



PARISH NEWS

30th anniversary edition

covering

SHILLINGTON, PEGSDON & HIGHAM GOBION

**SHILLINGTON
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
2025**



**Friday 5th December
2.00pm – 5.00pm**

**Saturday 6th December
2.00pm – 5.00pm**

**Sunday 7th December
2.00pm – 5.00pm**

All proceeds in aid of

 **Brainkind**

Stagenhoe Park, Hertfordshire

** Refreshments * Children's Tombola * Raffle **

★ Free Admission ★

Issue 181 – DECEMBER 2025

Deadline for February edition – Friday, 23rd January 2026

PARISH COUNCIL

At the October meeting, we heard that former Parish Councillor, Tony Howells from Pegsdon, had died. Tony was a kind, supportive and charitable character and took a keen interest in local affairs until retiring from the parish council in May 2023. Councillors Hyde and Turner represented the PC at his funeral at Hexton Church where he had also served as a churchwarden.

Councillor Joe Olding attended a CBC session about designating Local Green Spaces (LGS) which are locally valued areas of green land that will be given special protection through the CBC Local Plan. They must be close to the local community, local in character, less than 10 hectares in size and demonstrably special for their beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or biodiversity. Excluded are areas where planning permission has already been granted or designated for development in the Local Plan. In view of the tight timescale for nominations, the council held an extraordinary meeting during October when numerous potential sites were considered and was finalising the selection as Parish News went to press. It was recommended that each village should suggest no more than 10 sites but with residents in different parts of Shillington valuing different areas, we shall recommend up to 15. How many will be accepted for designation will become clear in time. Councillors Olding and Palmer attended a CPRE planning workshop to discover more about the planning system and hear how Bedfordshire may be affected by large developments during the coming years.

Councillors were pleased to hear that the Speedwatch team had noticed fewer incidents of speeding during recent sessions. Nevertheless, careless driving still occurs and a resident alerted us to a dangerous incident in the northern section of Hanscombe End Road when it was busy while the southern section was closed.

Several of the older streetlights had failed since last winter and it was agreed that bulb replacement should be carried out as soon as possible at S1 New Walk, S2 Marquis Hill, S4 Greenfields, S7 Hillfoot Road, S8 Greenfields and S10 Bury Road.

Council discussed the running of the village hall and it was noted that the Village Hall Management Committee had been lacking a chair for some time. One suggestion is that the Parish Council should take over as custodian trustees for the Village Hall.

Shillington and Stondon Federation had notified us of a vacancy for a governor at the school.

The clerk reported on discussions with contractors about removal and replacement of the dying box hedging in the War Memorial Garden. It was decided to leave it until after the Remembrance Day ceremony. Meanwhile, one of the councillors investigated whether it would be realistic for volunteers to carry out the work but reported back that it was not.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped organise the Remembrance Sunday service, the Act of Remembrance, photo show and refreshments. It was heartwarming to see so many people and village organisations attend.

Shortly after we'd held the November meeting, a couple contacted the council regarding their plan to give some land away for the benefit of villagers. This is an exceptionally generous offer as it would increase the amount of amenity land dramatically. Councillors are examining all the ramifications and will discuss it at the next meeting which takes place on Tuesday 2 December at 7.45pm. Watch out for further news.

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



A huge **THANK YOU** to regular contributors, advertisers, sponsors and distributors of this magazine.

Your kind support ensures the continuity of the Parish News.
Best wishes to all readers and their families for a healthy, happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. **Sally S.**



WREST PARK VOLUNTEER OPEN DAYS

Saturday 10th January 2026 – 11am to 1pm
Sunday 8th February 2026 – 1pm to 3pm



Wrest Park Mansion, Drawing Room

*Would you like to be a part of a great team?
Would you like to spend time in one of England's most prestigious and fascinating Gardens?*

Would you like to share your enthusiasm and love of history?

Then come and volunteer for English Heritage at Wrest Park.

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

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***



Margaret, Cheryl, Mark Johnson & family would like to thank friends and neighbours for their lovely cards, flowers and kind wishes following the passing of Dennis at the end of September and to all able to attend his cremation in October.

So nice that folk have been so caring and thoughtful during this sad time.



All Saints Church

Gravenhurst and Shillington

www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk



Advent and Christmas Greetings!

As we head through Advent towards Christmas, many folks will be thinking about getting together with others, who to stay with, who to visit and whom might be visiting you. There is often much planning happening.

For Mary and Joseph, as they travelled to Bethlehem, it was a very different build up! There was much uncertainty for them and the coming birth of their child. They were refugees in a town with no room. I wonder what Mary thought might happen to them? Thankfully, space was found in a stable, and Jesus was born and cradled in a manger, a most unexpected place!

At Christmas time, Christians remember God coming to earth to meet us in our humanity and in the most unexpected places, just like the stable. The stable was probably dirty and smelly and I suspect, not where Mary thought she would end up.

And then came the visitors. And it would be the shepherds who would come to visit Jesus first. Not the important people of the time, not royalty, but ordinary working men.

The shepherds were outdoor men, always on the move looking for the best pasture for their sheep. It was hard, dangerous, dirty, smelly work. These were people whose job meant that they remained on the fringe of society, unable to fulfil their religious obligations. Men who you may not even see. It was these men, whom the Angel came to tell about Jesus, urging them to go and find him.

We are reminded that God comes to meet us, whoever we are and whatever our circumstances. God coming to the most unexpected places and the most unexpected visitors are invited to see. This is the joy and hope of Christmas, Jesus coming to everyone.

As we welcome visitors and visit ourselves this Christmas, or even sit by ourselves, let's give thanks for God coming to earth to meet with us all, in all the circumstances of our lives.

Wishing you a very blessed and hope filled Christmas and new year!

Rev'd Jenna Dearden

Email: revjennadearden@gmail.com

Mobile: 07708 666612



All are very welcome to services at All Saints in December and January!



