

# PARISH NEWS

covering  
**SHILLINGTON, PEGSDON & HIGHAM GOBION**

**FYNNIUS FOGG**

**SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL, SG5 3LL**

**SATURDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026. Doors open 7:00pm**

*Fundraising for Village Hall Refurbishments (reg.charity: 300066).*

**Tickets £10 - available from:**

+ Mags 07743-009076 + Katie 07974-676089 +  
+ Sally 07711-504489 +

*Licensed Bar (Gav/Social Club) + Raffle*



**Fynnious Fogg - Bedford's oldest boy band playing for free for our fundraising.**

*Come and enjoy memorable songs from 1960s/1970s*

**Issue 183 – APRIL 2026**

**Deadline for June edition – Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**

## PARISH COUNCIL

At the January meeting, Councillors heard that a new headteacher had started at the School and agreed to send her a letter of welcome. Cllr. John Hyde, Chairman of the PC, met her subsequently and she explained that she wished to raise the profile of the school to prospective parents, become more involved with the community and fund raise for improved facilities.

Following a request from Cllr. McCormick, who had consulted bus users in the area, the meeting voted to support the installation of a bus stop with a raised platform at the end of High Road on the way to Pirton. How soon the funds can be found to install it is not known.

For various reasons, five of the ten councillors were unable to make it to the March meeting. Those that attended heard that a kind resident had offered to donate a Polaris Ranger utility vehicle to the Parish Council. Councillors discussed how it might be used and agreed that finding a secure place to store it and paying for the running costs would need taking into account. They postponed making a decision until the next meeting.

The Chilterns Society has been in touch as they need more volunteers to monitor planning applications in the area. If you are interested in helping, please call them to find out more on 01494-771250. The Parish has for many years sent an annual donation to the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) who have provided invaluable advice when we have faced controversial planning applications. They contacted us recently about the proposed National Planning Policy Framework, which might have a significant impact on future development in this area. Councillors agreed to respond to the consultation highlighting those concerns.

On a different matter, CPRE is 100 years old this year and was offering parish councils an oak tree to celebrate. Subsequently we heard that they also have 100 spare hawthorn plants from their hedging projects, which they are happy to donate to the community woodland off Upton End Road.

Following concerns expressed at previous meetings about parked cars in High Road restricting visibility for car drivers leaving Preslent Close and New Walk, councillors had seen no improvement recently. They decided to ask Central Bedfordshire Council for parking restrictions and yellow lines to be introduced to improve safety. Also, in High Road from outside number 37 to the Marquis Hill junction, a lack of maintenance and build-up of debris had prevented 11 of the gullies from functioning, increasing the risk of flooding to housing, businesses and community assets. The Parish Council had constantly chased for a resolution via 'FixMyStreet', CBC Highways, CBC Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and our MP. The maintenance was not due until May, but one of the CERT team intervened on our behalf and the work was carried out later in March. Questions still remain about the maintenance to other drains throughout the village. We shall continue to chase for a valid reason why CBC Highways are closing jobs as completed on 'FixMyStreet' before the work has been done.

*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](mailto:clerk@shillington-pc.gov.uk)**

**<https://shillington-pc.gov.uk>**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / ITEMS / NEWS IN BRIEF

### 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 ☎ 01462-711594 or leave a message.*

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



Many thanks for all the cards and flowers sent following the sad passing of **Michael Stokes** on 4<sup>th</sup> February.

**Margaret Stokes & Family**



### CHRISTIAN AID FUNDRAISER EVENT

Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May – 10am to 12 noon

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

All welcome.

✿ Raffle ✿ Tea/Coffee ✿ Bring & Buy ✿

Any help most welcome.

Contact **Sandra** ☎ 07968-770828 or **Shirley** ☎ 07702-009781

### WANTED:

Items for the Church Tombola Stall at Shillingfest26 on **Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June.**

Contact **Margaret (Mags)** on **01462-711635.**



How can you get directly by bus, without any changes, to **Cambridge** or **St Albans** or **St Neots** or **Welwyn Garden City** or **Milton Keynes** for a stay of 3-4 hours for just £6.00

return? Well you can - use the Wanderbus service to each of these destinations operating on a once-a-month basis.

Any restrictions? NO - whatever your age the same fare applies.  
(It could be even less if you are young enough!!)

All of the Wanderbus services are open to **everyone**, just like any other bus operator!

In fact, our fares are £6.00 return to all destinations under the current Government scheme. We also accept concessionary bus passes on all routes.

Check our timetable on [www.wanderbus.org.uk](http://www.wanderbus.org.uk), the CBC web site or request a hard copy via: [thewanderbus@gmail.com](mailto:thewanderbus@gmail.com)



# All Saints Church

## Gravenhurst and Shillington



[www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk)

Hello from All Saints Church!

It is lovely to see Spring arriving after so many grey days, the first glimpses of sunshine and feeling the warmth of the sun upon your face. The daffodils are out, the blossom is bursting and there are green shoots everywhere, signs of new life.

As we head into Easter in early April this year, this is also a wonderful time. After the quiet contemplation of Lent, Easter is a season of celebration and joy. It is the culmination of the Christian year.

One of the Bible readings that is often heard at this time is from the Gospel of John; it is a deeply moving reading. One of Jesus' really special friends, Mary Magdalene, had gone to the garden where Jesus had been laid in a tomb after his death. When she arrives, Mary finds the tomb empty and she is left weeping in the garden. It is a moment of deep grief, shock, uncertainty, and confusion, as Mary does not know what had happened to Jesus.

And into that moment, comes Jesus. Mary doesn't recognise him at first even when he asks her why she is crying. However, it is as Jesus speaks Mary's name, as he calls out to her by name, that she sees it is the risen Lord, Jesus, standing before her.

It is a moment of transformation and joy for Mary, of all that Jesus has said to her coming true, all her belief and faith in him coming to the fore.

It is the story of resurrection, of new life and love found in Jesus. God incarnate on earth and loving each one of us with that same love he demonstrated to Mary in that moment. Coming to us, with all that we deal with and cope with. Coming to us this Easter and calling us by name and giving us life.

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

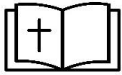
Every Blessing

*Rev'd Jenna Dearden*

**Email: [revjennadearden@gmail.com](mailto:revjennadearden@gmail.com)**

**Mobile: 07708 666612**





All are very welcome to services at All Saints in April and May!

