

PARISH NEWS


covering
SHILLINGTON, PEGSDON & HIGHAM GOBION

LIVE MUSIC • BELLS • ROCK • UKULELE • JAZZ • IRISH FOLK

• CLASSICS • CHORAL • DISCO • ORGAN • BLUES • REFRESHMENTS •

A FREE EVENT


Marathon Rock around the Clock 24 Hour Music



Friends of
ALL SAINTS SHILLINGTON
June 7th - 8th 2025
9.00am-9.00am




**The Church on the Hill
Shillington**

IN AID OF
CHURCH
RESTORATION



• CLASSICS • CHORAL • FOLK • ORGAN • BLUES • REFRESHMENTS •

GUITAR • STRINGS • PIANO • SAXOPHONE • LUTE • ROCK



Issue 177 – APRIL 2025

Deadline for June edition – Friday, 23rd May 2025

PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors were dismayed to discover at their March meeting that nobody had come forward to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council. Having a variety of people from different parts of the community is important to ensure that a range of opinions can be expressed during debates. The vacancy will remain open, so if you are interested in joining the council but would like an informal discussion about what is involved and without obligation, please contact one of the existing councillors. If you think it's for you, please apply via the clerk.

We were pleased to welcome John English from Bedfordshire CPRE who gave us a talk about the intricacies of the planning system and what to look out for. John has provided the council with invaluable advice regarding hostile housing applications in recent years. It is inevitable that they will continue to come forward in the future and we expect to continue to seek his views when they do.

The council was presented with an unusual retrospective planning application in March for houses built five years ago on the land between 30 and 48 Hanscombe End Rd, many of which are in what is now called Sandy Heath Close. Although nothing was mentioned in the new application, we understand that the reason for it is doubt regarding whether all the conditions were complied with in the original one. Sympathy was expressed for the residents of these homes for the uncertainty this is causing. We have contacted Central Bedfordshire Council to ask how the irregularities are having an impact on Shillington and its residents and what steps are being taken to ensure that it doesn't happen again.

Earlier, at the February meeting, representatives of Anglian Water were present and answered questions about the water mains renewal along Hanscome End Rd and Apsley End Rd that they intend to undertake in phases starting on 14 April and is due for completion by May 2026. Closure of short sections of road will be necessary to allow the work to proceed safely and diversions will be signed. They have promised to keep residents informed when their area is affected but are unable to guarantee that farmers will be able to avoid diversions at harvest time.

New yellow lines have appeared at the junction of High Rd and Upton End Rd to make it clear that no parking is allowed close to the blind corner. The parish council would have liked to see them extended further along both roads and urges road users to continue to be vigilant when they pass through this area. Central Bedfordshire Council is also consulting about introducing Traffic Regulations Orders where the yellow lines exist around the Bury Rd, Woodmer Close and Bedford Close junctions and near the school in Greenfields to enable their Parking Team to enforce the restrictions.

Finally, Council Tax payers received their invoices for the year ahead in March and may have been startled to see that their payment to Shillington Parish Council is increasing by 19.2% compared with much smaller percentage increases for CBC, the police and fire and rescue for Band D properties. Shillington's councillors deliberated for a long time before setting this precept at the finance meeting in December but were presented with little choice as the cost of maintaining streetlights and supplying them with electricity and the mowing of road verges and the playing fields continues to rise. There are also additional one-off costs associated with the change of clerk. The percentage increase is far greater than in previous years and in retrospect, some of it might have been anticipated and paid for by introducing a slightly higher precept then. However, the increase for 2025-26 may seem a bit more acceptable when it is expressed as £9.24 for the year which is rather less than 3p per day. We hope that parishioners will agree that the change in Council Tax is essential to maintain the character of the village and keep its facilities in good order.

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 Monday 28th April 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: 17th 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

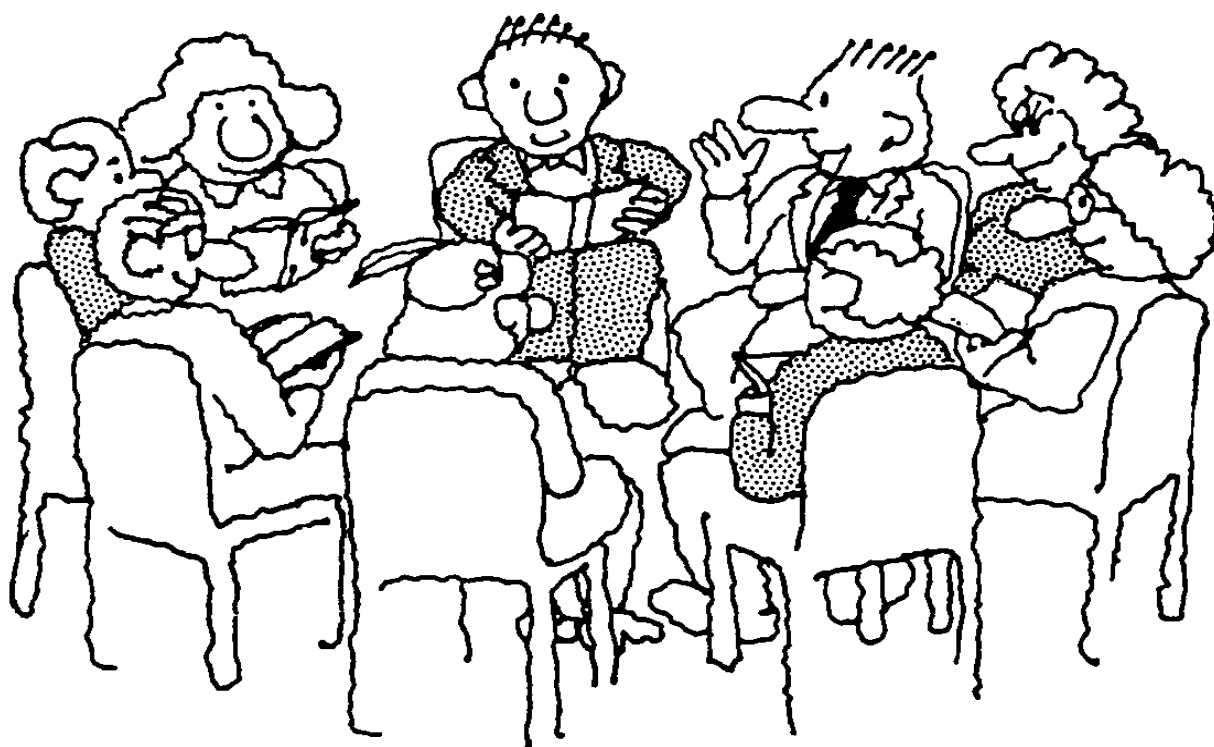
- either be registered to vote on the current register with the local council
- or have either worked or lived in the council's area for one year
- been an owner or tenant of any land or premises in the council's area for one year.

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.

Shillington
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Tuesday, 13th May 2025 from 7.45pm



This is **not** a Parish Council meeting.
It is an open meeting giving parishioners an opportunity to:

- *Make connections with other people in your community.*
- *Hear reports from village organisations on what they've been up to during 2024 and plans for 2025.*
- *Ask questions about the issues that concern you.*

ALL WELCOME

Lauren Darnell, Clerk to Parish Council.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS / ITEMS / NEWS IN BRIEF



On 7th June 2025 we are hosting Trek 24 again at Barton Hill Farm, an event where you can walk either 24km or 24 miles to help raise money for the **East Anglian Air Ambulance**. If you would like to sign up see the link below:

<https://www.eaaa.org.uk/support-us/events/trek-24/bedfordshire>

The more people who sign up, the more money we can help raise to make a difference to those who need the Air Ambulance in the future. Please spread the word! Thank you very much.

