

# THE ALRESFORD ADVERTISER AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2022

Established 1970



St Andrew's Church Alresford  
Tuesday Tots  
Teddy Bears' Picnic!



We are holding a Teddy Bears' Picnic for under 5's and their families in the field at the side of the church on Tuesday 23rd August from 11am - 1pm. (to be held in the church if it rains)



Bring your rug, picnic and your Teddy!

An opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones.  
All families welcome.

For more information, please contact Julie on 01206 827429 or Wendy on 01206 825040

[tenpennyvillages.uk](http://tenpennyvillages.uk)

## ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022  
7.30pm

In the Munson Room at the Village Hall  
All Welcome

## ALRESFORD CRAFT & FARMERS MARKET

Alresford Village Hall  
Ford Lane CO7 8AT

6<sup>th</sup> August 2022  
3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022  
1<sup>st</sup> October 2022

9am - 12 noon

A variety of food and craft stalls  
Free Admission  
Free car park and disabled facilities

COVID guidelines will be in place and of course this may prevent the market being held. Unless exempt, we politely ask that face coverings are worn when walking around the market.

For updated information, please check the Alresford Craft & Farmers Market Facebook page

## ALRESFORD FETE ORGANISING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!



**16<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at 7.30pm** in the **Pavilion** behind the Village Hall. Please come and join us!

The Jubilee celebrations in Alresford were a huge success – the Fish & Chip Lunch for the over 75s and the Platinum Party in the Park. These events only happen as a result of a group of volunteers who give up their time to pull everything together, but they are always appreciative of extra pairs of hands, after all **many hands make light work!** Could you spare some of your time to help us? If so, check out our [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AFOGevents) page for details on how you can register your interest and find out what goes on <https://www.facebook.com/AFOGevents>



## Alresford Gardening Club

A presentation by Marc McHearn  
from Beth Chatto's  
entitled

## "Plant Propagation"

Alresford Village Hall  
Ford Lane, Alresford, CO7 8BT

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm  
Non-members & visitors very welcome £2.50

Over 1250 copies delivered to every household & business in Alresford

Also available online & in colour via the Parish Council & Village Hall websites: [www.alresfordpcsex.uk](http://www.alresfordpcsex.uk) & <https://e-voice.org.uk/alresfordvillagehall/>

## 1<sup>st</sup> ALRESFORD & 1<sup>st</sup> ELMSTEAD MARKET SCOUT GROUP

After a two year absence due to Covid restrictions, St Georges Day Parade made its long-awaited comeback in April. We were delighted to once again join more than 1,500 fellow Scout members to honour the Patron Saint of Scouting by marching through Colchester town centre. The Mayor took the salute outside the Town Hall and a ceremony was held in Castle Park after the procession with everyone renewing their promises.

1<sup>st</sup> Alresford Beavers recently completed two parts of their My World Challenge Award by meeting someone who serves the community and helping other people in our local community.



We had a visit from Revd. Andrew Fordyce MBE who was named the 'Revy' for the evening. He showed the Beavers his MBE medal and spoke about his role as Vicar of the Tenpenny Villages Benefice and his involvement with the Colchester Foodbank.

Prior to Andrew's visit, the Beavers made a collection of lots of items which we donated to the Foodbank.



In celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, all young people and Leaders have been proudly wearing a special badge on their uniforms to mark this momentous year.

Beavers is held at Alresford Village Hall on Tuesday evenings during the term time between 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Beavers is for boys and girls aged 6 to 8 years old.

If your child is interested in joining or to add young people under 6 to our waiting list, please email [alresfordbeavers@outlook.com](mailto:alresfordbeavers@outlook.com)

Cubs (aged 8 to 10½) meet at Elmstead Community Centre on Wednesday evenings. Please contact us at the above email address for further details.

As things currently, 1<sup>st</sup> Elmstead Market Scout Troop (for ages 10½ to 14) will regrettably not be running from September due to lack of adult Leaders. If you or anyone you know would like to get involved as an adult volunteer to enable Scouts to continue, please email us at the above address.

### GOODBYE AND THANK YOU ALRESFORD GARAGE

Alresford Garage formerly Elmstead Heath Service Station was bought by Edward Leigh in 1975. He removed the petrol pumps and concentrated on care sales and changed the name to Alresford Garage Ltd.

Since the mid nineties, Edward's son Mark has been running the garage and built up the servicing and workshop operation. Mark took the difficult decision to retire from the business in May 2022 to enjoy the next chapter of his life.

Mark has been supported by Sue (the friendly voice of Alresford Garage) for about 35 years and by Stuart (car sales).

#### From Mark, Sue and Stuart

We would like to say thank you to all our customers over the years, many who have become friends, and all the great suppliers of everything needed to run the company including all our trade colleagues who have helped source our cars.

Alresford is a great village and we would like to send all the very best wishes to the surrounding businesses, schools, shops and community projects etc. for the future'.

#### From the Alresford Advertiser

Alresford Garage has advertised in our magazine for many years and we thank you for your support throughout the years, it has been very much appreciated. We wish Mark, Sue, Stuart and everyone involved in the garage the very best for the future.

#### DISCLAIMER

Submission of material does not always guarantee inclusion within the publication, and advertisements and editorials are published in good faith. The editor cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of any advertisements placed by advertisers. Editorial material does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the editors and neither editorial nor advertisements are to be read as recommendations on the part of the editor



## St Andrew's Church



Find us on fb: ParishChurchesofAlresfordElmsteadThorrington-TenpennyVillages  
Information about our Services can be found on our notice sheet at <http://tenpennyvillages.uk>

[www.tenpennyvillages.uk](http://www.tenpennyvillages.uk)

### ST ANDREW'S REFLECTIONS - JOURNEYS MATTER

People having tough holiday journeys will feature in the news headlines as various folks get away over the summer. We all will have our own stories to tell of getting stuck in traffic (5 hours on the A12?) or getting stuck at an airport terminal e.g. 5 hours at the bottom of the A12 when a Pantehnicon had overturned on the M25.

What if we treat life as a journey? At a funeral recently - one of the stand out readings described life as a railway journey with different folks accompanying for different parts of the journey and the blessings of different scenery to enjoy together.

Well at the beginning of July the Diocese likes to go on a journey to Bradwell on Sea. At this site there is an ancient chapel dating from .... 654 AD. Amazingly one of the oldest working chapels in the country is in North Essex several hundred metres from the East coast sea. Why mention the Chapel - well it's the journeying which is a "doing" word that links us to the ancient activity called pilgrimage. The journeying in Pilgrimage is as much part of the experience as arriving at the destination and how you travel and who you travel with is so important. (Some friends in the Benefice have recently travelled up to Lindisfarne - the Holy Island off the Northumbrian coast and there spoke movingly about the atmosphere of the Holy Isle). The gifted people creating the stunning "Wyvernwood" want to engage children's imaginations and part of this is inviting them to go on a 'magical journey'.

Interestingly the idea of travelling and Pilgrimage brings us to the original name for disciples of Christ before they were given the nickname, "Christian's". They were called followers of "the way". What I love about this is that it is dynamic - there is the sense of journey. One of the challenges for the church is once you have a building you can get settled and comfortable. St Andrew's had the unsettling experience of losing its church in 1971 to fire but the faithful folk simply shifted and were welcomed and allowed to reform church\* in the village hall (\*its not about the building its about the people). The joinery of faith went on and a new church was built but as you know that was not the end of the story. Although we give thanks for the hub we recognise that each generation has to make a fresh journey of faith.