### **SERVICES IN APRIL**

Friday 3 April 2.00 pm **Good Friday** – The Last Hour at the Cross  
*A service of readings, prayers, and reflections.*

5 April **EASTER SUNDAY**  
6.30 am Dawn Service *(with bacon butties afterwards)*  
9.30 am Easter Holy Communion

12 April 9.30 am Holy Communion  
6.00 pm Evensong

19 April 9.30 am Morning Praise

26 April 9.30 am All Age Holy Communion

### **SERVICES IN MAY**

3 May 9.30 am Holy Communion  
6.00 pm Evensong

10 May 9.30 Holy Communion

Thursday, 14 May 7.30 pm Ascension Day Holy Communion

17 May 9.30 am *Annual Parochial Church Meeting*, followed by Morning Praise

24 May 9.30 am All Age Holy Communion

31 May **10.00 am Joint service with the Congregation Church at the Congregational Church. No service at All Saints**

### **MORE EASTER SERVICES at All Saints**

Tuesday 31 March	7.30 pm	Sung Compline
Friday 3 April	2.00 pm	Last Hour at the Cross
Sunday 5 April	6.30 am	Dawn Service for Easter Sunday
Sunday 5 April	9.30 am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion

*(See our notice board for more details of services happening across the Benefices)*

### **EVENTS AT ALL SAINTS**



#### **Strawberry Teas**

**Sunday 7 June 2026 from 3pm – 5pm**



£8 Adults includes strawberries and cream, two cakes of your choice and tea/coffee - £4 Children under 12.

Please contact Liz ☎ 07930-812940 or Denise ☎ 07414-513683.

Pimms and a Raffle!

*Please see the Friends page for their forthcoming events.*

### **200 CLUB WINNERS**

<b>FEBRUARY</b>				<b>MARCH</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	£50	No. 046	Terry Sissons	1 <sup>st</sup>	£50	No. 111	Julia Hills
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£25	No. 123	Michelle Conlon	2 <sup>nd</sup>	£25	No. 072	Pauline Aldridge
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£10	No. 054	Peter Bakarich	3 <sup>rd</sup>	£10	No. 179	David Howarth

*For further information contact: Tim Watson, 61, High Street Tel. 01462 711123*

**\*THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED from Tuesday 21 April to Friday 24 April 2026**

All Saints' Church building will be closed for four days at the end of April for maintenance.

Please get in touch if you need further information.



## END TO END

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

Shillington has its ENDS. It is special because of that. Yet it is also where we begin.

Travelling along a motorway recently I passed an overhead gantry that read END and then another one appeared saying the same. Then just a little further there was a third gantry saying the same thing END. I couldn't work out what had ended and there was no beginning!

I remember concerning cars how it was a concern when someone said I think your big end has gone! What was the little end?

Trying to tell someone where I live is often difficult because when I say the END house, it all depends where you begin. Especially difficult because number one is the END house.

Where I used to travel near Strangford Lough there was a junction called the six road ends but we were all coming from different places. As I drove along the coast there was a painted sign on the rocks saying the end is nigh! Wow that was something to make you wonder what was round the next corner.



In cinemas or picture houses in my earlier days (even flicks was used) the end of films was not the end because there was the National Anthem. Then you could leave the show. How many times have we looked at the end of a story before we have read the book to see how it does end? Is that like judging someone before you get to know them?

I have known people go visiting and before they start to chat look at their watches to see how long this will take before they can leave. A bit like going to any event where you are more concerned about when will it end than enjoying the time. So busy so many other things to do ...

This was often the case in school lessons especially before going home.

As I journey through life it has really come to me that more often than not I don't concern myself with the end as much as just enjoying the moment. The end will come; as a poet once wrote ... it is later than you think.



Enjoy the beginning ..Spring is here with its new beginnings and new life celebrated. For Christians it is the everlasting life that we begin now in faith because of Easter.

Wherever you are beginning enjoy. Did someone say in my end is my beginning or was it the other way round ?

Every blessing, *Revd. Angus*



# CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NEWS

47 Church Street, Shillington

[www.shillingtoncong-church.org.uk](http://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 morning, open from 10.00am to 12 noon. Come and enjoy company, friendship, chat, share tea, coffee cakes and refreshments together. Everyone welcome, bring your knitting, reading or games if you wish.

## BEDFORD FOODBANK:

Thank you to the local community for the continuing support of the Bedford Foodbank, which is much appreciated. The Foodbank has been open for 15 years in October. During 2025 the amount of food which was distributed totalled 16,4497.2kg and the number of food parcels handed out was 19,238.

9,564 referrals were made to the foodbank of which 1,520 households used the facility for the first time

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

### *Items currently in short supply:*

<i>Tinned Spaghetti Hoops</i>	<i>Jars of Coffee</i>
<i>Tinned Fruit</i>	<i>Long life Milk</i>
<i>Tinned Vegetables</i>	<i>Long Life Fruit Juice</i>
<i>Bars of Chocolate</i>	<i>Cup-a-Soups</i>
<i>Cooking Sauces</i>	<i>Shower Gel</i>

Collections can be left at **1 Bells Close** or at **The Congregational Church** when open.

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 16th May 2026



A coffee morning will be hosted jointly at the Congregational Church on the morning of WEDNESDAY 13 MAY with All Saints' Church to which other local church congregations have been invited. We will be open from 10.00am to 12 noon - please come and join us for tea, coffee and refreshments. A Raffle and Bring & Buy Stall will also be held.



*“April, the angel of the months, the young love of the year” (Vita Sackville-West).*

Spring is a busy time for Shillington WI - we have a lot of great things planned for the next two months.

In February, Andrew Elliman told us about his incredible adventures on Mt. Everest and also his journey to swimming the English Channel – his talk was fascinating.

March is the month when Shillington WI hold their AGM. It went very smoothly under Jo’s expert guidance. After WI business was completed, Andy Gibbs entertained members by reading some of his lovely poems. He showed us pictures of his gorgeous dog, Finn and of views from in and around Shillington. They reminded us yet again that we are blessed to live in such a beautiful place.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> March we had an extra meeting to make up for the one we had to cancel in January due to Storm Goretta. We held a Bingo Quiz and Shillington WI’s Sandra Hare gave a flower arranging demonstration. She gave members some really useful tips on how to make flowers last longer in water.



In April, we are looking forward to welcoming our Speaker Jean Yates to our meeting. Her talk is titled “Ladies of the Grand Tour: Intrepid Wives and Mistresses”. Jean will tell us about the eye-opening ‘goings-on’ by some of the ladies on Grand Tours in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries!

We have a Fish and Chip Supper and Quiz evening on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – we welcome everyone, not just members, to come along to this fun event.

It wouldn’t be Spring without one of our very popular cake stalls. We are holding one on the 2nd May outside the Village Hall from 9.30 am to 12.00 am.



At our May meeting, Jennifer Hepworth will talk to us about “My Lavender Growing Journey”. She will not only tell us how to grow lavender but also explain the different ways we can use this much-loved plant’s natural beauty and fragrance.

As always, visitors are very welcome to our meetings, etc.

*For further information please contact:*

**Jo Carroll, President - ☎ 01462-711051 or [shillingtonwi@gmail.com](mailto:shillingtonwi@gmail.com)**

**Jacqui Turnbull, Secretary - [shillingtonwi@gmail.com](mailto:shillingtonwi@gmail.com)**

# APRIL & WILDLIFE

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

It's funny how winter can drag on (this one did as it was wet and dreary) but as soon as March comes, time goes into fifth gear!



April is my favourite month of the year - it just pips September. This is because the latter has winter behind it, but April has the whole summer ahead of it. It's the light evenings, the softness of the sunshine, the fresh green of the hedgerows and the sound of a blackbird singing his heart out in the evenings that makes it my special month. As poet Robert Browning (1812-1889) wrote from abroad: *"Oh, to be in England / Now that April's there"*. He's right, there is no better place especially when it's sunny.

