

# PARISH NEWS

covering  
**SHILLINGTON, PEGSDON & HIGHAM GOBION**

**SHILLINGFEST 26**  
Community Event  
Celebrating Village Life

**Shillington**  
CASHINO ROYALE

WINS  
\$ 1000  
\$ 500  
\$ 250

**Saturday 27th June**  
Starts 13:00

LOCATION:  
The Playingfields  
Shillington

- Fete Stalls
- Side Shows
- Fun Dog Show
- BBQ & Food
- Bar Inside & Outside
- Pimms Tent
- Live Music

**Issue 184 – JUNE 2026**

*Deadline for August edition – Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026*

## PARISH COUNCIL

At the April meeting, councillors agreed to offer the Friends of All Saints' Church £141 towards work on the church which was all that remained in the 2025-6 budget. They would also award them a further £69 from the 2026-7 budget. For many years, the Parish Council has awarded a grant to the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and often called upon them for advice. It has increased its contribution for this year to £450. Councillors also agreed to make a donation to Shillington Village Hall pay for the electricity supply for the defibrillator.

At the May meeting, we were pleased to welcome Central Bedfordshire Councillor, Blake Stephenson, along with his parliamentary assistant, Charley Snowden. Blake reported that CBC's reserves have dropped and the council would have to find £27 million of savings during this financial year. Like us, he awaited the list of sites that go forward for possible development in the Local Plan and hoped that housing planned for Marston Vale and Tempsford new town would reduce the pressure to build elsewhere. His visit to the Sewage Treatment Works in Shillington had confirmed that they are operating at full capacity and there are no plans to increase it at present. This should be taken into account when responding to planning applications. The terrible impact of untreated effluent flowing into rivers has been well-documented recently and councillors would not want an environmental disaster affecting Shillington's brook.

John English from the CPRE also attended and gave councillors a briefing about reforms to the planning system. He is concerned that Central Bedfordshire Council's failure to maintain a sufficient supply of planned new homes is hampering its ability to reject plans for unsuitable developments. He is particularly worried that the plan for Greenwoods (a new town between Silsoe, Barton, Higham Gobion and Lower Gravenhurst) will resurface soon and be challenging to oppose. He also mentioned that we in Shillington would feel the impact of the need for more housing and travel associated with the creation of the Universal Studios theme park and development along the East-West Rail corridor.

Councillors John Hyde and Richa Micha were re-elected unopposed as chair and vice-chair respectively for the year ahead. Also unchanged are Joe Olding representing the council on the Village Hall Management Committee, John Hyde and Mark Thyne on the Memorial Playing Field Committee and Richa Mitra and Annie Palmer on the Parish Council Risk Management with Joe Olding also joining them.

There was concern about the lack of rain affecting the new shrubs planted in the war memorial garden. Several people had ferried containers of water from the village hall kitchen to help them and suggested that fitting an outside tap on the village hall would save them a lot of effort. The councillors agreed to get one installed as soon as possible.

Councillors congratulated the clerk for completing part 2 of her training. She reminded councillors that we have £650 from Section 106 contributions to spend on outdoor sport facilities on Parish Council land before November. The money will no longer be available after this.

*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*



### WANTED GRAZING LAND/ STABLE YARD TO RENT OR BUY



*Looking to purchase or long term rental of grazing land / stables for my horses. All options considered in Shillington and the surrounding villages.*

*References are available.*

*Experienced horse owner who is used to maintaining yard herself.*

*Only now looking due to planning permission being granted on my current stable yard.*

Please contact **Katie** via phone call/ message on **07789-375704**

### W A N T E D:

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

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



Big birthday hugs and wishes to our lovely vicar

**Revd. Jenna**

who is celebrating a special '0' birthday on 17<sup>th</sup> June

Hope you have a great day xx

Love from fellow Gemini sharing the same day !



**Grateful thanks for a super CHRISTIAN AID effort.**

The annual Christian Aid Appeal at the Congregational Church was very well supported and raised the great sum of £625.00.

Thank you to all who supported and helped with this event.

**Nola McCormick, Treasurer.**



# All Saints Church

## Gravenhurst and Shillington



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

### Summer Greetings from All Saints Church

The summer months are often a time of community gatherings from village fetes to strawberry teas and of course Shillingfest! The sunshine draws us out of our homes (and sometimes even the rain!) to get together for fun, play, friendship and fellowship. We are reminded that it is good to join in and feel part of something, to live out community in the places in which we live. It is also a great time to be a friendly face to the visitor or share something with someone new, offering a fun and open welcome to all.

Each week churches across the land gather in all sorts of buildings to come together to be part of something bigger. To join in and share community. In June this idea of sharing and being part of community seems particularly important as Christians celebrate Pentecost, which is sometimes called the birthday of the church. It is a day of celebrating and remembering those early Christians gathered together forging out a new way to be in community.

Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter Day and is remembered as the moment when God's Spirit came upon his followers with tongues of fire enabling them to speak many different languages. It was the catalyst of Christianity being shared across the world.

For Christians, it is a time of thanksgiving and celebration of God's provision and presence in history. But it is also a time to remember that coming together and being part of something together, as a community, and being able to share community with others, is a wonderful thing!

So maybe as the sun shines more brightly in the coming months, why not see what community event or venture you can get involved in. It is good to be a community, together.

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.

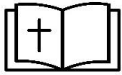
Every Blessing

*Revd Jenna Dearden*

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

**Mobile: 07708 666612**





All are very welcome to services at All Saints in June and July!

**SERVICES IN JUNE**

7 June 9.30 am Holy Communion  
6.00 pm Evensong  
14 June 9.30 am Holy Communion  
21 June 9.30 am Morning Praise  
28 June 9.30 am All Age Holy Communion

**SERVICES IN JULY**

5 July 9.30 am Holy Communion  
6.00 pm Evensong  
12 July 9.30 Holy Communion  
19 July 9.30 am Morning Praise  
26 July 9.30 am All Age Holy Communion

**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!

**MEET THE VICAR!**

**Sunday 5 July during Sunday Teas (3pm to 5pm)**



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

Revd Jenna and a team from the church will be at church during Sunday Teas on the afternoon of the 5<sup>th</sup> July. A great opportunity to meet and chat!