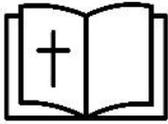
CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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



SERVICES IN DECEMBER

7 December

9.30 am Holy Communion

5.00 pm *NO EVENSONG*

14 December

9.30 am Holy Communion

16 December

7.30 pm Village Carol Service

21 December

9.30 am Morning Praise

24 December

11.30 pm Midnight Mass

25 December

9.30 am Holy Communion

28 December

No Service at All Saints

10.30 am Service at the Congregational Church in Shillington,
All Welcome!

SERVICES IN JANUARY 2026

4 January

9.30 am Holy Communion

4.00 pm Christingle Service **NB - No Evensong**

11 January

9.30 am Holy Communion

18 January

9.30 am Morning Praise

25 January

9.30 am All Age Holy Communion

ALL SAINTS CHRISTMAS FAYRE

All Saints **Christmas Fayre** will be held at the **Village Hall**

Saturday 6 December 2025 from **12.00 noon** to **3.30 pm**

Please see the Friends page for their forthcoming events.

200 CLUB WINNERS

October	November
1 st £50 No. 023 Celene Robinson	1 st £50 No. 111 Julia Hills
2 nd £25 No. 062 Catherine Scleater	2 nd £25 No. 125 Derek Lewison
3 rd £10 No. 196 Ken Phillips	3 rd £10 No. 122 Julia Bruce



TAKE YOUR PARTNERS

by *Revd. Angus McCormick* ☎ 01462-712096

Minister of Shillington Congregationalist Church

I have just been watching too much television recently. I mean watching might be too strong a word since I have found myself not knowing what has been going on when I wake up and there it is still on. Anyway I have pretended to go along with the many quiz shows and see what is being asked. There are the usual introductions of the competitors who mostly seem to saying 'I am and this is my partner Y'. It's then that I am transported in my memories back to a time when the word partner was much used in cowboy films with the Lone Ranger or maybe Laramie. It was all action and John Wayne was so good at insuring a successful outcome in difficult circumstances. I liked his relaxed manner and confidence. I remember going to visit various homes where there was a picture of John Wayne hung on the wall as though he were so special.



At other times both in watching television and in everyday conversations I have found myself hearing people talk about 'kids'. You might have heard this before I'm sure but there I go off again into another world it seems. I am remembering farms where there are all kinds of animals but no goats or kids. There were sheep in the fields of course. As I drop back into these live



conversations I realise it is CHILDREN that is being referred to. Usually it's something like 'I have so many kids' and it keeps me busy. My children certainly kept me busy and often still do and what a real joy it is to reflect on these memories. I would never refer to them as 'kids'. I might question some of the antics they get up to at times but it has nothing to do with goats.

I was reading recently that a new word has appeared and it is acceptable now apparently which describes the apparent relationship someone feels they have with a famous person. It seems to be used even if that relationship is mostly imaginary. That word is 'parasocial'.

Well as I ponder on these things I think also of the use of Winter Festival nowadays used by many to replace Christmas or so it seems. A bit like Yuletide. Winter is a wonderful season and the cold and snow is usually there. However for me I am celebrating Christmas. It is about the birth of a real person who has a real meaning in my life and for many people. In fact I have found over the years that my many friends of other and no faiths have greatly welcomed my conversation about my faith and Christmas. In fact together we have grown more close and respectful of each other. Maybe as we approach what for me is Christmas we can all reflect on what words we use and their meaning for us. How real are these words in conveying what we mean.



Language is indeed a living thing but I hope it still expresses truly what we believe in and what we can convey to others about ourselves.

From me it's Happy Christmas !

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**.



SPECIAL SERVICES:

We look forward to welcoming new visitors to the services during the Christmas and New Year periods plus the united, joint and Tree Festival weekend.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL WEEKEND:



All donations for the charity **BRAINKIND, Stagenhoe Park, Hertfordshire**. The team provides specialist care for people following an acquired brain injury and/or other neurological conditions. Further details regarding the Festival weekend can be found on the front cover.

FRIENDLY PLACE:

The Friendly Place continues on a Monday open from 11.30am to 1.30pm with soup and a roll. Everyone welcome to share company, chat and refreshments. **No meetings on Mondays 22 and 29 December.** Re-commence on **Monday, 5 January 2026.**

BEDFORD FOODBANK:

Thank you to the local community for the continuing support of the Bedford Foodbank which is much appreciated. Without the support of individuals, community groups and organisations the Foodbank could not meet the increasing need in Bedford and surrounding area

Items currently in short supply:

<i>Tinned Tuna</i>	<i>Tinned Meat</i>
<i>Tinned Sweetcorn</i>	<i>Jars of Coffee</i>
<i>Tinned Rice Pudding</i>	<i>Long life Milk</i>
<i>Cooking Sauces</i>	<i>Long Life Fruit Juice</i>
<i>Bars of Chocolate</i>	<i>Laundry Tablets</i>

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



*“O magic sight, this joyous night! O laden, sparkling tree!”
(Christmas Tree, Flower Fairies: Cicely Mary Barker).*



Shillington WI is very much looking forward to the festive season.

November was a busy month, starting with the Shillington Fireworks Spectacular. The weather was rather wet and windy. After setting up, some WI members had to hold on to the gazebo as there was a strong possibility it would take off! The cakes were very popular, as was the hot chocolate.

Jo from Disco-licious was our speaker at our November meeting. She told us about her amazing journey from butcher, as a young teenager, to greengrocer and then to Disco-licious with its fabulous homemade food. She brought along a selection of lovely fresh vegetables grown at Hillside Market Garden, Gravenhurst. These were auctioned off at the end of the evening and the money raised is going to Keech Hospice. Jo is donating her fee to this most worthy cause.



The WI will be decorating their tree at the Christmas Tree Festival (5th- 7th December).
The theme: Celebrating the WI's 110th Anniversary.

At our December meeting we will be entertained by saxophonist Lisa Garrity and Disco-licious will be doing the catering for us. It promises to be a wonderful evening – fabulous music, fabulous food and fabulous company. What more could you ask for!

Our meeting in January is on the second Thursday of the month. We will be holding a bingo quiz with members bringing along any unopened goodies left over from Christmas to share with everyone.

Shillington's very own Andrew Elliman will be the speaker at the February meeting, another inspirational person from this village!

