

THE ALRESFORD ADVERTISER

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2024

Established since 1970

Movie Nights at Alresford Village Hall

Friday 16th February 2024

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

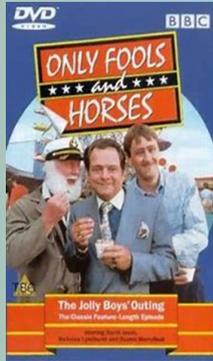
Doors open 7pm
Film starts at 7.30pm



Friday 15th March 2024

ONLY FOOLS and HORSES
The Jolly Boys' Outing

Doors open 7pm
Film starts at 7.30pm



This is a no cost - non ticket event but donations will be very welcome for the teas and coffees

Alresford Village Hall Management Committee

YOU COULD SAVE A LIFE! ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DEFIBRILLATOR & CPR TRAINING?

If you are interested, please contact us at:
alresfordvillagehall@gmail.com or 07548 742796

THERE IS NO COST

To the two people who responded from the last Advertiser - THANK YOU

WI ANNUAL QUIZ Friday 22nd March 2024

Alresford Village Hall

Starting at 7.30pm

Entrance £3.00

Teams of 6 per table

Bring your own
drinks & nibbles

Our Quizmaster will be
Chris Sanderson

To book a table, please contact: Allyson Salmon on 07742 918062

Got plans for Easter Saturday?

Join us for the Easter Trail at
St. Andrew's Church.

It's a fun time for all the family to find
out why we are so excited about
Easter!

Saturday March 30th - come at
any time between 2pm- 3.30pm

Easter trail - crafts - refreshments

FREE and all are welcome.

(Children need to be accompanied by
an adult.)

St. Andrew's Close, Alresford CO7 8BL

He is Risen

Come and join us for our

6:30am Sunrise Service

11:00am Family Holy Communion

Easter Sunday
31st March 2024

St Andrew's Church

tenpennyvillages.uk

COPY DEADLINE

The editorial and advertising deadline for the April / May 2024 edition will be: 8th March 2024

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

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 COLNE RANGERS F.C

ACRFC season continues to be a difficult one for the men's teams. The managers continue to work hard but players commitment is extremely poor, often calling off late with little thought of their teammates, managers, or the club. We are not the only club with this problem, it being nationwide with clubs folding mid-season due to player unavailability.

Added to this is the increasing cost, pitches and officials are a growing problem. The shortage of officials results in increasing match fees set by the F.A and if you do not the officials will go to the leagues that will pay. However, we will overcome all of this as we are supported from our members and an industrious committee.

The youth teams are coming along nicely. The under 14's have made satisfactory progress this season and the under 13's after a patchy start are improving and are moving the right way. The under 9's made a big step this season by moving onto a larger pitch size but are getting used to it and doing well. I get great pleasure watching all our youth teams and it is well worth a look on a Sunday. The Ladies have managed to get a couple more players in plus a couple have returned and it is good to have them with us. New sponsorship from Collyer and Catchpole have enabled a new kit to be provided for the Ladies and this is of significant help as they gradually rebuild the team.

The Walking Football are on a winter break but when their season starts, they will be ready.

A really pleasing sight in on a Saturday morning watching the Mini Rangers enjoying fresh air and grass instead of being stuck behind a screen.

In the New Year, the club will announce in advance on social media all events that are club related, although with me being a dinosaur I will rely on the old-fashioned method of paper and word of mouth.

The club as always open on a Saturday afternoon, so give us look, you will be very welcome.

Ranger
Brian Martin
ACRFC

AUTUMN CENTRE SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to help in the Autumn Centre Shop in Brightlingsea.

The shop is open Monday - Saturday, 9.30 am - 3 pm

Ideally we would be looking for one day per week although any more would be very welcome.

For further details of duties, please contact the shop on 01206 303702

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@outlook.com



SIMPLY SINGING

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 -
February 2nd & 16th
March 1st & 15th

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

FLOWER ARRANGING COURSE

On Tuesday 2nd April 2024 Marian Cable and Dawn Pace will be starting a flower arranging course for beginners in the Church Hub. It will be for 5 weeks on Tuesdays from

10:00 - 12:00, concluding with a workshop on

Saturday 4th May 2024 from 10:00 - 15:00

If you are interested, please contact Marian on

01206 825101

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

1st 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

Cubs

Boys & girls aged 8 - 10 years

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

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

ALRESFORD GARDENING CLUB

The 2024 season will commence on the evening of March 4th with our AGM, during which details of events planned for the season will be announced.

