

PARISH NEWS

covering
SHILLINGTON, PEGSDON & HIGHAM GOBION



DISCO NIGHT
BRINGING BACK THE 80'S
Saturday 22nd February 7:30pm
Shillington Village Hall

SOULPRANOS
SPINNING THE DISCS!
Licensced Bar
£10pp includes
Pizza & Nibbles

For tickets call:
Andy: 079222017051 or
Jackie: 07485617556

PRIZE FOR BEST OUTFIT!

Issue 176 – FEBRUARY 2025

Deadline for April edition – Friday, 28th March 2025

PARISH COUNCIL

The ordinary meeting in December began by hearing that Tracey Petrie had resigned from the council. We thank Tracey for the 12 years that she has devoted to being a councillor. The process to appoint a replacement has begun and we invite anyone interested to contact the Parish Clerk.

Councillors heard that Lauren Darnell, Clerk to the Parish Council, had successfully completed her CILCA training and offered their congratulations. She will now begin the follow-up FILCA course.

The council heard that Grand Union Housing had experienced high staff turnover recently and their records of previous correspondence regarding parking and the state of the verges in Greenfields had been lost. Subsequent to the meeting, the Chairman discovered that Grand Union has merged with another housing provider and is now known as Amplius. He arranged to meet a representative and brought to their attention the potential for improving parking on stabilised grassed areas and in front gardens, safety issues for residents, school traffic and completion of the tarmacing between Hillfoot Rd (White City) and Jepps Close.

Councillor Gavin Jenkins reported that Central Bedfordshire Council had awarded the Playing Fields Committee a grant of £18,000 towards further improvements at the Sports and Social Club. The clerk announced that she had received the Section 106 re-imbusement towards the cost of the new path at the playing field. She also reminded councillors that a further £1205.56 of funding was available but not yet allocated and would need to be used by 23/11/2025. One suggestion was that this might be put towards developing a community garden. A resident had kindly offered a potential area off Hanscombe End Road but councillors were keen to explore the availability of other sites more centrally placed. Members of the council's environment committee had begun an audit of existing sites around the village that were important for plants and wildlife.

Councillors heard that it would cost £1,785 to replace the street light in Church Street that had been taken down for safety reasons as the column was badly corroded. With other streetlights situated nearby and the street lighting budget for the year already substantially overspent, some councillors were keen to check whether it was really necessary. After the meeting, they visited the area and at the Finance meeting the following week, they agreed that it should be replaced.

At this meeting, it was revealed that there was also an overspend in the General Administration budget with time spent by the Clerk on training being a contributory factor. When fixing the precept for 2025/2026, councillors also took into account that many of the contracts up for renewal would cost considerably more than before. Because alterations to the mowing regime on highway verges would push up the cost, councillors decided to postpone making changes for the time being. At the January meeting, they agreed an increase in the precept from £41,100 to £49,235, which would result in owners of properties in Band D for Council Tax paying £9.24 more during the next financial year.

The Police & Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire, John Tizard, also attended the January meeting. His priorities would be to prevent crime taking place, tackling serious crime, local policing and protecting women and children. He pledged to keep in touch with local councillors and would meet regularly to liaise with our MP to discuss pertinent issues such as community policing, speeding and police funding.

Central Bedfordshire Councillor Blake Stephenson was unable to attend any meetings but submitted written reports. He warned that the CBC budget was under severe pressure and would require making difficult decisions regarding service provision, staffing and Council Tax.

As Parish News was about to be published, Anglia Water confirmed that the remainder of the water main renewal towards Pegsdon would continue this year. The stretch along Hanscombe End Road may begin as early as 14 April and be completed by 31 October. The work will take place in five phases and the road will not be closed for all of this period. We shall no doubt get further details soon. The length along Apsley End Rd will be replaced between 3 November and 8 May next year. When completed, supplies of water to Pegsdon will be more reliable than in recent years when interruptions have occurred on several occasions.

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	<i>Chair:</i> 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 Monday 24th February 2025.

Candidates will be invited to speak at the Parish Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 4th March 2025 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: 21st March 2025

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / ITEMS / NEWS IN BRIEF



Val & Fred West

Congratulations to you both on your Diamond Wedding Anniversary which you celebrate on the 20th February 2025. Think back over the last 60 years and remember all the happiness you have brought to each other and the memories you have made together. Have a wonderful day.

All our love Gary, Lisa, Jamie-Leigh, Val, Darren & Jackie xxx

Special kisses from your fur baby **Skye** 🐾🐾 xxx

DATES FOR YOUR 2025 DIARY

SHILLINGFEST 25

SATURDAY, 28TH JUNE - 1pm to 4pm
at **THE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS**

Stalls and sideshows from village organisations, charities and businesses; live music afternoon and evening; food stalls and BBQ; inside and outside bars; more activities to be confirmed as plans develop.

*Next planning meeting - Social Club - Monday, 3rd March 2025. If you would like to be involved please come along, or contact **Sally (07711-504489)** to book your stall.*

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ANNUAL FIREWORK SPECTACULAR

SATURDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER 2025

Gates open @ 5pm / Fireworks @ 7pm / Live band @ 9pm
at **THE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS / SOCIAL CLUB**



It is with great sadness we announce the passing of **Norma Rose Toyer** on the 29th December 2024, peacefully in her sleep aged 89. A much loved Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother and wife of the late Frank.

The family would like to thank everyone for the cards and their kind words received during this sad time.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

God Bless x



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION COLLECTION, 2024

Thank you to everyone who supported the Royal British Legion Remembrance, 2024. The total to date is £1,851.62p.

Shirley McGrath (EAB29)

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**



WREST PARK VOLUNTEER OPEN DAYS

Sunday, 9th February 1-3 pm / Wrest Park Mansion - Drawing Room.

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

Whether it's welcoming and chatting to visitors as a Meet & Greeter, telling the stories of our unique house and garden as a Room Guide or driving the buggy around our beautiful grounds, there are plenty of ways to get involved here at Wrest Park, so come along to one of our open days and find out more about what's involved and how you can help our visitors.

