

PARISH NEWS

covering
SHILLINGTON, PEGSDON & HIGHAM GOBION

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**In the church on the hill
Shillington**
June 10th - 11th 2023 9.00am-9.00am

Marathon Music Rock around the Clock 24 Hour

A FREE EVENT

For more info - Foass@outlook.com

ALL DONATIONS FOR
CHURCH RESTORATION
WORK

Issue 165 – April 2023
Deadline for June edition - Friday, 26th May 2023

PARISH COUNCIL

BENCHES:

We are now in the process of placing/replacing benches around the village in the following locations: Greenfields bus stop; top of Bury Road in the green area away from the tree; Hillfoot Road (White City) and on the 'green' in Hillfoot Road/junction with Church View Avenue. There will also be a commemorative bench to be shortly located in Hanscombe End.

ELECTRIC CHARGING POINTS – VILLAGE HALL:

We have recently been asked about electric charging points at the Village Hall. As we are not responsible for the Hall or car park, the enquiry was passed to the VH management committee, who were not supportive of this request. Having spoken to Gravenhurst PC about the CBC plans to install electric charging points in their VH car park, apparently their car park is owned by CBC and not the PC/Village Hall Committee. This installation will remove not just a couple but 8 spaces, from an already low number of available parking areas, to make it worth doing.

OVERGROWN HEDGEROWS:

It is pleasing to see that a number of overgrown hedgerows have now received attention and been cut back, however one of two are still causing an obstruction or nuisance to both people on foot as well as highways traffic. Please could hedge owners ensure these are cut back promptly.

DOG BINS:

Although the Parish has 19 dog poo bins installed in key locations (map available from the Clerk), some areas continue to suffer from owners not taking responsibility for picking up their dog's poo and either place in an appropriate bin when passing or take home to their own black dustbin. This is an important consideration when getting a family pet. Marquis Hill has been particularly targeted recently with such inconsiderate behaviour. We have now requested another bin for this area and would hope it will be well used rather than sharing with other walkers by littering the pavement.

KING'S CORONATION:

In celebration of the above event, we will again be sponsoring commemorative mugs for the children at the Lower School. We were delighted to hear that Cllr. Thyne has been successful in securing a flypast of both spitfire and hurricane for us on 6th May at approximately 14:41 over Church Street as well as a spitfire to open Shillingfest over the Playing Fields on 24th June at approximately 11:49. Thank you!

FAREWELL & THANK YOU:

Our CBC Ward Member, Cllr. Alison Graham will not be standing for re-election on 4th May and we would like to thank her most sincerely for her outstanding support for Shillington parish during her years of service to the community. Her dogged determination has helped us win many a battle. 'Happy retirement' Alison.

For **all** Parish Council issues please contact:

Mrs. Helen Smith, Clerk to the Parish Council

11 Hillside Close, Shillington, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 3NN. ☎ **01462-713224**

email: clerk@shillington-pc.gov.uk <https://shillington-pc.gov.uk>

VACANCY FOR CLERK TO PARISH COUNCIL

Shillington Parish Council has a vacancy for Clerk to Council, following the resignation of Mrs. Helen Smith after 5½ years of service.

The Parish Council has 10 elected members and we have formal monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of the month (apart from August). There are occasional extra meetings associated with planning applications and budget setting.

The position is part time, working from home, with hours of approximately 42.5 per month. Hours are flexible, but it is important to be available to attend monthly Parish Council meetings.

Salary is in accordance with Scale LC1 and conditions are in accordance with NALC (National Association of Local Councils) standard employment contracts for part-time Clerks, which will depend on experience and qualifications. Previous local government experience/CiLCA qualification would be desirable, but full training will be provided. Additional payments are made for hours worked over the norm.

Allowances are paid for use of a room, storage of equipment and documents, heating and lighting and internet access. Telephone line rental and calls on behalf of the Council are also paid, as is a travel allowance when using own car on Council business.

Summary of job description:

- ensure that the council conducts its business lawfully
- administer all the council's paperwork
- ensure that meeting papers are properly prepared and the public is aware of meeting times
- implement the council's decisions
- oversee the implementation of projects
- keep legal documents
- keep up to date by training/qualification
- maintain a basic parish council website and Facebook page

The Clerk is also the Responsible Financial Officer and duties include:

- managing budgets and all aspects of any business transaction
- completing VAT returns
- producing annual returns for assessment by external auditors
- accounting responsibilities (cash flow, etc)

Candidates wishing to apply for this important role should send their CV detailing previous experience to the Parish Council Chair: Mrs. Sally Stapleton – sallystapleton@shillington-pc.gov.uk

Closing date for applications is **Friday, 28th April 2023**.

PARISH COUNCILLOR PROFILES FOR ELECTION ON 4TH MAY:

At time of going to press, below are profiles of some of the candidates standing for election on 4th May. Check out the full list once published after 4th April on Parish Council notice boards.

ANGUS MCCORMICK

I have lived in Shillington for over 22 years. I am married with 3 daughters and 6 grandchildren. I have worked in education as a headteacher and then as an inspector in Central Bedfordshire Council as well as being a church minister. I have served as a Parish councillor for some time and also on the village hall management committee.

I am well acquainted with the workings of councils having written policy documents and worked with colleagues across the agencies from housing to social services, police, welfare, environment and education.

I have worked for Powher for some years to support people across a range of issues in health, disabilities, finance, care, housing and legal matters in Central Bedfordshire and as a volunteer case worker for the Royal British Legion. I have been a Military chaplain, also serving at Chicksands and currently at Bassingbourn as well as a chaplain to Hertfordshire constabulary.

I am involved in many village activities such as the Village Design, Shillington Care and Men's Group. I enjoy the working relationships I have with CBC officers often on issues about disabilities and access. My passion is always to serve the needs and wellbeing of our community and listen to all residents.

I have regularly walked the area of our parish and have served as a Parish councillor, raising residents' issues which I will continue to do but with voting powers if elected by you.

ANNIE PALMER

I have lived in Shillington for over ten years now. I was born in Langley, the other side of Hitchin, and lived at Codicote for thirty-five years before moving here in 2012. I live round the corner from my daughter and family.

My grandmother was born in Pirton. My ancestors came from Shillington, Shefford and the surrounding villages – I have always felt at home around here!

I am a retired Teaching Assistant. I'm a Climate Ambassador for Shillington WI, a member of the Shillington Short Mat Bowls Club, have recently joined the Shillington Care team and I am a sidesman, etc at All Saints' Church. I love walking along the many footpaths around our lovely village with Bob the dog.

I am passionate about caring for the environment – if the countryside is thriving then we and our children will also thrive. We all have a right to a safe, healthy environment including clean air and water and good soils to grow food – I will keep on fighting to ensure that these rights aren't taken away from us.

TRACEY PETRIE

I moved to Shillington in 1978 with my parents who joined the local Scout & Cub group as leaders.

I stayed in the village after I got married and had two children. My children attended the Baby & Toddler group where I was chairperson for three years. They then attended Playgroup where I was an active committee member for another three years. My children went to Shillington Lower School and I would go in two mornings a week to help children with extra reading lessons.

I helped start a netball club in the village after a MUGA playing surface was built on the playing fields. The club ran for over 10 years before finally disbanding due to the playing surface becoming unplayable and lack of new players. I have been on the Playing Fields Committee for over 23 years and a Parish Councillor for 8 years and have been a civil servant for over 25 years.



Dear Neighbours,

I'm Blake Stephenson and I would be delighted to continue to serve on our parish council. It would also be an honour to be elected to represent our community on Central Beds Council.

In the wake of Cllr. Graham's retirement as ward councillor we need someone who's strong, local, and active in our community; someone who will listen, focus on our priorities, and get stuff done. That's why I'm stepping forward.

Building on my existing relationships and record working with the parish council and as a school governor these past few years, I'm keen to work with you all to make our parish the best it can be.

I moved to Shillington nearly eight years ago now. I feel blessed to live here - as I'm sure you do too - but with huge pressures to build houses we need to campaign more effectively than ever and say loud and clear that enough is enough – Greenwoods, Hanscombe End, Thomas's Meadow, the list goes on!

Saving our countryside from sprawling development is important for many of us and it's my number one priority. We've been working hard to resist these developments for years - with success - and together we can make sure future generations have a countryside left to enjoy.

