

PARISH NEWS

covering
SHILLINGTON, PEGSDON & HIGHAM GOBION

SHILLINGTON FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR!

SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2025

THE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS SHILLINGTON
5PM 'TIL MIDNIGHT

TICKET PRICE DEALS

BUY ONLINE

Adult: £7.00

Child (16yrs & under): £4.00

Family (2x Adults & 2x Children 16yrs & under): £17.00

BUY ON THE NIGHT

Adult: £10.00

Child (16yrs & under): £7.00

Family (2x Adults & 2x Children 16yrs & under): £25.00

ONLINE TICKETS WEBSITE: SHILLINGTONFIREWORKS.CO.UK

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



Issue 180 – OCTOBER 2025

Deadline for December edition – Friday, 21st November 2025

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council did not meet during August, but parish councillors remained alert for planning applications that had implications for parishioners and required submissions before the September meeting. Following the plan for 500 new homes in Barton mentioned in July's Parish News, an outline application for up to 400 dwellings on Mount Pleasant golf course in Lower Stondon was worrying as such a large development is bound to generate much extra traffic on local roads. The ability of Shillington's sewage treatment plant, which is operating at full capacity to cope with the extra volume of waste, and the loss of a popular sporting amenity were also questioned. Councillors voted to oppose the application.

On a smaller scale, the council received an application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of a former agricultural building to dwellings at New Farm in Upton End Road. Councillors were unconvinced that the open-fronted, concrete-framed, asbestos-clad building was suitable for conversion and had other concerns. They agreed to oppose it. In common with the Stondon application, the site is outside of the settlement envelope and is contrary to policy SP7 of the current local plan. Central Bedfordshire Council have subsequently approved this application. We shall carefully scrutinise more detailed plans for both these sites when they are published.

The council agreed to add its signature to our local MP, Blake Stephenson's, letter to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs about his decision to withdraw the funding for the expansion of the Chilterns National Landscape area. To enable Blake to attend parish council meetings in his role as Ward Councillor, we have agreed to move those in January, April, July and October to the first Thursdays of the month during 2026. Other meetings will continue to be on the first Tuesdays.

A wide range of topics were on the agenda at the September meeting. Councillors agreed to approach Central Bedfordshire Council about installing a new bollard to protect the Old Bells listed building following the unexpected removal of the previous one that a driver had damaged. Speedwatch sessions had continued during the summer with more volunteers coming forward to help. The police have given the go-ahead to use a new site in Bury Road at the junction with Woodmer Close.

Some of the village ash trees are showing signs of possible ash dieback (Chalara) including dying and dead branches. The next professional arboricultural report for the village green and playing field trees will be brought forward to ensure that any work required can be carried out promptly. At the war memorial, it was hoped that removal of the dead box hedging and replacement with yew would be completed before the remembrance day ceremony in November. Councillor Liam Keane had removed graffiti on the bottle bank containers that some might find offensive.

The council has allocated more Section 106 funding for Outdoor Sport for use in the village. Shillington Petanque is attracting many new members and will get £500 to improve floodlighting on their terrain at the Musgrave Arms. Nearly £250 will be used to replace the damaged toddlers' swing seats following a recent safety survey at the children's play area, which identified several other issues that will require attention. Many residents make use of the Whitbread Wanderbus and the Parish Council have contributed towards its running costs for many years. It was agreed to send them £300 towards the purchase of a new minibus next year. To support the sports teams using the playing fields, the council agreed to peg the rent for use of the lower field (Hornes Pasture) at £1,250 for another year.

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>

ANNOUNCEMENTS / ITEMS / NEWS IN BRIEF

BREAST CANCER NOW



A huge **THANK YOU** to EVERYONE who contributed in any way to make my Afternoon Tea event on 13th August a magnificent success!



Thanks to all my willing helpers, thanks to those who donated refreshments and items for the raffle and Bring & Buy and thanks to all who came along to support on the day or gave a donation following the event.

It was wonderful to have a garden full of people, a wonderful atmosphere and lots of chat!

Yes it was hot and hard work before, during and afterwards, but so worthwhile! The total amount raised being **£1,650.00** this included a few extra donations received.

Brilliant! Wow! What a lovely, caring Village and Community. All of the items remaining at the end of the Tea Event were donated to The Hospice Shop, raising even more money.



Thank you again, *Sandra Hare* 

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE & WREATH LAYING



SUNDAY, 9th NOVEMBER

Congregational Church & War Memorial

10:00 – Church Service at Congregational Church

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

Parish Council has requested official road closures during this period.

Management of pedestrians by our Streetwatch volunteers.

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

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

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**





Spartan's Feast
MOBILE FISH & CHIPS
@ SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

Every 2nd Wednesday (green bin day !!) from 4.30pm to 8pm

☎ 07707-787752



Wrest Park Volunteer Opportunity



*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?*

*We are looking for volunteers who would like to join a team of gardeners who
work in our beautiful gardens on either a Monday or a Tuesday.*

The hours are from 9-3pm.

If you are interested please contact: Susan.Cochrane@english-heritage.org.uk



IMPORTANT INFORMATION
APSLEY END ROAD CLOSURE
3rd November 2025 to 8th May 2026

Phase 3 (Apsley End Road) of pipeline improvements: initial access to residential and business properties will be via Pegsdon.

As works progress along Apsley End Road, some properties will become accessible from the Hanscombe End side. Resident letters will be sent out shortly to provide notification of Phase 3. There is a dated progression plan available (Sally Stapleton has a copy) for your reference. Please note that this may be subject to change depending on how the works develop.

The AW team will be completely off the road during the two-week Christmas period (19th December 2025 to 5th January 2026), leaving Apsley End Road open in both directions.

DON'T FORGET THE MUSGRAVE ARMS WILL STILL BE OPEN – SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PUBS AND RESTAURANTS....



W A N T E D

Tombola prizes for All Saints' Xmas Fayre on 6th December.
Please contact **Margaret Johnson (Mags)** ☎ **01462-711635** or
WhatsApp if you have any items for her.

THANK YOU 😊.



All Saints Church 
Gravenhurst and Shillington



www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk

Hello from All Saints Church!

Autumn has begun and the harvest has been gathered in. All around us we see the changes in nature in preparation for the coming winter season and we ready ourselves. Autumn is a time of giving thanks and remembering.

It is a time to give thanks for the abundance of nature, for food that comes from the earth and for the richness of our natural surroundings and all of creation. It is time to thank God for his provision. It is also a time for reflection and remembering. For remembering loved ones no longer with us and on Remembrance Sunday, those who have given themselves for our freedom and safety.

It is a season for thanking God for his love and also the love of those around us, who have shown us love in our lives. And in these moments of reflection, whether momentary or sustained, Christians believe that God is with us sharing in our experiences.

So, as you ready yourself for the coming winter time, in preparation and reflection, maybe take a moment to be thankful for all that is in your life, and the people that have loved and cared for you along the way.

All Saints' Church is open every day (you may have seen our new A board!) and everyone is welcome to come into the church to enjoy the space, a place of peace and prayer (hang a prayer on the prayer tree) or join in any of the services.

We look forward to welcoming you.

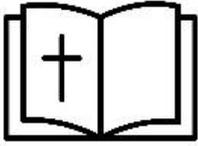
Every Blessing!

Revd Jenna Dearden

Email: revjennadearden@gmail.com

Mobile: 07708 666612





All are welcome to services at All Saints as we head into October and November.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN OCTOBER

5 October	9.30 am Holy Communion 5.00 pm Evensong (back to the earlier time)
12 October	9.30 am Harvest Thanksgiving and Harvest Lunch (12.30 pm)
19 October	9.30 am Morning Praise
26 October	9.30 am All Age Holy Communion for Bible Sunday <i>(A more informal service for children and families)</i>

SUNDAY SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

2 November	9.30 am Holy Communion 5.00 pm Evensong
9 November	10.00 Service for Remembrance Sunday at the Congregational Church followed by the Village Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial
16 November	9.30 am Morning Praise
23 November	9.30 am All Age Holy Communion for Christ the King <i>(A more informal service for children and families)</i>

SPECIAL SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Thursday 6 November at 7.30 pm – All Souls Memorial Service

A service remembering loved ones who have died, whether recently or long ago

Sunday 30 November at 5.00 pm – Advent Carol Service

A service for Advent Sunday marking the beginning of Advent and this special time of waiting and preparation.

LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS!

