

PARISH NEWS

covering
SHILLINGTON, PEGSDON & HIGHAM GOBION

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Issue 171 – APRIL 2024

Deadline for June edition - Friday, 24th May 2024

PARISH COUNCIL

Representatives from Anglian Water attended the February Parish Council meeting to tell us about their proposals to replace ageing water mains. Pegsdon's water supply has failed completely on 8 occasions in 12 months due to bursts. The company intends to replace 2.7 kms of pipe, starting where it enters the parish along the road from Lower Gravenhurst at the bridge near Discolicious. When that is completed, the section along Hanscome End Road would be replaced followed by Apsley End Road and on towards Pegsdon. For the safety of the contractors and the public, road closures will be necessary but the length affected at any one time will be kept to a minimum to reduce inconvenience to residents and businesses.

They said they hoped to begin in April and councillors were concerned about the short notice and requested the company to contact those who would be affected urgently about the disruption they would suffer. We also noted that another Anglian Water project is scheduled to block the road outside their reservoir on the approach to Meppershall during May and were concerned that additional traffic problems would result if the two overlapped. A road closure notice was issued effective from 8 April but as Parish News goes to press, we hear that it is now likely to be mid-May or June when they start and some of the work may be delayed until 2025.

Pegsdon residents have successfully met their target for purchasing a defibrillator, with a generous benefactor donating the final £62.00. The Parish Council had previously agreed to cover this and has asked CBC if this funding could be diverted towards the repair and updating of the one at the Congregational Church.

An employee of Woods Hardwick attended the March meeting on behalf of the owner of Thomas's Meadow and asked what we would like to see on the site. The councillors were wary of making any comments that could be misinterpreted (as has happened elsewhere in an attempt to show that there was local support for development) and repeated the grounds used successfully to oppose previous planning applications for the site.

Central Bedfordshire Council has a Local Plan to guide development in the area in the years to come and without one, the government has the power to instruct it what to build and where. The current plan makes provision for around 39,350 new homes and at least 24,000 new jobs by 2035 and some of these have already been provided. It claims that our great location and transport links mean more people than ever want to live and work here and that we must create more jobs, grow the local economy, keep improving our transport networks and protect and enhance what residents love about where they live.

The Local Plan must be reviewed regularly and Councillors John Hyde, Annie Palmer and Derek Turner attended workshops recently to hear about progress towards implementing the current plans and how its successor would be finalised during 2027-8. We were also asked for our initial thoughts about what else we would like to see taken into account. Many of those present expressed concern about the assumptions that continuous development is required and the damage it would cause to the environment. Further public consultation will take place soon and continue while the next Plan is being compiled.

The Parish Council is chasing housing providers Grand Union and the Peabody Trust as well as CBC Highways on multiple issues including potholes, paths, fencing and parking. The Chair met with a Grand Union representative in February to show them the state of the verges in Greenfields and invited them to suggest a solution. The parking problem had been exacerbated when football matches were taking place, so the Chair met with his counterparts on the Playing Field Management Committee and Shillington AFC to discuss how to mitigate this in future. AFC have now produced an action plan that includes parking guidance for parents of players in home and visiting teams and we will monitor its effectiveness.

The Parish Council has requested data about speeding traffic from the Police Traffic Management Unit (TMU) at two more locations to help our case for further traffic calming measures. We have seen their enforcement vehicle in the village recently, which is welcome.

With climate change taking place and flooding occurring in the Central Bedfordshire Council area following heavy rain, their officers are approaching parish and town councils about setting up a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). It seems that this would be a group of local people who could offer assistance to residents affected by flooding or other serious incidents. We look forward to finding out more about the scheme and if we participate, we will seek potential volunteers to help run it.

For all Parish Council issues please contact:

Miss Lauren Darnell, Clerk to the Parish Council

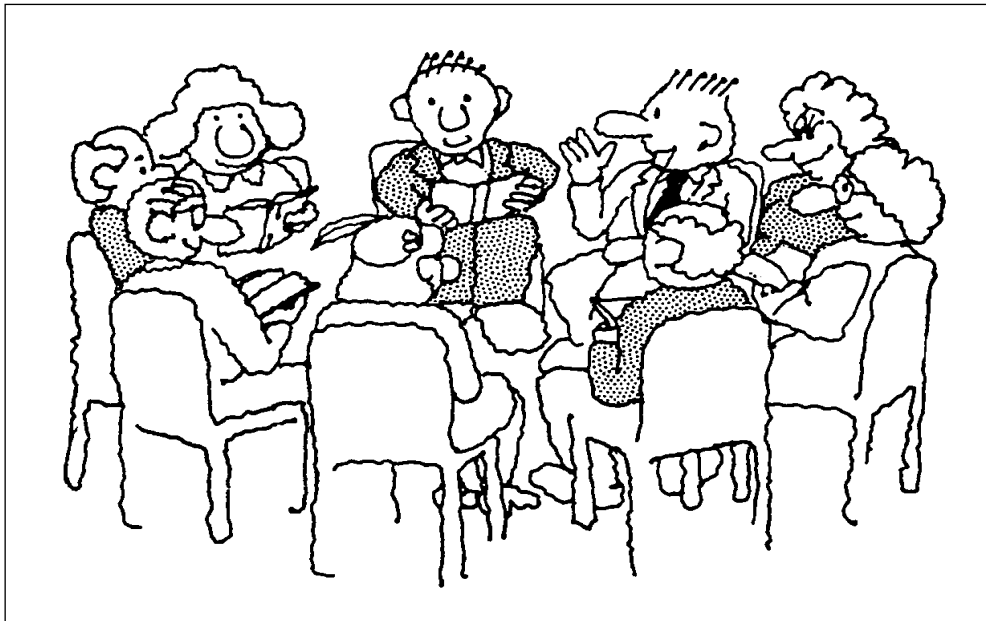
45 Tiger Moth Way, Lower Stondon, Hitchin, Herts. SG16 6GN. ☎ 01462-713224

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

Shillington

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday, 7th May 2024 from 7.45pm



This is **not** a Parish Council meeting.

It is an open meeting at the Congregational Church giving parishioners an opportunity to:

- *Make connections with other people in your community.*
- *Hear reports from village organisations on what they've been up to during 2023 and plans for 2024.*
- *Ask questions about the issues that concern you.*

ALL WELCOME

Lauren Darnell, Clerk to Parish Council.

