

# DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024

THE ALRESFORD FETE

WISH UPON A FAIRY 2023 CHRISTMAS FAYRE

## Festive Fairyland

12-4pm | 3rd December 2023  
Alresford Village Hall, Ford Lane, Alresford, Colchester, CO7 8AT  
Entry £1 for Adults, Free for Children

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Visit Santa's Grotto  | Small Business Stalls |
| Children's Activities | Presents              |
| Raffle                | Tombola               |
| Live Music            | Sweet Treats          |

Visit our website to find out how to book your Grotto slot:  
[www.trybooking.co.uk/CROL](http://www.trybooking.co.uk/CROL)

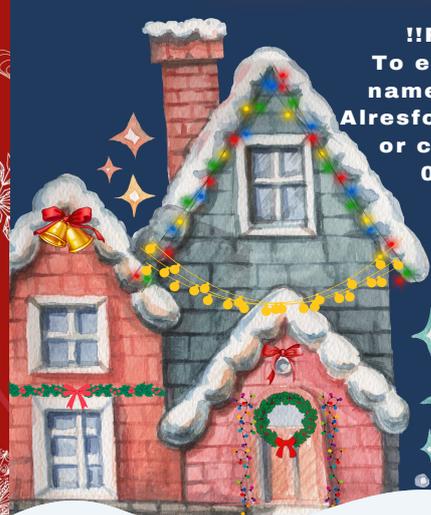
All funds are raised for Colchester Neonatal unit  
[www.wishuponafairycolchester.co.uk](http://www.wishuponafairycolchester.co.uk)  
Registered Charity Number: 1201885



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE ALRESFORD FETE ORGANISING GROUP

## BEST DRESSED HOUSE COMPETITION

**!!FREE ENTRY!!**  
To enter, email your name and address to [AlresfordFOG@gmail.com](mailto:AlresfordFOG@gmail.com) or call Courtney on 07535707002



**PRIZES TO BE WON**

**JUDGING TAKES PLACE ON THE EVENINGS OF THE 3RD AND 10TH OF DECEMBER**

## Movie Night

At Alresford Village Hall  
Saturday 9th December  
An evening of Music and Comedy  
Comedy sketches from the past mixed with music and songs  
Doors open 7pm - Starts at 7.30pm

This is a no cost - non ticket event but donations will be very welcome to cover expenses  
Alresford VH Management Committee



### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By Charles Dickens  
Recited by Anthony Roberts  
With Piano by Jamie Cunliffe  
SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER 3PM  
3pm - 4.45pm



**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH**  
St Andrew's Close, Alresford CO7 8BL

with mulled wine and mince pies

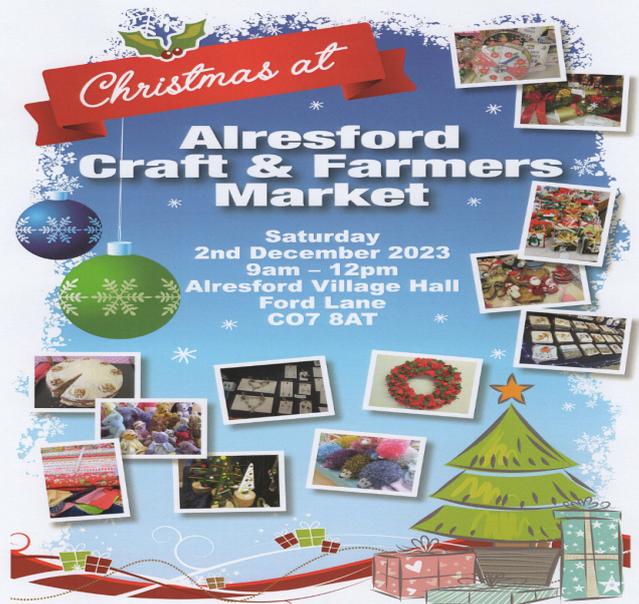
Tickets £5 per adult, children free

Available from Rob Butcher or Becky King at St Andrew's Church and the Christmas Farmer's Market or via [Local-history@tenpennyvillages.uk](mailto:Local-history@tenpennyvillages.uk)

All Profits to Alresford School Swimming pool appeal

### Christmas at Alresford Craft & Farmers Market

Saturday 2nd December 2023  
9am - 12pm  
Alresford Village Hall  
Ford Lane  
CO7 8AT



Refreshments available ★ Free Admission ★ Car Park  
Disabled Facilities

Please see back page for more events coming up

# 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 GARDENING CLUB

Our 2023 season concluded with a talk by Dr. Chris Gibson entitled What, Where and Why of Essex Wildflowers.

A very interesting talk that looked at various areas of Essex and what wildflowers could be found there. These areas ranged from those of heathland around Tiptree, past industrial now brown field sites on Canvey Island, and our estuaries and wetlands.

A surprise to many members was the fact that Essex had the largest population of ancient woodland in the country, even our own Cockaynes Wood receiving several mentions regarding the types of wild flowers it supports. St Peter's church and its graveyard was another area highlighted due to the variety and rarity of some of its wild flora.

For more details about the club please contact myself on 07484334698

Chris Sanderson

## ALRESFORD LUNCH CLUB DO YOU HAVE A SPARE HOUR?

The Alresford Lunch Club has had a very good year with several new members joining us for our lovely home cooked meals, but, of course, this does mean an increased workload for our volunteers.

**Would you consider helping us for just an hour or more on a Tuesday as a volunteer? We need help with the following:**

1. Putting out the tables and chairs and stacking them away afterwards.
2. General duties including helping with the serving of teas and coffees, and dinners; clearing of tables, washing up and general kitchen help; sharing in taking home the tea towels and table cloths for washing. .

We work as a happy team and 'muck-in' as needed. Any offers of help would be much appreciated.

For further information please contact Wendy Bates on **07582 603816**. Thank you, in anticipation of any replies.

## ALRESFORD CAMERA CLUB

**Are you interested in photography?**

We meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month starting on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 through to May 18<sup>th</sup> 2024, 7.15pm for 7.30 - 10.00pm (Refreshment break 08.30 - 9.00pm)

Please visit our website at [www.alresfordcameraclub.org](http://www.alresfordcameraclub.org) for full details of the new season's programme, alternatively please phone 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 - £7.00

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)

## SIMPLY SINGING

Thank you to all those who have and continue to support the singing afternoons, but there is always room for more people to join in. Don't think it's not for you because you believe you cannot sing, none of the men in the group consider themselves to be Frank Sinatra or our ladies, Adele. What they do enjoy is the opportunity to have a sing-a-long and to meet friends and have a great afternoon.