Barton Hill Farm, Lilley, Luton, Bedfordshire LU2 8NF

Tel: 07989 300959 / 01582 881690

www.shawfarming.com

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**



MEMORIAL GARDEN CHRISTMAS TREE 2025 & BEYOND



Just a reminder that we are looking for funding/kind donations from the community to continue with this much enjoyed gathering and 'beacon of light' during December. Without your support this won't happen.

This year's switch on is scheduled for Saturday, 29th November (if we raise enough funds). Santa has been asked to switch on the lights and will happily share a photo opportunity with younger (and older!) members of the community in the Village Hall after some seasonal singing by the Village Choir and youngsters. There will be mulled wine, mince pies and sausage rolls 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. Look out for collection pots or contact any of the Committee.

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



All Saints Church Gravenhurst and Shillington



www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk

Hello from All Saints Church!

If you are heading out food shopping at the moment you probably won't be surprised to see the supermarket shelves stacked with wonderful chocolate eggs. It is a sure sign that Easter is on its way. As Lent draws to an end during April, Christians journey into Holy Week from Palm Sunday, remembering the joyous reception of Jesus into Jerusalem, and then recalling the last days of his earthly life.

Maundy Thursday, offers a momentary pause, remembering Jesus' sharing his last meal with the disciples, his special friends, as he commands them to love one another. A moment of poignancy and intimacy before the pain of the cross on Good Friday. There is solemnity and space to consider our own response to the life and death of Jesus before the joy of Easter morning.

And as Christ bursts from the tomb, we shout Alleluia, He is risen! The wonder of the resurrection, Jesus' defeat over death, and all because of God's love for humanity. A love that offers hope, light, and renewal in the all the circumstances of life.

Easter eggs, the hollowed-out chocolate shapes, are a reminder of the empty tomb, of new life breaking forth into the world. The followers of Jesus found that empty tomb on that first Easter morning before they would go on to encounter their risen Saviour and their lives would be transformed for ever.

As you eat your chocolate eggs this year, or whatever you do during the holiday weekend, why not pause for a moment, and remember the empty tomb, a symbol of life, of hope and of love, all offered to you by Jesus.

All are welcome to join in any of the Easter services and if you are an early riser, why not join us at 6.30am for a Dawn Service followed by bacon butties (vegetarian option available). What a great way to start Easter Sunday! We look forward to seeing you.

Easter Blessings

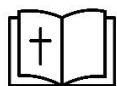
Revd Jenna Dearden

Email: revjennadearden@gmail.com

Mobile: 07708 666612



All are welcome to services at All Saints as we head into April and May.



SUNDAY SERVICES IN APRIL

6 April	9.30 am Holy Communion 6.00 pm Evensong (<i>Back to the later time!</i>)
13 April	9.30 am PALM SUNDAY Holy Communion
20 April	6.30 am EASTER Dawn Service 9.30 am EASTER Holy Communion
27 April	9.30 am Morning Worship



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Tuesday 15 April	7.30 pm Sung Compline (Evening Prayer)
Friday 18 April	2.00 pm Last Hour at the Cross (A service of readings, prayers, and reflections)
Sunday 20 April	6.30 am Dawn Service (with bacon butties afterwards) 9.30 am Easter Holy Communion

SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY

4 May	9.30 am Holy Communion 6.00 pm Evensong
11 May	9.30 am Holy Communion
18 May	9.30 am Morning Praise
25 May	9.30 am Holy Communion
Thursday 29 May	7.30 pm ASCENSION DAY Holy Communion

200 CLUB - LUCKY WINNERS!

January 2025

1st no. 101 - Georgina Brewer 2nd no. 121 - Pat Bellamy 3rd no. 173 - Julia Bruce

February 2025

1st no.63 - Colin Smith 2nd no. 87 - Tabitha Gurr 3rd no.7 - Rosalind Howarth

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE QUIZ!

*Thank you for supporting All Saints Church with what was an enjoyable quizzing evening.
Thank you to all the volunteers involved and for your generosity!*

SUMMER FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Strawberry Teas

Sunday 1 June 2025 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm

£8 Adults includes strawberries and cream, two cakes of your choice and tea/coffee

£4 Children under 1

To reserve a place, please call **Liz** on **07963 199383** or **Denise** **07414 513683**

Pimms & Raffle!

Please see the Friends page for their forthcoming events.



A SYMBOL OF FREEDOM

by *Revd. Angus McCormick* ☎ 01462-712096

Minister of Shillington Congregationalist Church

I remember the first time that I could roam as far as I liked along the shores of Strangford Lough enjoying the fresh air, the smell of seaweed, the noise of the birds, the sailing boats and the sheet on a far off island. Then I realised that I had to return and that was more than I bargained for. It was late and getting dark and cold !



Now of course I can only walk a short distance until I look for a bench... there may be someone to talk to, a dog or two to stroke, birds to listen to and wonderful colours to enjoy; the noise of vehicles far away and a plane overhead.

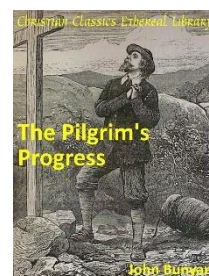
At secondary school I remember being able to choose an essay question which was a dialogue. So off I went in my imagination and tried to pretend what two different people would say to each other in the context that I was given. Well it turned out to be the best essay I ever wrote according to the marks I received. The freedom to develop my characters as I wanted and the freedom to develop the story as I wanted. No set answers, no necessary quotations, no essential argument that would be acceptable to the examiner.



In early life at church I remember hearing the story about Jesus calling his 12 very different friends. They responded by going with him but we know very little about most of them. I was surprised how many different interpretations about who Jesus was and his disciples that different preachers and lecturers came up with. So many books as well. I think Jesus said at one point, who do you think I am? There are people who would want the answer that they accept and that others have given in the past. However, it has never been easy to clarify and there have been so many big debates over the centuries.

Spiritually and in matters of faith I have always valued the freedom to think for myself and sometimes some people have agreed with me but not always of course. For me I don't feel I need to agree with any preacher or lecturer. That is not my aim in trying to follow Jesus. I don't feel the need to come up with the answers other people accept. For me it is a personal engagement; the Bible is the most important resource but there are other resources too.

This kind of freedom in spiritual matters has not always existed even in this country. Many have been punished for freedom of belief. John Bunyan from Bedford is an example. The Bunyan museum in Bedford tells his story.



Some people have clear views and want that but I believe the Bible does say somewhere, "help my unbelief". Faith matters a lot to me and the choice to worship freely matters a lot. Its practice whatever that faith is is also so very important. Long may we cherish our hard earned freedom.

Every blessing, *Revd. Angus*



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NEWS

47 Church Street, Shillington

www.shillingtoncong-church.org.uk

Led by God's love - welcoming all - serving our community

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.



EASTER SERVICES:

✠ Friday, 18 th April	Good Friday	Café Style Service	10.30am
✠ Sunday, 20 th April	Easter Day Celebration		10.30am

Please come and join us, you will be most welcome

FUNERAL SERVICE:

The funeral service of Mrs. Muriel Edney was held at the Church on Friday, 28th February conducted by Revd. Angus McCormick.

The family members were able to say their goodbyes to a greatly loved Mother, Nan and Great Nan. Mrs. Edney was a well-known lady in the village and had worked for a number of years in the school kitchen.

FRIENDLY PLACE:

The Friendly Space continues but has changed times with immediate effect. Now open from 10.00am to 12 mid-day. We look forward to welcoming newcomers to join us for refreshments, company and chat.