All Saints Christmas Fayre will be held at the Village Hall on Saturday 6 December 2025 from 12.00 noon to 3.30 pm

Village Carol Service – Tuesday 16 December at 7.30 pm

Midnight Mass – Wednesday 24 December at 11.30 pm

Christmas Day Holy Communion – Thursday 25 December at 9.30 am

Christingle – Sunday 4 January 2026 at 4.00 pm

MEET THE VICAR! Wednesday 15 October 2025 from 3.00 pm until 6.00 pm



Do you have a question or would you like to know more about All Saints church? Do you need information about baptisms, weddings, funerals, or the churchyard? Interested in bellringing or the choir? Or is there something about Shillington you think I or we need to know? Or maybe you just want to come for a cuppa and a chat!

Revd Jenna and a team from the church will be in the Jubilee Room at Shillington Village Hall on the afternoon of the 15th October. There will be tea and cake and an opportunity to meet and chat. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there!



AUTUMN FUNDRAISING EVENTS – DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

Harvest Lunch and Auction

Sunday 12 October 2025 at 12.30pm

Tickets - £10 per adult (£5 for children)

For tickets please contact **Liz 07963 199383** or **Denise 07414 513683**

Raising money for All Saints Church with all the proceeds of the Auction going to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal. Find out more at

<https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/parishsupport/growing-community/bishops-harvest-appeal/>

Please see the Friends page for their forthcoming events.



ALL SAINTS CHURCHYARD – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

During October there will be tree removal and works carried out to trees/self seeded shrubbery on the west side of the churchyard. Appropriate permissions for this work have been secured. If you have any questions about this, please get in touch.

Also, during November, as part of the maintenance of the churchyard we will be 'topple testing' memorials (headstones) to ensure their safety. This involves checking for the stability of the headstones and laying down any that are deemed to be unstable and/or at risk of falling. Where possible, we will seek to contact the family to inform them of any action taken. If you are visiting family graves, please do have a look at the stability of your memorial stone to ensure that it remains safe. If you have any questions about this or are aware of any unstable headstones please do get in touch.



BREAD

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

In my last parish I had a friend who was called Sydney. He was the maths teacher at the local grammar school which had an excellent reputation. Sydney loved doing all his own repairs and working on his small holding. He was, with his family, a diligent attender at worship. He used to cut the very long hedge at the front of our manse and I knew it would be so precisely level when it was cut.

One of the things I loved visiting Sydney for was his home baked bread. He baked different varieties of bread and the very smell was so enticing. How lovely those visits were. In church Sydney seemed to doze off or at least keep his eyes closed in deep meditation! No wonder with his very busy daily schedule. Very sadly some years later his lovely wife died and their young daughters soon learnt to house keep under Sydney's careful example.



Recently one of my lovely granddaughters on her visit to us decided to bake some bread. Well it was really tasty and I loved it. I asked her if she would like to try other types of bread. I had in mind soda bread and potato bread. After I explained what these types of bread were like and what they meant to me she decided she would look into this and give it a go. Needless to say I can hardly wait. I am ready for that real Ulster fry up! I think I can manage the fried egg and bacon and tomatoes myself.

So I was thinking that there are at least three senses of enjoyment I get out of remembering this bread thing; the smell of the baking; the taste of the eating; the memories invoked by the setting. There are of course other senses in which the mention of bread comes to mind. The Bible story of feeding lots of people with a little bread and some fish.



Jesus used the symbol of bread as his own body. Not everybody takes to this meaning or even understands it but for many it does have an important impact on their spiritual nourishment. It is really one of those religious things where the meaning is personal and based on belief. Recently someone told me they liked bread but not sandwiches. Well there are certainly great varieties of bread available and to bake.

I did really enjoy the regular weekly call of the bread vans when I was young especially since my comic came with the deliveries! Memories of running through the grain fields picking ears of corn and then there was barley of course and oats. Memories of seeing the flour mills and lorries covered in flour in Belfast so pure and white. Memories of Ormo bakery on the Ormeau Road in Belfast being the best. Memories of wondering would I ever see or taste a barn brack or wheaten bread again like I used to know it when I came to England. Then behold a discovery that there was some of this available in stores if you knew where to look. The danger or temptation was over enthusiasm on finding the bread that it would all be eaten in one day!

Well whatever your taste may be I hope you find it and I know there are so many allergies too. Revolutions have begun because there was no bread. Let's hope and pray we always have our bread. Treasure those moments of breaking bread.

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 most welcome. If you need to contact our Minister with any enquiries his number is 01462-712096.



FRIENDLY PLACE: The Friendly Place continues on a Monday - open from 10.00am to 12 midday in October. **Note:** change of time from November onwards 11.30am – 1.30pm providing soup and a roll. Everyone welcome to share company, chat and refreshments.

BEDFORD FOODBANK: Gifts from our Harvest Thanksgiving Service were delivered to the Bedford Foodbank and the following extract from the 'Thank-you' letter was received. "I am writing to thank you for your recent Harvest food donation which weighed 68.80kg, and would help provide 163 meals, plus the monetary gift of £100-00. All donations are always gratefully received. 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 around 20-22 tonnes. So far in 2025 over 108383.83Kg of food has been given out, 6672 vouchers have been redeemed, 13478 people have been fed, of which 4363 are children. During the month of August over 12 tonnes of food was given out feeding 1461 people, of which 435 were children. Thank you once again for your support".

Items currently in short supply:

Tinned Tuna Tinned Potatoes Tinned Rice Pudding Cooking Sauces Pot Noodles	Tinned Meat Jars of Coffee Long life Milk Long Life Fruit Juice Cup-A-Soup
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Shillington collections can be left at 1 Bells Close or at The Congregational Church when open.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL WEEKEND:

Friday 5 th December Open for viewing 2pm to 5pm	Saturday 6 th December Open for viewing 2pm to 5pm	Sunday, 7 th December 10.30am usual service - Mrs. Hazel Beadle Open for viewing - 2pm to 5pm 5pm – closing with Carol Service Rev. Angus McCormick
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Refreshments available during viewing.

Chosen Charity: BRAINKIND, STAGENHOE PARK, HERTFORDSHIRE

The team provides specialist care to people following an acquired brain injury and/or other neurological conditions.

See poster page 21.

CARETAKER/CLEANER REQUIRED:

We need someone to keep the Church premises clean on a weekly basis - no more than 2 hours per week. This will include the Church, kitchen, toilets and upstairs meeting room. For further details please contact, Mrs Janet Worley, Church Secretary, ☎ 01582 881824.



Summer has definitely disappeared and the dark evenings have arrived. Shillington WI is looking forward to a colourful, busy and entertaining Autumn.

“October, crisp, misty, golden October, when the light is sweet and heavy”
(Angela Carter 1940 - 1992).

On the 2nd October we are welcoming Cath Kelly to our meeting. She has been researching family history, including her own, for many years. She's going to talk about tracing your family history and she will have tips for those who may have hit a brick wall researching their own ancestry.



The Shillington Fireworks Spectacular will be held on the 1st November and we will be selling hot drinks and very tasty cakes and savoury bakes at this special event.



Lovely Jo from Disco-licious is the speaker at our November meeting (on the 6th). The years since Covid have been particularly amazing ones for her and her family. She will be telling us the Disco-licious Story: 'From Butcher to Greengrocer'.

At the beginning of December, Shillington WI will be decorating a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival. We are confident that you'll be impressed with our creation!

We will be welcoming back the brilliant musician Lisa Garrity at our meeting on the 11th December for an Evening of Festive Fun.

The Book Club meets every month and so does the Walking Group. The Supper and Lunch Clubs (in September ten members met for a delicious lunch at Disco-licious) have started up again after the Summer Break - getting together for a meal is always thoroughly enjoyed by all.

For further information please contact:

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

NO BUTS, WE NEED BUTTS !!

By **Annie Palmer** (*WI Ambassador for Climate Change*) Anniejpalmer74@gmail.com

When it comes to hot, dry summers, 1976 is my baseline. That year we didn't have a drop of rain from May to September and it was sweltering. This year the temperatures have reached record levels but at least we had a few days in June when it rained. You could almost feel the relief of my shrubs etc when the heavens opened.

Anglian Water said that East of England had seen its lowest spring and summer rainfall since 1976 making it the third driest season since 1899. The Environment Agency commented that "low rainfall and high temperatures are putting the environment under increasing stress".

Gardeners are now thinking of ways to ensure their gardens are more resilient to a changing climate. In my little plot, the plants that have coped well with the heat and drought are catmint, Mahonia, thyme, hollyhock, Berberis darwinii and the roses. I'll only be planting drought tolerant flowers such as Begonia semperflorens from now on.