Our members are encouraged to write down their favourite songs and artistes and for mine and Jeanette's part, we make every effort to find the song lyrics and music for these songs so as a group we can give them a try.

It has been proven that singing is possibly one of the best ways of offsetting the nasties of advancing years so could the singing group help you?

Please come along and give it a try - we normally meet twice monthly on Friday afternoons between 2 and 4pm, cost is just £2 per afternoon which includes refreshments.



**Dates for the first quarter of 2024 are -**

**January 19th**

**February 2nd & 16th**

**March 1st & 15th**

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

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

## 1<sup>st</sup> Alresford & Elmstead Market Scout Group



### All you need to get in contact with us

Sections, age groups, meeting places & contact details.

#### Beavers

Boys & girls aged 6 - 8 years

Meet on a Tuesday evening, 6.30pm - 7.30pm at Alresford Village Hall

[alresfordbeavers@outlook.com](mailto:alresfordbeavers@outlook.com)

#### Cubs

Boys & girls aged 8 - 10 years

Meet on a Wednesday evening, 6.15pm - 7.45pm at Elmstead Community Centre

[karl@elmsteadscouts.org](mailto:karl@elmsteadscouts.org)

#### Scouts

Boys & girls aged 10 - 14 years

Meet on a Wednesday evening 7.45pm - 9.15pm at Elmstead Community Centre

[chloe@elmsteadscouts.org](mailto:chloe@elmsteadscouts.org)

## 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 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

## THE CHARITY BAG

### Bone Cancer Research

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

9kg of stamps and albums continue to be delivered to us. Thank you so much for the effort and consideration. Please think of Bone Cancer Research as you open your posted Christmas cards and house clearance this year.

### Knitting

At WI in November, we should have a speaker from **Belief in Action**. He will be travelling to Europe with gifts to make up 'shoe box appeals'. Hopefully he will be able to take our knitted items as well.

The staff and trustees from Christian Hope International (CHI) in Romford visited the Southern Wool Show at Newbry. They were guided from car park to venue by knitted arrows which will eventually be made into blankets.

Wool and needles available with delivery as requested.

May I wish you Happy Crafting, Happy Christmas and thank you for all your donations. Please attach details for acknowledgement

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



# ALRESFORD ANGLING ASSOCIATION



Patron: Sir Bernard Jenkins MP

Anybody who has been in the Ark building business will have had a busy few months, with October and November certainly having some real heavy downpours. The plus side has been the level in Alresford lake rising by a good 6". For our younger members, multiply it by 25.4 to give the figure in mm, but 152.4mm doesn't have the same ring. The weather up until the time of writing this has been very mild, resulting in Hedgehogs still on the hunt for food when they should be snuggled up for the winter. Ron Tickner found one in his porch, dining on the insect life around the plants he had brought in for shelter. Next day it had moved on and hopefully found warmth and security.

The match between AAA and the Police was a home and an away win for Alresford. The 3 matches that make up the Autumn Trophy was won by Graham Claridge with a score of 22pts over the runner up Jim Martin with 16pts. Catch weights are starting to drop off now with the shorter days and cooler temperatures.

There has been an abundance of Hornets this year with one or two night anglers having to evacuate their bivvy's when they have been paid a night-time visits. Although not as aggressive as Wasps, they are still a daunting sight by torch light.

Will all members please observe the rules regarding access to the Orchard Lakes. Entry is from 06:00 hrs onward and departure by 21:00hrs or dawn and dusk as the days shorten. When arriving, please ensure that vehicle radios are turned off. This is a courtesy to our neighbours who are not always as keen to welcome your arrival for a day's fishing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members young and old who have supported us through 2023 and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

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

Mike Day (Hon. Secretary)

## ALRESFORD HISTORY GROUP - Open Day 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

A big thank you to every who came to our Open Day, held at St Andrew's Church. We had around a dozen visiting historians who learnt more about our village followed by lunch in The Pointer. In the afternoon, 35 or more villagers attended and we made nearly £40 for the swimming pool appeal. Visitors looked through the displays on the old and new Churches, the Fetes, the school and the Roll of Honour to the 340 who served during the Wars.

Since the display at the Fete over 400 photographs have been donated from the John Hedges collection and by Alan and Brenda Green's daughters; thank you. Visitors tried hard to identify many of the people photographed. We know most but not all the people in the photo. If you recognise anyone or know the date of either photo, please let me know. You can contact me, Rob Butcher at [local-history@tenpennyvillages.uk](mailto:local-history@tenpennyvillages.uk) or telephone 01206 826770

### Indoor Bowling at Alresford Village Hall



1) Bill Urwin, 2) Al Hughes, 3) Ray Milburn, 4) Ted Lowe,  
5) Denis Walker, 6) Dave Jones, 7) Geoff Pentney, 8) Norman Gallifant,  
9) Yvonne Trudgill, 10) Valli Howes, 11) Eddie Osbourne, 12) Phyllis  
Rainbow, 13) Helen Fell, 14) Eileen Metson

### Mothers' Union at St Andrew's Church



1) Pauline Briggs, 2) Monica Baker, 3) Mabel Sallows, 4) ????, 5) Chris  
James, 6) Mabel Hatch, 7) ????, 8) Cynthia Sawyers, 9) Marilyn Cobb,  
10) ????, 11) Paula Munson, 12) Joan Alexander, 13) ????, 14) Kate  
Turner, 15) ????, 16) Lily Walsh, 17) Violet Jennings, 18) Vera Mogford,  
19) Molly Marshall

## ALRESFORD COLNE RANGERS F.C



Alresford Colne Rangers season goes from one crisis to another as player power has resulted in yet another managerial change. The club policy is for the reserves to support the first team when required, but players suddenly are not able to play for reasons that are difficult to believe. Gone are the days when a player would play whatever happens.

Football like most other sports is struggling as commitment is a major problem, the curse on playing on a machine has more pull than playing in the fresh air, but increasingly more are now making that choice.

On the bright side, we now have two new managers for the first team, Ryan Amass assisted by the returning Andy Smith. The task is to keep the first team in the Border League Premier Division. This is a tall order, but we know they will give it their best.

