

THE ALRESFORD ADVERTISER APRIL / MAY 2023

Established 1970

**SUMMER
EVENT**

PICNIC IN THE PARK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE ALRESFORD FETE ORGANISING GROUP

**Saturday 10th June
12:30 – 6PM**

ALRESFORD PLAYING FIELD

FREE ENTRY

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- live music from 'Silence the Sirens'
- entertainment
- bbq
- ice cream
- stalls
- bar
- and much more!

Bring your own picnic, blankets/chairs. Sorry, no dogs or glass.

If you would like to get involved, please reach out to Courtney 07535707002 or Russell 01206 825739

HELP REQUIRED
DO YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS TO SPARE?

Due to major eye surgery, lady driver from Alresford temporarily unable to drive.

We are looking for someone who is willing to drive lady, mostly short journeys.

Must have a clean/valid driving license.

If you think you can help, please email us at the Alresford Advertiser alresfordadvertiser@gmail.com or telephone 01206 825739

ALRESFORD CRAFT & FARMERS MARKET
SATURDAY 1ST APRIL
SATURDAY 6TH MAY - CORONATION DAY
See page 4 for further details

BINGO NIGHT

Alresford Village Hall
Saturday 22nd April 2023
Doors Open 7pm

£3.00 per book or 3 books for £8.00

Tea/Coffee provided or bring your own Drinks/Nibbles

Raffle

For further information contact:
Mrs Wendy Bates on 01206 826757 or 07582603816

All profits will go to
The Autumn Centre Incorporating the Alresford/Brightlingsea Lunch Clubs

ALRESFORD WI

WARMLY INVITE YOU TO A FASHION SHOW

BY TOGGS OF BRIGHTLINGSEA

FRIDAY 16TH JUNE
7.30PM

AT ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL

ADMISSION INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS £3.00

RAFFLE

For further information contact Chris James on 01255 764769

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

ST ANDREW'S REFLECTIONS - THOUGHTS ON LIFE AND FAITH

I'm sure you must have noticed this too: the increased NOISE from the natural world as the days lengthen. The birds are waking us up earlier; the frogs are rehearsing a bass orchestra on the pond margins, and the bees (such as there are) are beginning to search drowsily and heavily for the first nectar sources. A friend even told me that she could hear daffodil flowers cracking open from their tight buds when they were in a vase inside! In this age of constant aural stimulus, I wonder what we hear? I'm not sure how effective a listener I am at all.

I've just been reading a book about listening. One of the things which really struck me was the suggestion that it's only when we listen openly, with an expectation that the person we are listening to will have something worthwhile to say, that we are likely to hear anything of note. That means that when we listen to those people who seem very different from us, or who we have already judged to be unlikely to have anything specific to impart, we are closing our ears to the possibilities of what they might have to say before we even start. In effect, we often only listen readily to those with whom we agree already. How much does this unwillingness to be open to something or someone new limit the contribution we might make to another's wellbeing, or to our own breadth of experience?

As we approach Easter, the celebration of God's glorious reaching down to pull us to safety, there are things to hear which we may never have listened to properly (even if we have been to church all our lives!). There are new possibilities which may change lives forever. Let's make it our aim to not assume that we know much at all – and to be willing to listen to this wonderful Good News.

With every blessing in this Easter season.

Julie Thompson

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CONTACTS

Rector: Rev Andrew Fordyce - 01206 920848
Email: rector@tenpennyvillages.uk

Associated Priest: Rev Pauline Hart - 01206 826318
Email: assocpriest@tenpennyvillages.uk

Churchwarden: Wendy Wilson - 01206 825040
Email: stachurchwardens@tenpennyvillages.uk

Bookings for the Hub: Meg Burdus - 01206 820618

EASTER SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY: 6TH APRIL
19:30 St Andrews Informal Communion in the Hub

GOOD FRIDAY: 7TH APRIL
16:30 St Andrews Messy Church - Easter Lego

EASTER DAY: 9TH APRIL
06:10 St Andrews Garden First Light Fire

11:00 St Andrews - Holy Communion



Coronation Service

Sunday 7th May 2023 at 2.30pm

St Mary Magdalen Church
Clacton Road, Thorrington, CO7 8AH

Join us for a special service for the coronation of King Charles III.

The church will be decorated with knitted coronation items, flags and flower arrangements.

Light refreshments after the service.
All welcome.

ALRESFORD ADVERTISER CONTACT DETAILS

EMAIL: alresfordadvertiser@gmail.com TELEPHONE: 01206 825739 ADDRESS: 22 Station Road, Alresford, CO7 8BT

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ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL
Charity Commission Number: 301233

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

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



Photo taken from the stage looking back towards the main entrance

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

An online calendar is available via the website to allow visibility of when the hall is available for hire. Bookings will still need to be made via email or telephone with a booking /security deposit now required to confirm the booking. Hirers are encouraged to pay deposit/fees using BACS and after the hire the deposit is quickly refunded assuming the hall is left as the contract of hire defines.

Email: alresfordvillagehall@gmail.com

Contact No: **07548 742796**

Please see the website for all news and updates regarding hire times, booking process and advice as to end of session times and clear up including vacating the hall.

News Flash

Two new internal notice boards have been fitted, one for Village Hall documentation/direction and the other for club news.