We are going to have wetter winters followed by drier summers so the emphasis is on collecting as much winter rainfall as possible. If you've been thinking about having a water butt, or getting another one, now is the perfect time to do so. Instead of turning on the tap, we need to use rainwater harvested from roofs to water our gardens - "rains not mains".

At home in the 1950s and 60s, we had galvanised water tanks everywhere. There were four big ones collecting rainwater from off the roofs of the house and the little barn. Dad even put guttering on the greenhouse - the water was collected in a narrow, galvanised trough inside it. Mum had a wooden board that she'd put on this trough and use as a potting bench.

As a child I used to watch the mosquito larvae wriggle up and down in the water in the tanks. My gran would use this rainwater to wash her hair as she said it made it "nice and soft". I half expected to see larvae wriggling in her hair but never did.

Outside my grandparent's end of the house, there was the outdoor toilet. Inside there was a smooth wooden bench with two holes and underneath these were a couple of ash filled galvanised buckets. His and hers. On a rusty old 'S' hook that hung from a nail, there were squares of newspaper (the Daily Mail). Grandad used to dig a hole in the garden and pour the contents of the full buckets into it. He would then swill them out with water from the tanks and chuck the liquid across the bare rhubarb patch. Come May, the rhubarb was magnificent.



My parents were married in 1949. We didn't have running water in the house until 1954. It was a wonderful day for Mum when the indoor bathroom was finished. My grandparents, however, refused to have an indoor flushing toilet - they'd spent sixty years using ash buckets and weren't going to change now. Anyway, it was good for the garden ... especially the rhubarb.

The thought of not having a flushing loo gives me a nervous twitch. It doesn't help when I hear that there'll soon be no water coming out of our taps, or into our cisterns, because of a combination of drought and the building of a million houses in this region. Will we need our water butts to collect rain so that we can use the water to flush our loos? As Mum would've said: "Perish the thought!"

Annie x



In loving memory of **JOHN WEEDON** 16th November 1933 - 7th August 2025

John Weedon, known to so many people as 'Uncle' was born in Shillington on 16th November 1933. He was the only son of Rose & Fred. He was a big baby and Rose & Fred ensured that he developed into a strapping lad by feeding him healthy quantities of good home cooked food. I can vouch for that as, when my dad, died Rose & Fred fed and watered me along with John. This allowed my mother to do some field work to support us. Because of this John and I became like the brothers that we both never had. I didn't grow like John. He was older than me and his hand-me-down clothing was never of any use to me. I remember his short trousers came down to my ankles and the crotch around my knees.

John was a Shillington boy and remained so, loving the village all his life. He went to primary school at the top of the hill and attended the Congregational Church Sunday School. In 1948 the church organised a fund raising project to collect old halfpennies with the Golden Hind ship on the reverse of the coin. The purpose was to raise funds for the new John Williams V1 missionary ship being built for the London Missionary Society. John was chosen to present a token bag of money to Princess Margaret at the re-christening of the ship at Tower Bridge, London. To this day a plaque hangs in the Congregational Church Schoolroom to commemorate this event. So he was famous at a very early age.

At the age of 11 he moved to Shefford Comprehensive School (now known as Robert Bloomfield Academy). He developed a love of football whilst there and represented the school as its first goalkeeper. A love of the game remained with him for the rest of his life. Whilst still at school, and in his spare time and during school holidays, he worked on the farm for Tom Jepps at the bottom of Meppershall Hill. This experience so inspired him that on leaving school at 15, he went to work on the farm full time.

During his teenage years John would visit the local village youth clubs. It was during his time at Barton Youth Club that he met his beloved Denise, who had cycled there all the way from her home in Legrave. Their friendship and love blossomed and they soon realized they would be together for life. Their courtship was interrupted whilst John served his two year National Service. Denise remained totally loyal to John during those 2 years and regularly visited Rose & Fred whilst John was away.

Being a strong, upright youth John elected to join the Coldstream Guards for his National Service. From what he told us it was pretty gruelling training, which culminated in him standing guard at both Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. Towards the end of his time as a Guardsman his unit was posted to Egypt. John was extremely good at spit and polish cleaning his boots and also preparing his uniform and kit for parade. This didn't go unnoticed by his officers, so when he was in Egypt he was made an officer's batman. From letters home this gave him a number of perks, in particular in the officers' mess. As you can imagine he took full advantage of the good food on offer.



After John was demobbed he decided that farm work was not going to be his occupation. He applied to Vauxhall Motors in Luton and was employed as press operator in the Body Press Shop. He worked alternate day and night shifts every 4 weeks. It was gruelling and extremely noisy work and probably the cause of his extreme deafness. He spent all his Vauxhall career in the press shop and developed a very skilled eye and feel for quality pressings, which culminated in him being appointed General Foreman of the press shop.



John married his beloved Denise on 16th July 1955. They were married at the Congregational Church. It was quite a big wedding with 5 bridesmaids and I was privileged to be best man. The reception was held in the Village Hall. The first home they set up together was in the row of cottages opposite the 5 Bells pub at number 33. Pat & I lived at number 41 so we were neighbours. John and I decided it would be a great idea to set up a part time business keeping chickens for eggs. John would take eggs to Vauxhall and sell them on the shopfloor and Pat and I would look after the chickens. Business was going well until fowl pest struck the village and we weren't registered to keep that many chickens, so panic set in. What were we going to do? I tell this story because during John's final days he raised this problem in his delirium with daughter Jill and grandson James. Typically James had the answer – "don't worry grandad – I'll take the chickens". John was then at peace.

In 1959 John's only daughter Jillian arrived. The joy of their life. Little did John know what an inspirational daughter she would be and just how dependant he would be on her. The devotion, love and care she gave unselfishly during his final years was second to none. As a family we will always be so grateful and proud of her.

In 1966 John's father Fred died, so they moved as a family back to the family home in High Road to look loyally after Rose until her death.

A couple of other talents worth mentioning – probably not many of you are aware that John was a very talented Harmonica player. He couldn't read music, but he could play by ear and often improvise to his liking. Then of course he was famous for his home-made beer. There are probably many here who can testify to that. He didn't believe in producing beer from tin or packet, for him it was always natural ingredients. Many a person has woken next morning with a sore head after having 'a tiny drink' as he would say.

John was so thrilled and proud when his two grandsons arrived – Antony then James. In his way he taught them things he learned in life. Antony became a commander in the fire service and I remember John teaching him how to spit and polish his boots to perfection for parade. Then of course James, who he taught to shoot, skin a rabbit and do country things. I am sure this led to James becoming a partner in a gardening business. His family was finally complete with the arrival of his great grandchildren – Henry, Reggie, Adam and finally a girl – Evelyn named after Denise.

On his 55th birthday John was able to take early retirement and fulfil his dream of living on the land supplemented by a few odd jobs and very successful he was. He lovingly tended the war memorial gardens in High Road for many years and his famous hanging baskets adorned the doctor's surgery grounds. He had his gun and managed to grow most of his own vegetables. Unfortunately he couldn't produce his own beef which he so much adored. It would take too long to count how many beef steaks he devoured. He so loved growing and eating his own food.



John would often say to me how much he enjoyed the simple things in life. He didn't crave exotic holidays. His family, allotment and daily pint at the Musgrave were all he desired and let's not forget the church bells which he rang and nurtured for many years. After his beloved Denise died in 2010, John lived alone at High Road, cooking, cleaning and generally looking after himself very successfully, always with Jill in the background. The help and support from Antony and particularly James who, living in the village, has borne the brunt of grandad's care to enable him to continue to remain in his own home as was his wish.

John – husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, cousin – Rest In Peace.

Peter Stapleton (learned cousin and writer of this eulogy)

SHILLINGTON MEN'S CLUB

(Now in its 19th year)

<https://Shillingtonmensclub.co.uk>

On the evening of the 13th August 24 members attended a barbeque at The Greyhound in Haynes, here members enjoyed Hamburger, Sausage and Chicken with Chips and Side Salad, followed by Apple Crumble, Cheesecake or Fruit Salad. It was a very pleasant evening out in the garden area in the sunshine, eating and catching up with each other. Dick Brewer won the raffle.



On the 20th August 10 members visited the Marshall Amplification Factory in Bletchley. This is one of the coolest British Companies out there "keeping it loud" since the 1960s. They have lots of history supplying amplifiers to all the great Rock Bands. Some of the people there had been working there for over thirty years and on the tour of the factory they gave us an insight into how things had changed over the years and they gave the feeling that the workforce was one big family and we were part of that, if only for an hour or two. A big thank you to Alan Little for organising this splendid tour.

