

PARISH NEWS

covering
SHILLINGTON, PEGSDON & HIGHAM GOBION

SHILLINGTON FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR!

SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2023

THE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS SHILLINGTON
5PM 'TIL MIDNIGHT

TICKET PRICE DEALS

BUY ONLINE

Adult: £6.50

Child (16yrs & under): £3.50

Family (2x Adults & 2x Children 16yrs & under): £16.00

BUY ON THE NIGHT

Adult: £7.00

Child (16yrs & under): £4.00

Family (2x Adults & 2x Children 16yrs & under): £18.00

ONLINE TICKETS WEBSITE: SHILLINGTONFIREWORKS.CO.UK

- BBQ
- STALLS
- DRINKS
- LIVE BAND
- BEST GUY FAWKES COMPETITION
- SPECTACULAR DISPLAY

Advertising sponsored by
Tuckwells

Issue 168 – October 2023

Deadline for December edition - Friday, 24th November 2023

PARISH COUNCIL

GRANTS AWARDED FOR WORK AT CHURCH....

As the previous meeting was held in July, a bumper agenda faced Councillors when they gathered in September. The Parish Council operates a fund to support local organisations seeking cash. The Friends of All Saints Church asked for £1,000 towards essential repairs to the central section of the churchyard wall opposite the Old School, to which the council agreed. Councillors also approved a donation of £350 to CPRE Bedfordshire which has given us invaluable advice regarding planning applications in the past and would, no doubt, be needed again.

.... AND FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE CLUB

Representatives from the Playing Fields Committee and Social Club were present and explained that the dramatic increase in use of the building in recent years meant that modernisation was necessary. With input from a structural engineer, local architect Peter Farmer had drawn up plans for making structural improvements and modernising the toilets, kitchen and bar areas. The work would be costly and involve closure for a short period but make conditions more pleasant for the volunteers who work there and those attending events. Using funds that had been accumulated for fitting out the now-abandoned community building (and having granted the village hall £20,000 towards the cost of roof repairs in July), the Council agreed to make a similar sum available towards the work at the Club.

SPEEDING (AGAIN)

The problem of drivers speeding through the village continues and recent data shows the situation is getting worse as traffic volumes continue to increase. A resident who lives near the Crown told councillors that he had witnessed cars speeding and overtaking near his home despite the blind corner and parked traffic that limits visibility. Another from Hanscombe End Road mentioned how rapidly some motorists accelerated away after crossing the speed bumps near his home. One of the volunteers from Shillington Speedwatch suggested that access to a second speed gun would help them operate in two locations simultaneously. The Parish Council and District Councillor agreed to follow this up.

With parking also an issue in many parts of the village, we were interested when a firm of consultants that had developed a Traffic Management Strategy for a local council in Norfolk approached us offering their services. We contacted the council for further details but after considering these and the potential cost, we decided not to pursue a similar approach here.

MOWING CONTRACTS EXTENDED

The Parish Council organises the mowing of many highway verges around the village, as well as mowing and litter clearance at the War Memorial, the Playing Fields and Horne's Pasture. Councillors agreed that the current contractors are doing a satisfactory job and their contracts will be rolled over for another year.

For all Parish Council issues please contact:

Miss 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



ACT OF REMEMBRANCE & WREATH LAYING SUNDAY, 12th NOVEMBER



Congregational Church & War Memorial

10:00 – Church Service at Congregational Church

10.45 – Procession from Church to War Memorial for Wreath Laying Ceremony

All are invited back to the Village Hall following the Wreath Laying for light refreshments provided by the WI and display of old photos from “The Village Collection” courtesy of Andy Gibbs.

In the interests of community safety, and to show your respect of the occasion, residents in motor vehicles travelling through the village at this time (10.45-11.15) are kindly requested to avoid Church Street/High Road junctions as groups of people will be walking to/from the Church to the Memorial.

Attendees at the Memorial are kindly invited to stand inside the Memorial during the wreath laying and blessing. Thank you.

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**



WANTED - TOMBOLA PRIZES!!

For my stall at All Saints' Church Fayre on 2nd December.

Any unwanted gifts (toiletries, wine, chocolates, etc) most welcome.

Just pop round or give me a call to collect.

Margaret (Mags) - 01462-711635

♥♥ A big **THANK YOU** to the 21 1st Shillington Brownies who did a recent litter pick around the Playing Fields and collected 3 very large bags of rubbish.

WANTED - PRIZES for MND Xmas Draw & Auction

At The Social Club on 17th December.

Contact Gavin (☎ 07826-518667)



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 from our area to take services. Several have found it intriguing that the church is visible from a distance but finding the way to get there is not straightforward.

Archdeacon Dave Middlebrook has also taken a number of our services and has been very supportive. On Sunday 3rd September we held our annual Sung Evensong service at St Marys Church Lower Gravenhurst, the service was taken by Rev. Jane Wheatley our former Vicar at All Saints Shillington. Although St Marys church is now closed to regular worship it was great to hear the singing from over thirty people in the congregation and our choir filling the little church on a warm summer's evening.

On those Sundays when we have found ourselves without a priest we manage with services of Morning Worship with Prayers & Hymns, sometimes taken by a 'Reader' or a member of the congregation. The start time of our Sunday morning services remains at 9.30am.

The 19th October is scheduled for candidates for the post of 'Priest-in Charge' to visit the parishes, meet people and have formal interviews and we are hopeful that this third round of recruiting will produce a suitable candidate. I will keep you informed.

Other activities like Bell ringing, Choir and Bible study continue as normal. The combined Churches 3 C's (Coffee, Cake and a Chat) mornings between 10am to 12.00 noon are held at the Congregational Church each Monday. All are most welcome, this is not a fund raising event.

In early September the annual Bike & Hike event took place to raise money for the upkeep of historic churches. This year Shillington's own Andrew Elliman set off from All Saints Shillington on a Penny Farthing bicycle and visited several churches during the day before he returned to Shillington Church. Many thanks and congratulations to Andrew as it was a very hot day.

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 and Lay Ministers will lead services until a new vicar is appointed.

SERVICES:

Our Sunday Morning Service is still at 9.30am mostly with Communion apart from 29th October and 12th November (Remembrance Sunday) when we have a joint service at the Congregational Church. Sung Evensong is on the 1st Sunday in the month at 6.00pm normally at All Saints, Shillington however on Sunday 3rd December there is no Evensong, but we have our Carol Service at 6.00pm on Sunday 10th December.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH - SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Currently our Sunday School is not meeting, please contact Liz Brewer for more information.

WEDDINGS and BAPTISMS

- ♥ 5th August - Wedding of Niall Bruckshaw to Megan Cox.
- ♥ 26th August – Blessing of the Marriage of Peter Bakarich to Alexandra Theaker.
- ♥ 26th August – Baptism of Eloise Bakarich.

FUNERALS/BURIALS/THANKSGIVING SERVICES:

- ✝ 6th August – Anne Gidman – Burial of Ashes.
- ✝ 28th September – Peter Hallworth – Burial of Ashes.

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

August 2023:

1st no. 158 – Elizabeth Lockey 2nd no.32 – Julia Moss 3rd no. 34 – Peter & Valerie Pennifer

September 2023:

1st no. 94 – Lesley Lewin 2nd no. 4 – Peter Lambert 3rd no. 106 – Jonathan Gurr

OTHER NEWS FOR 2023:

Sunday afternoon teas have now finished and will resume on the first Sunday in May next year.
Our Christmas Fayre will be held at the Church on Saturday 2nd December.