The AVHMC are looking into 'sound proofing' the Munson Room. Extra double doors and ceiling panels are possible solutions.

Also, provisional discussion relating to replacing the double oven are being had with various users.

Our new Treasurer is gently feeding their self in and will be formally announced at the upcoming AGM.

Please see Advertiser for dates of the Simply Singing. The resumption of Film Shows has been very successful with over 30 people attending each of the three showings.

The donations collected from the performance of Bohemian Rhapsody amounted to £95.00 and this was donated to the TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL.

Annual General Meeting
The Village Hall
Thursday 27th April 2023
7.30pm.

Russell Milburn Chair AVHMC 01206 825739 or
alresfordvillagehall@gmail.com

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preloved boutique

A unique, local and conscious service helping you to resell and buy quality pre-loved clothes.

Commit to a long-term relationship with clothes, it's one of the most effective ways to fight fashion

We look forward to welcoming you to Alresford Village Hall on Saturday 15th April and Saturday 13th May,

9.15am - 11.45am

www.consciouslyclothed.co.uk

info@consciouslyclothed.co.uk

07708 441176

In 2020 I was one of 108 people that took part in the UK's first climate assembly, where participants learnt about climate change and how the UK can address it. I got to meet Sir David Attenborough!

I was shocked to learn about the climate crisis we face and soon discovered that it has never been more important that we all play a part to prioritise people and the planet. During my time taking part, I was informed about how the things we buy are linked to climate change and when we throw things away, that has implications for climate change too. The assembly supported the idea of repairing and sharing more, with less purchasing of new products. I was shocked to learn about the environmental and social impacts of the fashion industry. In the UK alone, 350,000 tonnes of wearable clothes go to landfill every year. Fast fashion is entirely unsustainable. The most sustainable clothes are the ones you already own. All of us can do something, from shopping less, to extending the life of our clothes and one of the easiest ways to shop more sustainably is to shop second hand.

It was during this time that I came up with the idea of Consciously Clothed, a unique mobile preloved boutique, to help my local community to keep clothes in circulation and out of landfill.

Consciously Clothed was launched in March 2022 and I am extremely proud of the impact it is having in my local community and I was thrilled to be selected as a Finalist in the Tendring4Groth Business Awards last year.

I am excited to be popping-up in Alresford Village Hall from March, with a fabulous selection of quality preloved clothes, helping you to shop local, save money and help with the environment too.

I look forward to seeing you there!

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 - £8.50
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

ALRESFORD CRAFT & FARMERS MARKET

Alresford Village Hall,
Ford Lane CO7 8AT

The market has been really busy this year, with new crafters and new food stalls, lovely to see that people are supporting it. We have Sunnymead Farm with buffalo, pork and lamb meat, Norwegian Bakers with bread and pastries, Dough Doughs with artisan doughnuts, Country Cottage Preserves with jams and chutneys and of course our own cafe with cakes, scones and breakfast baps.

Market Dates:
Saturday 1st April, 9am - 12 noon

Saturday 6th May
King Charles Coronation

This is our normal market day however, during the morning we will be streaming King Charles Coronation so you don't miss it. There will be limited extra seating on a first come first served basis. The market will run from 9 am to 12 noon, with a possible extension subject to the timing of the ceremony, which at the time of this magazine going to print had not been announced.

Saturday 3rd June, 9am - 12 noon

Free Admission

Free car park and disabled facilities

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

Thanks for your continuing support.

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Alresford
CO7 8DA



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Hello brave adventurers!

Princess Arabella, Tatiana and everyone at Wyvernwood has missed you and we can't wait until your next visit, especially as there's been some drama at Wyvernwood, and I could really use some help from you all!

A new Wyverling has hatched and is on the loose, causing mayhem everywhere.

Not only that, but also eight golden dragon eggs have gone missing and Zephyr and Zeta are distraught and searching the Kingdom high and low to find their precious eggs and their baby Wyverling.

The good news is that the Wicked Witch has not returned since last October when she cast an evil spell over Wyvernwood – thanks to all of you for helping Merlin to create the special spell to thwart the witch.

In amongst all the drama, Princess Arabella has managed to summon her guardian unicorn at the Magic Wishing Well – and Serena has magically appeared. She is very sweet-natured and Arabella is overjoyed at being reunited with her. We can't wait for you to meet Serena, and her best unicorn friend, Shadow!

Don't forget we're delighted to offer Alresford residents who live within the CO7 8 postcode a 50% discount on their annual pass, you can find out more information here: www.wyvernwood.co.uk/alresford

Join me and the other characters for exciting Easter adventures including a fantastical treasure hunt to find the 8 missing golden dragon eggs!

We all hope to see you in the Kingdom soon,

The Captain



ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL REPORT, from the Clerk and Proper Officer on behalf of the Council

There is no Chairman's report for the April/May issue of the Alresford Advertiser as this forms part of the pre-election period.

Finance.

The **Band D equivalent** tax has reduced in real terms by **8.5%** in relation to the Parish Precept component of overall Council Tax. This is due to the Parish Council freezing the Precept at the same level as 2022, and also due to the effect of the Tax Base increasing from the amount of new house building and occupation.

Environment and Public Realm.