The youth teams continue to make steady progress as they continue to learn more about the game, whilst the Ladies team continue to do well, currently second in the league. This despite having doubt at the start on whether they could raise a team. They have overcome losing three players to another side in the league and the goalkeeper to a knee injury. Thus, a new team has been built and the commitment and spirit are pleasing to see. Players are playing when not quite fit and the effort put in is terrific, the men's players could learn something from this...

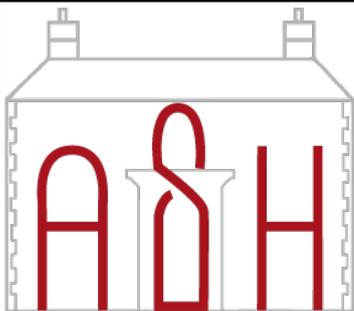
On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October the club hosted a Walking Football Tournament. Alresford had a team in the competition with another eleven teams taking part. Two pitches were created side by side which resulted in a good atmosphere. The games were certainly competitive with referee getting some criticism from even those who could hardly walk let alone run!

Anyone interested in joining us at ACRFC are welcome to come over on a Saturday afternoon or on a Sunday when the youth and Ladies teams play. Teas/Coffees are available or have a look at our well stocked Bar. The games can be viewed from the club house in the warm so come and give us a look, you may like to get involved in an active role in your village club.

An example of the is the hugely successful Mini Rangers on a Saturday morning for children from three to seven. Peter Dwight and Jimmy Gill are the facilitators, and they look after twenty plus children every Saturday Morning. Peter is an example of someone new to the village getting involved.

Ranger  
Brian Martin  
ACRFC

## Alresford Station House Community Group Ltd



Our vision is to renovate Alresford Station House and turn it into a vibrant space for the benefit of the **whole** community.

We are a not-for-profit community benefit society, and we believe that we can rejuvenate the Station House by restoring it and putting it to good use as a community café and community hub.

Following setbacks caused by the pandemic, technical issues (relating to signal cables) and staff changes at Greater Anglia, our project, that began in 2019, to lease the Station House was put on hold.....we are now though pressing ahead with the project.

We do need help – from the community and anyone interested in our project. We have raised some finance from grants, and we will be applying for more grants, but we also need investment from those who want to see the Victorian building restored and put to good use. We have a number of potential investors already registered. It is not just about the money though, volunteers are needed for practical help and also, we need some idea of the numbers of people that would use the facilities, especially the community café, once the house is renovated.

We intend to offer shares in our benefit society and for every pound spent on shares we have a funder that will match that invested pound with another pound. So, to raise an anticipated £100,000 from a shares option we need to have shares bought to the total value of £50,000.

If you want to find out more about buying shares, or need any updates, please e-mail, phone, or write to us (Shares are £5 each, minimum recommended investment will be £50):

[alresfordstationhouse@gmail.com](mailto:alresfordstationhouse@gmail.com) or Telephone the ASH Ltd Chairman, Frank Belgrove on 01206 823739

## ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL

Charity Commission Number: 301233

Website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/alresfordvillagehall>  
<https://www.facebook.com/Alresfordvillagehall/>



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](mailto: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

### Defibrillator and CPR Training

We are intending to arrange training for Defibrillator, when and how to use and how to conduct Cardiopulmonary resuscitation, also more commonly referred to as CPR.

This will be organised for early in 2024, so if you are interested, please contact us via the email address or call us on **07548 742796**. Once we have an idea of numbers, we will arrange sessions throughout the day to attend.

**There is NO COST**

### VILLAGE HALL NEWS

We continue to be remarkably busy with the hall almost at full capacity during weekdays and most weekends seeing at least a 50 % usage. Christmas will of course result in a higher usage leading up to Christmas and as usual the hall will be decorated to enhance the Festive season.

The hall between Christmas and New Year will not be open to allow cleaning and maintenance to be done and to allow the volunteers who do so much to keep the hall operational, a few days off without the 'worry' of the hall.

Thank you, all users, for looking after the hall and leaving it in good condition after the hire, this makes looking after the hall so much easier and of course reduces the cost of cleaning which in turn allows hire fees to be kept at their present levels.

The annual fire inspection completed with new signage and renewed water extinguishers provided.

The Hall mats are now all renewed and the oven has been professionally cleaned. Portable Appliance Testing was completed at the end of November and all Risk Assessments are also complete.

On the Finance side of the house, our new Treasurer is now accessing and authorising our main bank accounts, we need to get signatories up to date and hopefully by the end of the

current fiscal year (ending Feb 24) we will be where we want to be.

SOLAR PANELS -The AVHMC investigating the installation of Solar Panel energy for the village hall. This would assist in keeping the cost down for electricity used in the hall during daytime hires but could also allow either storage of electricity or feeding back into the grid any excess generated during sunshine hours for a fee from the energy supplier which of course would then subsidise night time usage. We are talking to three or four companies on recommendation and in contact with East Hanningfield Village Hall who are already well into the process. Of course, this will also bring the hall more into line with regards to clean and environmentally beneficial energy use.

The Simply Singing has resumed with numbers well over twenty attending and the two film nights have been attended by 35-40 persons. These are very enjoyable events costing just £2.00 for Singing and a donation for the Film night and a chance to socialise and meet new friends. I recommend you give it a go if you are feeling that you need a little boost.

Russell Milburn  
Chair, AVHMC



## St Andrew's - not just for Sundays

### Friendship Circle 10:30 to 12:00

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**1<sup>st</sup> 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

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday**

Learn relaxation techniques and enjoy some refreshments

### Ministry for Men 19:30 to 21:30

**4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.tenpennyvillages.uk)



## DECEMBER 2023 THOUGHTS ON LIFE AND FAITH WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

As I write these thoughts, I am still preparing for Remembrance Sunday services but when you read them preparations for Christmas will be well underway!

This has made me ponder about preparing for things. Some of us are great planners. We like to have things planned and sorted out well in detail, and in advance. Others of us leave things to the last minute. Apart from an observation that it takes all sorts and that is important to appreciate that other people work differently to us I won't go into the pros and cons of these approaches! I want to consider what it is we are preparing for in the lead up to Christmas.

Many of us get very busy sorting out present buying, food buying, making arrangements to see friends and families, sorting out parties at schools and workplaces etc. In the churches people are also busy preparing for events and activities in the lead up to Christmas - Carol Services in the churches and elsewhere, Nativity and Christingle services, and much more. (See back page, page 8 or our website for what is happening in each of our churches – we would love everyone to be part of these things!)