What journeying has God called you to in this season - my prayer is that we get to journey well with one another along the path God has set for us. Let us treat each day as an adventure, be open to the wonder of God's creation around us and can we be kind to our fellow pilgrims - sometimes the road can be uphill. So stuck in traffic, gazing across the sea from a Holy Isle or entering a magical kingdom, Godspeed.

Rev Andrew Fordyce MBE

#### ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CONTACTS

Rector: Rev Andrew Fordyce - 01206 920848  
Email: [rector@tenpennyvillages.uk](mailto:rector@tenpennyvillages.uk)

Curate: Rev Tim Solosy  
Email: [revtsolosy@gmail.com](mailto:revtsolosy@gmail.com)

Associated Priest: Rev Pauline Hart - 01206 826318  
Email: [assocpriest@tenpennyvillages.uk](mailto:assocpriest@tenpennyvillages.uk)

Churchwarden: Wendy Wilson - 01206 825040  
Email: [stachurchwardens@tenpennyvillages.uk](mailto:stachurchwardens@tenpennyvillages.uk)

Bookings for the Hub: Meg Burdus - 01206 820618

## St Andrew's Alresford

### Lego Club!

Come join us at the Lego club in the **church hub** on  
the **4th Monday** of the month, **15:00-17:00**  
Enjoy lots of fun and laughs and of course...Lego!

Join us online!

Facebook: [tenpennychurches](https://www.facebook.com/tenpennychurches)

Twitter: [tenpenny\\_essex](https://twitter.com/tenpenny_essex)

Website: <http://tenpennyvillages.uk/>

Instagram: [tenpennychurches](https://www.instagram.com/tenpennychurches)



## GARDEN MEADOW

We have lost so much countryside with the new builds, so we should give something back to nature starting with parts of our own gardens we don't use. My daughter and I have decided to turn our front gardens into a meadow. My daughter Kat went online to get yellow rattle which kills grass allowing meadows to grow. We did sprinkle wildflower seeds – this will take awhile for things to grow and look good, but it really is worth it. We have seen 5 different types of bees, we have hedgehogs, newts, frogs, toads and we've even had the caterpillar of the Privet Hawk moth, that was amazing.

Just give a little to nature and she will give so much back. Our gardens all put together have far more land than all our natural meadows, so just give a little and WE WILL get so much back.

At the moment our front garden looks a little scruffy, but we've seen so much wildlife already, it's worth it for nature and for us.

Jaq & Kat  
(mother & daughter)



## ALRESFORD COLNE RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB



On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022, Alresford Colne Rangers Football Club held an incredibly special day to remember Mr Alan Green, also known as Mr Alresford. Alan was the Club Chairman for many years.

About 30 – 40 ex-players put on a particularly good show, perhaps not as quick but skill still shows; the club could not have wished for better weather. A decent size crowd attended including Alan's daughters Fiona and Lorna. After the game, current Chairman Scott Ridges made a speech and presented Fiona a pencil portrait of Alan drawn by Mr Richard Hempstead – a fantastic picture.

The Club would like to thank everyone who attended and made it such a good day. A total of £250 was raised for Alzheimer's in Alan's memory.

So, onto next season, the Club have new managers in place and look to have a better season. The first team finished seventh and had a good season; the reserves had an extremely poor season and dropped down a division.

The ladies will go again after finishing fourth and hopefully the bulk of the team will still be with the Club plus one or two fresh players.

The Youth set up moves on with another new side joining the family. We now have an under 13 who join our under 12 side and our under 8s who will embark on their first full season in a brand-new sponsored kit – the Club thank the local Spar for sponsoring the team.

Games have already started for the men in July, so come over the playing field and give us a look. You will warmly be welcomed, have a cup of tea or a beer from our well stocked bar; you may want to become a member. There is no better facility around, give us a visit and enjoy

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## FOOT CLINIC

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sitting inside the clubhouse or outside on the patio overlooking a majestic award-winning playing field, a wonderful sight, and a safe area for children to play.

The Jubilee was a wonderful day for the village with hundreds of people on the playing field with live music and other activities taking place – the atmosphere was terrific. A lot of people put in a lot of demanding work prior to the event for the community to enjoy and their reward was the number of people who turned out and enjoyed themselves. More events like this are needed!

Alresford Colne Rangers will always be involved as we want to be part of a developing community.

Brian Martin  
ACRFC



## Essex Library Services

### “Summer Reading Challenge 2022”

Get ready for Gadgeteers, arriving in your local library this summer!

Children across Essex are being challenged to help the Gadgeteers by reading six books and earning cool stickers. Along the way they'll discover amazing science and innovation in the world around us. If they complete the challenge, they receive a certificate and medal. Find out more about how to take part in this free activity on our website: [libraries.essex.gov.uk](http://libraries.essex.gov.uk)



Gadgeteers takes place in all our libraries from Saturday 16 July to Saturday 3 September.

### A library card for every child!

Essex Library Service wants every child to experience the joy of reading. That's why we're giving every pupil in Essex a library card as part of our Essex Year of Reading campaign.



By now, most pupils will have received their library card and a campaign bookmark from their school. All you need to do is take it to any Essex library to activate it and start borrowing. As well as access to thousands of books, Essex Libraries also offer e-books, e-audio and e-comics.

If you haven't had the card, don't worry. Just go into your local library and ask to join. (You'll need ID such as a driving licence, bank statement or recent utility bill.) It's free, it's quick and it's easy.

More about Essex Year of Reading at [essex.gov.uk/news/essex-year-of-reading](http://essex.gov.uk/news/essex-year-of-reading).”

### Recycling at your local library

Here's a tip about disposing of your empty ink cartridges in an eco-friendly way. Take them to your local library.

Every library has a new Ink Bin recycling box to put your empty home-use ink cartridges in. Once they're collected, they'll be sorted, refilled and put back on the market as remanufactured ink cartridges. This will stop them ending up in landfill.

What else does your local library recycle? Most will take old batteries; some take small electrical items too. Save yourself a trip to the recycling centre!

If you're running short of recycling sacks or caddies for roadside collections, your local library may be the place to help. Food sacks, garden sacks and recycling boxes can all be found at some of our libraries.



Coverage does vary, so check out the [recycling facilities available at your local library](#).

### Book groups and Essex Library Service

Are you keen to share your thoughts about a book you've read? Can't wait to find out what others thought of it, too? Starting a book group is a great way to stay in touch regularly with book lovers and to make new friends.

[Essex Library Service](#) helps book groups in many ways. By registering your group with us you can reserve multiple copies of your chosen book which can be borrowed for up to three months, and you chose to be added to the list of book groups which can be shared with other interested readers. Our website can give your group ideas for what to read.

## A magical opening awaits at the UK's newest visitor attraction, Wyvernwood

The Enchanted Lost Kingdom of Wyvernwood, the UK's newest visitor attraction, opened its Magic Portal to visitors on Friday 15 July.

Wyvernwood is a unique adventure park, set in more than 20 acres in Alresford near Colchester. It provides families with children aged 2-12 with a magical day out, a digital detox and an opportunity to connect with nature while exploring the adventure park.