There are other priorities too, and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible before 4th May to understand what matters most to you. Do stop and say hello if you see me out and about.

You can also visit www.BlakeStephenson.uk to read more before you cast your vote.

With best wishes,

Blake.



SHILLINGTON SPRING CLEAN VILLAGE LITTER PICK 25TH MARCH

A huge THANK YOU to the kind volunteers who turned out for the litter pick on Saturday morning. We managed to collect around 20 bags of rubbish.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / ITEMS / NEWS IN BRIEF

Afternoon Tea - Fundraiser for



MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE

at 62 Bury Road, Shillington (Sue & Duncan Fox)

SATURDAY, 13TH MAY from 3.00pm

£5 per adult - Children under 12 free



Sandwiches



Cakes



Scones



Coffee/Tea



Pimms



Raffle
Garden Games
Face Painting
Coconut Shy



Please bring your own garden chairs / Picnic blankets

SHILLINGTON CARE

Do you need help with transport from Shillington?

We can get you to the surgery, hospital and collect your prescriptions.

Shillington Care is an informal group of people able to give help.

Give us a call and we will arrange for someone to pick you up and bring you back.

Initially, speak to **Liz** on **01462-711594** or leave a message.

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



SHILLINGTON FLYPASTS 2023



Well he's done it again..... Mark Thyne has successfully bid for another RAF flypast by the Battle of Britain Memorial flight....

Confirming details as below (note that timings and flights are subject to weather conditions and may vary on the day, also that flying of drones in the area is not permitted during these times):

Coronation Day: 6th May on their way back from Buckingham Palace – flight over centre of village/Church Street at **approximately 14:41 – Spitfire & Hurricane.**

Shillingfest: 24th June – flight over the Playing Fields at approximately **11:49** (opener for the event) – **Spitfire.**



**SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR @ 7.00pm on
The Playing Fields, Saturday, 28th OCTOBER**

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SHILLINGTON & GRAVENHURST

As we reported in the February's Parish News issue we have said farewell to Revd. Richard Winslade at the beginning of January when he moved to Northumberland.

All Saints' Church is now in 'Vacancy', which means that for the time being, we do not have our own designated priest. It will be some months before a new Priest-in-Charge is appointed, however the church is carrying on. We have already welcomed a number visiting clergy including two Canons from St Albans Cathedral, Archdeacon Dave, Richard the Bishop of Bedford and our old friend Revd. Roger Wood to take our services. The Revd. Roger Wood is former Vicar of St. Margaret's Church, Streatley and he will be taking a number of services in the coming months.

On those Sundays when we have find ourselves without a priest we will manage with services of Morning Worship with Prayers & Hymns, sometimes taken by a 'Lay Minister', in place of a Holy Communion service. The start time of Sunday morning services will remain 9.30am.

We have two Weddings, a Wedding Blessing and Baptisms at the church, together with other normal church activities over the next few months.

The post for our new priest has been advertised and the recruitment process is well underway, we hope to report the progress in the next issue.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) still meet to make decisions regarding church life. Other activities like Bell ringing, Choir, Bible study, 'Warm Space's' and social events continue as normal.

However, if during the Vacancy you need the assistance of the church and you would normally have spoken to Rev, Richard, please get in touch, in the first instance, with the Churchwardens. They are **Dick & Liz Brewer** and their telephone number is **01462-711594**.

**Dick Brewer on behalf of
All Saints Church PCC**



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SHILLINGTON & GRAVENHURST

www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk



WHAT'S GOING ON

The main point of contact on church matters is now the **Churchwardens - Liz & Dick Brewer** ☎ **01462 711594**. Visiting clergy will lead services until a new priest is appointed.

SERVICES:

Our Sunday Morning Service is still at 9.30am mostly with Communion with normally live feed on Facebook. Sung Evensong is on the 1st Sunday in the month at 6.00pm

LENT and EASTER SERVICES:

9.30am – 2nd April – Palm Sunday – Sung Holy Communion

2.00pm - 7th April - Good Friday service for the last hour.

9.30am - 9th April - Easter Sunday Service.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH - SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Our Sunday School meets most weeks and is open for children of all ages starting from 4 years old. For more information please **Adam Lockey** on **01462 712464**.

FUNERALS/BURIALS/THANKSGIVING SERVICES:

✠ 24th February - Paul Davis – Burial of Ashes at St. Marys Churchyard, Lower Gravenhurst.

✠ 13th March - John David Simkins – Cremation at North Herts Crematorium.

✠ 22nd March - Marion Smith – Funeral at Gravenhurst Methodist Chapel followed by Burial at All Saints Church Shillington Church Yard

200 CLUB – LUCKY WINNERS: (prizes 1st £50, 2nd £25, 3rd £10)

February 2023:

1st no. 064 – David Ball 2nd no. 130 – Mark Lambert 3rd no. 178 – Trish Humphries

March 2023:

1st no. 073 – Phil Mitchel 2nd no. 026 – Kris Karlake 3rd no. 185 – Trish Humphries

OTHER NEWS FOR 2023:

* Afternoon Teas start in the Church each Sunday from the 7th May

* 24 Hour Sponsored Sing in the Church on 10th June

Best wishes

Liz Brewer (Church Warden) lizbrewer313@gmail.com

CBC WARD MEMBER'S REPORT

for Shillington, Higham Gobion and Pegsdon

alison.graham@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk ☎ 01462-713543



Well, as you probably know by now, this May I am retiring from local government, and also resigning from Shillington's parish council. So this is my last communication. And I am reminding you to take photo ID to vote or you will be turned away, even if the polling officer is your Auntie Mabel. Ironically the postal vote system is unchanged, even though it was potential postal vote fraud which central government claimed made the new ID law necessary, so get a postal vote if you still can.



Again, it is a quiet time because CBC is now in 'purdah'. This is an Indian word referring to times when Indian women were secluded from public life. It became used by the British to mean a pre-election period during which no contentious decisions are taken. Essentially, the officers are keeping the ship on an even keel until the new council is formed. However before this, we had a very informative presentation from a senior official from the National Grid. Biggleswade is to have 'the largest investment in 30 years' – to form a new sub-station capable of producing up to 240 megawatts. It will cost £43 million, part funded by CBC, and a local network team will be set up. This sub-station is to meet the future need for more electricity, and more 'green' sourced power.

The National Grid was designed to output electricity, not to accept incoming power, such as wind or solar. The grid is now adapting itself to accept incoming, while at the same time providing outgoing, electricity. Power from wind farms and solar farms increasingly needs to be incorporated. As power becomes a scarcer commodity, the question for developers before they commit is; will they check the availability first, and decide house numbers after? A question which arose during the recent Hanscombe End Road application, if you remember.



My swan song was to complain loudly to CBC about its new parking policy. It cannot be a one size fits all; of the 10 most common parking penalties cited by CBC, seven related only to urban streets. We do not have bus lanes, designated timed street parking spaces or roundabouts. The committee accepted that villages with their medieval streets and narrow minor roads cannot be submitted to a 'new estate system' of parking rules, but their needs must be tailormade.

And now to look over the last - what, 12 years? that I've been your ward member. The losses (not many) and victories (magnificent!) that we've seen together. Saving Thomas's Meadow – remember the TV crew? Successfully seeing off the recent attack on Hanscombe End Road, with the view from our historic church making the difference. The community, always supportive and welcoming, as I know from my arrival as a stranger 21 years ago, came together so strongly to survive the two lockdowns. The school, expanding to become a primary school, is doing well; the two beautiful churches, so different in their architecture, open their doors for food, warmth, comfort, solace; the pubs, now open again after the dismal black shutters came down. I must thank the parish council for always being behind its 'little rotweiler', and all of you, for your support over these years, the friendship, the jokes, the help. This is a very special community. Thank you.