At St Peters church entrance volunteers have cleared the growth encroaching on the access, opposite e to the War Memorial. This has enabled a variety of different flowering bulbs to be planted to provide colour across the seasons. The Parish Council would like to thank the generous donations received from Wyvernwood and Deans Garden Centre for their donations of money and bulbs respectively.

Work to clear away growth from part of the churchyard has also been carried out by our contractor.

Combined waste bins for both Litter and Dog Waste have been installed at a further four locations in the village.

The Playing Field.

The tender for the supply and installation of more play equipment has been awarded to a Tendring based company. New equipment will consist of two climbing pyramids, a ground level wheelchair accessible trampoline, and an accessible multi use nest swing. Installation is expected to begin in April, with an anticipated opening in time for the bank holiday weekend of the Kings Coronation. A modular accessible toilet block is also planned for users of the playing field. The funding of these works will be covered by Section 106 Planning Gains, and Grants. Additional benches and picnic tables will also be installed under this tranche of works to ensure supervising adults have adequate seating.

A flagpole has been installed adjacent to the community car park and the Pavilion Building. In a coronation year "Flying the Flag" at the Parish Council Offices seemed most appropriate.

Policing/PCSO.

Concerns over speeding drivers are frequently received by the Parish Council and we fully support our PCSO and the Essex Police Traffic Officers who do speed checks within the village. Thirty drivers received letters from Essex Police in February for exceeding the speed limit along the Wivenhoe Road.

The PCSO has addressed some Anti-social behaviour that occurred in the village centre, and residents were pleased by the swift response to their concerns on a worrying trend.

The issue of domestic abuse remains a current priority of Essex Police and anyone experiencing this is encouraged to contact the police or PCSO without delay.

Summary.

Finally, we look forward to a new Parish Year and welcome the public to attend Parish Council meetings each month. The Parish Council, Clerk and Proper Officer, and all council staff hope you all have time to enjoy the coronation bank holiday and any planned festivities.

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/

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

Twitter: @alresfordessex

Parish Clerk - The Proper Officer

Matt Cooke - 01206 615117 (Answerphone 24/7)

Email: alresfordpc@outlook.com

Responsible Finance Officer & Assistant Clerk

Angela Baxter - 01206 615117 (Answerphone 24/7)

Email: rfopcessex@outlook.com

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www.MyMentalHealthJournal.com

ALRESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

JANUARY 2023

RECORDED CRIMES: 5

Crime Types: Burglary Business x 2 - Other agency dealing x 2 - Theft

INCIDENTS REPORTED: 5

Types Reported: Abandoned 999 x 2 - Missing person - Nuisance - Suspicious circumstances

FEBRUARY 2023

RECORDED CRIMES: 12

Crime Types: Assault without injury x 2 - Blackmail x 2 - Possession of controlled drug - Harassment without violence x 2 - Malicious communications - Other - Section 4a Public Order x 2 - Non crime investigation

INCIDENTS REPORTED: 17

Types Reported: Abandoned 999 - Attention to - Concern x 2 - Disturbance x 2 - Domestic x 2 - Drink driving - Driving complaint - Missing person x 3 - Property - Suspicious circumstances - Threats - Information

TRUCAM Monthly results.

02/02/2023-Wivenhoe Road -
17 captured- top speed **43mph**

10/02/2023- Wivenhoe Road
13 captured- top speed **41mph**

28/02/2023- Wivenhoe Road
2 Captured- Top speed **37mph** (many parked vehicles helped to slow the traffic down)

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

THEFT OF TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT.

There have been reports of theft of tools and equipment from the building site on Wivenhoe Road Alresford between **19/01/2023 -16.30 hours to 20/01/2023 -1720 hours**. If you have any information or have heard anything related to this, please contact me or ring 101 to update. Please keep any tools you own safe and out of sight and consider purchasing a shed alarm or CCTV.

For extra protection. I sometimes carry shed alarms in my kit bag, which are free to anyone that would like one-stock depending.

STOPPING ON SCHOOL ZIGZAGS / INCONSIDERATE PARKING.

One lucky driver avoided a fixed penalty notice for stopping on the school zigzags during the prohibited times on the yellow signs that are clearly visible due to driving off before I approached.

They are there to protect our children and pedestrians during these busy times - Every driver should know the law on parking on these and even disabled drivers cannot park on them. Any driver caught stopping on these will receive a fixed penalty notice.

So to prevent embarrassment and a string of excuses that will not prevent a ticket - **Don't do it.**

Park sensibly without obstructing footpaths/driveways etc.

Your being late or not finding anywhere near enough to park, could cause an accident to someone else. Please keep the village safe.

INCONSIDERATE PARKING

Vehicles are parking on grass verges/pavements obstructing footpaths, as well as causing damage to the verge, making the village look unsightly.

When parking on the pavement it can make visibility poor for those pulling out of their driveways and during school drop off/pickup this can cause obstruction for pedestrians, which could result in an accident.

Please park safely and considerately.

SCAMS

Scams are still a problem everywhere, If you receive Emails or phone calls that don't look right, **don't reply and hang up.**

If you receive any calls like this, report to action fraud Advising them what telephone provider you use. Or copy paste email and attach it to the online report.

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> for online reporting and extra information.