☎ 01462-713224 / email: clerk@shillington-pc.gov.uk

ANNOUNCEMENTS / ITEMS / NEWS IN BRIEF



Annual Fireworks Spectacular
Saturday, 2nd NOVEMBER
at The MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS.
Fireworks from 7pm for 20 minutes.

Following requests for 'SILENT' fireworks, we have made enquiries with professional fireworks companies and they all confirm these are available but at a much higher cost and far less impressive. This would have an impact on the 500+ attendees who have paid for a spectacular display and would not expect anything less than our usual offering.

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**



Thank you to everyone who sent cards, flowers, messages of sympathy, many phone calls and visits, after the sad, tragic loss of my son Craig Stoten.

Thank you for your on-going kindness at this difficult time.

Sally, Christine, Dan & Family.

THANKS

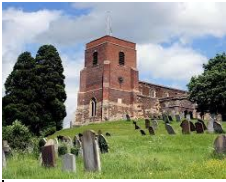
I would like to thank all those people who have enquired and telephoned to ask about my health when I was in hospital during December undergoing surgery.



I spent a longer period than I had expected as an in-patient, but over the weeks I have been making progress, feeling stronger and more like myself.

Thanks to all who sent their good wishes and get-well cards, and also a bouquet of flowers without an indication of the sender. Thank you all.

Janet Worley



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SHILLINGTON & GRAVENHURST

www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk



WHAT'S GOING ON

Any enquiries regarding All Saints Church during the interregnum please contact:

Churchwardens - Liz & Dick Brewer ☎ 01462 711594.
(Mobiles: Liz – 07930-812940 or Dick – 07785-638856)

SERVICES:

- Sunday, 31st March (Easter Day) – 9.30am Communion Service. We will be joined by The Congregational Church to worship with us.
- There will be a Communion Service each Sunday at 9.30am up to the end of May with the exception of 28th April when it will be Morning Praise followed by our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) at approximately 10.20am. All Welcome.
- Evensong at 6pm on the 7th April and 5th May (1st Sundays) will be taken by Rev. Dr. Simon Tibbs.
- We have an Ascension Day Service on Thursday, 9th May at 7pm led by Rev Tibbs.

No Sunday School at present.

FUNERALS/BURIALS:

✝ 29 th February	Sylvia Philips	Burial of Ashes
✝ 7 th March	Barbara Hardy	Service in Church followed by burial in Churchyard.
✝ 11 th March	Craig Stoton	Burial of Ashes

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

February 2024:

1st no. 170 – Paul Bithrey 2nd no.175 – Tim Watson 3rd no. 15 – Trish Humphries

March 2024:

1st no. 137 – Nell Hanks 2nd no.138 – Georgina Brewer 3rd no.17 – Trish Humphries

There are still some tickets unsold for the 2024/25 season. First draw should take place on 7th April. They are £15 each and are entered into every monthly draw.

Tickets available from: Tim Watson ☎ 01462 711123 or Dick Brewer ☎ 01462 711594.

EVENTS:

- ☺ Sunday Teas in the church start again on 5th May from 3pm - 5pm
- ☺ Our Strawberry Cream Teas will be on 9th June.

We are looking forward to welcoming **Rev. Jenna Dearden** as our Priest in Charge. Her Licensing Service will be on **Thursday, 25th July** at **7.30pm** in the church, conducted by Richard, Bishop of Bedford.

Best Wishes, Liz Brewer (Church Warden) - lizbrewer313@gmail.com



It's April and longer, warmer and, hopefully, sunnier days are almost upon us. Shillington WI have a wonderful programme of meetings, activities, trips and events planned for the next few months.

In February, we welcomed Pauline Roby (Singing for Fun and Confidence). She succeeded in getting everyone to join in most of the songs, some of which were more challenging than others – a good laugh was had by all!

The AGM last month went very smoothly and efficiently. It was followed by: 'A Date Night with the WI'. Liza Starling showed us how to make some very simple yet extremely tasty treats using dates. Fillings included goat's cheese with walnuts. The ones filled with peanut butter were dipped in melted dark chocolate. All members present became official tasters!



At our April meeting we will be welcoming back David Duker. His talk, 'A Higher Call', is one of the most incredible stories of WW2. He is an excellent speaker.

In May, Kay Goddard will be telling us, in her talk 'The Patterned Path to Freedom', the story of how codes and quilts helped slaves to flee to Canada using The Underground Railroad. This promises to be a fascinating talk.



Some of the events planned for this spring include a Spa Day and Evening at Champneys, a visit to the Cecil Higgins Museum in Bedford and an afternoon in the pretty village of Woburn for a 'Woburn Wander' and tea and cake.

It won't be long before the Walking Club will return to walks in the evening, some of which will end up at a pub for a meal. Members are enjoying lunches or suppers (sometimes both) at local venues. The Book Club meets regularly and the knitters have been busy.

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

SPARROWS – MY CHEEKY HOUSEMATES

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

It's April - I love this month! It's so good to be woken up by birdsong and sunlight rather than my phone alarm going off in the pitch black.



The house sparrows are now scratching about in the eaves of my house, busily sorting out their old nests. They pair for life, although the occasional 'fling' isn't out of the question, and they usually use the same nest site. It sounds as if I have a small community of them nesting underneath the guttering and tiles. My cheeky little squatters seem to be perpetually arguing or chattering. They possibly aren't doing my lovely old home much good; however, these birds are believed to bring blessings and happiness to a household so I'm turning a blind eye to any potential damage they might be doing!

Most modern houses don't have the nooks and crannies in which house sparrows can make a nest and raise their chicks. These birds, like many other species, are in trouble so putting up two or three wooden nest boxes high up on your house wall would really help them. The advice is to avoid placing boxes in direct sunlight and to put them in a quieter position (not above a well-used path or door).

I have a bird table, with a dish in which I put seeds, and three bird feeders. To prevent the spread of diseases, I wash them fairly regularly (every couple of months or so). I didn't realise until recently that this isn't enough – they need to be washed at least once a month. I've also learnt that a disease called trichomonosis is killing house sparrows and finches, particularly greenfinches. One study suggests that this disease accounts for 62% of all greenfinch, chaffinch and sparrow mortality annually in the UK. I'll definitely be giving the feeders a good scrub more often from now on. I use warm, soapy water and rinse well.



It was upsetting to hear about trichomonosis. Birds have enough problems coping with the harm we are doing to them and their habitats without this. The use of pesticides and the loss of wildlife habitats to development are the main drivers of bird population declines. Using chemicals in our gardens is causing their numbers to decline even more - if everyone stopped applying insecticides, fungicides and weedkillers, it would give our beautiful feathered friends a chance to survive, to increase in numbers and to thrive.



