

PARISH NEWS

covering
SHILLINGTON, PEGSDON & HIGHAM GOBION

SHILLINGTON FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR!

SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2024

THE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS SHILLINGTON
5PM 'TIL MIDNIGHT

TICKET PRICE DEALS

BUY ONLINE

Adult: £6.00

Child (16yrs & under): £3.00

Family (2x Adults & 2x Children 16yrs & under): £15.00

BUY ON THE NIGHT

Adult: £8.00

Child (16yrs & under): £5.00

Family (2x Adults & 2x Children 16yrs & under): £20.00

ONLINE TICKETS WEBSITE: SHILLINGTONFIREWORKS.CO.UK

- **BBQ**
- **STALLS**
- **DRINKS**
- **LIVE BAND**
- **FUN FAMILY EVENING**
- **SPECTACULAR DISPLAY**

Advertising sponsored by
 **Tuckwells**

Issue 174 – OCTOBER 2024

Deadline for December edition – Friday, 22nd November 2024

PARISH COUNCIL

September's Parish council meeting was a long one with lots of admin after the summer break. Firstly a big thank you and congratulations to Blake Stephenson our new MP. He will be stepping down from the Parish council to concentrate on his role in Parliament and at Ward Member level, but will provide a monthly report to the PC and meet quarterly with the Chair.

The AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Review) was accepted and approved. Well done to Lauren our clerk, (this was her first AGAR), the external auditor was very impressed, finding only 1 minor admin error.

The remainder of the earmarked funds were approved to send to the Village Hall to help with further upgrade work.

Local maintenance tenders were discussed with further information and discussion for October's meeting.

Annual reports for the Shillington car park charity and War Memorial charity were detailed and approved.

We agreed to request a road closure for Remembrance Sunday which, subsequently after a lot of paperwork, has been approved.

We continue to chase the multiple outstanding Highways and Footpath issues with CBC and add more frequently. It is very frustrating but we will not give up.

Future Road closures notified by Central Bedfordshire Council:

- *Clophill Road, Gravenhurst. Carriageway patching. From A507 to High Street. The closure will be in place 7th October 2024 from 0900-1530hrs.*
- *Church Street/Hillfoot Road, Shillington. Pre-surface dressing/surface dressing. Lining. Length affected: Church Street full length and Hillfoot Road junction with Church Street. The closure will be in place from 0800hrs to 1800hrs from 7th October to 18th October 2024.*
- *Greenfields, Shillington. Mastic asphalt patching works. The closure will be in place from 30th to 31st October from 0900-1530hrs.*
- *Stondon Road, Shillington, Carriageway repair works. Length affected: on bend near Marquis Hill. The closure will be in place from 25th to 29th November from 0900-1530hrs.*

Reports from the police traffic management unit for Hanscombe End and Pegsdon were received and added to the hefty weight of data from previous TMU work and the great volunteers from Speedwatch. Working with our Ward Member, and now our MP, Blake Stephenson we are hoping CBC highways will do something to slow cars in the village. Street watch continued its bi-weekly patrols with nothing serious to report.

Community Emergency Response Teams were discussed again with CBC advising that the first step is to set up a WhatsApp group for volunteers. Previous requests for volunteers have been rather disappointing, so we hope to rectify this given recent flooding and the threat of these sort of events becoming more frequent.

Pegsdon now has a Defibrillator located outside The View pub. Thank you to Claire Harvey and Pegsdon residents for organising; the pub owners for allowing it to be situated on their building; and to all the donors who funded it. The PC will maintain it going forward with the help of residents' regular checks.

We had lots of correspondence to consider and add to the next agenda, including S106 usage, highways issues, litter schemes, street lights and improved sports facilities.

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 Parish Council

Including Pegsdon & Higham Gobion

BEDFORDSHIRE

Miss. Lauren Darnell <i>Clerk to the Council</i> Tel: 01462 713224 clerk@shillington-pc.gov.uk	45 Tiger Moth Way, Lower Stondon, Henlow, Beds SG16 6GN	Chair: Mr. John Hyde Tel: 07799 537346 johnhyde@shillington-pc.gov.uk
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NOTICE OF CO-OPTION OF ONE PARISH COUNCILLOR

The Democratic Services Department of Central Bedfordshire Council has confirmed that no request for an election has been received and therefore the Parish Council can fill the current casual vacancy for a Parish Councillor by co-option.

If you are interested in serving as a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk to the Council in writing confirming that you are qualified to be a Councillor (see details below) and include a brief explanation of why you are interested in joining the Parish Council. The Council usually meets on the first Tuesday of every month. If you would like to know more about the role, please contact the Clerk.

The closing date for written submissions of interest is Thursday 31st October 2024.

Candidates will be invited to speak at the Parish Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 5th November 2024 after which a vote by Councillors will take place. Full details of the process can be obtained from the Clerk.

This notice is also available on the Parish Council website: www.shillington-pc.gov.uk

Date of Notice: 24th September 2024

Notice posted by: Lauren Darnell, Clerk to the Council

Qualifications to be a Councillor

To stand as Councillor, on the day of nomination or election, you must be 18 or over and a UK, EU or Commonwealth Citizen, and

- either be registered to vote on the current register with the local council
- or have either worked or lived in the council's area for one year
- been an owner or tenant of any land or premises in the council's area for one year.