Nick White, Wyvernwood's Experiences Director, said: "Visitors step through a magic portal into an immersive experience where families can escape from day-to-day life.

"They enter another world where they will encounter the awesome Wyvernwood inhabitants including Princess Arabella, Tatiana the Queen of the Fairies, our hero the Captain, Gurt the Lord of the Goblins, Merlin the Wizard and of course the Wyvern dragons!

"Families begin their adventure in the Castle Grounds where children can scale the castle walls, set sail in the Captain's Galleon, search for missing treasure, make their dreams come true at the Magic Wishing Well and, if they dare, discover what lies deep within the goblins' lair! They can speed through the Goblins' labyrinth or be first to reach the centre of the maize maze.

"They can then venture along the Dragon Trail to the Wellbeing Woods and discover the Land of the Fairies, find the Captain's Campsite, and help the wizard to create a magic potion at the Wizard's Domain."

Over 700 local residents ventured into the magic world of Wyvernwood during an open day and their feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Nick adds: "All the families I spoke to were enjoying just spending time together, enjoying the activities and outdoor space at Wyvernwood and meeting our wonderful characters."

Sarah Tuckwell from Colchester said: "I've come here with



my family and my 5-year-old granddaughter and it's a fantastic place; it's really lovely seeing the wildflowers and the carvings. I've been down to the Wellbeing Woods, seen the fairies and my granddaughter is thoroughly enjoying herself. It's very nice, well worth a visit."

Olive Moir, aged 5, from Brightlingsea, said: "I really love



the fairy houses because they have lovely doors and windows and they can fly back to their houses. I like

everything, I love the bouncy pillows because they were so fun, I want to go on there because they are so bouncy."

The Enchanted Lost Kingdom of Wyvernwood provides the perfect family day out. As well as plenty of play areas and adventure activities where children can let off steam, there is also a 'Little Kingdom' for smaller children and a birthday party V.I.Tipi for youngsters to celebrate with their friends.

Maxwell Cheal, 7, from Wivenhoe said: "It's brilliant here, I



like it. My favourite bit is the Dragon Karts because they're such fun and brilliant to ride on, and the castle because I like the slide."

As well as having lots of activities for children to enjoy, there are also different types of performances taking place to entertain the guests. Nick continues: "The inhabitants are showing their talents by putting on performances in the amphitheatre where guests can experience storytelling or a puppet show or meet our mascot Gurt, Lord of the Goblins. There is also plenty of activities for older children and adults at Wyvernwood with puzzles and adventures featuring throughout the park"

Whilst providing a great day out for families is key, a visit to Wyvernwood is also good for your mental health and wellbeing. Nick adds: "Our woods are called the Wellbeing Woods because they have a sense of calm and serenity but a visit to Wyvernwood is also about keeping fit and healthy. You can easily hit your step count in a day here all whilst spending time in such a beautiful location.

"One of the things we've tried to do here is get children away from screens and into the great outdoors and connect with nature which is vital for mental wellbeing. Here they can spend time with their family exploring another world, an enchanted lost kingdom, whilst also appreciating nature."

As well as the fabulous fairies, fierce dragons, wise wizards, menacing goblins, a warrior princess and heroic captain who inhabit Wyvernwood, over 40 local people have joined them to make the experience at Wyvernwood even more special.

Nick adds: "We believe in keeping things local at Wyvernwood. As the inhabitants will be busy meeting new friends, we have enlisted some helpers to join them to provide the best experience for our visitors as part of our growing park operations team."

Dates in the summer holidays to visit Wyvernwood are filling up fast so booking in advance is recommended to avoid disappointment.

Tickets are £16.50 per person if purchased in advance, or £20 on the gate (concessions apply). Refreshments and food are available on site. Wyvernwood also caters for birthday parties, schools and groups. Access is via St. Osyth Road, Alresford, CO7 8ES; please check the website for details: [www.wyvernwood.co.uk](http://www.wyvernwood.co.uk).



## ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL

Charity Commission Number: 301233

Website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/alresfordvillagehall/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Alresfordvillagehall/>



### VILLAGE HALL NEWS

**The AGM will be on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 in the Munson Room at the Village Hall. Time 7.30pm and all welcome.**

The bookings for the hall continue to be very plentiful, however the Trustees are keeping close scrutiny on the cost of the utilities, i.e., water, electricity, and gas. There are issues presently with the transfer from our electric and gas dual supplier to SSE on a 3-year period and the contract as present has not been actioned.

There are still funds transferred to the AVHMC from Tendring District Council that are targeted to be used to keep hire fees for regular users at the current levels for as long as possible.

The external notice board is still being progressed with different options being considered.

The hall will be closed from the 19<sup>th</sup> of August through to the 25<sup>th</sup> of August to enable floor maintenance and a partial redecoration to be done. All regular users will be informed.

The piano has finally found a new home with monies received donated to the Ukraine appeal.

With regards to usage of the air circulating units in the hall, the contractor is to be instructed to install a manual override to allow units to be used. This will be along the same lines as the heating system override which is protected by a timer that will not allow the system to be left on after hires.

A working party has been set up to investigate online banking, online visibility of hire availability, spreadsheet accounting and a new telephone and email contact for booking enquiries.

#### **HALL/PAVILION HIRE**

The Pavilion/Bar is now available to hire for either individually or as well as the Hall. All enquiries should be via: [enquiries@alresfordvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@alresfordvillagehall.co.uk)

Russell Milburn, Chair AVHMC

## THE CHARITY BAG

Still collecting used stamps for Bone Cancer Research  
"until there is a cure"

### **Stamps and Postcards**

Thank you so much for all the donations that have taken time and care to collate.

House clearance albums and postcards are boxed up and sent to auction on E-Bay, via the volunteer team, for the benefit of Bone Cancer Research. One such postcard has proved to be valuable at auction. The signature on the card was genuine and "World Cup Willie" 1966 had been signed by England Captain and defender, Bobby Moore no less and raised £266.51.

The Charity was delighted – so do please check your donations before leaving them here, you never know!

"World Cup Willie" was the first FIFA world cup mascot in 1966. He represented a lion wearing a shirt with the UK flag. Created by Reg Hoye, who illustrated books for Enid Blyton. Launched in 1965, it bore an uncanny resemblance to FAs rather square shouldered chief admin officer called E K Willson, hence the nickname.

1.63kg of stamps have been sent.

### **Knitting**

#### **Stitches of Hope for Ukraine: Christian Hope International**

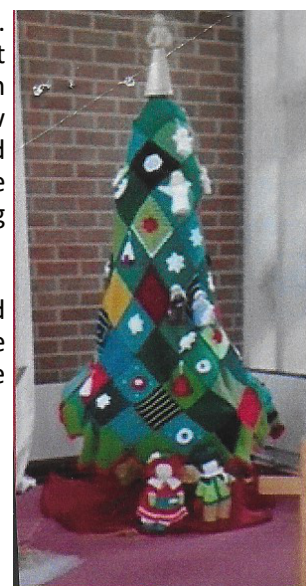
As the world watches on in horror, groups across the country came together to do what they could for Ukrainian refugees on their journey. With a tried and tested route to Moldova and Romania through Mission without Borders, the decision to support this relief effort was not a hard one.