MEMORIAL GARDEN CHRISTMAS TREE 2025 & BEYOND

Following on from the 2024 Christmas Tree lighting event we would like to thank some members of The Friends for organising the 2024 tree; Revd. Jenna for 'pressing the button'; carol singing with the Shillington Choir; members of the community who attended, joined the singing and enjoyed a mince pie or two.



We were very pleased to start off the collection for the 2025 tree with generous donations from this event and a very kind parishioner pledging support after the publication of the December Parish News. General view seems to be that the village find the tree a very cheerful addition to the Christmas activities.

The committee (contacts as below) have now held their initial meeting and, as well as raising money at various events during the summer, hope to have collection pots available for more kind donations from the community so this can happen in future years.

Ideas for the 2025 event (29th November pencilled in for switch on) will include not only carols with the Shillington Choir, but Christmas songs for the younger members of the community. After the singing some mulled wine and mince pies/sausage rolls in the Village Hall as well as a chance of photos with Santa or one of his helpers, maybe the odd stall or two and the chance of a prize for "The ugliest Christmas Jumper" !!

Please help to continue this now established and much enjoyed gathering by donating where and when you can.

Committee members:

Andy Gibbs, Daniel Higgs, Clare Richmond, Jackie Fletcher & Sally Stapleton



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SHILLINGTON & GRAVENHURST

www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk



Hello from All Saints Church!

Here we are in February when it still feels cold yet the days are getting longer and there are signs of new life beginning to emerge amongst the hard earth and we are reminded that light and life are never far away.

At the beginning of February, the church celebrates Candlemas or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. It is a time to remember how, when Jesus was 40 days old, his parents took him to the Temple in Jerusalem, where an older man, Simeon, and an older lady, Anna, recognised him as the saviour promised by God – Jesus, the Light of the World. Through that theme of light, this festival became popular as a celebration of light and it became customary for Priests to bless a year's supply of candles in church on February 2nd.

And as we move into March, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a period of self-reflection and preparation for Easter. It is a time when folks give something up or plan to do something with regularity, even better if it supports other people. Why not think about what you can do during Lent, perhaps there is something to give up or something to give!?

All Saints' Church is open every day and everyone is welcome to come into the church to enjoy the space, a place of peace and prayer or join in any of the Sunday services. We look forward to seeing you.

Every Blessing!

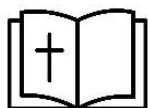
Revd Jenna Dearden

Email: revjennadearden@gmail.com

Mobile: 07708 666612



All are welcome to All Saints Sunday services. We look forward to seeing you there!



SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

2 February	9.30 am Holy Communion for Candlemas 5.00 pm Evensong for Candlemas
9 February	9.30 am Holy Communion
16 February	9.30 am Morning Prayer
23 February	9.30 am Holy Communion

SUNDAY SERVICES IN MARCH

2 March	9.30 am Holy Communion 5.00 pm Evensong
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Ash Wednesday

5 March	7.30 pm Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes
9 March	9.30 am Holy Communion
16 March	9.30 am Morning Prayer
23 March	9.30 am Holy Communion

200 CLUB - LUCKY WINNERS!

December 2024

1 st no.123 - Dave Clarke	2 nd no. 199 - Tina Crow	3 rd no. 134 Linda Butler
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January 2025

1 st no. 101 - Georgina Brewer	2 nd no. 121 - Pat Bellamy	3 rd no. 173 - Julia Bruce
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A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING EVENTS.

The Santa Float raised over £1950 and will be shared between The Keech Hospice and All Saints' Church. Thank you to all the volunteers involved and for your generous donations!

SPRING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Quiz Night

Saturday 1st March 2025 from 7.30 pm at the **Village Hall**, including light refreshments.

Bring your own drink and glasses

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

Please see the Friends page for their forthcoming events.



IMPORTANT or FAMOUS?

by *Revd. Angus McCormick* ☎ 01462-712096

Minister of Shillington Congregationalist Church

Yes people will reveal that they have met a famous person. It may be a member of a royal family or an Olympic champion. It may be that they shook hands with a pop singer. You might have a picture of someone who achieved high public office or achieved an amazing goal such as rowing across the Atlantic Ocean.

I know there are people who collect all kinds of items with a connection to a famous person; stamps or autographs for example; Toby jugs and miniatures of famous or historic people. The list goes on especially in quizzes to ask where someone famous was born or died even.

So many famous people seem to have gone to live far away from their roots; others want to go to their roots and a story is created for us to be amazed. It is usually some wee remote village in some far away place. Anyhow, for me, my list might be quite small and probably contain names many would not recognise. I did collect stamps as a youngster with faces of many heads of state around the world at the time. It mainly helped me discover where various countries were in the world.



Now then who is important? Important to you, to me, to our village, to the country we live in, etc. ? Who is it who has developed a real relationship with me or with you? Whose words or actions have made our day. Who are our real partners in life and daily living?; parents, family, neighbours, teachers, workers in the medical, engineering or retail world of work ?

It is easy to be misled by media, by voices around us or other influences to forget the difference between important and famous. It is easy to believe from many such influences that the two are the same. Often it may be folly to believe that the famous are important, Take time to reflect on this most important of aspects in our daily lives.



The story in the Bible of Jesus choosing 12 ordinary people to go with him and to become his most important helpers and in turn how they saw him as the most important person in their lives is interesting. Jesus himself went away by himself we read in the Bible to ensure he could see what influences were at play around him and decide where there was only folly to listen to them.

Of course, many of us really discover what this sense of an important person is for ourselves in a time of crisis when help comes our way. We can be that person for another and you will be famous as well to each other if not to anyone else.

There is an opportunity for everyone to be important to everyone else where they live and work and play.

May that place be here and now for all of us.

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 stated. Visitors always welcome. If you need to contact our minister with any enquiries his number is 01462-712096



THEY ARE AT PEACE:

- ✝ Sheila Frances French
- ✝ John Livesey

BEDFORD FOODBANK:



Thank you for the continuing support of the community with items for the Food Bank, which are always gratefully received.