Our next lunchtime social took us to The View at Pegsdon on the 27th August. Here 18 members enjoyed a 2 course lunch of Chicken Supreme with Mash and Veg or Scampi, Chips and Peas followed by Chocolate Fudge Cake or Toffee Waffle. A great time was had by all.

On the 3rd September 12 members attended a whisky tasting evening at the home of Andrew Elliman by kind invitation. Members sampled about a dozen or so from Andrew's collection, our favourite being a fifteen year old Glenfiddich which was duly finished!! During the tasting Andrew's wife Jeanette served us all Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and Chicken from the barbecue. A huge thank you to Andrew and Jeanette for being the perfect hosts.

Our next evening meal took us to The Crown at Henlow on the 10th September, here 21 members enjoyed a two course meal of Chicken Kiev or Lamb Ragu and Pasta followed by a sweet. Another very enjoyable evening was spent at one of our favourite venues. Michael Bradley won the Raffle.

On the 13th September 8 members attended the Dunton Community Garden's 25th Birthday Party. Here we had tea and cakes while being entertained by a Bee Talk by Tim Walton, the De Capo Brass Quartet and the Letchworth Morris Dancers, a wonderful afternoon was had by all. Thank you to Stewart Rataj for organising this event.

On the 19th September 10 members went on our cultural outing to Cambridge. In the morning they visited the Museum of Technology which is housed in an old sewage pumping station by the River Cam. The chief exhibits were two magnificent 1904 Hathorn Davey engines in the Steam Engine Room, maintained in full working order which were used to pump drainage up 40ft to the Milton Sewage Works. This was followed by lunch at the local Wetherspoons before visiting The Scott Polar Museum in the afternoon, where we learned about the people and vessels involved in first exploring the Arctic and Antarctic Ice Caps. Thank you to Michael Bradley for organising this educational visit.



To cap the month off 17 members attended a lunchtime Social at our very own Musgrave Arms on the 24th September. We all enjoyed our choices from the extensive Italian Menu washed down by one or two glasses of red wine and real ale! John Bennett won the charity raffle.

Future events:

- ☺ 8th October- Evening Meal - The Three Horseshoes, Norton.
- ☺ 15th October- Triumph Factory Tour Hinkley.
- ☺ 22nd October- Lunchtime Social - The View
- ☺ 12th November- Evening Meal t.b.a.
- ☺ 21st November- British Schools Museum, Hitchin.
- ☺ 26th November – Lunchtime Social - The View.
- ☺ 10th December- Xmas Dinner - The View.

Membership:

Current membership is 53 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
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SHILLINGTON SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

MEET AT

SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

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



We are now back from our summer break and looking forward to returning back to the short mat. The in-house triples league will start in the coming weeks and many of the club members will be trying their luck at national qualifying competitions.

Short Mat Bowls is a fun game, as well as a competitive sport, plus you can meet and make some good friends in the process. Club members also have the opportunity to play at Hertfordshire county or National level.

Anyone interested in joining the club is welcome to come and have a try (for free) to see if they like it. We have spare sets of bowls available and you only need to have a flat pair of shoes with you to enable you to play. You can either turn up to the village hall on a Monday afternoon or a Friday evening, or if you prefer call or message Michelle (contact details below) in advance.

Experienced members provide support and guidance for new and developing players and members can join in with regular county playing and learning activities at the County venues in Hatfield and Stevenage.

For further information please contact:

Michelle Conlon (☎ 07974-772702) conlonmichelle@sky.com

Or **Derek Lewison** (☎ 01462 711504)



UPDATE FROM OUR MID BEDFORDSHIRE MP BLAKE STEPHENSON

A beautiful British summer may have ended, but it was fantastic to spend so much time out and about in the constituency meeting so many of you over the summer months.

Since I last wrote, we have enjoyed the annual Shillingfest which I was delighted to be able to open and then catch-up with so many wonderful local groups at the event. I even tried my hand at archery and mini-short mat bowls – but it turns out I was pretty rubbish at both! Well done to everybody involved in this year’s event, it was a brilliant local community event as always.

And you should have all now received a copy of my annual report giving you a quick update of just some of the work that’s been going on to make Shillington and Mid Bedfordshire a better place to live. Thank you to everybody who stopped for a chat while we were out delivering the reports in Shillington!

In my last column I highlighted the work I have been doing in Parliament to help tackle flooding after the awful damage that flooding brought to our community last September. I have now introduced a Bill in the House of Commons to try and move things forward. The Bill, if passed, will give councils powers to reject future planning applications from developers if they have previously failed to deliver or maintain sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), and require the Secretary of State to publish statutory guidance on the minimum expected standards for SuDS.

It would also ensure a presumption against development where one of the lead local flood authority, Environment Agency (EA), or the IDB consider that development would increase flood risk for existing properties.

It is a commonsense Bill, and although it passed its First Reading, the Government objected to it at its Second Reading. Thankfully we do have a chance to bring it back in the autumn, so I will keep fighting.

As always, if you need support from your local MP please contact blake.stephenson.mp@parliament.uk, or keep an eye out on my social media and website (blakestephenson.uk) for details of future public events.

I hope to see you out and about in the village soon!



SHILLINGTON SPITFIRES CRICKET CLUB

MOST SUCCESSFUL SEASON SO FAR

At the time of going to press the Shillington Spitfires Cricket Club has one game remaining and it's potentially the biggest one of the season as it's for Border Cup.

The Border Cup is a three-match series between the Spitfires and Pirton Cricket Club. At this moment in time the series is poised at one win a piece, so the final game is to take place after the Parish Newsletter has gone to print, but rest assured the players and supporters will have given it their all to bring the border Cup home.

The first game of the Border Cup saw the Spitfires win by 155 runs, the biggest win for the club since cricket returned to Shillington. And the second game was close with Pirton winning by four wickets, so it'll all come down to the decider.

2025 was the third season for the Spitfires and it has been the most successful for the club. There was an influx of new players at the start of the season and with the bolstered squad it paid dividends. Out of the 21 games played across Herts and Beds the club has won eight, with some fantastic performances for all involved.

Now that the season has come to an end, it's time to work on the cricket square to start preparations for next season, whilst also trying to raise funds. The club needs sponsorship and community grants to take the club to the next level. The club is focusing on two needs, an all-weather wicket and a heavy roller.

As they say, it takes a village, and that includes the Spitfires. We couldn't have had such a great year without the help of Ethical Wealth Project, FPM Facility Services, and AW Construction who have all sponsored us this season. Thanks to those at the social club and at the Playing Fields Committee who ensure we have a place to play and relax. And we mustn't forget Abbie Jones the amazing tea lady, who's homemade scotch eggs were out of this world and to Tina Crow, the kit lady who ensures we always smell as good as we look. We must also thank Jason Keen who has taken some fantastic pictures of us all this year.

And finally thank you to all of you who have come up and supported us throughout the year.

If you're interested in playing or assisting, email us (shillington.spitfirescc@gmail.com) or connect via Facebook or Instagram. Winter nets will be starting soon, and you'll be more than welcome.





All Saints Church 
Gravenhurst and Shillington

Harvest Lunch

and Auction

Sunday 12 October 2025

12.30 pm

Tickets £10

(£5 for children)

For tickets please contact

Liz 07963 199383

Denise 07414 513683

All Welcome!

All Saints Church, Church Street,
Shillington, SG5 3LJ

CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN CRAFTING EVENT

*Little witches, wizards and ghosties
welcome..*

Sunday, 26th October 2025

Shillington Village Hall



from 2pm to 4pm



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

Tickets available from:

Denise ☎ 07414-513683 / Katie ☎ 07974-676089

Pumpkin Carving, Crafting,
Games, Raffle, Refreshments



Santa leads the
countdown at 6pm

Singing around the tree
mince pies/sausage rolls

Mulled Wine
Tea/Coffee

Photos with Santa

Ugliest Christmas Jumper

Prize for winner!

Pin the nose on Rudolph

**VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE
LIGHTING**

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

5:30-8pm MEMORIAL GARDEN &
VILLAGE HALL, SHILLINGTON

This year's tree generously sponsored by
THE CROWN & SALLY FOSSEY



SHILLINGTON
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2025



This year the charity we are supporting is



STAGENHOE PARK, HERTFORDSHIRE

Stagenhoe Park is a neurological centre located in Hertfordshire. The team provides specialist neurological rehabilitation, care and support to people after an acquired brain injury and/or a range of other neurological conditions such as Huntington's disease, Parkinson's, and multiple sclerosis. It actively promotes the involvement of families and seeks to involve the people it supports in every decision that affects their lives.