The club meets on the first Monday of March, April, June, July, September and October in the Village Hall, Ford Lane. Membership subscription is £5 with a per meeting cost of £2. Non-members /visitors are welcomed at £5 per meeting. Refreshments are included.

For more details please contact Chris on 07484 334698.

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



THE CHARITY BAG

STAMPS

Still collecting for Bone Cancer Research. Thank you to all who still pop them through my door. For those who donate larger items of stamp albums and a lifetime collection, such grateful thanks. I know these have been precious cared for and in some cases catalogued. I have lived in the village since childhood, so to have a donator who lived in our old neighbours cottage, was a treat to be able to share memories' the funniest was being asked if we like some jelly in a bowl. The bowl disappeared and the brightly coloured contents came back in an envelope.

All the albums should be collected from here this time, to save on postage, so we do not have anything sitting here gathering dust.

KNITTING

Continues to turn up at my door together with donated wool. We cannot send second hand clothes anymore, so please pass them on to your favourite charity.

Well, the rain has kept us busy indoors and crochet on lap whilst watching TV. If I feel it's a depressing day, I pick up a bright colour. It helps me feel better as I think of others.

Please may it be a Happy and Healthy New Year for knitters and friends of the Charity Bag.

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

ALRESFORD WI

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

New members are always welcome

For further information please contact:
Chris James, 01255 764769 or Hilda Newbold 01206 823477

ALRESFORD ANGLING ASSOCIATION



Patron: Sir Bernard Jenkins MP



Here we are well into 2024 and getting ready for our next AGM in April. The 2023/2024 season has been a successful one for us as a club, with the purchase of the Grinsted Orchard Lakes complex successfully completed and we have maintained a healthy membership.

The last of the season's matches are all but complete and well done to all who participated. Some dates had to be rearranged due extremes of weather, but there have been worthy winners who braved wind and rain.

The club had Roach, Perch and Skimmer Bream donated once again by the i-Carp lakes at Great Oakley under the support of the Environment Agency. This is the second year they have done this, and it was again greatly appreciated. The club also put in 1,000 small F1 Carp into Worcester Lake and this is a follow on from those that were put in 5 years ago. These are a Hybrid species that do not breed and have a 15-year life span reaching a weight of 7-8lbs and have been a welcome visitor to the landing net when all else is not feeding through the winter months.

Again, can I remind all members to please observe the rules regarding access to the Orchard Lakes. Entry is from 06:00 hrs onwards 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.

Up until this article going to press, the waters have remained unfrozen and open to bird life and hopefully this will continue and certainly make life easier for the Kingfishers on our lakes along with all the other water fowl. The shortest day has been and gone and with the days drawing out we are all looking forward to seeing some colour in the countryside again.

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

Mike Day (Hon. Secretary)

ALRESFORD CAMERA CLUB

Are you interested in photography?

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

Please visit our website at www.alresfordcameraclub.org for full details of the new season's programme, alternatively please phone John on 01206 250846

ALRESFORD CRAFT & FARMERS MARKET 2024 DATES

3rd February 2nd March

6th April 4th May 1st June

6th July 3rd August 7th September

5th October

2nd November

7th December



Alresford Village Hall
Ford Lane CO7 8AT

9am - 12 noon

A variety of food & craft stalls

Free Admission

Free car park and disabled facilities

For updated information, please check our FB page

Alresford Craft and Farmers Market

We have had yet another successful year. The cafe with fabulous cakes and breakfast baps is a huge hit and a great place to meet up with friends. There will be the usual food stalls of Sunnymead Farm meat, Norwegian Bakers with their amazing bread and pastries, the jam and chutney stalls plus seasonal produce from some of the stall holders.. Of course a variety of craft stalls..

We are now entering our tenth year of the market and when we started it we thought it would only last a few months, how wrong we were.

I would like to thank all the stall holders and all of you who visit the market which makes it a lovely vibrant morning. We run on the first Saturdays of the month Feb to Dec.

I would also like to mention our Christmas Raffle which we hold just in the Dec market, thanks to the stall holders and others who contribute to the raffle table. This year I am pleased to report that we raised the amazing amount of £180, which in turn was donated to the Beaver Colony (Scouts group) and they were extremely grateful and will help to support the activities during the year for our young children.

The market looks forward to seeing you at future events.

WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

On December 8th a Christmas wreath making workshop, sponsored by the Gardening Club was held in the Village Hall.

Nine ladies attended, which included a special little girl call Lavinia. The workshop was led by a Gardening Club member Trudy and all attending reported the afternoon had been a great success, extending their thanks to Trudy for her excellent tuition.