Items currently in short supply:

Long Life Milk	Tinned Meat
Long Life Sponge Puddings	Tinned Rice Pudding
Jars of Coffee	Long Life Fruit Juice
Jars of Jam	Tinned Tuna
Tinned Fruit	Tins of Vegetables

FRIENDLY SPACE:

We continue hosting the Friendly Space on a Monday morning and now we have the colder weather will be opening for a longer time and offering an option of soup with a roll. The usual tea and coffee is available, friendly chat, bring your craft, or a board game to play. Small monetary donations welcome. Opening times 11.00am – 2.00pm.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL:



Thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes, attended and/or helped with this fundraising event in any way. All the support was greatly appreciated in spite of the wintry and wet weather we encountered over that weekend.

The cheque was handed over to a representative of the 'Riding for the Disabled' charity on Sunday 19 January during our morning service. All the visitors to the Festival were most generous and we made an amazing £1,600.

Should you wish to find out more, volunteer, see the benefit the experience gives to the disabled young people and adults please contact ☎ 01462-436625 or www.stevanagerda.org. Sessions are held on a Monday or Thursday morning 9.15am to 12 noon at Model Farm, Hanscombe End Road, Shillington, SG5 3NA. No knowledge of horses is necessary.

A BIG THANK YOU

At our service on Sunday 19th January in the Congregational Church we were pleased to hand over to Riding for the Disabled Association, based in Shillington, a cheque for £1,600, the money raised at our Christmas Tree Festival.



Ian from RDA thanked us for the cheque and told us about this group of volunteers and how the money would help them to continue with their work. On behalf of the Church, I would like to thank everyone who supported our festival in any way to make this donation possible.

Thank you to all those individuals and groups who entered trees or displays, to everyone who gave raffle and tombola prizes, to those who kept us supplied with refreshments and the Book Club and Shillington Rangers who served them, but especially to everyone who attended the festival, making this great result possible.

Thank you all.

Nola McCormick, Shillington Congregational Church.

Appointment of new Pastoral Worker

HAZEL BEADLE

e-mail: beadle.hazel@btinternet.com

Mobile: 07806-940917

Hello Everyone

I've been asked to write a bit about myself by Revd. Angus to introduce myself as I've just been appointed Pastoral Worker for the Congregational Church – so here goes.

I've lived in Shillington for nearly 20 years – the longest time I've ever lived in one place! Me and my husband, Andrew moved into the village from Hitchin with our 4 teenage children - into a house that needed heaps of work – including heating and safe electricity. Nevertheless our home and garden have brought great joy including one of our past dogs being known as the trampolining dog – that was Poppy, and having our eldest daughter's wedding at the Congregational church and reception in our garden – which kind of ran for the whole weekend.

Work and volunteering roles in Scouting - GLV (Group Lead Volunteer) of 8th (Oughton) Hitchin, and training and becoming a Methodist local preacher, have meant that I've mostly been kept busy outside the village.

However, I have on occasion been able to preach at the Congregational Church during the past few years and I had the delight of helping out with Beavers here in the village for a time. Our 8th Hitchin Scout group has been involved in the Congregational Christmas tree festival over the years – including our Squirrel Scouts (a new section for 4-6yrs) and Beaver Scouts having a sleepover there last December - our leaders and parent helpers having the joy of sleeping amongst the wonderfully decorated Christmas trees.

Nothing stays the same, life moves on and I've now got the opportunity to serve the Congregational Church as their Pastoral Worker – leading services a couple of times each month and supporting the Church in village life and beyond. It's now a chance to 'give back' to the village and join so many other people who already do and make Shillington such a great place to live.

With best wishes, Hazel

SHILLINGTON MEN'S CLUB

(Now in its 19th year)

<https://Shillingtonmensclub.co.uk>



On the 11th December 2024 we had our Christmas Party at the view in Pegsdon. Here 33 members tucked into a 3 course meal of traditional Christmas Fayre followed by copious amounts of red wine and real ale! During the festivities we were entertained by the alluring tones of singer Kerry George, who added a very festive feel to proceedings and rounded off 2024 in style. Thank you to Stewart Rataj and Colin Hands for organising this wonderful event.

Our first meal of the year took place on the 8th January at the Raven at Hexton. Here 23 members enjoyed a 2 course meal of Ham, Egg, Beans & Chips or Scampi, Chips & Peas followed by a Profiterole Tower or Apple & Blackberry Crumble yum yum! We all had a great night, thank you to Stewart and Colin for organising this event.

On the 15th January 9 members attended our first cultural visit of the year to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. At the moment Hangar 1 is undergoing major changes to represent the Cold War Period with current exhibits being displayed outside. However, the members enjoyed a fantastic day out, taking in lunch in the canteen and interacting well with all of the fantastic volunteers at the Museum. Thank you to Adrian Foote for organising this event.



On the 22nd January 19 members attended a lunchtime social at our very own Musgrave Arms, again we were well looked after by the staff and everyone had a great time catching up. Thank you again to Stewart and Colin for organising this event.

Future events:

- 5th February – “Kick Off” party at the Congregational Church.
- 12th February - evening meal at The Crown, Henlow.
- 19th February - Irchester Narrow Gauge Railway.
- 26th February - Lunch Social at The View, Pegsdon.
- 12th March - evening meal at the Cross Keys, Pulloxhill.
- 22nd March - Crossness Pumping Station, Abbey Wood.

Membership:

Current membership is 48 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



2024 was another great year for Shillington WI with fun-filled evenings, brilliant speakers and many lovely events. We look forward to an exciting 2025.

At our December meeting we were entertained by the Sloop Groggy Dogs and what a fantastic time was had by all! The group had everyone singing, and some were dancing, by the end of the evening. A number of members have booked to go and see the Sloop Groggy Dogs at the Bedford Corn Exchange in April.



It was a rather foggy evening for the Wimpole Christmas Lights but at least it didn't rain. The lights were lovely and the almost life-sized animals etc, made from willow, were amazing.