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED:



*Members of Riding for the Disabled are holding a Coffee Morning at the Congregational Church on **Friday 11th April** between 10.00am and 12 midday to raise funds for the organisation.*

This is to help with the running costs for the group who use Model Farm in Hanscombe Road, Shillington, where local disabled young people and adults meet on a Monday or Thursday morning to ride and interact with the ponies for therapy, achievement and fun. To find out more about the organisation please join us and find out about volunteering – no knowledge of horses is necessary.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: Sunday, 11th to Saturday, 17th MAY 2025



*We are holding a **Coffee Morning** with a **Bring & Buy Stall** on **Thursday 15th May** to raise funds for **Christian Aid**. The church will be open from 10.00am until 12 noon so visit us for a chat and enjoy some refreshments.*

COLLECTING EASTER EGGS & EASTER CRAFT PACKS FOR LISTER HOSPITAL



Our church members have chosen to take part in the appeal for Easter eggs and Easter craft packs for children in Lister hospital over the Easter period. And with all the wonderful choices of Easter eggs in the shops, now is an 'eggcellent' time to join us. So, if you'd like to gift an Easter egg or Easter craft pack, you can either bring it along to church on a Sunday morning – we're open from 10:00am or drop off at Angus & Nola's house, 1 Bells Close, Shillington.

*The final date for donations is **Sunday, 13th April**. We'll be dropping them off to the Lister's 'Easter Bunny Grotto' on Monday, 14th April. With many thanks - Hazel*



BEDFORD FOODBANK:

We have received a 'Thank you' letter from the Foodbank for the donations provided over the past year as follows:

"Many thanks for your continued support of Bedford Foodbank throughout 2024. The total of your donations was 712.7kg which has helped provide 1697 meals to local people.

Any donations we receive, we are always very grateful for and never more so than in these current challenging times. Regular donations, such as yours, are vital to the on-going provision of food for those in our community who are in such great need.

The need for help from Bedford Foodbank continues to increase year upon year and we now regularly feed over 2000 people a month, giving them enough food for 3-4 days, or around 10 meals. The monthly food leaving our warehouse is generally in the region of 20-22 tonnes, so your donation is much appreciated.

In 2024, 200 tonnes of food were given out, 11,526 vouchers were redeemed, 24,258 people have been fed, of which 8091 are children. Without the support of individuals, organisations, and community groups, Bedford Foodbank could not meet the increasing need in Bedford Borough.

Thank you all once again, for your support on behalf of everyone who uses, works, or volunteers at the foodbank."

Yours sincerely,
Sarah Broughton

Items currently in short supply:

<i>UHT Milk</i>	<i>Tinned Meat</i>
<i>UHT Fruit Juice</i>	<i>Tea Bags 40/80</i>
<i>Jars of Coffee</i>	<i>Cooking Sauces</i>
<i>Jars of Jam</i>	<i>Tinned Fish</i>
<i>Tinned Fruit</i>	<i>Tinned Vegetables</i>

Shillington collections can be left at 1 Bells Close or
at The Congregational Church when open.

SHILLINGTON MEN'S CLUB

(Now in its 19th year)

<https://Shillingtonmensclub.co.uk>

On the 5th February 2025 32 members attended our "Kick Off" party which was held at the Congregational Church, here we kicked off the new year with a buffet and drinks. We were entertained by Andrew Elliman who gave a great talk on his Everest expedition. We were also entertained by the excellent Kerry George who is a professional singer, more used to singing on cruise ships than in our Congregational Church. Thank you to Michael Bradley and Rob East for organising the buffet and drinks.

On the 12th February 26 members attended an evening meal at the Crown at Henlow. Here we had a two course meal, which was washed down by copious amounts of red wine or real ale, everyone enjoyed the evening. Thank you to Colin Hands and Stewart Rataj for organising this event. On the 19th February 6 members attended a visit to the Tring National History Museum. On the 26th February 16 members attended a lunch social at The View in Pegsdon. We had a nice two course meal with plenty of chit-chat.



On the 5th March 10 members attended the Nene Valley Railway to see the Flying Scotsman which was on show. Here members managed to get on the footplate of the famous old locomotive. They chatted with the driver and revelled in the nostalgia of the great Locomotive and a great time was had by all. Thank you to Michael Bradley for organising this event.

On the 12th March 24 members enjoyed dinner at the Cross Keys in Pulloxhill. This is one of our regular pub visits which we all enjoyed and one we will again visit no doubt. Thank you to Colin Hands and Stewart Rataj for organising this event.

On the 19th March 13 members caught the train into London from Arlesey. They visited the Bank of England museum and some of them gained entry into the vault where all the gold bullion is stored. Afterwards they visited the Guildhall Art Gallery followed by lunch at a nearby Weatherspoon's. This rounded the day off perfectly. Thank you to Michael Bradley for organising this event. On the 26th March 15 members attended a lunch time social at our very own Musgrave Arms. We were well looked after as usual and a good time was had by all.

Future Events:

- 9th April – Evening Meal at The Greyhound at Haynes
- 16th April- Visit to Bottisham Airfield Museum
- 23rd April- Lunch social at The View
- 14th May- Evening Meal at The Motte and Bailey Pirton
- 21st May- Visit to the Coventry Motor Museum

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



The clocks have changed, spring is here and we are looking forward to the long, and hopefully warm, summer evenings.

Andy Gibbs' talk in February about Joseph Lancaster's Educational Revolution was most interesting. Many WI members had heard of him but hadn't realised the important role he'd played in bringing education to every child in this country. He certainly had vision. We had a follow-up visit to The British Schools Museum, Hitchin which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The theatre trip to Aylesbury to see Birdsong was very successful and we have booked to go and see the Sloop Groggy Dogs at the Bedford Corn Exchange in April.

Shillington WI held their AGM on the 6th March. After five brilliant years, Julia has stepped down as President, along with two wonderful long-serving committee members. They will be missed but we look forward to seeing them at the monthly meetings. Liza is now our lovely President and we welcomed three new members to the committee.

After the AGM, Jane from Wassledine told us a traditional story called The Fern Flower. She's certainly a fantastic storyteller. We are planning an evening visit to Wassledine woods in mid-summer.

Also in March, we visited Stockwood Park, Luton. We enjoyed looking around the walled gardens and the exhibits in the old stable.

In April we are welcoming Lisa Garrity who will tell us about her love of music and about her travels playing instruments across the world.

Our meeting in May falls on the first which is May Day. We will be making a spectacular flower under the guidance of WI members Beverley and Karen.

On the first Thursday of June, the WI are spending an evening of Bells and Cakes at our beautiful church on the hill, All Saints' Church. It promises to be an entertaining and educational evening, and if the sun shines, it will be perfect as we'll be able to eat cake outside and enjoy the amazing views as well!

Visitors, as always, are most welcome. Do come and join us!

**Liza Starling, President ☎ 07442 019089 or
Jacqui Turnbull, Secretary - shillingtonwi@gmail.com**

FRIEND OR FOE ?

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

One day at the end of February, my grandson popped in and I told him that I was attending a talk that evening. I gave him three guesses as to what the subject of it might be. He guessed rivers, plastics and then, randomly, UFOs. “No”, I responded, “it’s slugs”. On the long list of possibilities, he said he’d have put spaceships and aliens higher up on it than slugs.

The title of the talk was: Slugs and Snails (not puppy dogs’ tails) and it was given by Peter Topley, past Hon. President of the Conchological Society which promotes the recording, conservation and interest in molluscs.



Slugs and snails are gastropods which means ‘stomach foot’. There are 44 recognised species of slugs in the UK but only nine of them eat live plants. There are 149 species of snails, the largest of which are Roman Snails. The smallest are tiny, not much bigger than a pin head. These creatures play a very important part in ecosystems. They are members of nature’s clean-up crew. They feed on rotting plants, fungi, poo, algae and carrion, helping to recycle nitrogen, nutrients and minerals back into the soil. Slugs and snails are decomposer organisms that help break down the organic matter in compost heaps and bins.