CYCLING

There have been reports of cyclists riding around in the dark almost invisible, with no lights and dressed in black, to the point motorists have not seen them until the last minute and nearly caused an accident. Cycles must be fitted with lights to use in the dark. If you are stopped by an officer for failing to have them, you could find yourself receiving a fixed penalty notice.

Stay safe and visible and abide by the law.

CAR REGISTRATION PLATES

Car registration plates **must be visible** at all times.

It is an offence not to display one. This also includes **dirty plates** that cannot be seen.

If you are pulled over by an officer for displaying dirty unreadable plates, you could find yourself receiving a hefty fine.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

If you see anything that does not look right, report it. Try and get as much information as you can, including registration numbers, which are key to a lot of activity. The more you have, the more chance we have of a positive investigation with results.

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/>

Local PCSO - julia.brandon@essex.pnn.police.uk

ALRESFORD BIKERS - SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Alresford Bikers have some objectives that we try to pursue. Part of our mantra is that we will always do our best to show biking in a good light, and ride to a high standard. We also try to demonstrate all that is wholesome, good, sensible, and still fun, in biking. We take it quite seriously! How seriously do we take it? At least three of us have done this at some time.....

Some years ago I joined The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, with a view to gaining their bike riding qualification. I took a solid week of training, and I did it, passing their very demanding test first time, and have done re-tests every three years since. Today was my fifth test.

Just after Christmas I was notified that I was due, and booked the re-test. I took some refresher training with a stratospherically qualified instructor I know, for half a day, just to make sure I was up to standard and not getting into bad habits. I watched many videos made by experts on the subject, picking up little tips and cues they look for. I did several practice rides just by myself (nobody else would have been interested, as it was two or three degrees and a bit frosty most of the days I went out in Mid-January!), and knocked out about 300 miles over several days. Challenging road conditions often mean sacrificing road position for grip, and that means losing visibility and/or view, and so reducing speed to keep the safety cushion. The many potholes and frequently awful repairs, huge puddles, manhole covers, tar banding, and all that stuff that most car drivers don't even notice, are often dangerous to bikers, meaning changing lines constantly. RoSPA testers like you to think, not just do things by numbers, and on the test if you do abandon the textbook lines they may ask you why, so it's good to know. Practice and bike cleaning done (twice, rotten weather!) and I was as ready as I was going to be.

On 27 January I arrived at the start point in good time, and my bike told me it was four degrees. I had a cup of screamingly hot and very sugary tea from my flask to get my nerves under control. Just off the A12 near Woodbridge, I watched and waited for the testing officer, who I had never met before. Bang on time, he arrived. It is worth noting that in order to test to an exceptionally high standard, the tester has to be suitably good. This time my tester is not just ex-Police, as they have all been. He is ex-Police Bike, has decades in traffic police, is qualified to Special Escort Group level and has been called in to assist them many times. The SEG are the riders who escort people like the Royals, visiting Presidents, The Pope, and so on. Watch them on YouTube. "Good" doesn't even begin to describe their standard of riding. They are honestly the best riders anywhere, and one of them was going to test me, so no pressure!

We had a little chat about bikes, bike maintenance, bike pre-ride checks, and a few questions about machine maintenance, prep and operation, clothing and helmets, visors, gloves, boots, highway code, speed limits, road positioning, traffic awareness, observation, braking distances, hazard perception, and stuff like that. He even asked my tyre pressures, so he must have looked it up beforehand! So far, pretty gentle to me, with decades of practice in. The pre-ride brief is simply him telling me how we would navigate (him behind me, signalling with indicators or hand signals which way to go, twice as it happened). So, a continuous test of mirror work, and he also told me what to do if I missed any signals. We set off, straight onto the A12 North, off at the next roundabout, down hill into Woodbridge, left at the lights, and away. The guidance covered the first mile, and from there, signals only.

No radios, or anything like that. We went through a lot of country lanes which were new to me, a bit muddy and covered in the usual slippery crud, but then the sun came out and it started to dry out. It was five degrees! Onwards for a bit of dual carriageway, then back out into the country and some more lanes, gradually circling back towards Woodbridge. Framlingham presented a small surprise - pop-up roadworks had closed off the tester's intended route, so he had to make it up for a while until we got back on his track, which was, um, intense. By this time I was sweating inside my crash hat. Traffic tests overtaking skills, and I got three good ones in, one of those a two-car pass. Using the bike's performance is heartily encouraged within the law, which is good fun. There is a right way, and a wrong way to do overtakes, and if you mess it up, not only can it be dangerous, but you can fail the test instantly. Fortunately we kept going, so I ticked that off. Working back past Snape Maltings and heading now South into the sun, the worst had not yet appeared. But it didn't take long! On though a very busy Leiston, where a traffic light turned red and the stop was most welcome, but the trenches in the upcoming right turn tarmac were not, though I managed to negotiate them with dignity intact. More backroads lead into old Woodbridge, and some difficult, narrow and hilly backroads with blind junctions, road signs missing, paint lines scrubbed away, steep downhill and uphill junctions, cars parked, traffic, dog-walkers, running water, gents in mobility buggies, a very old (1966 vintage, if you're interested) Morris 1000 Minor rag top, crashing through the gearbox audibly from 30 yards behind, all tested machine control, while not stopping, falling off, or breaking any rules. You may laugh, but a steep first gear downhill approach to a hundred degree right hairpin turn steeply uphill into oncoming traffic, on a slippery road, over manhole covers and missing cat's-eye holes, while having a SEG test rider behind you is a little intimidating! But, I didn't make any mistakes, and after seemingly a lifetime in those conditions, made it back to the A12 roundabout, and joined traffic heading North towards where we started from, and Lowestoft. I was then hugely relieved to have the tester burst past me waving a huge thumbs up to signal that the test was over, and we rode back to the start (you don't know where the finish is, quite deliberately, until you get there!).