Our first meeting of the New Year was a Bingo Quiz Night. Categories included America, Diamonds and General Knowledge. Members who attended now know the name of the largest diamond ever found (The Cullinan Diamond) and how many noses a slug has (four)!

In February, we are very much looking forward to welcoming Andy Gibbs whose talk is titled: "The Poor Child's Friend: Joseph Lancaster's Educational Revolution". We have planned a follow-up visit to The British Schools Museum, Hitchin, later in the month.

We have our AGM in March. Jane of Wassledine, a brilliant storyteller, is coming to tell us a traditional story. Later in the month, we're visiting the beautiful grounds at Stockwood Park, Luton.

At our April meeting Lisa Garrity will share her love of music and travel tales playing the alto sax and woodwind instruments. She has played them in Central and South America, Canada, China, Europe and Africa.



Every month we enjoy some delicious lunches and suppers with the Lunch Club and Supper Club. The Book Club is very popular and the Walking Club is going strong. The latter meets once a month and the weather is usual very kind to us. Let's hope this continues in 2025.

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 - lastarling@outlook.com

OUR INTELLIGENCE IS BEING INSULTED!

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

In the quieter days after the New Year, I actually got around to reading something that I'd been meaning to read since it was released on the 12th December 2024. It has eighty-two pages and it was hard going. You may be thinking, from the number of pages, that it's a Short Story of some kind but no, it's not – and I can safely say that it certainly wouldn't come under the literary genre of 'Romance'. If anything, it would come under the ones of 'Horror', 'Crime' and 'Psychological Thriller' (or 'Killer').

The publication I read was the government's updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It's taken eighty odd pages and around thirty thousand words to tell us that developers are going to build what they want, where they want and that economic growth is so much more important than nature (the thing that gives us life). Gosh, all that time, effort and money (ours) trying to deceive us when they could have been open and honest and said what they plan to do in about twenty words. *"Tricks and treachery are the practice of fools that don't have brains enough to be honest"* (Benjamin Franklin 1706 – 1790) and *"Some liars are so expert they deceive themselves"* (Austin O'Malley 1858 – 1932). I do like a good quote.



The NPPF says National Parks, The Broads and National Landscapes *"have the highest status of protection"*. It goes on to state that: *"The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited"* (Page 54). So, it's basically telling us that our precious National Parks etc are highly protected from development but can be built on. According to the NPPF, planning permission in these areas, and SSSIs, *"should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest"* (Page 55). Give developers an inch and they'll take a mile. The word "limited" is that inch; adding the words "should" and "in exceptional circumstances" gives these uncaring, self-centred and self-serving people more than a mile.



The NPPF is a masterclass in deception, manipulation and control. It tells us that *"Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural environment by: a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils"* (Page 54). 'Protect' means "shield from danger, injury, change, capture, loss" (Chambers Dictionary). Going onto a greenfield site with a ruddy great digger and removing the fragile topsoil (N.B. a new study reveals that around 50% of the planet's biodiversity is in soils) is not protecting it; it is destroying it ('loss'). To then go and pour tons of concrete on the site is blatantly obviously going to totally alter it ('change').

Each and every greenfield site is of immense landscape, biodiversity and geological value - these three are all interlinked (the type of rock and soil in an area determines not only the types of plants and animals that live there but also the landscape). The powers that be say they're protecting and enhancing nature and talk of Local Nature Recovery Strategies and Biodiversity Net Gain. They're lying to themselves and they're lying to us.



Ian Fleming's 007 has a "Licence to Kill". Government's NPPF has a "Licence to Build" which is going to kill. 007 is the good guy; NPPF is the nutter that wants to destroy our world.

Annie x

SHILLINGTON SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

MEET AT

SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

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



The short mat indoor bowls season is well underway and members have been taking part in both in-house and external competitions. Our triples league is continuing every Monday and Friday with some competitive games. There are 7 teams taking part and at present there is one team ahead by a few points at the top of the league but the rest of the table is extremely close.

We will commence our championship games in February starting with the fours competition, good luck to all members taking part.

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. We have had some mixed results to date but still trying to climb up the tables in both competitions.

Club members have done very well in the county and national qualifier competitions. A number of players have secured places at the national competitions that will take place in Melton Mowbray in March and April. Good luck and congratulations to Julia Bruce, Tony Duke, Trevor Knight, Neil Rixon, Toni and Bill Gearing and Michelle Conlon.

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. However, please note new member requests may need to go on a waiting list at present.

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

Just because the weather isn't playing ball, doesn't mean the Spitfires aren't

As most cricketers will head off to the Caribbean or the subcontinent to play in the winter, the Shillington Spitfires have been preparing for the season ahead (apart from one player who preferred to be in warmer climes, but we'll get to that). And nobody wanted to pay us to play over there, so here we all are raring to go.

Pitch Maintenance

Despite the frost, rain and low temperatures, the ground staff have been labouring away on the square, laying down seed and loam to prepare the pitch for the 2025 season. It's an intensive job, but the hard work pays off as the 2024 season proved when it held up even though plenty of games were played on it, after it had been left fallow for 20-odd years. Once again, we'd like to thank all the villagers for respecting the cricket square and allowing us to keep the wicket in tip-top condition.



Winter Nets

The squad has begun winter nets at the Robert Bloomfield Academy on every other Friday. The team had their first session in the new year and 19 players turned up to blow off the cobwebs after the festive period. It was great to loosen up and get back out there, even if the training wear was a little tighter than before Christmas.

The team is currently netting every fortnight and once a month have roped in Scott Davies, a cricket coach who is offering his expertise to improve the team's batting and bowling.

If you fancy giving cricket a try, just get in touch with team – it genuinely is a game for anyone who wants to give it a try, no matter if you've played before or never picked up a cricket bat in your life. You can email the team at: Shillington.spitfiresCC@gmail.com or find us on Facebook and Instagram.



Everyone is welcome.