At the end of a really interesting talk, there was time for questions. A member of the audience said: “That’s all well and good, but how do you get rid of the little b*****s?”. Poor Peter! There was some discussion about putting a container of beer out for them to drown in - at least they’d die happy. I certainly wouldn’t recommend my Mum’s method of getting rid of snails. She used to throw the big ones over the hedge onto the B656. I’d say to her that one of these days a snail will bounce off a cyclist’s head and she’d get done for GBH.

Slugs and snails love compost heaps and bins so, on damp evenings, collect them up and put them in there. The leopard slug is good to have around as it not only eats dead plant material but it’s also a cannibal. Encourage mollusc’s predators to your garden by, for instance, growing shrubs with berries. These attract birds such as blackbirds and thrushes which eat slugs and snails. The shrub *Leycesteria formosa* (Pheasant Berry) is brilliant at doing this.

I used to keep poultry. The chickens loved eating slug eggs but the ducks were the ultimate slug and snail eaters. “You don’t have a snail problem; you have a duck deficiency” (Anon). I had to keep an eye on them or they’d wreak the garden. However, when it came to wreaking gardens, they weren’t as bad as the children with a football or my husband with a mower (“Potentilla? What Potentilla?”).



If you have room, make a little pond as it will encourage newts, frogs and toads (they find slugs very tasty) to your garden. Making a small hole in the bottom of your fence enables these creatures, along with hedgehogs and slow worms, to travel freely between gardens. Slugs and snails prefer wet conditions to dry and are most active at night. Watering your pots first thing in the morning ensures that the soil has dried out by the evening, making them less attractive to these minibeasts.



I couldn't believe the number of slugs and snails that were in my garden throughout last year's damp summer. Peter said it was because we are continuing to lose their predators. The UK now has only 50% of its biodiversity left (Gov. 2023). Since 1970, there's been a fall of nearly a third in the abundance of wildlife (RSPB). The main reasons for this catastrophic decline are pesticide use and development destroying countryside. The response from the powers that be is to substantially increase this destruction by Build, Build, Build. This is insane as we can't exist without countryside. Have the lunatics taken over the asylum?

Returning to slugs, please would you consider not using slug pellets (pesticides) as they not only kill the molluscs you don't want but they also eradicate the many that we need.

Annie x

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 ☺

☺ **Shillingfest25 - 28th June @ The Playing Field** ☺

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



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 has now concluded and congratulations goes to our winning team, Toni Gearing, Julia Bruce and Margaret Webster.

We have now commenced our spring/summer Aussie Pairs league, which will no doubt be a competitive affair.

We have also held our fours and triples club competitions. These took place on two separate Saturday afternoons in the village hall. It was great to see the competitions and to have club members cheering on the finalists. The winners of the fours competition were Carol Papworth, Michelle Conlon, Tony Duke and Trevor Knight. Michelle did have a little bit of Irish luck as her team went out in the first round, but a sub was required for the winning team and she re-entered the competition. The triples was won by Clive Mark, Bill Gearing and Paul Bruce. Congratulations to all who took part, and we look forward to our pairs and singles competitions in the coming months.

Some club members are again off to Melton Mowbray in April to take part in the national competitions. Good luck and congratulations to Julia Bruce, Trevor Knight, Neil Rixon, Toni & 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

Getting Game Ready

The clocks have gone forward, the sun is shining, so it's time for some cricket and the Shillington Spitfires has a packed schedule of games home and away! But before a ball can be bowled, there is a pitch to prepare and a squad to ready.

Rolling Along

The team has been busy working on the pitch after a particular wet winter and it's coming along nicely and should be ready for the season opener against Watton-At-Stone on Sunday 21st April. Whilst the square is getting match ready, the team has been netting at the Robert Bloomfield Academy over the winter but will be looking to start training up at the playing fields from the beginning of April. If you see us up there and fancy having a go, come and say 'hi', everyone is welcome.

Grants and Sponsorship

The Spitfires are looking to ensure that the pitch and Club will be an asset in the village for years to come and for us to be able to do that we are looking for local business and people who might want to sponsor the club. There are several packages available. If you email the club at: shillington.spitfires.cc@gmail.com we'll be able to explain how you'll be able to help. The Spitfires are also looking to secure grants for equipment, pitch care, and other facilities to help the team. We're looking for anyone in the village who might have experience in preparing community grant applications or could help us secure funding for equipment. If you feel you can help, please email us at the address above.

Full Fixture List

The Spitfires have a packed fixture list for the 2025 season. Our first game is at the Memorial Playing Fields on **Sunday 21st April** against **Watton-At-Stone**, come along and support the team, the first ball will be at **13:00**. The season will finish once again with a three-match series against Pirton for the Cross-Border Cup. The rest of the games can be found below.

Shillington Spitfires Cricket Club 2025 Games (April to June)

Opposition	Date	Location	Game Format
Watton-at-Stone CC	Sunday 20 th April	Home	40 overs
Inter-Team Game	Sunday 27 th April	Home	T20 (20 overs)
Stevenage Dev. CC	Thursday 1 st May	Away	T20 (20 overs)
Motley Crew CC	Sunday 11 th May	Home	40 overs
Ickleford CC	Sunday 18 th May	Away	40 overs
King's Cross CC	Sunday 25 th May	Home	40 overs
Offley & Stopsley CC	Friday 30 th May	Away	T20 (20 overs)
Panthers CC	Sunday 8 th June	Home	40 overs
Offley & Stopsley CC	Friday 13 th June	Home	T20 (20 overs)
Graveley CC	Sunday 22 nd June	Away	30 overs
Steppingley CC	Wednesday 25 th June	Home	T20 (20 overs)

SHILLINGFEST 25

Saturday, 28th June – Memorial Playing Field, SG5 3NX



Another amazing community event coming up on the last Saturday in June at the Playing Field, Greenfields, Shillington, SG5 2NX.

Opening at 1pm by our MP - Mr. Blake Stephenson.

Most of the stalls we had last year will be back, from village organisations/businesses to national charity fundraisers - Riding for Disabled (RDA), GOSH, Cats Protection League and Carol for MND.

The **Shillington Classic Vehicle Group** will be bringing their great old vehicles and other local collectors with military vehicles, as well as Neil's old tractor and milling machine showing us how it used to be done. Not forgetting Kevin's fantastic Ferrari and Lamborghini.

Plenty of tasty, great food from **Big John** and the **BBQ team**, **Dan the Pizza Man**, **Ice Cream Man James** and rounding off with tasty cakes from our WI. The Social Club will have bars inside and out and of course the Pimms Tent provided by Church members. A good old cuppa will be available from the WI.

Shefford Majorettes will be back twirling their batons and **Fynnius Fogg** (Bedford's Oldest Boy Band !!) playing their great selection of popular music from 1960s/1970s.

As an additional item this year we will also be running a food bank drive with a collection point for canned/package items of food for the **Bedford Foodbank** (regular collections to 1 Bells Close) as well as stock for the **Animal Foodbank** located in High Road (down towards Apsley End arch). Please bring along a can or package to support these worthy causes.

If you would like a stall or want to get involved, please contact me ☎ **07711-504489** or **sallystapleton@btinternet.com**

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

We will be holding our 2025 Annual General Meeting in the Lady Chapel, All Saints' Church at 7.30pm on Thursday the 24th of April.

Now, some of you might think that AGMs are not the most interesting meetings to attend, and, in some cases, you'd be right! However, the Friends AGM is less about the formal business and more about the chance to find out what the Friends do, enjoy free drinks and nibbles and hear a fascinating talk.

This year, our **Tower Captain, Emma Lodge**, will be giving us an illustrated talk on the secrets of **Bellringing** in churches. You don't have to be a member, all are welcome.

2025 Projects

Our first project for this year is to repair a further section of the graveyard wall: the section from the entrance leading to the south porch down towards the yew tree entrance. After that, we will be doing some repairs to the masonry around the Bellringers' window.