Lots of people have been quietly getting on with gardening in a more wildlife-friendly way. Some have turned areas of their lawn into flower beds or vegetable and herb gardens. You can even have all of these in one border! I have seen vegetables flourishing in herbaceous borders and runner beans with their bright red flowers growing next to the roses.

The weather over the past year has been perfect for moss to grow in lawns - mine has loads. We can expect future conditions to be even more welcoming to moss. Rather than trying to get rid of it, the Royal Horticultural Society says that we should learn to love our mossy gardens for the sake of the environment and - given the direction of climate change - for an easier life. A mossy-grass mix supports more invertebrates which provide food for birds. Birds also love moss for their nests.



Many gardeners have been creating wildlife havens in the odd corner or two in their gardens. They have either left these areas to see what comes up or sown them with native flowers that are particularly attractive to pollinators. A few that come to mind are scabious, cowslips and foxgloves, all very beautiful. Dandelions are the perfect plant for insects, birds and the soil and also for us as the leaves are very nutritious and tasty ... as long as the dog hasn't been near them. A pile of a few logs, or small rocks, placed and left in wildlife areas are so good for insects, frogs etc.



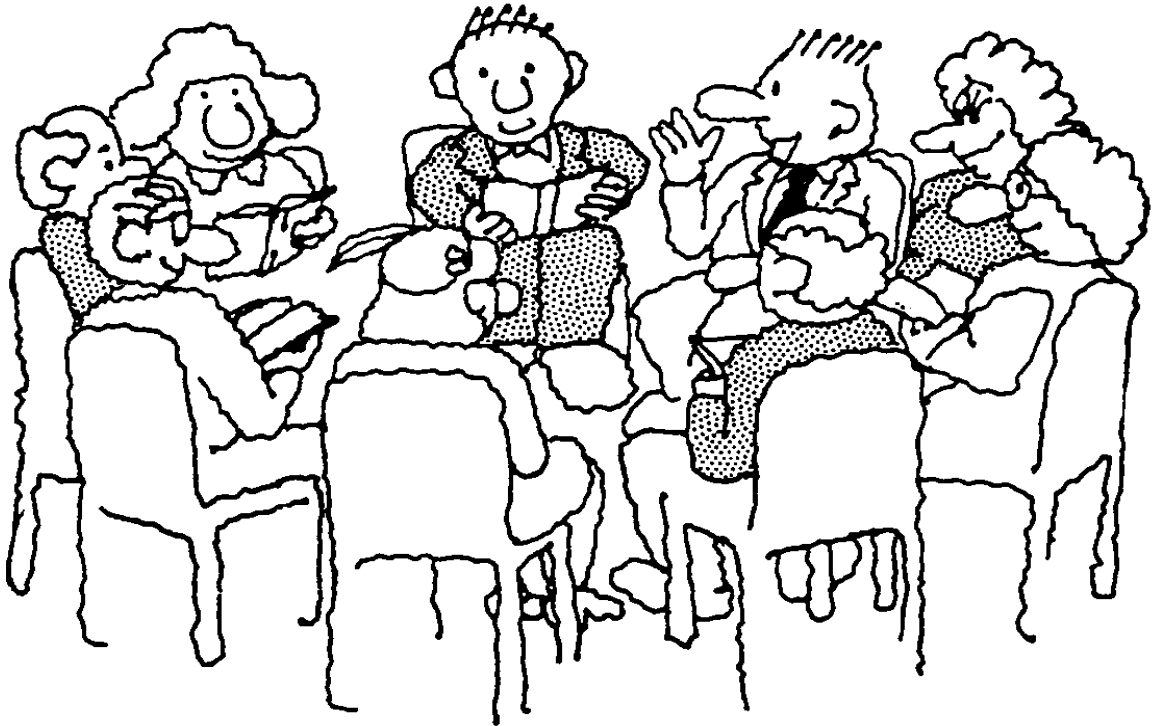
Nowadays, a lot of people do not mow their lawns throughout May. Several years ago when I mentioned 'No Mow May' I got blank or horrified looks. Some lawnmower enthusiasts even gave an involuntary twitch! Now it's the routine thing for many to do which is great. It gives our precious insects and garden spiders a break from the threat of being mullered by a mower.

If you haven't got into the routine of No Mow May, please would you consider doing your bit and giving our beneficial bugs a break! They need all the help they can get. And please, please, ditch the pesticides as new studies have shown, and continue to show, that they are very harmful to the environment, to our pets and to us.



*Annie x*

**Shillington**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**At the**  
**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026 from 7.45pm**



This is **not** a Parish Council meeting.

It is an open meeting giving parishioners an opportunity to:

- *Make connections with other people in your community.*
- *Hear reports from village organisations on what they've been up to during 2025 and plans for 2026.*
- *Ask questions about the issues that concern you.*

**ALL WELCOME**

*Lauren Darnell, Clerk to Parish Council.*

☎ 01462-713224 / email: [clerk@shillington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@shillington-pc.gov.uk)

# SHILLINGTON MEN'S CLUB

(Now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year)

<https://Shillingtonmensclub.co.uk>

On the 11<sup>th</sup> February 32 members attended our "Kick Off" party at the Congregational Church. The A.G.M. formalities were quickly dealt with and then the party started. Members enjoyed a buffet of M&S fayre and plenty of red or white wine or bottled or draught beer subsidised by the club. After the buffet we were treated to a presentation by Kevin Johnson, which was a mixture of his career in the pharmaceutical industry and the classic cars he picked up on the way, it was a very entertaining presentation and went down well with the members. Thank you Kevin.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> February 15 members attended an evening meal at the Crown in Henlow. The meal was a 2 course meal of either Sausage & Mash with Braised red Cabbage and Onion gravy or Smoked Fishcake, Poached egg, Tender stem Broccoli and Hollandaise Sauce. This was followed by Chocolate Brownie & Ice Cream or Treacle Pudding & Custard, Yum Yum! Thank you to Colin Hands and Stewart Rataj for facilitating this meal.

Our March 11<sup>th</sup> evening meal took us to the Cross Keys at Pulloxhill. Here 17 members tucked into a 2 course meal of either Sausage & Mash or Cottage Pie and Veg followed by Cherry Pie or Peach Crumble with Ice Cream or Custard. The Cherry Pie was amazing apparently!

We were blessed with glorious spring sunshine for our visit to McGrath Maserati in Kimpton on the 18<sup>th</sup> March. This small operation in rural Hertfordshire is internationally recognised as the go-to specialist for classic Maserati. Owner Andy Heywood gave us a guided tour of an array of beautiful, classic Maserati, explaining the history and features of each. Some of the world's most beautiful cars penned by famous design houses at their absolute peak. This visit was followed by lunch in the Red Lion at Preston. A perfect Men's Club event then – sunshine, oily bits and beer! A big thank you to Michael Bradley for organising this event and to our host Andy Heywood for making it a fantastic day out.

