

# PARISH NEWS

covering  
**SHILLINGTON, PEGSDON & HIGHAM GOBION**

ALL SAINTS' PRESENTS



## QUIZ NIGHT

**CHEESE  
BOARD  
INCLUDED**

Saturday 23rd March 7.30  
at Shillington Village Hall

**Tickets £10**

For tickets, please contact:

Liz 01462 713978

Denise 07414513683

**RAFFLE TICKETS ON THE NIGHT**

**BRING YOUR OWN DRINK  
AND GLASSES**

All Saints'  
Church  
Shillington



**Issue 170 – February 2024**

**Deadline for April edition - Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**

# PARISH COUNCIL

In December, Shillington Parish Council had two meetings. At the first, we heard about a proposal by the CBC Footpath Officer that might resolve the obstruction of Footpath 20 in the fields behind Woodmer Close. Discussions with the relevant landowners will continue.

A week later, councillors met to discuss the budget for the next financial year (2024-5). The Parish Council had dipped into its reserves to keep the precept unchanged in recent years. With the cost of providing many of services rising steeply, councillors agreed that the precept would need to be increased this time to ensure that the reserves are kept within the recommended level of 6 to 9 months of annual expenditure. Unfortunately, this will lead to a small increase in Council Tax. For contracts such as grass cutting that expire in April 2025, the council will explore if savings could be made by co-operating with other local councils and making economies. In the case of grass cutting, this might include changes to the areas that are mowed or to the frequency.

Some councillors were stuck in traffic and unable to attend the January meeting, held on a day that fierce winds caused many trees and branches to fall and block roads. Those who did heard that the people of Pegsdon were getting close to raising the money required for a debrillator. With the dark evenings at this time of year, the Parish Council tries to ensure that faulty street lights are fixed or replaced as soon as possible. By the time you read this, 81 of the 89 owned by the parish council will have been upgraded from the older sodium lanterns to more reliable and cheaper to run LEDs.

Following consultation between the Chair and the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the possibility of installing a speed camera at Marquis Hill, we were told that more data would be needed to justify it. Traffic monitoring boxes were installed there and in High Road in December. Since the Council last met, we have heard that they have confirmed that speeding is indeed a significant problem and strengthened our case that more should be done to tackle it. The Police Traffic management unit have shared details with their enforcement teams and Central Bedfordshire Highways and we shall continue to keep this issue alive. A speed watch session took place on 15 January after poor weather ruled out an earlier one. Approved locations where the team can operate now include more sites in High Road, Bury Road, Hanscombe End Road and Upton End Road.

The chair, clerk and ward member attended a priority setting meeting with Bedfordshire police community teams and representatives from other local councils recently. Given that the county receives 'rural' funding from central government and despite having to deal with many 'urban' issues, the police claim that they are doing the best they can with limited resources and backed this up with the example of some of their officers who have filed more intelligence reports than whole teams in urban forces. Many of those at the meeting called for more "bobbies on the beat".

Our area (Flitwick & Ampthill) has just one PC (Sam Hewson) and one PCSO (Sarah Cane) to cover a large area and emergency calls may take them elsewhere. Given the issues the police face, intelligence and data-driven responses are key, which is why all crimes no matter how small should be reported to them on 101. They use this data to target responses and make funding and manpower requests. The meeting agreed that the police should focus on knife crime and youth violence for the next 3 months. Whilst Shillington has been lucky to avoid these is the most part, the intelligence of "county lines" drug gangs using rural communities and the related violence is an issue that is very much on our doorstep and shouldn't be seen as only a London or Luton problem.

*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. ☎ 01462-713224

email: [clerk@shillington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@shillington-pc.gov.uk) <https://shillington-pc.gov.uk>

# ANNOUNCEMENTS / ITEMS / NEWS IN BRIEF

DATES FOR YOUR 2024 DIARY

**SHILLINGFEST 24 - SATURDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE at THE  
MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS**



*Stalls and sideshows from village organisations, charities and businesses; live music afternoon and evening; food stalls and BBQ; Inside and Outside Bars; display by Shefford Majorettes. More to be confirmed as plans develop. If you would like to be involved please contact Sally (07711-504489) to book your stall - craft stalls welcome.*



**Annual Fireworks Spectacular - Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER  
at The MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS.**  
*Fireworks from 7pm for 20 minutes.*

## 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**



## VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT DAYS

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 1-3 pm**  
*Wrest Park Gardens and Mansion  
Drawing Room.*



- ❖ *Would you like to be a part of a great team?*
- ❖ *Would you like to spend time in one of England's most prestigious and  
❖ fascinating Gardens?*
- ❖ *Would you like to share your enthusiasm and love of history?*
- ❖ *Then come and volunteer for English Heritage at Wrest Park.*

*Whether it's welcoming and chatting to visitors as a Meet & Greeter, helping the gardeners in the gardens and grounds or sharing your knowledge of the garden as a Garden Steward. Telling the stories of our unique house and garden as a Room Guide or volunteering in our second hand bookshop, there are plenty of ways to get involved here at Wrest Park, so come along to one of our open days and find out more about what's involved and how you can help our visitors.*



## SHILLINGTON POPPY APPEAL – 2023

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2023 Poppy Appeal for Shillington, Gravenhurst and Pegsdon.  
The amount collected was £2,040.53p,  
**Shirley McGrath - Poppy Appeal Organiser EAB29**



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SHILLINGTON & GRAVENHURST

[www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk)



## LETTER from our INTERIM MINISTER

Dear friends

My name is Simon Tibbs, and I'm the Interim Minister at All Saints' – a sort of part-time, acting vicar, put in by the Diocese to support the parish until a new, permanent vicar can start.

I was licensed in November, and have very much enjoyed getting to know people, and joining in a few activities beyond the regular church services, including the 3Cs welcoming space/café on a Monday morning and lunchtime and the Friends of All Saints. This week, I was able to visit Shillington Lower, and am looking forward to working with them to try and re-energize the positive partnership between church and school that existed in the past.

Coming in with a fresh pair of eyes, I'd say Shillington has a lot to offer. Apart from the beauty of the environment, what strikes me most is the strong community spirit, and the willingness of people to do things to help their neighbours.

Thinking particularly of the church congregation, the pandemic, Rev. Richard's departure and a rather complex and draining re-organization process all coming close together did produce a few bumps in the road. Most are now in pretty good heart, however, and ready to turn the page. Happily, an appointment has now been made to the new post of Priest in Charge of Arlesey and Astwick with Gravenhurst, Shillington and Stondon.

Rev. Jenna Dearden brings a wealth of experience from a previous career in the Probation Service. She has bags of energy and enthusiasm, and is currently serving at Dunstable Priory. She will be licensed at All Saints on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm. You are all most welcome to come along and join in the celebration.

If you're someone who prays, please send one up for Jenna and for the church community in this time of transition.

And in the meantime if you'd like to talk about life, faith, the church, or anything else, please get in touch. I'm always happy to pay a visit, whether or not you're a church-goer.

Best wishes

*Simon Tibbs*

Tibbs.simon@gmail.com



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SHILLINGTON & GRAVENHURST

www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk



## WHAT'S GOING ON

Any enquiries regarding All Saints Church during the interregnum contact:

**Churchwardens - Liz & Dick Brewer ☎ 01462 711594.**

**(Mobiles: Liz – 07930-812940 or Dick – 07785-638856)**

### **SERVICES up to EASTER DAY:**

- ❖ 9:30 - Holy Communion Service most Sundays apart from Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February when Morning Praise will be conducted by Lay Minister of Worship Keith Callard and on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> March when Lay Minister of Worship Ruth Grey will conduct a Mothering Sunday Service.
- ❖ Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March (Palm Sunday) we hope to have a donkey to lead our procession round the Churchyard weather permitting.
- ❖ Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March (Easter Day) will be a Joint Communion Service with The Congregational Church at All Saints at 9.30am

### **OTHER SERVICES:**

- ❖ Evensong will be held at 6pm on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> February and Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, both led by Rev Dr Simon Tibbs,
- ❖ There will be an Ash Wednesday Service on 14<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm at All Saints.
- ❖ An Ecumenical course each Tuesday during Lent (20<sup>th</sup> February-19<sup>th</sup> March) at Mount Pleasant Golf Club 5.30 -7pm has been arranged, led by Rev Dr Simon Tibbs. Each session is intended to work as a 'stand-alone'. Feel free to come to 1 or 2 whatever suits you. The bar will be open for hot and cold drinks and cake.