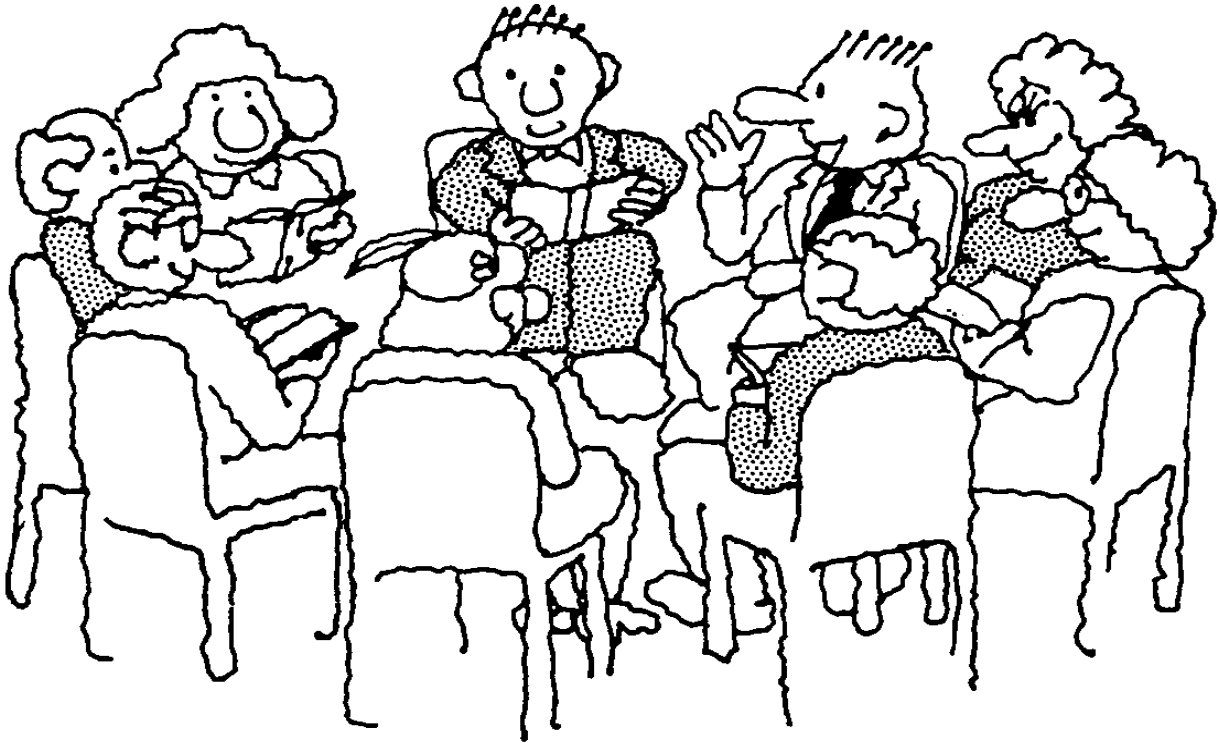
The village on its hill is like an island; no good bus routes, no train station, only minor roads; but it can rejoice in its constant contact with the natural world that surrounds it; wandering muntjacs, stupid pheasants, red kites circling in the sky, shy orchids, burgeoning hedgerows, clear starlight, birdsong at dawn. We are so lucky to live here, and to bring up our children in this world – but time moves on.

And so do I. So I shall write for the last time, best wishes,

Alison Graham

Shillington ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday, 2nd May 2023 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 2022 and plans for 2023.*
- *Ask questions about the issues that concern you.*

ALL WELCOME

Helen Smith, Clerk to Parish Council.

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



With spring well and truly in the air, February seems a long time ago.



Our AGM was held on the 2nd and it all went very smoothly. Halfway through the evening, Member Sandra Hare gave us a demonstration on how to create something amazing from a bunch of flowers which we have perhaps treated ourselves to at the garage or supermarket. We were given some useful tips on how to make them last longer in water. From the single bunch of mixed flowers, Sandra made three beautiful arrangements (she used a little extra greenery from the garden or hedgerows). I won't be just plonking them in a vase of water from now on!

Later in the month WI members enjoyed a visit to Wardown House Museum and Park in Luton. The museum is housed in a Victorian mansion and has many local curiosities. Unfortunately, the first floor was closed for ceiling repairs – we all thought it would be worth returning at a later date to see the exhibits upstairs. After our visit, some of us spent a lovely half-hour walking around the lake in the Park.



In March we welcomed Ian Deavin who gave us “An Introduction to Tai Chi”. His talk on the history of Tai Chi, which goes back to the sixteenth century, was very interesting. He followed this with a demonstration of this gentle martial art. Members were invited to join in part of it if they so wished. Tai Chi is about harmony between body and mind and “continual movement that flows like a river but with no turbulence”. It is good for improving balance and flexibility – it certainly has health benefits. It was relaxing just watching him!

We look forward to welcoming back Sally Searle in April. She will give us an update on the Little Faces Schools in Kenya. This wonderful charity gives local children from very poor families the benefit of an education. It sounds as if a lot has happened since she last talked to us on Zoom in January 2021.

Our speaker at our May meeting is nutritionist Sue Watkins: “Nutrition – The Body’s Design”. We are what we eat. This also promises to be a fascinating talk.



In the warmer spring and summer, days and evenings, the Walking Group looks forward to exploring the footpaths around our lovely village. The Lunch/ Supper Clubs meet and eat, the knitters continue to make items for donation and sale and the Book Club meets monthly.

Our Meetings take place on the first Thursday of the month at the Congregational Church at 8.00 p.m. Visitors are very welcome (£4).

For further information please contact:

***Jo Carroll, joxcarroll@btinternet.com or
Julia Bruce, President on 01462 712412***

AN UNEXPECTED GUEST

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

It was beautiful but the snow and hard frosts that we had before Christmas 2022, followed by the very sudden thaw, has wreaked havoc in my garden. I've lost almost half of my shrubs; they just turned dark brown. It's sad to see. Something weird is happening to our weather; climate change is adversely impacting on my garden.



In late February we had a sunny day and I could feel a bit of warmth in the sun. I popped outside, leaving the door open, and heard a loud buzz. A bumblebee was busy on my Erica carnea's pink flowers. This plant is a great early food source for these special insects. When I returned indoors there was an even louder, but crosser sounding, buzzing noise in my kitchen. It was a different species of bumblebee trying to get out of the window and he, or she, was rather big.

It brought back memories of spending a fascinating day with an entomologist who was carrying out an invertebrate survey of some old hedgerows. While surveying a green lane with high hedges, he gently scooped something off some bramble and held it out for me to take. I put out my hand, and as he opened his, he revealed a large bumblebee. I'm embarrassed to say that I gave a little squeal and took a quick step back. He gave me a look that was reminiscent of Dad's Army's Captain Mainwaring when he called Private Pike a "Stupid boy". The entomologist told me that the bumblebee was a male – it hadn't got an ovipositor so it couldn't sting. I took his word for it. It was amazing to hold this beautiful insect in the palm of my hand. I don't think the feeling was mutual as, after several seconds of grumpy buzzing, it took off. I obviously didn't smell of bramble flowers.

I didn't realise that it is only female bumblebees that have a sting. A bee's stinger is a modified egg-laying structure, or ovipositor, so only females are capable of stinging. It's a weapon of defence. It will only be used if a bee feels threatened. You can tell the difference between male and female bumblebees by looking at their back legs. If it's got pollen baskets then it's the latter.

As to the one in my kitchen window, I wasn't going to look too closely at the more dangerous and less intelligent end of its anatomy - it might have taken exception to me doing this - so I got a jar and a postcard. I spent a careful couple of minutes getting the bumblebee out of the window and into the jar before releasing it outside into the sunshine.



My sister-in-law and I were talking over lunch about the lovely sunny days we'd had and I mentioned the bumblebee that had flown into my kitchen. She told me that as one these insects had come into my house, I'll "soon receive some unexpected visitors". I hadn't heard of this lovely saying before – hopefully it's family and friends and not something unpleasant!

Bumblebees are wonderful creatures. We need these important pollinators and they need us to help them to survive. We can do this by leaving a less tidy area in our gardens and by not using pesticides. The Government needs to ban these extremely dangerous chemicals but I'm afraid it isn't going to. It knows about the devastating effect of pesticides on the environment so *why* isn't it banning them?

Annie x

Do you need a Warm space?

Just come along to...

Shillington Congregational Church

1 1.00 - 2.00 every Monday



Soup • Tea & coffee • biscuits

Friendly welcome and a Warm Space.

You can bring your own activities if you wish eg knitting, reading, drawing.
Just come and chat or enjoy some quiet space.

A happy place to meet up and socialise

Sponsored by Shillington Congregational Church and All Saints Church Shillington

The 'Warm Space' project' is changing!