## Future events:

- ☺ 8<sup>th</sup> April - Visit to the Houses of Parliament with Blake Stephenson.
- ☺ 15<sup>th</sup> April - Lunch Social - The Greyhound, Haynes.
- ☺ 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Lunch Social - The View.
- ☺ 13<sup>th</sup> May - Lunch Social - The Raven, Hexton.
- ☺ 20<sup>th</sup> May - Sulgrave Manor and Silverstone Museum.
- ☺ 10<sup>th</sup> June - Lunch Social - The Bull, Barton le Clay.
- ☺ 17<sup>th</sup> June - The Tower of London with Andrew Elliman.

## Membership:

Current membership is 56 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! Annual Membership is £15.



## Contacts:

Events Co-ordinator - Michael Bradley  
(01462 711162)

Email - [michael894bradley@btinternet.com](mailto:michael894bradley@btinternet.com)

Chairman - Stewart Rataj  
(07984-206698)

Email - [stewartgatewaylodge@hotmail.com](mailto:stewartgatewaylodge@hotmail.com)



## UPDATE FROM OUR MID BEDFORDSHIRE MP BLAKE STEPHENSON

Infrastructure, healthcare and SEND education. They are the three topics I want to talk to you about in my latest article.

We have seen additional housing growth across our villages, but I'm worried the infrastructure just isn't keeping up. So I recently met with Anglian Water at Shillington water recycling centre to understand the additional pressures on water/sewage management as a result of this growth. We discussed how Shillington WRC is currently at capacity and that any further housing would increase the risk of more raw sewage being discharged into the local watercourse. This would be an environmental disaster and totally unacceptable to Shillington residents.

I have campaigned for stakeholders like Anglian Water and bodies like the internal drainage boards (IDBs) to be statutory consultees for planning applications. Sadly, the Government has, so far, been reluctant to take this forward. The consequence is that local authorities simply don't need to listen to their concerns about capacity when considering planning decisions. It makes no sense. Anglian Water wants to invest to modernise their aging assets, but they're also prevented from doing so by their regulator, OFWAT, unless they are pre-approved to do so in an inflexible five-year strategic planning cycle. I'll now be working with Anglian Water to map out the capacity constraints that exist throughout Mid Beds and I will be engaging with the Environment Agency to try to inject some common sense into decisions.

Access to healthcare in rural areas is one of the issues I have been spending a significant amount of my time in Parliament on since my election so I was delighted to secure a Westminster Hall debate on that exact topic. I spoke about the need to ensure our rural communities are not having to travel large distances to access their healthcare, and how the Government's plans for neighbourhood health services could work, but only if they understand that neighbourhoods are small, not 50,000 people as they have suggested to me.

And finally, the Government has released its proposals for the future of SEND services across the country. So many parents and teachers have spoken to me about this issue over the past year and I really want to hear your views on the Government's plans so please do get in touch and let me know.

### Stay In Touch

You can book an appointment at one of my advice surgeries by emailing  
**[blake.stephenson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:blake.stephenson.mp@parliament.uk)**

You can also find me on Facebook (**[facebook.com/BlakeMidBeds](https://www.facebook.com/BlakeMidBeds)**), as well as X and Instagram (**[@Blake\\_MidBeds](https://www.instagram.com/Blake_MidBeds)**). I also send out a regular e-newsletter and you can sign up on my website **[blakestephenson.uk](https://www.blakestephenson.uk)**.

# SHILLINGTON SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

MEET AT

## SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

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



*We have now completed the triples league competition, congratulations go to Bill Gearing, Jan Rix, Ken Phillips and Brenda Hutty, they won nine out of their twelve games over the winter and are deserved winners of the title. The runners up were Toni Gearing, Neil Rixon, Alan Hutty and Marion Wilson, they put up a good fight and over the latter part of the competition moved from fourth to second.*

*We will now commence the Aussie pairs competition, where it's every man and woman for themselves. The teams are picked at random on the day of the game and each player will play eight games over spring and early summer. The four players with the most points will then play a final on the night of our AGM at the end of June.*

*Shillington Black and Red continue to play at Hatfield. Currently Blacks are at the bottom of division one and red at the top of division two, both teams may be trading places at the end of the season.*

*The Wilstead league has almost come to an end and both the Scarecrows and Wickers ended up mid table this year.*

*Well, done to Bill & Toni Gearing, Julia & Paul Bruce, Trevor Knight, Michelle Conlon and Neil Rixon who represented the club and Hertfordshire County at Melton Mowbray on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March. No trophies were won but all really enjoyed the experience.*

*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 turn up at the village hall on a Friday evening, or if you prefer call or message Michelle (contact details below) in advance. We are currently only accepting new members for Friday evening sessions.*

*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](mailto:conlonmichelle@sky.com)**

**or Derek Lewison (☎ 01462 711504)**



# SHILLINGFEST 26



**Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June – 1pm to 4pm**  
**Shillington Memorial Playing Field**

**ANNUAL COMMUNITY EVENT – FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY**



**Fun Dog Show with a variety of rosettes up for grabs:**



Waggiest Tail / Most Appealing Eyes



Best Biscuit Catcher



Dog Most Like Its Owner / Best Decorated Lead



Fancy Dress / Best Trick

Local, very popular

## SKA & Punk Band

Playing during the afternoon featuring  
our very own front man

**ANDY NEAVES**



**Village organisations and local businesses**

**Stalls & Sideshows**

**Shillington Classic Vehicles**

## GREAT FOOD & DRINK

Big H BBQ / Dan the Pizza Man / Mr. Ice Cream Man / Licensed Bar  
Pimms Tent / WI Sweet & Savoury

*Would you like a stall to promote your business?*

*Want to get involved or help on the day?*

Contact **Sally** for more details ☎ **07711-504489**

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

SHILLINGTON WI

QUIZ

WITH A  
**FISH & CHIPS  
SUPPER**

**SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

Hall opens at 7pm – for a 7.30pm start

*Supper is at 8.30pm*

**SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

£18.00 Per Ticket payable in advance by Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 26

*Options for supper include:*

Fish & Chips, Chicken & Chips, Veggie Burger & Chips or Halloumi Burger & Chips.

All welcome to our friendly WI Quiz & Raffle! – Contributions welcome.

Please bring your own drinks, glasses & nibbles!

Tickets are available by contacting: 07889766887, alternatively you can

email: [ShillingtonWI@gmail.com](mailto:ShillingtonWI@gmail.com)



# SHILLINGTON SPITFIRES CRICKET CLUB

## IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR CRICKET

After what feels like an exceptionally long winter, the cricket season is almost back. The Shillington Spitfires have their first home game of the season at the Memorial Playing fields and there is a buzz around the squad to get this season started.

### PLAYER PREP

The squadron have been training over at the Robert Bloomfield Academy during the depths of winter, but as the weather improves and the nights stay lighter for longer, we'll be back at the playing fields training in the evening - if you're passing and fancy a bowl or a bat, come along, you'll be more than welcome.