House sparrows will eat most types of food put out in gardens; they definitely aren't fussy eaters. However, during the breeding season, they need to feed their young with juicy insects and bugs such as aphids and caterpillars. This is one reason why we shouldn't be using pesticides, particularly insecticides (it's in the name), in our gardens.

If you go into a garden centre, they'll have an area selling products such as bird food and wildflower seed to help save wildlife. However, a few steps away, they'll have merchandise for sale that kills it. We need openness and honesty; displaying health warning signs, like those on cigarette packets, stating that pesticides kill wildlife and us (they cause cancers etc) would be a step in the right direction. We are told that these products are safe to use if the instructions are followed but the scientific evidence is now there – they are not. Actually, thinking about it, shops and garden and DIY centres shouldn't even be selling these awful products.

Annie x



NO THROUGH ROAD

by *Revd. Angus McCormick* ☎ 01462-712096

Minister of Shillington Congregationalist Church

So I was travelling along a familiar road to get home and then I came to a roundabout when that sign appeared 'NO THROUGH ROAD' ! The road ahead was fully barricaded off so no hope of trying to slip through and hope.... Well I have to go on the diversion road.



I had to say it was feeling great to be on a lovely smooth surface with no potholes. I also soon realized what a beautiful view was all round me with unobstructed open landscape of fields and hedges. All too soon it seemed I was at a point which I recognized as part of a familiar way home. I had to admit that this diversion was much quicker than the road that I normally took. So summing up the diversion had given me welcome benefits; none of the usual stress of bumps and hazards; a refreshing new view; quicker route to my destination. Yes I will use this road again without the need for a diversion being in place.

Now I know not all diversions can be like this. Anyhow this time it was good. It made me reflect on how in life so often I can struggle with any sense of change of plan or maybe a suggestion of another way of doing things.

I have had to acquiesce at times that there are better alternatives despite not either looking for them or accepting them willingly. The new choice of another view can be revitalizing.



Of course, often like the need for that 'NO THROUGH ROAD', the reason for the closure is for some real issue that has to be addressed. Some other priority has taken over from my routine plans. In life maybe at times it is someone else's real needs that have to be considered instead of our own personal desires or aims. This alternative choice may be making us less selfish and more aware of others.

Now there can be many issues here such as, it is testing when there are too many diversions on our routes, or we feel it is costing us time and money. Even so in real life terms maybe we do need to face the fact that really helping and caring about others will cost us time, money and more besides.

Many volunteers do so much great and good work which is rarely valued in money or time, but they have most likely decided to take another route than keeping to the easier personal routine. There are needs for all kinds of volunteering which call on any of us to respond positively and open up roads that are closed at present but where no work is being done.



I thank all those who have chosen that other route and which gives so much to our community life. For many of us worship is like this – not a must but a voluntary act.

Every blessing, *Angus*



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NEWS

47 Church Street, Shillington

www.shillingtoncong-church.org.uk

SERVICES:

All services commence at 10.30am each Sunday. Everyone is welcome to these relaxed services. Information of services is on the church notice board or at the back of this magazine. Visitors always most welcome. Should you need to contact our Minister Revd. Angus McCormick for any pastoral or other spiritual matters, his telephone number is 01462-712096.



CHRISTIAN AID:

The annual coffee morning to support this global charity will be held on 15 May at 10.00am. Hoping you can support this charity especially at this great time of need.

BEDFORD FOODBANK:

Please continue to support this great NEED. Thank you for all donations either at the Congregational Church or at 1 Bells Close Shillington.



Items currently in short supply:

Tinned Rice Pudding	Tins of Tuna
Jars of Coffee	Tinned Meat
Deodorant	Tinned Vegetables
Long Life Fruit Juice	Tea Bags – 40/80
Biscuits	Shampoo

FRIENDLY WELCOME SPACE:

This welcome time continues with many meeting up for a chat, soup, coffee and cakes. Please note that opening times will be 10:00 to 12 noon from 15th April. We will be closed for Easter Monday and 8th April. See poster on page 22.



TABLE TENNIS:

Two tables and equipment available for playing in the church upper room. Please contact Revd. Angus for information.





SHILLINGTON GARAGE TABLE TOP SALE

SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2024 12PM - 4PM

REFRESHMENTS SOLD AT VILLAGE HALL

A MAP WILL BE RELEASED NEARER THE DATE

ROADS TAKING PART

BURY ROAD

HILLFOOT ROAD

WOODMER CLOSE

HIGH ROAD

MARQUIS HILL

VICARAGE CLOSE

UPTON END ROAD

MARSHALLS AVENUE

CHURCH VIEW AVENUE

CHURCH STREET

HANSCOMBE END ROAD

SHILLINGTON MEN'S CLUB

(Now in its 19th year)

<https://Shillingtonmensclub.co.uk>

On the 31st January we started the new year with our "kick off party" at the Congregational Church. 26 members attended and were treated to live music, a buffet and beverages. This replaced our annual general meeting. The plans for the forthcoming year were discussed and the present committee members were all re-elected.

On the evening of the 7th February 25 members enjoyed an evening at the Greyhound in Haynes. The meal was cottage or steak pie, chips or mash, with veg. Desserts were crumble or spotted dick with custard. A good night was had by all. Adrian Foote won the raffle. A big thank you to Stewart Rataj and Colin Hands for organising this event.



On the 17th February 20 members attended a tour of P&A Wodd at Dunmow, Essex. Here the members toured the show room of high end cars, such as Rolls Royce and Bentleys. This was a very memorable visit. A big thank you to Michael Bradley for organising this event.

On the 28th February 17 members attended a lunch social at the Musgrave Arms for a social and a chit chat, an enjoyable afternoon as always.

On the 6th March 20 members enjoyed an evening meal at the Cross Keys in Pulloxhill. This time we had a choice of steak & ale pie or ham, egg and chips, and for desert cherry pie or lemon tart. We had a fantastic night, and Alan Little was the raffle winner. A big thank you to Stewart Rataj and Colin Hands for organising this event.

Future events:

- 10th April - Evening meal at the Red Lion at Great Offley
- 17th April - Lunch Time Social at The View at Pegsdon
- 26th April - Visit to the London Transport Museum Depot, West Acton
- 8th May - Evening Meal at the Motte & Bailey at Pirton
- 22nd May - Visit to Newark Air Museum

Membership:

Current membership is 39 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

REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BLAKE STEPHENSON

- April 2024 -

Council Tax increases from April:

Diaries have been jam-packed with budget meetings over the past few months, and there's no doubt that it has been a tough year to balance the books. But the group of Independent Councillors eventually got their budget passed in February. Central Beds' share of Council Tax has increased by 4.99%. And increases to fund the Parish, Beds Police, and the Beds Fire & Rescue Authority will also flow through and be included in our next bills. Various services are being cut too!