Best wishes

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

REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BLAKE STEPHENSON

- September 2023 -

Whether you managed to get away or stayed at home this year, I hope you all had a lovely Summer. Some of you will have been busy bringing in the harvest, and we're all very grateful for your hard work this time of year. As we head into the Autumn ...



Thomas's Meadow planning application is back! – Many of you will remember the previous campaign to stop houses being built on this important meadow. The application went to a four-day judicial review where CBC won against the developer. The campaign to stop the development was backed by the Parish Council, the Ward Member at the time (Alison Graham) and CPRE. The village is now coming together once again. I would encourage you to review the application on CBC's online planning portal by searching for 23/03026, getting involved, and sending comments to CBC as soon as possible before 20th October.

Elected Chair of Governors – At the first meeting of school governors this academic year, I was pleasantly surprised to be elected Chair of Governors. Supporting our schools is important to me. What and how children are taught is a foundation not only for the future success of individuals, but also of our communities and country. Great education opens minds, inspires, and provides the opportunity for children to go on and do great things. An Ofsted inspection in July rated our school as 'Good' once again, and everyone involved is rightly very proud that the school received such a great report. I look forward to working with governors, teachers, and parents in this new role, to continue to improve the opportunities and chances for children locally, and to support the long-term success of our community.

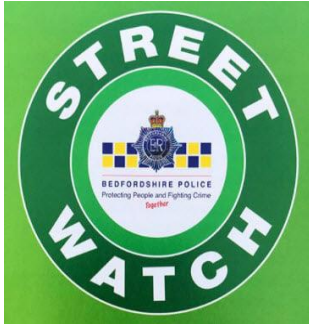
Pushing for clarity on schools for the future – We're still no further forward in knowing what the independent administration wants to do about the move to a two-tier structure for our schools, despite being promised clarity within two months of the programme being paused. Together with fellow Councillors, I'm working hard to hold the Cabinet Member for schools to account and to ensure that schools in our cluster are not impacted by this dithering administration.

Why not bid for a ward councillor grant? – If you run a community organisation and would like some match funding for kit or equipment, please get in touch and bid for a share of £2,000 available to be allocated across the ward this year.

And finally ... whilst the nights are drawing in and the leaves start to turn, the delights of blackberry picking are in our sights again; a taste of Autumn. Enjoy!

Blake

SHILLINGTON STREET WATCH // SPEED WATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED



With reduced rural Police numbers and funding, I'm afraid we have to continue to depend on the goodwill of village volunteers to help with Street Watch and Speed Watch. This of course is not acceptable, but statistics gathered by locals can and will be used to enable our ward member Cllr Stephenson to add weight to the argument for increased rural policing and traffic calming measures. As well as valuable numbers it also provides a visible reminder that people care enough to try and make a difference. To improve co-ordination Street Watch and Speed Watch will be merging into one team, volunteers can still choose to be part of one or both.

Last month Street Watch did 11 patrols - that works out, with current numbers, to 2 x 1 hour patrols per month per person. It is not a vigilante group. Basically it is a stroll around the village to deter anti-social behaviour, opportunistic crime and to notify the police about suspicious behaviour, engage with villagers, check community buildings are secure, advise residents about open windows or unlocked cars, and the occasional things not officially in our remit like picking up the odd sweet wrapper and using the "fixmystreet" app to log potholes and street lights.



Speed Watch once back up and running, would ideally be run once a week. It is not for busy bodies as some "kind" person previously highlighted, it is to try and address the huge issue of speeding in the village. For example, the last session held on High Road clocked 57 vehicles out of 85 were speeding, which is 67%. Surprisingly many of them being locals. People clocked speeding receive a warning letter from the police and multiple offenders are followed up by the police as a reactive solution. This is fine, but a good body of figures would allow a more proactive approach to support concerned residents and the Parish Council's calls for traffic calming measures and enforcement from the powers that be.

We have a really good mix of people, so if you would like to join our merry band of volunteers then please contact the Parish Council Clerk on clerk@shillington-pc.gov.uk and your details will be passed on to Bedfordshire Police for vetting and training.



Is it just me or did you blink and miss summer as well?

In the middle of August members met at College Farm for a 'Summer Picnic'. The weather was warm and sunny – perfect for a picnic. This was followed by a most interesting Farm Walk. Many thanks to Jeff and Gordon.

Our first meeting after the summer break was a jigsaw puzzle evening which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was so nice having a good old chat while puzzling over jigsaw puzzles - some were definitely more challenging than others!



Our speaker for the 5th October will be David Duker. The title of his talk is: 'One of Our Own' – The Wartime Story of Victor Ekins. He will be telling us about this most remarkable Battle of Britain pilot (DFC).

On November 2nd, our very own excellent speaker Sandra Hare will be giving us a talk titled: 'Fun With Flowers' - a demonstration followed by a workshop. Our meetings start at 7.30pm in The Congregational Church.

The WI will be providing cakes and hot drinks at the Village Fireworks and will be serving refreshments in the Village Hall following the Service of Remembrance in the Memorial Gardens.

We are planning ahead for Christmas – a meal is on the cards and so is a trip to see the Christmas Lights at Wrest Park (a new venture for them). Shillington WI will also be contributing to the Christmas Tree Festival held in the Congregational Hall at the beginning of December. I think we will be excelling ourselves this year! The Turf Tappers, a musical duo who are great fun, will be entertaining us at our December meeting.

A trip to Poplars Garden Centre, Toddington is being arranged for the end of November (Christmas shopping?).

The evenings have certainly drawn in so the Walking Group is now going for walks in the mornings only. We will return to our evening walks next spring. Our Lunch Club and Supper Club have been enjoying some super meals at various venues around Shillington. More are planned.



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, WASPS and W A S P

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

In August, I wrote about Big Boy the hedgehog who had been seriously injured by a strimmer. I'm pleased to say that he returned home on the 9th August after a six week stay at the Little Hog Hospital, Arlesley. The staff had named him Stitch the hedgehog. We released him in the little wooded area at the end of my garden. He certainly won't go hungry. You wouldn't believe the size of the slugs round here – each one is the equivalent of a 12oz steak! It was lovely to watch him trundle off through the undergrowth. As he did so, I whispered: "Good luck, Big Boy".



We were concerned about releasing Big Boy in the same area where he was injured. We discussed our concerns with the vet. She said that hedgehogs are solitary creatures but they need to be around others and they love gardens. They can travel up to a mile every night. To help keep them off the roads, perhaps you could get together with your neighbours to discuss the possibility of cutting a little hole in garden fences to help them pass safely from one garden to the next, thus avoiding roads (and a council worker's strimmer). They can squeeze through gaps as small as 13cm x 13 cm (5 to 6 inches square).

The Pirton wildlife action group, WildAboutPirton, are promoting these Hedgehog Highways. This organisation is an inspiration and their members (over 300) have done so much to help improve the biodiversity in and around the village of Pirton. A group of us recently met up with Amanda Goodman of WildAboutPirton - we discussed the possibility of setting up something similar in Shillington. It was suggested that it could be called Wild About Shillington Parish (WASP)!

Wasps are much-maligned creatures. I'm afraid I've 'maligned' quite a few over the years with rolled-up colour supplements but I no longer do this as they are, I've discovered, amazing and essential minibeasts. They are important pollinators and are major predators of insects such as aphids. So, WASP would be a great name for a wildlife action group – we could do a lot of good by improving biodiversity but would also be able to 'sting' if nature in and around Shillington was under threat (I'm particularly thinking of developers here).