That is why it is probably quite a good idea that in our churches we don't really start celebrating Christmas until Christmas Eve. The celebrations then go on through January as we focus on different parts of the Christmas story. That is why you will see decorations still up until at least 12<sup>th</sup> night – 6<sup>th</sup> January and some still up until 28 January!

The time from the beginning of December to Christmas Eve is Advent. And this is not just about calendars – with or without chocolate!! It is about pondering, wondering, contemplating, meditating on what it means that God, the creator of everything, from the smallest sub atomic particles to mountains, planets, galaxies and everything in between, loves creation so much that he became a part of it.

Not just any part of creation but as a human being on our little planet. Our planet where human beings are wonderfully made in God's image but also spectacularly good at messing things up. We have wars, we damage eco systems. We are greedy and sometimes quite mean to other people. We argue, we harbour grudges. We allow huge amounts of poverty, and vast amounts of loneliness to happen.

But God so loved the world – the cosmos, everything that was created, that they, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, chose to be part of it by being born as a vulnerable baby, in occupied territory, in unconventional circumstances. The baby grew and walked about on our planet, seeking to reconcile humanity to itself, to God and to creation. But the forces that separate us from one another, envy, hatred, greed, fear couldn't allow this to happen and the man was executed in a horrible and demeaning way. But that was not the end of the story. Death could not hold this man, this God! He rose, fully alive. Although he did not remain on the earth in his resurrected body, we now have the Holy Spirit present with us as we keep trying to live as Jesus did. We can't separate Christmas from the whole of the Easter story. The hopes and fears of all the years are born in him and remain in him but also in us. That is what we are preparing to celebrate, remember, relive and rededicate ourselves to.

Merry Christmas

Rev Pauline Hart

Associate Priest for the Tenpenny Villages  
St Andrew's Alresford, St Anne and St Laurence, Elmstead &  
St Mary Magdalen, Frating with Thorrington  
01206 826318  
[assocpriest@tenpennyvillages.uk](mailto:assocpriest@tenpennyvillages.uk)

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

Find us on fb:



ParishChurchesofAlresfordElmsteadThorrington-  
TenpennyVillages

Information about our Services can be found on our notice  
sheet at <http://tenpennyvillages.uk>

### ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CONTACTS

**Rector: Rev Andrew Fordyce - 01206 920848**

**Email:** [rector@tenpennyvillages.uk](mailto:rector@tenpennyvillages.uk)

**Associated Priest: Rev Pauline Hart - 01206 826318**

**Email:** [assocpriest@tenpennyvillages.uk](mailto:assocpriest@tenpennyvillages.uk)

**Curate: Janine Wilde**

**Email:** [curate@tenpennyvillages.uk](mailto:curate@tenpennyvillages.uk)

**Churchwarden: Lyn Bull - 01206 827146**

**Email:** [stachurchwardens@tenpennyvillages.uk](mailto:stachurchwardens@tenpennyvillages.uk)

**Bookings for the Hub: Meg Burdus - 01206 820618**

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## TENPENNY VILLAGES CHURCHES ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### St Andrew's Alresford

|                                  |                    |  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December  | 8.00am<br>11.00am  | Advent Sunday BCP Holy Communion<br>Advent Sunday All Age Worship with story telling |
| Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> December | 11.00am            | Holy Communion   |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December | 11.00am<br>6.30pm  | Morning Worship<br>Carols by Candlelight   |
| Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December | 11.00am<br>11.30pm | Nativity Service for everyone<br>Midnight Communion Service                          |
| Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December | 10.00am            | Christmas Morning Family Communion   |

### St Anne & St Laurence, Elmstead Market

#### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL - SATURDAY 2ND AND SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER

|                                  |                   |  |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December  | 10.00am<br>4.00pm | Advent Sunday Holy Communion<br>Advent Sunday Evening Prayer |
| Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> December | 10.00am           | Christingle  |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December | 10.00am<br>5.00pm | Holy Communion<br>Carols by Candlelight                      |
| Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December | 4.00pm<br>11.30pm | Crib Service<br>Midnight Communion Service                   |
| Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December | 10.00am           | Christmas Morning Family Communion                           |

### St Mary Magdalen, Thorrington

|                                  |                   |  |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December  | 9.30am            | Advent Sunday Morning Worship                      |
| Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> December | 9.30am<br>5.00pm  | Holy Communion<br>Christmas Carols and Christingle |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December | 9.30am            | Holy Communion                                     |
| Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December | 9.30am<br>10.00pm | Morning Worship<br>Christmas Eve Communion         |



#### Sylvia Harvey

It is with great sadness that we let the Alresford Community know that Sylvia Christine Harvey passed away on 31st October 2023 at Colchester General Hospital.

Sylvia had been a part of the Alresford Community since 1966 when she moved into her house in Worcester Crescent and from there she brought up her sons, Drew and Kristian. She was an active member of the community and enjoyed being part of the Bowls Club and Ladies Group.

Sylvia's funeral will be held at 11.30am on Friday 1st December 2023 at Colchester Crematorium and there will be a wake at Alresford Village Hall afterwards from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. Her family would like to invite all her friends to join us to celebrate her life at the service and/or the wake afterwards.

Sylvia's preference was for family flowers only and colourful attire. As a lifelong animal lover, any donations desired by cheque to the RSPCA, to family or via [sylviaharvey.muchloved.com](http://sylviaharvey.muchloved.com)

Sylvia was greatly loved by all and will be sadly missed.

#### Light up a Life and support St Helena Hospice this Christmas

Join St Helena Hospice and Light up a Life this Christmas to share special memories and traditions created with loved ones as we remember and celebrate them at this poignant time of year.

You are invited to dedicate a light in memory of your loved one on the Hospice garden Christmas tree in return for a donation to St Helena Hospice. The festive season is often one of celebration and an opportunity to reflect on cherished memories of those we miss and love. By dedicating a light in memory this Christmas you are helping St Helena continue to provide vital and essential care to the growing number of patients and families who desperately need their support this festive season.

The Light up a Life event will take place within the St Helena Hospice garden on Thursday 14th December and will include a festive reading from St Helena's spirituality lead Tim Leeson, a Christmas light switch on, carol singing and range of delicious Christmas refreshments.