Together with beautifully knitted items, medical supplies, food, bedding, toiletries, and other essential aid was collected, sorted, and sent on its journey. Huge thanks go to all those who donated over £40,000 and everyone that helped of 5½ tonnes of aid to help the refugees.

At Christmastime, it was decided that the knitters would make knitted Christmas trees. 350 squares showing different stitches were made and sewn together to form trees. Now the squares have been turned into blankets and hopefully the recipients enjoyed receiving them.

Thank you for all the donated wool and blankets, despite the hot weather our help for the needy continues.

Happy knitting  
Christine Stimpson  
2 Coach Road, Alresford  
(opposite the Dr's Surgery)



Please enclose your name for any acknowledgements – thank you

## ALRESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

### MAY 2022

#### RECORDED CRIMES: 10

**Crime Types:** Assault without injury - Blackmail - Burglary (Business) - Dangerous dog x 2 - Domestic - Other investigation x 3 - Stalking

#### INCIDENTS REPORTED: 17

**Types reported:** Abandoned 999 x 2 - Blackmail - Burglary - Concern - Dangerous dog x 2 - Domestic x 3 - Drone - Found property - Information - Missing person - RTC - RTC with injuries - Suspicious circumstances

### JUNE 2022

#### RECORDED CRIMES: 3

**Crime Types:** Domestic - Other criminal damage - Theft of a motor vehicle

#### INCIDENTS REPORTED: 7

**Types reported:** Abandoned 999 - Abandoned vehicle - Domestic x 2 - Concern - Criminal damage - Ill/Injury

### JULY 2022

#### RECORDED CRIMES: 4

**Crime Types:** Assault - Burglary - Criminal damage - Theft

#### INCIDENTS REPORTED: 16

**Types reported:** Abandoned 999 - Animal - Burglary - Concern x 3 - Disturbance x 2 - Information x 3 - Missing person - Other x 2 - Suspicious circumstances - Theft

### MAY/JUNE/JULY 2022

#### Theft of / Theft from Motor Vehicle

These offences are a regular occurrence. Be vigilant! Check vehicle is locked, park near CCTV if possible and remove any valuables from unattended vehicle.

Do not leave anything insight to act as a shop window to thieves.

#### Scams

Scams are an everyday occurrence that do not just happen online

If you are effected by any scams, please go to <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> for online form to report to action fraud, or by ringing **0300 123 2040** Monday to Friday 8am - 8pm.

**The information you give to Action Fraud can help track down the scammer.**

#### Have you spotted a suspicious email?

If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to the suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS): [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

#### Responsible dog ownership

##### Always clean up after your dog!

Tendring has approximately 1,000 dog waste bins and litter bins across the district for the disposal of dog waste. You can be issued with a fixed penalty notice,

currently £75, if you are witnessed not clearing up after your dog or you can be taken to court and face a fine of up to £1,000.

To report a dog bin that needs emptying please go to Tendring District Council website where a form can be filled in and submitted online.

#### Fly Tipping

**This is still a big problem in most villages.**

**If you suspect anyone of fly-tipping contact the police on 101 or email [recycle@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:recycle@tendringdc.gov.uk)**

Tendring District Council web site has lots of information regarding carrier licence and what to check for, when paying someone to remove your rubbish.

#### Traders

If you are looking for a reputable trader, a list can be found at <https://www.essex.gov.uk/>

#### LOOKING AFTER EACH OTHER

In these difficult time with the cost of living going up and the effect it will have on some, it is important we look out for each other. Check on your neighbours, especially the vulnerable and elderly from time to time, some have very few callers, if any.

#### DANGER!

**Here's why you should NEVER swim in quarries or lakes to cool off during a heatwave.**

The lovely sunny weather is proving to make bathing in lakes enticing, which has been reported by a neighbouring village and happens all over the country. The water may look harmless, but all the dangers are **beneath the surface**. The water itself has the potential for disease and toxins and you could be jumping into unknown **obstructions and weed beds**.

Taking the plunge in lakes and quarries is extremely dangerous, for reasons you may never have considered. For one, you never know the temperature of the water when you dive in.

Quarry water is normally far colder than river or sea water, and can send your body into shock or leave you



too exhausted to swim within minutes of jumping in.

The water can be so cold because of its depth, with underground springs pumping extremely cold water into the quarry.

*Continued on page 9*



Alresford Neighbourhood Policing continued...

If you can't stand up in a lake or quarry, there will be no way to recover from the shock of the temperature - and you increase your risk of drowning.

**Reporting incidents the correct way  
To report an incident please ring 101**

Or report it online:

<https://www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/report-a-crime/>

If residents have any concern on suspicious vehicles/ activity/ drugs in the village, please feel free to contact me, with as much detail as possible, including contact details.

Email- [julia.brandon@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:julia.brandon@essex.pnn.police.uk)

### Boxted Airfield Museum

Charity Number: 1123168

**We are open on the last Sunday of every month  
until October 10am - 4pm.**

**Admission donation is £4.00 per adult,  
accompanied children free.**

If the weather is good we hold an outdoor Cafe

For further details, please see

<https://www.boxted-airfield.com/home>

### ORCHARD LAKES

On a recent trip driving through the Essex and Suffolk countryside admiring the variety of greens along the hedge rows, the thing that struck me was the total lake of colour, not a wild flower or meadow to be seen, coupled with this observation a total lake of insect strikes on the windscreen, I well remember in years past the screen being covered on a summer's day. This caused me to reflect on our management of a small corner of the Essex country side.

You may well be thinking , what's this got to do with the Orchard Lakes here in Alresford. The answer is that the Alresford Angling Association have always done what we can to preserve and maintain what wildlife and Flora we have around the lakes . We are now as a club in the process of purchasing the Orchard Lake complex with the surrounding land. Our aim now is to preserve the age-old peaceful recreation of angling , in the soul refreshing countryside humming and bussing with wildlife . The Grinsted Orchard Lakes are special in as much as they are a break in the ever-growing concrete jungle the land owner Mr David Grinsted is 100% in favour of what we are trying to achieve and would very much like to see the club raise sufficient funds to purchase. Through very careful management over the past 25 years, we have seen a steady increase in wild flowers, song birds, water fowl, insects, and butterflies. Hopefully we will be able to preserve this oasis for the future.

Ron Tickner  
Treasurer Alresford Angling Association.

### MOBILE LIBRARY

Alresford Village Hall

The Mobile Library visits every: 3 weeks

Day of visit: Thursday

Time of Visit: 11.55am to 12.25pm

Next visit dates:

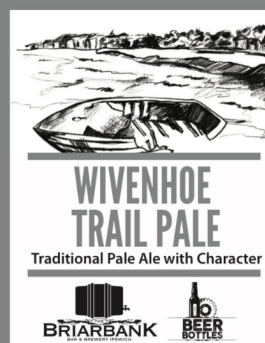
4<sup>th</sup> August 2022

15<sup>th</sup> September 2022



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## INTRODUCING...



We are re-brewing our 1st Birthday Collab with Briarbank Brewery! It was so popular in June that we sold out within a month!

Wivenhoe Trail Pale is a bottle conditioned Pale Ale based on Ken Shales' 1960s Pale Ale Recipes, brewed using modern English Hops.

The next batch will be on sale from August Bank Holiday Weekend on our stall at Brightlingsea Food & Drink Fest.