Talking of developers and threats to the natural world, we're told that it's OK building everywhere and anywhere as they have the answer to reversing our drastic decline in nature - Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). If a development destroys wildlife habitats, it's not a problem as developers will not only replace what is lost but will also increase what was there by at least 10% (BNG). This is not possible; it's utter nonsense and, as my dad would say, a load of old codswallop. We are being deceived isn't deception a form of lying?

I read in The Guardian (31st August) that the head of the RSPB had to apologise after saying: "You lie, and you lie, and you lie again" to some MPs (they'd weakened environmental protections when they'd said that they wouldn't). Isn't breaking one's word also a form of lying? People who don't keep their word are certainly untrustworthy.

During a discussion, I asked my young neighbour (15) whether or not he thought it was acceptable to call someone a liar. He responded: "If you are telling the truth, you can call someone a liar". That's an interesting thought.

Annie x



QUIETNESS

by **Revd. Angus McCormick** ☎ 01462-712096
Minister of Shillington Congregationalist Church

Libraries are such a great resource in our communities and we still have them in our own county. Despite offering so much for the public our libraries also offer us a place of quietness to read and reflect.

The central library in Manchester where I spent many hours reading was well-known for its echo if anyone accidentally dropped something that made a noise. The whispering gallery in Saint Paul's Cathedral is an intriguing place to ascend and hear a quiet whisper travel right round the dome. Mind you it takes courage to climb up there !



Our churches offer us a place of quietness while the space is respected by anyone who enters. Many of us enjoy the quiet times of the day or night broken maybe by nature's noises.

In November as a nation we will value two minutes silence to remember those who have served our country and given their lives for us.

Sadly silence is becoming a rare quality. More traffic, more noise from activities that produce noise, more ability for people to walk around sharing their conversations loudly on their mobile phones. I have often thought that someone was talking to me when in fact of course they were talking to their device. This all adds up to noise and interference of the earlier quiet climate around us.

Some communities and businesses have gone to the extent of setting times of public quietness or at least making a polite request for it !



The more developments that allow more traffic and associated noisy activity in our community, the less opportunity we have to enjoy quietness.....a quality that village life has long held dear. Keeping a balance of noise and times of quietness is becoming more of a challenge. Pets and wild life are also challenged more by this change of atmosphere.

The hymn writer wrote about the 'calm of hills' and the 'still small voice of calm'.

May we still hope for some 'still dews of quietness' in our ever increasing world of noise and induced sounds. Let us preserve the precious heritage of village life with its wonderful happy balance of quietness and sound.

In peace,
Rev. Angus





CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NEWS

47 Church Street, Shillington
www.shillingtoncongreg-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**.



SPECIAL THANKS:

Special thanks go to Mrs Sandra Hare, who organised a supper evening at the Church in August, assisted by friends, to raise funds to pay towards the painting of the gates, railings and notice board at the front of the building. Thank you to all who helped and/or supported this event which raised over £600-00.

Also special thanks to our neighbours Cheryl & Andy Gibbs, who volunteered to rub down and paint the gates, railings and notice board. Thank you to Cheryl and Andy, this must have been a fiddley job.

HARVEST FESTIVAL:

Our Harvest Celebration was held early in September at which generous non-perishable items and monetary gifts were made, and later delivered by our Minister to the Bedford Food Bank.

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. At the time of writing over 1,700 people have been fed during the month of September.

Items currently in short supply:

Tinned Rice Pudding	Large tins of Potatoes	Tinned Ham/Chicken – 250gm
Jars of Jam	Long Life Fruit Juice	Tinned Sweetcorn
Long Life Sponge Puddings	Tinned Custard	Bags of Rice - 250/500gm
Biscuits		Tea Bags – 40/80

FRIENDLY WELCOME SPACE:

We are continuing with our 'Friendly Space' and invite you join us for hot/cold drinks and biscuits, enjoying a good chat, seeking company, bring along your own craft/hobby activity, or join in a board game. Please support this community project – all welcome. Open between 11.00am and 2.00pm every Monday.

VOLUNTEERING:

Are you interested in volunteering?

Help is required in the church on an ad-hoc basis; our membership numbers have declined over recent years and all are aged over 70/80 and not so agile.

Assistance would be helpful in the following areas –

- *IT - to download material from the Congregational Federation Web site to a laptop and transfer this via the sound system to a screen in the church; assist with any technical problems, also to update the church website of dates/events;*
- *Handy person to carry out small DIY jobs such as painting, replacement of light bulbs/batteries, minor repairs, keeping the front of the church tidy by trimming the hedge, weeding the gravel area, removing leaves and rubbish, sweeping the path at the front and side of the building; assistance with events held in the building when it may be necessary to move chairs/tables, serve refreshments or similar tasks - eg. Remembrance Sunday, Christmas Tree Festival, etc.*

If you are willing to volunteer please contact our Minister Revd. Angus McCormick 01462-712096 or Secretary Mrs. Janet Worley 01582-881824. Thank you.

SERVICES CONDUCTED BY REV. ANGUS MCCORMICK:

<p>✝ Funeral ✝</p> <p>Oliver Richard Dawkins</p> <p><i>"Rest in peace"</i></p>	<p>♥ Marriage ♥</p> <p>Claire Michelle Butts to David Charles Atkinson</p> <p><i>"The greatest of these is love"</i></p>	<p>✳ Baptisms ✳</p> <p>* Mary Elizabeth McNair * Jaxon Freddie Handley * Nancy Rumble</p> <p><i>"Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven"</i></p>
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SHILLINGTON MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE



As users of the Social Club will be aware, much effort has been going on to raise funds to bring the Club up to date, particularly concentrating on refurbishment of toilet facilities, bar area, cellar and kitchen. We are very pleased to be able to report that following discussions with our architect, a contractor has now been appointed (P & I Milligan) who will be completing the work in three stages.

The bid to DIY SOS was unsuccessful, so we have been looking at other funding sources and completing applications. We don't have quite enough money in the pot to complete the whole project, however have been successful in securing £20k from funds that the Parish Council was holding for the new community building (which is no longer happening). Both Playing Field Committee and Social Club have also agreed to contribute £20k. We have a shortfall of around £55k to complete.

Stage 1 of the Project involves roof works and removal of central pillar in the bar area and replacement doors across the front of the building. This would be the dirtiest part of the project and is of course weather dependant. Proposal is to close the Club after the Xmas festivities with a start date of 2nd January 2024. Length of closure will depend on both weather and progress.

We will of course keep everyone advised as things progress.

On behalf of the Memorial Playing Fields Management Committee.

Gavin Jenkins
Chairman



“Lost Aussie Uncle”

We are very grateful to the Shillington High Road resident who kindly helped a lost Australian Uncle (Nick) to reach the Musgrave Arms on the afternoon of Saturday 26th August.

Uncle Nick had attended the Blessing of the Marriage of our daughter Alex and her Husband Peter (who is Nick’s nephew) at All Saints Church, which was combined with the Baptism of their daughter Eloise.

He was due to catch a double decker bus at the bottom of “The Twitchel” to be transported, along with the rest of the guests, to the Musgrave Arms for the reception.

Because he was occupied helping us look after our granddaughter he was delayed and when he got to the High Road he had missed the bus. He knew what direction the bus went in but had no idea where the Musgrave Arms was! Quite understandable seeing he comes from near Melbourne and does not know this area at all.

He eventually decided to knock on someone’s door to ask the way.

Quite what they thought when he turned up, with a broad Australian accent, in tails and full morning dress we’re not sure, but whatever it was they very kindly escorted Uncle Nick along the High Road and showed him where the Musgrave Arms was.



He had a great time thanks to that Shillington resident and was not late!

If whoever helped Nick would like to contact us we would like to buy them a drink or two, at their local.