Coming soon ... £55/year for garden waste collections:

Despite my best efforts to protect free garden waste collections, changes have been approved and at the time of writing are being rushed out. Conservatives wanted this idea to be scrapped entirely, and we even proposed a fully funded one-year delay so time could be spent designing a solution that everyone could get behind. But we were out voted in Council. Many of you have told me that you're worried about fly-tipping and bonfires, amongst other things. So please keep in touch with issues and concerns, to help me scrutinise Central Beds' plans.

But there is some good news ...

My campaign to protect 37 bus services throughout the county (including the 79 through Shillington) was a success, with plans to axe subsidies dropped. And, having secured widespread support in Council, I'm also pleased that £10m has now been set-aside to back our NHS. Central Beds isn't responsible for healthcare, but it needs to show leadership on what is a priority for our rural communities.

And finally ... more good news ... Greenwoods is REFUSED!

Central Beds refused planning permission on 5th March, citing concerns about harm to; the green belt, heritage assets, landscapes (including views to/from the Chilterns), the character of our area, ecology, prime agricultural land, and more. The developers may still appeal, so we'll need to stay on our toes, ready to fight to protect our countryside at every twist and turn. But for now, a big thank you to everyone!

Blake

PEGSDON VIEW



This week it finally feels like spring has sprung after a pretty wet winter. Snowdrops that were in evidence a couple of weeks ago have passed and the daffs are now nodding at me along the road. We did a little bulb planting in November at 3 key points of Pegsdon and have been watching and waiting, some of those bulbs are now popping up which is very satisfying. Hopefully we'll keep adding more over time and Pegsdon will become a blaze of colour each spring. I'm hoping this will become one of the things that remind people that this is a home for our little community.

Speeding on the Hitchin Road continues to be a blight and delivery drivers and our postie receive abuse from drivers when pulling over to make their deliveries. We've sadly had the first 2 road traffic accidents of the year in the usual spot, on the way out of Pegsdon towards Hitchin. We've reported 6 fly tipping incidents to the council so far this year and we hear they are considering deploying concealed cameras in a couple of the hotspots, though I think we are not the worst affected so may not be high up on the list. Disturbingly two of the most recent incidents have been dumped in the middle of the road, no attempt to keep the highway clear, including wood and nails, so a clear hazard to passing car tyres.

Thankfully the CBC waste teams are extremely responsive in these instances. I do feel a bit inured to it all now though, desensitised by the frequency and the familiarity of it. I'm reminded by my good friend Claire that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing and expecting a different result. At some point we hope that CBC and the Highways team will do something different and make these roads safer. The thing that does cheer me up? Clarke Transport lorries, every time they see me walking my dog, if it's safe to do so, they pull out wide on the road and give us more room as they pass. My little rescue doesn't then skit away, and I exchange a little thank you wave with the drivers. Brightens my day, that little spot of consideration and kindness.



In other news, the first Chapter25 bookclub meetup took place at The View, great fun. The opinions on the book were very mixed but ultimately it scored pretty highly on the approval ratings across the book groups who read it. I'm looking forward to the next, first Tuesday of the month, check out the Chapter25 website or facebook page if you'd like to join in.

We've had some brilliant live music events, karaoke, which I especially enjoyed (not so sure about my audience though!), and more to come. Easter brings a family fun day and a quiz night. Lots to look forward to in the next few weeks with more live music and some biker nights, do keep an eye on The View SG5 social media pages or drop in and check out their events board.



Finally, I'm so pleased to report that the defibrillator is now fully funded and the final arrangements are now being made for installation. We should have a fully functioning defibrillator in Pegsdon within the next couple of months.

Wishing you safe and well, give us a little wave next time you are passing through.

Caroline

SHILLINGTON SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

MEET AT

SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

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



It has been a busy time recently at the bowls club, our new members are growing in confidence and taking part in the inhouse competitions and becoming really enthusiastic about the game.

The in-house triples league is in its final week, congratulations to the overall winners Bill Gearing, Toni Gearing and Jan Rix, however, 4 teams are still vying for second place.

After Easter we will start the Aussie Pairs competition which will conclude just before our summer break. We have also held the preliminary rounds of the singles, pairs and fours for the club championships and the finalists have been identified for our finals day on the 18th May.

The Barnet league and Wilstead league have concluded and the club had mixed fortunes in both. Sadly both the Shillington Blacks and Shillington Reds have been demoted to division 2 in the Barnet league. The Wickers and Scarecrows finished 5th and 6th respectively, so in the upper half of the overall table at Wilstead.

We had club members playing at the first of the National competitions at Sollihull on the 24th and 25th February, congratulations to Bill and Toni Gearing who progressed to the last 16 in the pairs competition. They did the club and Hertfordshire County proud. Well done to everyone who competed.

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 (☎ 07974-772702) conlonmichelle@sky.com
Or **Derek Lewison** (☎ 01462 711504)



SHILLINGTON SPITFIRES CRICKET CLUB

Running towards the season.

With the Shillington Spitfires Cricket Club's first game of the 2024 season coming up on the 14th April, there has been a buzz of excitement around the team as they head into their second season. The team has been having regular net sessions throughout the winter at The Robert Bloomfield Academy and improvements can already be seen as the players have been shaking off the rust of their batting and bowling. New members have also been enjoying the nets and will help expand the squad.

The team's grounds staff have been dodging the rain clouds and working on our very own cricket square at the Memorial Playing Fields to ensure we can play home games this year.

The Spitfire's first home game is on the 16th June (with the other home games of 2024 being 23rd June and 14th July), it will be the first time in 21 years that an official club cricket game has taken place in Shillington, making it a huge day for the team and the village.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

With the introduction of our own pitch, the club has invested in lawnmowers, rollers and plenty of equipment for the season ahead. The Spitfires are looking for sponsors to ensure Shillington has a cricket club for many years to come. If you feel you would like to sponsor the team, or know of a local business who might be interesting in sponsoring the club, we have some very attractive packages on offer. You can contact the team on Shillington.spitfiresCC@gmail.com and we'll be more than happy to explain the sponsorship packages on offer.