(PHOTO ON BACK PAGE)



ST ANDREW'S REFLECTIONS

When I was growing up in the 1970's I fell in love with the White Lotus Esprit that James Bond drove in "The Spy who loved me". The car chase was amazing and then it turned into a submarine that could launch torpedoes! The Giugiaro design was edgy, a design classic. Colin Chapman the founder of Lotus specialised in making his sports cars as simple and light as possible, the lighter they were the better they handled and the better they distributed the power of the engine. Colin Chapman talked about how you needed to "Simplify and add lightness". A lighter car needed lighter breaks reducing the weight again etc. Cars of today have more safety legislation and this means that heavier cars need bigger brakes which add extra weight and so it goes on. Why mention this?

As I write this, we have only just turned the page and gone into the New year but as you read this we will be on the edge of the Christian season of Lent. If the Christmas celebration is about celebrating the birth of Christ with gift giving and a feast - Lent is about forty days of moving towards the drama of Holy Week and the marking of Jesus's death and resurrection. It is a time of reflection, prayer and fasting.

So often in life we add things in - things get complicated and we can't often see "the wood for the trees". Lent which starts after Shrove Tuesday with "Ash Wednesday" gives us a season to strip things back - to add lightness!

In the bible we hear of Jesus being tested in the wilderness and this echoes the struggles of the people of God. Maybe you feel like you are going through a wilderness as you read this. I don't want to make light of life's challenges but sometimes as adversity strikes - it can strip things back. I have often found that in these tricky moments what is important can come into sharp focus.

Consistently I have found in my walk of faith that it is just as I reach the end of my resources, I find that I can rest on God's resourcing.

May you have a blessed Lent as you navigate the challenges of this new year - may you know God's blessing and resources in the good times and in the challenging times. Let's add lightness to the way we live - as Colin Chapman recognised - "less can be more!".

Every blessing
Rev Andrew Fordyce MBE

www.tenpennyvillages.uk

Find us on fb: 

ParishChurchesofAlresfordElmsteadThorrington-TenpennyVillages

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

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the Community of Alresford for the festive and very welcome hamper assembled and given to me by Beckie & Tim. Also many thanks to the very popular organisers of the over 75's Christmas Tea. Both are examples of the very friendly and caring atmosphere that thrives in Alresford.

There is no need to feel lonely living here with several group meetings for anyone who wants a chat and a cup of coffee or tea with other friendly people from the village. Many thanks to the hard working organisers and I wish every everyone a Happy New Year.

Ann Pace

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

Curate: Janine Wilde

Email: curate@tenpennyvillages.uk

Churchwarden: Lyn Bull - 01206 827146

Email: stachurchwardens@tenpennyvillages.uk

Bookings for the Hub: Meg Burdus - 01206 820618

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ALRESFORD FETE ORGANISING GROUP - "BEST DRESSED HOUSE" COMPETITION

The Alresford Fete Organising Group would like to say a huge "Thank you" to everyone who participated in our villages first ever "Best Dressed House" competition to help spread some Christmas cheer and merriment, which it certainly did. It was brilliant to see so many families had come together to get involved in this new event and Alresford was stunning as a result. The houses which took part in the event looked fantastic, as did many others who did not enter – but absolutely could have.

The winner of a Christmas hamper, which was put together by AFOG, was Nichola Livesey who along with her family - Brendon (19), Oliver (twelve), and Aubrey (four) transformed the front garden of their house on Ford Lane into a magical winter wonderland using recycled, reclaimed, or donated materials. They turned an old Wendy house into a Father Christmas grotto, and an angel from an old beauty mannequin and pampas grass which was sourced for free on Facebook Marketplace. The Angel encouraged members of the local community to make a special wish for Christmas, which many children throughout the local community did. Nichola told us, "Using old, broken and unwanted items meant we have given them a new lease of life, and nothing was wasted, it was great fun making it all together as a family and we were thrilled to win, we hope this competition continues in the future."

The three runners-up also had some fantastic displays and were awarded with a tub of sweets. The Munson family of Crestlands had adorned their front garden with a whooping 15,000 lights, which looked truly spectacular! They welcomed many visitors who stopped outside to marvel at the display.

The second runner-up was Hannah, Olivia and Elliot from Empire Walk. Young Elliot, who is just four years old, did not shy away from bringing his love for the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Christmas together for the competition by hand-drawing the turtles having a snowball fight whilst dressed in different festive clothing. Elliot said "I love ninja turtles and so do my friends at school, I wanted to make everyone smile at Christmas. Raphael is the coolest so had to be Santa" – we completely agree Elliot, it looked brilliant!