Thank you again

Tim & Maggi Theaker
6 The Old School, Church Street ☎ 01462-712834

A big THANK YOU to volunteer gardeners !

Diane & Alan Little have been looking after the two circular borders in the Memorial Garden over recent years, as well as providing the planted wheelbarrows from our little school over the summer holidays, which adds lovely colour and makes us smile! Alan also tidies up the weeds on the path and keeps an eye on the benches so all neat and tidy for Remembrance Sunday.



Recently Diane spotted box blight caterpillars munching their way through the little box hedges circling the flower beds. Quick to act, she’s been treating the hedges with nematodes sprayed on with water, with some success as little green shoots are starting to appear in the original devastation. Nematodes are harmless to humans, wildlife and pets. Some of you may have noticed that there is also a pheromone moth trap on one of the pear trees to catch the adult moths to help prevent further infestation to the hedge (again harmless to humans and other wildlife).

Thank you both for such great work !!

And one more big **THANK YOU** to



Margaret Jepps, who will be leaving the High Road Stores this week (30 September) to take up another challenge elsewhere, after working for both Steve Ansell and latterly Jingsesh over the past 15 years. Regularly sorting out our papers and shopping and keeping us organised too....

We will miss you and wish you well in your new job xx♥☺

SHILLINGTON MEN'S CLUB

(Now in its 18th year)

On the evening of the 9th August 22 members enjoyed a barbecue feast followed by fresh fruit salad or apple crumble at the Greyhound in Haynes. Again we were fortunate to enjoy balmy weather like the previous year, in the garden. It was a very enjoyable evening had by all. Tony Boyle won the raffle. Thank you to Colin Smith for organising this event.

On the 25th August 17 members enjoyed a lunchtime social at our very own Musgrave Arms, enjoying the Italian Menu and the chit chat. Thank you to Michael Bradley for organising this very popular event.

On the August Bank Holiday 5 members organised themselves on a Landmark Coaches trip to the Clacton Air Show, this was quite spectacular by all accounts.



Our September 10th partners' event took us to the Howbury Hall Gardens at Renhold where a group of 19 members and partners took advantage of an NGS Open Gardens afternoon. Howbury Hall has an extensive parkland garden and enclosed within it is a large walled garden, half growing vegetables and the other half growing flowers for the cut-flower market.

At this time of the year the flowers were predominantly Dahlias. Unfortunately soon after arriving the Heavens opened up and our party, especially those who could not shelter under the polytunnels got drenched! Our plan to sit down for tea and cakes outside was abandoned due to the wet chairs. However, there was some standing room available inside and the tea and cakes were excellent. Thank you to Michael Bradley for organising this very enjoyable but soggy event!

On the evening of the 20th September 17 members packed into the small restaurant at the Cock pub in Broom. Here members enjoyed a two course meal of Lasagne, Ham and 2 eggs or Scampi all with chips and side salad. This was followed by either Bread & Butter pudding, or warm Chocolate Fudge Cake with cream, custard or ice cream! The raffle was won by Clive Butler one of our new members on his very first outing. A big thank you to Colin Smith for organising this very enjoyable event at a new venue.



We have had 3 new members since the last Parish News Magazine and the Club is really thriving. Welcome to Clive Butler, Andrew Clark and John Bennett. Gentlemen welcome to the fold and we hope you enjoy the comradeship, outings and culture that we try to provide. This brings the membership to 44 members which is a record for the club.

Future events:

- * 11th October - meal at the Three Horse Shoes at Norton.
- * 18th October - Musgrave Arms Summer Lunch Social.
- * 21st October - Kempton Steam Museum- Steaming Weekend (Saturday).
- * 22nd November - Farr Brewery, Wheathampstead.

Membership:

Remains stable at 44 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
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SPONSOR A BELL AT ALL SAINTS'

The five bells of All Saints' Church have been an ever-present joyful sound in the village for hundreds of years.

Robust though they are, they are complex 'machines' and do need occasional repairs.

We are scheduling a 5-year programme of essential maintenance and we need your help.

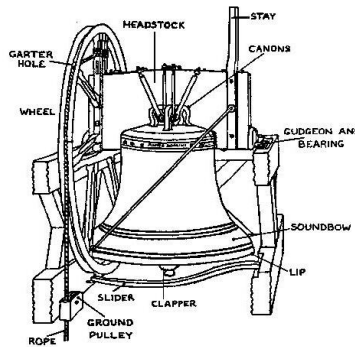
We are looking for a generous sponsor for each of the bells.

For a donation of £50 a year you will receive: -

- An entry on our Honours Board in the Church acknowledging your donation,
- A guided tour of the Church and the bell tower including (if you have a head for heights) a chance to 'meet' your bell,
- Free bellringing tuition (for life!)

You can sponsor a bell as: -

- An individual
- A family
- A business
- An organisation
- A unique gift – Perfect as a Christmas present!



For more information

please contact **Andy Gibbs: bazwell2@gmail.com – 07922-017051**

OF GULFS, JETS - AND ALL THINGS IN BETWEEN

Alison Graham (amwgraham@gmail.com)

Well, it's been a funny old year, hasn't it – no summer for us, and fires or floods everywhere else. Till we got a September heat wave. We've been hearing a lot about the Gulf Stream, and the Jet Stream being responsible for our British climate, but what are they, how exactly do they do this? And is it changing? I did a bit of sleuthing, so here goes; Gulf Stream first.



Like lakes, the planet's oceans have strong currents, hot and cold. Every summer the big one for us, the Gulf Stream, pushes its warm water up toward the north, from the equatorial regions. It's 62 miles wide, and almost as deep. As it passes the British Isles, its warm water gives us that pleasant summer climate, especially on the western side - palm trees in Devon. As it travels, it cools as a result of winds blowing across its surface, evaporating its heat. This means it becomes more salty, more 'saline'. More saline water means denser, heavier, water, and this means it will sink deeper. Historically this water went on to meet the Arctic cold water to the north of us, before sinking under it. (Nice, for us!)

In the Arctic, increasing amounts of open water, absorbing the sun's heat, mean more rapidly melting ice – and this is fresh water. Adding fresh water has the opposite effect; it dilutes its saltiness or salinity, and thus, its density and weight. The result is its increased buoyancy. So the problem is that the increased amount of more 'bouncy' water from the Arctic may meet the upcoming weakening Gulf Stream, but to the south of the British Isles – and sink it. That's the problem. Our climate would obviously be permanently cooler as a result.

Now, the Jet Stream; it's one of four, one round each of the two polar regions and two round the equatorial regions. They are fast air streams, similar to the oceans' streams, circling west to east, and between five and nine miles above us. Ours is the Polar Jet Stream. It circles the atmospheric border between the cold Arctic air and the warmer air, south of us. Historically it has given us cold winters and warmer summers, because the cold air pressure was stronger in the winter, and the warmer air stronger in the summer.



What's happening now is that the Arctic is getting warmer – hence the increased ice melting. As a result there is no longer the evenly balanced 'border area' for the Jet Stream to travel along. As the cold Arctic pressure gets warmer, the impetus that kept the Jet Stream moving fairly predictably slows down as well. So it begins to wave about, and meander – as we have seen over recent years. We are getting longer periods of the same sort of weather – hence our non summer. Once a Jet Stream meander has settled, it creates this thing called a 'dome' effect; the weather brews up, and like a pan with the lid on, gets more extreme. It's what made our Indian Summer this September!