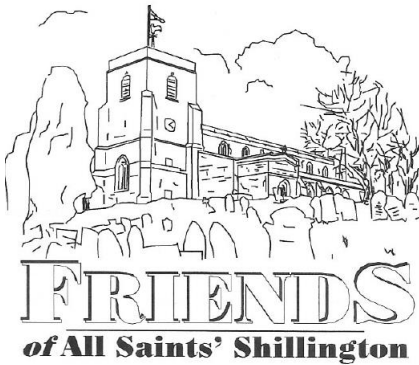
COME AND PLAY

And if you're interested in playing, we're an inclusive club and welcome anyone who wants to try, just get in touch. You can use the email address above or find us on Facebook and Instagram by searching for Shillington Spitfires.

Shillington Spitfires Cricket Club - 2024 Games

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

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



After 20+ years involved in the Friends of All Saints, Maggie and I are 'moving on' to be nearer to our children in Devon. Just a tiny fraction of the life of All Saints with the role it has played in the village over countless generations.

We talk of 'holding on' to our precious heritage, and **restoration and repair** has been our main focus, as with the work about to start on to stonework of the arch to the north door at the back of the church. But the church has also had to keep **changing to meet the needs of its time**, as with the installation of the toilet and kitchen in 2007, or the discussion now about removing some of the back pews to make more space for welcome and hospitality like Sunday Teas (which start again in May). The pews themselves were an innovation after centuries of standing room only!

The Friends are grateful for all the support we receive from the community and are delighted to say that **the Crown have chosen us as their charity of the year** as part of their commitment to the village. They will be supporting the repair of another section of the churchyard wall through their programme of events from an Easter Egg hunt, through to Christmas Carols as well as the regular Quiz night and much more. Look out on Facebook: "Friends of All Saints Church", or our website: foas-shillington.org.uk for details.

Do come along to our **AGM in the church on 25th April at 7.30pm** to find out more about our projects and make your suggestions. The short formal AGM will be followed by drinks and nibbles with a **talk by Andrew Elliman** who rode his Penny Farthing around local churches in support of last year's Historic Churches' Trust Bike & Hike. Entitled '**Resilience**', his talk will cover his time on Everest caught up in the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, The World's highest dinner party in 2018, and his Cross Channel swim in the Musgrave Car park during Covid! **All are welcome!**



By popular request, Joy Robertson, who masterminded our 24 Hour Music event last year, has agreed to mount another '**Joy to the World**' event on **Friday and Saturday 18/19 October** – a combination of local music and visual record of our community and village life. ***If you'd like to join in the choir which is being formed or to help in other ways contact Joy on jcmr@hotmail.co.uk***

It has been a privilege and great fun to be part of the work to help hold on to our precious church on the hill. Andy Gibbs has kindly agreed to be nominated to take on the chair at our AGM so please continue to support him and the Friends. If you are not already a member or would like to donate you can use the form on the next page.

With best wishes,
Peter Lambert, Friends of All Saints' Church, (pglambert@fastmail.com)

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

Friends of All Saints' Church, Shillington

THERE ARE 2 EASY WAYS TO PAY:

1. You can make a donation by cheque/post

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

Name

Home address

.....

email address

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

(Yes / No) (Please delete as appropriate)

Signed..... Date

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

Joy Robertson, 18 Vicarage Close, Shillington SG5 3LS

Or

If you'd prefer to pay online:

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

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

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

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





AGM and talk:

Thursday 25th April 7.30pm

Find out about progress on restoration projects

followed by wine, nibbles and

TALK 8.00pm

by Andrew Elliman:

talking about '**Resilience**' around his time on Everest, the earthquake of 2015, the World's highest dinner party in 2018, and swimming the English Channel from being a non-swimmer in 2018!

All Welcome

OUR BEAUTIFUL CHURCHYARD



ALL SAINTS CHURCH SHILLINGTON

With longer days and, we hope, better weather it's likely that even more people will be walking through or relaxing in our village churchyard. Because of this, we thought it would be an ideal time to explain who is responsible for the care of the churchyard and how it is looked after.

All Anglican churches are part of a wider community called a Diocese, which is usually centred on a cathedral. All Saints Church in Shillington is part of the Diocese of St Albans, and it is the Diocese which sets regulations for churchyards in its area. The details of these can be found at: -

<https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/life-and-faith/funerals>

However, day to day care is usually the responsibility of the individual church's council, known as the Parochial Church Council (PCC for short). It is only if a churchyard is closed for further interments that it may become the responsibility of the local Parish or District council. In Shillington the PCC still has the responsibility for the care of the churchyard. It is also privileged to be a designated **County Wildlife site** and to be part of **the Living Churchyard Scheme**. This is why areas of our churchyard are left uncut for much of the year to promote wildlife.

The fact that the churchyard is so freely used by the whole community is a great joy, but we would ask that the area is used respectfully: -

- Please keep **dogs** on leads and clear up after them. There is still a distressingly large amount of dog mess left in the churchyard.
- If **horses** are ridden through the churchyard, please would riders also clear up after them. Horse dung on the footpaths is deeply unpleasant for everyone else.
- Please could **graves and cremation plaques** be kept tidy. If tributes are left but not later removed when broken or past their best, the churchyard team have to do this to keep areas safe and cared for.
- Please **take care** when using the churchyard. Although we check the state of headstones, they can shift and become hazardous. Also, given the size and location of the churchyard we are unable to prevent rabbit holes and wasp nests appearing.
- If you have any **concerns** about the churchyard, please contact the churchyard team coordinator:

Liz Allan on lizallan@freeuk.com or ☎ 01462-711084

or one of our churchwardens:

Liz Brewer lizbrewer313@gmail.com and Richard Brewer richardbrewer025@btinternet.com

☎ 01462 711594.

A team of **volunteers** works hard to care for the churchyard. There is a job to suit everyone and it's a great way to keep fit in the fresh air and the company of others. We are always very pleased to welcome new volunteers. If you feel you could help, please contact **Liz Allan** – for more details.



SHILLINGFEST 24

Saturday, 29th June 2024

at The Memorial Playing Field (SG5 3NX) from 1pm



- ☺ Local Stalls & Sideshows/Fundraisers ☺ BBQ & Pizza Van
☺ Food & Drink Stalls ☺ Inside/Outside Bars ☺ Pimms Tent



Live Entertainment from:

Shefford Majorettes



Sea Shanty Group

Our own local crooner
Andy Neaves



☺ Vintage & veteran vehicles / Shillington & District Classic Car Group

☺ Get your photo in a Ferrari.....

