

THE ALRESFORD ADVERTISER AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

Established 1970

THANK YOU!

Alresford Village Hall Management Committee Chair Russell Milburn presents a gift of an Afternoon Tea for Two to retiring Treasurer Pat Burmby at the recent meeting of the Trustees.

Pat was Treasurer and Booking Clerk for 17 years and in this time the hall has gone through two major extensions and a complete interior refurbishment which resulted in a substantial increase in bookings and banking. All this was done without the aid of online banking and for many years email. Pat would take all bookings on her home telephone and physically deliver invoices either by hand or by post. Pat is an example of what can be achieved by volunteers who give time to our community with the only reward being that people come together. Pat is staying on as a Trustee, even now she finds it impossible just to walk away!

Of course, Pat could only do this with support, and this was given unconditionally by Maurice. So once again,

THANK YOU PAT AND MAURICE.



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 22nd August from 11am - 1pm.
(to be held in the church if it rains)



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

BINGO NIGHT

Alresford Village Hall

Saturday 7th October 2023

Doors Open 7pm

£3.00 per book or 3 books for £8.00
Available at the door

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



THE ALRESFORD FETE ORGANISING GROUP (AFOG)

GRANT FUNDING

Applications are invited from village organisations for small scale grants to develop the life of our village community in some way, not just to cover running costs but to do something new.

Applications should be made to either AlresfordFOG@gmail.com or 19 Furze Crescent, CO7 8BN

Deadline for application: 16th September 2023

CONGRATULATIONS

Long Serving Parish
and District
Councillor Gary Scott
on becoming
Chairman of Tendring
District Council.



Over 1250 copies delivered to every household & business in Alresford

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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
In the ancient world - Might was right.

A historian has recently described the ancient Roman Empire as a Carnivore, like a T Rex of the dinosaur kingdom. Strangely though - for all the might, it was not a terrible foe that destroyed the empire but a wandering Galilee preacher. The very person that had been crucified by this all conquering empire inspired his followers that after a couple of centuries of persecution witnessed the Roman Empire convert to Christianity.

Interestingly, for all the power plays of the Roman Empire, I would argue that it was some of the more subtle qualities of Jesus that won people over. Aside from some of the greatest teaching that have come from the lips of a human being, leaving out the miraculous claims there was a core quality to Jesus - he was gentle and humble.

Jesus kept sight of the lowliest in society and was affected by the suffering he saw - yes he would challenge the powerful strongly but overall there was a loving gentleness and despite his brilliance a lowly spirit. At the critical moment where he was to show his disciples how to lead - he would pick up a towel and a bowl of water and wash his disciples feet - the job of a lowly servant! The might of the Roman Empire meant that Jesus was crucified for blasphemy. His claim to be the son of God signing his death warrant.

All this would be a side note in history if it wasn't for the scandalous Christian claim that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Day. In Jesus life we have someone who appears to lose everything before gaining everything. In his early followers they lose everything to gain eternity.

Perhaps in the eyes of the brash, to be gentle and lowly are the hallmarks of a "loser" but history tells us otherwise - even the might of Rome bowed the knee to the life of the wandering Galilee preacher.

Amidst the challenges of life - what do we need to lose to gain? How can we be "gentle and lowly" - it may feel like we are losing but history actually tells a different story.

Every blessing this summer.

Rev Andrew Fordyce MBE

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: Lyn Bull - 01206 827146
Email: stachurchwardens@tenpennyvillages.uk

Bookings for the Hub: Meg Burdus - 01206 820618

ALRESFORD HISTORY GROUP

Please come along on:

SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER
From 2 - 5 pm
In THE HUB, St Andrew's Church

If you would like further information, please email
local-history@tenpennyvillages.uk or
telephone **Rob on 01206 826770**

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St Andrew's - not just for Sundays

Friendship Circle 10:30 to 12:00

1st and 3rd Monday

Although we are a bereavement group, we welcome anyone who is lonely and is seeking company for a chat, coffee and cake.

Memories 14:30 to 16:00

1st Monday

Do you or anyone you know have memory problems? If so, you are very welcome to join us for a time of reminiscing and refreshment.

Tuesday Tots 10:30 to 12:00

Weekly term-time

Somewhere to bring your little ones to play and somewhere to meet other parents and carers.