You cannot stand if:

- you work for your local council, or
- you hold a politically restricted post for another authority, or
- you are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order, or
- you have served a prison sentence (including suspended sentences) of three months or more within five years prior to the election, or
- you have been disqualified under any legislation relating to corrupt or illegal practices.

You do not need any formal qualifications to become a councillor.



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SHILLINGTON & GRAVENHURST

www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk



Hello from All Saints Church!

It has been a good few weeks since my arrival into the Parish and thank you all so much for your warm welcome. It is great to be here with you and I'm excited about the future and all that All Saints, your Parish Church, has to offer the community as we live out God's love in this place.

I'm getting to see and experience so much of what is already happening in the village and the wonderful community spirit here and I am looking forward to going into Shillington Lower School to celebrate Harvest.

October is a time when we see all the changes in nature around us. As the nights draw in, it is good to be reminded of God's constant presence throughout life. All Saints Church stands high on the hill and has been a constant presence in this village for hundreds of years.

In the day, it is open for visitors and at night time it is lit up and its splendour is not lost. You can even donate for the church to be lit up at night on your special date!

And, whether you are walking the dog, out exercising, or just enjoying a walk in the beautiful surroundings, passing through or a regular visitor, why not rest a while at the top of the hill. Everyone is welcome to come into the church to enjoy the space, a place of peace and a place of prayer.

I look forward to meeting you and hearing your stories about life in Shillington as I'm out and about in the village in the days and weeks to come. Do get in touch if you want to chat or would like a visit.

Every Blessing, *Revd Jenna Dearden*
Email: revjennadearden@gmail.com
Mobile: **07708 666612**



SPECIAL SERVICES

All Souls Memorial Service – Wednesday 6 November at 7.30 pm - a special service remembering loved ones who have died, whether recently or long ago. All are welcome.

FUNERALS AND BURIALS

Interment of Ashes of Isobel Cole on 17th September 2024

IMPORTANT CHURCHYARD NOTICE

During October and November, as part of the maintenance of the churchyard we will be 'topple testing' memorials (headstones) to ensure their safety. This involves checking for the stability of the headstones and laying down any that are deemed to be unstable and/or at risk of falling. Where possible, we will seek to contact the family to involve them in this process. If you have any questions about this or are aware of any unstable headstones please do get in touch.

200 CLUB - LUCKY WINNERS!

August

1st no. 177 - Liz Harvey 2nd no. 196 - Tina Crow 3rd no. 114 - Jane Ferguson

September

1st no. 104 - Ronnie Hanks 2nd no. 3 - Victoria Howarth 3rd no. 200 - Tony Bird

AUTUMN EVENTS

Sunday 13 October - Harvest Lunch and Auction

Saturday 16 November – Bingo Evening

For more information and tickets please contact; **Liz Brewer** on **07930-812940** or lizbrewer313@gmail.com

Please see Friends Page for their coming events.



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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / ITEMS / NEWS IN BRIEF



ACT OF REMEMBRANCE & WREATH LAYING SUNDAY, 10th NOVEMBER



Congregational Church & War Memorial

10:00 – Church Service at Congregational Church

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

Parish Council has requested official road closures during this period as well as police presence and management of pedestrians by our Streetwatch volunteers.

Attendees at the Memorial are requested to gather in and around the Memorial during the wreath laying, outdoor service and blessing where possible. Thank you.

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

A HUGE THANK YOU TO LOCAL VOLUNTEERS



Diane & Alan Little for looking after the War Memorial flowerbeds and garden area and producing those beautiful floral wheelbarrows with Shillington Lower School Children....cheering us up during the summer holidays xx

Cllr. Derek Turner and his great team of volunteers working their way round our overgrown footpaths so we can access our lovely countryside xx

StreetWatch & SpeedWatch Teams for ‘eyes and feet on the ground’ assisting the police in keeping us safe xx



Bill Gearing keeping the Village Hall Car Park/outside area weed free xx

SHILLINGTON CARE

Do you need help with transport from Shillington?

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



Initially, speak to **Liz** on **01462-711594** or leave a message.

If there is a delay on this number then call **07930-812940**



WANTED: Tombola prizes for All Saints' Xmas Fayre on 7th December. Please contact Margaret Johnson (Mags) on 01462-711635 or WhatsApp if you have any items for her. **THANK YOU.**



PEACE PALS

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

Fireworks, socials, sport, worship – some of the things that many people in the village enjoy. Reading, TV, gardening, mobile phones are some of the things many of us do alone. Walking, cycling, driving can be done alone or with others and many of us do these things. How much do we do with others?

Another list of things that can be put in order of importance for each of us; the environment, climate issues, food, money, health, work, family and friends, education. I wonder where at this moment in time we place these things in importance.

Likewise, I was reflecting on those people who have served and still serve our community both as volunteers or in their work so that we might be safe and lead life as we want to – especially keeping us safe from harm and enemies. We can reflect on these people who do not count the cost of their service and who have and still do give their lives to bring us peace.