☺ Demonstration by Vehicle Recovery Truck

☺ Special flypast provisional....2.04pm currently scheduled

Want to get involved ?... have a stall ?
Contact **Sally Stapleton** ☎ 07711 - 504489

SHILLINGTON & DISTRICT CLASSIC VEHICLE GROUP

Tuesday fortnightly summer meetings supporting our local community pub:

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

*Arrive anytime, most enthusiasts congregate from 6pm onwards and stay until late.
Meetings take place on Tuesdays every 2 weeks until the end of September.*

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

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

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

Why not join our lively WhatsApp Group?

Just contact **Zara** on **07860-646323** for more information.

DATES FOR 2024:

**April - 9th & 23rd // May - 7th & 21st // June - 4th & 18th
July - 2nd, 16th & 30th // August - 13th & 27th //
September - 10th**



PIRTON TENNIS CLUB



Now the longer, warmer days are here, and with Wimbledon just around the corner – how about some tennis?

Pirton Tennis Club welcomes players of all ages and levels, especially women and juniors.

Club nights are on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7 pm where play is relaxed and friendly.

We have teams in local leagues for those looking for a more competitive game.

Our own coach (Olga) provides group and individual lessons for all ages and standards of play (including beginners).

We also have an active social life with walks to local pubs and Christmas Dinners and are currently planning a week-end tournament and Open Day with Pizza and a BBQ.

For more information please contact **Graeme Low** (☎ **07733-334479**)

graeme@lows.myzen.couk



THE FRIENDLY PLACE

(Spring and Summer schedule from 15th April 2024)

At the Congregational Church, Shillington

**Mondays, 10.00 am to 12.00
noon** (closed Easter Monday and 8th April)

Join us for tea, coffee, cakes and friendly chat.
No charge but small donations are welcome!
We may be able to offer a lift if you need it.

Hosted by Linda and Trish of All Saints' Church and Angus
and Nola of the Congregational Church Shillington.
For more information you can call Linda 01462 711761
or Trish on 07754760073

ALL SAINTS ILLUMINATED



To celebrate or commemorate your special occasion please contact:

Catherine on **07710-823384**

or e-mail catherine.scleater@btinternet.com

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

Sponsor	Message	From	To
<i>The Edwards Family</i>	<i>In memory of Carl with love Mum, Dad, Debbie, Chris, Rebecca and Ethan</i>	<i>Sunday 3 March</i>	<i>Saturday 9th March</i>
<i>Catherine Scleater</i>	<i>Remembering Mavis Ingram, who died 18 years ago on the 4th April and celebrating her birthday on 13th April when she would of been 90! Thought of everyday with love.</i>	<i>Sunday 7 April</i>	<i>Saturday 13 April</i>
<i>Pat Briggs</i>	<i>To celebrate the silver wedding anniversary on 24th April of Elizabeth & Mark Westlake. With love and happy memories of their special day</i>	<i>Saturday 20 April</i>	<i>Saturday 27 April</i>
<i>Sally Stoten</i>	<i>In loving memory of a treasured Son, Brother, Daddy & Grandson. Precious memories live on forever in all of us. Love From Mum, Dan, Grannie, Charlie, Ronald and all your loving family.</i>	<i>Saturday 20 April</i>	<i>Saturday 27 April</i>

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - UPDATE (Registered charity no: 300066)



Work will commence on the flat roof of the Hall in the next week or so and last for around three weeks. Scaffolding will be erected around the hall as these works are carried out. User groups should not be affected but should be mindful when walking outside.

We now have a new CCTV system in place. As well as looking out for larger grant/funding pots, we're now planning local fundraising to help boost funds for other improvements we would like to undertake.

Some activities already booked: **Sunday 28th April** - afternoon teas in support of the Garage/Table Top sale around the village from 12 noon to 4pm. We will also have a stall of our own either inside the hall or in the car park (weather dependant). Friends of All Saints will also have stalls in the car park.

Saturday, 7th December – we've managed to get the very popular **FYNNIUS FOGG** (legendary 70's pop group and charity band) to return to the village and will be running a great evening with them in the Hall. More details to follow later.

Autumn - another chance to see the village old picture collection (thank you Andy Gibbs). Date to be confirmed later.

RAMBLING ON with DEREK TURNER

☎ 01462-712462

derek.turner@phonecoop.coop

I've said it before but it's easy to take our good fortune to live in a peaceful and relatively prosperous place for granted. Our lifestyles are made easier by the invention and availability of metals, glass, plastic, running water, electricity, the internal combustion engine and much more. We can assume that food will be always available despite most of us having nothing to do with growing it ourselves. We have computers and phones that enable us to find out or obtain almost anything at a click or keystroke.



It wasn't always so and yet people managed. How did they do it? One way to answer this is to look around the world at the diminishing number of people whose way of life has scarcely been affected by western 'civilisation', to see how they get by. When I was young, such people were usually considered to be savages, inferior to us and often treated harshly by our selfish and arrogant ancestors who took their land and enslaved many. However, excellent TV programmes by the likes of Simon Reeves present a very different picture and let us appreciate their ability to live comfortably using only locally available and sustainable resources.

Sadly, many are threatened by foreign-owned mining companies and large-scale farming operations which covet their ancestral lands. Closer to home, we can find clues about the past beneath our feet. At Must Farm, a small riverside settlement near Peterborough, archaeology has revealed incredible details about everyday life in the Bronze Age. In about 850BC, a catastrophic fire engulfed 11 large, circular thatched huts built on stilts over the shallows of a river. The charred remains and contents collapsed into the water where deep mud quickly covered and preserved them until they were discovered in a quarry 2,800 years later. Items made of wood and fibres as well as food residues that would have rotted away quickly on most sites away were preserved well, along with tools, clothing and decorated beads. They tell us that people who lived there ate a healthy diet and had spare time to engage in creative activities.

Here in Shillington, conditions for preservation are less favourable but we can still seek clues beneath our feet. Last year was the eleventh that I've led a team investigating Shillington's history by digging one metre square archaeological test pits at sites around the village. Our most ancient finds are flints that were knapped or broken in a way that gave them a sharp edge. Some are large enough to fell trees but others were small including arrow heads for hunting wild animals and 'knives' for skinning them and cutting up their meat. We've also discovered much pottery and it is particularly useful as we can tell how, when and where it was made and its likely use.