At the finish, we took our helmets off, and stood in the car park, in the sun for a few seconds, before our smiles broke out. I was tired, but the test was almost over. I had my jacket open and helmet off, head steaming in the sun, drinking tea again! Then, to my surprise, more questions about road signs (all correct, including a trick one about trams, which I was the first person ever to get right). And that was it, done. His debrief was encouraging: he talked me through the whole ride, detailing nearly every corner, a missing road sign that I got right, reminding me of individual incidents as though he could still see them! He even remembered the Moggie's reg number. He didn't miss anything. But it sounded good to be praised for a good ride, and learn that I hadn't missed a single signal, infringed any traffic regulations, broken any speed limits, and had only foot-down stopped twice, (not counting red traffic lights x 1). I had ridden over 44 miles in places new to me, in poor conditions, with a conspicuously pre-eminent examiner behind me. A few more de-briefing points at which he said he was nit-picking. And then the verdict. Pass, GOLD!

I have to admit, I was a bit relieved and burst out laughing with the release of pressure. We had a chat, the tester congratulated me on what he said was a fine ride, and went home for a cuppa. I headed back to my house with the biggest grin under my visor, all the way. The Biking Everest

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as far as I am concerned, submitted again! That's five in a row.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in bikes, biking, bikers, even if you don't ride, come have a chat with us at our monthly meetings. Or find out when we go Sunday Riding and come with us! We meet in The Pointer Inn, where our hosts Neil and Sam always make us welcome, at 8pm on the second Tuesday of every month. We'd love to see you!

Al Gillard



With Spring and Summer just ahead of us and a new season about to start, can we thank all our members for their loyal support throughout the past season. 2022 has been a trying and turbulent time for us all with living costs rising and global uncertainty on the horizon, but the real escape of sitting by a

water's edge and focusing on one's surroundings has helped us through.

Once again thanks go to the Environment Agency for the supply of several thousand Roach and a lesser number of Skimmer Bream. These fish went into Bramley and Worcester Lakes and will be a healthy addition to those species already in the lakes.

The club's AGM will be held at the village Hall on 12th April @19:30hrs where current members may renew their membership. Any person wishing to join for the first time, please contact Jim Martin on 07786882064. New members will not be taken on at the AGM. It has been decided to postpone the proposed raffle at the AGM and hold this event at Christmas instead.

By now, we should be in the transitional period where winter bird-life is leaving and our summer residents arriving. Canada and Greylag Geese will be nesting and the first goslings appearing after 28 days incubation. Coots and Moorhens will add to the cacophony of sound as the various species squabble for prime nesting sites and perceived intrusions of territory. Little Egrets and Mergansers are becoming regular visitors in springtime with their numbers growing year by year. The regular flocks of Mallard and Tufted Ducks are also joined by smaller groups of Gadwall and Shoveler Ducks. Kingfishers have continued to show at Alresford lake and have survived the winter when the water surface was frozen.

Other than strimming and mowing of access pathways, all maintenance work on trees and shrubs will now cease until October when, by then, all nesting birds will have fledged their young.

Rainfall is still a major issue with this February being the driest one for 30 years, but hopefully March will have lived up to its name and delivered some healthy showers. After last summer's hot and arid weather, the forthcoming summer will return and be not quite so severe, with a fair sprinkling of showers along with warm sunny days.

The intended charity match with proceeds going to St. Helena's Hospice is set to go ahead on the 2nd July. This will be a pairs match and anyone wishing to enter please contact Adrian Loughton on 07480988943.

Once again, a "thank you" to all those who generously gave up their time to assist with the clearing, trimming, litter picking and generally maintaining all the club's waters to keep them as havens for Anglers and wildlife alike.

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

Tight Lines.
Mike Day (Hon. Secretary)

ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL REGULAR GROUPS

MONDAY

- 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

TUESDAY

- Alresford Lunch Club meet every Tuesday morning and early afternoon
- 1st Alresford Scout Group (Beavers) meet Tuesday Teatime.
- Dog Training Classes Tuesday evening.

WEDNESDAY

- Tai Chi meet every Wednesday morning.
- Alresford Women's Guild meet every other Wednesday afternoon.
- Yoga meet every Wednesday evening

THURSDAY

- 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

FRIDAY

- Alresford Calligraphy Group meet every Friday morning.
- Simply Singing meet every other Friday Afternoon September to May

SATURDAY

- 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 <https://e-voice.org.uk/alresfordvillagehall/> or contact Russell Milburn on 01206 825739

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES NEWS

1st ALRESFORD & 1st ELMSTEAD MARKET SCOUT GROUP

1st Alresford Beavers recently visited Wivenhoe Fire Station. We spent the evening learning about fire safety and prevention which helped to emphasise some of the things the Beavers had learnt when completing the Safety Badge a few months ago. The Beavers enjoyed a tour of the Fire Station and explored the fire engine and the various items of equipment used by the firefighters. Fortunately, the firefighters were not called out for an emergency while we were there and the Beavers had lots of fun squirting the hoses. Thanks to Matt, Kevin and Josh for their time and showing us round.