WHILST STOCKS LAST

## ALRESFORD BOWLS CLUB

**You are invited to join us to  
play carpet bowls**

**SESSIONS ARE HELD EVERY MONDAY  
2.00PM AND 7.00PM  
ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL  
JUST COME ALONG**

**FREE TRIAL SESSIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO  
NEWCOMERS**

**THEREAFTER THERE IS A £10 ANNUAL FEE AND  
£2 PER SESSION WHICH INCLUDES  
REFRESHMENTS**

For further information contact  
Andrew Pyman on  
07393 381257



## Alresford Angling Association

### DEEP WATER!

Could we take a few minutes of your time to warn of the dangers of swimming in freshwater lakes? Every year, during the next few weeks, the highest percentage of deaths by drowning occur. These incidents happen on a lovely sunny day and with generally a smooth surface to the water.

Because the water in lakes is in a confined area, there is no surface movement in the water mass and although the surface temperature is lukewarm to the touch, several feet down the water can be as low as 10 degs. The levels of water in a lake are called Thermoclines and the lower levels in a large expanse of water stay constant throughout the year. Hence, if you jump in, the sudden temperature shock will make you gasp and inhale water and inevitably sink. You are also jumping into water where you have no idea what is beneath the surface i.e. solid obstacles or thick weed. Blue-green Algae comes into bloom during the warm summer months and can result in the death of animals or skin rashes and sickness to humans if contacted or ingested. 220 people in the UK lost their life due to drowning. Please do not become a statistic!

And finally, the chances are that you are trespassing on private land and face prosecution. Use a supervised swimming pool or the sea that has lifeguards present.

Mike Day (Hon. Secretary. Alresford Angling Association)

## Alresford Angling Association

Est . 1968

Hello again to all our members and a welcome to any prospective members that would like to join our angling club. All our new members have settled in and are enjoying the benefits of the 5 lakes that make up the club's waters. Within a short period of time of joining all our members realise that it is the lakes surroundings with their abundance of wildlife that make fishing so enjoyable and relaxing. Although sudden downpours of rain, thunderstorms and strong winds do create reasons to doubt one's sanity at times.

Life in all the lakes is at an abundance at present with shoals of fry in the margins of all the swims. At this moment in time they are so small that identifying them is almost impossible, but they are a sure indication that the waters are clean and healthy. Most of the waterfowl have hatched and fledged their young with just Swans caring for their Cygnets at present.

All of the hard work of clearing dead undergrowth, Brambles, Nettles etc. through the winter months has proved its worth with an abundance of Foxgloves at the end of Bramley Lake, along with reeds and rushes around the margins. Arthur Bareham Lake, affectionately known as "the pit" has started to show a reoccurrence of these plants around the edges.

The club's matches have progressed well with some of the winning catches reaching up to three figures. Silver fish have been in abundance along with Chub and Tench coming to the scales. Carp, Bream and Tench have been giving some anglers a really busy and enjoyable days at Alresford pit lake. The Carp have been very shy to take Boilies but seem to enjoy Sweetcorn and Maggots and presentation is a key to success also. Could all members please read the match fixture list along with notices on gates to avoid arriving for a planned day to find a match is being held on that lake.

The club still has vacancies for new members and we would like to fill our books this season. We have become a club whose members are keen about their sport and look to the welfare of the club and its surroundings. We are still progressing with the purchase of the Grinsted Orchard Lakes and to retain these 30+ acres as a sanctuary for our members plus the wildlife that inhabits it for future generations. Once again, a big thank you for all the support you have shown the club and its committee to enable this to purchase to proceed. Please contact Jim Martin on 07786882064 to receive a membership form.

It is hoped that during the next few weeks we will organise a Nature walk around the Orchard complex for local pupils attending Alresford School. Hopefully this will generate a love of the outdoors and could lead to future anglers of our club. Once we have achieved the first walk with all its accompanying paperwork we will hope to progress to fishing events.

As always, enjoy your fishing, stay safe and look out for one another.

Tight Lines.

Mike Day (Hon. Secretary)



*A summers day on Bramley Lake*



# CLUBS AND SOCIETIES NEWS

Do you run a club or society? If you would like something included in the Alresford Advertiser, please email [alresfordadvertiser@gmail.com](mailto:alresfordadvertiser@gmail.com)

## ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL REGULAR GROUPS

Below are the regular hire groups currently involved using the hall facilities in normal times:

- Mindfulness Yoga meet Monday mornings
- Alresford Indoor Carpet Bowls Club meet Monday afternoon/Evening.
- Alresford Gardening Club (affiliated to the RHS as Alresford Horticultural Society) meet on the first Monday of the Month, March to November
- Alresford Lunch Club meet every Tuesday morning and early afternoon
- 1st Alresford Scout Group (Beavers) meet Tuesday Teatime.
- Dog Training Classes Tuesday and Thursday evening.
- Tai Chi meet every Wednesday morning.
- Alresford Art Club meet every other Wednesday afternoon.
- Alresford Women's Guild meet every other Wednesday afternoon.
- Yoga meet every Wednesday evening
- Exercise Classes (Extend) meet every Thursday morning.
- Young People's Dance School meet every Thursday afternoon
- Alresford Women's Institute meet the second Thursday evening of the month
- Alresford Camera Club meet the first and third Thursday evening on the month
- Alresford Calligraphy Group meet every Friday morning.
- Simply Singing meet every other Friday afternoon
- Alresford Craft and Farmers Market on the first Saturday morning of the month (February to December)
- Alresford Colne Rangers Football Club (using the Pavilion at the rear of the hall)

If more information is needed for any of these groups, please visit the Village Hall website or contact Russell Milburn on 01206 825739

## ALRESFORD WI


Alresford WI meet on the second Thursday of each month in the Village Hall. Meetings start at 7.30pm.

New members would be very welcome - come and attend a meeting to see if you enjoy it before joining. Admission for non-members is £3.00 which includes refreshments.

For further information please contact:

Chris James, 01255 764769 or  
Hilda Newbold 01206 823477

## SIMPLY SINGING

The Simply Singing Group is not a choir or professional singers, but just people who love to come together and enjoy a good old sing a long of their favourite songs. 

### Session Dates

**No sessions in August**

**September 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16th**

**October 7<sup>th</sup> & 21st**

**November 4<sup>th</sup> & 18th**

**December 2nd**

Sessions are from 2 - 4pm and cost £2.00 including teas and coffees

In view of possible ongoing COVID restrictions/regulations, anyone wishing to attend a Simply Singing afternoon is recommended to call either Jeanette on 01206 825008 or Chris on 01206 823824 to check if it is still able to go ahead.

For more further details about the group, please contact: Jeanette: 01206 825008 or Chris: 01206 823824

## ALRESFORD ART GROUP

Alresford Art Group will be starting its new season on the afternoon of Wednesday October 5th in the Village Hall, Ford lane.

The group operates on a self help basis with members sharing and offering their advice should it be called upon. New members are always welcome irrespective of what individuals consider their abilities to be. So if you enjoy using watercolours, pastels, charcoal, acrylics, pencil or just want to give it a go, then the Art Group could be for you.

Sessions are from **1pm to 4pm** and refreshments are available during the afternoon.