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

See All Saints at **Shillingfest** on Saturday 27 June - Plant Sale, Tombola, Crockery Smash and Coconut Shy

**Harvest Lunch** on Sunday 11 October 2026

**Christmas Fayre** on Saturday 5 December 2026

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

**200 CLUB WINNERS**

APRIL		MAY	
1 <sup>st</sup>	£50 No. 055 Eloise Backarich	1 <sup>st</sup>	£50 No. 148 Paul Ashwell
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£25 No. 016 Margaret Barnard	2 <sup>nd</sup>	£25 No. 080 Joy Robertson
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£10 No. 073 Ann Cameron	3 <sup>rd</sup>	£10 No. 138 Jo Carroll

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

**THE CHURCH LANTERN - UPDATE**

*(The lantern above the stepped entrance at the south east corner of the churchyard)*

Restoration to the church lantern is well underway and we hope to have it back up very soon. Thank you to all who have helped and supported this project and thank you the Friends and the Parish Council for funding this project.

The stairway continues to be lit at night as usual.



## FAMOUS SPORTSMAN

by *Revd. Angus McCormick* ☎ 01462-712096

Minister of Shillington Congregationalist Church

In my teenage years my elder brother was sometimes quite mischievous. I remember when we were stopped and asked who he was he would give a false name! I thought it funny but also wondered how good he was at coming up with a real person's name and was not challenged any further.

One name I remember was William Andrews. Or 'Willie' he would say in a very convincing way. On we could go after the police had stopped us with me sitting on the handlebars of my brother's bike. I remember later thinking that I had seen the name and person of William or Willie Andrews on a stained glass window of our church in Comber. It meant little to me but I found out later that he was a very famous cricketer in Ireland.



Willie Andrews had famous brothers too; John who was Prime Minister of Northern Ireland and Tommy who was designer of the world famous Titanic. He also drowned with his ship. There were only two things I had in common with Willie; he went to my old school, the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and he belonged to my church. Well like me he did manage to have two ducks on his first two innings. Of course he lived and played cricket before my time. Then he went on to become very successful and lead Irish cricket.



I was in touch with his descendant who was deputy Prime Minister of Northern Ireland and who owned and managed a successful business which took great care of its employees and their tenancy. This JLO Andrews visited us often in my first parish settlement in Newry with his armed guard in those days. I persuaded Sir John to officially open our church in Warrenpoint after we had done lots of repairs. I have at times thought of playing this mischievous game of giving a false name if only for fun.

There is a name inscribed on stone at 47 Church Street which I wondered about using; A. Hill. I could claim to belong to the same place and have the same initial letter ....and probably no one would know if I chose the right circumstances that this was a false name. However, best to be true to thine own self and just be yourself for better or worse.

It's a kind of lesson that maybe we learn in life and the more so the better. Lots of people seem to be wanting to be someone else , richer, more famous, more successful ...more rewarded... yet one of the most famous and influential persons for good lived 2000 years ago simply gave up any such false ideas and lived purely to serve us and give us an example to live by that enriches everyone ...he said , "love one another".

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**.



## FUNERAL SERVICE:

✝ Joan Margaret English died 7 April 2026 - *"Make me a channel of your peace"*.  
Service conducted by Rev Angus McCormick

## FRIENDLY PLACE:

The Friendly Place continues on a Monday - 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

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 Fruit</i>	<i>Long Life Milk</i>
<i>Tinned Vegetables &amp; Vegetarian Food</i>	<i>Bottles of Squash</i>
<i>Cooking Sauces</i>	<i>Jars of Coffee</i>
<i>Long life Milk</i>	<i>Deodorant</i>
<i>Long Life Fruit Juice</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 – Saturday 16 MAY 2026

A coffee morning was hosted jointly at the Congregational Church on the morning of WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MAY with All Saints Church, to which other local church congregations had been invited.

The event was well attended, with copious cups of tea and coffee being enjoyed along with the wide choice of cakes available.

At the time of writing the sum of £625-00 had been raised. Thank you for all the help and support received on the day.



*“Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June” (Al Bernstein).*

Shillington WI is looking forward to the long summer evenings and a full programme of meetings and events.



Some members visited the stunning Tulip Fields at Shenley at the end of April. They had a fantastic time and were so lucky with the weather – blue skies all round!

Jean Yates’ talk at the April meeting was called: ‘Ladies of the Grand Tour: Intrepid Wives and Mistresses’ – it was certainly an interesting subject.

Our cake stall at the beginning of May was as popular as ever – the larger ones in particular sold very quickly. If you missed out on Shillington WI’s renowned cakes that day, never fear for it will be having a stall selling scrumptious bakes at Shillingfest 26 on the 27<sup>th</sup> June!

In May, Jennifer Hepworth told us about her Lavender Growing Journey. She is a lovely speaker. The wonderful scent of lavender, from both plants and the products she brought to sell, filled the Congregational Church. Members are planning to visit Jennifer’s Lavender Garden and Workshop in the near future.

Our speaker on June 4<sup>th</sup> will be Stephen Brown and he will talk about something completely different – the title of his talk is: ‘It’s Hell on Wheels being a Driving Instructor!’. It promises to be both entertaining and educational!



July will see Shillington WI having its Sunset Picnic. In August, it has its Summer Break so there will be no meeting that month.

Supper Club meets up every month for dinner at one of the many great venues in and around Shillington. The Lunch Club went to Jordan’s Mill in May for a delicious early Afternoon Tea and a walk around its delightful grounds by the river. The Book and Walking Clubs meet regularly as well.

Visitors are most welcome to our meetings.