There were regiments in World War 1 made up of volunteers who were pals. They were from the same area and were usually pals in everyday life. They could help and support each other especially in conflict and in the challenges of war.

It is a spirit and loyalty that maybe we could reflect upon with benefit. To feel that within our whole community there was an attitude that didn't count the cost but always put caring for another first. The kind of spirit a parent would practice in bringing up a child and looking to the future good of that child.

There isn't a rule book or even a complete guide as to how we can all do this but it is within all of us – a sense of love and giving. Only each one of us can individually reflect on how we are part of such a community. Hopefully we can all say that our village is a place where EVERYBODY cares and helps each other.

We all can belong to the Shillington Pals no matter how long we have lived here or what our contribution may be or what groups we already support or what our interests are.

Please drive more carefully as you may injure a pal, please take your litter home as you spoil the beauty of your pal's home. Please remember how many gave their lives so that their pals back home could have peace.



Every blessing, *Revd. Angus*



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NEWS

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

SERVICES:

All services commence at 10.30am unless otherwise state. Visitors always welcome. If you need to contact our minister with any enquiries his number is 01462-712096



BEDFORD FOODBANK:



Extract from a thank-you letter received from the Food Bank. “Thank you to everyone who has donated items to the Food Bank during the first six months of the year which has totalled in 272.55kg of food and will provide around 649 meals. All donations are gratefully received and never more so than now in the challenging times. Regular donations are vital to the on-going provision of food for those in the community who are in greatest need.

The need to support the Food Bank continues year on year and we now feed over 2,000 people a month. The amount of food leaving the warehouse is generally in the region of 20-22 tonnes a month”.

Items currently in short supply:

Long Life Milk	Tinned Meat
Jars Curry Sauce	Tinned Rice Pudding
Jars Coffee	Long Life Fruit Juice
Deodorant	Tinned Tuna
Shampoo	Laundry Tablets

HARVEST THANKSGIVING:

Our harvest service was held on the 1st September when gifts were received for the Bedford Foodbank. A variety of tinned and packeted goods were donated and gratefully welcomed by the Foodbank as the demand continues to grow on their services.

Without the support of individuals, organisations and community groups, Bedford Foodbank could not meet the increasing need in Bedford and the surrounding villages

FRIENDLY WELCOME SPACE:

This weekly event (apart from public holidays) runs very successfully from 10.00am until 12.00 on Mondays at the Church. Special thanks to the volunteers who help and for donations of food and refreshments. It is a relaxing time and you can come and go as you please. Easy access for those who have mobility issues.



SHILLINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2024



This year the charity we are supporting is

Riding for the Disabled, Shillington Branch

RDA



This is a new branch of RDA being set up in Shillington and users of these new facilities will be assessed and monitored here in our village. Riding helps physically by improving core strength in the body, posture and balance. It also helps psychologically by improving confidence and attention skills. This centre will provide an opportunity for young adults as well as younger age groups. All money raised at the festival will go to this new branch of RDA in Shillington.



The festival will take place from **Friday 6th to Sunday 8th December** with all proceeds going to this charity. If you would like to enter a tree or display at the festival, you can choose any theme you wish. It could be an opportunity to advertise your own group or small business. There is no charge to participate and you would be helping to support this vital charity.

If you would like to know more
please contact **Nola McCormick** on **01462 712096**.



FESTIVAL OPENING TIMES

Friday, 6th December:	3.30 – 5.30
Saturday, 7th December:	2.00 – 5.00
Sunday 8th December:	2.00 – 5.00

★ Refreshments ★ Children's Tombola ★ Raffle ★



Thankfully, the weather in late July and August was an improvement on the previous months – the long, dry days meant that the farmers were able to get the harvest home with hardly any interruptions from our too often inclement weather!



After the summer break, we welcomed Alex Prior to our September meeting. His talk: “Being an Author and a Collector of the Eclectic” was absolutely fascinating. He brought along a number of very unusual objects including a piece of meteorite that was billions of years old and a Shabti doll. These were funerary figures from ancient Egypt which accompanied the deceased into the afterlife. He was lucky he didn’t lose his large lump of sapphire as WI members were eyeing it up as a potential ring (a la Elizabeth Taylor!).

Earlier this year we visited the pretty village of Woburn for a ‘Woburn Wander’. At the end of September, we had an ‘Ashwell Amble’! We had a private visit to the Ashwell Village Museum followed by a guided walk around this beautiful village.

On October 3rd we are welcoming back by popular demand nutritionist Sue Watkins. Her excellent talk last year was: “Nutrition – The Body’s Design”, this time it will be “Immunity – The Body’s Barriers”.

Shillington WI will be selling drinks and delicious cakes at the Village Fireworks event on the 2nd November.

On the 7th November we are going to have a Craft Evening. We will be making our own birthday and Christmas cards under the guidance of a few of our members who make beautiful cards on a regular basis.



We are already planning ahead for December. We are going to see the Wimpole Christmas Lights and have arranged to go to The Crown at Henlow for a Christmas meal.