The festival will take place from
Friday 5th to Sunday 7th December.

If you would like to enter a tree or display at the festival, you can choose any theme you wish. It could be an opportunity to advertise your own group or small business. There is no charge to participate and you would be helping to support this vital charity.

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

All Saints Church
Gravenhurst and Shillington



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 2025

SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

12.00 noon – 3.30 pm

Games Raffle Food Stalls

FREE ADMISSION

ALL WELCOME!



SUPPORTING ALL SAINTS CHURCH

All Saints' Church is entirely self-supporting, and we rely on the generosity of our visitors and friends to resource the life and work of this church.

Thank you for all your support which is given in so many ways!
We want to let you know where your donations go.

The ***Parish Share*** is an annual financial contribution made to St Albans Diocese by every Parish church. This pays for clergy to minister in the parish, funds Diocesan support services, supports parishes that are in hardship and contributes to the National Church. For the year 2025, the Parish Share for All Saints is **£28,651**.

Day to day running costs include insurance, water charges, heating and lighting, plumbing, drainage, ground work and churchyard costs. Ongoing maintenance to the bells, clock and organ, fire extinguishers, roof alarm and periodic services and surveys (architect, tree surgeon, electrical testing) are all additional costs. Last year it cost **£1426 per month or £330 per day** to keep the church open.

These financial obligations are separate to the generous and hard work of Shillington Friends whose fundraising is solely used for the upkeep of the fabric of the church building and its restoration.



Meeting the church costs as described, ensures that All Saints will continue to be a place of worship, prayer, and ministry, in and for the community for years to come. If you'd like to give to All Saints Church, you can scan the QR code, use the contactless machine in church or give directly to 'Shillington All Saints Parochial Church Council'- Ac. 50814113 and s/c 20- 41- 12

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING GENEROSITY

RAMBLING ON with DEREK TURNER

☎ 01462-712462

derek.turner@phonecoop.coop

We lost one of the great village gentlemen recently when John Weedon died. It was an honour to be among the hundred plus people who packed the church for his funeral in September. He was always a pleasure to meet and for someone like me interested in what Shillington was like in the past, John - who had lived here all his life - was a rich source of information. He was featured in 'We used to leave our doors open', the last volume of the trilogy of Women Institute booklets of interviews with long-term village inhabitants carried out in the mid 1990s. In fact, it was John who provided the title when he declared "There were four bakehouses in the village.... We used to leave our doors open and the baker would leave the bread on the table and take the money, but obviously, you couldn't do that now. That has changed."

The six years of the second world war had been tough for everyone with lives disrupted, rationing of food and far too frequent news that loved ones had been injured or lost their lives. It is difficult for those of us living today to visualise the relief that must have been felt when peace was announced in 1945. The WI booklet spanned the post-war period and John, who would have been 12 in 1945, was there to witness it. He began by recalling the celebrations when the war ended. "The piano was wheeled out of the Five Bells onto the corner (of Church St and Hillfoot Rd) and Joby (Jenkins - a well-known village character) gave a song on top of the piano and Mrs Curry played it."



Country people had probably eaten better than their urban counterparts at that time. Everyone grew vegetables, many kept hens and some shared a pig. John remembered his father's large earthenware pots where pickled eggs and salted pork were stored for the winter and the hungry gap in the spring before new crops were ready. Runner beans were also salted but John was not at all impressed with them. "They were the most awful things I ever ate in my life. Dreadful."



He recalled the days when most farms still relied on horses as well as on casual labour - mainly village women - to harvest peas or potatoes. Winters were usually much colder during the earlier part of his life than they are today. A lot of the farms also grew Brussels sprouts and picking them in the depths of winter was a desperately bone-chilling experience and like the other jobs meant lots of bending down. However, if you were working within a good team, stories and gossip flowed back and forth and helped to shorten the lengthy days. Some of us were privileged to hear John relate an experience he had using an outdoor toilet during a particularly cold spell that was both amusing and alarming but which I can't possibly repeat here.

Although I was born almost a generation after John, 17 years later in fact, we had several things in common. We both grew up helping our fathers grow vegetables and entered farm work while still at school. He had worked for Tom and George Jepps at Upton End Farm but when he left school, he soon realised that he could earn far more elsewhere. Like many from Shillington, he got a job at Vauxhall where he became foreman in the cacophonous din of the body shop and stayed for 34 years. It is sad that 120 years of Vauxhall manufacturing vehicles in Luton has ended in the same year as John's life.



Some people of John's age rued the changes that have occurred locally during their lifetime but John was always more open-minded and welcomed newcomers and what they did for Shillington.

“(During) the late sixties/early seventies, a lot of the older.... cottages and thatched places were partly or almost in a state of dilapidation. But it is all credit to the people who have come in and..... done up their properties and I think our village looks lovely now with (those) that have been renovated”. John also did plenty to make the village a better place himself. At the Old Vicarage, he helped the Martells transform the muddy pig meadow at the front into a spacious and attractive lawn that has been used for village events. He tended his tidy and productive allotment near the church for six decades and encouraged and supported others who wished to grow their own.

John was careful not to offend anyone. I remember a vigorous debate in 2016 in the run-up to the Brexit referendum among regulars at the Musgrave Arms late one lunchtime. He kept quiet, so I asked John if he thought we should leave or remain. He declared that he never discussed politics with anyone. However, he was always willing to stop for a cheerful chat with those he met as he walked around Shillington and that is worth a lot. He brightened up your day. He was a real credit to the village. At a time when the news is dominated by nasty bullies who stir up hatred against others unable to defend themselves, it’s reassuring that people like John remind us of the better side of human nature.

**Pirton Bury History Talk - Tuesday 11 November - 7.30pm
Pirton Methodist Chapel, High Street**

Pirton has about the same population as Shillington but is a more compact village. Sandwiched among more recent buildings is the medieval motte and bailey castle and associated shrunken village earthworks in the pasture at Great Bury.

For the last three years, Dr Kris Lockyear of University College London, his colleagues and undergraduates have been carrying out research including topographical, geophysical and drone surveys and he can now reveal what they have discovered.

*His talk will be hosted by **Pirton Bury Trust** and there will be a small charge (maybe £5 per person) to cover costs.*

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DECISIONS FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

CB/25/01496/LB – 5 Hanscombe End Road, SG5 3LZ

Listed Building: Remove decayed oak outer face plate to sole plate on west end gable wall and replace with new oak outer face plate. **GRANTED**

CB/25/02111/PAAD- New Farm, Upton End Rd, SG5 3PG

Prior approval for change of use of existing agricultural building to form three dwellings.

GRANTED (subject to 11 conditions)

CB/25/00997- Land East of 55, Upton End Road, SG5 3PG

Erection of two detached dwellings, associated landscaping and new access proposal

GRANTED (subject to 19 conditions)

DISCUSSED BY PARISH COUNCIL BUT AWAITING A CBC DECISION

CB/24/01379 - Land adjacent to F C Dawes and Son Ltd, High Road, SG5 3LL

Erection of 9 dwellings.

Do not support

CB/25/02167/LB - 5 Hanscombe End Road, SG5 3LZ

Listed building: Remove existing timber splice repair to base of south side corner post of west end gable wall and replace with new oak splice. **Support**

NEW APPLICATIONS

CB/25/02749/PAEC- Higham Manor (formerly Wheat Close), Manor Farm Business Park, Higham Gobion, SG5 3HR

Prior Approval: Change of use from commercial/business/service (Class E) to dwellinghouses (Class C3). (Ground floor is currently office & conference facility.)

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

by **Whizz – T. C. Shaw & Sons**

www.shawfarming.com

www.mrsmiddleton.co.uk

I thought I would have a look back at some of my old Ploughing On articles, to see what I was writing about at this time of year a few years ago. Funnily enough not much has changed! I was mainly complaining about the weather, albeit for very different reasons. Back in 2010 and 2015 I wrote about the incredibly wet harvests, which could not be more different from this year. Although this harvest was relatively simple (the dry weather did have some benefits!), the yields were distinctly average and the ground was then very hard when we wanted to start the cultivations for the coming season.