**Dates following 5th October are:**

**19th October**

**2nd, 16th & 30th November**

**7th December**

Dates for 2023 will be published later

For more information please contact  
Chris on 07484 334698

## ALRESFORD GARDENING CLUB

Local man Adam Wightman of the Colchester Archaeological Trust gave a very enthusiastic and interesting talk on archaeological digs. Based at the Roman circus he has been involved in numerous digs in and around Colchester. His most memorable dig was under the Williams and Griffin store when he found the Fenwick treasure. This was a collection of gold and silver jewellery in a purse buried in a hole dug under a house pre the Boudica revolt. This was the first collection of valuable metals found in Colchester and can be viewed at Colchester castle. His talk was well received as was the following questions and answers session. Disappointing to note though, if you find something Roman in your garden they won't come and dig it for you.

**Below are the remainder of the 2022 season events:**

**4<sup>th</sup> August** : Hyde Hall Summer Flower Show  
(members only)

**5<sup>th</sup> September:** Plant Propagation -  
Marc McHearne from Beth Chatto's

**3<sup>rd</sup> October:** Brussel Sprouts to Tangerines -  
Jacqueline Aviolet

**11<sup>th</sup> November:** Quiz

**All meetings within the Village Hall commence  
at 7.30pm**

For more details about the Gardening Club, please  
contact Chris Sanderson (Chairman) on 07484 334698

## ALRESFORD CAMERA CLUB

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

The 22/23 season will be commencing on  
Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup>.

All meetings commence at 7.30pm in the  
Village Hall, Ford Lane.

**Look ahead dates are:**

**6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> October**

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> November**

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> December**

The programme for these dates and those in 2023 is  
being finalised and the Camera Club website will be  
updated soon.

Please visit - [www.alresfordcameraclub.org.uk](http://www.alresfordcameraclub.org.uk)

For further details please contact  
John on 01206 250846

## LUNCHEON CLUBS

**TUESDAYS at ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL:  
12.30 - 2.30pm**

**FRIDAYS at BRIGHTLINGSEA COMMUNITY CENTRE:  
12.30 - 2.30pm**

2 Course Meal including Tea / Coffee - £8.00  
Transport, door to door, if needed - £4.00  
Raffle - £1.00

We welcome back all past members and newcomers.  
It is not too late to join us for these friendly meals.

**For any further enquiries, please contact:**

**Alresford**

Mrs Wendy Bates on  
07582603816 or 01206 826757

**Brightlingsea**

The Autumn Centre, 1 Osborne Court,  
Victoria Place, Brightlingsea CO7 0EB  
Or telephone 01206 303702  
Or email [theautumncentre@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:theautumncentre@hotmail.co.uk)

## ALRESFORD BOWLS CLUB

This year marks the 30th year of the Alresford Carpet Bowls Club, and to mark this event we held a party in the village hall. The party was well attended by active and lifelong members, who enjoyed food provided by Matt Brown @Goyoevents and lovely cake baked by Sam.



The Club Captain provided some detailed information of how and who helped setup the club, from the early years having to store the playing equipment in members garages, to the present-day setup with well attended afternoon and evening sessions and regular friendly matches with many local teams.

If you are interested in joining the **Monday afternoon session from 14:00 - 16:00** or the **evening session from 19:00 - 21:00**, come along, everyone is welcome, existing players or if you are new to carpet bowls.

Andrew  
Alresford Carpet Bowls Chairman





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# ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

August/September (pages 14 & 15)

### Highways

There have been a number of Highways matters that the Council has been turning its attention to. Essex County Council is the body that has jurisdiction over our roads, pavements, and footpaths however Alresford Parish Council is one of a handful of Parish Councils that have entered a special scheme that devolves certain powers enabling us to carry out minor highways works. We receive a relatively small annual grant of £1300 for these works and there are restrictions on what can be tackled, in addition there are safety protocols that quite rightly have to be adhered to. Currently the Parish Council cannot undertake any works on carriageways (so cannot fix potholes/do white-lining etc).

We have spent our grant on improving road signs, some further hedge cutting and by adding precept money we have experimented with repairs to kerbs and a pavement edge drain gully. It is apparent that Essex County Council does not have or cannot commit the resources to fulfil its obligations, but we must mention that our County Councillor Alan Goggin tries his hardest to get highways problems tackled.

Although spraying of pavement weeds is an Essex County Council responsibility, they have delegated to Tendring District Council the task of doing this – it is though only a once-a-year treatment, and the Parish Council has therefore paid our own contractor to do it more often and to do it with due consideration to the environment.

Alresford has seen a number of smaller housing developments in addition to the larger Taylor Wimpey estates and issues have also cropped up at these smaller developments. One important matter for consideration is street lighting and the other is roadside verge cutting, there have been requests for the Parish Council to provide street lighting and also to cut verges on certain developments. Each situation is discussed by the Council and important factors to be considered are cost, the legal status of land areas and the setting of precedents. It is vital that purchasers of new properties understand their own obligations, the commitments of developers and the powers of the different Councils in our area.

Speed limit reduction requests for Cockaynes Lane and on the B1027 have been put on hold as we await new policies to be formulated by ECC Highways – delays there due to experienced staff leaving has set back policy development by months.

Concerns have been raised about the national speed limit section of the B1027 at the point of entrance to the Wyvernwood Playpark and at the time of going to print no permanent speed limit reduction is in place.

Chestnut Road Highways Devolution Works - Before



Chestnut Road Highways Devolution Works - After



### Jubilee celebrations

The Queens Platinum Jubilee provided an opportunity for the community spirit in Alresford to publicly shine and the Party in the Park and the over 75s fish and chip event were an enormous success. The organisation of the celebrations started at the beginning of the year with a front-page advertisement in the AA, delivered to every home, promoting an all-invited meeting so that decisions could be made as to what the community wanted. It was clear from that meeting, and subsequent ones, that a mini fete, music and a relaxed al fresco event was to be at the forefront of the village celebrations.

Members of the Church, the Parish Council, the School PTA, the Village Hall and Alresford Colne Rangers (plus others!) combined to provide a memorable event. Well done to Mr Russell Milburn who was the lead for both events – he was an important driving force that made sure everything went smoothly.



### The Environment and the Public Realm

Of significant importance has been a recent award granted to Alresford. The award is from the Bee Friendly Trust and Alresford is one of only eight areas in the United Kingdom to receive "Bee Friendly Town Status" (Okay, we are a village!). This award relates to pollinator friendly gardens at the Railway Station and the sowing of wildflowers on verges plus the allotment and public realm gardens that provide superb habitats for bees. Private gardens are also part of the scheme.

Some public areas of the village do need a makeover and a consultant has been tasked with planning changes that enhance what we have and to provide areas that are cost effective to maintain. Our hanging baskets have proved a success and they brighten up the Station Road shopping area and parts of Wivenhoe Road. The roses in the Millennium Garden and on the corner of Wivenhoe Road and the B1027 have looked stunning – well done to the superb volunteers who tend to them. We have a new volunteer for the gardens at the Station Road shops and the area is looking very well cared for.

### Playing Field and Play area

Great work by our grass cutting contractor and the volunteers from the football club, they have kept the field looking at its best and just as well as usage of the field and play areas has increased dramatically.

The seesaw was moved a year or so ago in order to create room for two or more new pieces of play equipment and we will be installing those in the very near future. A number of repairs have been undertaken to existing pieces of apparatus. If parents or children spot litter or any damage to play equipment, please contact the Parish Clerk so that these matters can be attended to promptly.