There's little need to worry about the Gulf Stream failing imminently – it probably won't in our lifetime. But the Jet Stream will probably continue to meander erratically, in terms of the four seasons that we have always been used to. What caused these streams to alter? The speed of changes to the earth's climate; this is whether you believe it's the result of human activity or not. Reducing global carbon emissions is one way to slow this change down. But can we, as individuals, do anything about it? Give me time – I'm thinking.... If you'd like to contact me about anything in this, please do so on and I'll get back to you; otherwise, best wishes as ever, *Alison*



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 back from our summer break and looking forward to returning to the short mat. The in-house triples league will start in the coming weeks and many of the club members will be trying their luck at national qualifying competitions.

We are actively looking for some new members and would welcome anyone who wants to come and have a go or just come to watch to see what the sport is all about. The club is open to all age groups.

Short Mat Bowls is a fun game, as well as a competitive sport, plus 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.

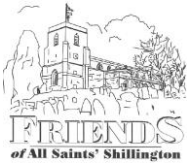
Anyone interested in joining the club is welcome to come and have a try (for free) to see if they like it. We have spare sets of bowls available and you only need to have a flat pair of shoes with you to enable you to play. You can either turn up to the village hall on a Monday afternoon or a Friday evening, or if you prefer call or message Michelle (contact details below) in advance.

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
Michelle Conlon (01462 713426) conlonmichelle@sky.com
Or **Derek Lewison (01462 711504)**

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



Sunday Teas

After a busy summer with our 'Sunday Teas' up in the church, there will now be a pause until they restart in May next year. A big thank you to all our volunteers who manned and baked throughout the summer and to all of the musicians who performed to everyone's delight, we couldn't do it without you! Teas have been successful on all fronts and raised a splendid £2,858 for our next projects mending and maintaining the church building.

Bike and Hike

Our other recent event, on September 9th, was in support of The Beds and Herts Historic Churches trust. This organisation is very supportive and has contributed in recent years to our restoration work. Its main fundraising event is its annual Bike and Hike around the local churches. We were started off from All Saints by the very amazing Andrew Elliman, dressed as a Knight Templar, and riding his Penny farthing bicycle. He and his support team set off first to the delight of a small gathering and he broadcast his day on instagram and facebook. A small group of us then hiked to Pirton and back in sweltering heat and were pleased to pause for a welcome cup of tea in Pirton! Very sociable walk and the event raised another £600 which is shared between the Historic Churches Trust and Friends of All Saints.



Vinyl 70's Disco

The next date in our diary will be a 70's themed disco with the fabulous **Mark Johnson** as DJ on **Saturday 11th November** in the **Village Hall**. Dressing up is, of course, optional but Shillington usually surprises us all! A light supper of nostalgic foods and drinks awaits the intrepid dancers!! Look out for posters very soon around the village and tickets are available from committee members as usual. Those of you who remember our last 60's themed disco will vouch for what a great night that was and we expect this will be equally as much fun.

Village Christmas Tree



The Friends' committee has decided to provide and pay for the Christmas tree erected in the war memorial garden again. It is lovely to see it sparkle and shine on the dark evenings and we hope everyone will come and add decorations from Saturday 2nd December. Watch out for posters.

Next project

Our next spend is to mend more sections of the boundary wall which are sadly in a sorry state. One section is being worked on now and we hope the final section will be completed in the Spring.

The big expense that we are planning will be to repair the external stonework around the north door. This will be starting in the new year. The Stone Mason has been appointed and stone purchased.

Looking forward to seeing lots of you at the disco! ABBA, Bee Gees, Barry White, Diana Ross eat your hearts out!

Clare Richmond
Friends of All Saints

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.



Reg Charity Number 1060329

ANNUAL FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR SHILLINGTON MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD

Saturday, 28th OCTOBER 2023

Gates open at 5pm // Fireworks at 7pm // Live Band at 9pm

Buy 'early bird' tickets to take advantage of the discounted rate:

Adult ticket: £6.50

Child ticket: £3.50 (16 years and under)

Family tickets: £16.00 (2 adults and 2 children)



At the gate on the night:

Adult ticket: £7.00

Child ticket: £4.00 (16 years and under)

Family tickets: £18.00 (2 adults and 2 children)

'Paper tickets' available from The Social Club from 1st October (see opening times on page 34)

- * Create your own Guy Fawkes to enter the competition (prize for winning entry) and take them home afterwards....

* * *

Visit the stalls:

- * Face Painting (Fantastic Faces by Glyn)
- * Glow sticks
- * Raffle to set off fireworks
- * PTFA and other village organisations

* * *

Great Food Offerings:

- * Grab a special burger from our BBQ - expertly cooked by Big John and his catering team
 - * Try one of Dan's great pizzas
 - * Ice Cream and hot Waffle Van
 - * WI – cakes, hot and cold drinks
 - * Disco-licious – Soup Kitchen
- * Decent beer, wine and spirits at reasonable prices from both inside and outside bars at the Social Club.

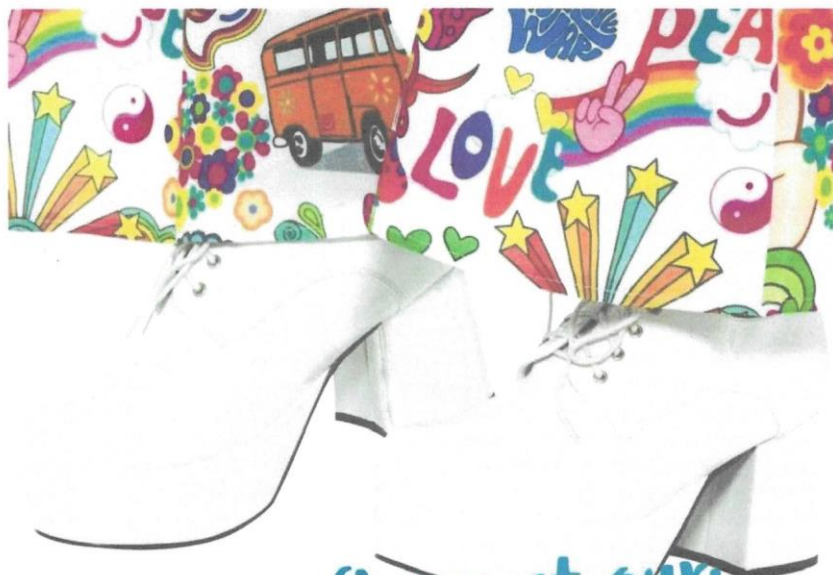
- * Spectacular fireworks from 7.00pm for 20 minutes
- * Live Band – 'Black Squirrels' from 9.00pm



Enquiries to Gavin (07826-518667) or Sally (07711-504489).



Not forgetting Halloween - FREE Pumpkins outside The Social Club from 10am on 28th October. First come first served! Provided by Disco-licious and sponsored by the Playing Field Committee.



Air your flares at our:
70'S VINYL DISCO
SPINNING THE NIGHT AWAY
with DJ Mark Johnson

November 11th at 7.30pm
Shillington Village Hall

John Travolta - Eat your Heart out!

Tickets £10 inc. Light Supper

Sponsored by:



www.styleplan.co.uk

★ Licenced Bar ★

Tickets available from
Peter Farmer 01462 712576
or Denise 07414513683



SHILLINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2023



This year the charity we are supporting is

Motor Neurone Disease Association

This is a disease which can affect anyone, with nerve weakness causing paralysis and eventual death. Average life expectancy after diagnosis is about 2 years and there is no cure.

Money raised at the festival will go for research.

The festival will take place from **Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd December**.
If you would like to enter a tree or display at the festival, you can choose any theme you wish.

It could be an opportunity to advertise your own group or small business.
There is no charge to participate and you would be helping to support this vital charity.