*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)**

# A MUSICAL QUIZ WITH A MESSAGE

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



*"And now for something completely different"*. This iconic catchphrase was from Monty Python's Flying Circus (1970). If you have only vaguely heard of this TV show, you haven't lived until you've watched the Dead Parrot sketch!

I thought I'd write something different for the June issue of the Parish News. OK ... it's not *completely* different as it's got my usual stamp on it, but it is sort of as it's a musical cum poetical quiz.

What I've done is taken lyrics from nine songs by some classic artists of the 1960s, 70s, 80s and 90s and changed the words a bit. I've left enough of the original ones to give you a clue as to which song inspired that bit of my 'poem'. Can you name the songs and the artists? and, for added difficulty, have a guess at the year they were recorded / in the charts. Perhaps sit down one sunny evening, with friends and a glass of wine, and have a go at this quiz. It's a good excuse to have a singalong! The answers to the quiz are at the bottom of this article.

*Annie x*

## A Musical Quiz with a Message:

- Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone.  
They razed paradise and made it a building plot.*
- And the gov'ment bowed and prayed.  
To the developer god they made.*
- This has gotten serious.  
Are they thinking about them or us?*
- We're on the rocks, but gov'ment cries:  
"Just give me your vote and I'll tell you some lies".*
- We can't go on together with deceit 'n' lies.  
And we can't build our dreams on deceit and lies.*
- With them developers, it's all takin' and no givin'.  
They just numb your mind and they only think of profit.*
- Weren't they the ones who tried to break us by and by?  
Did they think we'd crumble? Did they think we'd lay down and die?*
- Oh No! Not us! We'll: stand up for our right.  
Get up, stand up. Won't give up the fight.*
- We're ready, yes we're ready for them, we're standing on our own two feet.  
Out of the doorway, MP's we'll kick, for dancing to the sound of their beat.*

**Answers in order:**  
Joni Mitchell: Big Yellow Taxi (1970) / Simon and Garfunkel: The Sound of Silence (1964)  
Celine Dion: Think Twice (1993) / Neil Diamond: Love on the Rocks (1980)  
Elvis Presley: Suspicious Minds (1969) / Dolly Parton: 9 to 5 (1980)  
Gloria Gaynor: I Will Survive (1978) / Bob Marley: Get up, Stand Up (1973)  
Queen: Another One Bites the Dust (1980).



## UPDATE FROM OUR MID BEDFORDSHIRE MP BLAKE STEPHENSON

Over the last month or so you'll have heard lots about the pageantry of Parliamentary proroguing and then returning following the King's Speech, which brought to an end my first session in Parliament as your MP.

When I was elected back in 2024, I promised to be a hard-working, open, accessible Member of Parliament focused on local issues. I hope that you have been able to see that so far, and I just wanted to take a look back at some interesting statistics from my first Parliamentary session. I spoke 130 times in Parliament and asked 1,470 written questions to Government Ministers – as well as voting 368 times! Mid Bedfordshire and our villages (including Shillington) got 260 mentions during the times I spoke in the House of Commons or Westminster Hall, and I presented one Private Member's Bill to Parliament aimed at tackling flooding through the planning system. So, I'm delighted that out of all 650 MPs, I was actually ranked 7th for the most Parliament contributions in the first session of this Government.

There is always lots more to do and, with the new Parliamentary session underway, I will not stop there. So much of my Parliamentary work is based on issues you have told me are important to you, so I really do value your emails - so keep them coming - and of course it's even better when we get to speak in person over a cuppa and campaign together, as I did with The Josh Hanson Trust to improve the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme.

There has been lots going on locally in Shillington and nearby and it was an absolute pleasure to cut the ribbon at the grand opening of Baan Thai at The View in Pegsdon recently. The food was absolutely delicious, and you cannot beat the wonderful views of the Pegsdon Hills. Thank you to Stewart, the chair of Shillington Men's Club, for helping to organise the grand opening – it was fantastic to see such a great turnout and support from the local community.

### *Stay In Touch*

*You can book an appointment at one of my advice surgeries by emailing*  
**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 MEN'S CLUB

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

<https://Shillingtonmensclub.co.uk>



On the 8<sup>th</sup> April 21 members travelled into London for a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament facilitated by our M.P. Blake Stephenson and his team. Here they visited both the Commons and the Lords Houses, the Lobbying Corridors, Westminster Hall and spent time on the terraces overlooking the Thames. This was a very informative visit highlighting the history of the place, how our democracy works and the architectural beauty of the place. The day concluded at the local Wetherspoons Pub for lunch in the glorious sunshine! Many thanks to Blake and his team for showing us around and to Michael Bradley for organising us.

Our April evening meal took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> at the Greyhound Pub in Haynes. Here 15 members tucked into a 2 course meal of Steak/Ale or Cottage Pie or Half Chicken all with Vegetables followed by Sticky Toffee Pud or Cheesecake or Fruit Salad. All were excellent home-made quality and generous portions! Thank you to Colin Hands for organising this trip.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> May 18 members attended our evening meal at The Raven at Hexton. Here we had a 2 course meal of Beef Stroganoff and Rice or Hunter's Chicken, Chips and Vegetables followed by Homemade Crumble and Custard or Raspberry Pavlova this meal was really appreciated by the members over a good Chitchat and some good Ale and Wine. Sean Phillips won the Raffle. Many thanks to Colin Hands and Stewart Rataj for organising this event.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> May Andrew Elliman entered 3 Men's Club Teams for the inaugural Quiz at the Crown it was a great night and one of our teams actually won! even though some of the questions were quite difficult. We will be back to defend our coveted Crown next Month - watch this space.



Our May Cultural Event on the 20<sup>th</sup> took us to the Silverstone Motor Museum here 8 members toured a huge hangar full of vintage and quite modern racing cars. The tour also gave an insight into its beginnings as an airfield. After the visit lunch was taken at the White Horse in Silverstone Village where the 2 course meal was excellent and only £18. This rounded off a lovely day. Many thanks to Michael Bradley for organising this event.