Knit and Natter 14:00 to 15:30

Tuesday Fortnightly

Bring your latest craft project or just come along and natter over tea and cake.

Start-up Café 10:30 to 12:00

2nd and 4th Wednesday

The Church transforms into a café to meet old and new friends over tea, coffee and cake, borrow a book or jigsaw and take part in a quiz!

Relax and Renew 13:45 to 15:00

3rd Thursday

Learn relaxation techniques and enjoy some refreshments

Ministry for Men 19:30 to 21:30

4th Thursday.

Meet at St Andrew's, Elmstead Green or Thorrington for a lift to the venue. Put the world to rights over a drink and support our local pubs and other venues

Tenpenny Villages Benefice of Alresford, Elmstead, Frating with Thorrington.

More details on our website www.tenpennyvillages.uk

ROSE RINGED PARAKEET SPOTTED IN ALRESFORD

On the early evening of 20th/21st June we spotted a Rose Ringed Parakeet in our garden. It was bright green in colour and looked very much like a tropical bird. It was only in our garden for about a minute landing then taking off again but we wondered if anyone else had spotted one?



I know they are quite prevalent around the London area but looks like they may now be venturing further east.

Sally and Andrew Shepherd

Photo - stock image Pixabay

HEARING LOSS

Do You Live in a hearing loss world?

I do, I am now clinically diagnosed as profoundly deaf. As a retired Senior Nurse, I had never appreciated just how isolating and embarrassing hearing loss can be on one's life. I can no longer hear the telephone, doorbell, fire alarm or the sound from the TV. More importantly I cannot hear conversations, so my social life is disappearing. My hearing aids help but I also need other equipment/help.

Statistics state 12 million adults in the UK, that's 1:5 have hearing loss and 50,000 children. 70% are over 65, sadly many 'tolerate' it.

There is help available and often at no cost. A GP request for a referral to an audiologist is a telephone call away. There is no age limit. NHS hearing aids have come a long way since the ear trumpet, I am pleased to say, and are free as are the batteries. Audiology appointments for adults are no longer at the hospital, companies such as Specsavers/Scrivens are now contracted to the NHS for this service.

The fire brigade offers a service to those who have hearing problems, fitting fire alarms and an alarm which will wake you should an alarm go off at night. Essex County Council have a team of support workers (ECL Sensory Team 03330133262). The team can provide equipment which makes life easier at home, such as knowing when the doorbell rings or the telephone. There is no charge for this service, it is funded from Essex County Council.

Did you know that a disability railcard can be purchased (£20 per year), which allows you discount on your rail ticket, plus discount for 1 person travelling with you (escort). This helps when an announcement is made at stations or on board the train.

Do seek help, it is there for the asking and can improve the quality of your life and those around you.

Jill



MOVIE NIGHTS

Will be returning to Alresford Village Hall

On the Saturday evenings of
14th October, 11th November
and 9th December

Film titles to be confirmed - information will be emailed to all user groups and posted on notice boards

Alresford Village Management Committee

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

17th August 2023, 7th September & 28th September 2023



THE CHARITY BAG

Stamps for Bone Cancer Research - 'Until there is a cure'

4.5 kg of stamps and albums have been delivered safely, and the recipients were delighted to be able to benefit from someone else's lifetime of collecting – **thank you!** **But we always need more.** Spread the word and tell friends and family to share our appeal. Every stamp, Horizon labels, collections and 1st day covers will help to raise vital funds for the Bone Cancer Research Trust. Please deliver to Friends of BCRT-Stamp Appeal and More at 2 Coach Road, Alresford, Essex CO7 8EA or email charitystampappeal@gmail.com for more details.

We are also in need of more collection points – Can you help us please?

Knitting

Firstly, let me thank all who knit, help pack, and sort donated wool. I could not do this without assistance. We are so lucky to be able to deliver our knits to Romford because I understand this is the only charity taking knitting in the UK and forwarding it to Europe via the returning flower lorries for Christian Hope International.

Information from Eastern Europe lets us know that providing a blanket improves sleep and can allow a child to perform better in school or lessen the pain for the elderly. Be assured that the giving of time, skills and energy can raise that hopes of those in need.

If you wish to donate wool, needles or patterns, or would like to get involved with knitting, you can contact me at the address below. We can provide needles, wool, and patterns.