Fixtures

The Spitfires' fixtures secretary has been pulling out all the stops for the 2025 season. We already have 17 fixtures in the diary, they're a mix of 40- and 50-over games with some evening T20 games thrown in as well. It seems all the visiting teams are keen to play us again as the Social Club and playing fields is the perfect venue for a cricket pitch. Every team has mentioned the friendly reception they've received and can't wait to return. We'll be putting out a full fixture list very soon, so come along and support the team.

Fund Raising

As mentioned at the top, one team member who decided to get some winter sun is Jon Wallace. He set himself the challenge of driving from Lower Stondon in an orange 2006 Ford C-Max to Banjul in West Africa via the Sahara, akin to the Paris-Dakar Rally. This is to raise funds



for research into curing Type One Diabetes, a cause close to Jon's Heart. The journey is some 4000 miles and will take up to three weeks. To support Jon visit justgiving.com and search for 'Jonathan Wallace Dakar' and you'll find his page.

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

May I wish a Happy New Year to one and all.

In this first article of the year, I would like to give you all plenty of notice about the great fundraising events we have coming up this year. But before I do, I am delighted to be able to report on a fabulous year of **collaboration with The Crown.**

Vicki and Phillip and their team put on a huge variety of events for us in 2024, including Quiz Nights, Coffee Mornings, a Dog Show and their traditional Carol singing evening.

It has been a most enjoyable and lucrative partnership, netting a little over £3,000 for the Friends. Huge thanks go to Vicki, Phil, the great team at the Crown and everyone who came down to support these events.

And it's not over yet! We have just learned that the 2025 monthly Quiz Nights will also be in support of the Friends. So, please do come down and support them and see if you can beat yours truly and my team!

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,
- Bakers and helpers for Sunday Teas
- '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**

So, advance notice of our first big event for 2025.

Following on from the success of the 1970s disco back in 2023, we will be having a 1980s vinyl disco in the Village Hall on Saturday the 22nd of February.

Tickets are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.



Thursday 24th April 7 for 7.30pm: The Friends AGM at All Saints. All Welcome

Sunday Teas each Sunday afternoon from the 4th May to the end of September, often enhanced by music, talks and maybe even some poetry.

Saturday 28th June – Shillingfest25 – look out for our raffle and the amazing Human Fruit Machine!

Sunday 13th July – Flying Teddies

SUNDAY TEAS



2024 broke all records for numbers and proceeds, with £4,300 made.

It is amazing what your cake and cuppa can achieve, just look at the beautiful restoration of the North Door!

As we get busier, however, we do need more helpers, so please do get in touch if you could help out on the occasional Sunday afternoon.

Thank you, as ever, for your support for our 'Church on the Hill'

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



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
Kay, Phil, Jade, Ryan, Lindsey, Archie, Rosie & Jack	Tony Butts (Tug) & Marion Butts – remembering a wonderful mum & dad, nan & grandad, great nan & drandad on your birthdays. Mum – 22 nd January and Dad – 5 th February. You're forever in our thoughts. We treasure our precious memories. We love you both forever.	Sunday 2 February	Saturday 8 February
Dewick Family Sally, Andy, Shaun & Thomas	In loving memory of dad & grandad Ken who left us on 30 th January 2020 and mum & grandma Joan, who left us on 13th February 2018. Always in our thoughts xx	Sunday 9 February	Saturday 15 February
Lisa, Gary, Jamie-Leigh & Grandparents	In memory of Owen West – a precious son, brother & grandson. On the 22 nd February Owen would be celebrating his 21 st birthday. He is always in our thoughts and missed every day xx We know grandad will be looking after him.	Sunday 16 February	Saturday 22 February
Pamela & Darren Bakewell	On the occasion of Julia West's birthday on 20 th February. Missed and remembered every day. Love from Pamela, Darren and all the family.	Sunday 16 February	Saturday 22 February
Lynne & Richard Harris & Family	In loving memory of Ann Hare. Remembering her 90 th birthday on Wednesday, 19 th March 2025. Loved and missed more than words can say. Forever in our hearts xx	Sunday 16 March	Saturday 22 March
Robert Lumkin	To my darling, gorgeous Sandy. Missing you immensely. All my love Rob xxx	Sunday 20 April	Saturday 26 April

RING IN THE NEW YEAR

Are you looking for a new challenge in 2025?
Why not try your hand(s) at Bellringing.

- It's good exercise (mental and physical)
- It's free
- It's fun
- It's a centuries-old tradition

It is indeed a centuries-old tradition, but many towers are falling silent for lack of ringers.

The Shillington Bellringers are a friendly and welcoming group who would be delighted to welcome new members and show them the ropes!

All standards are welcome from absolute beginners upward. We practice at **All Saints' Church on Monday evenings from 7.30pm to 9pm.**

If you are interested, please contact **Andy** on **07922-017051** for more info.



SHILLINGTON & DISTRICT CLASSIC VEHICLE GROUP

Tuesday fortnightly summer meetings supporting our local community pub:

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

Meetings take place on Tuesdays every 2 weeks until the end of September and we will be congregating from 5pm onwards.

Bring along an interesting car, motorcycle, light commercial or 3-wheeler. Even 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** 📞 **07860-646323** for more information.

DATES FOR 2025:

April - 22nd ☺ May - 6th & 20th ☺

June - 3rd & 17th ☺ July - 1st, 15th & 29th ☺

August - 12th & 26th ☺ September - 9th & 23rd ☺



RAMBLING ON with DEREK TURNER

☎ 01462-712462

derek.turner@phonecoop.coop

1911 was a very dry year with a heatwave between July and September. On 6 May, George V was crowned king with the coronation taking place on 22 June. For Shillington where usually, nothing much happened, it was quite a year too. The Musgrave family had owned Shillington Manor house in Apsley End since 1671 but in 1911, they sold it to Captain Lucas of the Hitchin brewing family. At the other end of the village, Shillington Bury had been home to the Manor of Shillington which had existed in 1034 and possibly earlier. The Hanscombe family which had long had links with the village acquired the Bury in the middle of the nineteenth century. In the decades that followed, the manorial system declined in importance and William Hanscombe would be the last lord of the Manor of Shillington. After his death, his family donated land for a village hall and the Hanscombe Memorial Hall would open on 11 December 1911.