The final runner-up was the Eddington family of Opal Way, where the children had certainly taken the lead – Theo (nine) went up the ladder to hang the lights around the top of the house, Eryn-Mai (eight) and Klara (six) helped by decorating the windows with lights and replaced any which had been blown down in the wind, which happened a lot in the blustery December we had! Everyone that entered were given a small prize as a thank you for taking part.

We are very thankful to the judges, Parish and District Councillors Gary Scott and Parish and Ann Wiggins who, despite illness took time to take on the difficult task of judging the entries.

One of our local businesses also got into the Christmas spirit - Sage Hair Studio Ltd. at Station Road painted an amazing image of Mrs Claus having her hair cut by an elf.

The aim of this competition was to bring some festive joy to Alresford and bring the community together, with a reminder than Christmas is about more than presents. We as the Alresford Fete Organising Group loved bringing this to the community and we look forward to doing more in the future. If you are interested in getting involved with the Alresford Fete Organising Group and supporting with future events, please do get in touch by emailing AlresfordFOG@gmail.com or

calling 07535707002, we would love to have you – everyone is always welcome.

Thank you all and we wish you all the very best for 2024, Courtney Muller, AFOG Chair

PHOTOS CAN BE SEE ON BACK PAGE

OVER 75'S CHRISTMAS TEA

Once again the Alresford Fete Organising Group (AFOG) held the Over 75's Christmas Tea party for Alresford residents aged 75 and over in the wonderfully decorated Village Hall. Over 90 enjoyed the afternoon and were as is now customary, entertained by the Alresford Primary School's Year 6 singing Christmas songs and carols. This year also included a soloist who brought joy to all.

A Christmas themed tea was then enjoyed including a free raffle and a chance for all to talk and catch up with each other.

The afternoon was completed by a sing song with words displayed on the large screen in the village hall. All received a small gift and once again from many comments received this party was a joyous occasion.

Thanks to Jeanette and Russell for coordinating the event, to Emma for arranging the gifts and to all the volunteers who worked in the kitchen, arranged the tables and chairs and also gave lifts to those who needed help to get to the party.

PHOTOS CAN BE SEEN ON BACK PAGE

Friendship Circle Christmas Party 2023

It was lovely to see so many members of the Friendship Circle attend our Christmas gathering on the 4th December. We enjoyed chatting and eating Christmas cake, mince pies, delicious cheese straws and hot scones straight from the oven. Thank you to those who made the food.

The Friendship Circle meets at The Hub, St Andrew's Church, on the first and third Monday each month at 10.30 – 12.00. We are primarily a bereavement Group but anyone struggling with loneliness is very welcome to come along for coffee and a chat.

Becky King and Russell Milburn

PHOTO CAN BE SEEN ON BACK PAGE

Christmas Hampers 2023

Christmas Hampers were assembled in December and hand delivered to ten households in the village. They were very well received and the recipients were extremely touched to know that Alresford Community was thinking about them at Christmas time.

We would like to thank all who attended our summer garden party and so generously donated to the Christmas Hamper Fund to make this possible.

Becky and Tim King

PHOTO CAN BE SEEN ON BACK PAGE

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
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

Russell Milburn
Chair, AVHMC



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

Alresford Dickensian Day

Saturday December 2nd was wet and sub-zero but Alresford celebrated with villagers in Christmas jumpers and hats - two of us even dressed as Victorians.

The Farmers Market was packed and with red buckets we collected for the Swimming Pool Appeal. And people stopped to share memories of their dads digging the pool in 1968 or learning to swim there since. At lunch-time, the Station Adopters greeted us with warm drinks and biscuits at the Station entrance. They showed us their plans for the future and news of their large grant. Then the main event - Dr. Anthony Roberts reciting Dickens A Christmas Carol in St Andrew's, with Jamie Cunliffe accompanying on keyboard. During the interval mulled wine and mince pies were served. A big thank you to the people who donated the wine, seasonings, biscuits, venue and the SPAR shop who gave 144 mince pies.



Finally, the Pointer was packed for the switching on of the Christmas Tree lights by Councillor Gary Scott at 6pm. Many more mince pies, mulled wine and Christmas treats were consumed. The Pointer then donated £150 towards our appeal. Thank you.

In total, we raised £512 in a day and all proceeds were taken to the school office. Other events will follow. Thank you to the shops who allowed our adverts to be posted for free, everyone who donated memories or cash, and Jenny and Daniel who booked Dr Roberts.