Take care until next time,

Christine Stimpson
2 Coach Road,
Alresford (Opposite the Doctor's surgery)



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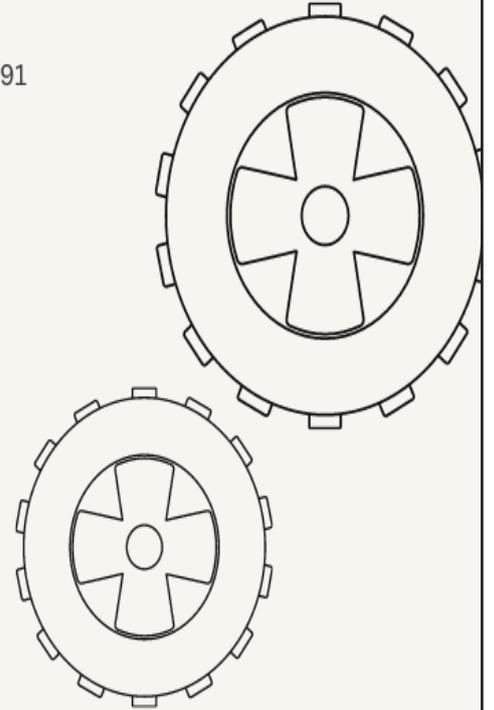
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ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report

Overview:

Well, quite an eventful summer weather-wise this year, with the hottest June on record. The well attended Picnic in the Park village event was just a perfect day with a cooling breeze taking the edge off the very high temperatures.

The Council has been busy trying to keep up with all the demands of a rapidly expanding village, we have met with Tendring District Council officers, Councillors and Taylor Wimpey management to discuss the final stage of the hand over of the public open spaces on the Cockaynes North site. Hopefully (and at last) we can soon have responsibility for the grass cutting and grounds maintenance. There are still some ongoing planning issues with the south site and so that area will inevitably lag behind the north site in the handover process.

It has been really encouraging to receive messages of appreciation for some of the recent works at the playing field and around the village as we strive to continue various improvement projects.

Planning:

There are immense frustrations felt by Parish Councillors when it comes to some planning issues. We all try to do what is best for the village when we are consulted about planning applications but at times interpretation of planning policy by Tendring Council officers overrides our views. A meeting was held between Alresford Parish Council representatives and the Director of Planning at Tendring as we felt that agreed principles and policy in the Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan were being circumvented as many decisions were being made by lone planning officers on important issues and those decisions were not in line with our understanding of agreed policies. The meeting went well and assurances were given that the hard won policies would be referred to when officers and planning committees decide planning applications in future.

VAS Wivenhoe Road:

We have taken delivery of the Vehicle Activated Sign unit destined for the corner of Crestlands and Wivenhoe Road – this unit will warn drivers to slow down if they exceed the speed limit. Fitting may take a little while as there are a number of underground cables to locate before the supporting post can be put in place but we trust the unit will be functioning by the autumn/winter. Some drivers just do not realise the dangers of excess speed in residential areas and they need reminders and at times enforcement. On a recent traffic police visit to Alresford three vehicles were noted travelling between 40 and 50 mph along Wivenhoe Road at the school pick-up times.

The Environment and Public Realm:

The playing field grass is now receiving the benefit of being watered from the new borehole arrangement that is in place. Borehole water is stored in tanks and then used in the dry conditions. Over the years this will mean greatly reduced water bills and it is a much more sustainable way of irrigating the grass.

Temporary toilets on the playing field will be in place over the school summer holidays and the plan is to have a permanent toilet block when funding is secured. For the pavilion building itself solar panels are now being considered.

Tree planting around the village has been somewhat delayed due to the new licensing arrangements operated by Essex Highways. The application process to plant highways trees now requires a visit from the county arboriculturist for each tree, plus detailed planting and maintenance plans.

Highways/Parking issues:

Complaints about inconsiderate driving in Cockaynes Lane have increased and the B1027 speed limit issue through the village remains unresolved. Essex Highways are reluctant to act in either case but the Council is keeping up it's campaign to improve road safety.

Parking issues in Station Road, Cox Road and Ford Lane are often brought to the attention of the Parish Council – some of the issues are avoidable if drivers park with due consideration. Parking across a dropped kerb can elicit a £90 fine.

Uneven road surfaces and potholes in Wivenhoe Road and faded white lines have been matters raised with Essex Highways and action is finally being taken by them to address the problems. Surprisingly though some white lining has been carried out before carriageway repairs have been undertaken!

