



THE ALRESFORD ADVERTISER

APRIL / MAY 2025

Established since 1970

The Alresford Fete Organising Group invite you to our Summer event

Picnic in the Park

Free Entry

Saturday
14th June 2025
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Alresford Playing Field
Ford Lane
CO7 8AT

Live music from 'Silence the Sirens' - entertainment - BBQ - bar - ice cream - stalls - and much more!
Bring your own picnics, blankets/chairs.
Sorry, no dogs or glass.

We are pleased to invite you to our Open Day!

Saturday 19th April
10am - 4pm

SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS

The KITCHEN & BATHROOM Store
59 Station Road
Alresford, CO7 8BU

MOVIE NIGHT

At Alresford Village Hall

SATURDAY 12TH APRIL

Showing
THE MILLION POUND NOTE

Film starts at 7.30pm - Doors open at 7.00pm

PLEASE SEE PAGE 2 FOR FULL DETAILS

THORRINGTON HALL BLUEBELL WOODS OPEN WEEKEND

26th & 27th April

11am - 4pm

SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS

Address: St Mary Magdalen Church, Clacton Rd, Thorington, CO7 8AH

The Autumn Centre, incorporating Alresford and Brightlingsea Lunch Clubs

BINGO NIGHT

Alresford Village Hall
CO7 8AT

Saturday 26th April 2025

See page 2 for details

MOVIE NIGHT

At Alresford Village Hall

SATURDAY 10TH MAY 2025

When we will be celebrating the **80th Anniversary of VE Day**

Main feature:
THE IMITATION GAME - the breaking of the Enigma Code

Supported by Newsreel films of the 8th May 1945

****Evening starts 7.00pm - doors open 6.30pm****

This is a no cost, non-ticket event with refreshments available typical of 1945

Alresford Village Hall Management Committee

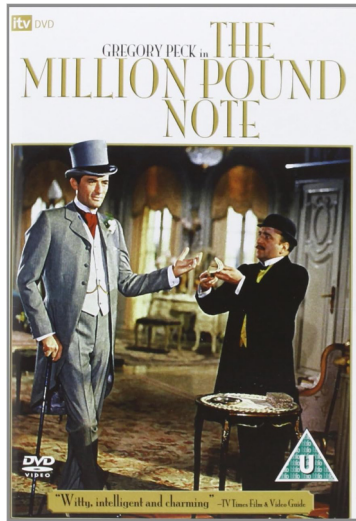


MOVIE NIGHT

at Alresford Village Hall

Saturday 12th April 2025

When we will be showing



***** Film starts at 7.30pm - doors open 7.00pm*****

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

Alresford VH Management Committee

The
KITCHEN &
BATHROOM
Store

We are pleased to invite you
to our Open Day!

Come and meet the family behind
The Kitchen & Bathroom Store.
View our fantastic new showroom
displays, enjoy some nibbles and a
drink with us!

Saturday 19th April
10am-4pm



59 Station Road
Alresford
CO7 8BU

Are you dreaming of a new kitchen or bathroom?
Don't miss your chance to grab one of our exclusive
discount vouchers available on this day only!

BINGO NIGHT

Alresford Village Hall
(CO7 8AT)

Saturday 26th April 2025

Doors Open 7pm

£3.00 per book or
3 books for £8.00

Raffle

Tea/Coffee provided or bring your
own Drinks/Nibbles

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

All profits will go to The Autumn Centre incorporating
Alresford and Brightlingsea Lunch Clubs



THORRINGTON HALL BLUEBELL WOODS OPEN WEEKEND

26th & 27th April

Come and walk around the woods
See the lovely bluebells,
children's trail, cakes, tea, coffee
Small entrance fee to the woods



Free parking, bring
your wellies!