## Future events:

- ☺ 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)

# SHILLINGTON SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

MEET AT

## SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

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



*Well, the season is almost at a close as hopefully we start to enjoy some warm summer weather. The club will close at the end of June and reopen in September.*

*We are currently playing the Aussie pairs competition, where it's every man and women for themselves. The teams are picked at random on the day of the game, and each player plays eight games over the 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.*

*Congratulations to Shillington Robins who came runners up in the Gayler Club competition which was played at Hatfield over the last few weeks. Neil Rixon, Michelle Conlon and Trevor Knight played an excellent game in the final, but just narrowly lost on the night.*

*We will have a stand at Shillingfest with a miniature version of the game, if you have any queries about the sport please come and say hello on the 27<sup>th</sup> June.*

*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)

All Saints Church   
Gravenhurst and Shillington

# Strawberry Teas

*Sunday 7 June 2026*

*3.00 pm - 5.00 pm*

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

**£4** Children under 12

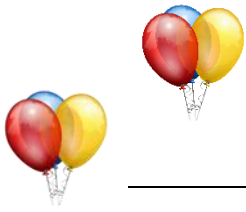
To reserve a place, please call

Liz on 07963 199383 or

Denise 07414 513683

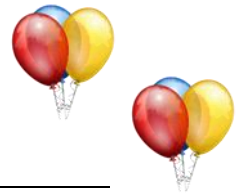
*Pimms & Raffle!* 

All Saints' Church, Church Street, SG5 3LH



# SHILLINGFEST 26

Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June – 1pm to 4.30pm  
Shillington Memorial Playing Field



## Programme for the afternoon

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 12.30pm          | - Arrival of Shillington Classic Vehicles |
| 1.00pm           | - Opening by Revd. Jenna / Sally          |
| 1.10pm to 1.30pm | - Dance Display by Pullbacks & Pirouettes |
| 1.30pm to 2.30pm | - Redeployed                              |
| 2.30pm to 3.30pm | - Dog Show                                |
| 3.30pm to 4.30pm | - Redeployed                              |

*Bar open from 12noon. Food providers open from 1pm.  
Stalls and sideshows open from 1pm.*

Another fabulous flypast by aircraft from the BBMF. Can't say at this stage which aircraft or what time but during the afternoon. Also another chance to catch them flying over the Playing Field on 28<sup>th</sup> too..... Watch Village Facebook page for latest info. Dakota, Hurricane or Spitfire or all 3....



*Dance display by  
local tots and children*

*Live music by  
Redeployed*



*Come and register your fur baby  
in one of the 6 classes.*



*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*

# 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:**

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.



# THE 27 ACRE WOOD

[joeolding@shillington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:joeolding@shillington-pc.gov.uk)

You may recall in February's edition of the Parish News, Derek Turner's excellent article outlining the hugely generous donation of 27 acres of land to the village. It was planted with over 9,000 native trees and shrubs in 2022 and has been given with the express purpose of enhancing nature and biodiversity and for recreational use by local residents. The land is situated on Upton End Road, adjacent to Shillington Bury.



Since Derek's article, a burgeoning group of volunteers have visited the site several times, removing splints where saplings have failed to prosper and plant 100 hawthorn saplings generously donated by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE). With spring now in its pomp, it's easier to see which saplings have survived, and we have another activity on May 17<sup>th</sup> (before this article goes to press) to remove further splints and investigate other flora that are established on site. I'll let you know of further meetings.

It was heartening to see so much interest in the talk I gave to the Friends of All Saints at their AGM at the end of April. Here I outlined activities we'd like to do in the future, including site survey and design, habitat creation, seed-setting and planting, installation of benches, clearance and removal, enhancing the site with ponds and how we'd love to get the kids involved from Shillington Lower School.

At the beginning of May, a volunteer met on site with the local branch of the Wildlife Trust to get their advice. Grassland, it was suggested, could be set aside for ground-nesting birds such as sky larks; the verdant hedgerows could also be left to grow out to become scrub havens for red-listed birds like nightingales and turtle doves. Wouldn't it be wonderful to hear nightingales sing in Shillington?



I went up there one Friday evening a few weeks back. It was a still evening, warm, the sky was clear, the sun setting, birds singing their dusk chorus. I climbed the hill towards Meppershall then stood looking back as the land rolled away and the Pegsdon hills framed All Saints. It was a moment of peace and reflection. I'd encourage anyone to do the same.

This is the start of a project that should continue for generations and will, as climate extremities continue to unfold, become ever more important to the village.

If you'd like to be involved in anyway, or would simply like further information, please drop me a note at [joeolding@shillington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:joeolding@shillington-pc.gov.uk).

## PEGSDON VIEW



I love spring. The fresh greens, the flowers and the warmer days are a delight, arriving just when you think Winter will never end. One of the most welcome sights this spring is the Highland cattle back in the bottom field, it's lovely to see them grazing there again, and it has the unexpected benefit of slowing traffic as drivers slow down to take a look.

The Wildlife Trust have been very busy around Pegsdon Hills, some fencing and gates have been replaced, and the volunteers have been continuing with their regular weeding of the self-seeded unwanted vegetation, gradually turning the bottom field back into grassland. There's a new sheep pen too.

The View has reopened and we're delighted to welcome Baan Thai who have relocated from Barton. We wish them every success and look forward to many delicious meals in their new restaurant.

Speaking of things reopening, so glad that Anglian Water have finally finished, we've celebrated with several trips to the Musgrave and the Crown. The road resurfacing works have been a temporary blip in our celebrations, but that will also be over soon and freedom of movement can resume between our villages without having to go the long way road. Pubs, post office, social club, playing fields, churches, garages and local honey all within easy reach again - but the best bit is that we have a reliable water supply! It's odd to think that in 2026 that is something we had to campaign for isn't it.



You may have noticed a new sign at the Hexton Manor gatehouse for Paul Lavery Support. They provide support packages for young people, I'm a bit tardy in mentioning their arrival, hoping their new location works well for them.