Four Year Plan:

Council planning for the four year period of office is underway and projects will be discussed in the coming months.

In conclusion:

Many thanks to all the village volunteers who do so much. A special mention to those that are helping with litter-picking, wonderful to see parents with young children out and about clearing up the village and the surrounding area. A shame that so many people drop litter in the first place of course. Those that organised the Picnic in the Park must also receive due recognition, it requires a great deal of planning nowadays to organise community events due to safety rules and securing bookings - so well done to the Fete Organising Group. And finally.....well done to fellow Councillors and Staff of Alresford Parish Council for all you do to play your part in supporting the community.

Frank Belgrove
Chairman Alresford Parish Council



ALRESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

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/>

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.alresfordpcessex.uk/

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

Twitter: @alresfordessex

Chairman: Cllr Frank Belgrove - 01206 823739

Vice-Chairman: Cllr Ernie Osborne

Cllr Linda Belgrove
Cllr Simon Clark
Cllr John Housden
Cllr Gary Scott
Cllr Ann Wiggins
Cllr Vincent Dalzell
Cllr Bina Swash
Cllr Alistair Broom
Cllr Julia Claremont-Brown

District Council Tendring

District Councillor Ann Wiggins - 01206 825153

Email: cllr.awiggins@tendringdc.gov.uk

District Councillor Gary Scott - 01206 820769

Email: cllr.gscott@tendringdc.gov.uk

County Council Essex

County Councillor Alan Goggin - 01206 308023

Email: egog@btinternet.com

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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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

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



SIMPLY SINGING

The start of the 2023/24 season which will be on **Friday 29th September** followed by the following dates for the remainder of 2023 –

6th & 20th October
3rd & 17th November
1st December



The Simply Singing group isn't a choir, but a group of people who enjoy a get together for an afternoon of sing-a-longs to their favourite artistes.

Sessions run from 2pm to 4pm and cost £2 refreshments included.

For more details, please contact Jeanette on 01206 825008 or Chris on 07484 334698

ALRESFORD GARDENING CLUB

For June's meeting we welcomed Doctor Chris Gibson to give his talk on "Gardening for Wildlife". Chris highlighted the types of plants that were important to support all forms of garden wildlife be it as a food source or simply as shelter. Special consideration was given to those plants that can adapt to the ever increasing hot and dry conditions, and interestingly the need to be less fussy about tidying the garden, by leaving areas that provided the best conditions for wildlife to flourish. Chris also explained the work he does in conjunction with Beth Chatto Gardens. We look forward to welcoming Chris back to the club in October when he will be giving a talk on Essex Wildflowers.

Our speaker for the July meeting was Ed Fairey who gave both an informative and humorous talk on the National Garden Scheme from its beginnings in the early 1900's to date. I for one had little idea of how the NGS was formed and how in 1927 some 349 gardens opened to the public. This was to raise funds for the Queens Nursing Institute (QNI), which supports community nursing. Whist the QNI is still a major beneficiary of the NGS, it now also supports a large number of charities such as Macmillan Nursing and various hospices. The talk included details of how Ed and his wife had transformed their present gardens at Mayfield Farm, Arleigh into a 12 acres of extensive and varied planting. Over recent years Ed's garden has welcomed

hundreds of visitors, the monies raised from paid entry, supporting the NGS scheme. A number of club members will be visiting Ed's garden on August 7th .

Programme: August to November

August 7: Members afternoon visit to National Garden Scheme, Mayfield Farm, Arleigh. The cost is £10.00 per person which includes refreshments. More details will be given, and names taken at the June meeting.

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

Meetings are held in Alresford Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm. New members and visitors always welcome. Member subscription is £5 with a £2 per meeting attended fee. Visitors fee is £5 per meeting attended.