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH - SUNDAY SCHOOL:** *Currently our Sunday School is not meeting.*

### **FUNERALS/BURIALS:**

- ✠ 13<sup>th</sup> December 23 - Beverly Ann Edwards. Service in church followed by burial in the churchyard.
- ✠ 26<sup>th</sup> January 24 - John Banham. Followed by cremation at North Herts Crematorium.

### **200 CLUB – LUCKY WINNERS:** (prizes 1<sup>st</sup> £50, 2<sup>nd</sup> £25, 3<sup>rd</sup> £10)

#### **December 2023:**

1<sup>st</sup> no. 60 – Max Scleater

2<sup>nd</sup> no.185 – Tina Crow

3<sup>rd</sup> no. 193 – Maggie Theaker

#### **January 2024:**

1<sup>st</sup> no. 124 – Jonty Smith

2<sup>nd</sup> no. – Liz Carboni

3<sup>rd</sup> no. – Liz Brewer

*The New 2024/2025 season of 200 club starts in April. Tickets are available now. They cost £15 each and are entered into every monthly draw for the year ahead. For further information contact: Tim*

*Watson ☎ 01462 711123 or Dick Brewer ☎ 01462 711594.*

**OTHER VERY GOOD NEWS:** We are very pleased to announce that a New Priest in Charge has been appointed. Rev. Jenna Dearden will be licensed by the Bishop of Bedford on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm in All Saints Church, Shillington. She will be in charge of 4 parishes - Gravenhurst/Shillington, Stondon, St Peters in Arlesey and Astwick.

**EVENTS:** All Saints is holding a quiz on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March in the Village Hall. Tickets are £10 each which includes light refreshments. We are encouraging teams of not more than 8 if possible. Tickets available from any of the events committee or ring Denise 07414-513683 or Liz 01462-711594 for more details.

*Best Wishes Liz Brewer. [lizbrewer313@gmail.com](mailto:lizbrewer313@gmail.com)*





It's February already – where has the time gone? It's so good that the evenings are now rapidly drawing out. December and Christmas seem ages ago.



Talking of Christmas, the Lights at Wrest Park were wonderful. A few members even returned for a second visit with family and friends.

The WI tree at the Christmas Tree Festival looked amazing. So many people remarked on how unusual and beautiful it was. The Turf Tappers entertained us at our December meeting and they certainly got our feet tapping. We also thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas Dinner at The

Raven.

Our first meeting of the New Year was a Games and Goodies evening. Tables were set out and on them were jigsaw puzzles, quiz questions, Rummikub and a couple of decks of cards (for the nine card Palmer family version of Rummy!). Members brought along unopened goodies left over from Christmas (peanuts, Pringles, panettone etc) and these were enjoyed by all. It was a great evening!



We will be welcoming Pauline Roby, Singing for Fun and Confidence, at our meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> February. Anyone who is thinking “Ooo no; I can't / don't sing” will be pleasantly surprised - and very impressed with themselves and others!



Our AGM will be held at the start of the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> March. This will be followed by: A Cooking Demonstration by Liza. We are looking forward to some great mouth-watering recipes, tips and ideas.

The Walking Club will resume on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February (as long as there isn't a foot of snow). The Lunch and Supper Clubs and Relaxation are now up and running after the busy Christmas period.

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

*For further information please contact:*

**Julia Bruce, President** ☎ **01462 712412** or

**Liza Starling, Secretary** - [lstarling@outlook.com](mailto:lstarling@outlook.com)

# NATURE NEEDS NIMBYS

By Annie Palmer (WI Ambassador for Climate Change) [anniejpalmer@hotmail.com](mailto:anniejpalmer@hotmail.com)

Back in the day, I used to ask if you could possibly write to our (ex) MP Nadine Dorries about various issues. During the year when she kind of resigned, and then actually did resign, I almost gave up communicating with her as it seemed a waste of time.



However, we now have a new MP, Alistair Strathern, who is keen to engage with his constituents. Last December he held a surgery in Meppershall so I went and did a spot of engaging. I went to express my concerns about Keir Starmer being “keen to make it harder for ‘Nimbys’ to block housing development”. I pointed out to Mr Strathern that government and developers label people like myself, who are deeply concerned about the destruction of the countryside (building on greenfield sites) and environmental breakdown, as ‘Nimbys’. This is an injustice. He agreed; sort of.

I mentioned that the way developers treat each new development in isolation from others is unacceptable; there is no looking at the whole picture. I said that around here displaced wildlife has hardly anywhere to move to that isn't threatened with development – and displacing wildlife isn't “protecting and enhancing” it.



I watched Question Time on the 11<sup>th</sup> January and the word ‘Nimby’ was mentioned a couple of times. It was very worrying listening to the panellist's response to the question: “Which party can I trust to meaningfully alleviate the housing crisis?”. Anand Menon (Director of UK in a Changing Europe) said that “there's a need to find a way of going round planning; it's (about) ignoring local opposition. Greenbelt is an excuse for inaction. Building houses is a pathway to growth; it's good for the national economy and local protesters shouldn't be allowed to get in the way of that”.



Another panellist, Lisa Nandy MP (Labour), basically agreed with him but was understandably, as there's an election looming on the horizon, more reticent and placatory. She said that there is no solution to the housing crisis, or to the growth crisis, without getting more homes built – Labour is therefore committed to building 1,500,000 houses. There was no mention of the unacceptable number of second or empty homes in the UK, the use of brownfield sites or of social housing being lost to the Right to Buy scheme and not being replaced. And, with regard to Question Time, nobody asked the all-important question: “Where will we get our food and water from when they build hundreds of thousands of mainly executive houses on our best agricultural land and in water-stressed areas?”. With regard to housing, it was ‘build, build, build’ and to hell with anyone who says “but what about nature, soils to grow food and clean air and water?”. Welcome to democracy.

There are those in power who, through legislation, are ensuring that we can't rock their economic growth at all costs boat - they want to keep on making loads of money building wrong houses in wrong places. Evil prospers ....

If you feel strongly about any of the above, please would you consider writing to or emailing our MP ([alistair.strathern.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alistair.strathern.mp@parliament.uk))? It doesn't need to be long – short and sweet is often best! (If you do contact him, don't forget to say that you live in his constituency). It would be really beneficial to let our MP know how you feel about the destruction of the countryside and of democracy.

*“Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn” (Harriet Beecher Stowe).*

*Annie x*



# AQUAMAN

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

So I am sitting comfortably in a cinema with grandchildren, ready for a good snooze, watching a film called “Aquaman”. I mean it took forever just to see the trailers and advertisements that apparently had been specially chosen to suit me before the real film came on. Lovely I thought, no nasty sounds or smells of crisps, no one talking loud into mobile phones.

Then before I had got some good shuteye the music is quite loud; it sounded exciting; I thought can I pick out the various instruments playing? Not much dialogue it seems – so I opened one eye.. Strange creatures appear on the screen. Lots of them. Some strange humans too. Lots of action and fast movements. It seems like serious stuff. Fighting and daredevil actions. I open the other eye. I can’t believe I am still awake... This is not the plan... Now I am caught up in whatever is going on. Looks like some kind of struggle to stay alive. There is talk of a sacrifice. Looks like a family fight. It seems like a Bible story. Well, it’s nearly over and I am still awake. There is a powerful scene of people wanting a good life together. A great sense of hopefulness. Wow, what entertainment, what excitement. It has been a strange but not uninteresting journey.



It made me reflect on a new year’s journey. Indeed any new adventure. I remember when I first made a journey to Manchester and later to London. There was lots going on around me. There was lots of information to take in. Names of places - Ardwick, Ancoats, Deansgate, Piccadilly etc. There was a lot of activity - bikes, cars, trains somewhere, overhead the sounds and sights of planes. There were sounds of brakes screeching and sirens from ambulances. I felt quite disorientated and even began to wonder where was I going? How would I get there? Nothing was familiar. In between the occasional green gaps of peace like Regents Park or the derelict Plymouth grove there was so much going on.