The Lunch and Supper Clubs are up and running after the summer break and the Book Club meets regularly. We are arranging Scrabble get-togethers – a new venture - at the moment as well!

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

RIVER ACTION MARCH

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

You can't beat swimming in a freezing cold pool at the base of a lovely little waterfall. I can feel you shudder from here but, honestly, you really can't beat it!



Until a few years ago, I was very happy just removing my shoes and socks and wriggling my toes in streams or pools of cool water. Going the extra step was down to my daughter. After walking for a couple of hours across the beautiful remote Northumberland countryside, we came across a gorgeous waterfall. My daughter promptly striped off to her underwear and went into the pool. My comments about hypothermia, and the possibility of a dead sheep in the water upstream, fell on deaf ears. I was told to stop being an old wuss and to get on in as "the water's lovely.... it is *freezing*". I wasn't prepared to be a wuss, especially an old one, so after some advice about concentrating on slow deep breathing and making steady calm movements, I put thoughts of having a heart attack to one side and slipped into the pool of clear moving water. It was wonderful. I was hooked.

I have always loved swimming in the sea but news about the appalling amount of raw sewage being legally and illegally released into our streams, rivers and seas has made me think twice about doing this. It's unbelievable that this has been allowed to happen purely to keep shareholders happy. I feel immensely sad that something else special has been taken away from me – and all because of a sickening need for extreme wealth by a relatively small number of uncaring people.

A couple of months ago, I received an email about a '**March for Clean Water**' that will take place in London on **Sunday 3rd November 2024**. It is being organised by River Action and Feargal Sharkey, a chalk stream campaigner. It is supported by over sixty organisations including the WI, the National Trust, Surfers Against Sewage, The Rivers Trust and the Soil Association and an increasing number of famous faces.



Please would you consider joining this legal and peaceful march as "together we will send a clear message to the Government that it's their job to stop the poisoning of our waterways" (River Action). As the CEO of the Wildlife Trusts put it last year: "The state of many of our water courses is a national disgrace. Our rivers should be the crown jewels of our natural environment but a *laissez-faire* approach to pollution – allowing rivers to be filled with animal and human waste – means many are facing ecological collapse. We should be swimming in our rivers and watching spectacular wildlife, not standing on river banks gazing in sorrow at algal blooms and dead fish".

We very much need to show Government how upset and angry we are about the unacceptable state of our streams, rivers, lakes and seas. River Action is asking that we march to demand that the new Government tackles the freshwater emergency, enforces the law and delivers new legislation to restore our waterways to full health by 2030.

I have put Sunday 3rd November in my diary – I'm definitely going. It would be great if you and your family and friends could go as well! It promises to be an interesting, uplifting and inspiring day out. The march will bring people together and it feels good doing something positive.

Annie x

SHILLINGTON MEN'S CLUB

(Now in its 19th year)

<https://Shillingtonmensclub.co.uk>

On the 14th August we held our mid-Summer Barbeque at the Greyhound in Haynes. 18 members attended and enjoyed sausages, burgers, chicken, side salad and coleslaw and baps washed down with plenty of real ale or wine. A good night was had by all. Derek Wilson won the raffle. Thank you to Colin Hands and Stewart Rataj for organising this event.

On the 28th August we held a lunch time social at the Musgrave Arms where we again dined Al-Fresco in the garden, each enjoying a meal of their choice from the extensive menu, on this occasion washed down by copious amounts of good red wine! 20 members attended and Andy Russell won the raffle. Thank you to Colin and Stewart for organising this event.

On the 31st August 16 members attended the Aston Martin Heritage Festival at the British Motor Museum at Gaydon in Warwickshire. Members enjoyed the day examining first hand many a classic car with the highlight being the Aston Martin DB9. Thank you to Michael Bradley for organising this event.



Our September evening meal took place on the 11th at The Crown in Henlow. 24 members attended and we had a delightful meal and beverages. The choices were Chicken & Mushroom Pie with Mash or succulent Pork Belly with Dauphinoise Potatoes and Apple Sauce followed by Ginger Pudding & Ice Cream or Apple & Blackberry Crumble and Custard. The service by the young waitresses was outstanding and we all had a great night. Alan Little won the raffle. Thank you again to Colin and Stewart for organising this event which we will surely book again next year.

On the 25th September 12 members started early and made their way up the A1 to the Newark Air Museum - a 4 hour round trip but it was well worth it. Here they had the opportunity to sit in the cockpits of a Vulcan Bomber, a Shackleton and a Harrier Jump Jet to name but a few. They were privileged to have a talk to the original pilot of the Vulcan Bomber who happened to be on site. It was a wonderful and memorable day enjoyed by all. There was a café on site which provided lovely lunches and snacks. Thank you to Michael Bradley for organising the tour of this excellent interactive museum.



Future events:

- 9th October - evening meal at the Three Horse Shoes in Norton.
- 16th October - lunch social at the View in Pegsdon.
- 23rd October - visit to the McClaren and Aston Martin dealership in Hatfield.
- November evening meal - tba.
- 21st November - evening visit to Tring Brewery

Membership:

Current membership is 43 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
(07748-525233)

Email – kevinjohnson360@msn.com

PEGSDON VIEW



Some great news to start, our defibrillator is installed and operational! Huge thanks to all involved, especially to Claire H for continually driving it forward and Lainey, Danny et al at The View for generously hosting the installation point on their wall. We are very grateful.