Opening Times:

<i>Friday, 1st December 3.30 to 5.30pm</i>	<i>Saturday, 2nd December 2.00 to 5.00pm</i>	<i>Sunday, 3rd December 2.00 to 5.00pm</i>
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- * Refreshments * Children's Tombola * Raffle *
* Admission Free *



If you would like to know more,
please contact

Nola McCormick on 01462 712096.



*All Saint's
Church Presents*

Christmas Fayre

**Saturday 2nd
December**

**Shillington
12:00pm – 3:30 pm**

Food served from 12:00pm

**Mulled
Wine**



Games

Stalls



Raffle



Let's Light up Shillington for Christmas with The Friends of All Saints' Christmas Tree



Come along and
hang your decorations
and lights on the tree
at any time from
2nd December
(home made welcome)

Light up/decorate
your windows
and garden too!

Our tree will be in the Memorial Gardens
by the Village Hall from
2nd December to 6th January



Our tree is provided by the friends committee and placed in the
Memorial Gardens by the kind permission of the parish council



SANTA'S FLOAT IS COMING

WE WILL BE COLLECTING FOR KEECH
HOSPICE AND ALL SAINTS CHURCH

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER APPROX. 16:30 - 19:30

MARQUIS HILL, UPTON END, GRAVENHURST

SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER APPROX. 17:00 - 20:00

HIGH ROAD NORTH, CHURCH ST, HILLFOOT, BURY END

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER APPROX. 17:00 - 20:30

PEGSDON, APSLEY END, HANSCOMBE END, HIGH ROAD SOUTH

All Saints'
Church
Shillington

RAMBLING ON with DEREK TURNER

☎ 01462-712462

derek.turner@phonecoop.coop



We Turners were lucky enough to live in Pegsdon in the 1980s. Across the main road, Hexton Manor Farm grew crops on the gentle slopes but where the plough could not reach, scrub covered the steeper land. Remaining in a few places and sheltered by the bushes were pockets of grass with wildflowers, some of them quite rare. These glades were sun traps and Chalkhill Blues and other butterflies flitted from plant to plant. However, they were within a few years of disappearing as the hawthorn bushes encroached relentlessly and shaded out the smaller plants. Except for one public footpath, the land was private and gamekeepers patrolled regularly to keep people away.

I explored the area on my lunchtime walks when the keepers were having theirs. I took with me a large, strong bag and a pair of secateurs and trimmed branches encroaching on the clearings to take back for the goats that we kept to forage on. We had to sell them when we moved to Shillington and my pruning sessions ceased but quite fortuitously, the Hills came up for sale around this time and the Wildlife Trust raised £250,000 to purchase them. Since then, contractors and regular work parties of volunteers* have cleared many of the bushes and sheep have helped to prevent their regrowth. As a result, the flowers and butterflies have vastly expanded their populations and range. Nowadays, we can all wander freely on Pegsdon Hills, enjoying the views, the spectacular landforms and nature's glorious displays without fear of eviction.

Pegsdon Hills are within a short distance of other nature reserves such as Barton Hills but to plants wishing to disperse their seeds and insects that can live only in downland habitats, they could be a thousand miles apart. Intervening farmland and conifer plantations prevent them from dispersing. This makes them vulnerable due to their restricted genetic diversity and at the mercy of extreme weather and climate change or trampling and disturbance by human visitors and dogs. Conservationists have longed dreamed of creating nature reserves that are large enough to withstand these pressures and are making it happen elsewhere. Some of the former farmland beyond Huntingdon has been acquired and reclaimed with drainage dykes blocked and fields reflooded to link existing biodiverse hotspots and create a vast fenland landscape and nature reserve.



Could a similarly massive tract of chalk grassland be created in this area? It looked unlikely until recently but when the Hexton Manor Estate came on the market last year, Natural England bought the land south of the B655 and are now drawing up plans that will do just that. The purchased area lies immediately west of Pegsdon Hills and east of and within spitting distance of Barton Hills and will link them together. Like these, it had also once been flower-rich, sheep-grazed grassland but the owner of Hexton Manor between 1900 and 1918, George Hodgson, had his men plant larch, spruce and other conifers on the slopes. As the trees matured, pheasant shooting became big business and gamekeepers introduced exotic bushes for the birds to roost in. As at Pegsdon, accessible land was ploughed and farmed. One way or another, most of the earlier habitat was destroyed and it will take a lot of work and a long time to restore something like it.



For us locals, the long-term prospect of walking for miles across the hills with gorgeous views of Bedfordshire scenery to one side, wildflowers at our feet, the scent of wild thyme in the air and butterflies fluttering past in a warm, summer breeze is very appealing.

We'll also have access to the Iron Age hill fort at Ravensburgh and other historic features as well as some of the deepest valleys this side of Wales. Don't go there yet though because the initial work to make the site accessible and safe for visitors will take a while to get done. I'll keep you posted.

* As long as you are reasonably fit and able to cope with the slopes, you, too, can be a volunteer at Pegsdon Hills and help to maintain and improve the area for wildlife and visitors. Practical tasks take place on the second Sunday of the month and some Wednesdays from October to March. Get back to me for further details.



MND WALK TO D'FEET - "RUBY WALK FOR MND"



SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2023

KEMPSTON TO SHILLINGTON - the long way!!!!

Thank you, thank you, thank you.....

Shillington residents Krystal Burroughs, Mick Newman, Vicky Wallace and Mandy Walker joined Carole Pullinger on the recent "Ruby Walk for MND". This was in celebration of Carole and her husband John's 40th wedding anniversary and to raise awareness and funding for the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

The walk began in Kempston at 6am, when it was still dark, with the route taking them through Haynes, Shefford, Henlow and Pirton. After a stop off at Shillington Church where they were married the walk finished at Shillington Social Club and what a welcome we received! This was completely overwhelming, thank you to everybody.

HUGE thanks to everyone involved, walkers, support team, pit stop venues, all our family and friends who supported us along the way and to everyone who has sponsored us we cannot thank you enough. So far, we have raised over £6,000 which is incredible. Our heartfelt thanks to you all.

Commented [CP1]:

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





SHILLINGTON SPITFIRES CRICKET CLUB

First Season Hit For Six

As the nights draw in, the cricket season must come to an end, and for Shillington Spitfires Cricket Club it has been a summer to remember.

The club was brought to life in March of this year when a few people – most of who had never met before – arrived at Putteridge High School for a first training session. There were players who hadn't played since school and some who had never played before, but it was a good start and the team started weekly training. First up at the school and then on to Shillington's Memorial Playing Fields.

The games began shortly after. In the team's first summer playing, they competed against several teams, including Pirton three times, Offley and Stopsley twice, and Hexton and Watton-at-Stone once. As well as two inter-team games.

It was a steep learning curve, but the highlight of the summer must be the team's first win at Watton-At-Stone. In less-than-perfect cricketing conditions, the Spitfires worked hard and won by an impressive seven wickets.



On Sunday 24th September, the team played its final game of the year in an inter-team game at the memorial Playing fields. It was a great day made even more special by the arrival a group of walkers raising money for MND. The walkers had walked 40kms for the charity for John Pullinger, who was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease in 2020. John and his wife Carol are celebrating 40 years of marriage and hosted the '40 for 40 walk'. As the walkers arrived at the club the cricket team stopped play to clap them in. After the game, the cricketers and walkers enjoyed refreshments and a BBQ together. It was a fitting end to the season.

Now that the playing has finished, the work really begins up at the playing fields as the Spitfires ready their cricket square for the 2024 season, so they can host home games. This work will be starting very soon. The team is also looking for sponsorship and cricketing grants to be able to move the club forward.