No-one it seemed had time to nod or smile much, just push past on the footpath or a person begging. I reflected on how much life is like this for many people; a sense of disorientation; a sense of wanting the world to stop; a sense of not being sure where we are going or how we get there; excitement maybe, action. Each day can be busy with routines and adventures or not. Maybe feeling alone or pushed about. A struggle, pain, joy, a glimpse of calm, peace and love.

I thought then that I should take so much of this in and try to live out each day but mostly then help others to cope, to share some kindness and joy. I could of course just say it’s too much for me and carry on finding somewhere to snooze as much as possible, I could say I will keep my eyes and ears closed to most of what is going on and other people’s needs... but then again...I did think thank you Aquaman for making me think about living out in this great new adventure called life.

Enjoy your journey, take care of each other.

*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**.



## **FUNERAL conducted by Rev Angus McCormick:**

† Sylvia Mary Elizabeth Phillips

*“Blessed are those who mourn, They shall be comforted”*

## **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL:**



Thank you to everyone who made our recent Christmas Tree Festival such a success. Thank you to all the individual people and organisations who entered trees and displays - it's always a delight to see the creativity and the imagination of the different entries, especially the ideas our young people come up with.

Thank you to everyone who gave raffle and tombola prizes and items for the refreshments and to everyone who looked after those different areas during the festival. But special thanks to everyone who came to the festival over the weekend – that is what makes it all worthwhile.

This time our chosen charity was Motor Neurone Disease Association and at our service in January we were able to hand over a cheque for £1350.00. We hope this will help aid research into this disease and help those who are living with it.

Thank you all once again, *Nota McCormick*

## **BEDFORD FOODBANK:**

Many thanks for your continuing support to the FOOD BANK. Regular weekly collections are taken and the NEED is greater than ever. Food parcels can be delivered if necessary to a home.

**Rev Angus McCormick 1 Bells Close Shillington. 01462 712096.**

## **FRIENDLY WELCOME SPACE:**

We are continuing with our 'Friendly Space' and invite you join us for hot/cold drinks and biscuits, soup and a roll, 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.



# SHILLINGTON MEN'S CLUB

(Now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year)

*On the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup> December 30 members enjoyed a three course festive meal of traditional fayre at the Mount Pleasant Golf Club in Lower Stondon. This was a night thoroughly enjoyed by the members and always rounds off our year in tremendous fashion. Thanks again to Brian Pettifer for providing us with the raffle prize of a wood turned fruit bowl made by himself. Adrian Foote won the cash raffle and Alan Little won the fruit bowl. All proceeds go to our designated charity. A huge thank you to Paul Bruce for organising this always popular annual event.*

*Our first meal outing of the year took place on the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> January at The Raven at Hexton. Here 25 members tucked into Ham, Egg and Chips or Hunter's Chicken and Chips followed by either Treacle Pudding and Custard or Chocolate Fudge Cake and Custard yum yum!! A great night was had by all and what a terrific venue and meal to start the New Year. Thank you to Paul Bruce and Stewart Rataj for organising this event, Peter Sentonaris won the raffle on this occasion. Our first lunch social of the year took place on the afternoon of the 24<sup>th</sup> January at The View in Pegsdon. 17 members attended, the food was very good and the staff were very helpful. Thank you to Michael Bradley for organising this event.*

*We are now looking forward to our "Kick Off Party 2024" which is a revamp of what was the Annual General Meeting. This will be held in the Congregational Church at 1930hrs on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. Members should start to arrive from 1900hrs. Annual elections and subscriptions will be taken. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided once formalities are finished. New members will always be welcome, so come along and see what the Club has to offer!*

*Our long-standing Meal Co-ordinator Paul Bruce has decided to stand down from this role. Paul has been fantastic in this role over the years and has organised and negotiated some unbelievable deals in regard to the price and quality of the meals and the range of different venues. He will be a hard act to follow!*

## **Future events:**

- \* 31<sup>st</sup> January - "Kick Off Party 2024" - Congregational Church - 7.30 p.m.
- \* 7<sup>th</sup> February – Meal at The Greyhound at Haynes
- \* 17<sup>th</sup> February - Tour of P&A Wood, Dunmow, Essex.
- \* 28<sup>th</sup> February - Lunch Social at the Musgrave Arms.
- \* 6<sup>th</sup> March - Meal at The Cross Keys, Pulloxhill.
- \* 20<sup>th</sup> March - "Supercars" dealership Hatfield.

## **Membership:**

*Current membership is 42 members. There are 8 elected Committee members who meet every 12 weeks to review and evaluate past events, plan future events and review the Club's Finances. The Club offers members a bi-monthly opportunity to socialise and enjoy friendly conversation and comradeship over a good pub meal and beverages or a visit to a place of cultural or historical interest. This is the essence of the Club. New members are warmly welcomed, so any new residents to the village, please take the opportunity to embrace village life, meet local people and come along and see what the Club has to offer! Membership is £5 to join with an Annual Membership of £15.*



## **Contacts:**

**Events Co-ordinator - Michael Bradley**  
(01462 711162)

**Email - [michael894bradley@btinternet.com](mailto:michael894bradley@btinternet.com)**

**Chairman – Kevin Johnson**  
(01462 712768)

**Email – [kevinjohnson360@msn.com](mailto:kevinjohnson360@msn.com)**

# REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BLAKE STEPHENSON

- January 2024 -

**Greenwoods** – After such a long silence I followed up with the planning department. Central Beds has asked that the application be withdrawn. If this doesn't happen, it will be determined. I'm sure like me, many of you will be pleased that there is now some light at the end of this long tunnel.



**Balancing budgets** – Central Beds must agree a balanced budget, which it has done successfully over the past 14 years. But since political leadership changed last May, there has been huge over-spend and, to balance the books, Independent Councillors will propose; a 4.99% council tax increase, a charge for garden waste collection (likely £55 per household), spending £16.9m of reserves, and £22.8m of “efficiencies”.

**But ... bus grants have been saved** – We don't all use the busses, but I know that those who do, have been understandably anxious about the proposal to axe the grants that pay for the Number 79. So over Christmas I organised a meeting with the bus operator, Grant Palmer, to understand the implications across the county. 37 routes in Central Beds are subsidised, so the impact would be widespread. I took the fight to the Council chamber with colleagues, and I'm pleased that the proposals have been shelved ... for now at least!

**Highways** – I reported last time that I had a motion at Full Council, which if successful, would require consultation and regular reporting by the administration on highways works. This is the start of my plan for more transparency, governance, and accountability for highways prioritisation. This *should* start to improve the influence we have over projects in our villages. And with such widespread support from across the political spectrum, there is certainly hope for better outcomes. But time will tell!

**Community policing** – Beds Police hosted a community priority setting meeting in January. The types of crimes reported from Mid Bedfordshire villages are remarkably similar; anti-social behaviour, drug activity, and speeding. Drugs and knives are on the rise in nearby towns too, and following discussions with our neighbouring villages and towns, community policing teams should now be focusing their work on these. Priority setting relies on intelligence from reported crimes, and the reports via 101 or [www.beds.police.uk](http://www.beds.police.uk) are very valuable, so please keep reporting crime, however low level you think it might be. Our watch scheme volunteers work hard keeping us safe too, and I thank you all.

Blake

# PEGSDON



At time of writing, it's January, month of new beginnings, snowdrops and cold, cold winter. In keeping with new beginnings, welcome to our Pegsdon page, which I hope will be a regular entry in the Parish News. Let me catch you up on our goings on...

We've been fundraising for a defibrillator for quite some time and are now within inches of our target (<https://www.aeddonate.org.uk/projects/23-095/>). We've held coffee mornings, cakes sales, a raffle and a quiz, and with help from the Parish Council and our brilliant team at The View (prev. The Live and Let Live) success is finally in sight. The defibrillator will be installed at The View and several residents trained in its use, though this isn't essential as community defibrillators have visual and verbal prompts to aid the user. The defibrillator will be registered with The Circuit. Sudden cardiac arrests can happen to anyone at anytime and if treatment is given in the first few minutes chances of survival are hugely improved. With Pegsdon Hills on our doorstep and being at risk of a delayed 999 response in our location we're taking positive action. Sending a big thank you to everyone involved in the fundraising and everyone who donated, and especially Lainey and her team at The View for all their help and generosity.