As the days get warmer, we are inviting guests to join us in our 'Friendly space'; same time and place; we will still be offering soup and a roll, hot/cold drinks and biscuits and we will also invite anyone who enjoys a good chat, or likes to do some activities. We have a musician joining us on 24th April for singing and making lovely sounds (!). There will also be a raffle.

We are planning to bring other activities in too.

Please support this project by coming along and spread the word to people you think may like to join us. If you can help out please speak to Trish Humphreys or Linda Butler. (It would be great if anyone could offer lifts).

Village Photo Exhibition & launch of the new village website

Saturday 20th May in the Village Hall

- Find out what is available on the new village website
- A chance to see 100s of old photos of the village
- Watch a video guided tour of All Saints' Church
 - Pick up a free village walking tour leaflet
 - Free refreshments

Free entry. Just drop in between 1pm & 4pm



Made possible with

**Heritage
Fund**

**Supported by Shillington
Parish Council**

Rainbows

1st Shillington Rainbows

As of January this year we have a new Rainbow leader, her name is Leanne and she took over from Kathy who had been running Shillington Rainbows for 10 years.



We started the first term of the year by looking into the history of Shillington rainbows. To celebrate the unit's 10th birthday we had a little party and to continue the celebrations, we learnt about Chinese New Year and the girls made dragon puppets shown here.

On the 19th of february we celebrated world thinking day - an event with morals that closely match the the Guiding way of thinking.

To celebate we took part in several activities, these were creating a helping hands tree where the rainbows drew around their hands and cut them out as shown here. We also took part in a sponsored walk around Henlow with the Henlow Rainbow troop and to end off the day as a group we all re took our rainbow promise.



To round off our first term of the year at Rainbows we have been learning about the different emergency services and how they can help us in emergency situations. We learnt how and when to make a 999 call. We also learned the importance of knowing our own addresses when making emergency calls.



The Shillington Rainbows unit are looking for enthusiastic vouteers to help out at the weekly meetings, at the Lower Stondon village hall.

The Rainbows are for girls aged between 4-7 years, but younger girls can be added to our waiting list. Our unit is currently full and we have a long waiting list. However if you are interested in adding your daughter to our waiting list or would like more information on our Rainbow unit please email:

shillingtonrainbow@gmail.com



1ST SHILLINGTON GUIDES AND RANGERS

This term the Guides have enjoyed unlocking their creative side with ideas, experiments and problem solving. They made coasters using tessellation patterns, adjusted cookie recipes to see the effect of changes in amount of ingredients, solved a crime scene using chromatography and other scientific methods and sewed a circuit to make a light-up camp badge.

We celebrated Chinese New Year, and had a space-themed evening where they made junk models of the International Space Station. Apologies to those parents whose daughters took them home – one was so big it was hard fitting it in the car! We also welcomed the Royal Navy who ran a fun-filled evening of team and leadership games.

Meanwhile, the Rangers have also had a go at a food experiment: making armpit fudge. It's not as bad as it sounds – you put all the ingredients in a bag and squidge them together. They also made microwave mug cakes to eat with the fudge.



Our main trip out this term was to join 8,000 other members of Girlguiding and The Scout Association in a live version of Monopoly through the streets of London. We travelled by train, tube and bus and walked around 9 miles, taking in the sights as well as trying to visit as many London Monopoly properties as possible. Two of the Rangers decided that they wanted to make their promise in an iconic red telephone box.

Making your promise is meant to be a “mountain top moment” for Guides and Rangers – something that they will always remember. Three of the Guides made their promise while bouncing when we visited a trampoline park earlier in the term.

Our unit is currently full, but if you are interested in adding your daughter to our waiting list for joining our friendly unit, or would like more information, please email: shillingtonguides@gmail.com. Guides are aged 10-14 years, but younger girls can be on our waiting list. Rangers are aged 14-18 years. Our Guides and Rangers come from Shillington and the surrounding area, including Gravenhurst, Meppershall, Stondon, Clifton and Shefford.



ALL SAINTS ILLUMINATED

To celebrate or commemorate your special occasion please contact:

Catherine on **07710-823384**

or e-mail catherine.scleater@btinternet.com

It only costs £25 to sponsor a whole week's illumination - a perfect way to commemorate a special family occasion or loved one's anniversary.

Sponsor	Message	From	To
David & Fiona Howarth	Kathleen MacKinnon - remembering your birthday on the 30 th April	Sunday 30 April	Saturday 6 May



A very special THANK YOU

A special note of appreciation to two wonderful people who are retiring from their posts on the Parish Council and as Ward Councillor; namely Sally Stapleton as chair of the Parish Council and Alison Graham as Ward Councillor.

So many years of devoted and diligent service on our behalf to all kinds of issues in the village. Big issues and individual matters have been attended to by them. They have not kept to office hours but worked constantly to support us and help make our village a lovely and attractive place to live.

May we continue to build on their good work and may they enjoy a break from these duties to other interests. Again many thanks for all the kind and helpful things you have done.

Angus



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INFO@SHAMROCKCLINIC.CO.UK





IN PRAISE OF DOG WALKERS

by *Revd. Angus McCormick* ☎ 01462-712096

Minister of Shillington Congregationalist Church

So so often these regular walkers of dogs or people, who have agreed, or not, maybe to go out with their dogs are out there on their usual tracks and often stop for a good chat. Those dogs are so patient and often so friendly too. I usually greet the dog first of course. Are these walkers of dogs like their dogs?

Well I know when we had two collies we were known mostly as the owners of the two rough collies even though many people had no idea who we really were. Rex and Prince really were most popular. Like many dogs they loved to splash in any water and give a good shake afterwards as close to their owners as possible. These dogs knew we were their parents and they did look after us; warning of danger around the house, meeting and welcome after being left for some time, giving us so much fun and free exercise, healing powers when we needed it, ready for meals at regular intervals which kept us regular too. Any spare piece of carrot was soon enjoyed by one of them and the other just tasted it and left it on the plate, ignoring any mouse that crossed their path leaving them for the cats, jumping back in disgust when woken from their slumbers by the sparks flying out from the open fire.



Great to get a welcome from Parker at the lower school. There are so many dogs now in places of work where I go each week, I sometimes wonder if I have wandered into a dogs' refuge. A change in attitude from earlier times when dogs were kept away from work places.

Anyhow, it's mainly the need to build up that friendly acceptance of each other that I hope we will keep developing in this wonderful village community. Regular, relaxed interchange whenever we can and not just if there is an emergency or a funeral. Taking the opportunity each day to connect with each other and value our neighbours. Remember those who cannot get out and about; remember that not all dogs are well treated; remember how hard it is for many of us to go just a short distance; remember not all disabilities are visible. For most dogs I've found that a gentle pat is welcomed just like a friendly nod or smile.



Yes of course there are many other wonderful pets kept by villagers and they all are special. So many owners have got their dogs from refuge centres. We know how many specially trained dogs there are in areas like bomb disposal, guide and hearing dogs, sheep dogs, dogs who sniff out drugs or help local people in dangerous places...

There are the sad and unhappy stories too of dogs doing something awful and not under control. Dog owners who still don't tidy up after their dogs. There are a lot of dog bins in the village. There are stories of dogs never leaving their owners graves ... but however romantic or emotional that is the dog would be happier going for a walk and living as full a life as it is able to.

We are made like the dogs for living as full a life as we can with gentleness and kindness and smiling as much as possible. The flowers are blossoming..

Every blessing,
Rev. Angus

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NEWS

47 Church Street, Shillington
www.shillingtoncong-church.org.uk

SERVICES:

All services commence at 10.30am unless otherwise stated. Should you need to contact our Minister with any enquiries his telephone number is **01462-712096**.



UNITED SERVICE:

The service on Sunday 30 April will be a Joint Service at All Saints, please note the time of 9.30am, which is the usual time at All Saints..

BEDFORD FOODBANK:

Thanks to the generous gifts made by the local community of both goods and monetary donations, regular deliveries continue to be made to help those most in need. The following extract from a letter of thanks was received from Bedford Foodbank at the beginning of February.



