>Sunday 13 August</i>	<i>Saturday 19 August</i>
Pamela & Darren Bakewell	<i>In memory of Eric West (Jim's) birthday. Missed and remembered always. Love Pamela, Darren & all the Family</i>	<i>Sunday 17 Sept</i>	<i>Saturday 23 Sept</i>



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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) <i>for washing machine repairs, etc...</i>	07975-944394
High Road Stores/Post Office	0345 722 3344
The Crown Inn.....	01462-711667
The Musgrave Arms (Giuseppe).....	07739-864634 / <i>pub</i> 01462-712789
The View (formerly Live & Let Live).....	01582-882555

Parish Councillors – contact details:

John Hyde 07799-537346	Gavin Jenkins 07826-518667	Liam Keene 07867-993393	Angus McCormick 01462-712096	Richa Mitra via the Clerk
Annie Palmer via the Clerk	Tracey Petrie via the Clerk	Blake Stephenson 0300-300-8526	Mark Thyne 01462-712201	Derek Turner 01462-712462

VILLAGE CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 6 Congregational Church Service - Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 9 Men's Club – Barbeque at The Greyhound Pub at Haynes
- 13 Congregational Church Service - Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 15 Shillington Classic Vehicle Meet – Musgrave Arms, Apsley End from 6pm
- 16 Churchyard Working Group – 9.30am to 12 noon
- 20 Congregational Church Service - Revd. Lionel Albon – 10.30am
- 23 Men's Club – Summer Lunch Social - Musgrave Arms
- 24 Social Club – Herts Bikers meet – in support of MND – hot dogs available from 6.30pm
- 25 Social Club – Motown & Soul Disco from 9pm
- 27 Spitfires Cricket Club fixture – Henlow – 6pm
- 29 Shillington Classic Vehicle Meet – Musgrave Arms, Apsley End from 6pm
- 31 Spitfires Cricket Club fixture – Offley – 6pm

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Social Club – Live band “KYLIE TRIBUTE” – (Happy 40th Krystal & Vicky!)
- 3 Congregational Church Service - *Harvest Festival* - Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 4 Playing Fields Management Committee – Social Club – 8pm
- 5 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 9 Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust – Bike ‘n Hike fundraiser – 9am to 5pm
- 10 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Brenda Ballentine – 10.30am
- 10 Men's Club – Open Gardens at Howbury Farm Flowers (Partners' Event)
- 11 Indoor Bowls Club – restarts – Village Hall – 2pm to 5pm
- 12 Shillington Classic Vehicle Meet – Musgrave Arms, Apsley End from 6pm
- 14 Wives Group – Social Afternoon with Refreshments – Congregational Church – 2-4pm
- 17 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Hazel Beadle – 10.30am
- 20 Village Hall Management Committee Meeting – Jubilee Room – 7.30pm
- 24 Congregational Church Service - Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 26 Shillington Classic Vehicle Meet – Musgrave Arms, Apsley End from 6pm
- 27 Congregational Church Service - Revd. Nicholas Pneumaticos – 10.30am
- 30 Social Club – Live band “LEECH” from 9pm

OCTOBER

- 1 Congregational Church Service - Revd. Angus McCormick & Mrs. Audrey Nellist - 10.30am
- 3 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 5 WI – Speaker David Duker – Congregational Church – 7.30pm
- 8 Congregational Church Service - Revd. Peter Hyde – 10.30am
- 12 Wives Group – “History of Afternoon Teas” by Maureen – Congregational Church – 2-4pm
- 28 Annual Fireworks Spectacular @ the Playing Fields. Gates open at 5pm. Display at 7pm.
- 28 Social Club – live band “BLACK SQUIRREL” – following fireworks. Starting at 9pm

NOVEMBER

- 7 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 9 Wives Group – “Keeping Active” with Maggie Layton – Congregational Church – 2-4pm

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

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