Beavers (aged 6 to 8) meet on Tuesday evenings from 6.30pm to 7.30pm at Alresford Village Hall. Cubs (aged 8 to 10½) are held in Elmstead Community Centre on Wednesday evenings from 6.15pm to 7.45pm. A new Scout Troop (for ages 10½ to 14) will be opening after Easter in Elmstead Community Centre on Wednesday evenings after Cubs. If your child is interested in joining Beavers, Cubs or Scouts or you would like to add young people under 6 years to our waiting list, please email alresfordbeavers@outlook.com.

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

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

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
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Andrew Pyman on
07393 381257



Alresford Carpet Bowls Club is continuing to attract new members to both our afternoon and evening sessions. If you're interested in joining, please come along. The first few sessions are free and all are welcome, if you're interested, please email AlresfordCarpetBowlsClub@hotmail.com.

In January we had our first friendly match of 2023 playing Clacton away, in a very tight match we lost on points scored with Clacton scoring 41 and Alresford 39. With local player Russell winning all the games he was involved in, keep up the great form Russell. Early on it looked like Alresford would walk away with the match winning 15-1 and 10-5 in the first two matches. However, Clacton came back strongly, winning several of the next matches. We have arranged the return fixture at the end of the month before we start a very busy fixture list in April. I'm sure we will have some wins to report on very soon.

ALRESFORD CAMERA CLUB

www.alresfordcameraclub.org.uk

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

**2023
April: 6th & 20th
May: 4th & 18th**

Please refer to the club website at www.alresfordcameraclub.org.uk for details of these evenings and those in 2023

For further details please contact
John on 01206 250846

COPY DEADLINE

**The editorial and advertising deadline for the next edition will be:
8th MAY 2023**

ALRESFORD GARDENING CLUB

The 2023 season started in March with the club's AGM followed by a gardening quiz.

The AGM meeting on 6th March as well as reporting on the previous seasons events and the clubs current financial position, highlighted the need to attract new younger members. Whilst the clubs financial position is sound a proposal to raise the annual subscription to £5 and visitor rates to £5 per meeting where agreed by the members. The attendance fee of £2 per meeting, as in previous years, would continue.

Meetings are held at 7:30pm in Alresford Village Hall. New members and visitors are always welcome.

The programme for this year is:

April 3: "Sweet Peas" by Peter Miller from Kings Seeds

May: To be confirmed

June 5: "Gardening with Wildlife in Mind" by Dr Chris Gibson

July 3: "The National Garden Scheme" by Ed Fairey

August: To be confirmed

September 4: "Re-Wilding" by Marc McHearn from Beth Chatto's Gardens

October 2: "What, Where and Why of Essex Wildflowers" by Dr Chris Gibson

November 10: "Quiz Night" by Chris Sanderson

A weaving course by Debbie Hart and outings for May and August are also being considered. Please see the Willow Weaving Workshop article.

For further information, please contact Chris Sanderson (Chairman) on 07484 334698

Willow Weaving Workshop

A very interesting visiting speaker to the Gardening Club in recent seasons has been Debbie (Deb) Hart to demonstrate the art of Willow Weaving, and in particular, how she produces wonderful and practical structures for the garden.

Deb runs workshops on willow weaving and I've been in touch with her to see if she would be prepared to run a workshop here in Alresford. She has agreed that this is a real possibility, but for it to happen she would require a minimum of 8 participants and for that number she would make no charge of £80 each. The normal cost would be £90.

The workshop is designed for absolute beginners and would primarily be based on producing a garden obelisk. Deb supplies all the required materials and you keep your obelisk, the value of which, if purchased from her website shop, would be typically £40 to £50. The workshop date has yet to be set but it would be a summer event.

For more information or to register your interest in the workshop please contact Chris on 07484 334698

Please visit Deb's website at "debhart.co.uk" for more information on her work and the workshop courses she runs.



ALRESFORD COLNE RANGERS F.C.

ACRFC season continues along a bumpy road. The Men's results are disappointing at times, playing reasonably well but with no 'killer' instinct. The youth project is a long term investment for the future of ACRFC as we look to youth to progress into adult football. At the present time it is of course about inclusion and enjoyment.

The walking football team have been training and are able to start games shortly. This is a new venture for ACRFC, and we welcome the new members to our club.

At the other end of the cycle, we have the Mini Rangers that meet on a Saturday morning term time only. It is lovely to see the young people in the fresh air running around with a smile on their face, long may it continue.

The Ladies are doing very well in the league despite serious injury problems and are in with a chance of winning the league.

The end of season presentation is on Saturday 13th May with all 7 teams and hopefully the Mini Rangers being present. On Saturday June 3rd we have our annual Alan Green memorial game with old players from the past testing their skills and enjoying meeting up again. Alan Green was out club chair for over 25 years and a part of the club for 50 years. He is missed but we remember him on this day with a smile.