For further information please contact:

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

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

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

Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat! Sometimes, a few words can evoke a lot of memories. This old English nursery rhyme always reminds me of another one of my Mum's sayings. It didn't matter what time of the year it was (January included), if she called me for some reason and I responded "Coming!", she'd say: "So is Christmas". In other words, any time like the present will do!



I was lucky as Christmases, when I was a child, were magical. Christmas wasn't really talked about until the end of November. We didn't have Advent Calendars - I didn't know there were such things. Once it was December, colourful carol sheets replaced the hymn books in our little church and there was a lovely sense of joyful anticipation in the hamlet where I lived.

Mum didn't spend hours Christmas shopping. She went into Hitchin on the Birch bus to buy toys for my brothers and I in a little shop called Munts. Only immediate family got presents. We didn't give gifts to friends or extended family as we didn't have the money. You didn't spend what you didn't have. Visitors got mincemeat pies, etc and a cup of tea or a glass of Sherry.

Nobody ever thought they were hard done by. As Martin Lewis (Money Saving Expert) says, "the best gift you can give is your time". He also said: "A year of financial freedom is more important than one day of extravagance". Wise words - I wish he was an MP.

Christmas Eve was very busy with the making of mincemeat pies, picking holly and ivy, stuffing the turkey and making paperchains. There were no decorations, not even Christmas cards, up in the house. Decorating was left until after we children, clutching our woolly size 11 socks / stockings, had gone up to bed. The minute we were upstairs Mum and Dad went into fifth gear. Furniture was moved; a real tree brought in, put in a bucket of sand and decorated; the holly and ivy were stuffed on or behind everything that didn't move and paperchains and paper bells were put up along with the cards.



Mum got up at six on Christmas morning to put the turkey in the oven. She'd stoke up the open fire (the only source of heat in the whole house) and switch on the tree lights. She'd then turn off the main light and come back upstairs, closing the door at the bottom behind her.



'Father Christmas' had filled our stockings with three little parcels (dinky toy cars, Britain's farm animals, etc) and an orange in the toe. After opening our presents, we went downstairs, followed by Mum. I can remember unlatching the door at the bottom and being greeted by a wonderful sight. The flickering flames from the fire lit up the walls of the living room, the light from the coloured lights on the Christmas tree reflected off the glass baubles and icicles and there was a lovely sweet smell of pine tree. Everywhere sparkled and twinkled. It was truly magical.

After breakfast we'd open our present from Mum and Dad, saving the paper for next year. We had a wonderful time and I felt rich. Nowadays on Christmas morning, homes are filled with loads of new plastic products and acres of wrapping paper. One can have lovely magical Christmases without all that stuff – how about giving it a go, if not this year, perhaps the next?

Happy Christmas and all the very best for 2026!

Annie x

SHILLINGTON MEN'S CLUB

(Now in its 19th year)

<https://Shillingtonmensclub.co.uk>

On the evening of the 8th October 23 members attended an evening meal at the Three Horse Shoes in Norton. Here we had a 2 course meal of Fish & Chips or Sausages, Veg & Mash followed by Crumble & Custard/Ice cream or Sticky Toffee Pudding & Custard/Ice cream. We all had a great time, Paul Shembri won the Charity Raffle. Thank you to Colin Hands and Stewart Rataj for organising this event.



Our October 15th cultural event took us on a tour of the Triumph Motorcycle Factory at Hinkley. This event was attended by 18 of our "Petrolhead" members who haven't stopped enthusing about it since! A big thank you to Michael Bradley for organising this very popular and memorable event.

On the 22nd October 18 members attended a lunchtime social meal at The View in Pegsdon, as usual we were well catered for by the landlady and her team.

Our November evening meal took place on the 12th at The Motte & Bailey at Pirton. This was attended by 24 members who tucked into a 2 course meal of Fish & Chips, individual homemade Chicken & Leek Pie or Beef Lasagne followed by Sticky Toffee Pudding & Ice Cream or an Ice Cream Sundae. Everyone agreed this was an outstanding meal created by Jacob the Chef who came out from the kitchen to draw our charity raffle and to receive a rapturous round of applause from the members. Alan Little won the raffle. A big Thankyou goes to Stewart Rataj and Colin Hands for organising this wonderful evening, of which I'm sure we will return.

Future events:

- ☺ 10th December - Xmas Dinner @ The View.
- ☺ 14th January - Evening Meal @ The Crown Shillington.
- ☺ 11th February - Kick Off Party @ The Congregational Church.

Membership:

Current membership is 59 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



UPDATE FROM OUR MID BEDFORDSHIRE MP BLAKE STEPHENSON

Another year is almost over and there's so much to talk about it's impossible to mention it all in one column. I'll focus on the very local issues impacting us here in Shillington, but if you want more updates on work I'm doing in Parliament on flooding, supporting our farmers, speaking out against Digital ID and holding the Government to account on wasteful spending, then please head to my website blakestephenson.uk or Facebook through fb.com/blakemidbeds.

There's been lots going on in Shillington over the past couple of months. One of the biggest has been the closure of Hanscombe End Road and Apsley End Road. I know the impact this has on our day-to-day lives so thank you to everyone who attended the public meeting we arranged in the village, with representatives from Anglian Water and members of the Parish Council. The turnout shows the strength of feeling in the village and I'm grateful to my Office Manager and Shillington resident Charley Snowdon for co-ordinating the meeting.

Since this meeting, we have had problems with various other poorly co-ordinated road closures. I have written to Central Bedfordshire Council about this to see if we can work towards better coordination between service providers and neighbouring councils.

Staying on the topic of roads, I joined our local community speed watch team to talk about road safety in Shillington and to share my appreciation for the time they give up to make our roads safer.

I also attended the opening of the new social club and what a fantastic venue it is for our village – well done to the team involved in the refurbishment.

As always, as our local MP I am here to support you so if you have an issue you need to raise with me, 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.

And finally, it's that time of year and it's an honour to have again been invited to switch on the Christmas tree lights in the village.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year with your loved ones and please do say hello if you see me out and about in the village.

See you in the New Year!



SHILLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB REFURBISHMENT

(Shillington Memorial Playing Field charity: 300065)

Hope you've had the chance to pop in and have a look at the fantastic improvements recently completed at the Social Club.