Thanks to the sunshine, though, the milling wheat is of good enough quality to be sold and used for bread making. Those of you who go to Stotfold Watermill will be able to sample it directly as we supply them with their wheat! It is, however, proving hard to sell and move off-farm as we are importing grain from other countries and demand is therefore not as high. Not only is this frustrating from a logistics and cash flow point of view, but the grain coming into this country does not have to conform to such rigorous regulations as British grown crops, so pesticides that are banned here are widely used abroad. With my Red Tractor audit imminent and after having a spat with Ocado for labelling non-British food as British, this is particularly infuriating.

Now that it has rained a few times over the past few weeks the soil is in much better condition and we have managed to get cracking with creating seedbeds ready for starting to sow some barley at the end of September. The oilseed rape, planted at the beginning of August, is finally growing well and looks lush and green. Luckily one block is almost literally right on our doorstep which means my morning dog walks will soon be spent checking for slug damage and yelling at pigeons!

Elsewhere we have done some ploughing down at Pirton, preparing the ground for a crop of wheat and the hedge-trimmer is on the go, cutting some of the hedges and tidying up field boundaries. We only cut a proportion of the hedgerows on the farm each year, in rotation, to allow some to grow up a little more and of course to keep the birds happy with a food source throughout the Winter months. This goes hand in hand with the conservation areas on the farm, which are sown with different species of small seed-bearing plants. Farmland birds eat the seeds from October and beneficial insects including bees and butterflies use the flowers during the Summer. These plots can include mustard, linseed & fodder radish as well as the colourful phacelia and of course bright and stunning sunflowers.



You may recall that in March I sent a letter to various members of the Government regarding the slashing of environmental schemes and the huge impact this would have on our farm. Disappointingly I did not get a reply from those responsible, which is a great shame but not surprising. We were offered a rather pathetic alternative, which although incredibly frustrating, we have decided to accept. We can now continue to provide the bird cover mentioned above as well as a couple of other areas of grassland, but it also means that we have had to rip up quite a few grass margins and reduce the area overall dedicated to environmental work. This will have a detrimental effect on both the wildlife and arable crops as they have a successful symbiotic relationship with each other.

Another benefit of not cutting all the hedges yet is that there is plenty of fruit around. Only this morning I spotted a great crop of sloes on one of the hedgerows and have made a mental note to go back with a container once we have had a frost.

The sloe gin stocks are dangerously low and need refuelling! Reading back, apparently I was doing exactly the same thing in 2010, raiding the Blackthorn bushes on the Pegsdon Hills. I also wrote about the food-stealing skills of our black labrador and funnily enough, this is still an issue in our garden! Noodle is an expert at stealthily picking and eating climbing beans, clearing the decks up to her snout height; Wagyu, on the other hand, is less about stealth and more about speed. Before you can even think about stopping her, she has bounded into the veg patch, dug herself a potato and run at full pelt around and around the garden, having the time of her life!



MEMORIAL GARDEN/VILLAGE HALL
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATIONS
29th November from 5.30pm

A huge **THANK YOU** to Sally Fossey & Paul @ The Crown for sponsoring this year's tree, as well as smaller donations received at Shillingfest.

As part of the evening's celebrations on 29th November (see poster on page 20), there will be a stall selling small wooden trees on which you can have a photo of your loved one displayed to hang on the big tree in the Memorial Garden. These little trees can also be purchased for decoration by smaller members of the household.

Our lovely MP Blake will be switching the lights on and there's a chance to meet Shillington's own Santa, have a photo with him and write to tell him how nice or naughty you've been during the year... Come along and join in the festivities with choir and community singing, snacks and fun.



Committee members:

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



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
David & Fiona Howarth	Donald MacKinnon Remembering your birthday on 31 st October	Sunday 26 th October	Saturday 1 st November

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

As you read this, our summer of **Sunday Teas** will have just ended and what a huge success it was. The final total raised from these social Sunday afternoons is likely to be close to £5,000, even better than last year, which was itself a record. Huge thanks go to all of our bakers and servers and the musical acts who have enhanced several of the afternoons. We'll be back in May 2026 with even more cakes and entertainment.

Upcoming Projects: -

We hope to start work on the Bellringers' window soon and then there will be the plasterwork on the north and south aisles, a refurb for the toilet and a facelift to the step entrance lantern. All of which will be possible if we have a successful programme of events

2026 Events: -

Here is advance notice of our events planned for next year: -

- **7th March** - The return of the ever-popular **Shillington Gold Cup** horse racing evening
- **11th July** - **A murder mystery evening!**
- **19th September** - **Sing-a-long film night at All Saints**
- **27th September** - **All Saints' Bear Hunt**

If you have any suggestions for events you would like to see, or if you would like to put on an event for/with us, please do get in touch.

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

Andy Gibbs

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

**Our last event of the year
is on
Saturday the 18th of October: -**

The highly acclaimed
Herts Constabulary Choir
will be venturing across the border
to entertain us in the beautiful surroundings
of All Saints' Church.

This event is bound to be popular,
so don't miss out,
book your tickets today



**“Hallo, ‘ello, ‘ello,
what's all this then?”**
For Your Entertainment!

**The Hertfordshire
Constabulary Choir**

*Four part mixed voice ensemble singing
'Mozart to Pop' all delivered in fun and
light-hearted manner!*

Saturday 18th October
Church on the Hill
Shillington
Doors open at 7pm
Concert at 7:30pm
Tickets £7.50 **Licenced Bar**

Tickets email: foass25@gmail.com or call
Andy - 07922 017051
Jackie - 07485 617556

How you can support the work of the Friends

As ever, we are keen for more people to join our happy little band. If you would like to get involved, please 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 07485617556 or email foass25@gmail.com

Health Coaching or Reflexology



To help with:

- Stress
- Relaxation
- Fertility
- Pregnancy

*Based in Shillington,
flexible hours*

☎ Helen on 07772-547809

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www.womenshealthhub.co.uk

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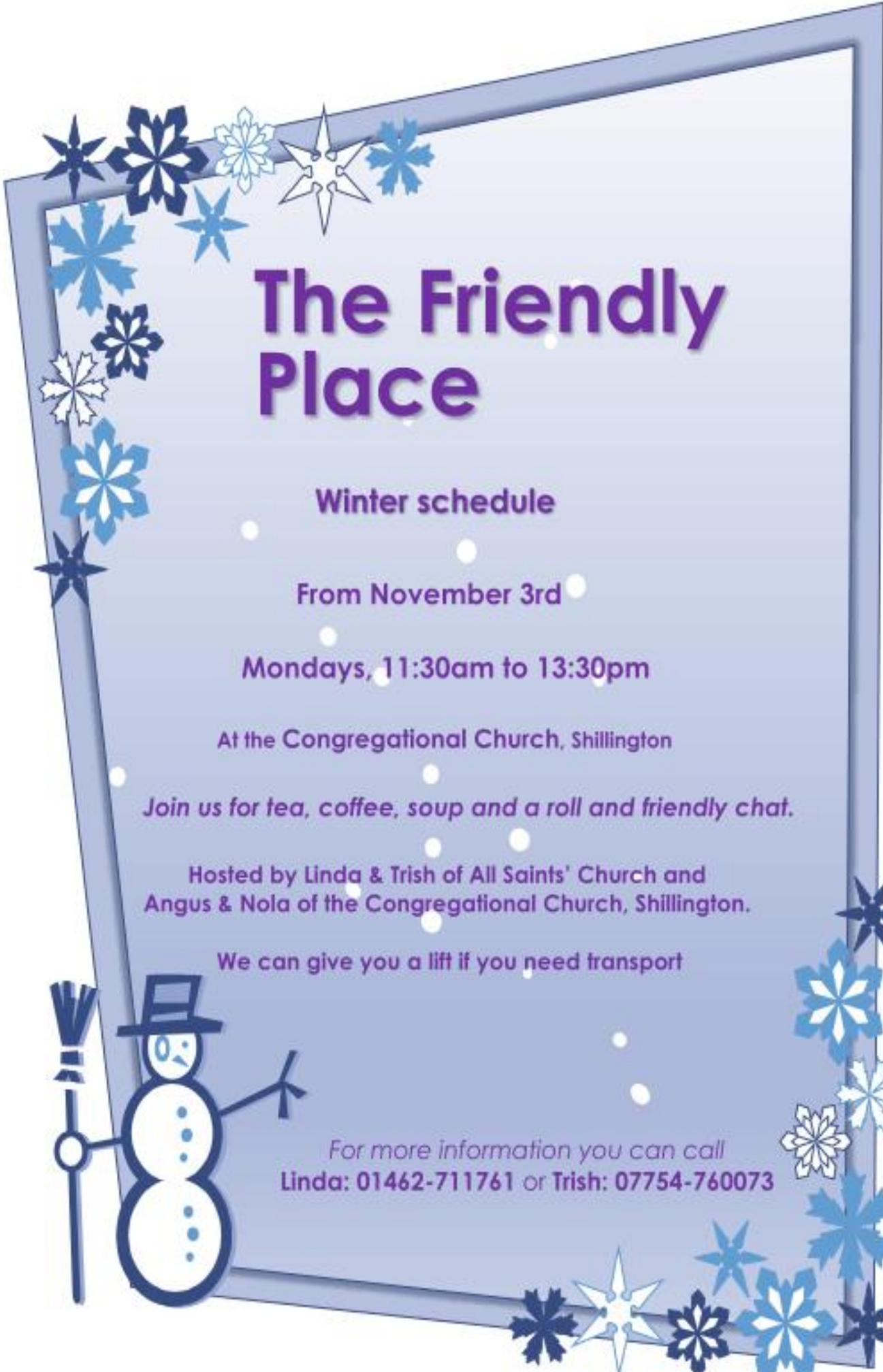
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The Friendly Place