“THANK YOU TO EVERYONE

In 2022, the generosity of the people of Bedford and the surrounding area provided enough food to enable the foodbank to feed 19,628 people of whom 6,813 were children; this provided 440,664 meals. (185,079 kilogrammes of food and toiletries). We now have around 280 referral agencies who are ideally placed in the community to identify individuals and families who are in need and to distribute vouchers. They are working with the people so are aware of the background stories and what other help is being received. Thank you to everyone who contributed food, their time or money to enable this to happen”.

Items currently in short supply:

Toilet Rolls	Large tins of Potatoes	Long Life Sponge Puddings
Jars Curry Sauce	Tinned Rice Pudding	Cup-a-Soup
Jars of Jam	Cereal Bars	Bags of Rice 500gm
	Biscuits	

CHRISTIAN AID:

A coffee morning has been arranged for **Wednesday 17 May 2023** between **10.00am – 12.30pm** during Christian Aid Week. Please support this organisation to enable them to continue their work to support countries affected by climate change.



HIRE OF OUR PREMISES:

Did you know that our premises are available to hire for use by community organisations and individuals for one off or regular use? We have a large meeting room which can comfortably accommodate approx. 50 people seated at tables on the ground floor. A smaller room is located upstairs and is sometimes used for table tennis or pilates. We have 2 large tennis tables in the room, which is available for hire by a small group of friends if anyone might be interested. The kitchen is well equipped for catering purposes should this be required. Any enquiries please contact **Rev Angus McCormick 01462 712096**, or Secretary **Mrs Janet Worley 01582 881824**.

WARM PROJECT:

The ‘Warm Space’ project is to continue at present; the number of people using this facility has grown over the weeks. We serve tea/coffee, biscuits, soup and a roll between 11.00am and 2.00pm on a Monday. This is open to anyone who may wish to come for company and a chat, to meet other people, save on the fuel bills, or to enjoy some hot soup and a roll. No charge is made but donations are welcome.

SHILLINGTON MEN'S CLUB

(Now in its 18th year)

On the evening of the 1st February 18 members attended our Annual General Meeting in the Congregational Church. All the existing Committee members were unopposed and re-elected. After the formalities there was a buffet and drinks provided by the Club, followed by a talk on the Pharmaceutical Industry by our Chairman Kevin Johnson, this was a very informative and entertaining talk which went down well with the members. Thank you Kevin.



Our second evening meal took place at the Greyhound at Haynes on the 8th February, here 22 members tucked into Cottage or Steak pie and vegetables followed by Apple Crumble or Spotted Dick. This was a lovely meal and went down well with some good real ale or red wine! Thank you to Colin Smith and Paul Bruce for organising such an enjoyable event.

Our lunchtime social events continue to be popular and on the 22nd of February and the 22nd of March a good number of members attended the Musgrave Arms for a meal from the menu and drinks of their choice, and we were well looked after as usual by Giuseppe and his team. Thank you to Michael Bradley for initiating and maintaining this event.

On the 1st March 15 members visited the BMW Mini Factory at Cowley in Oxfordshire, here our very knowledgeable section of motoring enthusiasts enjoyed a tour of the factory featuring the extensive use of robots and the new Mini Electric vehicle. The factory is powered by Solar panels on the roof and each car is made specifically to the customer's order and no two cars are alike. Every process is monitored by camera to spot any errors, so instead of stopping the production line, a vehicle with an assembly fault is extracted when complete and the problem rectified by a mechanic in quality control. A good day was had by all. Thank you to Michael Bradley for organising this event.



Our evening meal for March took place on the 8th at the Cross Keys at Pulloxhill. 18 members attended and the fayre was Steak & Ale pie and chips or Ham, Egg and chips, followed by Cherry pie or Lemon Tart with Squirry Cream! This evening went well and everybody enjoyed the food and catching up. Many thanks again to Colin and Paul who facilitated this.

Future Events:

- 12th April – meal at the Red Lion at Great Offley.
- 26th April – visit to the Royal Gunpowder Mills in Enfield.
- 10th May - The Crown at Willington.
- 31st May- Partners event at Kathy Brown's Garden Stevington including tea and cakes.
- 14th June – The Fairway Bistro, Lower Stondon Golf Club.

Membership:

Remains stable at 38 members. There are 8 elected Committee members who meet every 12 weeks to review and evaluate past events, plan future events and review the Club's Finances. The Club offers members a bi-monthly opportunity to socialise and enjoy friendly conversation and comradeship over a good pub meal and beverages or a visit to a place of cultural or historical interest. This is the essence of the Club. New members are warmly welcomed, so any new residents to the village, please take the opportunity to embrace village life, meet local people and come along and see what the Club has to offer! Membership is £5 to join with an Annual Membership of £15.



Contacts:

Events Co-ordinator - Michael Bradley
(01462 711162)

Email - michael894bradley@btinternet.com

Chairman – Kevin Johnson
(01462 712768)

Email – kevinjohnson360@msn.com

SHILLINGTON SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

MEET AT

SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Monday afternoons – 2.00-5.00pm // Friday evenings – 7.00-10.00pm



Currently we are only open on a Monday afternoon but we will recommence the Friday Evenings immediately after the Easter Weekend i.e. 14th April

Our Internal Triples League is very nearly complete with only one point between the top two teams.

On the 18th March the first of our Club Competitions took place with 12 members taking part in the Singles game. All the preliminary games were very close but the Finalists will be Bill Gearing and Trevor Knight and they will fight it out on the Finals Day which is Saturday, 24th June 2023 from 12.30pm in the Village Hall.

The next competition day will be on Saturday, 29th April when the Pairs and Fours game will take place commencing at 12.30pm.

In the Barnet League we have two teams in Division 1 and they are currently 4th and 5th with a couple of games to play. In Division 2 we have one team taking part and they are currently top of the league and look set to get promotion to Division 1 next season. We have one member taking part in the Nationals Final and we wish Neil Rixon all the very best when he plays in the Singles Final on 30th March.

Short Mat Bowls is a fun game, as well as a competitive sport but you can meet and make some good friends in the process. Taking part in National and/or Hertfordshire County Games is only part of the picture and we always welcome new members. Anyone interested in joining the Club is welcome to come and have a try to see if they like it. We have spare sets of bowls available, and you only need to have a pair of flat shoes with you to enable you to play.

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 Potters Bar.

For further information please contact

Derek Lewison (01462 711504) or Jeanette Waller (01462 622737)

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



The Church Bells will ring out from the top of the hill for the **Coronation of King Charles III** on 6th May. This will be the 20th time they have rung for a coronation since the reign of Queen Elizabeth I when the full peel of 5 bells was first recorded. It is said that when she passed through Shillington on a 'royal progress', the

villagers failed to ring the bells in her honour, and she had the doors of the church nailed up until a hefty fine was paid!

The bells are just one of the fascinating features of our mediaeval church and its role in our history that can be found in the new **Friends' website**, [Home - Friends of All Saints' Church \(foas-shillington.org.uk\)](http://foas-shillington.org.uk) created as part of the new **Village Hub**, which has been funded by the Lottery and the Parish Council. ([Home - Shillington Village Hub \(shillington-hub.org.uk\)](http://shillington-hub.org.uk)) Andy Gibbs who led the website project will introduce it in a talk **in the church at 8.00 pm on Thursday 20th April** following the Friends AGM at 7.30. All are welcome to join us to enjoy a glass of wine and learn about a video tour of the Church; a walking tour of the village; an historical display for the school; as well as the Church and History Society websites, making archives like the burials database and the village photo archive more accessible.

The bells will also feature in the Friends' next event: **'24 Hours of Live Music in the Church' on 10th/11th June** starting and finishing at 9am (see front cover). There will be everyone from the Primary School choir to rock bands to classical interludes. Entrance is free and we will be live streaming the event: details on how to tune in will be available soon. Donations invited for Friends' funds.

If, in anyway, you would like to be involved or know of anyone that would like to come and help, serving refreshments or performing, please get in touch Foass@outlook.com.

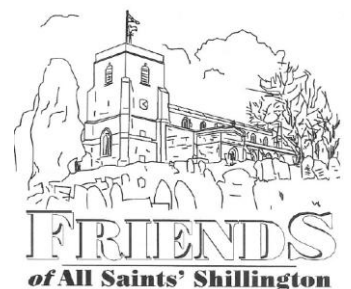
Don't forget that Sunday Teas will be re-starting on May 7th 3pm-5pm in and outside church when weather permits with live music on dates to be advised.