As usual ACRFC will be involved with the village 'Picnic in the Park', on June 10th. It will be a fun day for all of Alresford residents to enjoy.

See you at the club, you are all welcome

Brian Martin.

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, following the lyrics on a big screen.



Please note future singing sessions will run from autumn through to the following spring. As such our last session for this current period will be on **April 21st.**

The new season will commence in late September and the date for this and the rest of the dates for 2023 will be published in the August / September edition of the Advertiser

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

For more further details about the group, please contact:

Jeanette: 01206 825008 or Chris: 01206 823824



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Are you age 14 or over? Are you looking for something to do during the summer holidays? Why not become a Summer Reading Challenge volunteer!

Recruitment for our Summer Reading Challenge volunteers opens on Monday 3 April and closes on Friday 30 June.

If you're looking for something interesting and fun to do over the holiday period or want to enhance your CV, then this is the perfect opportunity. Don't just take our word though; one of our 2022 volunteers said, "It's a great experience and a lot of fun!"

More details about Summer Reading Challenge volunteering (link: <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/volunteer-to-help-with-the-summer-reading-challenge>).

For more about volunteering with Essex Library Service please see <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/volunteering-with-libraries/>

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

13th April 2023

4th May 2023 & 25th May 2023

15th June 2023

6th July 2023 & 27th July 2023

ELECTIONS MAY 2023

Elections come around again in May this year, with voters heading to the polls to choose their representatives in Tendring District Council, and in some town and parish councils too, on Thursday, 4th May.

This year, some things will be different:

Voter ID The government has introduced new security measures which means voters will have to show photo ID at the polling station.

Full details of this national process are available at www.voterauthority-certificate.service.gov.uk. You must be registered to vote before you can apply. Being on the electoral register may also be helpful when you want to get credit for things such as a mortgage or loan. The easiest way to register is to go online. Visit www.gov.uk/registertovote - please note that paying council tax does not automatically add you to the electoral register. To vote in the May elections, you must be registered by the end of 17 April. Poll cards: A poll card will be sent to all registered electors at the end of March. These will now be A4 sized and delivered in an envelope.

The poll card is still for information purposes and not a requirement for voting.

Polling stations will be open 7am to 10pm on Thursday, 4 May 2023; however, if you would prefer you can apply for a postal or proxy vote.

You can download the application form from our website or contact us on 01255 686575.

Further information can be found by visiting either www.tendringdc.gov.uk or www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

Acceptable ID will include a passport, photo driving licence and a national concessionary bus pass – including expired documents provided they still look like you. The full list will be available on the back of the poll card.

If you do not have any of the photo ID required then you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate, which will be posted to you.

THE CHARITY BAG

Still collecting knitting for Christian Hope International, Harold Wood, Romford.

Still collecting used stamps and post cards for Bone Cancer Research. ½" of paper around each one please.

This month has been of interest in the press. I watched the BAFTAs this year, which I am normally lukewarm about. However, winning the Best British category was "The Banshees of Inisherin." Apparently, the notable stars were the "knitted Sweater". The intricate stitches have made the incredible film a must see for me! A very active 83 year old lady and knitting a sweater a week should take the credit. Knitting helps keep dementia away and uses 100 grams every day in 10 hours. Apparently she can be seen on "TikTok".

Recycling - Essex County Council

From Monday 13th March you will have to book a slot in advance to visit an Essex County Council Recycling Centre. My heart sank yet again because the spontaneity of life has been channelled into speed up the system. But looking on the bright side, if you are a pedestrian or a Blue Badge holder there is no need to book.

New Stamps

From April 3rd, the price of 1st class stamps will be rising by 15p to £1.10 and 2nd class will be rising by 7p to 75p.

Thank you for all your help and support with wool, needles, knitting and sorting. I couldn't do it without you.

Take care until next time

Christine Stimpson
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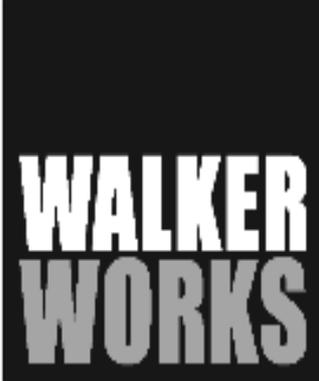


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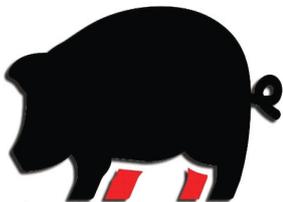


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Zanne Friston

05/05/1943 - 05/02/2023

Following the sad passing of Zanne Friston on the 5th February 2023 we thought you would like to know about Zanne's early years before meeting many of you through Playgroup, Sunday School, children's events, Citizen Advice Bureau etc.

Zanne was born on 5th May 1943 in Bexhill-on-Sea in her grandparent's house. Her French father, Claude, was posted by the army to Egypt so Margaret moved back in with her parents to have her baby. Zanne was christened Margaret Suzanne Couttenier but Claude called her Zanne in his letters home & the name stuck. The first time Zanne met her dad was when she was two & half years old.