All continues well in Pegsdon, by the time you read this we'll have held our coffee morning fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Support. Alongside the delicious bread and cakes there will be some seedlings this year. Plants are very much on my mind as we've been tidying up the front garden recently and made a start on expanding the first couple of beds. I'm not a fan of digging and weeding, but I love a trip to a garden center to browse the plants and perhaps pick one or two to bring home.

Unfortunately the B655 continues to cause us an issue. I'm sorry to report that we've had another serious road accident in September in the usual spot. Multiple cars and pedestrians involved, no-one was seriously hurt thankfully but it was extremely distressing.

We understand that the Parish Council have now seen the results of the speed survey carried out earlier this year, we are very keen to hear the outcome and what, if anything, will change as a result. Given that this is a known blackspot and accidents are becoming more frequent we are fervently hoping that Central Beds Council will see sense and do something before more people are hurt. It seems completely nonsensical that they could prefer to do nothing.



The last word is a shout out for The View, please do keep an eye on their social media pages for any upcoming events, they have launched their Christmas menu now which looks delicious.

Wishing you all a lovely autumn.

Keep safe and well, *Caroline*

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

Events

Next up, we have the much-anticipated return of **Joy to the World** on the weekend of **18th-19th October**. There are still some tickets available from myself or Jackie Fletcher (see details below) and they are also on sale at the Crown.

The members of the Friends' Committee will be putting up a **Christmas tree** in the War Memorial Garden again this year. We will soon be releasing details of an exciting lights switch on event!

Advance notice of our first big event for 2025. Following on from the success of the 1970s disco, we will be having a **1980s vinyl disco in the Village Hall on Saturday the 22nd of February**.

Website

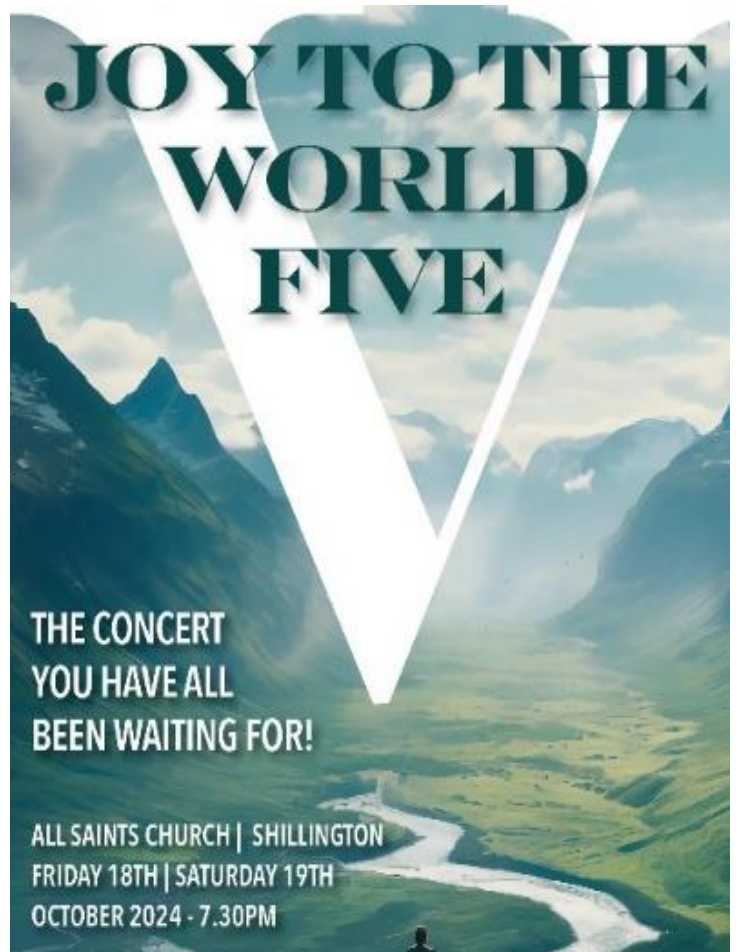
Please do take a look at our new(ish) website for details of all past, current and future projects and for all our forthcoming events and activities: - <https://foas-shillington.org.uk/>

Projects

The next project is the repair of a further section of the graveyard wall, which is being worked on as I type this.

This project is being supported by our very good friends at **the Crown**, who are organizing a host of fundraising activities for the Friends.

Please do follow them on Facebook to see all of these events.



The Quinquennial Inspection

Every five years, the whole of the Church, inside and out, receives a thorough inspection by an architect. As well as the things we know need attention, the QI always brings to light some additional work which needs doing. The work is broken down into jobs which require immediate attention, those needing attention within 2 years and things to be assessed before the next QI (in 2029!)

We are still processing the (57 page) report and will be working with the Parochial Church Council to prioritise the jobs and work up a project plan to tackle them.