Long ago, someone discovered that clay could be wetted and moulded into shape then fired to solidify it. The finished product held water and withstood heat. It could be used for cooking food, making it easier to digest. Mixing with the clay a little temper consisting of small fragments of stone, ash or leaves made the pot less likely to shrink or crack when fired and more robust. The oldest pottery we've found in Shillington is probably 3,000 years old - slightly earlier than the Must Farm finds. Five of the locations we investigated last year produced results that were among the best yet.

Take prehistoric pottery made before the Romans colonised Britain in AD43. We found crude flint-tempered fragments of vessels that had been fired in a bonfire between 1200 & 600 BC at both Marquis Hill and at the far end of Woodmer Close, having previously found some of similar antiquity at Shillington Bury and the Old Vicarage. Pottery made during Roman rule which ended in AD 410 turned up again too in a test pit at another location in Woodmer Close near the bungalows.

The 26g of it was the second largest haul so far. It exists in at least a quarter of the places we investigated and its distribution suggests that people were living in small family farms, dotted across the landscape. We also found a Roman coin - admittedly of low value - at Marquis Hill.



What did the Romans do for us, you may ask? For one thing, they made agriculture more efficient and food production increased to feed a growing population with plenty spare for export. They also wrote things down. After they left in AD 410, few people learned to write, perhaps because they had other things on their mind. The climate seems to have taken a turn for the worse and crop yields fell. Some died from starvation or from the plague. However, people such as the Angles, Jutes and Saxons eyed up England's green and pleasant land from across the North Sea and sensed that new opportunities to improve their own lives had arrived. Some came over and stole cattle or fought the natives along the coast. In time, others moved further inland and settled down to live among the locals.

For the first time last year, we unearthed pottery from this period in Shillington. Small pieces of simple, plain vessels in sandy or organic-tempered pottery turned up at Marquis Hill and at the end of Woodmer Close. They can't be dated precisely but pottery expert Paul Blinkhorn places them after AD 450 and before 850. During the 9th century, people moved from their separate farmsteads to live in closer proximity to each other. We don't know why but it led to the formation of villages such as Shillington, Pegsdon or Higham. It may have coincided with a switch to growing more arable crops in large 'Open Fields' in which farmers co-operated with their neighbours to plough the land or get in the harvest while conditions were at their optimum.



It's possible, but by no means certain, that Scytte, the local ruler of Saxon descent who gave his name to Shillington, orchestrated this change. Mapping the pottery distribution from that period shows settlement coalescing in Church Street and then in the Ends of the village. Much pottery would have been made locally but some travelled many miles from centres such as Stamford and Thetford. Small sherds of both turn up here and Stamford Ware appeared once more at Marquis Hill and Thetford Ware by the Woodmer Close bungalows. Our dig behind houses in the lower part of Hillfoot Road and another in an orchard at 106 Bury Road both showed evidence of the population explosion between 1100 and 1350. These test pits produced 139 and 126g of 'High Medieval' pottery respectively.

My 2023 test pit report is nearly finished and will appear soon on the Shillington hub at <https://shillington-history.org.uk/shillington-archeology>. So where will we dig this year? It depends on you, dear reader, coming forward to help or offer us a plot to work on as 80 of you have generously done since we began in 2013. Please contact me and arrange a visit and discuss the potential for finding more clues to our past where you live.

'Use it or lose it' - the loss of facilities in the local area continues. Further to Henlow dog track's recent demise, I hear that Hexton School is closing. For decades Mrs Ashley-Cooper from Hexton Manor spent a great deal of energy cajoling everyone she met to send their children there and people told us what a good school it was. Our daughter Hazel started there but never got on well with Mrs Britton, who taught the infants in a stern, strict and very traditional manner. Hazel transferred to Shillington where the atmosphere was more relaxed and enjoyable and she was much happier and blossomed. Hexton has changed since but without a local champion to boost the numbers, attendances dwindled and Hertfordshire County Council tried to shut it in 2021. They were persuaded to give it another chance but to no avail. The school roll has dwindled since then and it closes officially on 14 April.



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



The start of the Spring term has been very busy in school with many theme days, such as World Book Day, where children were able to dress up as their favourite character from a book and spent the day doing fun activities around the school.

We have also raised money for Chums by celebrating their Wear Bright, Shine Bright Day and most recently celebrated Red Nose Day where children were asked to bring in any coppers they had and decorate a large Red Nose in assembly.

Our Pixie Pre-school children held a stay and play event for Mums to celebrate Mothers' Day, where they helped their Mums choose a bunch of flowers and the children made cards and drew pictures to give to their Mums. They had a lovely morning.

We have had a lot of enquiries about our Pixie Pre-school for September 2024, so if you would like to register your interest then please contact the school office and Mrs Lyttle will arrange for forms to be sent out to you. We are taking children from 2 years and 9 months.

The School Council have arranged a Spring photography competition to encourage the children to get out and about and take photos of Spring in and around Shillington. These will all be entered into a competition when the children come back to school after Easter. We are very excited to see the photographs.

The funds raised by the PTFA have been put to good use this term by installing a new fence around the pond area and returfing the area outside our Squirrels classroom. C&N Garden Services worked over half term to carry out these works and we're looking forward to the warmer weather and being able to let the children out there to play.

At the end of January our year 4 children went to the O2 in London to sing as part of the Young Voices concert. This is always a fantastic day and night out and the children (and staff) thoroughly enjoyed themselves. There were lots of tired faces in school the next day!!

Our breakfast and after school club are becoming increasingly popular now with some of the sessions selling out. The children really enjoy the activities the wraparound team put on for them. Over the summer term we have a lot to look forward to, including the Y4 trip to Grafham water where they get to enjoy a 2 night stay and 2 days full of fun activities.

The PTFA have a lot lined up for our Y4 leavers in the run up to July, including a celebration evening at school and receiving their year books and leavers hoodies. We'd like to thank them for all the help and support they offer the school.

A big thank you to Simon and the volunteers at All Saints Church who put on a fantastic Easter story event for the children this week. All the children were kindly gifted a small easter egg and able to plant a seed to take home and watch grow. This was a lovely experience for all the children and adults.



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	Carli Mauger 07912-549931 carlimauger@gmail.com	Deb Pateman 07934-480446 debpateman@msn.com
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“HIP HIP HOORAY – GARDENING ALL THE WAY”

Donna's Garden Designs - ☎ 07833-670934



Hooray! Gardening season is well underway. Mulching my beds I noticed so many plants popping up, their fresh green shoots emerging. Winter is finally behind us.

This is such an exciting time the whole of the gardening season to look forward to and everything literally springing to life, buds opening and the cheery daffodils greeting us, bobbing their heads on verges as we pass. Colour is filling the garden after what seems like a long wet winter.