Rob Butcher Alresford History Group

THE LATEST NEWS - Alresford Primary School Swimming Pool Appeal

After receiving advice from the Brightlingsea Lido Team we have a target of £53,000 to re-open the pool. The totaliser outside the school now stands at £21,500, including a grant of £1500 from Alresford Parish Council. A further grant of £5000 from a parent's business and a pledge of £500 from the Alresford Fete Organising Group are still to be added.

Half of the current PTA fund-raising goes to the appeal and individual donations are collected on the Go Fund Me page as well. Grant applications have been sent to the Tendring District Council Community Fund 2023' Colchester and Tendring Grassroots, the Rural England Prosperity Fund, and Tendring CVST totalling £46,000 if we get the full amounts. We are now working through applications to the Guinness Trust.

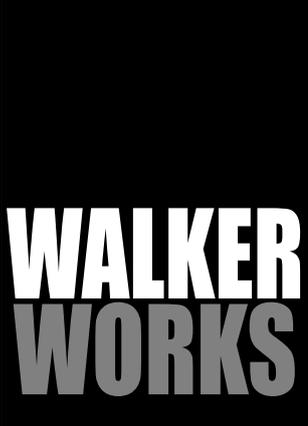
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If we can complete by June 2024, then Councillor Gary Scott will be pushed in the pool on the re-opening day! His Chairman's Appeal also has us listed as a beneficiary.

After that, in future years, Stage Two will see the addition of air heating; and Stage Three the construction of changing rooms which a local development company has already offered to help us with materials.

For over fifty years our school pupils have learnt to swim in the pool. Let's all help them to have the opportunity again.



**Garden and General
Maintenance
Services**

Ryan Walker
01206 824080
07887 746399

Anthony Wilson Hypnotherapy

Consultant - Hypnotherapist - Counsellor
With over 30 years in practice

Bringing a skills range across the Hypnotherapy spectrum from treating common Phobias to really uncommon childhood traumas



Anthony Wilson
F.I.H, M.I.H.A.

If we can help, or you have a question, please contact us at one of the following:
info@anthonywilsonhypnotherapy.com
Telephone: 07775 630 085
Or visit:
www.anthonywilsonhypnotherapy.com
Appointments available in Alresford

Voted among the top 10 Hypnotherapists in Britain by the Independent and the Hypnotherapy Association

Member of The Hypnotherapy Association





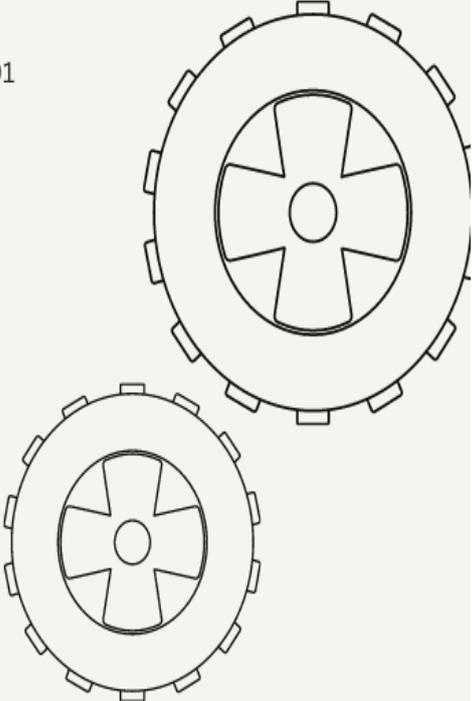
CANBERRA CARRIAGE COMPANY

FREE COLLECTION AND DELIVERY FOR ALRESFORD RESIDENTS

Established family run business since 1991

MOT'S, SERVICING AND REPAIRS
DIAGNOSTICS
AIR CONDITIONING SPECIALISTS

 Unit 5. Brunel Business Centre. Clacton-On-Sea
 01255 426394
 Canberracarriage@btconnect.com



ALRESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

01/11/2023 - 28/11/2023	29/11/2023 - 31/12/2023
RECORDED CRIMES: 8 CRIME TYPES: Assault without injury - Burglary (Residential) - Malicious communications - Non Crime investigation x2 - Other - Theft x 2	RECORDED CRIMES: 9 CRIME TYPES: Assault without injury - Burglary - Other criminal damage to a residence - Other criminal damage to a vehicle x 2 - Other x 3
INCIDENTS REPORTED: 15 TYPES REPORTED: Abandoned 999 x 3 - Burglary (Residential) - Disturbance - Domestic x 2 - Harassment - Information - Malicious communications - Missing person - RTC - Suspicious circumstances x 2	INCIDENTS REPORTED: 18 TYPES REPORTED: Abandoned 999 x 3 - Abandoned Vehicle - Call on - Concern - Disturbance - Highway Disruption - Information - Missing person x 5 - Other x 2 - Suspicious circumstances - Threats
TRUCAM (SPEEDING) 3 sessions of 1-hour each were done in the village during November. 33 vehicles were reported with a top speed of 45mph The 30mph signs were checked before and after deployment and were clearly visible .	TRUCAM (SPEEDING) 1 session of 1 hour was done in the Village during December 2023 12 vehicles were reported with a top speed of 38mph The 30mph signs were checked before and after deployment and were clearly visible
CONSIDERATE PARKING INCENTIVE TICKETS (CPI) 2 CPIs were given out in the village during November	CONSIDERATE PARKING INCENTIVE TICKETS (CPI) 4 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 too replace and dissatisfaction to residents for looking unsightly in the village. Pavement parking 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 <p style="text-align: center;">PLEASE PARK WITH DUE CARE AND ATTENTION AND PLEASE PARK SAFELY AND CONSIDERATELY</p>	

<p>TRAFFIC POLICING Op Limit Update (NPCC Christmas Drink and Drug Drive Campaign) Drink Drive = 142 (103, 2022) Drug Drive = 113 (127, 2022) Fail to Provide - Drink and Drugs = 41 (8, 2022)</p> <p>NITROUS OXIDE Possession of Nitrous Oxide became illegal from the 8th November 2023. Arrests have already been made in Tendring for this offence.</p> <p>HOME SAFETY MEASURES There have been numerous burglaries reported across Tendring. It is worth installing CCTV at home which is a good way of keeping safe and monitoring your property to know who has been about when you have been away, and give you peace of mind. CCTV can help to bring criminals to justice.</p> <p>If you are away from home during dark hours, set a lamp or two on a timer.</p> <p>VEHICLE LIGHTS Remember to check car lights often now darkness is falling early, and use them during bad weather to be visible to other drivers.</p> <p>If a bulb suddenly goes, Halfords are great to drive into and they fit it for your there and then, but of course your local garage is better.</p> <p>POLICE NATIONAL MOBILE PROPERTY REGISTER (NMPR) Register all your valuables on the police national register online www.immobilise.com</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CAFE</p> <p>As many of you know, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 10:00 - 12:00 there is a coffee morning held in the Church. This is a welcome for all to pop in hand have a chat over a coffee and slice of cake.</p> <p>I will be in attendance of the following date if you have any concerns or just want to pop in and say hello.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2024: 10:30 - 12:00</p> <p>REPORTING AN INCIDENT THE CORRECT WAY To report an incident please ring 101 or for Emergency 999 Or report it online https://www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/report-a-crime/</p> <p>Myself and all at Essex Police would like to wish everyone a belated Happy New Year.</p>
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Village Hall Charity Christmas Dance

A sincere thanks to all those who supported the charity dance held on December 23rd. Unfortunately there was a number of people who were unable to attend due to illness, hopefully there were still able to enjoy Christmas as best as possible.

Martin Jaye our singer for the evening kept the dance floor full of people enjoying music and songs covering country, 60's, 70's, 80's music together with a number of well-known Christmas songs.

A large raffle raised £300 which was divided equally between The East Anglian Children's Hospice (EACH) and Macmillan Nursing. A big thank you to all those who donated prizes.

Maggie and Chris Sanderson

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL Chairman's Report February / March 2024

Highways:

Works have been carried out by the Parish Council in order to address some of the kerbstone issues in the Coppice Road/Chestnut Road area. There are still many more loose and missing kerbstones in the area but it is hoped that our intervention will not only make a considerable and noticeable improvement it may spur on Essex County Council Highways to fulfil it's responsibilities and start a program of repairs.

It has to be plainly stated that Highways works – including pavement and carriageway repairs are normally issues for ECC Highways to address.

Some residents are unclear as to who they should contact for highway repairs e.g Potholes, broken drain covers, street signs, flooding etc. The quickest method to report faults is online using the ECC Highways portal known as "Tell us and Track it". The Parish Council will always report the issues on your behalf if you encounter problems accessing the website or you would like Parish Council support. If you are dissatisfied with the service you receive from ECC Highways your County Councillor Alan Goggin can be contacted (details in this magazine in the Parish Council contact section).

Road signage improvements are again strictly speaking the domain of Essex Highways however the Parish Council is aware that even essential safety signage is not maintained in the condition that one would hope for. It is the case therefore that damaged and faded signs are often attended to by licensed Parish Council contractors.

Projects:

There are a number of much needed community projects underway. For example, there are further improvements required at the playing field and pavilion in St Andrews Close relating to renovation of the hard court, the installation of public toilets and the provision of a solar panel system for the pavilion facility. A grant from Tendring District Council of £15k has been received and will go towards the toilet block and further grants are being sought together with planning gain monies for the other projects.