Shillington Spitfires Cricket Club has been very fortunate to have fantastic support from the playing field committee, the parish council as well as the residents, who have supported the team over the summer.

The Team would also like to thank its main sponsors for the first season: The Ethical Wealth Project and FPM Facility Services. Both have provided fantastic support and the team looks forward to working with them again for the next season.

If you want to get involved, the club always on the lookout for more talent, find us on Facebook and Instagram (search for Shillington Spitfires CC) to get in touch. Even though the season is over, winter nets and training sessions will begin soon.



Shillington Baby & Toddler Group

Every Friday 9.30am - 11.30am

Bring your 0-4-year-olds to Shillington Village Hall for play, crafts, messy play, singing, good company and a cuppa.

We're open every Friday in term time. £3.50 per family (payable by cash/card on arrival) including tea/coffee and biscuits for the adults and a snack for the little ones.

Plus: if you're planning a party, we have toddler-sized tables and chairs, soft play blocks, ride-ons, slides and rockers available to hire at very reasonable rates.

Email: shillingtonbtg@outlook.com

Facebook: @Shillingtonbabyandtoddlergroup



Registered Charity 1054966



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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“AUTUMNAL COLOURS” by Donna Cameron

Donna's Garden Designs - ☎ 07833-670934



After September's Indian Summer with the hottest day on record! we can now enjoy the rich colours of Autumn.

I love this time of year, the light is soo soft and the misty mornings roll over the fields. There is a nip to the air which, when it burns off, reveals hedgerows dripping with berries and trees in vibrant shades of oranges, reds and yellows.

Cooler days are coming and in the garden it's a case of tidying for the winter, cutting back perennials and maybe dividing some to different places around the garden to enjoy next year.

Of course, with gardening you are always looking ahead to the next season and this time of year is when you can plant spring bulbs. I have a bulb catalogue that I am constantly flicking through, looking for something a little bit different for my customers. There is such a variety and they are so easy to plant for years of enjoyment to come. The bulbs may look like boring now but wait till spring when these mini miracles spring to life!

Plants that give seasonal interest now, that you can have in your garden whether it is big or small, are Japanese Acers. These can either be kept in pots or replanted in the ground. They have a graceful dome like canopy, spectacular colours and gorgeous foliage. They like to be mulched with Ericaceous soil and kept somewhere sheltered and shady. I have a customer that has two Acers that were planted in 1914 in her lawn and are breathtaking. They are underplanted with bulbs, soo pretty in the Spring.

Sedums are a great and are very low maintenance, just cut back once a year after the frosts, as they look attractive with frost on and also helps to protect the plant. They have succulent fleshy type leaves with flat nectar rich pink flowerheads that the bees love. These go lovely with Michaelmas Daisies and ornamental grasses and you may also have some sunflowers still hanging on that would complement this selection of plants. You can leave the Sunflowers and the birds will enjoy foraging the seeds.



Enjoy your garden and produce and buy some spring bulbs!

Happy Gardening! Donna x



JOBS IN THE GARDEN FOR OCTOBER

* Tidy up Garden	* Trim hedges	* Move tender plants somewhere safe.	* Prune Climbing Roses
* Harvest Pumpkins for Halloween	* Collect seed from the garden	* Harvest apples, pears and grapes.	* Plant out spring cabbages.
* Mow lawn for the last time and lay any turf	* Cut back perennials and divide.		* Enjoy the Autumn colours.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DECISIONS from CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL:

CB/22/03870/VOC – 9 Handscombe End Road.
Removal of condition number 3 of planning permission MB/82/00182/FULL (Erection of a Detached bungalow). Removal of agricultural occupancy condition. **GRANTED 05/05/23**

CB/22/04671/FULL – 9A Handscombe End Road.
Change of use of an annex to a dwelling. **GRANTED 10/05/23**

CB/23/01499/FULL – The Old Rectory, Higham Road, Higham Gobion.
Erection of workshop outbuilding in the front garden. **REFUSED 21/07/2023**

CB/23/02456/FULL – 10 Wilson Close.
Single storey rear and two-storey sides extensions. **GRANTED 24/07/2023**

APP/P0240/W/3320841 – CB/22/03536/VOC Chiltern View, Higham Road, Higham Gobion.
Variation of condition number two of planning permission CB/21/04807/FULL (Erection of an agricultural barn) – The approved structure shall only be used for agricultural purposes and any other use considered appropriate in the countryside. **APPEAL DISMISSED**

NEW/REVISED APPLICATIONS:

Applications considered at the September Parish Council meeting:

CB/TCA/23/00102 – Land at Hanscombe End Road.
Works to trees in a conservation area: Fell tree labelled as “leaning” on sketch plan. Cut back other two trees. **SUPPORT, unanimous.**

CB/23/02608/FULL – 17A Hanscombe End Road.
Single storey and side extension and new bi-folds doors to rear. **SUPPORT, unanimous.**

CB/23/02505/FULL – 31 Bury Road.
Garage roof terrace with external steps. **SUPPORT, unanimous.**

Applications for consideration at the October Parish Council meeting:

CB/23/02764/FULL – 17 Upton End Road.
Erection of a new detached dwelling with associated works. Demolition of existing detached garage, erection of replacement garage.
(Comments to CBC By 2nd October 2023 – time extension agreed).

CB/23/03026/OUT – Thomas Meadow, Hillfoot Road
Outline Application: for 8 self-build custom homes with access and all ancillary works. All matters reserved except access and layout.
(Comments to CBC by 18th October 2023).

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.*

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

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.



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
High Road Stores/Post Office.....	0345 722 3344
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:

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



Wildlife Trust for
**Beds, Cambs
& Northants**

The best way to protect nature
near you...
BECOME A MEMBER

BANKING ON BUTTERFLIES.....



Matt Hayes, PhD student and Wildlife Trust BCN Trustee, gives an update on how this innovative project has fared in the year following the banks being built.

It has now been one year since butterfly banks were built on Wildlife Trust nature reserves in Pegsdon and Totternhoe, Bedfordshire. In September 2021, eight banks, each 15 metres long and two metres high, were constructed with diggers, taking scrapings of chalk earth to transform areas of previously flat habitat. Four banks were put in place on each site in the shape of giant letter E's, with one E facing each direction of the compass, providing a wide range of microclimates across their many different slopes.

Although butterfly banks have been used before in many locations, this project is the first time that they have been surveyed and analysed in this way, to see how they can help support whole communities of species during periods of climate change.

Data collection before and after the banks

A key part of the project was to collect baseline data on what was in the flat fields before the banks were built, which could then be followed up with repeat data collection each year, to see how this management technique impacts the temperatures and species observed.

Starting my PhD in January 2022, I continued the work of Wildlife Trust staff and volunteers, as well as other researchers from the University of Cambridge, who as a team have been collaborating on the project, establishing and monitoring the banks.

One part of the data collection includes photographing the banks from set angles and positions over time, so that we have a visual catalogue of how they have changed. Comparing the images above, you can see that in just one year, quite an impressive amount of vegetation has sprung up on the banks and transformed them from blank white canvasses, when they were first built.



In addition to the photographs, I have carried out many different types of survey, repeating data collection that was carried out before the banks were put in, enabling before and after comparisons.

The next step will be to analyse this data and continue adding to it over the coming years. Although the project is titled “Banking on Butterflies”, we are also interested in how all kinds of other flora and fauna might use the banks.