### PITCH PREP

The team of ground staff have been really putting the hours in to prepare the pitch for the upcoming season. The team's first home match is on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April against Watton-at-Stone, and the pitch will be in tiptop condition by then. There have been a few grass cuts and plenty of rolling, which will help. But there are long term plans afoot to make a significant improvement to the square.



### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The improvements mentioned above need significant investment in terms of sponsorship and grants. The Spitfires are looking for sponsors and grants to ensure Shillington has a cricket club for many years to come. If you feel you would like to sponsor the team or know of a local business who might be interested in sponsoring the club, we have some very attractive packages on offer. You can contact the team on our new email: [shillingtonspitfires@gmail.com](mailto:shillingtonspitfires@gmail.com) (or call Dave on 07855 782444) and we'll be more than happy to explain the sponsorship packages on offer.

### COME AND PLAY

And as always, if you used to play or have never played cricket, but fancy giving it a spin, get in touch and come along. Send a message to the email address or phone number above or find us on Facebook and Instagram by searching for Shillington Spitfires. You won't regret it.

### OPENING FIXTURES OF THE SEASON

DATE	OPPOSITION	VENUE	FORMAT
Sunday, 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Watton-at-Stone	Home	40 overs
Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Motley Crew	Home	40 overs
Sunday, 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Preston	Away	40 overs
Sunday, 31 <sup>st</sup> May	King's Cross	Home	40 overs
Sunday, 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Wheathampstead	Away	40 overs
Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Hinxworth	Home	T10
Sunday, 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Ickleford	Away	40 overs
Wednesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Steppingley	Home	T20
Sunday, 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Knebworth Park	Away	40 overs



# **SHILLINGTON SPITFIRES C.C.**

## **SPONSORSHIP**

### **Sponsor a Match ball: £35 per game**

- Company or person promoted on website and social media in the week building up to the game.
- 1 x Cricket tea and 1 x pint of Beer at game or on Sponsors' day.

### **Sponsor a Game £100 per game**

- Company or person promoted on website and social media in the week building up to the game.
- Logo on TV inside club at home fixtures.
- 2 x Cricket teas and 4 x pints of Beer at game or on Sponsors' day.

### **Sponsor a Player £150 per player per season**

- Company or person promoted on website, and social media throughout the full season inc training.
- Half to the player to help towards personal equipment, half to the club for shared equipment.
- Logo on TV inside club at home fixtures.
- 2 x Cricket teas/BBQ and 4 x pints of Beer on Sponsors' day.

### **Sign Sponsor £400 per Season**

- Company specific A1 poster in large outdoor sign. with logo and contact details for all home games (T20 and 40 Overs)
- Company promoted on website, social media, and parish magazine throughout the full season.
- Logo on TV inside club at home fixtures.
- 2 x Cricket teas/BBQ and 4 x pints of Beer on Sponsors' day.

### **T20 & training team shirt sponsor. (Max 3)**

#### **2 year agreement: £750 1st year, £325 2nd year.**

- Company logo/name on green shirt used for all T20 and training.
- Company promoted on website, social media and parish magazine throughout the year (full season and off season).
- Logo on TV inside club at home fixtures.
- 4 x Cricket teas/BBQ and 8 x pints of Beer on Sponsor day.
- 2 x Invite to end of season awards evening.

### **40 Over team shirt sponsor: (Max 3)**

#### **2 year agreement: £1000 1st year, £500 2nd year.**

- Company logo/name on white shirt used for all 40 over matches.
- Company promoted on website, social media, and parish magazine throughout the year (full season and off season).
- Logo on TV inside club at home fixtures.
- 4 x Cricket teas/BBQ and 8 x pints of Beer on Sponsors day.
- 2 x Invite to end of season awards evening.

***If you are interested please contact us on***  
***[shillingtonspitfires@gmail.com](mailto:shillingtonspitfires@gmail.com) or ☎ 07766-170212***

# Raise funds for us for FREE

with  easyfundraising

Shillington community assets, owned by the village:

Village Hall  
Charity 300066



Playing Fields  
Charity 300065



or

8,000+ retailers will donate to us whenever you shop with them



JOHN  
LEWIS



Plus, you'll get...



Exclusive retailer offers



Competitions



A warm feeling inside!

## 2026 EXCURSIONS

### 4th THURSDAY OF MONTH!

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

Full payment is required 10 days before departure. A cheque to Wanderbus, 5 The Pastures, Upper Stondon, Beds SG16 6QB or a bank transfer to: CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code 40-52-40, Acc No. 00013118 Name: Wanderbus Ltd (Use your name in Reference). Cancellations must be made within 7 days or refunds will be discretionary.

DATE	DESTINATIONS & ENTRANCE FEE (correct at print time)	BUS FARE / PICK UP / ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>Canons Ashby, Northants. £14.00</b>	£12.50 - 10:00/10:30 a.11.45 / d.15:30
<i>A tranquil Tudor manor house showcasing a mix of historic architecture, 18<sup>th</sup> century terraced garden including flowers, fruit, vegetables, paddock and stables. Tea room.</i>		
<b>28<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Castle Ashby Gardens, Arboretum &amp; Animal Menagerie, Northants</b>	£12.50 - 10:30/11:00 a.11.45 / d.15:30
<i>Parkland designed by Capability Brown. Formal Italian Gardens, an arboretum and small animal menagerie. Gardens are extremely well maintained and among the best in the country. In the tea room is a lovely selection of cakes and drinks as well as a selection of hot and cold food.</i>		
<b>25<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Cottesbrook Hall &amp; Gardens, Northants Adult £17 (RHS Members free)</b>	£12.50 - 10:00/10:30 a.11.45 / d.15:30
<i>Award winning gardens, and the internationally renowned Woolavington Collection of Sporting Art, along with fine furniture and porcelain. Formal gardens surround the Hall and to the Wild Garden, which flanks a meandering stream where acers, spring bulbs and gunneras create a romantic and tranquil air.</i>		
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	<b>Delapre Abbey, Northants Tour + 1 course lunch + refreshment - £28.00</b>	£12.50 - 10:30/11:00 a.12.00 / d.15:30
<i>Delapre Abbey, a former Cluniac nunnery founded in 1145, has a rich history spanning nearly 900 years. Once a family home and battlefield site, it has evolved into a stunning heritage destination, offering visitors a glimpse into its fascinating past and beautiful gardens.</i>		
<b>27<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	<b>Hertford Castle &amp; Old Town - Free Entry</b>	£10.00 - 11:00/11:30 a.12.30 / d.15:30
<i>Following the Xmas Market trip, several suggested a summer trip to the Castle ground and time to wander the streets of old Hertford Town.</i>		
<b>24<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Mountfitchet Castle, Stanstead Mountfitchet £16.00 OAP / £18.00 Adult</b>	£12.50 - 10:00/10:30 a.11.30 / d.15:30
<i>Castle and Norman village of 1066. A unique history time capsule. Explore the castle and roam through the Norman village hidden behind the castle walls and wander in and out of the many houses. Experience the ambience of an ancient bygone lifestyle. Includes the House on the Hill Museum. Restaurant serving a wide range of food.</i>		
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Battle of Britain Bunker &amp; Exhibition Centre, Uxbridge. £10.00 OAP / £12.50 Adult</b>	£12.50 - 10:00/10:30 a.11.45 / d.15:35
<i>The Battle of Britain Bunker housed RAF Fighter Command's No 11 Group Operations Room throughout the Second World War. The bunker is a series of rooms on two levels some 60 feet underground. The Operations Room with its large scale maps, squadron display boards, balloon and weather states, is exactly how it was when Winston Churchill visited on 15th September 1940. NB There are 76 steps into the Bunker but no rush! Cafe and Exhibition Centre</i>		
<b>26<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>Blue Diamond Garden Centre, Wyton, Cambs - Free Entry</b>	£10.00 - 11:00/11:30 a.12.15 / d.15:30
<i>Discover an extensive range of high-quality plants, seasonal décor, and elegant gifting, all thoughtfully curated to elevate home and garden living. With the addition of a new restaurant, it's a destination perfect for those who appreciate style, comfort and a touch of indulgence.</i>		