To make your dedication and Light up a Life this winter please visit [www.sthelena.org.uk/lightupalife](http://www.sthelena.org.uk/lightupalife)

# Tickets selling fast, book now!

[wyvernwood.co.uk/christmas](http://wyvernwood.co.uk/christmas)



## Wyvern Wood

### The Enchanted Midwynter Festival

[wyvernwood.co.uk](http://wyvernwood.co.uk)



Alresford, Colchester



#### 'Tis the season for adventure!

Christmas is coming to the Kingdom of Wyvernwood this December for our very first Enchanted Midwynter Festival.

Experience a light walk and stop off on the way to take see some familiar faces, including Father Christmas, the Captain, Princess Arabella, Gurt Lord of the Goblins, Merlin and Tatiana Queen of the Fairies.

We're open from the 9th to 10th and 15th to 23rd December and the experience will last around 2 hours.

Our Christmas character experiences include:

- Merry avenue entrance
- Wynter welcome with the Captain and Father Christmas
- Enchanted encounter with Princess Arabella

- Goblintyde hibernation with Gurt
- Festive potion making with Merlin
- Queen Tatiana's moonlight ball
- Christmas inspired food and beverage court

#### Christmas Gift – Tatiana's Golden Ticket

FREE return visit in Easter 2024 for every child who attends our Christmas event!

Christmas is the season for giving which is why every child who attends our Christmas event will be given a very special gift at Tatiana's Moonlight Ball.

This gift will be a FREE return visit to the Kingdom over Easter 2024 so you can start the year with an adventure...

Book your tickets now via [www.wyvernwood.co.uk/christmas](http://www.wyvernwood.co.uk/christmas), but be quick as they're selling out fast!

### St Helena Hospice's Christmas Tree-cycle returns for 2024!

If you're preparing to get into the festive spirit and are planning to deck your halls by purchasing a real Christmas tree this year, let St Helena Hospice take the hard work out of the post-Christmas clear up! St Helena Hospice will once again be collecting and recycling trees across Colchester and Tendering in return for a donation. By signing up you'll save yourself a trip to the recycling centre, whilst helping raise vital funds for your local hospice.

St Helena's dedicated volunteers will be out in force on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th of January 2024 collecting registered real Christmas trees from the postcode areas CO1 to CO9, CO11, and CO13 to CO16. Bookings are limited so don't delay! By registering your tree you can join St Helena in making a positive impact on the environment by recycling your Christmas tree and contributing to a greener, more sustainable future.

If you are free to volunteer and would like to help us out with collecting trees on the day, or if you could supply a van for our volunteers to use on Saturday 6th and/or Sunday 7th January 2024 please get in touch with our fundraising team by emailing [fundraising@sthelena.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@sthelena.org.uk) or call 01206 931 468.

## ALRESFORD BIKERS - WINTER IS COMING AGAIN

What a year of contrasts it has been up to now! By the time you read this many of our machines will be tucked up for Winter, snoozing on their battery tenders, wheels up waiting for Spring. You'll all be thinking about Christmas. So, to recap the year: It's been a bit of an up and down year for biking, mostly caused by the weather. We had a nice Spring, a miserably wet mid-summer, more heat than ever later in the year, and today it's windy and rainy again. Some poor folks further North have been flooded out, so we're not complaining. Contrasting that with being stuck on the M25 in 34 degrees, even with my mesh suit on, is striking. That was a tough day, but at least the accident, a truck on fire, caused no casualties even though many people, including me, were stricken with dehydration. (And yes, I did have bottled water, but had consumed it all long before we got moving). The Police were fabulous, and pulled all the bikes up to the front and sat us on the hard shoulder, which isn't a hard shoulder anymore, but with a truck on fire, who's arguing! Ten miles of filtering though..... Interestingly, the drivers of the thousands of stranded cars produced the usual crowd of jealous individuals, who think it's great to deliberately close the gaps and try to stop bikers from passing, while all the truckers were the good guys, and did their best to make gaps. Just in case you didn't know, filtering is perfectly legal in this country, and every bike that passes you while you're going nowhere is one less car in front.

We've been out and about quite a lot this year, frequently during the week too, as so many of us are now people of leisure! We've toured Essex and Suffolk, taking in copious amounts of tea and cake along the way, not to mention quite a number of bacon sarnies. Our meetings, though not over-attended, have still taken place and the stories are still coming. A few of us attended the annual Bike Show in London at ExCel, which was great. So many gleaming new bikes to sit on, we couldn't resist. So many cakes in the cafe, likewise! We were represented at Windsor Castle for the Ride of Respect for His Majesty King Charles III, which was a fantastic event. Thousands of bikes from all over the country lined up on The Long Walk was a spectacular sight. Hundreds of Police Officers drafted in from as far away as Southampton, all with nothing to do, led to some fun conversations with them! Some of us toured Scotland again, and Wales again, both of which were great, though Wales was slightly more moist this time. The 20mph law (blanket replacement of all 30's with 20's) came into effect all across Wales the day before we got there, so that provided endless entertainment. After having four years to prepare, there were still roads with both 30 and 20 signs up, depending which direction one went. One we saw had both, in the same direction! Some had 30 painted on the road, but 20 on the signs. It is an extremely expensive and unpopular thing inflicted totally undemocratically. Much like ULEZ in London. We continue to follow our favourite racing team, Team Steinhausen Racing, with one of our members' son racing in sidecars, with some success. Sponsorship is their biggest hurdle. Our long awaited (owing to Covid)



visit to the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance finally happened early in May, and it was great to see the brilliant work being done by the team there. They are always seeking donations too, as they are entirely unfunded save for the charity. And it's not every day you get that close to their helicopters and have the frontline staff tell you all about them and their missions too. Did you know that each of their missions costs on average £2,500? And they did over 120 in September alone? You can see it is an expensive business! A couple of us went to a rainy Mallory Park Race Circuit for the Bike Festival, and bumped into some biking celebrities while there. Luckily it only rained in showers, but they were very