Phase 1 was completed last year and cost in the region of £30k. This included extensive roof repairs, removal of pillars and RSJ supports. Phase 2, the latest works, cost in the region of £120k and included new bar and related equipment, cellar, kitchen, office, storage and Gents, Ladies and Disabled toilets. Also a complete re-wire and full decoration.

A huge **thank you** to the brilliant people who helped to get the club ready to reopen and those who helped make it happen:

- 😊 Gavin Jenkins
- 😊 Peter Farmer
- 😊 Andy Gibbs
- 😊 Kevin & Helen
- 😊 Dean Desa
- 😊 Donna Cox
- 😊 Gareth Hunt
- 😊 Mandy Walker

To enable this refurbishment to proceed we also have to thank the organisations that provided us with grants and local folk fund raising:

- 😊 CBC
- 😊 Wixam Tree Trust
- 😊 The Bernard Sunley Foundation
- 😊 Shillington Social Club
- 😊 Shillington Memorial Playing Field Committee
- 😊 Shillington Parish Council

And a final shout out to contractors DGK Construction – a very conscientious and responsible team executing the works to a highly acceptable standard.

Ongoing Projects yet to be finalised and funded (in no particular order):

1. Social Club Phase 3: Bi-fold doors across the front of the building; patio area and improvements to the exterior of the building.
2. Carpark Extension: on old playground site. The Playing Field Committee are currently looking at all options from grass stabilising mats to tarmac.
3. Changing Facilities: there is now a requirement for changing facilities to accommodate AFC Men's & Women's adult football teams; also the Spitfires Cricket Club, which would enable joining the league.
4. Upgrade to play equipment, kick wall, trim trails etc.

DELVING IN TO LOCAL HISTORY

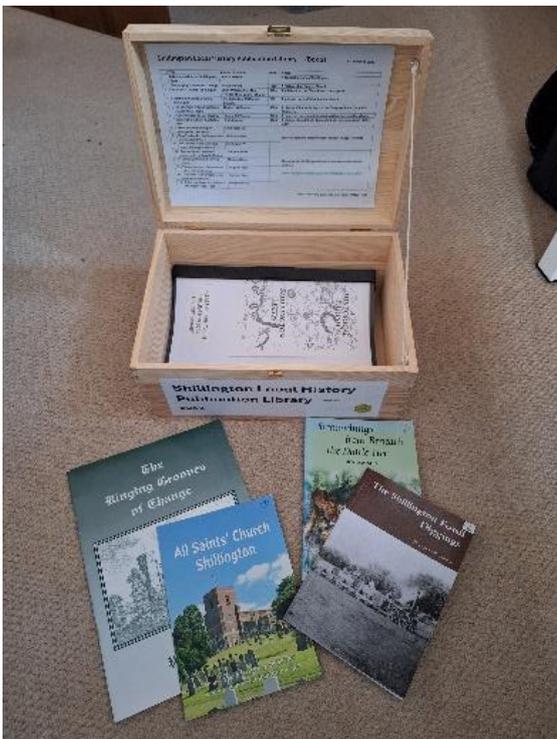
As part of the Social Club refurbishment, we were able to obtain grant funding for some local history resources. There is now a local history display in the far corner of the club.



The panels give an introduction to six aspects of the village's history and include images from the Shillington Photographic Archive, more of which can be seen here:

<https://shillington-hub.org.uk/shillington-photographic-archive/>

A good deal of the information was taken from Derek Turner's wonderful village history pages: - <https://shillington-history.org.uk/>



There is also a local history publication library, containing as many local publications as I could find copies of. Items can be read at the club or borrowed on short term loan.

Please refer any enquiries to **Andy Gibbs**
☎ **07922-017051**.

The project was kindly funded by the Bernard Sunley Foundation.



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 playing short mat bowls on Mondays and Fridays. The internal triples league is in full swing and there have been some competitive close-fought games over the last few weeks. We are also taking part in the Hatfield and Wilstead leagues; in fact, there are some weeks where you can bowl almost every day of the week.

Some members have been taking part in the Hertfordshire County qualifiers and congratulations go to Paul Bruce and Neil Rixon who will hopefully represent the county at the national competition in the spring of next year.

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)



RSPB

Get ready for the Big Garden Birdwatch 2026

Big Garden Birdwatch 2026 is coming on 23-25 January! Sit back, relax and watch your garden birds for an hour. Whether you're a newcomer or a regular - welcome! It all counts, and we'd love to know your sightings.

You may even get some surprises.

Come back in mid-December and register to take part in the world's largest garden wildlife survey. In 2025, over 590,000 people took part - and you could be with them.

Once you register, we'll keep you updated with top tips on how to get ready for your best Birdwatch ever.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/>

On the day of the Big Garden Birdwatch itself, taking part couldn't be simpler! You just spend an hour watching the birds in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park, and tell us what you've seen.

If you see very few birds or none at all, that's also really useful information for us, so please let us know.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN.....

*We sadly lost another two nonagenarians during September
God bless two special community stalwarts*



Michael 'Tony' Howells

9 October 1932 - 26 September 2025

Tony was born in Hornchurch, Essex. The family moved around quite a bit as his father was in the RAF. Following in dad's footsteps Tony enrolled at RAF Cranwell in 1952. During his final year at Cranwell he met his future wife to be Margaret. He did much travelling following his graduation in 1954 when he was posted to Singapore in charge of Technical Stores at RAF Changi, when he got engaged to Margaret by post! and from there to Kuala Lumpur. In 1957 he returned to the UK – RAF Calshot and then ended up at Cardington. Tony married Margaret on 7th December 1957 and they lived in a rented flat in De Parys Avenue, Bedford as there were no married quarters available until June 1958 in Shortstown. He was posted to Barnham (3 miles from Thetford) in 1960. Both sons David & Paul and later daughter Rosi were born at Ely RAF Hospital.