Meanwhile, if you'd like to donate, join the Friends, or just find out more you can use the form on the next page.

Best wishes,

Peter Lambert

Friends of All Saints Church
pglambert@fastmail.com



If you would like to make a donation and receive regular updates on the work of

Friends of All Saints' Church, Shillington

THERE ARE 2 EASY WAYS TO PAY:

1. You can make a donation by cheque/post

I/we enclose a donation of £..... to Friends of All Saints' Church, Shillington for the current year.

Name

Home address

.....

email address

I would like Friends of All Saints to be able to reclaim tax on my donation (see below):

(Yes / No) (Please delete as appropriate)

Signed..... Date

Please return this form, signed, together with your donation, to the Membership Secretary of Friends of All Saints' Church:

Joy Robertson, 18 Vicarage Close, Shillington SG5 3LS

Or

If you'd prefer to pay online:

HSBC, Friends of All Saints Church, sort code: 40 24 20, a/c No. 71596985

How we can ADD 25% to your donation. Under tax legislation, the Friends can recover some of the income tax you pay on any of your taxable income. In allowing us to recover this tax, you must have paid, or be due to pay, an amount of income tax at least equal to that we will be able to reclaim on your donation, this being 25p for every £1 you give.

In order for us to reclaim this very valuable bonus to our income, you need do nothing at all except sign and tick the box above to confirm that you are a taxpayer. We thank you in advance if you are able and prepared to do this.

Alternatively, donations can be made via the QR code below.



RAMBLING ON with DEREK TURNER

☎ 01462-712462

derek.turner@phonecoop.coop



Water - it's essential for life. Where would we be without it? It can cause problems though. We rely ultimately on rain to supply it but sometimes, we get too much, the wrong kind or not enough. After last year's dry summer, a wet autumn saw fields flooded and footpaths became quagmires in places.

We also had snow for several days with all the disruption that caused but after that, there was scarcely a drop of rain during January and February. A more unsettled March has brought some precipitation but not enough to prevent another hot, dry summer causing water shortages later in the year.

Obtaining water for drinking and watering crops is much harder in many other parts of the world. Much of the Middle East gets little rainfall but by manipulating the storage and supply of what water there is, civilisations have flourished there for thousands of years. People have completed astonishing feats of engineering to obtain it such as Siloam's Tunnel in Jerusalem which was constructed in about 700BC. Without the aid of any of the navigation systems that we use today, teams of tunnellers worked simultaneously from both sides of a hill and met successfully in the middle to create the 533 metre long pipe that brought spring water into the city. Even more remarkable was that the tunnel was not straight but curved.



Istanbul is another ancient city and now the largest metropolis in Europe with 17 million residents but is surrounded by sea on three sides and has no major rivers. When it was part of the Roman empire and called Byzantium, an aqueduct was built between AD117 and 138 to improve water supplies. In the 4th and 5th centuries, this was augmented with a

massive 267km long system of canals - the largest in the ancient world - to gather water from up to 70km away. The network included the 971m long , which has survived for nearly 2,000 years and straddles a major road leading into the city. With the area prone to earthquakes, it has needed numerous repairs but was still in use until the early 1900s. Not all of the early water infrastructure is so obvious. More than 200 ancient storage cisterns lie hidden beneath the streets of the old city. There are many more examples of ancient water management elsewhere in the world. China has a long history of manipulating its rivers to irrigate land in dry areas and canals built before 3,400BC have been traced in South America.



I haven't been to any of the above places but I have visited the mountainous island of Madeira where the lower slopes and most populated parts of the island rarely get rain. The volcanic soils are fertile though and to get water for crops, a 3,000km system of levadas (canals) brings it around and down the steep slopes. Their banks form an incredible

network of footpaths but you have to keep your wits about you when you use them as there are many perilous drops on one side. On a different holiday in Spain, we stayed in converted farm buildings near Grenada. The surrounding fields were flat and a range of crops were growing to supply the city with food.

Out walking one morning, I witnessed a local farmer directing water onto his vegetables. I hadn't noticed previously that a network of small, raised channels allowed every field to be irrigated.



We had a similar system in this country for water meadows where river water upstream was diverted onto grass when warmer weather arrived in spring to ensure there was a bumper crop of hay. Several such schemes operated in the valleys of Sussex but the nearest I have seen to here was in the Chess valley near the tiny village of Chenies in Buckinghamshire.

Although no longer in operation, the remains of channels and sluice sites are still visible there today.

Nowadays, obtaining water is easy but this was not always the case and it had to be hauled laboriously from wells using buckets. A piped supply reached Shillington in 1936 but it took many years for every home to be connected. Since then, our demand for water has increased but rainfall has become more erratic. Fortunately, Anglian Water are investing £5 million in underground pipes to connect their reservoirs so that they can move water around when local shortages occur. To plumb the reservoir at the top of Meppershall hill into this network, the road from Upton End will be closed from 22 May until 7 June.



We expect that the water delivered through our taps will be clean but recent television programmes have highlighted the contamination of many of our rivers by sewage and fertiliser runoff. I'll take a look at this in another edition of Rambling On.

Your churchyard needs you!

Could you help with any of these?

Grass cutting - Strimming

Grave maintenance - Ivy taming

Hedge trimming - Path clearing

**Give whatever time you can
in whatever way you can**

All equipment is supplied.

Please contact Liz Allan on

01462 711084 or lizallan@freeuk.com





PICNIC IN THE PARK

in celebration of the KING'S CORONATION

Sunday afternoon, 7th May from 2pm.

The chance for a family get together at the Playing Fields on Sunday afternoon, 7th May from 2pm.



Bring along your own picnic, blanket/seats and spend family time together playing fun games, enjoying live music and some sporting activities.

The Social Club will be open from 12 noon and there will be an Ice cream/waffle van on site. We also hope to have a children's entertainer.



As with the Jubilee – dress up your house or street for the weekend of 6-8 June with the chance of a prize!!



SHILLINGFEST 23 – Saturday, 24th June 2023

@ The Playing Fields from 12 noon

Village organisations and groups providing stalls, sideshows and games - a great opportunity for the community to come together. Raffles (*all donations gratefully received*) and competitions.

BBQ by the Playing Fields Committee – with profits going towards the annual Fireworks Event on 28th October. WI and Friends of All Saints providing sweet and savoury food offerings as well as hot and cold drinks and Pimms tent. Ice cream & waffle van.



Social Club open from 12 noon.

Musical interludes with David Foster and Andy Neaves. Classic car parade and display and entertainment from the Letchworth Morris Men.



Spitfire flypast at 11.49am to open the event



Contact **Sally (07711-504489)** or **Gavin (07826-518667)** if you would like a stall or to get involved.



SHILLINGTON & DISTRICT CLASSIC VEHICLE GROUP SPRING & SUMMER MEETINGS SCHEDULE 2023

We will be resuming our informal evening meetings on Tuesday 28th March. Arrive anytime, most enthusiasts congregate from 6pm onwards and stay until late. Further meetings take place on Tuesdays every 2 weeks until the end of September.



**Shillington
Classic Vehicle Meet
2023
Spring/Summer Season**

**Tuesday Fortnightly
Meetings
From 6pm**

**The Musgrave Arms
Apsley End Rd
Shillington
SG5 3LX**

Tuesday Meeting Dates

March/April	28th	11th	25th
May	9th	23rd	
June	6th	20th	
July	4th	18th	
August	1st	15th	29th
September	12th	26th	

Our popular format is as before; bring along an interesting car, motorcycle, light commercial or 3-wheeler. If you don't have a suitable vehicle, come to have a look and a chat. These get togethers are informal and for all the family, the aim is to have a fun evening with like-minded people.

Why not join our lively WhatsApp Group? Just contact **Zara** on **07860-646323** with your name & phone number and you will be added to the list.

Dave Malins

Email: TornadoRegistrar@aol.com

COMING SOON to YOUR SOCIAL CLUB

Back By popular demand

MICE WITH GLASSES

Saturday, 15th April at 9.00pm.



Pat And The Butchers



Playing Here Sat 13th May 9:00pm

Good times, guaranteed*

Be there, or be Albert Square!