We've lots to look forward to in the next few months as we head toward spring. We have monthly coffee mornings which is a lovely opportunity to catch up with people you may not see regularly. These are usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at The View, 11:30am. A new bookclub is starting, first meeting is 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm. Run by Chapter 25 ([www.chapter25bookshop.com](http://www.chapter25bookshop.com)) future meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month thereafter. All welcome! Do visit the website to sign up if you are interested or send them an email at [chaptertwentyfive@outlook.com](mailto:chaptertwentyfive@outlook.com)



Everything happens at The View, it's an essential part of our community and we're grateful to have such a responsive and hardworking team. They are planning lots of brilliant events for the coming months, do keep an eye on their Instagram page for the most up to date list of activities ([https://www.instagram.com/theview\\_sg5/](https://www.instagram.com/theview_sg5/)) or give them a ring on 01582-882555. These include a monthly quiz, live music, a family focused Easter celebration and biker nights. Here's a rundown of the dates The View have confirmed so far:

- \* 16 February – quiz night
- \* 17 February – live music with Kerry George from 7pm
- \* 23 February – live music with Casey Sana from 7pm
- \* 5 March – bookclub, 7:30pm
- \* 30 March - family Easter celebration 2-4pm
- \* 2 April – bookclub, 7:30pm
- \* 5 & 19 April – biker nights
- \* 26 April – quiz night

That's all from me for this issue, take care, keep safe and warm. *Caroline*





# SHILLINGTON GARAGE TABLE TOP SALE

SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2024 12PM - 4PM

£5 FOR A PLACE ON THE MAP

ALL MONEY RAISED WILL BE DONATED TO THE  
MND (MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE) ASSOCIATION

IF INTERESTED PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTACT DETAILS TO

[SHILLINGTONGARAGESALE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SHILLINGTONGARAGESALE@GMAIL.COM)

CLOSING DATE FOR SIGN UP IS 10TH MARCH



# SHILLINGTON SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

MEET AT

## SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

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



*The club has now reopened after the festive break and despite the cold weather, there is a good turn out of members at both sessions each week.*

*The internal triples league is in full flow, with close results being recorded each week. Club members have also been taking part in the Barnet and Wilstead leagues on a Tuesday and Thursday night.*

*We continue to have very good fortune at the County/National qualifier competitions, which have been played at the indoor bowls club in Stevenage. Congratulations to Trevor Knight for qualifying for the singles competition and Michelle Conlon and Trevor Knight for the pairs. This means that the club will have representatives at all 4 disciplines when the nationals take place in Melton Mowbray in April. We wish them all, the best of luck for the National competitions.*

*The club championships are also about to start, and we hope for a good turnout and enjoyable competitive games.*

*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 Stevenage.*

*For further information please contact*  
**Michelle Conlon (01462 713426) [conlonmichelle@sky.com](mailto:conlonmichelle@sky.com)**  
*or* **Derek Lewison (01462 711504)**



# SHILLINGTON SPITFIRES CRICKET CLUB

## The Real Work Has Started

Now that games of cricket in the sunshine are a long, distant memory, it's time to get the Shillington Spitfires Cricket Club ready for the 2024 season and the entire team has been busy.

If you've been up the Memorial Playing Fields recently, you would've noticed the orange netting protecting our new square for 2024 (and thank you to everyone for staying off the square as it's in a very fragile stage at the moment). The new square has had its first cut since being re-seeded and fertilised and we will now leave it for the rest of winter before we prepare it for our first home game next year.



And talking of games, the team has decided to play friendly games for another season before looking to join a league structure in 2025. The Spitfires already have 12 fixtures booked in the diary, including the team's first home game on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June** against Flitwick's IV XI and three-match series against Pirton for what is being labelled as the Beds/Herts Cup.



The team enjoyed an end of season night out by heading to the Shefford Tandoori and were gifted a framed shirt from the season presented by players Jon Wallace and Craig Sephton. The plan is for the shirt is to go on the walls of the social club when it has been refurbished.

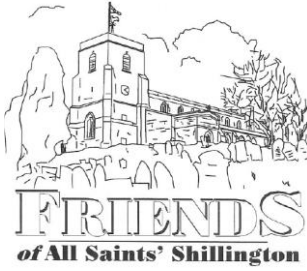
Even though the season is over, winter nets and training sessions have started with preseason indoor nets sessions, so if you want to get involved, the club is always on the lookout for more talent, find us on Facebook and Instagram (search for Shillington Spitfires CC) to get in touch. Or email us at: [Shillington.spitfiresCC@gmail.com](mailto:Shillington.spitfiresCC@gmail.com).

## Shillington Spitfires Cricket Club - 2024 Games

Opposition	Date	Location	Game Format
Offley and Stopsley CC	Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Away	40 overs
Silsoe CC	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Away	40 overs
Offley and Stopsley CC	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Away	T20 (20 overs)
Breachwood Green CC	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Away	40 overs
<b>Flitwick IVs CC</b>	<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>40 overs</b>
<b>King's Cross CC</b>	<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>40 overs</b>
<b>Saracens CC</b>	<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>40 overs</b>
Watton-at-Stone CC	Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> July	TBC	40 overs
<b>Silsoe CC</b>	<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>40 overs</b>
Pirton CC	Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Away	40 overs
<b>Pirton CC</b>	<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>40 overs</b>
Pirton CC	Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Away	40 overs



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



Who can believe how quickly the year is already passing. It seems a long time ago that our Christmas tree was being battered and blown down by the storms over the festive period, and we have to say a big "thankyou" to all of those that helped put it back up or found the baubles that had been distributed around the village, especially Wendy and Fred of Streetwatch who managed to get it standing again all on their own!

Thank you too to the Crown for generously donating the proceeds of their January Charity Quiz to the "Friends" raising £175 which will be put towards the work currently being done to repair the next section of the boundary wall. On the topic of work being undertaken, as well as the boundary wall our next project continues to be the much needed repair to the external stonework around the North Door, we now just need some good weather so the work can be started.

Now on to 2024 and dates for your diary...

## Skittles

The next date in our diary is the **3<sup>rd</sup> February** when we are holding a Skittles Night in the Village Hall. Always a fun (and noisy night!) we're really pleased that it has already been well supported and tickets are at the time of printing sold out (sorry). We hope all attending enjoy.

## Annual General Meeting

We will be holding our AGM as usual up at the Church on **25th April at 7:30pm** which will be followed with a presentation by **Andrew Elliman** who, as many of you will know, can sometimes be seen riding around on his Penny Farthing. Last year he kindly supported the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust in riding around the local churches dressed as a Knight....An amazing feat considering the fact that most of the churches around here are (not very helpfully) placed on the top of hills and the Penny Farthing is no modern day mountain bike!

Andrew's talk is entitled "**Resilience**" a subject he is more than qualified to talk about. Over recent years he has spent time on Everest, where he was caught up in the 2015 earthquake in Nepal and hosted the world's highest Dinner party in 2018. He's followed all this off with going from a non-swimmer to swimming the English Channel for charity. This promises to be a great night! As always there will be refreshments on offer and all are most welcome.

## Sunday Teas

Our lovely group of volunteers will be opening up the church and serving Tea/Coffee and Cakes throughout the Summer again this year. It will start on **Sunday 5th May** and run on until the last Sunday in September, 29th. Always a popular and well supported event we look forward to seeing you. Details of when musicians will be performing alongside the teas will be given nearer the time.

We have many more events planned through the Summer and Autumn so look out on facebook - "Friends of All Saints Church" or our website- [foas-shillington.org.uk](http://foas-shillington.org.uk) for more details.

## **Now more importantly do you fancy joining us?**

The Friends are always looking for new members, we are a happy band of willing volunteers who care passionately about the fabric of this beautiful historic building that stands above our village. If you feel this is something you would like to know more about, please contact us via facebook or our website or better still....come to hear Andrew at the AGM.



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.