## SHILLINGTON & DISTRICT CLASSIC VEHICLE GROUP

*fortnightly summer meetings from 4.30pm supporting our local community pub:*

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

*The meetings will of course be weather dependent so if strong wind and rain predicted, will be cancelled and replaced by a better day meeting in the same week.*

**Dates currently proposed:**

*14th & 28th April / 12th & 26th May / 9th & 23rd June / 7th & 21st July / 4th & 18th August / 1st & 15th September and of course at Shillingfest on the Playing Field - 27th June.*

*Bring along an interesting vehicle if you have one or just come to have a look and a chat. These get togethers are informal and for all the family, the aim is to have a fun evening with like-minded people.*

Contact **Zara** ☎ **07860-646323** for more information.



Please note: The pipeline project down Apsley End continues until 11<sup>th</sup> May, but there is now vehicle access to The Musgrave Arms from the centre of Shillington, although no vehicle access from Pegsdon/B655 direction.



## MAULDEN WALKING FOOTBALL CLUB

Maulden Walking Football Club is looking to welcome new members to our weekly sessions (Sundays 6pm - 7pm or 8pm - 9pm Tuesdays) at Flitwick Leisure Centre. Walking football is one of the UK's fastest growing sports and is especially popular with players aged 50 and over (we have many current members in their 60s & 70s).

All abilities are welcome — some of our members are completely new to football whilst others played competitive football previously. All are assured a warm welcome. Our sessions run throughout the year, with no seasonal breaks. We occasionally play other local teams and take part in tournaments. These are optional, as are our regular social gatherings including annual coach trips combining walking football with some sea air and fish & chips. We also arrange curry nights, pub nights and other events for members.

If you're interested in giving it a try. or know someone who might be (especially if they don't use social media), please get in touch via

**OBMauldenWalkingFootball@outlook.com**. Or message **07496-287628**.

**Maulden Walking Football Club - est. 2021**

Email: [OBMauldenWalkingFootball@outlook.com](mailto:OBMauldenWalkingFootball@outlook.com) @Club Maulden - twitter

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/252103253269418>

<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/mauldenwalkingfootballclub2/>



# LAWN GREEN BOWLS

## A SPORT FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

# BARTON LE CLAY BOWLS CLUB

### RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

## OPEN DAY 24<sup>th</sup> MAY 10AM – 3PM

AT OUR BOWLS GREEN

ADJACENT TO BARTON ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

For further details Email: [dimcdonald@btinternet.com](mailto:dimcdonald@btinternet.com)

## CHILTERN SOCIETY

### PLANNING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – PROTECT THE CHILTERN....

**The Chiltern Society brings people together to stand up for Chilterns nature and heritage.**

*As climate change, unsustainable development and wildlife loss threaten the landscape, the Society campaigns for its future, demanding better protection and speaking up where it matters. It leads practical hands-on action to conserve and enhance fragile habitats through an army of local volunteers, and it helps people discover, enjoy and treasure the Chilterns.*

The Chilterns are under intense and growing pressure from over-development, and we urgently need more local people to help protect our nationally important landscape.

The Chilterns are facing unprecedented development pressure. Housing targets and weakened planning protections are putting the Green Belt, landscape, and local character at risk.

The Chiltern Society's **Planning Group** challenges detrimental planning applications, whilst supporting appropriate development. Our work is respected by planning authorities and is often included in decisions.

**We can currently cover only 60% of parishes. That is not enough.**

**We need more local volunteers — WE NEED YOU!**

No planning experience is required. We provide training, support and expert guidance.

All that's needed is a passion for your local area.

**If you care about the Chilterns, this is your chance to make a real difference.**

For more information or to get involved please contact us today

☎ 01494 771250

Email: [getinvolved@chilternsociety.org.uk](mailto:getinvolved@chilternsociety.org.uk)

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



Who can believe how quickly the year is already passing. Spring is here, the evenings are lighter and the Church is looking splendid standing on the hill amongst the daffodils and crocuses. Sadly, however, the recent not so lovely weather i.e. the rain, has highlighted a problem. Our most urgent project at the moment is the repair to the part of the church attached to the South Porch. Water has been leaking unnoticed for some time through the roof and wall, consequently damage has been done to timbers and stone which we have to deal with as a matter of urgency.

All other large projects are currently on hold until this has been rectified with a temporary fix, to ensure no further damage is done. Due to the amazing support we get from our supporters, we have the money to do this. However, the government's recent decision to cease the "Listed Places of Worship Scheme", which enabled us to reclaim VAT on repairs to the Church is disappointing and means that the effectively costs of all repairs in general will increase by 20%. This is why our fundraising is so important and why we are grateful for all the support we are given....on that note...what have we been doing recently?

In February we held a race night in the village hall...using famous wind-up horses...those who have been before will know what I am talking about! It was a tremendous success and lots of fun, the sight of our "Jockeys" madly winding up spindles at a phenomenal rate while behind them the horses crept slowly along is always a joy to behold and we hope you all enjoyed it and thank you for supporting us, you raised well over £900!

Now on to the rest of 2026 and dates for your diary...

**Annual General Meeting:** We will be holding our AGM as usual up at the Church on **30th April at 7:30pm** which will be followed with a presentation by **Joe Olding**, who as many of you will know is one of the organisers behind the community garden project and WASP, (Wild About Shillington Parish). This promises to be a great night! As always there will be refreshments on offer and all are most welcome.

**Sunday Teas:** Our lovely group of volunteers will be opening up the church and serving Tea/Coffee and Cakes throughout the Summer again this year. It will start on **Sunday 3rd May** and run on until the last Sunday in September, the 27th. Always a popular and well supported event we look forward to seeing you. This year we are introducing our "Cake of the Month" raffle where lucky raffle ticket owners will be able to choose between two delicious cakes to be personally delivered to them during the October-April period (one per winning ticket). We hope to have as usual some Sundays accompanied by music, details of when musicians will be performing alongside the teas will be given nearer the time.



There will be many more events planned through the Summer and Autumn so look out on facebook - "Friends of All Saints Church" or our website - foas-shillington.org.uk for more details.