For centuries, public meetings had been held outside, often at a prominent landmark such as a distinctive hill or under a large tree. Later, they might take place in public houses and this continued until purpose-built halls became available. When the congregation of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel at 31 Church Street outgrew the building leading to the construction in 1872 of its much larger replacement in High Road (next to the shop), the Liberal Party purchased the redundant building. The party was well-supported in Shillington at this time but when they were not using it, they hired it out and it soon had many customers. I speculate that there were others in the village who were not keen to use the Liberal Hall and boost the coffers of the Liberal Party and it's possible that they wanted to have an alternative meeting place available. Whatever, our village hall was one of the earlier ones to be built in 1911. Others without a wealthy benefactor would have to wait until after 1920 when charitable support for village halls became available.

There are pictures of Hanscombe Memorial Hall that were taken soon after its opening in the collection of old village photographs. The main structure looks very much as it does now although the top of the chimney was removed after the solid fuel heating was replaced. The flat-roofed extensions that now house the lobby, kitchen, toilets and Jubilee Room are missing - they were all added much later. However, there was a small lean-to at the back that probably housed bucket toilets. The most striking feature though was a large hooded semi-circular canopy supported by huge consoles at the front. It must have protruded at least a yard (0.9m) from the front of the building and been twice that in width to span the double doors. Andy Gibbs has begun to publish the old photographs online <https://www.flickr.com/photos/199681506@N08/albums> and although the village hall exterior doesn't show up in any of them so far, I expect it won't be long before it does.



A committee was set up to run the hall and a treasurer appointed to deal with the finances. I've been scrutinising the accounts book that they kept which lists income and expenditure during much of its first 50 years.

The earliest entries reveal a steady stream of donations from local people in the run-up to its opening.

They reflect the inequalities in society with some people putting in a shilling (5 pence in today's currency but worth £4 or so at the time) while Mrs. Hanscombe, William's widow, contributed a further 100 guineas (£105). There was £75 each from James Simkins and G.H. Ruffel and £50 from Doctor Kilham Roberts. Over £567 would be raised by the time it opened.

As the hall neared completion, the first expenditure for fitting it out is listed - £12 for lamps, £3 for the all-important urns and spoons, £8 for crockery and £3 for cupboards. Among those that followed was £27 for 102 chairs, £20 for a grand piano (which was tuned 3 months later for 5 shillings), and in November, just over £1 for fire insurance. Shortly before the opening, an unnamed cleaner received 4 shillings and sixpence for their effort. It may have been Miss Jepps as later entries show that she was employed to do that job.



Within a week of opening, a jumble sale took place raising a massive £42. The first whist drive on 19 January 1912 raised £5. These events were both popular and became regular money spinners. By March, the hall had some card tables. Gradually concerts and other unspecified entertainment took place along with bible meetings, hires for private parties and an annual meeting of the cricket club. However, visiting the

hall must have been a chilly experience for its earliest users and in June 1912, a Nautilus cast iron grate was installed for £10 to heat the building. Bookings were fairly sparse, rarely more than 4 times a month with none at all in August.

The early accounts can be frustrating to interpret. They sometimes record the payer/payee and sometimes the item purchased or what the hall was hired for but not always both. Payments for unspecified items were made to Thomas Prutton who ran the shop and drapers at 1 Hillfoot Road and to Hitchin businesses Paternoster and Hales (printers), Gatwards (ironmongers, now jewellers), Carling (printers and publisher of a local newspaper) and Thomas Brookers and Sons who sold a range of hardware and equipment for homes and businesses as they do to this day. In September 1913, the hall paid 10 shillings (50p) for a stage license, compulsory at the time but probably something that had slipped the collective minds of the committee until then.

In 1914, war broke out and use of the hall gradually declined. Intriguingly, in March 1916, a payment was received 'from military authorities for damage done'. I'm not aware that 'the military authorities' requisitioned village halls at this time but if you know differently, please let me know. Shortly afterwards, the records ceased altogether. Maybe the Treasurer had been called up to fight? Suddenly, the accounts resumed in January 1920 and the entries continued as if nothing had happened.

I still have a lot of the book to plough through and I'll continue this history of the village hall as seen through its accounts on another occasion.

PEGSDON VIEW



We've been quite busy here in Pegsdon since the last edition. In December the council carried out another speed survey on the B655, we're awaiting the results. I'm expecting to see some differences, the weather in early December would've had a dampening effect on the speed of travel on the road, for which I am grateful, and is not necessarily a good indication of traffic speed at other times of year. It will be interesting to be able to compare with the results of previous surveys too. We expect the results in the next month or two.

We've had a Speedwatch site approved in the village and are signing up volunteers this month. Next step is to receive the handbook and have some training, then we will be ready for Speedwatch exercises. Thanks to Richa and the Parish Council for their support and hard work on this.

We had volunteers from the ambulance service provide training mid-January, focusing on recognising a heart attack vs a cardiac arrest and how to use our new defibrillator. Hosted by The View and well attended. Thanks to Claire for organising and Lainey for hosting.

We were also delighted to see the news from Anglian Water about the mains renewal work approval. Once complete this should completely resolve the water supply issues we've suffered from for so many years now, such good news. Thanks to Steve, the Parish Council and the team at Anglian Water for pursuing this.

In other news, the highland cattle have returned to the Pegsdon Hills, it's been lovely to see them again.



I've been doing very little gardening, so there hasn't been much progress on the front garden project. The ashes from my stove are going on the beds at regular intervals, which I hope will help to break up the clay a little, and when the weather calms down we're planning to do some hard pruning and get the last of our potted purchases in the ground.

As I've been spending more time inside I've had a little more time than normal for reading. I've just finished *84 Charing Cross Road*, *Helene Hanff*. An enjoyable, light, epistolary, short novel charting a relationship between an American writer, the author, and the staff at a second hand bookshop in London over a period of 20 years.