Our bulb planting around the village gave good results this spring, big thanks to the teams who have carefully cut the grass and verges around our bulbs for the care you've taken, we really appreciate it. We hope to continue planting in the future, so with a bit of luck next spring will be even brighter.

All the best, *Caroline*



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



As usual, the Friends of All Saints Church have been busy over the past few months and we would like to thank everyone in the village for their continued support of our events and activities.

We held our AGM at the end of April and it was lovely to see so many of our supporters there. Following the meeting, Joe Olding told us all about the Community Woodland project. This area of land, just off Upton End road, has been so generously gifted to the village with the proviso that it will be kept undeveloped and made available for generations of “Shillingtonians” and most importantly the wildlife of Shillington to enjoy in years to come. Many thanks to Joe for giving up his time to talk to us all.

**The Sunday Tea season** has started once again and our amazing volunteers have been serving tea/coffee and cakes up at the church on Sunday afternoons. As in previous years we have a few dates where you can enjoy your tea and cake listening to local musicians. We’ve also including a “Chatter table “ this year, if you’re on your own and fancy some company.



The Sunday Teas will go on until the last Sunday in September, when we will also be holding a children’s Teddy Hunt and Craft afternoon, details of which will follow later. But never fear, those cakes can still be flowing throughout the colder and darker months, raffle tickets for the “Cake of the Month” will be on sale throughout the summer and lucky winners will be able to choose between two delicious cakes which will be personally delivered to them during the October- April period (one per winning ticket), just ask for tickets when you pop up in the summer.



We have a couple of new events this year, the first of which is a series of talks from our very own Mr. Andy Gibbs, a **group of 4 illustrated history talks** held on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm in the Lady Chapel:

- *May 21<sup>st</sup> - “The poor child’s friend,” the story of Joseph Lancaster*
- *July 23<sup>rd</sup> - “Not so Sleepy Hollow”, a general history of Hitchin*
- *August 27<sup>th</sup> - “The Amazing Jill Grey”, Codebreaker, Collector, Correspondent and Campaigner*
- *September 24<sup>th</sup> - “The Glory that was Greece”, the wonders of 5<sup>th</sup> century BC Athens and its influence on the modern world and society today.*

The talks should last about an hour and tea and biscuits will be on offer too! Tickets are £5 each or you could by a season ticket for all 4 talks for £15. Please phone **07922-017051** for more information and reservations, but you are also welcome to turn up and pay on the night.

Looking ahead to the autumn, preparations are already underway for what promises to be a very entertaining **Murder Mystery** evening. We are currently looking for budding actors and enthusiastic volunteers to help bring the event to life. No previous acting experience is needed - just a willingness to have fun and join in. If you have ever fancied treading the boards or helping behind the scenes, we would love to hear from you, please give Andy a call on **07922-017051**.



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.

All these activities not only bring people together through enjoyable community events, they raise much needed funds to help preserve our beautiful church. As mentioned in the previous Parish News we have a huge project at the moment to repair the roof to the whole of the South Aisle. Although this will take up most of our funds we still hope to undertake smaller projects with the help of our volunteers.

One of these is the repair of the lantern over the steps to the Church and I'm very pleased to say that thanks to a lot of effort this should be back in situ in a few weeks, weather permitting and shining a clear light down Church Street for many years to come.

### 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.

*Katie Brettell*

**Secretary, Friends of All Saints Church**



## 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
David & Fiona Howarth	In memory of Margaret Howarth's birthday on 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Sunday 8 March	Saturday 14 March
David & Fiona Howarth	In memory of Kathleen MacKinnon's birthday on 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Sunday 26 April	Saturday 2 May
Sandra, Richard and Victoria Hare	Treasured memories - 60 years ago, on 25 <sup>th</sup> 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
Cerys, Stuart, Joe and all your family and friends	Remembering Poppy Goaman on what would have been her 21 <sup>st</sup> birthday (20 <sup>th</sup> July). In our hearts forever. <i>"There is freedom waiting for you On the breezes of the sky And you ask "What if I fall?" Oh but my darling, what if you fly?"</i> Erin Hanson	Sunday 19 July	Saturday 25 July

# RAMBLING ON with DEREK TURNER

☎ 01462-712462

[derek.turner@phonecoop.coop](mailto:derek.turner@phonecoop.coop)



There's no sugar-coating this - the world is warming up and we are woefully under-prepared for the consequences. The Government's Climate Change Committee has reported that 40 degree heatwaves will be common by 2050 and 9 out of 10 homes will overheat. They say "The UK was built for a climate that no longer exists today and will be increasingly distant in years to come". They advise that hospitals, care homes and schools should be equipped with air conditioning. While huge multi-national companies with vested interests in the exploitation of fossil fuels and the couldn't-care-less president from across the pond are delaying meaningful action to combat climate change, the rest of us are having to deal with the consequences.

Even in Trump's backyard in the Arctic, higher temperatures are causing permafrost to melt. Homes are sinking as once solid ground turns to mush. Elsewhere, places that already had hot summers are becoming increasingly unbearable to live in. This applies to many of the world's poorest countries. They don't deserve it as they emitted negligible greenhouse gases. It's no wonder that people with the means to do so try to migrate. The relatively amenable (so far) climate of European countries must look very attractive to those living in the worst-affected areas.

Coastal communities are becoming more vulnerable to rising sea level. Many of the world's major cities are on the coast and low-lying. Among the world's cities vying to become the first to become uninhabitable is New Orleans where the land is also sinking and much will be permanently flooded in just a decade or two. The Thames barrier will need replacing soon to protect London. Extreme rainfall, the committee points out, is likely to increase by 40% the number of UK homes flooded by rivers.