**Or your money back. Ps. It's free entry.*



Shillington Baby & Toddler Group



We have a new team leading Shillington Baby & Toddler Group this term, but we still need additional volunteers to ensure the Group can continue to run each week. This doesn't need to be a week-in, week-out commitment! Ideally we'd like to have a pool of helpers who can commit to helping, e.g. once a month.

If you are interested and would like to know more, please email us at shillingtonbtg@outlook.com, message us on Facebook (@Shillingtonbabyandtoddlergroup) or come and chat to us at one of our Friday morning sessions in the Village Hall (9.30am - 11.30am in school term time).

 Find us on
Facebook

Registered Charity 1054966



We continue to be busy in school and this term we have celebrated World Book Day and this year the children concentrated on one writer, Benjamin Zephaniah. Our Early Years classes have focussed on his book 'Nature Trail' and have been on nature walks and created pictures with natural objects and made bug hotels and bird feeders. Other classes looked at his poetry and the messages they contain. Some comments from the day were:

"The books are really fascinating!" "World Book Day is where you think about your books because children don't have them, but you might, so look after them" "On World Book Day, we created our own poems, like Benjamin's and typed in on a Chromebook and added photos and colour."

Our Reception and Key Stage 1 classes have enjoyed a visit from Lewis the Ringmaster, which was a drama workshop. The children loved pretending they were at the circus and carrying out different poses.

Our Pre-School and Reception classes hosted a special Stay and Play and afternoon tea to recognise Mother's Day. We also held our 'Book Look' for our parents and carers to come into school to view their children's hard work.

We have also supported Comic Relief. Our School Council arranged for us to have a 'Break the Rules' day. Children were allowed to do the opposite of seven of some school expectations, for example we were allowed to bring in chocolate and crisps for morning snack, (instead of fruit or vegetables), we were allowed to wear temporary tattoos and have crazy hairstyles.

Our Pre-School, Pixies class, are looking forward to welcoming their new starters after Easter. We are becoming very busy in Pixies and sessions for the Autumn term are filling up quickly, if you would like to visit please ring the school office to arrange a tour and meet our team to discuss starting your child's school journey with us. If you, or anyone you know, are looking for a Reception year place or are planning an in-year move please give us a ring to discuss our admissions process.

At Shillington Lower School we do not have any wrap around care currently as the village is privileged to have many dedicated childminders. However due to a recent drop in the numbers of childminders we do realise there may be a need that we can help with. If you would be interested in using a breakfast and/or an after-school club for your child, please contact the school office as we are preparing a questionnaire to determine if there is enough demand to allow us to offer this service.



PIXIES Pre-School



FOR LITTLE LEARNERS WITH BIG IDEAS!

Pixies Pre-School is run and managed by the school, we take children from 2 years until they start in Reception class, and we work closely to provide a smooth transition into school.

Children can start in Pixies class when they are ready to be in a pre-school environment.

We offer:

- ☺ A vibrant and fun classroom
- ☺ Qualified, dedicated, and experienced staff
- ☺ Fantastic outdoor area providing stimulating learning experiences
- ☺ We provide a range of imaginative and stimulating learning activities
- ☺ 15 & 30 hour funding

Come and see our fantastic new building. Tours are available, contact the school office.



Outdoor Explorers

Outdoor Explorers is our Monday morning adventure where we encourage all children to appreciate the natural world whilst developing their confidence, self-esteem and help create more independent learners inspiring our children about the great outdoors.

The sessions are run outside on the school field by our staff, come rain or shine.

Limited spaces are available.
Please contact the school office
for more information.

For more information, please contact us at:

Shillington Lower School

Greenfields, Shillington, Nr Hitchin, SG5 3NX

Tel: 01462 711637 Email: office@shillingtonlower.co.uk

www.shillingtonstondon.co.uk



SHILLINGTON CHILDMINDERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Katie Brettell 07974-676089 katiebrettell@icloud.com	Laura Griffiths 07493-903621 lauralgriffiths820@gmail.com	Carli Mauger 07912-549931 carlimauger@gmail.com	Deb Pateman 07934-480446 debpateman@msn.com
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Call **0300-123-3023** or e mail: thewanderbus@gmail.com for more info or to book your seat.

We do require a deposit of £10.00 p.p. for any excursion. If not cancelled with 7 days of excursion, the deposit may be withheld.

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)

	DESTINATIONS	Venue Entry + Bus Fare Per Person
27th April	Coton Manor Botanical Gardens, Northants.	Entry £10.00 + Bus Fare £15.00 Pickup 10.00/10.30 D. 15.30
<i>Bluebell Woods and Water Garden. The widely respected Good Gardens Guide says of Coton 'This is a beautifully maintained garden of exceptional charm with unexpected vistas at every turn - something for everyone here'.</i>		
25th May	Gotha Gardens, Ashwell, Nr Baldock	Entry £13.75 + £6.25 Bus Fare Pickup 13.15/13.30 D. 16.15
<i>Private tour of these lovely gardens including tea and cake. (Afternoon trip)</i>		
22nd June	The Raptor Foundation, Woodhurst, Huntingdon	Entry £6.00 + £11.50 Bus Fare. Pickup 10.30/11.00 D. 15.30
<i>The Raptor Foundation rescues, rehabilitates and returns injured birds of prey back to the wild. Your visit supports the very important work. If you love birds then there will be various owls, kites, etc to view and also wonderful flying displays. Café on site.</i>		
27th July	Stowe House & Gardens, Stowe, Buckingham	Entry £24.00 + £11.00 Bus fare Pickup - 10.00/10.30 Arrive 11.30 Depart 15.30
<i>Included in the £24.00 entry fee - House Tour Cost incl. Tea/Coffee & Biscuits. After House Tour we will drive to the Gardens entrance where there is a café for refreshments. National Trust members get free entry to the Gardens (Saving £13.00 - mention when booking)</i>		
24th August	Barnsdale Gardens, Exton, Rutland 1.16hrs	£12.50 entry + £17.50 Bus Fare Pickup 10.00/10.30 D. 15.45
<i>Geoff Hamilton's gardens run by his son Nick. With 38 individual gardens in an eight-acre site, there's plenty to see and do. Café with good menu choices.</i>		
28th Sept	Audley End House & Gardens, nr Saffron Walden, Essex	£16.50 House & Gardens. Free to English Heritage £13.50 bus fare. Pickup 10.00/10.30 D. 15.00
<i>One of the largest and most opulent Jacobean houses. Set in idyllic gardens (Capability Brown design) with a beautiful parterre and walled kitchen garden</i>		
26th Oct	Bletchley Park, Bletchley, MK	£19.50 Entry + £8.50 Bus Fare Pickup 11.00/11.30 D.16.00
<i>Bletchley Park is an English county house and estate in Bletchley, Milton Keynes that became the principal centre of Allied code-breaking during the Second World War. Guided tour available foc.</i>		
23rd Nov	Bury St Edmunds Christmas Market	TBA

THE PASQUE FLOWER by Donna Cameron

Donna's Garden Designs - ☎ 07833-670934

Hooray! Things are really starting to grow now and we have the whole gardening year to look forward to. So much colour now! Tulips, Wallflowers and Forget-me-nots fill the beds and the Cherry blossom is glorious.



A less well known spring flower is the Pulsatilla vulgaris or Pasque flower. Derived from the French name for Easter, as this is when it blooms. They have nodding bell-shaped flowers in purple, red or white. With silky, hairy foliage. They are the County flower of Hertfordshire and can be found on Therfield Heath, Royston.

This wildflower is actually a herb. It is seen as vulnerable and Kew Gardens bank the seed. They like well-drained soil in full sun. Pulsatillas don't like being disturbed and will self-set when established.

Legend has it they grew from the bloodshed by Romans and Danes as often found on battlefields. However, it is more likely that it thrives on ground that is undisturbed, which slot if battlefields are.

They belong to the Buttercup family and are loved by bees. If you see them for sale treat yourself! They come up year after year and look great in rock and Alpine gardens.

Happy Easter! and Happy Gardening!