For more details about the club please contact Chris on 07484 334698

ALRESFORD CAMERA CLUB

www.alresfordcameraclub.org.uk

The 2023/2024 season gets underway on Thursday 5th October at 7.30pm with our customary "Welcome Back" evening. During this meeting, amongst other things, the programme for the complete season will be introduced. If you have an interest in photography then please come along and meet us and see what's planned

In the meantime, if you requires details regarding the Camera Club please contact the Chairman, John on 01206 250846

1st ALRESFORD & 1st ELMSTEAD MARKET SCOUT GROUP

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 ANGLING ASSOCIATION



Patron: Sir Bernard Jenkins MP

We are now into the 2023/2024 season and will take this opportunity to thank all returning members for their support and welcome all new members to our club. We are still open for new membership but will close the books once our target is reached. Any potential new members please contact Jim Martin on 077896 882064

We are already into the new seasons matches and the Wass's Memorial match will be due to be fished on the Grinsted Orchard Complex at the start of July. The proceeds of this match will go towards St.Helena's Hospice with anglers from other clubs taking part in this event and raffle .

The purchase of the Grinsted Orchard complex is now in its final stages. This is a massive achievement for us and could not have been achieved without the fantastic support of our members.

We are entering that time of year when certain members of society think that they have an unalienable right to trespass, swim or fish on our waters. Membership is all, as without that you are not covered by any insurance. The attraction of water on a hot day can be magnetic, but underwater hazards and cold-water levels (thermoclines) can result in tragedy. Every year there are tragic events caused by unsupervised swimming. The other aspect to

trespass is the potential loss to wildlife and their habitat. The breaking down of hedges and fires again can have a devastating effect for all nesting birds, small mammals and reptiles in ground cover. We will continue to liaise with the Police in an attempt to prevent injury, loss and damage to property.

Wildlife continues to be a bonus on all our lakes. Once again, we have a Hobby visiting. This is a small bird of prey that feeds on Dragonflies and as is to be expected is extremely agile in flight. Birds of prey seem to feature more and more as time goes by, with regular sightings of Red Kites and Buzzards. Whether we will have a visit from an Osprey passing through, as in other years, remains to be seen.

Angling has become recognised as a major component to the improvement of mental and physical health. The choice to be in quiet solitude or with companions is a great stress reliever and the catching of fish can take a secondary purpose.

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

Tight Lines.
Mike Day (Hon. Secretary)



ALRESFORD COLNE RANGERS F.C.

What a great month Alresford Colne Rangers enjoyed in June; two great events, the Alan Green day - a special word of thanks to Ross Byford for all his hard work getting former players back to showcase their skills in memory of Alan Green. A donation was made to the Charity and it was also a pleasure to see Alan's two daughters. Then a regroup to help the Picnic in the Park committee to set up the field and what a day, great weather, lots of people on the playing field enjoying what was on offer with two live bands and an unbelievable atmosphere.

So time to move on.... Alresford Colne Rangers will go into season 2023-2024 with a new management team in charge of the first team, Liam Ellis and Mark Pilgram. A vote of thanks to outgoing manager Dave Dance who worked very hard to keep the team performing. All of our other managers are staying on.

The big job the club have been working on is coming to an end with the bore hole now in use, a great job for the club and the future of the playing field.

Club membership is due on the 1st August 2023, this can be paid at the Bar. We at the club would like to welcome all members, you are all a big part of our club.

The Pavilion and Bar can be used for meetings or parties; with the patio doors open, it is a wonderful setting.

Details of cost and sessions can be found on the Village Hall website at <https://e-voice.org.uk/alresfordvillagehall/contract-booking-form/>.

There is new play equipment in the playground area, a terrific job by Alresford Parish Council to improve this area.

Brian Martin
ACRFC

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

LUNCHEON CLUBS

TUESDAYS at ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL:
12.30 - 2.30pm

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ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL REGULAR GROUPS

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- 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)

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ALRESFORD BIKERS

Many of us are racking up the miles while the sun is out (and sometimes when it's not!). We've visited many of our usual haunts this year already, and discovered a couple of nice new places to visit on sunny Sundays too. Enjoying the summer, before the weather closes in again, we're heading off to places we like and riding great roads (carefully on our tarmac moonscape), and meeting with like-minded riders all over the county, and beyond. We recently had the great pleasure



of a tour of the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance facility at Earls Colne, which I had booked nearly three years ago, thanks to Covid, making a small donation to help keep them airborne. It has become one of our de facto charities that we support, and take part in the legendary Air Ambulance Run in September too. Those guys and gals need all the cash they can get - the price of jet fuel has gone up even more than our petrol.