Following retirement from the RAF Tony went to work at BAe Hatfield, in the missile area, as Sales Support Manager. He continued working in logistics, setting up his own consultancy in 1993 until his retirement. Having settled in 'Chapel Cottage', Pegsdon he got involved in Neighbourhood Watch for Pegsdon and Shillington over 20 years and ended up as Chairman for Central Bedfordshire. He became a co-opted member of Shillington Parish Council and was well involved in the Community Safety Group for the parish, interfacing with local police with the useful NW connections he had made. He was also recruited as a Churchwarden for St. Faith's in Hexton by Anne Ashley-Cooper (Mrs. Jim). He was also 'persuaded' by her to take on the Treasurer's position for the Church and between them raised much needed funds from a multitude of charities for both Church and carpark at Hexton.



John 'Dennis' Johnson

19 February 1931 - 27 September 2025

Dennis was born in Rothbury, Northumberland and due to the shortage of work in the area his father moved the family to Barton-Le-Cley where he found employment at Henlow Camp working on power line cables. Dennis completed his 5-year apprenticeship with Sholbred Electrical Company in Luton, working on electrical installations in the area. During his apprenticeship he served 2 years' National Service with REME based at Kempston Barracks. He was discharged in May 1951. He then went to work for Lee Valley Water Company based in Hitchin, maintaining water treatment plants in Herts and Beds. He married Margaret, who he met in Shillington when the Barton biker lads used to come over to chat up the local girls. They moved to their bungalow in Apsley End in 1961 and had two children – Cheryl and Mark.

In 1967 Dennis took up a post with Permuttit Company commissioning Water Effluent Treatment Plants. He travelled to many different parts of the UK during his 25 years with them, plus several trips abroad to Libya, Egypt and other areas in the Far East. After 25 years he retired but continued with local electrical jobs around the parish. He joined Shillington Parish Council in the early 2000s as he was interested in the village and what sort of properties folk wanted built in the parish.

On his 90th birthday (right in the middle of COVID) neighbours were keen not to let this milestone slip by without raising a glass. He was positioned in his armchair by the open front door and everyone turned out to raise a glass to mark the occasion for this special man. Although everyone kept a 'distance' in the fresh air, it was unfortunate that a police vehicle happened to drive past and saw this 'illegal gathering'. They returned to break up the crowd. No arrests on this occasion, but it did make him smile that he had 'a police raid' on his 90th birthday.



DID YOU ENJOY SHILLINGFEST & THE FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR THIS YEAR?

Do you wonder how these events all come together?

Would you like them to continue? We think they are an important aspect of our village life but need more help on the ground to keep them going.

We all appreciate how busy life can be – full time job, family life, etc., but without folk stepping up such events could become a distant memory.

We need a team of folk to come forward to help with erecting the marquees for the fireworks (Thursday for Saturday event) lighting, tables, gazebos, etc. Also sufficient marshalls to keep everyone safe for a couple of hours during the event.

There's also a lot of ground work needed for Shillingfest working out locations of stalls and putting out tables, directing traffic, helping stall holders erect gazebos, paperwork (risk assessment), etc.,

What we need is a nucleus of people (maybe a Community Activity WhatsApp Group) who can be called on to come and help us on the ground to ensure we continue to provide these events.

New Year's resolution to 'GET INVOLVED'

Contact Gavin or Sally if you can help.

Just email "Shillington Playing Field" shillingtonmpf@yahoo.com for further information.

DO YOU ENJOY GETTING YOUR PARISH NEWS THROUGH THE LETTERBOX EVERY 2 MONTHS?

And on another subject but needing a volunteer or two - if the current Editor retires would someone else be interested in taking it on?

Happy to take on an apprentice.... Sally

ed4shillingtonnews@btinternet.com

FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER

KIT LIVE AT SHILLINGTON



SHILLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB,
HITCHIN, SG5 3NX

FROM
9-11 PM

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!





SHILLINGTON LOWER PTFA



CHRISTMAS



Fair



GAMES
FOOD
CRAFTS
STALLS
RAFFLE



PLUS SPECIAL GUEST



Father Christmas



FRIDAY
12TH
DECEMBER

15:30 - 17:30

SHILLINGTON
LOWER
SCHOOL

SHILLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB



SATURDAY
20TH
DECEMBER

9PM

FLUX
CAPACITOR

SHILLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB

Christmas
RAFFLE DRAW

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER

6:30PM

In aid of MND

Celebrate the spirit of giving with our Christmas Raffle! Join the festive fun and stand a chance to win fabulous prizes that will make your Christmas even brighter!

£1 PER SQUARE

Available behind the bar
@ The Social Club



SHILLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB

NEW YEAR'S
Eve Disco

December

31ST

9pm - 12:30am

DJ MARK JOHNSON

OVER 18'S ONLY

Keep Shillington clean



LITTER
IS BAD FOR
THE ENVIRONMENT

- Put your litter in the bin.
- PICK UP your litter if you drop it.



← LITTER
IN HERE

- Don't drop your litter on the floor on purpose.

SHILLINGTON
LOWER
SCHOOL

Anti-Litter posters

Designed by the
School children for
Parish Council.
Check out notice
Boards to see more

Help Save the environment

We only have one
planet.

Keep shillington
tidy by litter
picking.



Put your
litter in the bin



Let's take care
of it.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DECISIONS FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

CB/25/03066/A - Clawders Hill Farm, SG5 3PG

Proposed Development: Prior approval for the erection, extension or alterations of a building for Agricultural or Forestry use: Construction of a steel portal framed agricultural building to provide additional storage for the agricultural produce grown on the farm holding as well as providing secure storage for machinery and consumables used by the business. *Prior approval not required*

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

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

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

Prior Approval: Change of use commercial/business/service (Class E) to dwellinghouses (Class C3). No works are required for the change of use from office (conference facility) to residential use of the ground floor. *Prior approval not required*

DISCUSSED BY PARISH COUNCIL BUT AWAITING A CBC DECISION

CB/25/00308/FULL – 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.

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

Erection of 9 dwellings.

PC - Do not support

CB/TCA/25/00472 – 8 Elmhurst Gardens, SG5 3NE.

Works to trees within a Conservation Area: Pollard Acacia up to 4m. Pollard Robina up to 4m. Pollard Sycamore up to 4m. Fell, process, and remove Box Elder. *PC - No comment*

CB/25/02974/FULL – Red House Farm, 19 Upton End Road, SG5 3PG.