Donna X



JOBS FOR APRIL

<ul style="list-style-type: none">* <i>Keep on top of weeding</i>* <i>Tie in climbing and rambling roses and feed them</i>* <i>Watch out for slugs, snails and aphids</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* <i>Sow lawns and repair patches</i>* <i>Protect fruit blossom</i>* <i>Sow beetroot, carrots, radishes, turnips, spinach and peas</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* <i>Prune perennials</i>* <i>Get supports in place</i>* <i>Apply fertilizer to beds</i>* <i>Sow hardy annuals outside</i>* <i>Prune figs</i>
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VILLAGE FACILITIES

SHILLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB

Greenfields, Shillington

☎ 07826-518667 (Gavin)



Current Opening Times:

- * Mondays: 7.30pm-11.00pm * Thursdays: 7.30pm-11.00pm *
- * Fridays: 7.30pm-11.30pm *
- * Saturdays: 12 noon - 8.00pm * Sundays 12 noon-8.00pm *

⇒ *Licensed bar with variety of beers, wines and spirits at social club prices – £1 a pint less than most pubs.*

⇒ *Regular monthly live music and fund raising events and a great pool table.*

WILL ALSO BE SHOWING THE SIX NATIONS RUGBY ON THE BIG SCREEN.....

Don't forget to look out for updates on the Shillington Village & Shillington Social Club Facebook Pages.

Licensing Policy:

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

Social Club Committee

SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

All enquiries please contact:

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

e-mail: shillingtonvillagehall@yahoo.com



Large Hall - Stage - Small Meeting Room - Kitchen & Bar Facilities - Disabled Access & Toilet.

- * **Children's Parties** * **Discos/Dances** * **Meetings** * **Toddler Groups** *
- * **Indoor Bowls** * **Exhibitions** * **Circuit Training** * **Karate** *

The Car Park (when not in use by hall bookers) can be hired for events where village parking is limited.

The Village Hall Committee would politely request residents making use of the Car Park for overnight parking to please note (see booking sheet on Notice Board) that Hall Hirers take priority for parking for their bookings, if you could ensure you are not occupying the car park during these times.

Thank you ☺

SHILLINGTON CHILDMINDERS



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

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

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

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

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

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

<p>Katie Brettell 07974-676089 katiebrettell@icloud.com</p>	<p>Laura Griffiths 07493-903621 lauralgriffiths820@gmail.com</p>	<p>Carli Mauger 07912-549931 carlimauger@gmail.com</p>	<p>Deb Pateman 07934-480446 debpateman@msn.com</p>
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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DECISIONS from CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL:

CB/22/03692/FULL – Land to the West of Bury Road
Retention and re-cladding of building for the storage of equine feed and equipment (retrospective). **GRANTED 31/01/23**

CB/TCA/22/00663 – 108 High Road
Works to trees within a Conservation Area: 25% canopy reduction and dead limb removal to Ash Tree and 15% canopy reduction to Walnut Tree.
RAISE NO OBJECTIONS 03/02/23

CB/23/00094/FULL – 13 Vicarage Close
Extend front wall of the kitchen out towards the front of the existing canopy roof.
GRANTED 03/03/23

NEW/REVISED APPLICATIONS:

CB/23/00748/FULL – Musgrave Arms, Apsley End Road.
New rope and post fencing to the front boundary line. New covered drinking area formed from timber pergola with polycarbonate roofing with fixed seating, festoon lighting and feature lighting - railway sleepers to make floor levels good and safe.
(Comments to CBC by 4th April 2023)

CB/TCA/23/00029 - The Old Vicarage, High Road.
Works to trees within a conservation area: Remove the Lime Tree (T1) due to substantial rot at the base and replace with another lime tree.
(Comments to CBC by 4th April 2023)

CB/23/00068/FULL – 52 Church Street.
Installation of solar panels on external building located on the East and West pitch.
PC SUPPORT

CB/23/00413/FULL – 1 Bury Road.
Single storey front extension to existing garage.
PC SUPPORT

ROAD CLOSURE:

Closure expected to be in place from 22nd May to 7th June for 24 hours/day.
Meppershall Road – approximately 500m from Upton End outside Meppershall reservoir.
Excavate and lay pipe (part of Anglian Water Strategic Pipeline Plan).



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS



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

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

Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford Bedfordshire, SG17 5TQ. (www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)	
General enquiries	0300 300 8000 (customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)
Highways/Emergencies on the roads (fallen trees, etc). 24-hour emergency team	0300-300-8049
Dog Fouling/animal welfare	0300-300-8302
Flooding	0300-300-8049
Planning	0300-300-8307
Recycling/Flytipping	0300-300-8302
Police (Emergency)	999
Bedfordshire Police (non-Emergency)	101
Bus Information	0870-608-2608 or 01234-228337
Shillington Services (Martin Brogan) <i>for washing machine repairs, etc...</i>	07975-944394
ShillingtonHelp.....	(ShillingtonHelp@gmail.com) 01438-940160
The Crown Inn.....	01462-711667
The Musgrave Arms (Giuseppe).....	07739-864634 / pub 01462-712789
The View (formerly Live & Let Live).....	01582-882555

Parish Councillors to 4th May 2023 – contact details:

Alison Graham 01462-713543	Tony Howells 01582-881611	John Hyde 07799-537346	Angus McCormick 01462-712096	David Mott 01462-711222
Tracey Petrie via the Clerk	Sally Stapleton 07711-504489	Blake Stephenson 07470-636033	Mark Thyne Via the Clerk	Derek Turner 01462-712462

VILLAGE CALENDAR

APRIL

- 2 Congregational Church Service (Palm Sunday) – Mr. Andrew Little – 10.30am
- 4 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 6 WI – Speaker “Little Faces in Kenya” – Congregational Church – 8pm
- 9 Congregational Church Service (Easter Sunday) – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 11 Shillington Classic Car Meet – Musgrave Arms, Apsley End from 6pm
- 12 Men’s Club – Meal at the Red Lion, Great Offley
- 15 Social Club – Live Band – MICE WITH GLASSES from 9pm
- 16 Congregational Church Service - Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 20 Friends of All Saints – AGM – All Saints’ Church – 7.30pm
- 23 Congregational Church Service - Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 25 Shillington Classic Car Meet – Musgrave Arms, Apsley End from 6pm
- 26 Men’s Club – visit to Royal Gunpowder Mills, Enfield
- 30 Congregational Church – joint Service at All Saints’ Church – 9.30am

MAY

- 2 Annual Meeting of the Parish – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 4 Local & Parish Councillor elections – Shillington Polling Station @ Village Hall
- 4 WI – Speaker “Nutrition – The Body’s Design” – Congregational Church – 8pm
- 7 Thanksgiving Service for King Charles III – United with All Saints at Congregational – 3pm.
- 7 Coronation Celebrations - “Picnic in the Park” @ The Playing Fields from 2pm
- 8 Playing Field Management Committee Meeting – Social Club – 8pm
- 9 Shillington Classic Car Meet – Musgrave Arms, Apsley End from 6pm
- 10 Men’s Club – meal at The Crown, Willington
- 13 Friends of All Saints – Hog Roast
- 13 Social Club – Live Band – PAT & THE BUTCHERS from 9pm.
- 14 Congregational Church Service – Mr. Tony Frost – 10.30am
- 16 AGM of the Parish Council – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 17 Congregational Church – Christian Aid Coffee Morning – 10am to 12.30pm
- 17 Village Hall Management Committee Meeting – Jubilee Room – 7.30pm
- 20 Village Photo Exhibition & launch of new Website – Village Hall – 1pm to 4pm
- 21 Congregational Church Service - Revd. Lionel Albon – 10.30am
- 23 Shillington Classic Car Meet – Musgrave Arms, Apsley End from 6pm
- 28 Congregational Church Service - Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 31 Men’s Club – Partners’ event to Kathy Brown’s Garden, Stevington + tea and cakes.

JUNE

- 4 Congregational Church Service - Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 5 Playing Fields Management Committee – AGM – Social Club – 8pm.
- 6 Shillington Classic Car Meet – Musgrave Arms, Apsley End from 6pm
- 6 Parish Council Meeting - Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 10-11 Friends of All Saints - 24 hour Music Marathon @ All Saints – 9am-9am
- 14 Men’s Club – meal at The Fairway Bistro, Lower Stondon Golf Club
- 20 Shillington Classic Car Meet – Musgrave Arms, Apsley End from 6pm
- 24 Shillingfest – Community Funday at the Playing Fields from 12 noon

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

Views expressed in the articles and adverts do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Editor or members of the Parish Council. ed4shillingtonnews@btinternet.com ☎ 07711-504489.