There has been the normal Spring frenzy of MOT tests and maintenance before taking trips, the usual round of servicing as the mileage climbs in the good weather. We've had a couple of very enjoyable mid-week rides out too, as well as a few of us going on longer trips away. We're heading off to a classic race meeting at Mallory Park soon, which will have passed by the time you read

this so watch the next issue! So, the mileage is rising steadily over the summer, and because of that some of us are beginning to notice the rising costs of consumables as inflation hits us like everyone else. Tyres, brake pads, petrol and oil, and the cost of servicing have all gone up like everything else. A pair of tyres recently cost me half what I paid for my first brand new bike! Mind you, that was far too many years ago! So I've done a lot more DIY servicing than I have had time for in the past, and even my bike lift has been out twice this year already. There is something quite weird about picking up a quarter tonne bike and seeing it a hovering metre in the air! Scrabbling around on the ground trying to reach sump drains and exhaust bolts is getting more difficult as I get older, and I know I'm not the only one! It's quite fun doing your own maintenance, and having had a Dad who taught me from about 4 years old all helps even now. Several of us do much of our own servicing and maintenance these days, and always have, but to be honest, the amount of stuff we

can't do any more is growing. I haven't set a pair of points for at least 40 years already, though that is a relief. Where I might once have used things like colour charts on spark plugs, sniffed oil or let it settle out to find contaminants (usually condensation), or run it through a strainer (Chamois leather is best) to see any metallic particles, or fitted a magnetic sump bolt to catch swarf, or used a stethoscope or listening stick (ask your grandad) to diagnose rumbling bearings, slapping pistons, or worn valves, now I have to get a proper certified engineer to plug Bismarck into a laptop and run a series of checks. But it can check my entire machine's system and reveal any faults much faster than I can. It can pick up a worn spark plug, or clogging air filter, without me even looking. And the results are not written down anymore; they're beamed back to the manufacturer. I recently had a fuel injection system rebalanced entirely without the touch of human hand after plugging in, which was spooky to watch and listen to! Even finding no faults costs money! But, on a nice day, when the sun is out so hot I have my mesh suit on, and can ride round empty roads on a Sunday morning as in the picture, it all becomes worth it.



So if you want experienced hands to help you maintain your machine, or tell you where to get things you need, or advise you if your bike needs help, we're here. We've busted or worn out most things. We've all had a puncture at the worst possible time, and fixed it. We've had failures of light bulbs, fuses, even brake cables, and replaced them. We've all helped some poor wretch at the side of the road with rained out ignition, or run out of petrol, or a flat tyre in the customary monsoon. We've had kit failures, little get-offs, and weathered the appalling standards of road maintenance and other road user's unbelievable stupidity sometimes too. I have even had a bee fly in my helmet once, which was "interesting". And a Pheasant once came through my windscreen too. That bird even had the cheek to unbolt a mirror, and hit my kill switch as it destroyed well over a hundred pounds worth of plastic screen too! All these "war stories" and more are right here, in our HQ, The Pointer Inn, on the second Tuesday of every month, at 8pm, where Neil and Sam always make us welcome. So if you like bikes, or want to learn more, or just have a bikey chat, come and meet us, we're quite friendly and you'll be made most welcome!

Al Gillard

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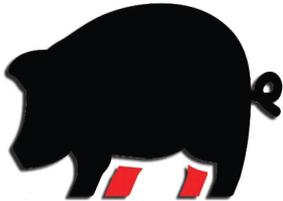


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Photo taken from the stage looking back towards the main entrance

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

The Village Hall will close for 5 days from August 24th until August 28th inclusive. This is to allow maintenance work to be conducted including cleaning the carpet

area, a polish of the floor and the overhead fan to be replaced with more effective LED lighting.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Two manual switches are now operational in the hall to allow the 4 in 1 air units to be used by hall users. Most groups have been instructed and all private hirers are given advice to their use as part of the key handover at the start of a hire.

Work will also commence on sound proofing the Munson Room with the installation of internal doors. This will be completed during the August shut down week.

Four new foldable tables have been purchased that should be easier to unfold and fold for users. If successful, then the Trustees will investigate replacing all the current tables.

Progress is being made into getting the new Treasurer Fiona registered as a signatory on the bank accounts and access to the online banking.

Please see Advertiser for Dates of the Simply Singing and Film Nights. The resuming of Film Nights will require the hall to have a valid license. This is similar to the PRS/PPL License required for the playing of music in public buildings.