AND, if that were not enough, we do know that the roof will require some attention in order to keep the weather out! We don't know the scale of the problem yet, but, what we do know is that we will, as never before, need the help, support and generosity of the Friends membership and of the village community.

How you can support the work of the Friends

As ever, we are always keen for more people to join our happy little band. If you would like to get involved, please do get in touch.

We are on the lookout for: -

- New Committee members,
- People who could help at events and activities,
- 'Specialists' who could help with specific projects, such as publicity, events management, fundraising or IT.

If you could help in any of these ways, would like to know more about what we do or would simply like to make a donation towards our work, please contact our **Membership Secretary, Jackie Fletcher** on **07485-617556** or email **foass@outlook.com**

Many thanks for all your past and future support for our iconic 'Church on the Hill'

Andy Gibbs, Friends of All Saints' Church (bazwell2@gmail.com)

SHILLINGTON ALL SAINT'S
HARVEST LUNCH
& AUCTION



Sunday 13th
October

at All Saints Church

12:30pm

Bring your own drinks

Tickets £10
(£5 for children)

For tickets please contact
Liz 01462 713978
Denise 07414513683

SHILLINGTON SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

MEET AT

SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

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



On the 16th September we reopened after our summer break. It was good to see everyone again, especially members returning after a period of absence. We also have had some new player attending sessions to see what the game is all about.

We will soon be commencing the in-house triples league competition. We are also taking part in the Barnet and Wilstead Leagues.

We have two teams in each league, Shillington Black and Shillington Red represent the club at Hatfield for the Barnet League, and the Scarecrows and Wickers for the Wilstead League. Wishing the teams all the best of luck for the coming season.

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)*

VILLAGE HALL FUNDRAISER

CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN CRAFTING EVENT

*Little witches, wizards and ghosties
welcome..*

Sunday, 27th October 2024

Shillington Village Hall



from 2pm to 4pm



Admission £5 per child
(accompanying adults and U12 months free!)

Tickets available from:

Denise ☎ 07414-513683 / Katie ☎ 07974-676089

Pumpkin Carving, Crafting,
Games, Raffle, Refreshments



SOCIAL CLUB

Upcoming - Band Night



LORD BAKER

Shillington Social Club
Saturday 26th Oct 9pm

SOUL & SKA SHOW

FUNDRAISING FOR VILLAGE HALL IMPROVEMENTS



SATURDAY, 7TH DECEMBER

SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL, SG5 3LL
Doors open 7.00pm – Music from 7.30pm

Tickets: £10

Sally 07711-504489 ★ Denise 07414-513683 ★ Mags 07743-009076

★ *Licensed Bar* ★ *Raffle* ★

FYNNIUS FOGG - BEDFORD'S OLDEST BOY BAND !!

RAMBLING ON with DEREK TURNER

☎ 01462-712462

derek.turner@phonecoop.coop



Extreme heat, winds and too much or too little rainfall used to be something that only happened and caused problems in other places, usually in faraway lands. It's getting closer to home though now. Greece and Portugal suffered terrible wildfires after severe heat, drought and gales combined earlier this year. Unprecedented flooding in central Europe during September caused enormous damage and killed at least 24 people. With near 40 degree temperatures in the summer of 2022 and the recent run of nose to tail thunderstorms that dumped more than a month's worth of rain in 24 hours, it seems that it's reached Shillington too. Such conditions can make a big impact on lives. The heat two summers ago was debilitating. For those who were flooded and whose havens of security suddenly became less 'homely', I offer my utmost sympathy. It's good to hear that many people rallied round to help their less fortunate neighbours.

Although the damage can be repaired and life will return to normal, there are likely to be lasting effects, with the cost of some foods set to rise. The more variable weather this year has reduced yields of cereals and the total harvest is likely to be down by at least a quarter overall in the UK. Brace yourselves for the price of flour and bread to increase soon. The recent downpours may affect next year's crops too as farmers have planted many already. Locally, most fields have drains that quickly remove excessive water but like much of the country's infrastructure, many of them are getting extremely old. When they get blocked and water pools, soggy seed will rot before it has a chance to sprout and will produce nothing.



Of course, no individual event can be pinned on the climate crisis with certainty but more severe and frequent heatwaves, droughts, floods and severe gales are symptoms of global warming caused by releasing more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Scientists noticed long ago that average world temperatures have been rising since this country started to industrialise in the 1700s and burned more and more coal. Consumption of oil and gas has shot up during the last century and is contributing too. Since the 1970s, the experts have become increasingly concerned about the clear link between fossil fuel use and rising global temperatures. They have calculated that when the atmosphere becomes one degree celsius warmer, it holds 7% more water. It may not sound like a lot and we would cope if it increased rainfall evenly across the globe. However, it becomes concentrated in certain places where it leads to flooding. It's clear that the more we fill the atmosphere with fossil fuel emissions, the worse the situation will become.

In theory, we can adapt to climate change. It is obvious that new homes must not be built where flooding may occur. It is possible to make existing ones better insulated and more flood-proof- at a cost. When looking for solutions, we have to beware of unintended consequences though. Increasing the size of the drains and the brook to take water away faster sounds like a good idea but will lead to flooding further downstream.