# ALL SAINTS ILLUMINATED



To celebrate or commemorate your special occasion please contact:

**Catherine** on **07710-823384**

or e-mail [catherine.scleater@btinternet.com](mailto:catherine.scleater@btinternet.com)

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

Sponsor	Message	From	To
Kay, Phil, Jade, Ryan, Lindsey, Archie, Jack, Tom and all the Butts family	Tony Butts (Tug) & Marion Butts. Remembering a wonderful Mum & Dad, Nan & Grandad, Great Nan & Grandad on your birthdays. Mum 22nd January & Dad 5th February. We will love you forever & you're forever in our thoughts. We treasure our memories xx	Sunday 4 February	Saturday 10 February
DeWick Family Sally, Andy Shaun & Thomas	In loving memory of dad & grandad Ken who left us on 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 and mum & grandma Joan, who left us on 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2018. Always in our thoughts xx	Sunday 4 February	Saturday 10 February
Pamela & Darren Bakewell	On the occasion of Julia Wests birthday on the 20th February. Always in our thoughts. Love Pamela, Darren and all the family	Sunday 19 February	Saturday 25 February
Mum, Dad, Jamie-Leigh and grandparents	Owen West - 20 years have passed by but always in our thoughts. A memory we hold close to our hearts.	Sunday 19 February	Saturday 25 February
Lynn & Richard Harris and family	In loving memory of Ann Hare. Remembering her birthday on Tuesday 19th March. Loved and missed more than words can say. Forever in our hearts xx	Sunday 17 March	Saturday 23 March
The Bowles Family: Jackie, Mark, Frazer, Daniel, Lisa, Elenor, Lara and Rheana x	Happy birthday Bryan, 17th March 2024 - St Patrick's Day love from all the family.  Jackie Bowles would like to say thank you so much for all the cards, flowers, plants and gifts from all the customers and friends. Much appreciated, thank you.	Sunday 17 March	Saturday 23 March
Catherine Scleater	Remembering Mavis Ingram, who died 18 years ago on the 4 <sup>th</sup> April and celebrating her birthday on 13 <sup>th</sup> April when she would of been 90! Thought of everyday with love.	Sunday 7 April	Saturday 13 April

## TREE PLANTING PROJECT ON UPTON END ROAD – AN UPDATE

It is approaching 2 years since we originally planted the “wood” on the 27 acres of fields on Upton End Road, and we do occasionally get asked how it is faring, so we thought it was worth putting together this little update.

As a recap, it took 4 years from buying the land (in July 2018) to actually getting trees in the ground but we did eventually see the delivery of 10,000 juvenile trees and shrubs in February 2022. They were all UK native species, with a weighting towards fruit and nut varieties to provide a source of food for the wildlife (Wild Cherry, Oak, Rowan, Sweet Chestnut etc).



Planting took place on an exceptionally wet February fortnight. The recent rainfall we have had is a little reminiscent....It was hard, muddy work for the planting team but at least the saturated ground would give the trees a good start (we hoped). However, we hadn't reckoned on an exceptionally dry spring, which was followed by record summer temperatures, also dry.

The juvenile trees were little more than 12 inch 'twigs' when they went in so, through 2022, it was difficult to see whether they were alive or not - we had to just let nature take its course. The first real test was spring 2023.



Our initial view was bleak. We concentrated our first check on the main central field and this looked awful. We estimated that barely 10% of the trees had survived, with a slightly better hit rate for the shrubs. Amongst the survivors, Oaks at least seemed to have fared the best. Clearly, given the planting density no one would expect all 10,000 to survive; the Forestry Commission suggests the general survival rate should be closer to 50%.

However, with so many natural variables at play there will be outliers to this average. Subsequent checks in the other two fields were more encouraging, and here the survival rate was a bit better, and we estimate we might have over 2,000 growing trees. Some are really thriving, for example there are a number of wild cherry trees already visible above the top of their protectors.

The main aim of this project for us was to “rewild” the land and that is definitely happening. There is ample evidence of birds and animal life. We saw hares running around in Spring 23 and there are clear deer trails. We even found some vole/field mouse nests made inside the tree protector tubes. So whilst the tree count could have been better, we're pleased we did it; this is after all a 100 year project, and there's little doubt that those fields will eventually become woods.



We are currently considering replanting the larger field, but at a lower density and with a view of getting them in the ground before the start of next winter. Last week our good friend in the village, Dave Clarke, told us he had some potted trees and on a sunny Saturday morning we spent a couple of hours planting these (so we added around 50-60 more). They, at least, looked better specimens than we recall of our original batch and as they are in the ground earlier, stand a better chance to establish their root system and survive.



So if anyone else has some UK native trees they have grown in pots but which they no longer want, please let us know. We have grown some from scratch too, but it's a constant battle to beat the squirrels to the walnuts and acorns, they even dig them out of our pots!

*Nicola & Kevin Johnson*

## **PLAYING FIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REFURBISHMENT OF SOCIAL CLUB – UPDATE**

**(Registered charity no: 300065)**



The proposed refurbishment is currently on hold as we have decided to continue to fund raise for the total amount required to complete all phases rather than piecemeal as and when funds become available. The thinking being that if grant funding requires matched funding, we will need to demonstrate we have this rather having spent it on phase 1. In the meantime we are applying for connection to the main sewer, which will hopefully be ready for any new changing facilities.

We're now all thinking on how to raise much needed funds, as well as identifying which grants might become available for updating this community building. One fundraiser is now underway from 3<sup>rd</sup> February in the form of a weekly meat raffle to be drawn at The Club on a Saturday evening at 7pm. Any other bright ideas welcome.

If there are any folk interested in investing to improve a well-loved community building we would be pleased to hear from you. We can shout your generosity from the roof tops (plaque marking your investment) or accept secret donations (collection tin on the bar). Please contact Gavin (Chair of PF) or Sally (Secretary) for further information or if you would like to contribute. We will keep you updated via Village and Social Club Facebook pages.

## **VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - UPDATE**

**(Registered charity no: 300066)**



The Committee have been working hard chasing quotes and grants for replacement of the flat roof and we are pleased to confirm we have been successful in securing funding from CBC, Parish Council and using some of our own reserves to be able to afford for these works to be carried out. We are now about to place an order on a successful contractor so these can commence shortly.

As with any building of this age there is a growing list of projects and we hope in time to install solar panels as grants become more readily available. We will be updating the CCTV shortly with more cameras and wifi. We're also working on a new website, to enable online bookings and payments, hopefully launching in the spring.

Like the Social Club we are keen to boost our refurbishment programme so would welcome any kind donations, fund raising ideas and your support.

Don't forget to recycle your clothes, some of you are bound to be having a clear out ready for that new spring wardrobe... We have a clothing bank on our car park and receive funds based on weight of clothing, etc., collected from this bank on a weekly basis.

On a final note – a HUGE THANK YOU to the very kind person/s who removed the broken knee rails at the entrance to the car park – these did look unsightly and we were lining up a volunteer for their removal. Much appreciated....



# RAMBLING ON with DEREK TURNER

☎ 01462-712462

[derek.turner@phonecoop.coop](mailto:derek.turner@phonecoop.coop)



Since 2020, the richest 1% of people have accumulated \$26 trillion in new wealth - nearly twice as much as the rest of us. So claims Oxfam who have just published a report, *Inequality Inc*, that shows that two thirds of global wealth generated since Covid struck has gone to the fortunate few who already have a lot. In this country between 2010 and 2021, overall wealth rose by £4 trillion (£4,000,000,000,000) and the top 1% accrued nearly a quarter of it and accumulated wealth 31 times faster than the remaining 99%. The rich are getting richer while others live in terrible poverty, having to use food banks and other charities to supply their basic needs and with nothing left over to go out and have fun. Surely this can't be right?

I don't know if any of the super-rich live here in Shillington but a quick look at houses around the village suggests that there is quite a variation in the wealth that different villagers have. We talk about how much people need to live on - a minimum or National Living wage to give it its official title - and there are probably some Shillington people here who earn just that. However, nobody seems to have thought about whether some people have too much wealth and whether it matters - until now. In Ingrid Robeyns' new book, *Limitarianism, the case against extreme wealth*, she does just that. Concluding that it does matter, what we need for the good of society, she argues, is for accumulated wealth to be taxable. Robeyns lives in the Netherlands where she suggests no one should be worth more than 10m euros with anything above that used instead for investing in the common good.