Aside from repeating surveys from previous years, the record-breaking heatwave during the summer of 2022 offered the chance for us to collect some completely new and extremely important data. Although vegetation has been growing on the banks, they are still quite bare and therefore, under ‘normal’ conditions, we might expect butterflies to spend most of their time in the surrounding fields, full of caterpillar food-plants and nectar sources. In time, these plants will populate the banks, but we are really interested in the ability of the banks to help heat up or cool down butterflies in extreme conditions.



On 19th July 2022 the hottest day in the UK was recorded, with highs exceeding 40°C. This gave a snapshot of what future climates in this country could look like, how this could impact local wildlife, and whether conservation management on reserves could help buffer against some of the negative impacts. During these extreme temperatures, I surveyed the butterfly banks at Pegsdon Hills and Hoo Bit nature reserve and the surrounding field, recording all the butterflies I observed.

The findings turned out to be a mix of being both extremely worrying and exciting. In the midday heat, absolutely no insects were flying. On every other survey this past year, butterflies were recorded throughout the open parts of the field but on July 19th, just 2 were seen hunkered down in the long grass. The only place the butterflies were reliably seen in the field was in the shaded slopes of the banks, with each slope harbouring multiple, inactive individuals hiding from the sun.

To the eastern edge of the field there is a boundary of woody scrub. When extending surveys to include this area, we found that within just a few meters of shade, multi-species groups of butterflies and other insects, including hoverflies, were all resting together amongst the cool vegetation. It seemed that the 40°C temperatures were simply too warm for insects to be active, and they all huddled together, making use of the only shade available.



Although this is a worrying peek into what the future might hold for local wildlife, with increasing bouts of inactivity and associated fitness implications of not being able to search for food or mates, it does show evidence of the banks working. During extreme weather events the banks offer a refuge, where species like butterflies can survive until conditions become suitable again. As climates continue to change, it will become increasingly important to keep nature reserves varied, managing them for a mix of habitats and temperatures, providing as many options as possible for species struggling to survive in a rapidly changing world.



Range Rover / Land Rover Theft

There has been a recent spike in the theft of high performance vehicles across the 3 counties, particularly Land Rovers and Range Rovers.

7 SECURITY TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR LAND ROVER FROM ANY KIND OF THEFT

- 1. INSTALL A TRACKING DEVICE:** Thieves will not reveal their hideout location and risk getting found by the car's tracking device. Having a tracking device also buys you more time to get back your Land Rover in one piece. You can contact the Police and provide them with accurate information. Tech-savvy thieves are always finding new and improved ways to steal expensive cars. Stolen cars are also shipped to a different country overseas within the next 24 hours. A high-quality Range Rover GPS tracker provides S7 tracking systems that offer 24 hours monitoring and send distress signals to police if any theft attempt is detected. This way, you will always be one step ahead of the thief.
- 2. KEEP YOUR VEHICLE LOCKED AT ALL TIMES:** Keeping your Land Rover locked may sound obvious, but sometimes, we might forget to physically lock our cars because many newer models are keyless systems and work with a button's push. One common mistake is that owners press the key fob in a direction away from the vehicle after getting out of the car and do not double-check. This means the signal does not go to the car and the doors stay unlocked. If someone opens it in that state, even the alarm will not go off. You can easily prevent this by just trying the handle after you lock it to make sure it is properly locked or just wait for the lights to flash, which shows that it is now locked.
- 3. PARK IN A WELL-LIT SPOT:** Always remember to park in a well-lit street or spot. Check for security cameras to be extra secure. Make sure it is a public space with lots of passers-by. If you have a garage, then do not park it in the street even if you are in a hurry.
- 4. KEEP YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS HIDDEN:** It's best not to leave anything in the car once you are out of it. Expensive objects that can easily be seen will grab more attention. This includes music devices and other Satnav or GPS devices. You can make sure you don't leave any personal and expensive belongings like jackets or purses behind.
- 5. A STURDY STEERING WHEEL LOCK:** A good old-fashioned steering wheel lock can be extremely handy. It offers an extra layer of protection and makes sure that even if the thief is tech-savvy, he will still have difficulty unlocking this. Whatever he does, there will be noise when trying to force these things open. The sturdier the lock, the better. These tips also apply to electric cars. Steering wheel locks can't be hacked by computers, making them an effective option to enhance safety.
- 6. CONSIDER AN IMMOBILISER?** There are plenty of immobilisers out there that can make a thief's work extremely difficult and sometimes impossible. There are hidden switches for older models that you can use to make sure the engine does not turn on. New models like the Land Rover Defender Hybrid have advanced engine immobilisers that work wirelessly through remote signals.
- 7. KEEP YOUR KEY FOB SAFE:** Tech-savvy thieves are now performing relay attacks. These are mostly two-person attacks where one retrieves the signal from your key fob, and the other receives that signal and quickly unlocks your car. The best way to prevent this will be to keep your fob at a safe distance. If you are at home, make sure the fob is far away from the window, this makes the signal hard to relay. You can also block the signal by storing your fob in a metal Faraday pouch. The pouch will act as a force field and prevent any signal transmission.



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VILLAGE CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 8 Congregational Church Service - Revd. Peter Hyde – 10.30am
- 11 Mens' Club – Meal at the Three Horse Shoes, Norton
- 13 Social Club – Vinyl Revival 90s Nostalgia with DJ Mark Johnson – 8pm til late.
- 12 Wives Group – “History of Afternoon Teas” by Maureen – Congregational Church – 2-4pm
- 15 Congregational Church – NO SERVICE at Shillington – joining Pirton Methodist at 10.30am
- 18 Mens' Club – Summer Lunch Social at The Musgrave Arms, Shillington
- 21 Mens' Club – Visit to Kempston Steam Museum – Steaming Weekend (Saturday)
- 22 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Hazel Beadle – 10.30am
- 28 Annual Fireworks Spectacular @ the Playing Fields. Gates open at 5pm. Display at 7pm.
- 28 Social Club – live band “BLACK SQUIRRELS” – following fireworks. Starting at 9pm
- 29 Congregational Church – UNITED SERVICE joined by All Saints, Shillington – 10.30am

NOVEMBER

- 2 WI meeting – Sandra Hare “Fun with Flowers” – Congregational Church – 7.30pm
- 6 First meeting for Shillingfest 24 – Social Club – 8pm
- 7 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 9 Wives Group – “Keeping Active” with Maggie Layton – Congregational Church – 2-4pm
- 11 Friends of All Saints – 70s Vinyl Disco with DJ Mark Johnson – Village Hall from 7.30pm
- 12 Congregational Church Remembrance Sunday Service – Revd. McCormick – 10am
- 12 War Memorial Wreath Laying – 10.45am
- 15 Village Hall Management Committee Meeting – Jubilee Room – 7.30pm
- 18 Social Club – Live band – To be confirmed from 9pm.
- 19 Congregational Church Service – Favourite Hymns – local arrangement.
- 20 Playing Field Management Committee Meeting – Social Club – 8pm
- 22 Men's Club – Visit to Farr Brewery, Wheathampstead
- 24 Deadline for December edition of Parish News
- 26 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Hare – 10.30am

DECEMBER

- 1-3 Congregational Church – Xmas Tree Festival – see poster on page 22 for more details
- 2 All Saints Friends – Xmas Tree in War Memorial Garden until 6 January.
- 2 All Saints Church – Xmas Fayre at the Church – 12 noon to 3.30pm
- 3 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 5 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 9 Social Club – Live band – “MICE WITH GLASSES” from 9pm
- 10 Village Carol Service – All Saints Church, Shillington – 6pm
- 15 All Saints Church – Santa's Float around the parish. See poster on page 25 for more details.
- 17 Social Club – Christmas Draw Day & Auction in Aid of MND.

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www.shillington-hub.org.uk