Making better use of the natural floodplain along the river to store water would help but affect agricultural land and horse paddocks.

Adaption to climate breakdown is not sufficient though - we need to slow it down and reverse it as soon as possible. There is no excuse for not taking it into account in our everyday lives. While many of us make an effort to reduce our personal CO2 emissions by forgoing air travel, reusing and recycling things, eating less meat and so on, others continue to act as though everything was fine. Politicians have been slow to act too. Oil and gas companies have lobbied MPs heavily in the past to get them to reject measures that would damage their business models. If they attempt to influence our new MP, I trust that he will ignore them, let us know about it and support all measures that parliament takes to combat climate change.

Path maintenance progress



Volunteers from the village turned out in force in August when we tackled heavy vegetation growth along footpath 23. This runs from Upton End Rd through to Marshalls Avenue and Wilson Close and is a key link in the path network as another path connects it to the playing field. I started off with low expectations about how much we'd get done but with 11 people armed with loppers, shears and secateurs turning up, we finished the job in one session. Thanks very much to everyone involved.

Our work will continue into the autumn as there is plenty more to do. The path off Hanscombe End Road that heads towards Hexton and links to Apsley End is next on the list. If you'd like to join the team, please get in touch and send me your mobile number so I can add you to our What's App group.



OLD PICTURE SHOW SUNDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER

With Andy Gibbs

*Is your family in the picture?
Come and share your memories...*

SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL
from 2pm



Refreshments included in £5 admission
(Tea/coffee & Cake)
Fundraiser for the Village Hall



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 katiebrettell@icloud.com</p>	<p>Carli Mauger 07912-549931 carlimauger@gmail.com</p>	<p>Deb Pateman 07934-480446 debpateman@msn.com</p>
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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



We have had a great start back to the new academic year at Shillington Lower School, with all our new Reception children settling in well and already making great progress.

If you or anyone you know has a child born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 they must apply for a school place by Wednesday 15th January 2025.

We are holding our open sessions for prospective Reception parents on Tuesday 8th October 2024 11.00 – 12.00 and Wednesday 9th October 1.30 – 2.30. If you would like to book a tour of the school, meet the staff and ask any questions you may have, please email office@shillingtonlower.co.uk or call **01462 711637**. If these dates and times are not convenient for you please contact Mrs Lyttle in the school office who will make alternative arrangements for you.

If you are interested in our Pixie Pre-School for September next year, we recommend you register your details with the school office. We take children from 2 years and 9 months and accept 2 year old and 3 year old funding.

At Shillington Lower School we are always looking for volunteers who would be happy to give up a couple of hours a week to come in and listen to the children read. If this is something you would be interested in then please contact Mrs Lyttle in the school office.

In school this term we are looking forward to welcome Reverend Jenna in to lead our Harvest Festival assembly on Tuesday 1st October. We are supporting **The Need Project** this year and asking for donations of tinned fish, tinned vegetables (not baked beans), tinned meat, tinned fruit, cartons or tins of custard, rice pudding, jam and long life milk.

The Need Project have also asked for donations of toiletries, such as toothpaste, soap as well as baby wipes and nappies. If you would like to donate anything then please bring it into the school office and we will ensure it all gets delivered to the Stotfold Hub. We and The Need Project are very grateful for any support and donations.

Shillington Lower School tell: 01462 711637 email: office@shillingtonlower.co.uk
website: www.shillingtonstondon.co.uk

AUTUMN DAYS

Donna's Garden Designs - ☎ 07833-670934



October is a lovely month with the soft autumnal light and the hedgerows abundant with berries and seed heads for the birds to feast on. There is a nip to the air in the mornings and the turning leaves bring a richness of colour to the shortening days.

This time of year you can still add colour and form to your garden and it's now that Prairie style gardens really come into their own. Prairie means Grassland and is associated with the prairies of the American Midwest.

Prairie gardens combine ornamental grasses and perennials in naturalised drifts for a relaxed style of planting. The Garden Designer Puet Oudolf made this popular with his intricate planting plans.

Using the Matrix Planting technique where you use a handful of species that dominates the planting. Forming a backbone in which the other plants are blended. It is great for wildlife providing nectar and pollen and seed heads for the birds.

Plants that work well in this style are Asters, Echinacea, Japanese Anemones, Crocosmia, Verbascum, Echinops, Alliums and knautia combined with Ornamental grasses.

Another way to add colour and interest at this time of year would be adding a tree to the garden. The stars of the show being Acers with their variety of stunning shades. Cotinus the Smoke Bush, Forest Pansy and Amelankier lamarkii - all these trees are quite compact so you could plant them in smaller gardens to add height and interest.



Enjoy your garden!

Donna x

JOBS IN THE GARDEN FOR OCTOBER

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">✂ Cut back and divide perennials✂ Prune climbing roses✂ Collect seeds✂ Cut grass for the last time✂ Lay any new turf✂ Add organic matter to beds✂ Plant trees | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✂ Keep a look out for frosts✂ Rake up leaves and save for leaf mould✂ Prune Buddleia back to half, then hard prune in spring✂ Trim hedges✂ Prune climbing roses✂ Plant Garlic✂ Carve pumpkins ! |
|---|---|

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DECISIONS from CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL:

CB/24/00419/LB – 137 High Road.