There are a host of smaller jobs to do too, including:

- A new extractor fan in the kitchen w/c area
- Repainting the w/c
- Repairs to stonework and plaster around the south door
- Repairs to the crypt windows
- Repairs to the belfry floor
- Repairs to and repainting of the lantern and ironwork over the stepped entrance to the graveyard

And all the while, we await, somewhat nervously, the results of the roof condition investigation.

2025 Events

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

Saturday 18th October – The Hertfordshire Constabulary Choir Concert in All Saints' Church.

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

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

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**



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
Jackie, Mark, Frazer & All the Bowles	Bryan Bowles. In loving memory of your birthday "St Patricks Day" 17 th March. Happy Memories always stay. With fondest love Jackie, Mark, Frazer and all the Bowles family xxxxx	Sunday 16 March	Saturday 22 March
Gill, Val, Jean & Families	In remembrance of our mum, Muriel Edney, who left us on 25 th January 2025 and dad, Ted Edney, who died 12 th April 2012 and the 100 th anniversary of his birth on 20 th April 1925.	Sunday 13 th April	Saturday 20 th April
Robert Lumkin	To my darling, gorgeous Sandy, missing you immensely. All my love Rob xxx	Sunday 20 th April	Saturday 26 th April
Michelle Good	Penny Hornecker. Our mum Penny was a long-time resident in the village and sadly passed away in the middle of March.	Sunday 15 th June	Saturday 21 st June

RAMBLING ON with DEREK TURNER

 01462-712462

derek.turner@phonecoop.coop



The headline I saw online was stark. “Death of the work ethic” – the Daily Mail cites findings that one in four young people don’t want to work at all. On the face of it, it’s a perfectly reasonable point to raise but it’s also a classic headline from a tabloid that always wants to find examples of people who are supposedly getting away with something that its readers aren’t. Sadly, it attracts eyeballs and helps sell papers.

I wonder, though, if things have changed as much as the headline implies. When I was at school, there were always some of my colleagues who had a clear idea about what they wanted to do when they left and others who didn’t have a clue. Fortunately though, there were plenty of jobs available in those days as well as grants for further education which enabled us to delay making important decisions about our future until we were ready or we accidentally fell into a job we liked.

It’s all very well getting animated about the loss of the work ethic but the nature of work has changed and far too much of it is dull and boring with few redeeming features. Large numbers of jobs are unfulfilling and it’s unsurprising that most of those who take them do so out of necessity rather than through choice. Many employers have sliced away any benefits their employees once enjoyed as your pay stops the second your work does. Would you like to be rushing around in a huge windowless ‘fulfilment’ warehouse or on the phone all day at a call-centre, being constantly monitored to check your output and how long you spend in the toilet? There are some kids gaining work experience through unpaid internships which sounds like slavery to me. Even in the city of London where those with the right qualifications and contacts can make loads of money, many are only too keen to get out when they get the chance to pursue something else. Then there’s the threat from AI where the most creative have every chance of their painstaking work being ripped off without any compensation.



I also wonder how well schools are preparing youngsters for work these days. When I was young, the teachers were well paid and respected. They were really keen and spent a lot of time nurturing your interests. Many organised after-school activities and trips away. Now, they are overwhelmed with bureaucracy. The teacher’s role seems to be little more than stuffing their pupils to get the best grades in exams so that a banner outside the school can boast about its OFSTED rating. With every fact you need available online these days, it seems to be a terrible waste of time when pupils could be doing something far more creative, learning valuable life lessons and exploring how everything in the world is linked rather than packed into single subjects as the National Curriculum dictates. I’m not surprised to hear that the Steiner schools that put these ideas into practice are doing well these days.

Recently, a book has been published where the author has interviewed many workers about their jobs. *“Is this working? The jobs we do told by the people who do them”* by Charlie Colenutt shows a wide range of attitudes among workers and many hate their boring jobs. There are others who enjoy theirs though and say why they derive such satisfaction. Many have a lot of freedom about how they plan their working day or they have useful skills and experience that they are passing on to others. Some have something physical that they have created and can point to it at the end of the day and say, “I did that”. Others work in small groups where they mingle with like-minded colleagues and the distinction between their social life and work is blurred.

It reminds me of the Shillington residents who toiled in harvest fields in years gone by, but got through by having frequent short breaks and a bit of banter that broke up the long days.

There's something else we cannot ignore. It's five years since Covid struck and we were locked down. For months on end, at our Bury Road home, we heard no happy sounds of children coming from the school at playtime. Teachers did their best but their pupils' education was interrupted with online lessons and home schooling only a partial substitute for the real thing. The children suffered socially and mentally as they were isolated because it was thought, erroneously as it turned out, that they would spread the virus. It's no wonder that many have struggled since. In a fast changing world, the Mail has got it wrong. The kids need all the support they can get, not criticism.

Since then, the Mail has gone on to criticise Motability where people with certain medical conditions get a subsidised car to give them greater freedom, based on flimsy evidence that the scheme is being misused. Other sources of news are available.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DECISIONS FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL (CBC):

CB/24/03612/FULL – Former Pig Pen, Higham Road, Higham Gobion.
Demolition of existing building and erection of a dwellinghouse.

REFUSED

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.

APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

CB/24/03567/FULL – Land East of 55 Upton End Road
Erection of 2 residential 3 storey detached dwelling.

APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

CB/TCA/25/00026 – 74 High Road

Works to a tree in a Conservation Area: Tree is out the back of our fence, it's huge with branches hanging in the garden, a few have broken and fallen into the garden, also across the garage roof. Prune and trim back.

RAISE NO OBJECTIONS

APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED AT MARCH PC MEETING

CB/25/00308 - Land between 30 and 48 East of Hanscombe End Road

Retrospective planning permission for the use of the land and buildings as 15 dwellings with ancillary outbuilding amenity land and highway.

NO COMMENT

CB/25/00430 - 4 and 6 Marquis Hill

Installation of 2 below ground sewerage treatment tanks, 1 to each garden. Remove septic tank at 6 Marquis Hill.

SUPPORT

APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT APRIL PC MEETING

CB/25/00646/LB – 75 Church Street

Listed Building: Replacement of ground floor window, removal of later hearth and cupboard additions, construction of new internal partition wall and door and refurbishment of ground floor slab. Construction of new patio and erection of new fences and gate.

PLOUGHING ON.....A Farmer's Perspective !

by Whizz – T. C. Shaw & Sons

www.shawfarming.com

www.mrsmiddleton.co.uk



As I write this, I am still waiting for a response to a letter I wrote to the Government a couple of weeks ago. I thought it would be interesting to publish the letter here so that you can read it for yourselves; the farmland in question is local to you, so everything mentioned is relevant; cutting footpaths, the wildflower plots, farm walks and of course, food production. All these things are under threat and this will have a devastating impact on all of us.

Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer / Rt Hon Steve Reed / Mr. Daniel Zeichner MP / Rt Hon Rachel Reeves / Mr. Alistair Strathern MP / Mr. Blake Stephenson MP

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Dear Sirs and Madam,

I am writing to you all in response to Defra stopping any new submissions to the SFI scheme, which was announced late on Tuesday 11th March 2025.

We are a long-standing family farm in Bedfordshire, growing arable crops as well as having a well-established and award-winning environmental stewardship scheme. One of our schemes recently ended so we had created a new SFI application on a large area of the farm to help us continue our work. We aimed to keep the options that we already had in place and ensure that they remained funded as well as adding new features to increase the biodiversity on the farm and create new habitats. Sadly, due to a system error with the RPA I was unable to submit this a month ago when I wanted to, so it has been sitting as a draft ever since while I patiently wait for the RPA to get back to me despite being told that they “could not give a timescale” for a response.

Thanks to all this, these areas are now under threat. If we remove them there will be an immediate, detrimental effect on both the wildlife and arable crops as they have a successful symbiotic relationship with each other.