Something to leave you with - Historic England last year undertook a survey on the public's perception on who actually pays to maintain and repair churches in England.

About a third of those asked thought it was the Church of England and or the Catholic Church; 15% were under the impression it was the Local Council; 12% didn't know and only 11% knew it was the local congregation and supporting organisations, the correct answer! This is why organisations such as the "Friends" are so important in making sure we have a safe, accessible and beautiful building standing on the hill overlooking our village.

**Now, more importantly, do you fancy joining us?:** The Friends are always looking for new members, we are a happy band of willing volunteers who care passionately about the fabric of this beautiful historic building that stands above our village. If you feel this is something you would like to know more about, please contact us via facebook or our website or better still....come to hear Joe at the AGM.

*Katie Brettell*

**Secretary, Friends of All Saints' Church**

**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 **07485-617556** or email [foass25@gmail.com](mailto:foass25@gmail.com)



**ALL SAINTS ILLUMINATED**

*To celebrate or commemorate your special occasion please contact:*

**Catherine** on **07710-823384** or e-mail [catherine.scleater@btinternet.com](mailto: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
Shillington WI	<b>International Women's Day (IWD)</b> - celebrated annually on March 8, is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for advancing gender equality. IWD has been around for well over a century, with the first IWD marked in 1911. In 2026, IWD marks an extraordinary milestone: 115 years of collective action, advocacy, and progress toward gender equality. For more than a century, IWD has helped drive transformative change. Each generation has built on the courage of those before it, pushing boundaries and redefining what is possible.	Sunday 8 March	Saturday 14 March
Edwards Family	In memory of Carl, with love from Mum, Dad, Debbie, Chris, Rebecca and Ethan	Sunday 8 March	Saturday 14 March
Jackie, Mark, Frazer & All the Bowles Family	Bryan Bowles. Happy Birthday "St Patricks Day" 17th March 1926. Happy Memories always stay. With fondest love Jackie, Mark, Frazer Liza, Daniel, Elena & Rheana	Sunday 15 March	Saturday 21 March
Sandra, Richard and Victoria Hare	Treasured memories - 60 years ago, on 25th June I married a very special, lovely man - Ernie Hare. We've missed you every day for 18 years, but will love you forever. Sandra, Richard, Victoria and families. xxx	Sunday 21 June	Saturday 27 June

# PLANNING APPLICATIONS

## DECISIONS FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

CB/25/02569/FULL – 21 Greenfields, SG5 3NX  
Erection of a 2m high boundary wall around front garden, with vehicle and pedestrian gates to side of front garden/drive, and an additional pedestrian gate to rear. Erection of outbuilding. **GRANTED**

CB/25/03255/FULL – 75 Church Street, SG5 3LJ  
Erection of garden fence and gate (Retrospective). **GRANTED**

CB/25/02910/FULL – 89 High Road, SG5 3LJ  
Erection of an oak framed garage. **GRANTED**

CB/25/03256/LB - 75 Church Street, SG5 3LJ.  
Listed Building: Erection of garden fence and gate (retrospective) **GRANTED**

## DISCUSSED BY PARISH COUNCIL BUT AWAITING A CBC DECISION

CB/25/03452/FULL - 137 High Road, SG5 3LU  
Single storey rear extension. **SUPPORT**

CB/25/03970/FULL - 19 Bury Road, SG5 3NY  
Erection of a detached car port with home office above. **SUPPORT**  
*with comment that the council objects to any alterations to the brook as it would increase the risk of flooding.*

CB/TCA/26/00079 - The Old Vicarage, High Road, SG5 3LT.  
Works to trees within a Conservation Area: Re pollard two Lime Trees. Crown raise and clear buildings to Chinese Privet, fell Ash. **SUPPORT**

CB/25/03258/LB – 137 High Road, SG5 3LU.  
Listed Building: Single storey rear extension. **SUPPORT**

## NEW APPLICATIONS

CB/26/00261 - Former Pig Pen, Higham Road, Higham Gobion  
Prior Approval of change of use of agricultural building to dwelling: Conversion of barn to single storey dwelling

CB/26/00323 - New Farm, Upton End Road, SG5 3PG  
Erection of three detached dwellings with solar panels, access, parking, private gardens, and landscaping following the demolition of the existing barn and other structures.



# **THE FRIENDLY PLACE**

**Spring/Summer/Autumn schedule**

**From 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**


---

**Mondays, 10.00am to 12.00 noon**

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

---

**Hosted by Linda & Trish of All Saints Church  
and Angus & Nola of the Congregational Church, Shillington  
For more information you can call  
Linda 01462-711761 or Trish 07754-760073**





How quickly the terms are passing us by. Already, the children are looking forward to their trip to All Saints' Church to learn about Easter with Rev Jenna.

The children in the gardening club have been busy enjoying spring with Di & Alan, our gardening volunteers. Their beautiful spring wheelbarrows at the school gate have received many compliments. A huge thank you to Di and Alan for the time they dedicate to the school.



Barn Owls class did themselves, their parents and the school proud when they went to the O2 to take part in the Young Voices Choir concert. They sang their hearts out and behaved impeccably. Well done Barn Owls!

Rabbits Class are preparing for their trip to Celtic Harmony to bring their learning and knowledge of the Stone & Iron age to life.

Squirrels Class had a super trip to Rockingham Castle and just like Barn Owls behaved impeccably. The event coordinator called the day after the trip to compliment the school on how well behaved the children were.

Pixies and Hedgehogs welcomed their mums in to stay and play to celebrate Mother's Day, great fun was had by all.

Mrs Clarke, Mrs Webster and Poppy J are busy in the Afterschool Club with special themed events to come, including pizza making and a make your own Slime session.

Mrs Cooper, active as always in Breakfast Club, has been introducing the children to yoga in the mornings. A lovely, calm way to start the day!



The PTFA have launched their £1 challenge. Each child will be given £1 and challenged to turn it into as much money as possible using their creativity, teamwork and entrepreneurial skills. They can choose to grow their pound through a small project, idea or act of kindness.. It's a fun and exciting way for the children to build confidence, problem-solving skills and an understanding of money, all while raising funds to support our school community. We can't wait to see their brilliant ideas! This wonderful initiative

was funded by Miss Woodham before her departure.

As always, a big thankyou to our band of trusted volunteers for their continued support. Their commitment and support with reading and school trips is invaluable.

The school now has its very own Facebook page. Please visit and like [Shillington Lower School Facebook](#).

We are taking lots of enquiries for the Pixie Pre-school. 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](mailto:office@shillingtonlower.co.uk)  
website: [www.shillingtonstondon.co.uk](http://www.shillingtonstondon.co.uk)



# SHILLINGTON AND STONDON FEDERATION



## JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### **Become a School Governor**

*To make a meaningful impact on children's education  
while contributing to your local communities.*

**We are currently seeking volunteers from the Federation's local villages and wider communities to be School Governors.**

#### **What is a School Governor?**

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

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

#### **What does the role include?**

The Governor role involves:

- *preparing for and attending around four main meetings and three to five committee meetings per year*
- *the opportunity to join working groups to focus on specific tasks*
- *visiting the schools a few times a year with a pre-agreed focus to report on*
- *undertaking training*

Although becoming a Governor requires drive and commitment, you will enjoy many professional and personal rewards, including career development opportunities and the chance to support young people's futures.