A public convenience block is planned for the field – a much requested project! The Parish Council has also approved a practice goal as a piece of general field equipment and the football club are kindly going to pay towards this.

A G3 multi sports area to supplement the existing hard court is also in the pipeline subject to external funding in addition to expected planning gain monies.

### PCSO/POLICING/Community Speedwatch

Our PCSO Julia Brandon is back at work but patrols in the village are being currently being undertaken by PCSO Moss and PCSO Beer and warranted police officers. PCSO Julia Brandon has unfortunately had intermittent sick leave and now for operational reasons is undergoing a phased return to full duties. The payments to Essex Police from the Parish Council for our funded PCSO have been suspended but will resume as soon as we have the agreed service level. A police operation was requested recently to deal with some persistent speeding caused by a few anti-social drivers – we thank Essex Police for allocating traffic officers for following up on the request.

Community Speedwatch (a mainly Parish Council initiative) was halted during the pandemic but resumed in February this year and on that occasion, volunteers were joined by PCSO Brandon who used the Trucam device that can video speeding drivers and record their speeds. Increased Speedwatch activity is planned. We have received our new speed monitoring mobile camera from Norfolk based firm Westcotec and we thank Essex County Council for the grant relating to this project.

To contact PCSO Julia Brandon please e-mail her direct [Julia.Brandon@essex.police.uk](mailto:Julia.Brandon@essex.police.uk). To contact the police in an emergency telephone 999 and for non emergency issues dial 101.

### Other Council business

A liaison meeting was held between the Parish Council, senior management from Brett Aggregates and Essex County Council representatives to discuss issues caused by vehicle movements through the village and along the haul road leading to Brett's plant.

Parking problems in a number of residential roads around the commercial centre of the village in Station Road have caused concern. The planning approval by Tendring District Council for an extension to the Post Office sorting area of the post office has meant more mail vans than has been the case previously are in use and parking is limited. The Council has asked the Post Office to ensure vehicles are parked with due consideration to local residents.

The Council received legal advice regarding a developer removing a hedgerow on the B1027 and it appears that it was not a written condition that the hedge was retained even though the plans seem to state otherwise.

We are pleased to have recruited a local man to be the new Council handyman and we look forward to his involvement.

It has been a busy time for the Council and I wish to personally thank all Councillors, staff and volunteers for all their hard work and commitment.



Frank Belgrove  
Chairman  
Alresford Parish Council

<https://www.alresfordpcessex.uk/>

### ALRESFORD CRAFT & FARMERS MARKET BANNER THEFT!

The banners opposite Wivenhoe Road were stolen on Thursday evening 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022. They are nowhere to be seen.

This has cost the market £100 to fund new banners and poles which in turn has affected the charity donations given out to local charities in the village and surrounding area.

The market is non-profit making and is provided for the community and local crafters. Any monies left after expenses are donated to charity.

If you do see our banners and poles anywhere around the village, we would like them back please.

**You can contact Jo on 01206 823390**

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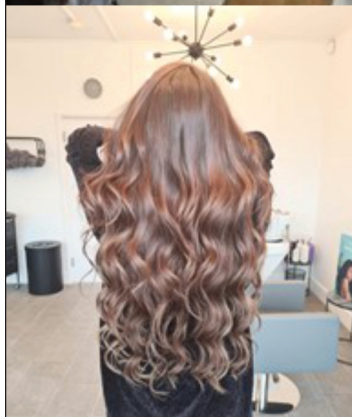
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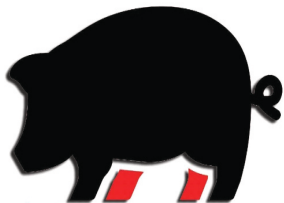


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## ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

The Parish Office, The Pavilion, Ford Lane  
Alresford CO7 8AT

Council meetings are held at the Pavilion on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm. Public and Press are welcome. Agenda & Approved Minutes on website

**Website:** [www.alresfordpcsessex.uk/](http://www.alresfordpcsessex.uk/)

**Facebook:** Alresford Parish Council (Parish Council only)/The Pavilion & Playing Field - Alresford Essex

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**Chairman:** Cllr Frank Belgrove - 01206 823739

**Vice-Chairman:** Cllr Ernie Osborne - 01206 822168

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Cllr Simon Clark	01206 827884
Cllr John Housden	07775630058
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Cllr Sue Hammick	
Cllr Julia Claremont-Brown:	<a href="mailto:jcbapcessex.outlook.com">jcbapcessex.outlook.com</a>

### District Council Tendring

District Councillor Gary Scott - 01206 820769

**Email:** [cllr.gscott@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.gscott@tendringdc.gov.uk)

District Councillor Ann Wiggins - 01206 825153

**Email:** [cllr.awiggins@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.awiggins@tendringdc.gov.uk)

### County Council Essex

County Councillor Alan Goggin - 01206 308023

**Email:** [egog@btinternet.com](mailto:egog@btinternet.com)

### Parish Clerk - The Proper Officer

Matt Cooke - 01206 615117 (Answerphone 24/7)

**Email:** [alresfordpc@outlook.com](mailto:alresfordpc@outlook.com)

### Responsible Finance Officer & Assistant Clerk

Angela Baxter - 01206 615117 (Answerphone 24/7)

**Email:** [rfopcessex@outlook.com](mailto:rfopcessex@outlook.com)

## ALRESFORD BIKERS

*Continued on page 23*

Much has happened since our last report. We have a couple of lovely new bikes in the group, and we wish their owners fun and enjoyment with them. We've had some nice rides out too, as the weather has been good actually on the Sunday, it does make a difference to the fun levels, and that's what we're about! We've been out to places in different directions; outwards to the seaside, inland to Finchingfield, for our at-least-annual visit, Cafe 33 to the North, Route 11 Kitchen, which has become a bit of a biker haunt, and is well worth a visit. We've been to Grumpy's Cafe a couple of times, and it's always good. Grumpy actually isn't grumpy at all, and we had a nice chat. He has big plans for the site, which do not involve knocking it down and building houses, but restoring and

improving the facilities and usability of the ancient watermill site. It all looks great for the future there. The Hungry Stag is also a nice place we have visited, and will go again, because it's a nice ride out in the country. The beauty of many of the places we go is the possibility of an enjoyable, fun, unclogged backroads ride there, and either more backroads or faster alternative route back, giving us the choice if the weather turns grim. Some planning goes into these things, you see. Oh yes! We've been Southwards to the Dengie Peninsular too, and we've even put in a brief appearance at Great Bentley on a Wednesday evening in the sun, the first for some time. Another mid-week country ride out to Dennington was very enjoyable too, despite an unexpected detour caused by roadworks in Ipswich, but the detour itself was actually signed properly for a change, and had not been dreamt up in Bletchley Park, and only added about half a mile to the journey, which is also a relief, recently. In fact it was so nice, some more of us went again today, for our Sunday Ride. Apart from getting stuck behind a camper wagon for miles it was a lovely ride, with good scoff at the end, and a good ride back.