I am therefore inviting you to the farm to give you the opportunity to choose which wildlife plots and grass margins we rip up; which hedges we abandon and ditches we leave uncut; the birds we choose to stop feeding over winter and the soil we no longer bother to test; the educational guided walks we stop doing and the wonderfully rewarding children's farm visits that we cancel. During your visit I would also like you to help me explain to others why we are doing this and how you came to the decision that this was a good idea. The general public and farming community will be fascinated to hear, as will I.

Of course the irony is that we will not scrap all of our environmental work because as farmers we care too much and I believe that you know this and it will always work to your advantage. Farmers are relied on to do the work of local councils and police; cutting footpaths, trimming hedges, clearing up flytipping, chasing motorbikes, clearing snow, filling in potholes. We used to get paid to do some of these activities but now we get nothing and yet we still do them.

I had a look online and was delighted to see that The House of Commons “actively champions the producing, buying and eating of British food throughout its catering offer wherever possible”. Next time you are eating this wonderful British food I just wonder if you might stop to think about the countryside and all the farmers who are involved in growing and producing it for you. Somehow, though, I doubt you will.

PEGSDON VIEW



We've had a lovely few weeks here in Pegsdon since I last wrote, the highland cattle are back in the field, bulbs we planted last year have popped up and there's signs of spring all around.

One of the ornamental cherries we planted in the front garden last year is flowering, such a lovely deep pink, and our tulips are just starting to bud.

After having a speedwatch site approved, the volunteers have had a training session and will be joining a Shillington speedwatch session or two in April for a bit of practice. The training session was very interesting, even just standing by the side of the road in high viz had a noticeable effect on traffic, we popped up on Waze during the training session which we were quite pleased about. Big thanks to all involved, especially Richa, Kat, Juliet and Michelle for getting us approved, up and running, and organised. We did have another road traffic accident in the usual place in March sadly, we will keep plugging away to try to make the B655 safe for all.

Farewell to Charles and Tracey who have departed for their new home in Cambridgeshire. It's obviously not going to be as brilliant as living here, we wish them all the best anyway. Huge welcome to Louise, see you in the pub or round the village soon.

That's all for now, hope you are all safe and well and enjoying the beautiful spring weather.

Caroline



SOCIAL CLUB BAND NIGHT

Saturday, 12th April

**FREE STATE REVOLUTION
from 9pm**



THE FRIENDLY PLACE

Spring schedule

From March 17th 2025


Mondays
10.00 am to 12.00 noon

At the Congregational Church, Shillington
Join us for tea, coffee, cakes and friendly chat.
Bring your knitting, reading, games if you wish.
No charge but donations are welcome!

Hosted by Linda & Trish of All Saints' Church
& Angus & Nola of The Congregational Church, Shillington

For more information you can call:

Linda ☎ 01462-711761 or Trish ☎ 07754-760073





Led Greensand Ridge Walks

Join us for guided walks along
Bedfordshire's premier route



Greensand
Country
Festival
2025

The Greensand Ridge Walk
is the perfect way to
explore historic parklands,
ancient woodland, and the
heathlands of Greensand
Country.

Purchase your
tickets here:



Sunday 4th May: Gamlingay to Haynes
(parking and coach from Haynes). Approx.
13 miles

**Sunday 18th May: Haynes to
Ridgmont** (parking and coach from
Ridgmont). Approx. 14 miles

**Sunday 1st June: Ridgmont to Leighton
Buzzard** (parking and coach from
Leighton Buzzard). Approx. 13 miles

Get involved: www.greensandcountry.com



Greensand
Country



All Saints Church
Gravenhurst and Shillington



Strawberry Teas

Sunday 1 June 2025

3.00 pm - 5.00 pm

£8 Adults includes strawberries and cream, two cakes of your choice and tea/coffee

£4 Children under 12

To reserve a place, please call

Liz on 07963 199383 or

Denise 07414 513683

Pimms & Raffle!

All Saints Church, Church Lane, Shillington, SG5 3LH



2025 EXCURSIONS

4th THURSDAY OF MONTH!

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

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

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

PROGRAMME OF VISITS (prices correct at print time)		BUS FARE
24th APRIL	Anglesey Abbey, House & Gardens, Cambs. (National Trust) £18.00 – Free to NT Members	Bus Fare £12.00 Pickups 10.00/10.30 a.11.30 d.15.00
<i>A Jacobean-style house full of rich history, from a monastic priory to 20th-century home. Woodlands, Water Mill & gardens for every season including a winter garden, herbaceous border, rose garden, formal garden and dahlia garden. Redwoods restaurant and shop.</i>		
22nd MAY	Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes £17.50 (Free entry if you have 2024 ticket)	Bus Fare £10.00 Pickups 11.00/11.30 a.12.15 d.16.00
<i>Bletchley Park is an English county house and estate in Bletchley, Milton Keynes that became the principal centre of Allied code-breaking during the World War 2. Guided tour available foc.</i>		
26th JUNE	Boughton House & Gardens £19.00 (incl. Kings Tour) Northants.	Bus Fare £15.00 Pickups 10.00/10.30 a.12.00 d.15.30
<i>This remarkable house, the English home of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, is a blend of the intimate and grand, drawing its inspiration from the Palace of Versailles. Its village-like Tudor courtyards contrast with its palatial 18th century additions, earning it the title 'The English Versailles' which inspired filmmakers at Universal to use Boughton in the latest film adaptation of Les Misérables. Stables café/restaurant.</i>		
24th JULY	Old Warden - Shuttleworth and Swiss Gardens £16.00	Bus Fare £6.50 Pickups 10.15/10.30 a.11.15 d.16.00
<i>Explore the world's oldest flying aeroplane and other vintage aircraft, cars, buses and motorbikes at Shuttleworth. Walk through ornate ironwork gates into the Swiss Gardens, a delightful Regency and Victorian layered garden and discover a green and pleasant idyll.</i>		
28th AUG	Althorp House, Northants. £23.00 House & Gardens	Bus Fare £15.00 Pickups 10.00/10.15. a.11.15 d.15.30
<i>Althorp has been home to the Spencer family for more than 500 years, and contains a fascinating variety of pictures, furniture, ceramics and fine interiors. Located in beautiful surroundings, it houses an exhibition commemorating the Life of Diana, Princess of Wales.</i>		
25th SEPT	Whipsnade Zoo, Dunstable Concession £26.50.	Bus Fare £10.00 Pickups 09.45/10.15 a.11.00 d.16.30
<i>Explore the world of wildlife like never before at Whipsnade Zoo, the largest in the UK. Experience thousands of amazing animals and learn how, as a ZSL conservation zoo, we are protecting their future.</i>		
23rd OCT	Milton Keynes Museum. Entry £17.50	Bus Fare £10.00 Pickups 11.00/11.15 a.12.15 d.15.30
<i>The Museum is made up of a number of buildings and barns. Explore 'old' Milton Keynes with Victorian farmhouse, Street of Shops, Telephone Gallery, Hall of Transport, Print Room and a café! A surprising and highly interesting museum.</i>		
Nov	To be confirmed	

- ***Can YOU help us to maintain our Community Bus Services?***
- ***Do you have as little as 1 morning per month to spare?***
- ***Do you have time to spend for a really rewarding morning?***

Wanderbus, based out of Meppershall, is run entirely by volunteers. We operate two 16-seater buses on weekdays (mainly mornings) with fixed routes collecting passengers in the rural villages around Shefford & Stotfold and going to local & regional Shopping & Town centres. There we park up and wait for 2/2.5 hours before returning. This is of course your free time as well!

What Do You Need to Drive?