heavy when they came. But standing next to a Suzuki RG500 warming up, as Barry Sheene would have ridden, was a bit special. As well as the other really memorable bikes, such as BSA Rocket 3's, Triumph Tridents, Honda 4's and all from the 60's and 70's, it was very reminiscent to get a good nose full of Castrol R, and racing two stroke exhaust. I was back in my boyhood immediately. Having myself marshalled that track many times some years ago, with the current rules in place, it was amusing to observe the travelling marshals. In parades such as these, they lead the pack out, and tail the pack so as not to have any stoppages on the track go unattended. The marshals are no slouches either! One by one the old racers overtook them, showing that even on last year's bikes, the old geezers on Manx Nortons and so on left them for dead! Race regulations do not apply to parades, and the marshals just waived them on. Copdock Bike Show was massive, and another great day out for all the family, bikers or not. There is something there for everyone, including this year some electric bikes. There were also a number of displays, and one was some very young kids riding trials type bikes over obstacles, and those little bikes were electric too. The little kids loved it. And the exhibition display bikes took many of us back to our biking youth, and beyond! There was some real exotica there, including a 100 year old AJ's, beautifully restored. During the Summer I personally tried to record my best MPG, and hit 179 miles at 65.7 miles per gallon. Why do I need an electric bike? I don't. An electric bike would have spent longer charging than I took for the whole thing! We've done a lot of home-mechanics, servicing our bikes at rather less cost, and enjoying doing our own maintenance. It always helps to know exactly how something works because you can enjoy the satisfaction of having done it yourself. I had Bismarck up on the lift and changed a few tyres myself this year too. Is it me, or don't they last like they used to? (For those who may not know, 10,000 miles on modern tyres is very good going, and I've racked up more than 12,000 so far....). Mind you, they grip like Velcro compared to what I started out with, eeeek, almost 50 years ago!

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Anyone who remembers Avon Roadrunners, Avon Safety Mileage SMII, or Dunlop TT100's will understand! We've hit the Great Bentley green bike nights on Wednesday a few times this year, and as always had a good evening in the sun chewing the fat with hundreds of other local bikers. And if that's not enough activity, our Sunday rides have taken place on many a sunny Sunday, visiting local and not-so-local cafes and bike haunts along the way. And more tea and cakes, of course. There are some lovely little places around the area, and it has become our mission to sample all of them, and we're well on the way! More next year too. We're also looking forward to our return visit to Alresford's Party in the Park next year too!

So, if you want to get involved in the biking scene, learn more about bikes, maintenance, where to go to buy things, and the most suitable kit to buy in the first place for your needs, come along and meet us. We're in our HQ, The Pointer Inn, where our hosts Sam and Neil make us welcome, at 8pm on the second Tuesday of every month. Don't be shy!

Al Gillard

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If we can help, or you have a question, please contact us at one of the following:

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Or visit:

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## Garden and General Maintenance Services

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Callum Harding  
07710054256

Oliver Will  
07758211950



[CandOconstructionltd1@gmail.com](mailto:CandOconstructionltd1@gmail.com)



**CONSTRUCTION**

Brickwork Specialists

## ALRESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

| 01/09/2023 – 27/09/2023   | 27/09/2023 – 31/10/2023  |
|---|--|
| <b>RECORDED CRIMES: 4</b><br><b>CRIME TYPES:</b> Assault without injury - Harassment - Non crime investigation - Sec 4 POA  | <b>RECORDED CRIMES: 8</b><br><b>CRIME TYPES:</b> Assault - Blackmail - Criminal damage (other) - Domestic - other x 2 - Sec 4a Public Order - Theft  |
| <b>INCIDENTS REPORTED: 15</b><br><b>TYPES REPORTED:</b> Abandoned 999 - Assault - Concern x 2 - Disturbance - Domestic x 3 - Harassment - Information x 2 - Missing person - Public Order - threats - Unexploded Ordinance (Good intent)                        | <b>INCIDENTS REPORTED: 13</b><br><b>TYPES REPORTED:</b> Abandoned 999 - Abandoned vehicle - Blackmail - Criminal damage - Disturbance - Domestic x 2 - Information - Missing person - Other x 1 - RTC - Suspicious circumstances x 2   |
| <b>TRUCAM (SPEEDING)</b><br>3 sessions of 1-hour each were done in the village in September.<br>42 vehicles were reported with a top speed of <b>43mph</b><br>The <b>30mph</b> signs were checked before and after deployment and were <b>clearly visible</b> . | <b>TRUCAM (SPEEDING)</b><br>4 sessions of 1-hour each were done in the village during October, which has been the same for Great Bentley.<br>51 vehicles were reported with a top speed of <b>45mph</b><br>The <b>30mph</b> signs were checked before and after deployment and were <b>clearly visible</b> . |
| <b>CONSIDERATE PARKING INCENTIVE TICKETS (CPI)</b><br>11 CPIs were given out in the village   | <b>CONSIDERATE PARKING INCENTIVE TICKETS (CPI)</b><br>6 CPIs were given out in the village   |

Vehicles are parking on **junctions** and **footpaths**, which causes obstruction and danger to the safety of others. These are both offences under the Highway Code.

This can also damage pavements and kerb stones in time, which costs money to replace and dissatisfaction to residents for looking unsightly in the village.

This may be done in a considerate mindset, however, this causes problems to pedestrians trying to pass, which leads them to walk on the road, which is not ideal for those with disabilities and children in buggies.

**Considerate Parking Incentive Tickets** are aimed to educate drivers of bad parking offences in the highway code.

**Parking Services** will be attending the village on a regular basis and may issue fixed penalty notices to those offending

**PLEASE PARK WITH DUE CARE AND ATTENTION AND PLEASE PARK SAFELY AND CONSIDERATELY**

### Criminal Damage

There have been more spates of criminal damage in the village:

- A bin was pulled out of the concrete base
- A fire was started in the bunker on the playing field

Anyone caught damaging property could be faced with a criminal record

### Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)

There has been reports of anti-social behaviour in the village, especially the morning waiting for the school bus during October, where youths had been kicking stones onto people's properties and being rowdy. The School have been involved and hopefully this behaviour has been ceased.

It is alleged the school bus stop is going to be relocated to a better suitable location for the amount using the stop.

**Any** youths identified in ASB **will** receive a visit from the Police and dealt with accordingly.

If you are experiencing Anti-Social behaviour please phone 101 and report it straight away. If an officer is available to attend, this makes it easier identifying those concerned and addressing the situation.

### Theft of Tractor GPS units

There has been thefts of tractor GPS units in Harwich. Farmers be vigilant, if you were planning on extra security,

Now is a good time.

### Theft of site tools and criminal damage.

Not in Alresford, but just to be aware.

Between the hours of 17.30 on 02/10/2023 and 07.00 on 03/10/2023 in Great Bentley. A metal fence has been knocked down to a site, causing criminal damage and stealing tools from within. 3 lasers, makita batteries, Bosh drill, Bosh SBS Drill, 2 Wacker plates, power float, generator, jumping jack and a disk cutter.