Much has been talked about regarding the cost of fuel. So, just so I know what I'm talking about, and also because I am a complete anorak, I have measured my car versus my bike, on the same route. Car scored 40.1 mpg, bike did 65.7. No contest. As a side note, we hear of "additives" that can be put in fuel to make it go further. These are not worth the money. The very best way to make your fuel go further is good maintenance, correct tyre pressures, and a steady hand on the throttle. Cruise Control on a bike really does make a difference over distance, as it isolates the throttle from the jerking effects of all the craters which all cause fuel wastage through manipulating the throttle hand/arm up and down. Riding smoothly is also the most economical, but keeping the machine in good order helps generally. For instance, a dragging brake pad can take 5mpg off a bike without you even knowing.

One event we are looking forward to, that has very recently sprung back into life, is the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Run. Bookings are open now, so get on the website and book yourself in if you're riding! However, the route has had to be changed, and now it leaves from EHAAT Hangar at North Weald, (come with me if you don't know where that is) but still finishes at Harwich as has become the custom. I don't know if that is just for this year, or permanently. Well worth doing, and all for a great cause. It's a pretty good and different family day out at Harwich too. It happens to be our primary charity, though we do support others also.

Seasons bring different hazards, and things to be aware of, hopefully to avoid! Now that it's Summer, ignoring the diabolical state of our roads, which are a national disgrace for the moment, insects have become an issue, especially on bikes without windscreens of any kind. Riding with eye covering is a must, as a bug in the eye at any speed is not only dangerous, it hurts a bit! It's useful to check visors are genuine, and not cheap knock-off fakes, because they are untested, probably made of inferior materials, and will undoubtedly fail when



needed. For example, the old EU standard ECE 22.05, which is still legal, has been upgraded to ECE 22.06. Part of the upgrade is the very much more rigorous testing of visors. Instead of an impact test with a small plastic ball at about 70mph, now a small steel ball bearing is fired into the visor at 134 mph. If the ball goes through, the visor fails. So riders, that is why visors have become thicker, and more expensive! And in summer, the frequency of airborne things hitting visors is huge, as are some of the bugs. A big Bee can make a heck of a mess on your visor, but cleans off. If your visor is up..... it's in your eye. Personal story here: I once had to have the remaining hard parts of a wasp (it's mandibles, if you're interested) extracted from my throat (in the dip where collar bones meet) with tweezers, by a nurse. It hurt like mad partly from the impact, partly because the wasp obviously stung me on impact, and partly because I am allergic to that stuff and was changing colour before her eyes. An allergic reaction anywhere near one's windpipe is a worry.

Other things that can have unexpected consequences are obviously birds, which range from an unfortunate Sparrow impact once, to a Pheasant, which was a different matter altogether. It hit me pretty hard, and it busted my windscreen, unscrewed one mirror which windmilled, unscrewing more until I could stop. It switched my engine off, as it hit the kill-switch too. Worse, it took my concentration for about 10 seconds, and I was motoring. It didn't do a lot of good to the Pheasant either, as I washed unpleasant bits of it off my jacket, helmet, glove, and neck-roll. Pheasants are pretty dim even by bird standards, and will seemingly wait until the very last moment before launching themselves straight at you. Bugs and flies are sometimes a problem, especially if you ride through a swarm, which sounds like riding through hail. A "4-engine bomber" insect, the kind that seem to hover right in front of you, big enough to see ages before it hits you, can be huge, and makes a huge bang on your visor when you clobber it! There are all sorts of other critters out and about at this time of year too, so you'll see AB riders taking great care out in the country. Summer rainstorms are an obvious problem, and we sometimes get caught out in a storm that is like riding through a car wash. Not fun. Massive droplets of rain in your face at 70mph hurts! Hailstones are like shotgun pellets, and hurt even more. An unexpected fizzy drink tin was not much fun, even at the 20mph it hit my bike, dropped out of the window of the car in front, in London. Nor was the McD wrappers still full of chips another time. Morons chucking things out of their cars are a big hazard. Cig ends are a real danger. Car drivers don't care, just don't even think of the consequences, including fires. A cig end in your crash helmet is not funny. I have been machine-gunned by half a shovel-full of small stones falling off the back of a builders truck on the A12. The damage can be horrendous, and hearing stones buzz past your head like bullets is not much fun. The temptation to ride around in summer clobber is another hazard to be avoided! Expensive leathers or textile riding clobber is no good unless you are in it. Of course, I have done all the daft things inexperienced riders do, such as riding around in jeans and t-shirt (OK, it was in Cyprus, and it was 41 degrees, and I was invincible, bulletproof, and 45 years younger). So, all the gear, all the time, is my motto now. No bare skin anywhere when riding. And I'll finish off by saying what I say to all young riders who think they are as immortal as I was back then - you do not look cool in A&E! The lovely nurse who is picking gravel out of your

kneecaps while you cry your eyes out thinks you are an idiot. Yes, me again!

So, why do we put ourselves through this expensive, sometimes painful, torture? Because it is the most fun you can have with your clothes on. Your actions are your responsibility. You can't even reach your mobile phone, and it can't reach you. Your distractions fade to non-existent. It is much more involving than anything else. In a car, you're driving through the world, looking out at it passing you by. On a bike, even a pillion passenger is a dynamic piece of the ride. On a bike, you're immersed in the world around you. Its sights, sounds, smells, bug splatter. You have a connection to the world that you can't get from inside a car. You don't look out at the environment; you're part of it, and sometimes it's on you! You have a much greater connection with the world that surrounds you, and interact with it miles more than any other transport permits. And did I mention that it is enormous fun? Here's a picture of a rider having fun!



Rider having fun!

If you want to know more, come have a chat with AB in The Pointer Inn, where Neil and Sam always make us welcome, at our meetings on the second Tuesday of every month, at 8pm.

Al Gillard

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**8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**



## ALRESFORD PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Alresford Fete Organising Group ( AFOG ) coordinated two events on behalf of the village to celebrate the Platinum Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II.

Funding was obtained from Alresford Parish Council, Tendring District Council and Alresford Colne Rangers Football Club enabling both events to be free, for all to attend.



On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, a Fish and Chip lunch was provided in the Village Hall for 99 of our over 75's in Alresford. Our gratitude to '**ALRESFORD FISH BAR**' for providing the lunches and for their excellent service before and during the lunch in assisting AFOG to successfully hold this event.

A film montage highlighting the 70 years of the Queen's reign was projected during the lunch and was followed by a brief singalong of favourite songs from the 1950's.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, the 'Platinum Party in the Park' was a fantastic success enjoyed by over 700 villagers in good weather. Attendees bought picnics, chairs, blankets, and there were even children's birthday celebrations.



The main objective of the event was to get village people to meet up with old and new people once again and this was very much achieved beyond expectation.

Attractions were live music from '**SILENCE THE SIRENS**', children's carousels provided by Mr Little, Bar-B-Q from the PTA, ice creams from Whip it like Webber Ltd, teas



and coffees in the village hall, Alresford History Group exhibition, Guess the Corgi's name and Welly Wanging, a few stalls and last but not least the BAR.



Our thanks to the Football Club for their support on the day in providing equipment, manning the bar, providing a Skip and for their manpower in helping to set up.

Also, thanks to the volunteers on the AFOG for the work in organising the events and of course on the day and to **Sam King** for photographing both events.



Finally, although the events were never organised as fund raisers, because of donations from **Mr Little**, **Whip it like Webber Ltd**, Wellie Wanging and a lucky draw a healthy profit was made on the day.

Thank you to everyone who turned up and made this a very enjoyable day.

Russell Milburn AFOG