The Precept and our Council Tax:

Alresford Parish Council is mindful of the financial pressures faced by so many and strives to keep the Precept and the

subsequent Parish Council part of the Council Tax at a reasonable level. The coming year's budget forecast for Parish Council expenditure is calculated to be £123,000. With an increase in the number of residents (therefore an increase in the tax base) there is an opportunity to increase the Precept without any major increases in the Parish Council Tax paid by individual households..... this is clearly good news for all of us! It is likely the increase to address inflationary pressures will result in only a very small percentage increase on last year's bill. An interesting point is that four years ago a band D equivalent property in Alresford paid £103 per annum and now we anticipate a bill not exceeding £93 for the year 2024-2025.

The Environment:

The "not for profit" company that runs the electrical vehicle charging points in the community car park (Charge My Street) has issued its annual statement to us and part of the statement contains an environmental assessment of last year's usage. This is what is stated: The use of the charging points over the past year is the equivalent of planting 109 trees, the CO2 saving is 2882.56kg and the Nitrous Oxide saving is 5.69kg. The charge points have supplied vehicles with fifteen thousand miles worth of electrical energy.

It is interesting to see these figures and the Council has noted an increase in usage of the EV charge points in the past few months.

Community:

A Christmas tree was once again put in place in Station Road outside the Post Office, and it was pleasing to hear the most encouraging and positive comments from so many in the community about this. Cllr Osborne sourced the tree and Cllr Swash arranged for local children to be part of the decorating of the tree. The Council is very grateful to Mr Mark Brumpton and his team for transporting and safely putting the tree up. Whilst Councillors and children were decorating the tree and fitting lights some residents kindly supplied hot drinks and cakes and we thank them so much for this!

Planning Ahead:

Alresford has grown considerably in size over the past three to four years and the Council appreciates that there must be expansion of our infrastructure to cope with this increase in population. Once the public open spaces to the North and South of Cockaynes Lane come under our management we will be able to improve these areas for all. The lack of allotment access will also be addressed.

Tree planting and other landscaping at various locations around the village is also planned – it was specifically requested by many residents in our Neighbourhood Plan surveys.

As we move towards springtime we can look forward to not just better weather (hopefully!) but a number of important projects being completed.

Volunteers:

As ever, the Parish Council is mindful of the amazing volunteers who do so much for the village and long may that volunteering spirit continue throughout 2024!



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/

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

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

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

1st February 2024

22nd February 2024

14th March 2024

4th April 2024

LOCAL LIBRARY NEWS

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

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ALRESFORD BIKERS - TAKING CARE

Winter brings a number of extra hazards to watch out for. Some are obvious, some not. So, what might riders be looking for? If you don't have the good fortune to be a biker, this might explain why bikes are "where they are" on the road!

Riders will be taking extra care, and going more slowly, in poor conditions. In Winter, reduced grip demands less lean in corners, meaning slower cornering. We will also be using all the width of the lane to straighten the corners out. So, if you're wondering why we're so slow, and using all the road, now you know!

When it's cold riders should be dressing up as warmly as possible, but it is not easy - warm clothing can be bulky under a riding suit. Bulk can mean loss of circulation, and may restrict movement. I recommend thin layers that you can add or subtract as required. Special base layers are made for winter, and are brilliant! There are some specially made for bikers by bike clothing specialists, but there are really good alternatives, which are far cheaper. And heated grips, seats, suits, boots, gloves, and even socks, are all available for a price.

A rider's outer layer could ideally be a winter suit that is intended for the purpose, or an over-suit that is. Winter textiles are very brilliantly designed by bikers, to suit biking, and are just the job. A good suit can be expensive but worth it, if you ride in bad weather a lot! I have used many one-piece over-suits that were a great deal cheaper but didn't last long. I still have one, as a backup! Warning though: over-suits are not known as "boil in the bag" suits for nothing!

Since most heat is lost from the head, then a full-face helmet is a must. Modern helmets are brilliantly insulated, but you need vents open to prevent a steamed up visor. Visors are key for visibility, and one thing I never do is wipe them with a gloved hand. You might get some water or gunk off, but it will scratch the surface permanently. One oncoming vehicle will look like firework night with stars and streaks rocketing all over the place. Stop, get a clean, soft, microfibre cloth, and wipe over once, in straight lines, not round and round. Pinlock visors (for the uninitiated, anti-misting inner visor, like double glazing!) have become *de-rigueur* and are brilliant until the inner coating wears off and they stop working, so only clean them with microfibre cloths - not tissues or kitchen roll, which is like sandpaper to them! Don't use the same bit of cloth you just cleaned the outside of your visor with, it's full of grit! Drivers, if a biker is slowing down in front of you it is highly likely that they are playing safe because of temporary vision difficulties. Give them space!