The knock-on impact of climate change is just as worrying. I read today that cases of the most serious form of skin cancer – melanoma - are increasing fast. Huge forest fires are breaking out more often each year and causing even more carbon dioxide to enter the atmosphere. Changing weather patterns can cause crops to fail. Winemakers are worried as the increased frequency of unexpected late frosts can reduce grape production by 90%. Many food crops cannot survive being immersed for long after heavy rain or without any at all. I've seen a lot of fields within a few miles of here where farmers have given up hope of producing a crop this year. Incessant winter rain killed off much of what they had already planted and it was too wet to get on the land to resow. Those who waited until it dried out have witnessed their seedlings struggling to get started, with scarcely a drop of rain during April. Unpredictable weather can be the final straw that drives farmers out of business. Others are showing a remarkable ability to adapt by altering how they farm, improving the health of their soil and finding alternative ventures to spread their financial risk.



We should not give up hope of addressing a warmer world and even at this late stage, there are things we can do. Reducing our own reliance on fossil fuels is one and insulating our homes as thoroughly as possible is another. We can install ground-source heat pumps that will cool homes as well as warm them. Air conditioning should run off solar power and it's heartening to see how many solar arrays adorn Shillington's rooftops. Planting trees - if you have the room - is a good idea as they absorb carbon dioxide and cast cooling shade. I am pleased to see how many are thriving in Shillington's Community Woodland despite the droughts that have killed off others.

We must ensure that future planting is completed much earlier in the winter than previously to give the trees an opportunity to spread their roots before the first drought arrives.

Climate chaos is exacerbated by political actions that lead to food prices rising. With around half of the UK's food imported, we are vulnerable to shortages. I advise growing what you can for yourself, if you have the space. It is sad that so few allotments remain in Shillington when they had covered the whole field below the church and several other parts of the village when food shortages loomed during wartime. Maybe those of you with large unproductive lawns could dig them up and plant fruit and vegetables or make them available to neighbours who don't have the space? You could also keep chickens. Just think of the eggs, the chicken meat and free manure you could get. There'll be costs upfront but you'll save money in the long term and eat well with tastier and better quality food.



When my father was educated at a small village school in the 1930s, tending the headmaster's vegetable patch was part of the school day. Perhaps horticulture should be added to the school curriculum now, not for the benefit of the head but to show youngsters how to become less dependent on others for food? It's time to put down those mobiles, stop streaming and cultivate!



## **SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

### **35 High Road, Shillington, SG5 3LL**

*Registered Charity: 300066*

*Over the past 2 years we've been looking for a Chairperson to head up our management committee with little response or interest from the community.*

*From the various responses we received in February 2022 when the village decided not to proceed with the new community building, there was much support from the community to retain both Village Hall and Social Club as two separate venues meeting the needs of the many and varied activities within the parish rather than one building to house everything. For those who are unfamiliar with what was happening at that time...there were plans to build a brand-new community centre on the Playing Field and sell off the village hall site as well as support new development in the field behind High Road cottages, which would have paid for it. This whole process was lengthy and at times frustrating for those involved.*

*So .... if you love your village hall and want to see it continue and flourish – please step up to help keep it going. You don't have to take on the Chair's position, just come along and add to our merry band as we tend to struggle when trying to run events. The task isn't onerous – we have meetings every 2 months to review improvements and projects needed to keep the Hall well maintained and usable for a variety of activities.*

*To ensure our Hall remains an important feature of our village life, village organisations will be contacted asking for a nominated representative (you don't have to be a regular user group, but could care about your Hall's future). You don't have to be a member of an organisation to get involved.*

*Our AGM is on 22nd July in the Jubilee Room (meeting room to rear of main Hall) please pop along if you feel you can help, or feel free to contact one of us in the meantime for more information. We can organise a guided tour if you've never visited your Village Hall, or seen latest improvements, so you can see what you're missing !*

<b>Sally</b> <b>07711-504489</b>	<b>Katie</b> <b>07974-676089</b>	<b>Denise</b> <b>07414-513683</b>	<b>Margaret (Mags)</b> <b>07376-682935</b>
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# PLANNING APPLICATIONS

## DECISIONS FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

**CB/25/03525/VOC - Land East of 55 Upton End Road, SG5 3PE.** Variation of condition number 2 of planning permission CB/25/00997/RM (Erection of two detached dwellings, associated landscaping and new access): Variation to amend plans for new double garages with offices above. **REFUSED**

**CB/25/03970/FULL - 19 Bury Road, SG5 3NY**  
Erection of a detached car port with home office above. **REFUSED**

**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. **RAISE NO OBJECTIONS**

**CB/25/03855/FULL - 2 Apsley End Road, SG5 3LX.** Erection of a two-storey rear extension, with velux roof lights. **GRANTED**

**CB/25/02569/FULL – 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. **GRANTED**

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

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

**CB/TCA/26/00124 – Lavender Court, 19B Vicarage Close, SG5 3LS.** Works to a tree within a Conservation Area: Re pollard and sever ivy to Ash (T1) for general maintenance. **RAISE NO OBJECTIONS**

**CB/TRE/26/00074 – The Old Vicarage, SG5 3LT.** Works to a tree protected by Tree Preservation Order MB/9/1976/T10: Reduce by approximately 2.5m to chestnut (T1), to mitigate risk of failure while maintaining a natural shape. **GRANT CONSENT**

**CB/26/00786/VOC – Land East of 55 Upton End Road, SG5 3PE.** Variation sought to amend house types and pre commencement conditions. **REFUSED**

**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. **PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQ'D**

**CB/26/00323/FULL – 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. **APPLICATION WITHDRAWN**

**CB/TCA/26/00160 – Mulberry Cottage, 14 Apsley End Road, SG5 3LX.** Removal of a dangerous branch and crown reduction to Willow and crown reduction to Silver Birch. **RAISE NO OBJECTIONS**

**CB/TCA/26/00172 – Plumtree Cottage, 34 Apsley End Road, SG5 3LX.** Works to Trees within a Conservation Area: Up to a 3.5m reduction to 3 Birch Trees. Up to a 2m reduction to 3 Conifer Trees. Up to a 3m reduction to a limb on Damson Tree. **RAISE NO OBJECTIONS**