1. Group D1 on your Driving Licence - if 50 or older you will still have D1 on your licence - that allows you to drive a 16-seater bus – easier than driving a motorhome.
2. Aged 25 – 70 in good health. We can help you get D1 classification if you do not already have it.
3. A free weekday morning – bus departure times are around 08.45/09.00 and you will be back in Meppershall between 12.00 & 13.30 (latest). We can allocate routes to suit if you need the earlier return time.
4. A desire to help our local communities. Whilst we are a fixed route bus service open to all passengers the majority are elderly who rely on our services to get out and about and enjoy the social interaction of fellow regular passengers.

Full training will be given (classroom & practical) and you will be accompanied by one of our regular drivers until you are totally happy to 'go solo'. Don't worry about learning routes – the passengers will tell you where to go if you are unsure!!

If you want to spend a very rewarding morning PLEASE contact us for more info and an application form on 0300-123-3023 or e mail thewanderbus@gmail.com



LAWN GREEN BOWLS
A SPORT FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES
BARTON LE CLAY BOWLS CLUB
RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS
OPEN DAY 25th MAY 10AM – 3PM
AT OUR BOWLS GREEN
ADJACENT TO BARTON ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB
For further details Email: dimcdonald@btinternet.com



We have had such a busy start to 2025, starting with the Year 4 children going to the O2 to take part in the Young Voices concert. The children all had a wonderful night and looked great in their new Shillington Lower School beanie hats that the PTFA kindly purchased for them.

The Year 3 children had a great trip to Celtic Harmony in Hertford where they spent the day helping and living as Stone Age people, the children and adults thoroughly enjoyed this trip and the sun shone all day.

We have had lots of fundraising days, including Children in Need, Red Nose Day and Wear Bright Shine Bright, raising money for Chums, who work to support children's mental health. We also took part in World Book Day and the children all looked great in their costumes. A big thank you to all the parents and carers for their efforts, it was a great day.

We are taking lots of enquiries for the Pixie Pre-school from September 2025. We offer spaces to children from 2 years and 9 months up until 4, spaces are beginning to fill up quickly so if you are interested in a space please contact Mrs Lyttle in the school office to arrange a look around and complete the required forms. If you, or anyone you know, are looking for a Reception year place or are planning an in-year move please give us a ring to discuss our admissions process. At Shillington Lower we have our own Breakfast club and After school club. Breakfast club starts at 7.45am and runs until 8.45am (£5.50) until the start of school. Our After School Club runs from 3.30 – 5.30pm, with options to collect children at 4.30pm (£5.50), 5.00pm (£7.50) or 5.30pm (£10.00). By arrangement, when a pre-schooler is ready and when nearing Reception entry age, access to wraparound is an option.

The year 4 children have been working hard in their ukulele lessons this term and performed a fantastic concert to their parents this week. We are also looking forward to welcoming our Pixie and Hedgehog Mum's in next week for some Mothers' Day afternoon tea and arts and crafts.

Shillington Lower School is federated with Stondon Lower School and share a Head Teacher and a Governing Board. Currently we have vacancies on the Governing Board for co-opted Governors. If this role interests anybody then please contact Laura Forgham our Clerk to the Governors (lauraforgham@shillington.cbeds.co.uk) who can assist with enquiries.

Current vacancies at Shillington and Stondon Lower are:

- ❖ Kitchen Assistant (Shillington)
- ❖ Kitchen Assistant (Stondon)
- ❖ Teaching assistant (Shillington)

For more information please see our school website or call the school office for details.

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



School Governors needed at the Shillington and Stondon Federation



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

We are particularly looking for a person with financial skills and experience to enhance the skills already in place.

What is a School Governor?

Governors offer strategic guidance, rather than getting involved in the operational aspects of schools. The core functions include ensuring:

- that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the schools are clearly defined
- that the headteacher performs their responsibilities for the educational performance of the schools
- the sound, proper and effective use of the schools' financial resources

A Governor's relationship with the schools' leadership team involves challenging existing processes to drive school improvement. This voluntary position involves attending around four main meetings and three to five committee meetings per year, visiting the schools a few times a year with a pre-agreed focus to report on and undertaking training. Although becoming a Governor requires drive and commitment, you will enjoy many professional and personal rewards, including career development opportunities and the chance to support young people's futures.

Please contact me if you would like to have an informal chat with a current Governor about the role.

How do I apply?

To find out more about the role and request an application form, please contact the Clerk to the Governors for the Federation, Laura Forgham on either email address:

lauraforgham@shillington.cbeds.co.uk or forghaml@stondon.cbeds.co.uk



Easter Activities at Shefford Library

Find more than books at your local library this Easter.

Hop into **Shefford** Library for these great crafts.

All crafts are available from 10am while stocks last:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| ✖ Tuesday 8 April: | Spring into action for a Spring flower craft |
| ✖ Thursday 10 April: | Check in for a cheeky egg and chick craft |
| ✖ Saturday 12 April: | Fly by to make bird nests |
| ✖ Tuesday 15 April: | Join us to make some lovely Spring decorations |
| ✖ Thursday 17 April: | Drop into make an Easter basket |
| ✖ Saturday 19 April: | Have fun making an Easter wreath |



SHILLINGTON CHILDMINDERS

Childminders provide safe, friendly home environments for children to play and have fun whilst gently learning through their play. We take children on outings to farms, play centres, splash parks, museums and libraries, as well as teach them life skills such as helping to do shopping, gardening and cooking.

We are individually registered to Ofsted, have public liability insurance, follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, undertake regular training including Safeguarding and First Aid and receive regular newsletters and bulletins from professional organisations.

We provide the children with opportunities to learn social skills and experience different play resources at baby/toddler groups and other settings. We are able to cover holidays and other absences for each other where possible.

Some of us are able to provide up to 15 hours of free childcare a week for eligible 2 year olds, as soon as care starts, in the same way that nurseries and pre-schools can. We are also able to provide the free sessions for all 3 and 4 year olds; at least 15 hours per week or up to 30 hours per week (for 38 weeks of the year) depending on parental eligibility and the childminder's policy. The free sessions normally start the term after the child's 3rd birthday. There may be additional charges to cover e.g. food and outings.

We each have differing childcare availability such as before and after school care, daytime childcare, overnight childcare, ad-hoc care or flexible care e.g. for shift workers.

Please contact us as below if you have any childcare requirements for now or the future:

Katie Brettell 07974-676089 katiebrettell@icloud.com	Carli Mauger 07912-549931 carlimauger@gmail.com	Deb Pateman 07934-480446 debpateman@msn.com
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GARDEN FRIENDS

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



Spring has well and truly sprung! You can almost see things growing. The weather was so gorgeous today that I walked to one of my gardening jobs. As I walked along I was admiring people's gardens and all the fresh new growth. It is such an optimistic time of year with all the plants to look forward too and also a busy time of seed planting and weeding. The birds were singing and it got me thinking as to all the wildlife that are gardeners friends.

Of course old faithful is the Robin. Often waiting as you turn the soil to see what tasty morsel you dig up. Robins are beneficial as they eat many pests in the soil.

Worms are excellent for the garden because they improve soil health in several important ways. First, they aerate the soil as they burrow, allowing air, water, and nutrients to reach plant roots more effectively. Second, their digestive process helps break down organic matter, turning it into nutrient-rich casts, which act as a natural fertilizer, enriching the soil with essential nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Lastly, worms help improve soil structure, making it more crumbly and easier for plants to grow. All these benefits contribute to healthier plants and a more productive garden.

Bees are essential in a garden pollinating plants. Without them many plants wouldn't survive. So the more Bee friendly plants we grow the better. Studies have been carried out and just a metre of planting was shown to make a huge difference to encouraging and helping wildlife.

Butterflies are beneficial in the garden because they play an important role in pollination. As they feed on nectar from flowers, they transfer pollen between plants, helping them reproduce and produce fruits and seeds. This process contributes to the overall biodiversity of the garden and encourages the growth of a wide variety of plants. Additionally, butterflies are a sign of a healthy garden, as they thrive in environments with clean air, diverse plants, and minimal pesticide use. Their presence can also attract other beneficial insects and wildlife.