It wasn't always like this. Following success in the second world war, many resolved that there should be a lasting, fairer outcome for all and genuine progress was made to achieve it. To help rebuild the country, the rich continued to pay income tax at a top rate of 90%, twice that of today, and their money was put to good use. Those who could not afford to buy a house for example - the bombed out, the slum dwellers or those, like my Dad, who had joined the armed services as boys and returned as men, had married, were starting families and needed homes. When I was born in 1950, we were able to move into one of over 1.2 million council houses built after 1945 and pay a rent that really was affordable. Shillington gained many new council homes in Hanscombe End Rd, Bryants Close, Hillfoot Rd and Greenfields. Funds were also pumped into education and health with the NHS established in 1948 and pensions became available for all.

Other changes included setting up National Parks and safeguarding public rights of way. It was a time when people could look forward to the world becoming a better place - a time of optimism. Sadly, Governments are no longer so productive. It's sad that for many people today, the prospects aren't good. We see schools and roads crumbling and long delays getting everything from justice to health care to trains and buses while the wait for decent rented housing is outrageously long compared with when my parents needed it.



Does it have to be like this? Perhaps not, especially if we paid more tax. The median income in the UK is about £34,000 per year - 50% of people earn more than this and 50% earn less. The top rate of tax is now 45% and that is only levied on earnings above £125,140. The government assumes that anyone can manage on £10.42 per hour - that's the National Living Wage, which equates to about £20,600 per year.

If that's the case, anyone paying any of their tax at 45% is earning over £100,000 more than they need to survive. Surely they could be taxed a lot more? Just think of how much millionaires could contribute to the Exchequer if they paid tax fairly instead of exploiting loopholes to avoid or evade it. Could this come about? It may not be as fanciful as it seems. Robeyns mentions many examples of millionaires who have given away much of what they had.

At the recent wealthfest in Davos, 250 millionaires and billionaires signed a letter to world leaders requesting that they should be taxed more heavily. However, taxation is usually regarded in a negative way. It's something that newspapers campaign against and people moan about. Many think they are hard done-by and shudder at the thought of paying more. In their book, *Uncomfortably Off*, academics Gerry Mitchell and Marcos González Hernando offer a reason why that is the case.



Many of the better off work with others or have clients who are substantially richer than they are. Instead of comparing their lives with those of the person on £20,600 or even £34,000, they compare themselves with people earning £100k or a million. They see that these people have more than they do - bigger cars and homes, more bling, more of everything. They feel that they are the ones who are underpaid. It seems that the more they earn, the more jealousy and envy colour their outlook and their perception of doing well.

Maybe attitudes need to change? They could look at it more positively and be proud that they have the good fortune to earn so much and are expected to pay a lot of tax. After all, they would be funding more nurses and more teachers. They would be making more money available to help those who are less fortunate than themselves. After all, none of us know when illness, redundancy, divorce or accident might suddenly turn our own finances upside down and leave us destitute. High earners often tell themselves that they earn a lot because they've worked hard for it, but there are plenty of people who work hard and don't earn a lot and people who do well not because they worked hard, but because they were in the right place at the right time. A healthy tax bill should be a badge of honour, not a reason to cry into your beer.

There's something else worth considering. The richer you are, the more likely it is that your lifestyle is contributing to climate breakdown. The wealthy fly much more and generally consume more stuff which makes their carbon emissions higher than those of the average person. If they cut back, it would be good for everyone and good for the planet too.



Elections are coming up this year in the UK, the US and in many other countries. Voters here will have the chance to elect new MPs and indirectly, the next Prime Minister. Our Mid Bedfordshire constituency will be a very different shape compared with when we went to the polls at the by-election in October. Boundary changes mean that Shefford, Arlesey and Stotfold will have left and joined the new Hitchin constituency. Alistair Strathern, whom we elected as our MP, has been very busy since replacing the discredited Nadine Dorries. He has settled in Shefford and decided that he wants to continue to live in his constituency and concluded that he has a better chance of returning to Westminster in the new Hitchin one. When we vote, we will have a choice of other candidates. I hope that there is someone we can vote for who will work as hard as Alistair, someone with vision, someone who wants a better future for everyone and not just for the wealthy. Someone who can offer hope.



Shillington and the nearby area have seen many changes over the years and another went by recently but was barely noticed. Henlow greyhound stadium closed its doors for the final time on 21 January. Greyhound racing had its origins long ago when owners pitted their dog against each other in open countryside in the pursuit of live quarry, usually hares. It was known as coursing but concern about cruelty to the hares led to it being banned in most countries. However, the development of an artificial hare made it possible to race in more controlled conditions in a stadium and Henlow was among the first to open in 1927. Like the other tracks, it attracted mainly working class men who could attend the evening meetings after they'd finished work as well as servicemen from Henlow Camp. It quickly proved popular for the spectacle and betting opportunities and attendances reached their peak in the late 40s.



For much less than it would have cost to own and train a horse, you could have the thrill of winning a race with a greyhound and several Shillington people have owned dogs that raced there. However, television and other entertainment began to take fans away in the 1950s and the sport has suffered a slow decline ever since. There was a small revival after 2004 when a new promoter took over. Occasionally, animal rights protesters would turn up, concerned about the welfare of the greyhounds. In recent years, as paying customers have dwindled, the sport has been televised and shown globally with gambling in far eastern countries helping to sustain it. At Henlow though, new housing developments have been springing up all around and it was inevitable that the owners would decide to sell up, just four years before its centenary would have been celebrated by its handful of loyal supporters.






# **M.B. HARRIS**

## ***Plumbing & Heating***

**☎ 07860-850583**

**e: [mbharris71@hotmail.com](mailto:mbharris71@hotmail.com)**



-  All plumbing work undertaken - Servicing & Repairs
-  Boiler & Central Heating - Systems Installation & Repairs
-  Complete Bathroom - Installation & Tiling Service
-  Plumbing & Heating - Breakdown & Upgrades
-  Over 30 years' Experience

# 2024 EXCURSIONS

## 4th THURSDAY OF MONTH!

Call **0300-123-3023** or e mail: [thewanderbus@gmail.com](mailto:thewanderbus@gmail.com) for more info or to book your seat.

Full payment is required 10 days before departure. A cheque to Wanderbus, 5 The Pastures, Upper Stondon, Beds SG16 6QB or a bank transfer to: CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code 40-52-40, Acc No. 00013118

Name: **Wanderbus Ltd** (Use your name in Reference).

Cancellations must be made within 7 days or refunds will be discretionary.