Conversion of existing garage/store into 2 separate annexes alterations to windows and doors, new porches and rooflights for ancillary use. Conversion of barn into annex with creation of a first floor, new windows, and doors ancillary use. Erection of a porch canopy and a new door to main dwelling.

PC - support subject to annexes not being used as separate dwellings

CB/TCA/25/00422 – 27 Church Street, SG5 3LJ.

Works to trees within a Conservation Area: Trim back a silver birch tree. Prune plum and apple trees.

PC - No comment

CB/25/02569 - 21 Greenfields, SG5 3NX

Erection of a 2m high boundary wall around garden, with vehicle and pedestrian gates to side of front garden/drive, and an additional pedestrian gate to the rear. Erection of outbuilding.

PC - Do not support as proposed fence is not appropriate where other boundaries are hedged

NEW APPLICATIONS

CB/25/02910 - 89 High Road, SG5 3LT

Erection of an oak framed garage

CB/25/02907 - New Farm, Upton End Road, SG5 3PG

Erection of single storey side extensions, two-storey rear extension, installation of a new chimney stack, and alterations to fenestration including first-floor Juliet balcony and rooflights at ground floor level, new windows and doors. Demolition of side extension.

CB/25/03105 - 126-128 Bury Road, Shillington, SG5 3NZ

Variation sought to approved plans (CB/25/02037) to amend building location slightly, vary fenestration materials, reduce roof ridge height and massing and increase the size of the roof over the single-storey snug element)) - details of vehicular access and Construction Method Statement.

CB/25/03184 - Former Pig Pen, Higham Road, Higham Gobion

Demolition of existing building and erection of a dwellinghouse

CB/25/03255- 75 Church Street, SG5 3LJ

Erection of garden fence and gate (Retrospective)

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

All Saints' Snippets

The fascinating history of the Church is one of the reasons it is so important to keep working on its preservation:

On 22nd November 1701 a terrible storm tore down the steeple. The parishioners of Shillington struggled to raise enough money to repair the building. It took until 1750 to complete the repairs, leaving us with a distinctive, but somewhat incongruous, brick tower.



It was said that the devil, tired of the sound, took the opportunity of the tower collapse to roll the bells down the hill into the brook. Happily, they were back ringing again in the new tower in 1750 and have rung ever since.

2025 Progress

Our two major projects for 2025 were the repairs to the final section of the churchyard wall and the Bellringers' Window.

You can see photographs of the work on the Friends' website on the current and recent projects page: <https://foas-shillington.org.uk/>

2026 Projects

In 2026 we will be undertaking an ambitious programme of repairs and improvements, including:

- Essential repairs to the leadwork on the roof
- Restoration and repainting of the lantern and ironwork at the stepped entrance
- Vital repairs and improvements to the bell chamber
- Repairs to the flaking plaster along the south aisle
- Redecoration of the South Porch

2026 Events

Income from our events is vital to our continuing work. Here's what we have planned for 2026. Hope to see you there:

- **Saturday 7th March** in the Village Hall. **the Shillington Gold Cup**, the return of the ever-popular fun-packed horse racing evening.
- **Saturday 11th July** in the Village Hall. **A Murder Mystery Evening!**
- **Saturday 19th September**. **A Sing-a-Long film night at All Saints**
- **Sunday 27th September**. **Teddy Bear Hunt at All Saints'**
- **Sunday Teas** each Sunday afternoon from May to the end of September, often enhanced by music and other activities.

Thank you for your support for our 'Church on the Hill' and Merry Christmas to you all.

Andy Gibbs

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

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.

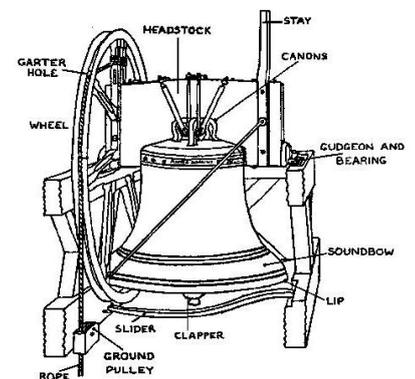
If you could help in any of these ways, would like to know more about what we do or would simply like to make a donation towards our work, please contact our membership Secretary, Jackie Fletcher on 07485617556 or email foass25@gmail.com

SPONSOR A BELL AT ALL SAINTS'

The five bells of All Saints' Church have been an ever-present joyful sound in the village for hundreds of years.

Robust though they are, they are complex 'machines' and do need ongoing maintenance and occasional repairs.

We are looking for generous sponsors to help us repair and maintain them so we can keep ringing for many more years to come. With last year's sponsorship we were able to refurbish all five of the clappers. In 2026, we hope to be able to do some repairs to the bell chamber floor and install a handrail to make access safer.



For a donation of £50 a year you will receive: -

- ☺ *An entry on our Honours Board in the Church acknowledging your donation,*
- ☺ *A guided tour of the Church and the bell tower including (if you have a head for heights) a chance to 'meet' the bells,*
- ☺ *Free bellringing tuition (for life!)*

You can sponsor a bell as: -

- *An individual*
- *A family*
- *A business*
- *An organisation*

A unique gift – Perfect as a Christmas present!