#### **How do I find out more information and/or apply?**

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

[lauraforgham@shillington.cbeds.co.uk](mailto:lauraforgham@shillington.cbeds.co.uk) or [forghaml@stondon.cbeds.co.uk](mailto:forghaml@stondon.cbeds.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 <a href="mailto:katiebrettell@icloud.com">katiebrettell@icloud.com</a>	Carli Mauger 07912-549931 <a href="mailto:carlimauger@gmail.com">carlimauger@gmail.com</a>	Deb Pateman 07934-480446 <a href="mailto:debpateman@msn.com">debpateman@msn.com</a>
Anita Hare 07485-025775 <a href="mailto:anitahare@outlook.com">anitahare@outlook.com</a>		Laura Griffiths 07493-903621 <a href="mailto:lauragriffiths820@gmail.com">lauragriffiths820@gmail.com</a>

# Easier recycling

**From 30 March 2026:**

- you can add glass bottles and jars to your mixed dry recycling bin
- flats receive a new food waste collection

## Yes please

- ✓ **Glass bottles and jars (including lids and labels)**
- ✓ Plastic pots, tubs, trays and bottles
- ✓ Paper and cardboard
- ✓ Metal cans, tins and foil
- ✓ Aerosols
- ✓ Food and drink cartons

## No thanks

- ✗ Drinking glasses
- ✗ Pyrex, mirrors, lightbulbs
- ✗ Ceramics or china
- ✗ Spectacles
- ✗ Food waste or nappies
- ✗ Batteries and vapes

**Glass collected from  
30 March 2026**



## Live in a flat?

Start using your new kitchen caddy for weekly food waste collections.

Not sure what goes in which bin? Check our A-Z guide:  
[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/a-z-recycling](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/a-z-recycling)



# SEED SOWING SPRING

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



Recovering from surgery recently has made me appreciate this spring even more. The warmer days bringing with them more and flowers opening each day bringing with them such joy and getting out in the fresh air.

Seeing the new shoots and buds gives such hope. Mother Nature quietly gets on with her work for us all to enjoy.

"Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished" - Lau Tzu

With these higher temperatures warming the soil, my thoughts turn to planting seeds. Looking at all the colourful seed packets. Visualising all the different scents and shapes and colours like a vibrant painting.

Not only to enjoy in the garden but to use as cut flowers to adorn your home. I love doing this as bringing them in and putting in a vase or jam jar you can really study the shapes and forms of the different varieties. I love the informality cut flowers bring. A simple seed producing vases and vases of flowers throughout summer.

Cut some foliage or Ornamental grasses or even vegetable foliage like asparagus foliage to add interest.

## Annual Seeds for Cut Flowers:

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| ✿ Sweet peas     | ✿ Ammi majus |
| ✿ Calendula      | ✿ Cornflower |
| ✿ Love in a mist | ✿ Zinnia     |
| ✿ Cosmos         | ✿ Sunflower  |

For a couple of pounds you can add so much interest to gaps in the borders and have endless bunches of flowers too!

Have fun growing!

**Donna** x

## JOBS IN THE GARDEN FOR APRIL

- ✂ Keep weeding and tidying beds
- ✂ Sow annuals, wild flowers and vegetable seeds
- ✂ Sow lawns and bare patches
- ✂ Trim Penstemons and Salvia
- ✂ Remove faded Hydrangea heads

- ✂ Keep a look out for aphids and Lily Beetle
- ✂ Last chance to prune roses
- ✂ Divide perennials
- ✂ Clean greenhouse
- ✂ Add supports for plants as they grow

# VILLAGE FACILITIES



## SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Registered charity no: 300066

All enquiries please contact:

the **BOOKING CLERK** on ☎ **07376-682935**

e-mail: [shillingtonvillagehall@yahoo.com](mailto: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
- ☺ Local eggs for sale

### 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 \*

### 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
<b>UK Power Networks</b>	<b>To report or get info on power cuts</b> Text <b>POWER</b> and your postcode to 80876 <b>www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk</b>	<b>National number 105</b>

Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford Bedfordshire, SG17 5TQ. ( <a href="http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a> )	
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

## APRIL

- 2 Parish Council Monthly Meeting – Jubilee Room of Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 3 All Saints' Church – Easter Service – Last Hour of the Cross – 2pm
- 5 All Saints' Church – Dawn Service for Easter Sunday – 6.30am
- 5 All Saints' Church – Easter Sunday Holy Communion – 9.30am
- 5 Congregational Church – Easter Sunday Service at Pirton Methodist Church – 10.30am
- 8 Mens' Club – Visit to Houses of Parliament with MP Blake Stephenson
- 9 Wives Group – birthday outing – afternoon tea - TBA.
- 11 Shillington Village Hall – Live Band - Fynnius Fogg from 7pm
- 12 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 12 Spitfires CC – In house Warm Up – Playing Field
- 15 Mens' Club – Lunch Social at The Greyhound, Haynes
- 19 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 19 Spitfires CC – home match against Watton-At-Stone – 40 overs
- 22 Mens' Club – Lunch Social at The View, Pegsdon
- 25 WI – Quiz Night and Fish & Chip Supper – Village Hall – 7pm for 7.30pm start
- 26 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 30 Friends of All Saints' – AGM at All Saints' Church – 7.30pm

## MAY

- 2 WI Cake Stall – outside Village Hall – 9.30am to 12 noon (or when cakes run out!)
- 5 Parish Council AGM – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 10 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 10 Spitfires CC – home match against Motley Crew – 40 overs
- 12 Annual Parish Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 13 Christian Aid Fundraiser – Congregational Church – 10am to 12 noon
- 13 Men's Club – Lunch Social at The Raven, Hexton
- 17 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Brenda Ballentine – 10.30am
- 17 Spitfires CC – away match against Preston – 40 overs
- 20 Men's Club – Visit to Sulgrave Manor & Silverstone Museum
- 24 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 31 United Church Service at Congregational Church with All Saints' – 10am
- 31 Spitfires CC – home match against Kings Cross – 40 overs

## JUNE

- 2 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 7 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 7 Spitfires CC - away match against Wheathampstead – 40 overs
- 10 Men's Club – Lunch Social at The Bull, Barton-Le-Clay
- 12 Spitfires CC – home match against Hinxworth – T10
- 14 Spitfires CC - away match against Ickleford – 40 overs
- 17 Men's Club – Visit to Tower of London with Andrew Elliman
- 17 Spitfires CC - home match against Steppingly – T20
- 27 Shillingfest 26 – Community Event – Playing Field – 1pm to 4pm
- 28 Spitfires CC - away match against Knebworth Park – 40 overs – 1pm start

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](http://www.lonsdaleps.co.uk) and sponsored by Advertisers and Shillington Parish Council.

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[www.shillington-hub.org.uk](http://www.shillington-hub.org.uk)