As I sit in the garden there is a warmth to the sunshine and it is a pleasure to be outside. Back to having a quick cuppa and checking on progress, the birds singing what could be nicer. Well that or going to the Garden centre ! Once there you are like a child in a sweet shop! Your mind races at what you could grow.

You walk down aisles of colourful seeds and Dahlias. Treat yourself and get growing! The magic of the first seedling never tires and the satisfaction when the plant is blooming is tremendous. Going out and cutting flowers for your house and bringing in a bunch is a lovely thing to do. Enabling you to really study the flowers and admire their scent, shape and form up close.

Annuals are great border fillers for extra colour. Particular favourites of mine are Cosmos. These are easy to grow and offer bloom after bloom. Pinch out when growing to ensure a bushy plant full of flowers. Just dead head and they will flower right into Autumn. They give height and a Cottage garden feel. Are great as a cut flower and there are many varieties and colours to choose from. A gorgeous new variety is Apricot Lemonade.



Another unusual plant but dead easy to grow is Cerinthe major Purpurascens. Originally from Australia. Has unusual almost waxy green grey foliage similar to Euculptus with a purple, tiny drooping flower. What I love most is the bees adore it so it's great in gardens. Zinnias are also a lovely flower. They make a vibrant display. Also great as a cut flower.

For children start them off with fast growing plants to keep their interest. Radishes are great for this and they will love harvesting these. Nasturtiums are good as they are quick to get growing and you can eat the flower and leaves and make a salad look so pretty. Of course Sunflowers are always a favourite. You could always have a competition to see who can grow the tallest one!



So you can see for a couple of pounds how much you can get out of these tiny unassuming little seeds! And come Autumn you can collect their seed and save even more! So it will be money well spent! You don't get much bang for your buck these days, but with seeds this is an exception!

Happy seed sowing!

Donna x

JOBS IN THE GARDEN FOR APRIL

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>✂ Sow sweet peas outdoors</i> | <i>✂ Divide Perennials</i> |
| <i>✂ Tie in climbing & rambling roses</i> | <i>✂ Put supports in place</i> |
| <i>✂ Weed beds</i> | <i>✂ Deadhead faded daffodil and tulip bulbs</i> |
| <i>✂ Feed shrubs and roses</i> | <i>✂ Mow lawn and add lawn fertilizer</i> |
| <i>✂ Plant summer flowering bulbs</i> | <i>✂ Chit potato tubers</i> |
| <i>✂ Prepare vegetable beds</i> | <i>✂ Sow seeds under cover</i> |

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DECISIONS from CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL:

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. **REFUSED**

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. **REFUSED**

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

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

PERMISSION GRANTED

DISCUSSED BY PC BUT AWAITING A CBC DECISION:

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

CB/24/00384/FULL – Land adjacent to Upton End Farm, Meppershall Road

Erection of two detached dwellings, garage and associated works. ***DO NOT SUPPORT***

CB/24/00460/LB & CB/24/00459/FULL – Marquis House, Marquis Hill

Listed Building: New detached timber framed two storey car port with external access to first floor to be used as an office/gym with balcony and pitched roof. ***SUPPORT***

CB/24/00418/FULL – 137 High Road

Single storey rear extension and removal of the garden office building. Replacement of the existing house windows, eaves fascias, soffits and gutters. Replacement external rendering throughout. New boundary fencing to the rear garden. Replacement roof tiles to the existing dining room roof. ***SUPPORT***

CB/24/00540/FULL – 46 Bury Road

Conversion of existing conservatory into a garden room with a new pitched roof and new patio doors. ***SUPPORT***

APP/P0240/W/23/3331588. Appeal regarding refusal of CB/22/04723/FULL

Land adjacent to 141 High Road,

Development of 7 detached bungalows.

PC opposed original application - no further comment (Comments to CBC by 3rd April)

NEW APPLICATION (to be discussed at April PC meeting):

CB/24/00755/FULL - 125 High Rd

Construction of new garage

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.
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 ☺

SHILLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB

Greenfields, Shillington ☎ **07826-518667 (Gavin)**



- ☺ Meat Raffle every Saturday with proceeds to the Pavilion Refurbishment
- ☺ Local Free Range Eggs now available
- ☺ Friday, 12th April - Disco with DJ Johnson

Happy 80th birthday Francis 🎂 // *Wedding Anniversary Chris & Francis* 🥂

BAND NIGHTS:

- ☺ *Saturday, 6th April - Mice with Glasses - 9pm*
- ☺ *Saturday, 29th June - Free State Revolution - 9pm*
- ☺ *Friday, 19th July - Bu Bounce - 8pm*

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



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

VILLAGE CALENDAR

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
- 10 Mens' Club – Evening Meal @ The Red Lion, Great Offley
- 12 Social Club – Disco with DJ Johnson
- 14 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 17 Mens' Club – Lunch Time Social @ The View, Pegsdon
- 19 The View, Pegsdon – Biker Night
- 21 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Hare – 10.30am
- 25 AGM – Friends of All Saints @ The Church - 7.30pm
- 26 Men's Club – Trip to London Transport Museum Depot, West Acton
- 26 The View, Pegsdon – Quiz Night
- 28 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 28 Around the Village Garage/Table Top Sale – 12 noon to 4pm. See poster page 10

MAY

- 1 Shillingfest24 Meeting – Social Club – 8pm
- 5 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 5 All Saints Church – Afternoon Teas resume – 3-5pm
- 7 Annual Parish Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 8 Mens' Club – Evening Meal @ The Mott & Bailey, Pirton
- 11 AFC Shillington – Spring Ball at Memorial Playing Field – 7.30pm to midnight
- 12 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 13 AGM – Memorial Playing Fields Management Committee – Social Club – 8pm
- 15 Coffee Morning for Christian Aid – Congregational Church – 10am
- 15 Village Hall Committee Management Meeting – Jubilee Room – 7.30pm
- 19 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Hare – 10.30am
- 22 Men's Club – Visit to Newark Air Museum
- 26 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am

JUNE

- 1 Social Club – Hayley Vintner Darts Memorial Day – in aid of MND
- 4 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 5 Shillingfest24 Meeting – Social Club – 8pm.
- 9 All Saints Church – Strawberry Cream Teas
- 29 Shillingfest 24 – Memorial Playing Field – 1pm to 4.30pm – see poster page 20
- 29 Social Club – Band Night with Free State Revolution from 9pm

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

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