I'm looking forward to making a bit more of a dent in my TBR pile in the next few weeks. I fear I'm in danger of having more books in the house that I could ever have time to read, but I can't resist recommendations and the delight of passing books between friends.

Wishing you all safe and well, *Caroline*

Shillington Social Club

PRESENTS

**Live
Music**

DRINKS



KARAOKE

Right

With Dan the Karaoke Man

Saturday 1st February 8 till Late

**Everyone welcome The Good The
Bad The Indifferent**

Shillington Social Club SG5 3NX

All Saints Church
Gravenhurst and Shillington



QUIZ NIGHT

WITH LIGHT REFRESHMENTS



**Saturday 1st March 7.30pm
at Shillington Village Hall**

Tickets £10

For tickets, please contact;

Liz 07930 812940

Denise 07414 513683

**Raffle
on the
night**

**BRING YOUR OWN
DRINKS AND GLASSES**



The Friendly Place

Winter schedule

From December 2nd

Mondays, 11:00am to 14:00pm

At the Congregational Church, Shillington

Join us for tea, coffee, soup and a roll and friendly chat.

Hosted by Linda and Trish of All Saint's church and Angus and Nola of the Congregational church, Shillington.

We can give you a lift if you need transport



For more information you can call Linda; 01462 711761
or Trish; 07754760073



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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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DECISIONS FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL (CBC):

CB/24/03197/FULL – 102 High Road.
Two-storey rear extension.

GRANTED 3/01/2025

APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED AT JANUARY PC MEETING:

CB/24/03612/FULL – Former Pig Pen, Higham Road, Higham Gobion.
Demolition of existing building and erection of a dwellinghouse. **DO NOT SUPPORT**

CB/24/03597/LB – 75 Church Street
Listed Building: Removal of ground floor window and insertion of French doors. Internal works for removal of later hearth and cupboard additions, removal of internal wall panels. Construction of new internal partition wall and door and refurbishment of ground floor slab. Construction of new patio and erection of fences and gate. **SUPPORT**

NEW/REVISED APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT FEBRUARY PC MEETING:

CB/24/03197 - Land east of 55 Upton End Road
Erection of 2 residential 3 storey detached dwellings.

SOCIAL CLUB WORK

Many of you will have seen, towards the end of 2024, a new roof being put on the Social Club. A new layer of insulation was also fitted, which will help with heating costs and reduce the carbon footprint. Under the roof, a brick pier next to the bar has been removed to create more room. This work was supported by a grant from Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) through the UK Shared and Rural England Prosperity Fund.



Funded by
UK Government

But this is just the beginning! The CBC fund was granted to help complete a first phase of essential structural works. The second phase will be to improve the accessibility and facilities of the Social Club, making it an even more usable and enjoyable space for the whole community.

Phase two will include new fully accessible toilet facilities, wider and more accessible points of entry and exit, a major refurbishment of the bar and seating areas and even a local history display.

As well as the CBC grant, the project is receiving support from the Parish Council, The Memorial Playing Field Committee, the Wixamtree Trust and the prodigious fundraising activities of the Social Club Management Team. We are also planning a funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, who are always keen to ensure that local assets and local heritage are fully shared with the local community.

*If anybody has any questions, suggestions or concerns about the project, please do get in touch with **Gavin Jenkins** – 07826-518667 gavinjenkins13@yahoo.co.uk*



DOG FOULING



There have been many recent complaints about some irresponsible dog owners allowing their pets to make use of other folks' front gardens and doorsteps as dog toilets, without having the courtesy to clean up after them.

It is YOUR responsibility as a dog owner to ensure YOU clean up after YOUR dog.

Shillington Parish has 22+ dog bins for you to make use of, or poo bags can be taken home to place in the black dustbin - no excuse for not being a responsible dog owner.

Several very annoyed property owners, who are having to daily clean up dog poo on their property will now be keeping a close watch and will not hesitate to report continued lack of responsibility.

Central Bedfordshire Council can fine you £100 if you allow a dog, for which you are responsible, to foul and not clear it up immediately when in a public place. Public places include:

- footways and paths, including public footpaths
- play areas, picnic sites and outdoor eating places
- sports playing pitches
- formal parks and land where the grass is cut
- land outside schools and hospitals
- car parks, public transport bays and surrounds
- cycle ways and surfaced areas near to houses
- shopping areas, markets and public circulation areas
- cemeteries and war memorials
- land surrounding toilets, recycling sites and public buildings

If you are in control of a dog, you must (**by law**) pick up dog mess on any land with public access including:

- town centres
- roads
- pavements
- public footpaths
- woodlands
- agricultural land
- common land

To report a dog owner not complying with requirements contact CBC:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/43/community_safety/152/dog_control_orders/0300

Dog Fouling/animal welfare: ☎ 0300-300-8302

IN THE NOT SO BLEAK MIDWINTER THE WINTER GARDEN

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



I have recently planted the last of my bulbs. As I did I tidied as I went. Clearing dead leaves and cutting back. You tend to think of this time of year as dormant in the garden and seem to wish the winter away, longing for the garden to be teeming with vibrant colour again. But as I progressed, signs of life were quietly but surely there. The soil quietly stirring from its slumber.

I cut back some leaves of the Hellebores and to my amazement numerous buds were waiting to burst open. Little shoots of green were just emerging of daffodil bulbs I had planted from a previous year. When I had first gone out bundled up in boots, coat and scarf I thought how dreary everything looked but after being out and looking more closely Mother Nature was working hard and building our anticipation of spring.

I love it when I find things I had forgotten I had planted begin to emerge. Some Snowdrops in a pot under a Rose in bud had totally slipped my mind and yet here they were their white petals nodding in the breeze. Its isn't as quiet as I had initially thought in the garden!

The winter Honeysuckle, Amelankier and Sarcocca are budding up and the winter flowering Clematis Wisley Cream, which I had bought from a local supermarket as a tiny plant, to my delight was now flowering. Its cream pretty bell like flowers trailing over some trellis by my back door for me to enjoy. I think at this time of year you appreciate and study even more the flowers that are bravely flowering in adversity and bringing such joy.