Listed Building: replacement of the existing house windows, eaves, fascias, soffits and gutters. Replacement external rendering throughout. Replacement roof tiles to the existing dining room roof.

GRANTED 10/07/2024.

Appeal Reference: APP/P0240/04723/w/23/3331588.

Application Reference: CB/22/04723/FULL – land Adjacent to 141, High Road

Development of 7 detached bungalows.

APPEAL DISMISSED.

DISCUSSED BY PC BUT AWAITING A CBC DECISION:

Application Reference: CB/24/02180/FULL. 129 Bury Road

Single storey rear extension.

SUPPORT

Application Reference: CB/TCA/24/00322. 71 Church Street

Works to trees in a Conservation Area: reduce overall crown by 4m to Sycamore Tree T1, T3 and sectionally fell Sycamore Tree T2.

SUPPORT



ONE THOUSAND MEN ARE WALKING *By Joshua Dyer in 2019 (aged 14)*



One thousand men are walking, walking side by side
Singing songs from home, the spirit as their guide.
They walk toward the light milord, they walk towards the sun
They smoke and laugh and smile together, no foes to outrun.
These men live on forever, in the hearts of those they saved
A nation truly grateful, for the path of peace they paved.
They march as friends and comrades, but they do not march for war
Step closer to salvation, a tranquil steady corps.
The meadows lit with golden beams a beacon for the brave,
The emerald grass untrampled, a reward for what they gave.
They dream of those they left behind
And know they dream of them forever in those poppy fields
There walks one thousand men



VILLAGE FACILITIES

SHILLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB

Greenfields, Shillington ☎ 07826-518667 (Gavin)



- ☺ Meat Raffle every Saturday with proceeds to the Pavilion Refurbishment
- ☺ Local free range Eggs for sale
- ☺ Local Honey for sale

🎅 🎄 Any donations of Christmas Draw Prizes gratefully received for The Social Club Christmas Draw in Aid of Motor Neurone Disease. Draw will be made on **Sunday 22nd December 2024 at 6:30pm**

❖ Happy 40th Birthday Paul O'Driscoll from all at The Social Club

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

*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
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	Vacancy	Mark Thyne 01462-712201	Derek Turner 01462-712462

VILLAGE CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 1 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 6 All Saints Church – Holy Communion – 9.30am. Evensong – 6pm
- 6 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 9 Men’s Club – Evening meal at Three Horseshoes, Norton
- 13 All Saints Church – Harvest Thanksgiving – 9.30am
- 13 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 16 Men’s Club – lunch social at The View, Pegsdon
- 18-19 Friends of All Saints - Joy to the World Concert (see insert)
- 20 All Saints Church – Morning Prayer – 9.30am
- 20 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Hare – 10.30am
- 23 Men’s Club – visit to McClaren & Aston Martin dealership, Hatfield
- 26 Social Club – Soul & Ska Show with Lord Baker – 9pm
- 27 All Saints Church – Holy Communion – 9.30am
- 27 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick
- 27 Village Hall Committee – Halloween Crafting for Kids – VH from 2pm to 4pm
- 28 Playing Field Management Committee – Social Club – 8pm

NOVEMBER

- 2 Annual Fireworks Spectacular – Playing Field – gates open at 5pm
- 2 Social Club – Live Band “The Natalies” – 9pm
- 3 All Saints Church – Holy Communion – 9.30am. Choral Evensong – 5pm
- 3 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Peter Hyde – 10.30am
- 5 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 6 All Saints Church – Special All Souls Memorial Service – 7.30pm
- 10 All Saints Church – No service in Church – Act of Remembrance at War Memorial
- 10 Congregational Church Remembrance Service – Revd. Angus McCormick -10am
- 10 War Memorial – Act of Remembrance – Wreath Laying 10.45-11am
- 16 Social Club – Live Band “Pat & The Butchers” – 9pm
- 17 All Saints Church – Morning Prayer – 9.30am
- 17 Congregational Church Service – to be arranged
- 21 Men’s Club – evening visit to Tring Brewery
- 24 All Saints Church – Holy Communion – 9.30am
- 24 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 24 Old Picture Show – Village Hall from 2pm

DECEMBER

- 3 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 6 Congregational Church – Xmas Tree Festival – 3.30-5.30pm
- 7 Congregational Church – Xmas Tree Festival – 2-5pm
- 7 Village Hall Committee – Live Band Fundraiser with FYNNIUS FOGG – 7pm
- 8 Congregational Church – Xmas Tree Festival – 2-5pm
- 14 Social Club – Live Band “Two Mice & One Pair of Glasses” – 9pm
- 22 Social Club – Christmas Draw in aid of MND – 6.30pm
- 23 Playing Field Management Committee – Social Club – 8pm
- 31 Social Club – New Year’s Eve with Becky B (Kylie) – adults only

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.

Views expressed in the articles and adverts do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Editor or members of the Parish Council.

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