Winter schedule

From November 3rd

Mondays, 11:30am to 13:30pm

At the Congregational Church, Shillington

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

Hosted by Linda & Trish of All Saints' Church and
Angus & 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: 07754-760073

LEECH

Live Covers Band At

Shillington Social Club

Saturday 1st November

On Stage 9pm



LEECH Will Be Performing Songs By:



Oasis • The Rolling Stones • theKILLERS

The Who • Pink Floyd • The Jam • T.REX

REM • The Beatles • David Bowie • KINGS OF LEON



www.jemonrock.com/leech



LEECH Covers Band



What a lovely start to the new term we have had. Lots of shiny new shoes and smart haircuts. Our new reception and Pixie starters have made a wonderful start to the academic year taking their new routines in their stride.

We were so lucky to have the Lloyds Tour of Britain pass through the village. The children were thrilled to be able to go and cheer the cyclists on as they passed through the village. The children were incredibly well behaved and represented the school using all their values. We are very proud of them all.



Thank you to all who attended our Big Coffee Morning. It was lovely to see so many parents, family members and members of the Shillington community join us in school to help support this wonderful charity. Thank you to everyone who donated cakes and sweet treats they were certainly gratefully received. A huge thank you to our band of helpers from All Saints Church who served teas and coffees and distributed cake. We raised over £220.

Hedgehogs Class we enjoyed an Autumn Walk around the village! They found lots of conkers and different coloured leaves and had fun using them to support their learning. They also had a look in the Church and practiced their Harvest Festival song which they are excited to share with parents at our Harvest Celebration at the church in October. Barn Owls Class have been busy rehearsing their song in preparation for their trip to the O2 in February to take part in the Young Voices Concert 2026.

Upcoming Open Days

If you, or anyone you know, are looking for a Reception year place or are planning an in-year move please come and join us at one of our open days on Tuesday 4th November 9.30am-10.30am and Thursday 6th November 1.30pm-2.30pm. Contact Mrs Woodward in the school office for more details.

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 entry into reception. Spaces are beginning to fill up quickly, so if you are interested in a space, please contact Mrs Woodward in the school office. She can arrange a look around and help to complete the required forms. At Shillington Lower we have our own Breakfast Club and After School Club. Breakfast Club starts at 7.45am and runs until 8.45am (£5.75). Our After School Club runs from 3.30 – 5.30pm, with options to collect children at 4.30pm (£6.00), 5.00pm (£8.25) or 5.30pm (£10.50). By arrangement, when a pre-schooler is ready and when nearing Reception entry age, access to wraparound is an option.

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



SHILLINGTON LOWER SCHOOL OPEN DAYS

September
2026
intake

TUESDAY 4TH NOV - 9:30 - 10:30
THURSDAY 6TH NOV - 1:30 - 2:30



Why Choose Us?

- Meet our dedicated teaching staff
- Tour our classrooms and facilities
- Discover our engaging curriculum and nurturing environment
- A warm welcome for children and families

**WE CAN'T
WAIT TO
SEE YOU
THERE!**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF
YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US**

For More Information :  01462 711637  www.shillingtonstondon.co.uk  office@shillingtonlower.co.uk
SHILLINGTON LOWER SCHOOL, GREENFIELDS, SHILLINGTON, SG5 3NX

Afterschool Club

UPCOMING EVENTS

3:30PM - 5:00PM

9th
OCTOBER

**MAKE YOUR
OWN PIZZA**

**DECORATE A TRICK
OR TREAT BUCKET
FOR HALLOWEEN**

23rd
OCTOBER

5th
NOVEMBER

**HOT DOG AND A
MOVIE**

**INDOOR
OBSTACLE
COURSE**

20th
NOVEMBER

11th
DECEMBER

**MAKE A SOCK
PUPPET
SNOWMAN**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE TO PREBOOK
YOUR CHILDS SPACE**

WE CANT WAIT!!!



SHILLINGTON CHILDMINDERS

Looking for Flexible, High-Quality Childcare in a Home-from-Home Setting?

We are experienced, Ofsted-registered childminders offering safe, nurturing, and stimulating home environments where children can play, learn, and thrive. Through play-based learning, we help children develop important life skills and confidence at their own pace. Our days are filled with fun and enriching activities - including visits to farms, play centres, splash parks, museums, and libraries. We also involve children in everyday experiences like shopping, gardening, and cooking to help them build practical life skills.

We are:

- Fully registered with Ofsted
- Covered by public liability insurance
- Trained in Safeguarding, First Aid, and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework
- Kept up to date with best practices through regular training and professional bulletins

Children in our care enjoy opportunities to build social skills and explore a wide variety of toys and learning resources through baby and toddler groups and other local settings. We also work together to provide cover for each other during holidays and absences whenever possible.

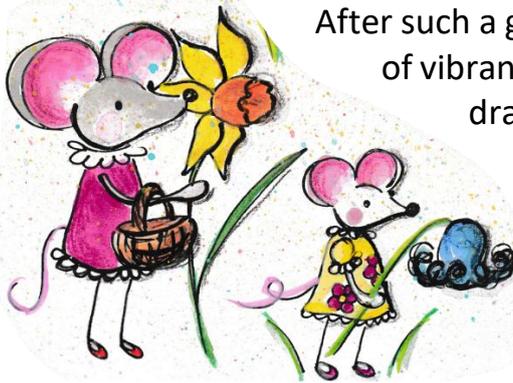
*We are registered to offer **15 and 30 hours of funded childcare** for eligible children from 9 months old, just like nurseries and pre-schools. (Funding usually starts the term after your child turns 9 months). Additional charges may apply for meals and outings. We each have differing childcare availability such as before and after school care, daytime childcare, overnight childcare, ad-hoc care or flexible care e.g. for shift workers.*

Get in touch today to discuss your childcare needs - whether you're looking for immediate care or planning ahead for the future, we'd love to hear from you!

Katie Brettell 07974-676089 katiebrettell@icloud.com	Carli Mauger 07912-549931 carlimauger@gmail.com	Deb Pateman 07934-480446 debpateman@msn.com
Anita Hare 07485-025775 anitahare@outlook.com	Laura Griffiths 07493-903621 lauragriffiths820@gmail.com	

THINKING AHEAD

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



After such a glorious summer we now head into Autumn with its array of vibrant colours of turning leaves and berries. With the evenings drawing in and getting chillier, as a gardener you always have to be one step ahead. One nice job to be doing at this time of year is to be planning and planting your spring bulbs.

These unassuming bulbs hold such magic within their cases, as come early next year they burst into life unveiling such a variety of shapes, colours and form to suit every type of garden be it shady, south facing, contemporary or cottage. There is something for everyone.

When its cold outside don't be put off by going in the garden and planting some as spring 2026 will surely be a colourful one if you do so. Also many bulbs once planted will flower for many years to come so it's an investment that will payback over and over again. Alliums can flower for 40 years and many bulbs multiply so you can divide them around different areas.

You can plan so you have colour in the garden from January to June:

- ✿ January/February - Snowdrops, Scilla, Anenomes and Crocus
- ✿ March - Daffodils
- ✿ April - Tulips, Camassia, Hyacinths and Bluebells
- ✿ May/June - Alliums

They are simple to plant. The general rule being to plant 3 times the depth of the bulb and pointed end up. Plant in groups to make more of an impact or if you want a more natural look casually throw them and where they land you dig them in. This works well in wildflower meadows or lawns to add an extra dimension to the garden.