Hire continues to be extremely healthy with a diversity from dog training through to a Theatre School during the summer break being very welcome. As we go into the Autumn/Winter season bookings are now coming in amazingly fast and again this is encouraging as the remit of the village hall is to be used by our community.

Russell Milburn (Chair)

ALRESFORD FETE ORGANISING GROUP (AFOG)

The Alresford Fete Organising Group (AFOG) were proud to bring a summer picnic event to the village on Saturday 10th June 2023.

Funding was kindly provided by the Alresford Parish Council, Alresford Colne Rangers Football Club, Wyvernwood, John at Bellets Ltd., Alresford Village Stores, Direct Animal Feeds, Mark Brumpton Tree Services, Alresford Post Office, Consciously Clothed, Utility Warehouse, Carousels (from Mr Little), Whip it Like Webber Ice Creams, Jumbletime Facepainting as well as an anonymous donation from a local business.

We would like to thank you, the good people of this village, who came together as a community with picnics, blankets and chairs and made this an enjoyable day and fantastic success. The day was enjoyed by an estimated 1,000 people, in glorious sunshine. We raised over £1,400 (after expenses) on the day, all which will go towards the annual Christmas Tea for the over 75s and local village groups via a grant scheme.

Attractions included:

- WyvernWood brought along Gurt, Lord of the Goblins, to welcome everyone as they arrived;

- Live music from 'Silence the Sirens', which saw many people from the crowd dancing and singing along;
- A fire engine and crew from Wivenhoe Fire Station, who provided much enjoyment throughout the day with viewing the fire engine and the crew spraying water;
- Carousels were provided by Mr Little and many young attendees thoroughly enjoyed this;
- The always popular 'Welly-Wanging', which was hosted by Councillor Ernie Osborne;
- Jumbletime Facepainting which was enjoyed by both children and adults; and
- Simply Dance who put on a wonderful performance, showcasing their talents.

The Alresford Primary PTA also supported the event by running the BBQ and the coconut shy, this helped to raise over £1,000, some of which will help to go towards the much-needed renovation of the swimming pool.

The stalls were hosted by local groups and clubs, including St Andrews Church, the W.I., Carpet Bowls, Parkinson's Disease Fund Raiser, Autumn Centre, Consciously Clothed and Utility Warehouse. These groups also raised over £500 towards their respective groups. Volunteers from AFOG also hosted stalls, tombola, and a raffle.

Leader of the Parish Council, Frank Belgrove, officially opened the event and Chairman of Tendring District Council and Parish Councillor Gary Scott handed out the prizes from the raffle. The raffle included: three cash prizes, hampers, buffet servers, vouchers from local businesses (Sage Hairdressing, Old Town, Khusbu and Alresford Fish Bar) and wine. Other prizes were kindly donated by members of the local community, which were used as part of the Tombola. Mr Rippo, one of the cash prize winners from the Raffle, kindly donated part of his prize back to AFOG.

Although many of the attractions took place outside, there was plenty to do inside the Village Hall, too. The air-conditioned hall provided relief on the hot summer day, and members of the local community donated cakes to sell alongside the tea, coffee and other refreshments which were available. The hall also hosted displays from the Calligraphy Club, Local History, and video footage from past events. We would like to thank Rob Butcher and Sam King for sourcing and showing the footage. Sam also took photographs of the day, some of which are shown on this page.

We are grateful to our friends at the Alresford Colne Rangers Football Club for their support with the preparations on the day as well as running the Pavilion Bar and having the Walking Football Team play a live match for all to enjoy. They also hosted an after party from 6pm with live music from 'Borrowed Beats' and this was great way for the festivities to continue.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the hardworking volunteers who work tirelessly to bring these events to the community. Like many of our local village groups and organisations, we are entirely volunteer-led and, we cannot continue without support from the local community. We would love to have more people get involved – and don't worry, we won't take up too much of your time. Just come along to one of our monthly meetings to see how you can contribute or share your ideas. All are welcome. Our next meeting will be held in the Pavilion on Thursday the 21st of September 2023 at 7:30pm. Alternatively, you can email AlresfordFOG@gmail.com, scan the QR code on the bottom of this page, or call 07535 707 002.

Courtney Muller, AFOG Chair



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Special thanks should go to **Courtney and Russell** for the hard work they put in behind the scenes which started way back in January and on the day.
THANK YOU TO YOU BOTH



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**The editorial and advertising deadline for the next edition will be:
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