For more information, please contact **Andy Gibbs: bazwell2@gmail.com – 07922-017051**



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
Denise, Clare, Jane, Liz and Julia	Remembering our dear friend Tracey Kindley on her birthday	Sunday 12 October	Saturday 18 October
Andrea Baulk	Jason Baulk – in loving memory of an amazing husband and dad. 1 year since you left us. You are always in our hearts. Andrea, Brandon, Liam & Katiey xxxx	Sunday 30 November	Saturday 7 December
David and Fiona Howarth	John Howarth – remembering your birthday on 22 nd December	Sunday 21 December	Saturday 27 December
The Whitely Family	Huge congratulations to Ruth & John Cunningham. Married here at All Saints on 27 th December – 60 years ago. All our love – The Whitelys	Sunday 21 December	Saturday 27 December
All Saints' Church	Wishing you all a happy Christmas and New Year. Thank you to all our sponsors of the lighting of this church.	Sunday 21 December	Saturday 3 January

Health Coaching or Reflexology



To help with:

- Stress
- Relaxation
- Fertility
- Pregnancy

*Based in Shillington,
flexible hours*

☎ Helen on **07772-547809**

info@womenshealthhub.co.uk

www.womenshealthhub.co.uk

The
Cooker Buddy

THE PROFESSIONAL
COOKER CLEANERS

All types of ovens cleaned

**BUILT-IN or FREE STANDING
AGA, RAEBURNS & RANGES**

*doing the
job you love
to hate*

Cleaning includes:
**TRAYS, HOBS,
RINGS & RACKS
GAS & ELECTRIC**

Call Steve

est.2002

01462 810065

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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

**Note: no meetings on Mondays 22nd and 29th December.
Re-commence on Monday, 5th January 2026**



Pixie Preschool



It's been a busy and joyful term so far in Pixies. The children have been exploring the changing seasons with autumn focused Outdoor Explorer sessions, taking note of the differences they can see around our school field and collecting fallen leaves and other natural materials to use in their sensory and creative play.

Indoors, the children have been letting their imaginations guide their play, building on social skills, communication and cognitive development with themed role play. In particular, the group have been very much enjoying playing 'buses' and so this week, we rolled with it and made our very own 'Pixie Bus Station' Needless to say, the big red bus went down a storm!



Pixies, along with the Lower School were invited to attend a special harvest celebration at the beautiful All Saint's Church, such a special event for our younger children to be a part of and all of the Pixies showed exemplary behaviour on the walk to and from the church and of course while we watched the older children perform to the parents.

We were lucky enough to have an extra special visit from the Fire Brigade earlier in the term, a highlight of the year so far. All of the children (and some grown ups) had fun spraying water and trying on the firemen's safety helmet. We even got to climb aboard the fire engine to complete the full Fire Service experience.



Pixies welcomed prospective families to our Open Days at the beginning of the month. It was lovely to meet so many new children and parents and we look forward to seeing many of you soon! We will be arranging another Open Day in Spring time, keep your eyes on the village facebook page nearer the time for details.

Availability for funded and non funded places.

For children aged from 2 years 9 months.

Please do get in contact for more info or to book a tour of our preschool.

CONTACT US
01462 711637

www.shillingtonstondon.co.uk
Greenfields, Shillington, SG5 3NX

Morning session - 09:00 - 12:00

Afternoon session - 12:00 - 15:15

Full day - 09:00 - 15:15

Non funded hourly cost

£6.50 per hour for children over 3 years

£7.90 per hour for children under 3 years



We have had a wonderful Autumn term, we have enjoyed autumn walks and a flurry of snow! Rev Jenna joined us for Harvest Celebration. We were delighted to send over 15 bags of donations to the NEED Project – thank you to everyone who contributed.

It was lovely to welcome so many prospective children and parents into our school on our recent open days.

Hedgehogs Class were delighted with their visit from the Shefford Fire Brigade. They all had a shot at aiming the hose at Mrs Woodward – behind the staff room window! The lights flashed and the siren wailed, but most important the children learned about the importance of fire safety – Thankyou to Antony Mason and his team for a fantastic visit.

The PTFA annual Pumpkin Competition was a huge success as always, the children really went all out this year. Congratulations to our winners Rosie H, Evelyn O, Seb B, Laura W, Harry T, Emily D.

A huge THANKYOU goes out to AFC Shillington for the fantastic donation of 30 footballs and football pumps. Year 4 have already started using them in PE to help develop their ball skills.

We look forward to lots of festive excitement – starting with the Congregational Church annual Christmas Tree Festival. Our Key Stage 1 will be performing their Nativity to Parents & Carers. We look forward to welcoming our trusted band of Volunteers, our Governors and some of our Parish Councillors to their dress rehearsals.

We would love to see you come and support our PTFA at their annual Christmas Fair on Friday 12th December 3.30pm – 5.30pm in the school hall.

We bid a fond farewell to Miss Woodham who has served the school for over 7 years and Stondon Lower for 12 years. We are grateful for the dedication and support that Miss Woodham has given to the whole school community. She will be very much missed. The baton will be handed over to Mrs Sarah Flack who will be welcoming children and parents on their return to school on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

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.

Finally, from all at Shillington Lower School, we wish you all a lovely festive season.

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



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

WONDERFUL WINTER GARDENS

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



Winter is a quiet time in the garden. It is as if it is resting, saving its energy for the New year refreshed, so it can spring into life. I think we can learn a lot from the garden and to slow down in this busy bustling world. It teaches us patience in an age where everything has to be instant. Surely if you wait for something you appreciate it all the more.

Planting an unassuming spring bulb in the Autumn and waiting through Winter. Busy with Christmas festivities they get forgotten in the cold frozen soil, hard to visualise when everything seems so cold and lifeless. Then come the warmer spring days and magically the most gorgeous colours emerge. The garden will once again come out of hibernation and we will be spoilt by the huge variety of flowers throughout the year that this country offers us.

Of course in the quieter time Mother Nature still offers up some beautiful blooms and in a way we appreciate them all the more as plants are much more scarce.

Hellebores seem to nod their heads on the coldest of days. Offering a soft palette of pastels and maroons. The bright red berries of the Holly synonymous with Christmas. The heady fragrance of Mahonia and Sarcococca confusa on a sunny winter's day. The low winter's sun shining through the summers grasses and seed heads and the soft rays glistening on the frosty ground like cut diamonds as a Robin bobs past. Fluffing its feathers on a crisp morning. Snowdrops although seeming so fragile are very resilient and as the first flowers are so symbolic of hope when summer in the garden seems so distant.

So appreciate the little things and your day will be much more richer for it. Pause and breathe and know that nature makes life much more beautiful. It has a reliability about it. To mark the calendar by the different seasonal flowers. How lucky are we always to have something to look forward to and wonder at.

The simplicity of Gardening really can bring so much joy to so many. So make your New Year's Resolution to spend more time in gardens be it your own or visiting them and enjoying all they have to offer.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all!