For extra protection you can mulch on top. Whatever you choose they will be a joy when they pop up and bring colour and scent.

Donna x

JOBS IN THE GARDEN FOR OCTOBER

✂ <i>Plant Spring Bulbs</i>	✂ <i>Cut back Perennials and divide</i>
✂ <i>Tidy up Garden</i>	✂ <i>Move tender plants somewhere safe</i>
✂ <i>Harvest Pumpkins for Halloween</i>	✂ <i>Harvest Apples, Pears and Grapes</i>
✂ <i>Mow lawn for last time and lay any turf</i>	✂ <i>Prune climbing Roses</i>
✂ <i>Plant out spring Cabbages</i>	✂ <i>Enjoy the Autumn colours</i>



BEDFORDSHIRE BIRD CLUB

<https://bedsbirdclub.org.uk/>

The ornithological section of the Bedfordshire Natural History Society

Registered Charity No: 268659.

The Bedfordshire Bird Club (BBC) brings together bird enthusiasts to record and celebrate the county's avifauna. Founded in 1992 and run entirely by volunteers, the club is part of the Bedfordshire Natural History Society (BNHS). We organise year-round walks and talks for bird lovers of all levels. Walks, led by knowledgeable members, explore top birding sites in the county, mostly on weekends, with occasional summer evening strolls.

From September to March, monthly talks cover a wide range of bird-related topics, held at Maulden Village Hall or on Zoom. Membership is open to everyone, whether you live in Bedfordshire or further afield. Annual subscriptions support the club's work and activities.



October in Bedfordshire is a month characterised by the movement and arrival of our winter visitors. Observations of visible migration give a glimpse of this movement for those who find a suitable watch-point in the early morning and with favourable conditions, while overnight changes in the number of birds on our water bodies may also be notable. The month also offers the potential for a real county rarity, with a rare species list larger than other months of the year.

Summer visitors have mostly departed, with the exception of the last remaining migrant swallows, martins and chiffchaffs, and attention turns to the arrival of winter visitors. Most visible and numerous of these are the finches, thrushes and waterfowl. Arrivals of thrushes can occur in waves, dependent on weather conditions. Earlier in the month the characteristic smaller, greyer Song Thrushes arrive from northern Europe, followed by Redwings, Robins and, towards the end of the month, Fieldfares. Any autumn Ring Ouzels are most likely to move with the Fieldfares, maybe lingering on a hilltop or amongst the larger areas of berry-bearing shrubs where the arriving birds drop in to feed.

Finch flocks on the move and feeding in the woods and fields may include the first Bramblings, an increase in Siskins and the first Redpolls, now virtually absent in summer. Visible migration watches have also revealed a few Hawfinches moving through in recent late autumns. These will be high on the wish list of optimistic watchers climbing the hills in the mornings. Recent influxes included an unprecedented number in 2017. Top of the wish list may be a third county record of Richard's Pipit or a twitchable Common Rosefinch (following the first in an inaccessible garden) though a very thorough description, to get through the rarities committee, could prove tricky unless the bird is on the ground.

RSPB - BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH 2025: THE RESULTS

The Birdwatch began in 1979, when children's TV programme Blue Peter asked viewers to post in their sightings.

Much has changed since the 70s. But what has changed for our birds?
Which birds have moved up the charts and which have moved down?

9.1 million <i>birds counted during Big Garden Birdwatch 2025</i>	590,000+ <i>people came together to help nature in 2025</i>	12.6 million <i>hours spent watching birds since 1979</i>
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THE UK'S TOP FIVE BIRDS

Celebrating its 22nd year at the top of the Big Garden Birdwatch charts is the House Sparrow. These chirpy little characters were the most commonly sighted birds, with 1,211,260 counted over the Birdwatch weekend.

1,211,260 House Sparrow 	946,698 Blue Tit 	859,780 Wood Pigeon 	784,741 Starling 	732,472 Blackbird 
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BECOME A MEMBER

Big Garden Birdwatch shows the power of people coming together to take action for nature. We'd love you to join us by becoming a member.

- *Access to more than 170 UK nature reserves*
- *Regular RSPB magazines packed with news, features and tips*
- *Welcome pack to help you make the most of your membership*

WILDLIFE RESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEERING

Your chance to explore somewhere different, learn new skills, or gain experience for your CV.

Whether you'd like to gain hands-on conservation experience or simply want to try something new, residential volunteering is a brilliant opportunity to meet people and discover some of the UK's best places for nature.

There's a wide variety of tasks to get involved in, from practical work and land management, to greeting people and helping at our visitor centre. You can choose from more than 40 nature reserves across the UK and stay for a week or more, either on your own or with a friend or family member.

We'll provide you with accommodation, teach you new skills and make sure you leave with some amazing memories.

VILLAGE FACILITIES

SHILLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB

Greenfields, Shillington ☎ 07826-518667 (Gavin)



Works have continued throughout the closure period with great progress being made. Be sure to come and check out the new facilities as soon as we are open.

Check out the Village and Social Club facebook pages for the opening date.

We will be open for the Fireworks Spectacular on 1st November and have live band LEECH booked for further entertainment into the evening.



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** *

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 monthly booking sheet on Notice Board)

Thank you ☺



"THE VIEW" HALLOWEEN PARTIES ON 31ST OCTOBER

For the KIDS..... from 1pm to 4pm

Fancy Dress 🎃 Treat Hunt 🎃 Games 🎃 Buffet included - £5 per child

ADULTS ONLY..... FROM 7pm to Midnight

Fancy Dress 🎃 Buffet included in £10 entry





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 / 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	Shelby Long via the Clerk	Joseph Olding via the Clerk	Mark Thyne 01462-712201	Derek Turner 01462-712462

VILLAGE CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 5 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Hazel Beadle – 10.30am
- 7 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 8 Men's Club – Evening Meal at The Three Horseshoes, Norton
- 9 Wives Group – Speaker on Tax, Care and the New Guy – Congregational Church 2-4pm
- 12 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Nola McCormick – 10.30am
- 12 All Saints' Church – Harvest Lunch & Auction – 12.30pm
- 15 Men's Club – Triumph Factory Tour, Hinkley.
- 15 Meet The Vicar – Jubilee Room of Village Hall – 3pm to 6pm
- 19 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Hazel Beadle – 10.30am
- 22 Men's Club – Lunctime Social @ The View
- 26 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 26 Village Hall Committee – Kids' Halloween Crafting Event @ VH – 2pm to 4pm
- 31 The View @ Pegsdon – Halloween Party for Kids from 1pm and for Adults from 7pm

NOVEMBER

- 1 Playing Fields Committee – Annual Fireworks Spectacular – gates open at 5pm
- 1 Social Club – Live band LEECH following the Fireworks – 9pm
- 2 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Nola McCormick – 10.30am
- 4 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 6 All Saints' Church – All Souls Memorial Service – 7.30pm
- 6 WI – Talk by Jo from Disco-licious – Congregational Church – 7.30pm
- 9 Congregational Church – Remembrance Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10am
- 12 Men's Club – Evening meal tba
- 13 Wives Group – Christmas Flowers – Congregational Church – 2-4pm
- 16 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Hazel Beadle – 10.30am
- 19 Village Hall Management Committee Meeting – Jubilee Room – 7.30pm
- 21 Men's Club – Visit to British Schools Museum, Hitchin
- 23 Congregational Church – Mrs. Hazel Beadle – 10.30am
- 26 Men's Club – Lunctime Social @ The View
- 29 Xmas Tree switch-on – War Memorial/Village Hall from 5.30pm – see poster page 20
- 30 Congregational Church – Joint Service with All Saints @ Congre – Revd. Angus – 10am
- 30 All Saints' Church – Advent Carol Service – 5pm

DECEMBER

- 2 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 5-7 Xmas Tree Festival – Congregational Church – more details in December edition.
- 6 All Saints' Church – Xmas Fayre – Village Hall – 12 noon to 3.30pm
- 10 Men's Club – Xmas Dinner @ The View
- 11 Wives Group – Christmas Meal – tbc
- 11 WI – Evening of Festive Fun with Lisa Garrity – Congregational Church – 7.30pm
- 16 All Saints' Church – Village Carol Service – 7.30pm
- 24 All Saints' Church – Midnight Mass – 11.30pm
- 25 All Saints' Church – Christmas Day Holy Communion – 9.30pm

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

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

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www.shillington-hub.org.uk