Extremities get colder, faster. Fingers and toes shed heat quickly. Good quality gloves are a must. Likewise with boots, the more you spend, the longer they will protect and last. Fashion has no place in winter riding, so buy what works, not what looks flash. Finally on clothing: especially if it is in the shop when you are purchasing, try it all on! Make sure you can move freely; buy stuff that feels right, not for how it looks, colour or what it's made of; and never look at the size labels - they are notoriously on the small side in the biking world.

It goes without saying, so I will, that another big risk when riding in winter is the dark! A hi-viz vest, tabard, or whole suit, will help you stand out at night. Anything that increases your visibility to other road users could prevent a collision. Between about November and March, I always wear one.

When you're riding, knowing where patches of ice are likely to be is handy too. The closer to the kerb you ride the more likely there might be ice, and in any areas that have been shaded all day. And the road crud gathers in the centre strip of each lane, and any sharp stuff will be there. Drivers might see bikers meandering in their lane, and wonder why? We're avoiding these hazards, and we know of many more of them than you do! Recessed manhole covers are a problem; not only because crashing up and down across manhole covers recessed two inches into the tarmac upsets balance! Not an issue, you think, until you see some, like the one on Church Hill on the way from Brightlingsea to Thorrington. That one is so big it causes car drivers to swerve out over the centreline, regardless of what might be coming the other way, which on several occasions has been me. Huge bumps in the road cause issues in the wet particularly, like the bump on the main road near the fencing shop. Why are bikers often all over the road? We're avoiding adverse cambers, strips of gravel and road dirt, holes in the tarmac, puddles, craters, and still trying to be in the right place for safety! Round here that can be a challenge.

Low winter sun can be blinding, so, riders, even if it's cloudy when you set out, be prepared with decent shades or have a helmet with built-in sun visor just in case. Other vehicle drivers are often dazzled too, so I sometimes resort to hand signals, if I am up-Sun of car drivers, because they may not be able to see the indicators with the Sun behind me.

Beware of diversions posted by road menders. Diversions are often based purely on what a fifty-year old map on someone's desk in Chelmsford says, rather than based on experience or



local knowledge, so always treat them with care. The picture shows what happened to me when following a diversion posted by a road crew, two Winters ago.

Take greater care when it is raining, dark, both, or if you are unfamiliar with the road! Other hazards might be lurking in your path. Sticks, rocks, long lines of mud, dead critters, potholes, huge puddles, etc. A big grey dustbin,

the other day! All can be out there waiting for you. Poor camber can introduce slides too, so slow down and take your time, maybe off the normal Summer bike-lines, to keep safe. Also beware of other road users, who have no feel for the environment, are often distracted, can't see out of their steamed-up cars, and will dodge a hazard without even thinking about oncoming traffic, i.e. you!

All these things have happened to us at some time. So if you want to learn from experts how not to do these things, come along and meet us, in our HQ, The Pointer Inn, where we are always given a warm welcome by our hosts Neil and Sam. **We have changed our meetings to 8 PM on the SECOND FRIDAY of each month, from January onwards.** We can regale you for hours with the daft things we've done in the past, and how we don't do them now!

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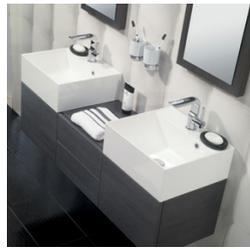
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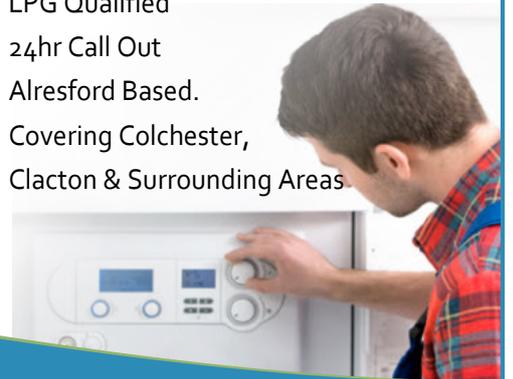


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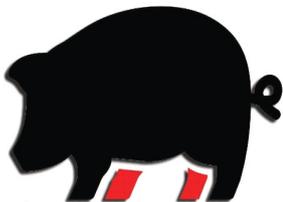


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