Donna x

JOBS IN THE GARDEN FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

- | | |
|---|---|
| <i>✂ Insulate garden taps</i> | <i>✂ Shake snow off plants and shrubs to prevent damage</i> |
| <i>✂ Feed birds and make sure they have water</i> | <i>✂ Plan out your garden</i> |
| <i>✂ Add organic matter to soil</i> | <i>✂ Order seeds for next year</i> |
| <i>✂ Protect vulnerable plants and pots from frost damage</i> | <i>✂ Ask for garden vouchers for Xmas to spend through the year !</i> |
| <i>✂ Prune deciduous trees and shrubs</i> | <i>✂ Get out in the fresh air on dry days</i> |
| <i>✂ Prune apple and pear trees</i> | <i>✂ Don't walk on the lawn in heavy frost</i> |
| <i>✂ Cut off hellebore leaves to avoid black spot</i> | <i>✂ Trim lawn edges and repair any lumps & bumps</i> |
| <i>✂ Sow sweet peas</i> | <i>✂ Chit early potatoes</i> |
| <i>✂ If dry weather water container plants</i> | <i>✂ Look for snowdrops</i> |
| <i>✂ Force rhubarb</i> | |
| <i>✂ Prune grape vines</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** *

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 it would be appreciated. (See user monthly booking sheet on Notice Board)

Thank you ☺

SHILLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB

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

☺ Meat Raffle every Saturday with proceeds to the Club Refurbishment



CURRENT OPENING TIMES:

- * Mondays: 7.30pm-11.00pm *
- * Thursdays: 7.30pm-11.00pm *
- * Fridays: 7.30pm-11.00pm *
- * Saturdays: 12 noon - 11.00pm *
- * Sundays 12 noon-8.00pm *



Check out Social Club and Village FB pages for Xmas opening hours...

LICENSING POLICY:

Children aged 16 and under are welcome with an appropriate adult until 9pm on any day we are open Social Club Committee.



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS



CBC's trading standards department has provided the following numbers, to assist residents in identifying doorstep cold callers, purporting to be from energy or water companies, and enable checks with these organization if any reason for concern.

British Gas	General Enquiries	0800 048 0202
EDF Energy	Customer services	0800 096 9000
National Gas	Emergency Service Helpline	0800-111-999
npower	General Enquiries (landline)	0800 073 3000
	General Enquiries (mobile)	0330 100 3000
ScottishPower	General Customer Service (landline)	0800 027 0072
	General Customer Service (mobile)	0345 270 0700
SSE	General Enquiries	0800 980 8831
Anglian Water		0800 145 145
UK Power Networks	To report or get info on power cuts Text POWER and your postcode to 80876 www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk	National number 105

Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford Bedfordshire, SG17 5TQ. (www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)	
General enquiries	0300 300 8000
Highways/Emergencies on roads (fallen trees, etc). <i>24-hour emergency team</i> ...	0300-300-8049
Dog Fouling/animal welfare	0300-300-8302
Flooding	0300-300-8049
Planning	0300-300-8307
Recycling/Flytipping	0300-300-8302
Police (Emergency)	999
Bedfordshire Police (non-Emergency)	101
Bus Information	0870-608-2608 or 01234-228337
Shillington Services (Martin Brogan) <i>for washing machine repairs, etc...</i>	07975-944394
High Road Stores/Post Office.....	0345 722 3344
The Crown Inn.....	01462-711667
The Musgrave Arms (Giuseppe).....	07739-864634 / <i>pub</i> 01462-712789
The View (formerly Live & Let Live).....	01582-882555
Mobile Fish & Chip Van – Spartan's Feast.....	07707-787752

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

DECEMBER

- 2 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 5 Xmas Tree Festival - Congregational Church – open for viewing 3.30 to 5.30pm.
- 6 Xmas Tree Festival - Congregational Church – open for viewing - 2pm to 5pm
- 5 Social Club – live music with KIT from 9pm
- 6 All Saints’ Church – Xmas Fayre – Village Hall – 12 noon to 3.30pm
- 7 All Saints’ Church Service – Holy Communion – 9.30am. No evensong 5pm
- 7 Congregational Church Morning Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 7 Xmas Tree Festival - Congregational Church – open for viewing - 2pm to 5pm
- 7 Xmas Tree closing Carol Service - Congregational Church - Revd. Angus - 5pm
- 10 Men’s Club – Xmas Dinner @ The View
- 11 Wives Group – Christmas Meal – tbc
- 11 WI – Evening of Festive Fun with saxophonist Lisa Garrity – Cong. Church – 7.30pm
- 14 All Saints’ Church – Holy Communion – 9.30am
- 14 Congregational Church Service – Favourite Carols – Mrs. Janet Worley – 10.30am
- 16 All Saints’ Church – Village Carol Service – 7.30pm
- 20 Social Club – Band Night with Flux Capacitor from 9pm
- 21 All Saints’ Church – Morning Praise – 9.30am
- 21 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 21 Social Club – Christmas Draw in aid of MND – 6.30pm
- 24 All Saints’ Church – Midnight Mass – 11.30pm
- 25 All Saints’ Church – Christmas Day Holy Communion – 9.30pm
- 28 Congregational Church – Mr. Andrew Banthorpe - joint Service with All Saints, Gravenhurst Methodist & Stondon Baptist – 10.30am
- 31 Social Club – New Year’s Eve Disco with DJ Mark J from 9pm (over 18s only)

JANUARY

- 4 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 4 All Saints’ Church – Holy Communion – 9.30am
- 4 All Saints’ Church – Christingle – 4pm. NB – no evensong.
- 7 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 8 WI – Bingo Quiz – Congregational Church – 7.30pm
- 11 All Saints’ Church – Holy Communion – 9.30am
- 11 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 14 Men’s Club – Evening Meal @ The Crown, Shillington
- 18 All Saints’ Church – Morning Praise – 9.30am
- 18 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 25 All Saints’ Church – All Age Communion – 9.30am
- 25 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Caroline Stott (President of Congregational Federation)
- 28 Village Hall Management Committee Meeting – Jubilee Room – 7.30pm

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.

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