## DISCUSSED BY PARISH COUNCIL BUT AWAITING A CBC DECISION

**CB/25/01945/OUT – Land at Mount Pleasant Golf Course, Station Road, Lower Stondon, SG16 6JL.**  
Outline Application erection of up to 400 residential dwellings; community hub site, multi-use Games Area and land reserved for either a 2 form entry primary school with nursery or village green with pavilion; public open space including footpaths, cycleways, allotments, habitat creation, landscaping & play space; associated drainage, landscaping, internal roads, utilities & other service infrastructure. All matters reserved except for means of vehicular access. **DO NOT SUPPORT**

**CB/26/00306 - Land adjacent to Chiltern View, Higham Road, Higham Gobion.** Installation of security gate to site entrance with tarmac surface finish from gate to the main road. **DO NOT SUPPORT**

**CB/26/01069 - 139 High Road, SG5 3LU.** Single storey side extension. **SUPPORT**



# **THE FRIENDLY PLACE**

**Spring/Summer/Autumn schedule**

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


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**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!**

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**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**





We are already in the last term of the academic year. What fun and excitement we have had so far. We have had multiple visits from the Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association to come and gather our bee swarms and rehome them. The children were enthralled by this and loved watching it all happen. Barn Owls are excited for their annual residential trip to Grafham Water and have been practising regularly for their end-of-year performance. Hedgehogs had a great trip to Mead Open Farm, whilst Squirrels went to Hertford Zoo and had a fantastic time despite the odd hailstorm.

Pixies have been enjoying making the most of the good weather, learning about nature and the environment, pond dipping and dressing up as animals for Sir David Attenborough's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. A huge thank you to our wonderful PTFA, who tirelessly raise funds to support the cost of many things for school, including subsidising school trips.

The children in Gardening Club held a plant sale to raise money for a new shed. Thank you to Di & Alan for their constant help and support with Gardening Club. Gardening Club visited the Shillington Community Garden where they planted over 40 saplings and scattered lots of wildflower seeds. What a fabulous, sunny and community-minded afternoon everyone had in the outdoors! We can't wait to see how this garden grows into a beautiful wild space for everyone in Shillington to enjoy.



Mrs Clarke, Mrs Webster and Poppy J are busy in the Afterschool Club with special themed events, making pizza and fridge magnets. Mrs Cooper has been warming the children up in Breakfast Club with morning workouts and training circuits.

The children will be supporting Rev Jenna at All Saints Church, providing an art display which will be on display during Sunday Teas on the weekend of the 5<sup>th</sup> June. Please pop up and enjoy the children's creativity and support our wonderful church on the hill. 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.

A special thankyou to all the volunteers from within and outside our school community for their help with the Spring Clean and Maintenance Day in the Easter holidays including



who kindly sponsored our skip. We even discovered a second pond on site.

*From this*



*to this - amazing*



Mrs Woodward has handed over her baton as School Secretary to Mrs Mason, who has taken to the role like a duck to water.

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 Mason 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 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](mailto:katiebrettell@icloud.com)

Carli Mauger  
07912-549931  
[carlimauger@gmail.com](mailto:carlimauger@gmail.com)

Deb Pateman  
07934-480446  
[debpateman@msn.com](mailto:debpateman@msn.com)



# SHILLINGTON SPITFIRES CRICKET CLUB

## THE SEASON IS IN FULL FLOW

It's been a whirlwind start to the 2026 season

### FLYING HIGH ON THE PITCH

SSCC continues to make strides on and off the pitch. The team are now in their fourth season, having brought cricket back to the village in 2023. They are scheduled to play 24 fixtures this year, including the annual season ending Border Cup against local rivals Pirton. So far this year, Shillington have won both home games in convincing fashion, whilst falling to narrow defeats in their three away matches.



Last year's Player of the Season, Sethi Singh, is currently the leading wicket-taker with 10, he is followed closely by Rich Phillips and Shannon Murnane, who both have eight to their names. On the batting front, the hard work put in with coach Scott Davies from Boundaries Cricket during winter nets is paying dividends, with seven players registering their highest scores for the club within the first five games of the

campaign. Notably Captain Craig Sephton recorded his maiden half-century for Shillington away to a Stevenage side, while Chris Glover became the first player to pass 500 runs for the club. Chris also had the great honour of being the first player to also play with his son, Harry. Harry at only 13-years old is the team's youngest player.

### ShillingTON – FESTIVAL OF CRICKET

On Saturday 11th July, the Spitfires are hosting ShillingTON a day-long cricket extravaganza. The day will see four teams compete in a 100-ball-per-innings knockout competition. Your very own Spitfires will be up against Motley Crew, Pirton and Hinxworth. It will be fast-paced cricket throughout the day. Off the pitch there will be a BBQ, ice cream van, games on the side and so much more, it will be fantastic day and everyone is welcome to come up and get involved.

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Spitfires are still 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 everyone is welcome to come along and give cricket a try. We have regular fixtures on a Sunday and train on a Thursday or Friday night. Get in touch or just come along, you'll be welcomed with open arms.





# **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***

## THE JUNE BOOM

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



Wow the garden is going full pelt. Everyday a new plant blooms it seems and you can almost see things growing! As the spring flowers retire the summer flowers steal the show.

There is so much to chose from this time of year in the Garden Centre and I feel like a child in a sweet shop ! This is when the garden really comes alive!

A lot of my job as a Garden Designer is using my imagination to visualise how plants will work together and work to bloom at different times to give the customer something every month of the year of interest.

This time of year is when you can really see all the ideas on paper come to life! When customers can enjoy the garden and be outside surrounded by plants, immersing themselves in their haven and really relaxing and taking it all in.

Maybe a quick coffee in the morning or enjoying an evening meal on their new patio. Taking in the colours and scents around them. Anticipating the next bud to unfold. Gardens are like an extension of the house - another room. You don't have to have a large garden to enjoy the great outdoors. Lots can be fitted into a small space to create a green sanctuary.