Claude worked in the City of London and so the family moved to Middlesex, firstly in Eastcote & then in North Harrow. From an early age Zanne suffered badly with asthma, when she asked her specialist "Why can't I go & live in Switzerland?" as air was cleaner it would help her condition. Dr Franklin wisely said "You will not be playing snow balls, tobogganing or skying, you will be sitting in a sanatorium watching other children playing in the snow & you would hate that." Zanne loved playing in the snow. He also said to her "Go out & live a full life while you're young, but because of your asthma it will be a short one," she did just that & lived to be 79 years.

Zanne was a Girl Guide who liked camping & when she is sitting round the camp fire the DC said "Will the guide stop that silly whistling." The other guides said "That's Zanne wheezing, she's got asthma" Zanne never could whistle. She worked hard to become a Queen's Guide but could not pass one of the tasks because of the asthma, this really bugged her but it did not stop her from becoming a Guide Lieutenant.

Zanne was tomboy & she was more likely to be climbing trees or playing with the boy next door's train set, than playing with dolls so when our first baby was born, I had to show her how to put a towelling nappy on our new baby, I had a big sister & nieces.

Zanne went to Pinner County Grammar School, on achieving science & maths "A levels" she went straight to Johnson Matthey Research Laboratories, Wembley & qualified as a metallurgist working on research into dental alloys. We were married aged 21 & moved to Essex. Whilst staying in a small caravan in Brightlingsea, Zanne purchased

a bungalow in Elm Close. We both got a tummy bug & as the local Doctor came to the door, she gave me 2 tablets for the tummy bug & said "You're expecting a baby so come & see me in a couple days for a check-up" Zanne thought silly old witch, but the Dr was right. In 1965 Zanne starting working at Essex University, equipping the laboratories in the new buildings before they opened to students.

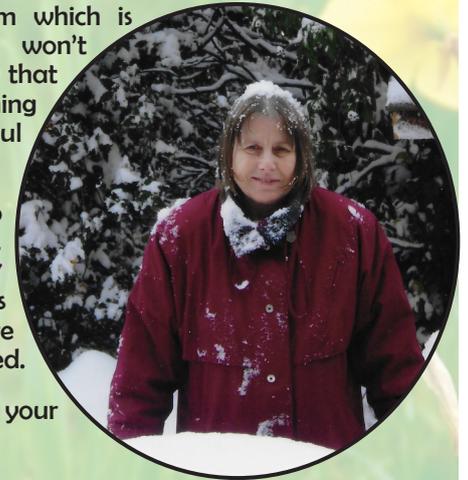
Zanne was 23 when our daughter was born & one day Zanne, dressed in jeans & "T shirt," went to the door & meets the vicar "Mac..." The vicar asks, "Is your mother in?" "No" says Zanne, "Is your father in?" "No" she replies, "Why aren't you at school?" Zanne says "I'm at home with my baby", The vicar says "Oh! Oh! Oh!" & Scuttles off. When Zanne went to Alresford station with her baby in the pram she was asked "Does Missy want a half fare." After it happened several times, Zanne gave in & said "Yes."

When expecting our second child, her Dr wangled her a place in the Military Hospital, mothers remained in hospital for two weeks. The nurse signing her in had to complete the form about Zanne's condition, was it bullet wounds, shrapnel, bomb blasts etc. etc., that was all crossed out, & "pregnant civilian" written across the form. The nurse then asked "Is your husband in the Durham Light Infantry or the Green Howards" Zanne says "Neither he's a civilian" the nurse said "Good, that means we can put you in any ward, currently war has broken out between the two regiments so we have to keep them apart." When I came to visit Zanne & our new baby I wondered where the cot at the end of the bed had gone. I asked Zanne "Where's Mandy is she alright?" Zanne says "She's fine but when she cries, she wakes up all the other babies & they all start crying, so they put her in the birthing room which is sound proofed." It won't surprise you to know that the same thing happened with Paul too.

I've got so much to be thankful for, Zanne & I enjoyed 57 wonderful years together, far more than we ever expected.

Thank-you all for your kind words & cards,

Allan.

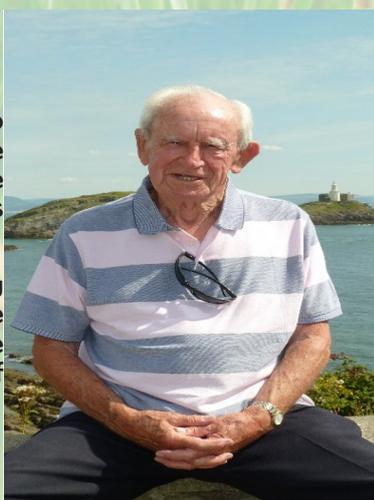


Bryan Morris

The family of Bryan wish to say thank you, for all the very kind messages we have received following his death on his 94th birthday.

Bry enjoyed his morning walk around the village and talking to people; he also had a great love of Cockayne's Wood.

Many friendships made.



Thorrington Bluebell Woods Open Weekend

29th - 30th April 2023

Enjoy a walk and see the bluebells with a fun trail included for children at Hall Farm, Clacton Road, CO7 8AH.

Open between 11am - 4pm with the last entrance at 3pm, dogs on leads please.

Only open once a year with a small admission fee.
The church will be open with refreshments available.