I can't wait to see all the Spring flowers I have planted in gardens come up soon. As I plant them I use my imagination to visualise how the bed will look come spring. It really is only a short time before warmer, longer days will be back.

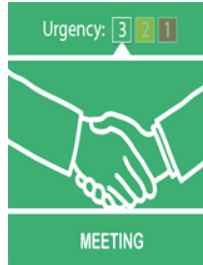
In the meantime use this season to plan out your garden, any changes you are going to make be it hard landscaping, new plants, seeing where gaps are. Perhaps making a new bed or having an area with a theme e.g. Gravel Garden or a raised bed for veg. Your garden doesn't have to stay the same year in year out. Just ensure you make it your haven to enjoy and have what you like in it and gives you interest and pleasure.

Happy New Year to you all!

Donna x

JOBS IN THE GARDEN FOR FEBRUARY

<i>✂ Feed birds</i>	<i>✂ If it snows brush off any sitting on plants and shrubs</i>
<i>✂ Order Seeds</i>	<i>✂ Trim lawn edges and repair lumps and bumps</i>
<i>✂ Sow Sweet Peas</i>	<i>✂ Make sure more vulnerable plants are protected</i>
<i>✂ Plan Garden</i>	<i>✂ If dry, water container plants</i>
<i>✂ Get out in the fresh air on dry days</i>	<i>✂ Chit early potatoes</i>
<i>✂ Prune Apple and Pear Trees</i>	<i>✂ Prune Grape Vines</i>
<i>✂ Cut off Hellebore leaves to avoid black spot</i>	
<i>✂ Don't walk on lawn in heavy frost</i>	
<i>✂ Force Rhubarb</i>	
<i>✂ Look for Snowdrops</i>	



**Shillington Social Club
Engagement Event:
Sat 01 Feb 17:15**

Dear Shillington Residents,

Your local Community Team will be at Shillington Social Club on **Saturday 1st February** from **17:15hrs** to **18:15hrs**.

Please take this opportunity to raise any concerns you may have and to find out what we are doing to tackle the issues that matter to you.

Everyone is welcome and it would be great to see you there!



Message Sent By

Sarah Carne

(Police, Police Community Support Officer,
Amphill, Flitwick & surrounding areas)

We've made some changes at our Household Waste Recycling Centres

The latest news from Central Bedfordshire Council

New from 2025



What is changing?

From 6 January 2025, we have introduced the following changes at our Household Waste Recycling Centres, or Tidy Tips as they're better known:

- **Carpet (including underlay) disposal:** Disposal is limited to 2 visits per household per year. You will need to have a waste permit which is free to apply for
- **Mattress disposal:** Disposal is limited to two mattresses per household per year. You will need to have a waste permit which is free to apply for
- **Tyre disposal:** A charge of £11.30 per tyre will apply.
For the disposal of any tyres, you will need to have a waste permit

Tyres are not classified as household waste and there's a cost to us to dispose of them – which is passed on to all Council taxpayers.

Limiting the amount of carpets, mattresses and tyres we accept at our Tidy Tips per household will also help reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill - again, a large cost to us and Council taxpayers.

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



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

Registered charity no: 300066

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** *
- * **Indoor Bowls** * **Exhibitions** * **Circuit Training** * **Karate** *

The Village Hall Committee would politely request residents, making use of the Car Park for overnight parking, to please note that Hall Hirers take priority for parking for their bookings, if you could ensure you are not occupying the car park during these times. (See user booking sheet on Notice Board)

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

Parish Councillors – contact details:

John Hyde 07799-537346	Gavin Jenkins 07826-518667	Liam Keene 07867-993393	Angus McCormick 01462-712096	Richa Mitra via the Clerk
Annie Palmer via the Clerk	VACANCY	Joseph Olding via the Clerk	Mark Thyne 01462-712201	Derek Turner 01462-712462

VILLAGE CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 2 All Saints' Church – Holy Communion for Candlemas – 9.30am
- 2 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Hazel Beadle – 10.30am
- 2 All Saints' Church – Evensong for Candlemas – 5pm
- 3 Playing Field Management Committee – Social Club – 8pm
- 4 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 5 Men's Club – "Kick Off" Party at the Congregational Church
- 9 All Saints' Church – Holy Communion – 9.30am
- 9 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 12 Men's Club – Evening meal at The Crown, Henlow
- 14 The View – Special set menu for Valentines – pre-orders only.
- 16 All Saints' Church – Morning Prayer – 9.30am
- 16 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 19 Men's Club – Visit to Irchester Narrow Gauge Railway
- 22 Friends of All Saints – 1980s Disco – Village Hall – 7.30pm
- 22 The View – Quiz Night – from 7.30pm – teams up to 6.
- 23 All Saints' Church – Holy Communion – 9.30am
- 23 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Hazel Beadle – 10.30am
- 26 Men's Club – Lunch Social at The View, Pegsdon

MARCH

- 2 All Saints' Church – Holy Communion – 9.30am
- 2 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 2 All Saints' Church – Evensong – 5pm
- 3 Shillingfest25 Planning Committee – Social Club – 8pm
- 4 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 5 All Saints' Church – Ash Wednesday – Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes – 7.30pm
- 9 All Saints' Church – Holy Communion – 9.30am
- 9 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Catherine Booton – 10.30am
- 12 Men's Club – Evening Meal at The Cross Keys, Pulloxhill
- 16 All Saints' Church – Morning Prayer – 9.30am
- 16 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 22 Men's Club – Visit to Crossness Pumping Station, Abbey Wood
- 23 All Saints' Church – Holy Communion – 9.30am
- 23 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Hazel Beadle – 10.30am
- 29 The View – Mother's Day – special afternoon tea with live music – 12 noon to 4pm
- 30 United Service at All Saints' Church, Shillington - Mothering Sunday – 9.30am
- 30 The View – Mother's Day Menu – sittings at 12 noon, 3pm and 6pm available

APRIL

- 1 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 3 The View – new spring menu launch !

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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