This time of year is great to visit other gardens to glean ideas and inspiration. The National Garden Scheme and Red Cross both put together lots of gardens to visit throughout the year and more so in the summer. These make for a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and they often have tea, cake and plants for sale!

So enjoy the sunshine and the June Boom!

*Donna* x

### JOBS IN THE GARDEN FOR JUNE

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✂ Weed the Beds</li><li>✂ Plant up annuals in pots and baskets for extra colour and interest</li><li>✂ Mow lawns once a week</li><li>✂ Keep a check on aphids</li><li>✂ Harvest lettuce, radish and early potatoes</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✂ Water plants using the water butt where possible</li><li>✂ Pinch outside shoots of tomatoes</li><li>✂ Pick flowers for the house to enjoy inside as well as out</li><li>✂ Stake plants</li></ul> |
|--|--|



## PLANTING FOR BIRDS

Planting a range of different species that grow, flower and fruit at different times gives a varied structure. It can supply wildlife with pollen, nectar, seeds and fruits throughout the year. This guidance has been created by RSPB wildlife experts, to provide a suggested list of plants, shrubs and trees that together provide year-round natural food for garden birds.

However, it's not an exhaustive list.

SPECIES	VALUE	LIFESPANS
Bird's Foot Trefoil	Attracts caterpillars, moths and bees in spring and summer	Perennial
Burdocks	Attracts insects late summer. Goldfinches and Greenfinches mine seeds in late autumn/winter	Perennial
Cardoon	Finches (especially Greenfinches) will mine seeds in winter.	Perennial
Chicory	Attracts hoverflies in summer and finches will mine seeds late summer/autumn	Perennial
Common/Greater Knapweed	Attracts insects in summer for various insectivores. Goldfinches will mine seeds in autumn.	Perennial
Coneflower	Goldfinches will mine seeds in early autumn and winter.	Perennial / annual
English & French Lavender	Finches and sparrows will mine seeds in winter. Avoid hybrids which don't produce seeds.	Perennial
Fennel	Attracts a variety of insects in summer. Seeds may be mined in autumn and winter by sparrows and finches.	Biennial/Perennial
Garden Forget me not	Attracts pollinators in spring. Finches will mine for seeds in summer.	Perennial
Meadowsweet	Attracts some insects in late summer. Finches will mine seeds in the autumn and winter.	Perennial
Millet	Many bird species will mine seeds in autumn	Annual
Nettle-leaved Bellflower	Attracts insects in late summer	Perennial
Purple Coneflower	Attracts pollinators in summer and autumn. Finches, house sparrows and blue tits will mine seeds in early autumn and winter.	Perennial
Red Campion	Attracts caterpillars and weevils in spring and summer.	Perennial
Red Clover	Attracts various moths, sawflies, weevils and midges in spring and summer. Woodpigeons will eat the leaves in colder months.	Perennial
Sheep's Sorrel	Attracts various insects in summer. Seeds for finches in autumn.	Perennial
Sunflower	Various bird species mine the seeds in autumn.	Annual
Thistles	Melancholy Thistle, Woolly Thistle and Musk Thistle are all loved by goldfinches that mine the seeds in summer/winter.	Perennial
Teasels	Goldfinch favourite – seeds mined in autumn.	Biennial
Verbena	Sparrows and goldfinches mine seeds in autumn/winter	Perennial
Wild Angelica	Attracts a variety of insects, particularly pollinators, in late summer. Finches may mine in autumn and winter.	Perennial

# 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)**



### OPENING TIMES:

- \* **Mondays: 7.30pm - 11.00pm** \*
- \* **Thursdays: 7.30pm - 11.00pm** \*
- \*\* NEW FRIDAY OPENING HOURS: 5.30pm - 11.30pm \*\***
- \* **Saturdays: 12 noon - 11.00pm** \*
- \* **Sundays 12 noon - 8.00pm** \*

☺ *Meat Raffle every Saturday with proceeds to the Club Refurbishment* ☺

### 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

## JUNE

- 2 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 7 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 7 All Saints' Church – Strawberry Teas – 3pm to 5pm
- 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 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 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
- 21 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 22 Playing Field Management Committee – AGM – Social Club – 8pm
- 27 Shillingfest 26 – Community Event – Playing Field – 1pm to 4.30pm
- 28 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 28 Spitfires CC - away match against Knebworth Park – 40 overs – 1pm start

## JULY

- 5 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 5 Meet The Vicar @ All Saints' Church Teas – 3pm to 5pm
- 5 Spitfires CC – away match against Whitwell – 35 overs – 1pm start
- 7 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 11 Spitfires CC – T20 Cup – Festival of Cricket at ShillingTON – all day event
- 12 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 17 Spitfires CC – T20 home match against Kings Cross – 1pm
- 19 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 22 Village Hall Management Committee – AGM – Jubilee Room – 7.30pm
- 23 Lady Chapel Lecture – “Not So Sleepy Hollow” – Andy Gibbs – 7pm
- 26 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Janet Worley – 10.30am
- 26 Shillington CC – away match against Kempston Methodists – 40 overs

## AUGUST

- 2 Congregational Church Service – TBA – 10.30am
- 2 Spitfires CC – home match against Motley Crew – 40 overs – 1pm
- 7 Spitfires CC – T20 tournament against Offley & Stopsley start.
- 9 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 9 Spitfires CC – home match against Ickwell – 40 overs - 1pm
- 16 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 23 Congregational Church Service – TBA – 10.30am
- 23 Spitfires CC – away match against Milton Bryan – 40 overs
- 27 Lady Chapel Lecture – “Amazing Jill Grey” – Andy Gibbs – 7pm
- 30 United Service with All Saints, Shillington at All Saints – 10am
- 30 Spitfires CC – home match against Breachwood Green – 40 overs – 1pm

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

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