	<b>DESTINATIONS &amp; ENTRANCE FEE</b> (correct at print time)	<b>BUS FARE</b>	
<b>25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Bury Lane Garden Centre, Nr Royston</b> <b>No Entry Charge</b>	<b>Bus Fare £10.00</b>	<b>Pickups: 10.00/10.30</b> <b>a.11.15 d. 14.30</b>
<i>Following many requests/suggestions - Farm Shop, Food Hall, Butchers, Deli, Café, Garden Shop. Lots to look around and enjoy.</i>			
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>Wimpole Hall &amp; Gardens, Cambs.</b> <b>Entry Fee £9.00 Gardens only / £18.00 House, Farm &amp; Gardens</b>	<b>Bus Fare £10.00</b>	<b>Pickups: 10.00/10.30</b> <b>a.11.30 d.15.00</b>
<i>Come and explore the gardens at Wimpole - iconic garden and landscape designers. House &amp; Walled Gardens + Farm area. – Free entry to National Trust members</i>			
<b>27<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Kelmarsh Hall &amp; Gardens, Northants.</b> <b>Entry Fee £12.00 Hall &amp; Gardens</b>	<b>Bus Fare £15.00</b>	<b>Pickups: 10.00/10.30</b> <b>a.12.00 d.15.30</b>
<i>Elegant country house surrounded by award winning historic gardens including the wonderful Walled Garden, Long and Double Borders, Sunken Garden, Philadelphus Garden, Fan Rose Garden, the Wilderness, Fairy Walk in the Woodland and Lakeside areas.</i>			
<b>25<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Elton Hall, nr Peterborough (Afternoon only)</b> <b>Entry Fee £15.00 House &amp; Gardens</b>	<b>Bus Fare £15.00</b>	<b>Pickups: 12.30/13.00</b> <b>a.14.00 d.16.30</b>
<i>The house has been extensively restored as have the gardens and enhanced with new borders, hedges, topiary, an Orangery, Shell Seat, modern fountain and many interesting plants.</i>			
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Aug</b>	<b>Stowe House &amp; Gardens, Bucks.</b> <b>Entry Fee £24.00 House &amp; Gardens</b>	<b>Bus Fare £12.50</b>	<b>Pickups: 10.00/10.30</b> <b>a.11.30 d.16.00</b>
<i>Included in the £24.00 entry fee - House Tour Cost incl. Tea/Coffee &amp; Biscuits. After House Tour we will drive to the Gardens entrance where there is a café for refreshments. National Trust members get free entry to the Gardens (Saving £13.00 – mention when booking).</i>			
<b>26<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Bletchley Park, Bletchley, MK</b> <b>Entry Fee £ 19.50</b>	<b>Bus Fare £10.00</b>	<b>Pickups: 11.00/11.30</b> <b>a.12.15 d.16.00</b>
<i>Bletchley Park is an English county house and estate in Bletchley, Milton Keynes that became the principal centre of Allied code-breaking during the World War 2. <b>Guided tour available foc.</b></i>			
<b>24<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Rushden Lakes Centre, Rushden, Northants.</b> <b>No entry charge.</b>	<b>Bus Fare £15.00</b>	<b>Pickups: 10.00/10.30</b> <b>a.12.00 d.15.30</b>
<i>From big brand fashion to local independents, Rushden Lakes has something for everyone. Everyday essentials meet fashion favourites, and all of this is combined with lots of delicious places to eat, drink and relax. A walk around the lakes or a large Waitrose just over the bridge with Rushden Town Centre a short walk away.</i>			
<b>28<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>Christmas Market – TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	





# 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](mailto:office@shillingtonlower.co.uk)

[www.shillingtonstondon.co.uk](http://www.shillingtonstondon.co.uk)



We have had a great start back to the new year at Shillington Lower School with lots for the children to look forward to over the upcoming term.

Along with Stondon, the year 4 children will be travelling to London to participate in the Young Voices choir at the O2. This is the largest children's choir in the world and our year 4s will be joining approximately 9000 other school children to perform to their families.

Year 3 have an upcoming visit to the Natural History Museum in Tring to support their learning about animals and prehistoric Britain. Both these trips have had donations from the PTFA which we are grateful for as it allows our children to enjoy these experiences.

Our Christmas fayre was a huge success raising over £2000 for the school which we are putting towards improving our outdoor area and buying some new blinds for the school hall. As always, none of these things would be the success they are without our dedicated PTFA members who give up their free time to help support the school, so thank you to everyone who visited, helped out and donated we are very lucky to have such a great support network.

Over the next few weeks we have some really exciting days in school planned for the children, including taking part in Wear Bright, Shine Bright which is to support children's mental health week. We will be collecting donations for CHUMS. We also have Red Nose Day coming up along with World Book Day.

Following the departure of Mrs Kerry Young at the end of the Autumn term we have temporarily appointed Mrs Nicola Foxall who has been working between Stondon and Shillington over the past few years as a SENDCO and now spending most of her time at Shillington as a member of the senior leadership team.

Our Pixie's pre school will begin enrolling for September starters over the upcoming term so if you are interested in a space for your child please contact the school office to arrange a tour of the setting and discuss starting your child's learning journey with us. We have almost finished our building works and over February half term there will be contractors on site preparing for the final part of the new boiler installation. The roof and window works are now complete and the school has some new toilets.

We have had a good start to our wrap around care facility, where we are offering a breakfast club from 7.45 – 8.45 and after school club 3.30 – 5.30 Mon – Thurs and 3.30 – 5.30 on Fridays. The team are regularly hosting theme nights which include movies and hot chocolate, quiz nights and termly discos.





## School Governors needed at the Shillington and Stondon Federation



**We are currently seeking new School Governors and would be delighted if people in the Federation's local villages and wider communities would take up the posts.**

### **What is a School Governor?**

School Governors have a varied and important role, in helping our schools run effectively. They have 3 core functions:

- Planning the strategic direction of the schools
- Overseeing financial performance of the schools and ensuring money is well spent
- Holding the Headteacher and schools' leadership to account

The Governor role is strategic rather than operational. Governors don't get involved with the day to day running of the schools, instead they support and challenge the schools' leadership team to drive school improvement. They champion the work the schools do.

### **Our Governing Board**

Our Board consists of 10 people at present, and we meet all together 5 times per year – usually in person on a weekday evening for up to two hours. We also have two main committees that Governors join either or both: a Resources and Planning Committee, which oversees how money is spent, and a Standards, Teaching and Learning Committee, which monitors pupil's educational outcomes.

Governors also:

- get to know the schools, including visiting the schools e.g. once a term as a Link Governor with a particular area of focus, during school hours and in agreement with the Headteacher, and gaining a good understanding of the schools' strengths and weaknesses
- attend induction training and regular relevant training and development events, much of which is online and can be completed at a time to suit Governors
- attend meetings (Full Governing Board meetings and relevant Committee meetings) and read all the papers before the meeting
- act in the best interests of all the pupils of the schools
- behave in a professional manner, as set down in the Governing Board's code of conduct, including acting in strict confidence

Being a School Governor is a voluntary role involving commitment and responsibility, but offers you the chance to see first-hand the impact you can make in improving education for children in the Federation.

### **Do I need to have certain qualifications?**

No special qualifications are needed and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the schools and be prepared to play an active part in the Governing Board's work. We welcome applications from people from all backgrounds. You do not need to have a child at the school to apply.

### **How do I apply?**

To find out more about the role and request an application form, please contact the Clerk to the Governors, Laura Forgham, [lauraforgham@shillington.cbeds.co.uk](mailto:lauraforgham@shillington.cbeds.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:*

<p>Katie Brettell 07974-676089 <a href="mailto:katiebrettell@icloud.com">katiebrettell@icloud.com</a></p>	<p>Carli Mauger 07912-549931 <a href="mailto:carlimauger@gmail.com">carlimauger@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>Deb Pateman 07934-480446 <a href="mailto:debpateman@msn.com">debpateman@msn.com</a></p>
---	---	--



# “WHILST THE GARDEN SLEEPS” by Donna Cameron

*Donna's Garden Designs* - ☎ 07833-670934



Whilst the Garden sleeps don't despair still visit it for a wander, with a cuppa in hand. Get some fresh air and look for signs of life.

I did a tidy up the other day and some shoots of spring bulbs were just poking through. It won't be long now and Snowdrops will be out with their carpets of white adorning gardens and the countryside.

Use this time to plan your garden out. Have exactly what you want in it, for your garden is your haven. Your little piece of tranquility. There are lots of gardening programmes telling us what we should and shouldn't be doing in our gardens. Lots of people find this overwhelming and then are scared to do anything.

The main thing is to enjoy your garden and be out in the fresh air relaxing. Yes there are certain dos and don'ts, it is a massive subject and lots of knowledge comes from experience and trial and error, getting to know your garden and its soil etc.

Don't think you have to be regimented into the latest fashions of gardens. Have what style you like. If there is something in your garden you don't like, take it out and replace it with something you do like. Visit gardens to get inspiration.

There is a lot in the press at the moment that you must rewild your garden. Studies have proven though that it is diversity that really makes a difference to wildlife. They need different habitats and plants and that's why everyone having different gardens works and makes it far more interesting.

Walking on the school run I like admiring everyone's front gardens and their individuality, their own characters in each one shining through. Gardens also change all the time. That's why I love them, always something different to see. All plants having their moment in the spot light at different times of the year.

As long as you keep in mind important factors to make your garden thrive such as direction of the sun, right plant right place and soil type, where you like sitting or eating then you can build your own garden of Eden up from that and the sky's the limit. Use it as if it were another room. Have zones for relaxing, entertaining, growing veg, kids to play, etc

So don't be scared. Make plans and go for it. I can assure you you'll love watching plants grow and flower and bulbs pop up and wildlife buzz by. Food for the soul. It will make you slow down from busy modern life and appreciate what's under our noses.