If you have any information or have seen such items for sale, please contact police on 101 or email

[Julia.brandon@essex.police.uk](mailto:Julia.brandon@essex.police.uk)

### Police national mobile property register (NMPPR)

Register all your valuables on the police national register online [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com). If stolen items are later retrieved by police, we will know who they belong to. It is a good idea to take pictures of all valuables and write down serial numbers to. If items get stolen or go missing, it helps identify them.

### Scams

Scams are still a problem everywhere, If you receive Emails that don't look right forward them to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) or phone calls that don't look right, **don't reply and hang up**.

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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. You can also contact your service provider to ask for call screening to be put on your phone and also how to block a caller's number.

### 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.

### St Andrews Church Book Café

As many of you may know, there is a coffee morning at St Andrews Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. This is a welcome place for all to pop in and have a chat with other others in the community over a coffee and slice of cake. They are such a lovely friendly group.

**I will be** in attendance on **WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER, 10.30 am - 12 noon** if you have any concerns in Alresford, or just want to pop along to say hello.

### Nitrous Oxide

Nitrous oxide capsules are still being found around the village, the most recent was a large empty container with contents used to inhale, along with Gold balloons left littering the hideouts on the pavilion playing field. Not only is nitrous oxide and other inhaled substances a danger to health. There are litter bins provided to deposit rubbish. Littering is an offence

Nitrous oxide is a craze which is inhaled to get a euphoric state, which can cause other unwanted symptoms and can be dangerous and cause death.

Please see <https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/> for further information and help

### Child Car Seats

**A child's car seat may be the most important safety device you ever provide for your child. Even in a minor collision an unrestrained child may be thrown about inside the vehicle, injuring themselves and others. They could also be thrown from the car through one of the windows.**

In the United Kingdom it is estimated that approximately seventy five percent of all child car seats in use are incorrectly fitted, incompatible with the car or van or inappropriate for the child.

Information about the law about carrying children in cars and vans can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules>.

There is a huge variety of seats to choose from for different weights and ages; every seat has different installation instructions which need to be followed carefully. A series of short films giving Information about car seat groupings and the most appropriate seat for your child can be found on the RoSPA website at: <http://www.childcarseats.org.uk/films/>

Further information can be found at [www.goodeggcarsafety.com](http://www.goodeggcarsafety.com). Good Egg also have a film showing the five most common faults regarding the fitting of child car seats. These include loose or twisted harnesses, padded or bulky clothing, 'buckle crunch' and incorrect seat belt routing. <https://youtu.be/nZKbzXF5YHA>

Remember to always buy a car seat from a reputable retailer who can demonstrate how the seat fits your car or van before you make a purchase. Check that the staff are trained and qualified to fit car seats.

Never buy a second hand child car seat and never use one once it has been involved in a collision.

### Reporting incidents the correct way

To report an incident please **ring 101 or for Emergency 999**

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

Local PCSO: Julia.brandon@essex.police.uk

## 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

30<sup>th</sup> November

21<sup>st</sup> December

At the time of going to print, the January dates were not available. Please see

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk>

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### LOCAL LIBRARY NEWS

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/home>

### THE WINTER READING CHALLENGE 2023/2024

Our plucky penguin is back once again! But this year, she's setting off on an even bigger journey...

Join Lyra as she travels around the world, finding out all about endangered animals. There will be 12 challenges for your little ones to choose from. Once they complete six of the challenges they will be rewarded with a certificate and a prize (while stocks last).



Lyra will be leaving on Saturday 25 November and returning on Saturday 3 February. Please go to: <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/winter-reading-challenge> for more information.

### BOOK ONTO A LEGO® IN LIBRARIES SESSION



If you're a parent or carer with a child aged 6-11 who loves LEGO®, why not sign up for our free LEGO® in libraries project, funded by the Essex Year of Numbers? Your child will get the

chance to improve their maths and English skills, while having fun playing with relatable LEGO® characters! Please go to <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/lego-in-libraries-new-sessions-available> for further information.

# ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Chairman's Report

### December 2023 / January 2024

#### Awards!

At the October awards ceremony held by The Essex Playing Field Association in Chelmsford, Alresford Parish Council won the competition for the Best Kept Playing Field in Essex.

This achievement bears testament to the input from Councillors, staff, contractors and the volunteers from Alresford Colne Rangers Football Club who have worked hard to provide the community with the very best facilities.

This is the second year in succession that Alresford has won the overall title and that feat of consecutive wins has not been achieved before by any Council in the long history of the competition. The judging covers all aspects of a playing field including building maintenance, play area upkeep and the cleanliness of the site. Well done also to our village PCSO who keeps a watchful eye on everything. That incredible award was not the only achievement – Alresford Parish Council came runner up as having the best kept child's play area in Essex and there was a gold standard award for the football pitch.

#### Highways

The main repairs to the carriageway in Wivenhoe Road have been made and it seems the petitioning by the Parish Council for these much needed improvements has paid off together with supportive input from our County Councillor Alan Goggin.

Damaged and missing signage on the B1027 is to be attended to next and to make sure these works are undertaken in a timely manner the Parish Council is obtaining quotes as Essex Highways has not been able to schedule in the necessary works to date.

Flooding continues to be a great concern at several locations including Ford Lane, Heath Road and Wivenhoe Road. Inspections have been called for on a number of occasions and have been carried out but as yet only limited remedial action has taken place by Essex Highways – possibly due to the high cost of drain replacement.

#### Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS)/Speeding

More complaints are received by the Parish Council about speeding vehicles than on most other matters. The new VAS unit was mounted in October at the junction of Crestlands and Wivenhoe Road to remind motorists of what speed they are travelling at as they near the roundabout junctions. The device display is triggered by any vehicle that approaches at a speed greater than 27mph, however anonymised data is collected on every vehicle that passes whether the sign is triggered or not. The data is downloaded by Bluetooth technology and software analyses all the information collected. The average speed of vehicles recorded by the new unit is 27.1mph with the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed being 32.3mph (85<sup>th</sup> percentile data excludes those few vehicles that go very slowly or very quickly). A 14% reduction in speed has been achieved as readings were taken on other devices before the VAS was installed.

#### Cockaynes Lane

An application is being made by the Parish Council for Cockaynes Lane to be designated as a "Quiet Lane". This designation is really linked to the concept of signage warning users of the shared nature of the road as it carries lorries, cars, pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders without any footpaths and only limited passing places. It is not an easy

application to make to ECC Highways as Road Traffic Act criteria has to be met and Highways licences obtained.