Ladybirds can eat hundreds of Aphids a day. Bats also will eat harmful pests and are also a great natural pest control.



Last month I gave a talk to Campton gardening group, Trugs and Trowels. It was great to meet so many people interested in gardening and a great opportunity to share my passion of Garden Design with them. I am very extremely lucky in my job as I have met lots of people through a shared love of gardening and have formed many lasting friendships along the way.

There really are so many great benefits of gardening for the mind, body and soul. Happy Gardening!

Donna x

JOBS IN THE GARDEN FOR APRIL

✂ <i>Keep weeding and tidying beds</i>	✂ <i>Keep an eye out for aphids and Lily beetle</i>
✂ <i>Sow annuals, wild flowers and veg seeds</i>	✂ <i>Last chance to prune Roses</i>
✂ <i>Sow lawns and bare patches</i>	✂ <i>Divide Perennials</i>
✂ <i>Trim Penstemons and Salvia</i>	✂ <i>Clean Greenhouse</i>
✂ <i>Take off faded Hydrangea heads</i>	✂ <i>Add supports for plants as they grow</i>

VILLAGE FACILITIES



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 ☺

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.*



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) General Enquiries (mobile)	0800 073 3000 0330 100 3000
ScottishPower	General Customer Service (landline) General Customer Service (mobile)	0800 027 0072 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	VACANCY	Joseph Olding via the Clerk	Mark Thyne 01462-712201	Derek Turner 01462-712462

STRESS AWARENESS MONTH – APRIL

THE IMPACT OF STRESS AND WAYS TO MANAGE IT

A UK-wide survey, carried out in 2018, found that almost three-quarters of adults (73%) had, at some point over the year before, felt so stressed that they were overwhelmed or unable to cope. The study was commissioned by the Mental Health Foundation and is believed to be the largest and most comprehensive stress survey ever carried out across the UK with 4,619 people taking part.

Sometimes stress can be a positive force, motivating you to perform well at a given time, on a critical work task, for example. But more often than not stress is a negative force. When we feel stressed adrenaline kicks in immediately to help prepare you for a physical response – your heart pumps faster, your breathing rate picks up and more blood flows to your muscles. You are primed for action. About ten minutes later cortisol is released. Cortisol helps to maintain those high energy levels by turning stored fat and carbohydrates into simple fats and sugars too use as fuel to deal with the ‘crisis’. It also sharpens our senses before assisting with the physiological ‘return to normal’ process. You are primed for action but then there is no action. If your stress response doesn’t stop firing, and these stress levels stay elevated for longer than is necessary for survival, it can take a toll on your health.

Chronic stress can cause a variety of symptoms and can affect your overall well-being. Symptoms of chronic stress include:

- ☹ *Irritability*
- ☹ *Anxiety*
- ☹ *Depression*
- ☹ *Headaches*
- ☹ *Insomnia*

Women who are stressed are more likely than men who are stressed to experience depression and anxiety.

What can we do to help ourselves?

We can try and take more control by understanding the impact our lifestyle is having on our health. The following wellness changes can help:

- 😊 *Deep breathing exercises*
- 😊 *Meditation or mindfulness*
- 😊 *Take time for yourself*
- 😊 *Get enough sleep*
- 😊 *Eat the right foods – eat foods with B vitamins such as bananas, fish, avocados, chicken and dark green leafy vegetables. Studies show that B vitamins can help relieve stress by regulating nerves and brain cells.*
- 😊 *Get moving, even just moving away from your desk and outside for a few minutes can help.*
- 😊 *Talk to friends or family.*
- 😊 *Get professional help.*

For more tips and advice go to www.womenshealthhub.co.uk



Are you a Woman who is Stressed or Overwhelmed?



I am a **health coach** specialising in stress management for women. I can help you to make manageable changes that will have an impact on how you feel.

This includes having more energy, sleeping better and feeling healthier and inspired.

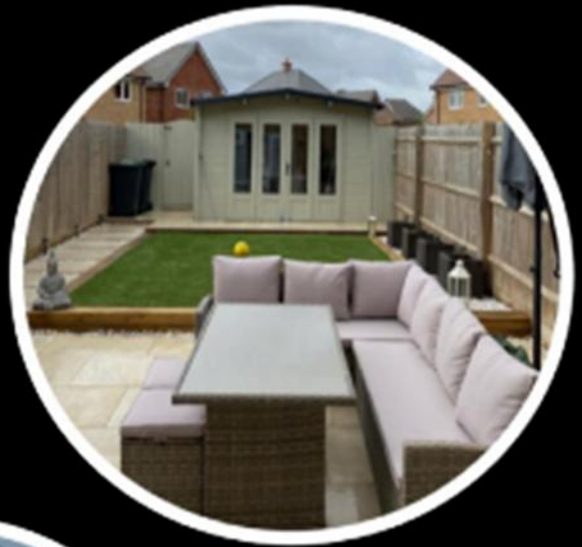
I am also a **reflexologist** specialising in stress, relaxation, fertility and pregnancy.

I am based in Shillington.

Call Helen on **07772547809**
info@womenshealthhub.co.uk
www.womenshealthhub.co.uk



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☎ 07739-586698



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VILLAGE CALENDAR

APRIL

- 6 All Saints' Church – Holy Communion – 9.30am/Evensong – 6pm
- 6 Congregational Church Service – Rev. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 7 Shillingfest25 meeting – Social Club – 8pm
- 8 Parish Council meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 9 Men's Club – evening meal @ The Greyhound, Haynes
- 11 Riding for Disabled – Coffee Morning fundraiser @ Congregational Church – 10am
- 13 All Saints' Church – Palm Sunday, Holy Communion – 9.30am
- 13 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 15 All Saints' Church – Sung Compline (evening prayer) – 7.30pm
- 16 Men's Club – visit to Bottisham Airfield Museum
- 16 Village Hall Management Committee Meeting – Jubilee Room – 7.30pm
- 18 Congregational Church Good Friday Café Style Service – Mrs. Hazel Beadle – 10.30am
- 18 All Saints' Church – Last hour of the Cross (Prayers & Reflections) – 2pm
- 20 All Saints' Church – Easter Dawn Service – 6.30am/Easter Holy Communion – 9.30am
- 20 Congregational Church Easter Celebration Service – Mrs. Hazel Beadle – 10.30am
- 24 Friends of All Saints – AGM @ All Saints – 7pm
- 27 All Saints' Church – Morning Worship – 9.30am
- 27 Congregational Church Service – Rev. Angus McCormick – 10.30am

MAY

- 1 Parish Council - AGM - Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 4 All Saints' Church – Holy Communion – 9.30am/Evensong – 6pm
- 4 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Hazel Beadle – 10.30am
- 4 Friends of All Saints – start of Sunday Teas to end of September
- 6 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 11 All Saints' Church – Holy Communion – 9.30am
- 11 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 13 Annual Meeting of Parish – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 14 Men's Club – evening meal @ The Motte & Bailey, Pirton
- 15 Congregational Church – Christian Aid Coffee Morning/Bring & Buy – 10am to 12 noon
- 18 All Saints' Church – Morning Praise – 9.30am
- 18 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Hazel Beadle – 10.30am
- 19 Playing Field Management Committee – AGM – 8pm
- 21 Men's Club – visit to Coventry Motor Museum
- 25 All Saints' Church – Holy Communion – 9.30am
- 25 Congregational Church Service – Rev. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 29 All Saints' Church – Ascension Day Holy Communion – 9.30am

JUNE

- 1 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Brenda Ballentine – 10.30am
- 3 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 28 Shillingfest25 – Memorial Playing Field from 1pm

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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