Happy New Year! *Donna* x

## JOBS IN THE GARDEN FOR FEBRUARY

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Dig over beds</li><li>* Prune Apple &amp; Pear Trees</li><li>* Recycle Christmas Tree – CBC collect with bins</li><li>* Feed the Birds</li><li>* Sow Sweet Peas</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Plant Lily Bulbs</li><li>* Cut old leaves from Hellebores to expose flowers</li><li>* Cut back ornamental Grasses</li><li>* Cover anything tender with Horticultural Fleece</li><li>* Start looking through seed catalogues and order</li></ul>
<p>* Lookout for Snowdrops, Hellebores and Aconites and buy some if you don't have them in the garden as you will love to see them in the New Year.</p>	

# PLANNING APPLICATIONS

## DECISIONS from CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL:

### **CB/TCA/23/00540** – 20 Church Street

Works to trees within a Conservation area: T1 Beech - Reduce lateral spread over road by 2.5m; T2 Walnut - Remove deadwood and prune to clear telephone cables by 1/2m; T3 Hawthorn – Prune to remove low limb and prune to clear property by 2m; T5 Cedar - Remove major deadwood and hanging limbs; and T6 Silver Birch - Remove dead top.

**RAISE NO OBJECTION**

### **CB/23/03416/FULL** – 17C Hanscombe End Road

Single storey rear extension.

**GRANTED**

### **CB/23/03482/VOC** – Land Adjacent to 133 Bury Road

Variation of condition number 10 of planning permission CB/23/01018/FULL

(Proposed detached dwelling and associated works). Amendment sought to vary ground floor slab level and to extend front porch canopy.

**GRANTED**

### **CB/23/03576/VOC** – 66 Bury Road

Variation of condition number 3 planning permission CB/23/03301/FULL

(single storey side and rear extension and garage conversion) – Omit the link to garage conversion shown on the drawing no. 2169-010 – as proposed.

**GRANTED**

### **CB/23/01079/ADV** – Musgrave Arms – Apsley End Road

Advertisement: Installation of illuminated and non-illuminated signs; sign A- 1 set of 10mm black Perspex letter with gold face, sign B- 1 double sided pictorial to existing post and gibbet, vinyl decal and lights to illuminate, sign C- 2 amenity boards with vinyl text, sign D– A poster case, sign E- 1 car park sign with vinyl text, sign F- 1 entrance sign with decal.

**GRANTED**

### **CB/TCA/23/00578-** All Saints Church, Church Street

Works to trees within a Conservation Area:

Remove the remains of Cypress Trees to the west of the church tower. Trees were badly damaged in the storms of 2022.

**RAISE NO OBJECTION**

### **CB/23/03449/FULL** – 20 Hillfoot Road

First floor infill link extension including the raising of the roof of the existing side extension. Erection of a 1.5 storey side extension following the demolition of existing single storey flat roof extension. New pitched roof dormer to flank elevation following removal of existing dormer.

**REFUSED**

### **CB/23/03970/LB** – Lordship Farm, 77 Upton End Road,

Listed Building: Removal of chimney to ceiling line and roofing over.

**GRANTED**

### **CB/23/03856/FULL** – 12 Hillside Close

Conversion of garage to habitable room and store.

**GRANTED**

### **CB/23/03459/LB** – 125 High Road

Listed Building: Rebuild part of existing chimney stack.

**GRANTED**

## DISCUSSED BY PC BUT AWAITING A DECISION:

### **CB/23/02764/FULL** – 17 Upton End Road,

Erection of a new detached dwelling with associated works. Demolition of existing detached garage and erection of replacement garage.

**SUPPORT**

### **CB/23/03275/FULL** – 126-128 Bury Road

Erection of detached two-storey sustainable dwelling together with a new vehicular access, parking and turning area, and associated private garden, landscaping and boundary treatment.

**OPPOSE**

### **CB/23/03922/FULL** – Chibley Farm, Stondon Road,

Conversion of the existing small barn into a single dwelling and associated works.

**SUPPORT**

**APP/P0240/W/23/3330197** Appeal regarding refusal of CB/23/01499/FULL – The Old Rectory, Higham Road, Higham Gobion, Erection of workshop outbuilding.

**PC opposed original application - no further comment**

# VILLAGE FACILITIES

## SHILLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB

Greenfields, Shillington ☎ 07826-518667 (Gavin)



Now running a weekly **MEAT RAFFLE**

to raise funds towards Pavilion Refurbishment.

1<sup>st</sup> draw from 3<sup>rd</sup> February and then every Saturday at 7pm.

£1 for 1 ticket strip/£2 for 3 ticket strips/£5 for 8 ticket strips.

Prizes from Steve The Butcher, Barton.

**BAND NIGHT - Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> April - Mice with Glasses - 9pm**

### CURRENT OPENING TIMES:

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

### 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](mailto:shillingtonvillagehall@yahoo.com)

Large Hall - Stage - Small Meeting Room - Kitchen & Bar Facilities - Disabled Access & Toilet.  
Fund raising Clothing Collection Bank in Car Park.

- ★ 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 ☺



## 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
<b>UK Power Networks</b>	<b>To report or get info on power cuts</b> Text <b>POWER</b> and your postcode to 80876 <b>www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk</b>	<b>National number 105</b>

Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford Bedfordshire, SG17 5TQ. ( <a href="http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a> )	
General enquiries .....	0300 300 8000 ( <a href="mailto:customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a> )
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



# VILLAGE CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

- 4 Congregational Church Service – to be arranged – 10.30am
- 6 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 7 Men's Club – Meal @ The Greyhound, Haynes
- 8 Wives Group – Demo "The Patterned Path to Freedom" – Kay Goddard – Cong.Ch. 2-4pm
- 11 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 14 WI – Walking Club restarts
- 16 The View, Pegsdon – Quiz Night
- 17 Men's Club – Tour of P&A Wood, Dunmow
- 17 The View, Pegsdon – Live Music with Kerry George from 7pm
- 18 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 23 The View, Pegsdon – Live Music with Casey Sana from 2pm
- 25 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Hazel Beadle – 10.30am
- 28 Men's Club – Lunch @ The Musgrave Arms

## MARCH

- 3 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 5 The View, Pegsdon – Book Club – 7.30pm
- 5 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 6 Men's Club – Meal @ The Cross Keys, Pulloxhill
- 6 Shillingfest Meeting – Social Club – 8pm
- 7 WI – AGM – Congregational Church – 7.30pm
- 10 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 14 Wives Group – Talk "Royston Caves & Knights Templar" – K Patrick – Cong.Ch. 2-4pm
- 17 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 18 Playing Field Management Committee Meeting – Social Club – 8.00pm
- 20 Men's Club – visit to Supercars Dealership, Hatfield
- 20 Village Hall Management Committee Meeting – Jubilee Room – 7.30pm
- 23 All Saints Church – Quiz Night – Village Hall – 7.30pm
- 24 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Yvonne Campbell – 10.30am
- 30 The View, Pegsdon – Family Easter Celebration – 2-4pm
- 31 United Church Service at All Saints – 9.30am

## APRIL

- 2 The View, Pegsdon – Book Club – 7.30pm
- 2 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 5 The View, Pegsdon – Biker Night
- 6 Social Club – Band Night – Mice with Glasses – from 9pm
- 7 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 19 The View, Pegsdon – Biker Night
- 26 The View, Pegsdon – Quiz Night
- 28 Around the Village Garage/Table Top Sale – 12 noon to 4pm. See poster page 13

**Every Monday – 11:00 to 14:00 – The Friendly Space @ The Congregational Church**

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](http://www.lonsdaleps.co.uk) and sponsored by Advertisers and Shillington Parish Council.

*Views expressed in the articles and adverts do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Editor or members of the Parish Council.* [ed4shillingtonnews@btinternet.com](mailto:ed4shillingtonnews@btinternet.com) ☎ 07711-504489.

[www.shillington-hub.org.uk](http://www.shillington-hub.org.uk)