#### Bus stop shelters

Solar lighting is to be fitted to both bus shelters as previous installations have failed. It has been difficult to locate the specialist electricians prepared to undertake this type of work but our CCTV contractor has recently integrated a specialist highways electrician into his firm who will undertake the job.

#### Social matters and Policing

Parish and Town Councils are partner organisations with the Police and it is good to have Police attendance at Council meetings from time to time, for updates and exchanges of information.

Sgt Vanessa Moss from the Community Policing Team and our very own PCSO Julia Brandon attended the November meeting and gave a full crime report update before taking questions from Councillors. Questions included matters relating to inconsiderate parking, the unlawful use of Nitrous Oxide and the prevalence of credit/debit card scams locally.

#### St Peter's Churchyard/Field footpaths

Vegetation growth in the churchyard is a challenging issue. The active part of the churchyard and some other parts come under the jurisdiction of the Parochial Church Council and some areas can be attended to (in law) by the Parish Council. The Parish Council has voted to extend the area it covers so that further tidying can be undertaken. Some areas of course are deliberately left naturally wild to encourage wildlife habitats to thrive but there has to be a balance and the Council is doing what it legally can to improve the site.

The Parish Paths Partnership volunteer Andrew Barker continues doing a sterling job on many field footpaths that would be impassable without his hard work and the Council is immensely grateful for all he and his helpers accomplish.

#### Christmas Tree

**The Alresford Parish Council Christmas Tree will once again be in place outside the shops in Station Road. Children will be encouraged to join in the decoration of the tree. There is also an invitation to hang a bauble as a memorial to a loved one that has passed away. Further information will be available in due course on the Parish Council website and on social media.**

#### And finally....

Councillors certainly miss our colleague John Housden – he will be remembered for his depth of knowledge, his charity work and his gentle, mischievous humour. His family will likely set a date in the new year for a local memorial service (his funeral took place in London).

As we head into the New Year the Council can look back positively on a number of accomplishments over the past year, including the significant improvements to the main village play area with new play equipment and new seating installed. 2024 will no doubt bring new challenges and the Council is well placed with its high calibre of staff to deliver a quality service to the community.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to ALL!

Frank Belgrove  
Chairman  
Alresford Parish Council



## 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/](http://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 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](mailto:cllr.awiggins@tendringdc.gov.uk)

District Councillor Gary Scott - 01206 820769

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

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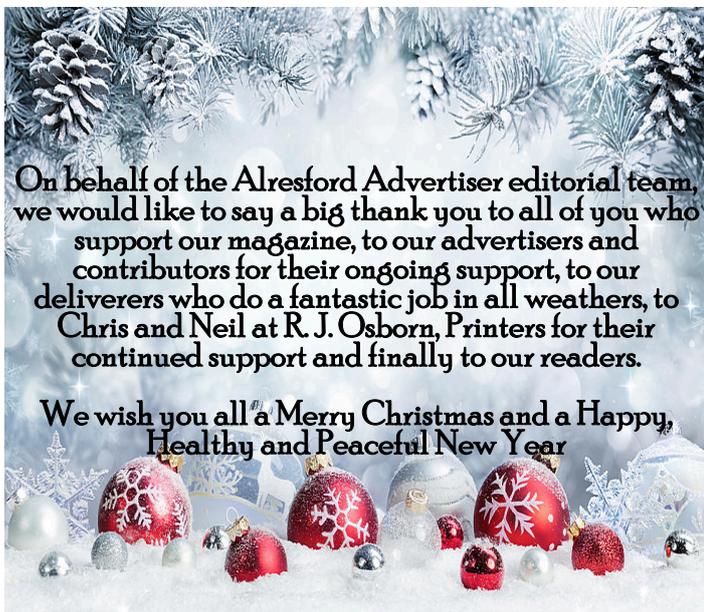
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On behalf of the Alresford Advertiser editorial team, we would like to say a big thank you to all of you who support our magazine, to our advertisers and contributors for their ongoing support, to our deliverers who do a fantastic job in all weathers, to Chris and Neil at R. J. Osborn, Printers for their continued support and finally to our readers.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year



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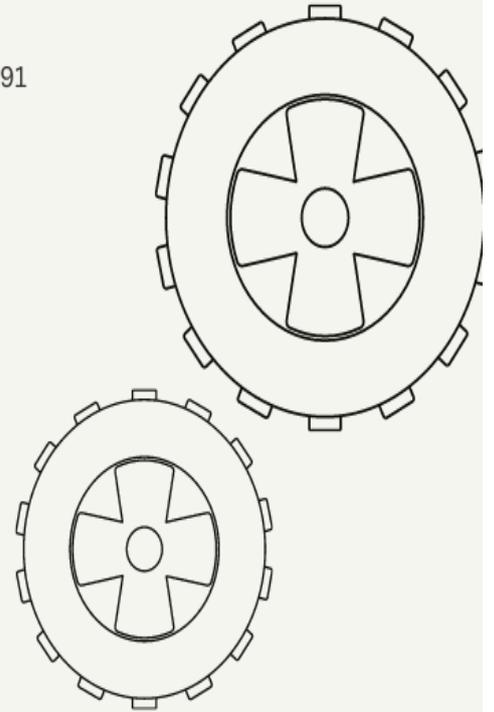
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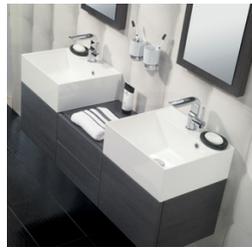
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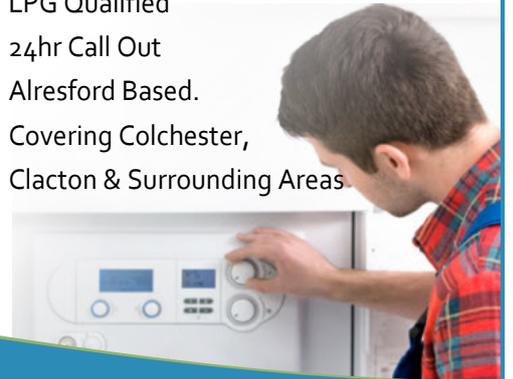


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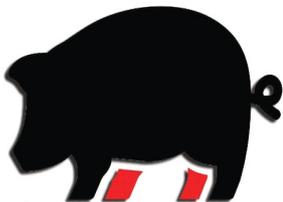


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The editorial and advertising deadline for  
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