Dogs welcome,
but on a lead

Funds for the Church &
St Helena Hospice

11am - 4pm

Last entry at 3pm

EVENING SONG SERVICE ON THE SUNDAY -
6.30PM
ALL WELCOME

Address: St Mary Magdalen Church,
Clacton Rd, Thorrington, CO7 8AH

ALRESFORD CRAFT & FARMERS MARKET 2025 DATES



5th April
3rd May
7th June



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



Home grown, high welfare, outdoor reared:

**Water Buffalo/ Pork/ Lamb/ Mutton/
Occasional Beef**

Chickens- point of lay hens and hatching eggs

SHOP Open Saturdays 9-12pm, OR by pre booking

Roasts, Bacon, Gammon, Steaks, Mince, Diced, Burgers,
Sausages, Slow Cooking bits etc.

WHOLE or HALF; Butchered/unbutchered Pork & Lamb

**Taking Christmas orders: Gammon, Sausage Meat,
Pork, Buffalo and Lamb**

Sunnymead farm, Alresford road, Wivenhoe, CO7 9JZ.

**Please contact Emily for more information on:
07817404362**

Follow us on instagram or facebook to keep up to date
with the animals and special offers

www.sunnymeadfarm.org



CHRISTINE MARGARET STIMPSON 22/05/1949 - 19/01/2025

It is with a heavy heart I announce the passing of my dear wife Christine on Sunday 19th January 2025 after being together for nearly 60 years. Christine endured many years of pain and mobility issues due to severe arthritis and other issues. The heart attack and stroke during her last ten days were beyond my comprehension and the shock waves still reverberate around our village.

Christine lived most of her 75 years in Alresford and was a big part of our wonderful community due to her involvement in several village activities. This was shown by the record number of people who attended the Crematorium, Church and Village Hall.

The day we all said our goodbyes to Chris, 14 February 2025, St Valentine's Day, the sea of faces in the Church as I supported my daughter Jenine will remain with me for ever. "Thank you Alresford."

Thanks must also go to Matt and Karli of GoYo events for providing food, and the kind people who provided cakes and made drinks. 100 or so people above the anticipated number attended the wake.

Also a special thank you must go to my special friends and family for their love and support during this very difficult period of my life.

Thank you all so much
John S.



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

COPY DEADLINE

The editorial and advertising deadline for the
April/May edition will be:
8th MAY 2025

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES NEWS

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

ALRESFORD BOWLS CLUB

You are invited to join us to play carpet bowls

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

FREE TRIAL SESSIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO NEWCOMERS

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

For further information contact
Andrew Pyman on
07393 381257



ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL REGULAR GROUPS

MONDAY

- Mindfulness Yoga meet Monday mornings
- Alresford Indoor Carpet Bowls Club meet Monday afternoon/Evening.

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.
- Pilates every Wednesday evening

THURSDAY

- Exercise Classes (Extend) meet every Thursday morning.
- Alresford Women's Institute meet the second Thursday evening of the month
- Sound & Gong Bath meet on the fourth Thursday evening of 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)
- Little City on the 2nd Saturday morning of the month
- 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

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

LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

COME ALONG TO



FRIENDS & FAMILY

**GAMES
NIGHT**

ALL AGES
AND
ABILITIES
WELCOME

ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL,
FORD LANE
6:30PM TO 9:30PM
LAST FRIDAY OF
EVERY MONTH

TEA, COFFEE & A SELECTION OF
GAMES AVAILABLE TO PLAY EACH
NIGHT

DONATIONS APPRECIATED TO
COVER HALL HIRE COSTS



YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN
REFRESHMENTS & GAMES IF YOU
WISH

Contact Courtney 07535707002



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. If you would like to join us please contact **Jeanette Downing** on **01206 825008**

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 Thorington 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,

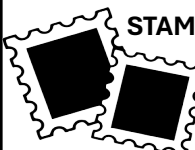
Frating with Thorington.

More details on our website www.tenpennyvillages.uk

CHRISTINE'S CHARITY BAG

Following the sad news of Christine's passing in January, John has decided that with the help from Alresford Women's Institute he will carry on the good work in Christine's name.

STAMPS



Stamps are still being collected for Bone Cancer Research. They should be cut from envelopes with a half inch border. Please put them through the letter box or leave

them by the back door.

KNITTING

Knitting is still needed. Wool and needles are available for anyone who wishes to contribute.

Collection or delivery of wool can be arranged.



Last year's knitting has safely arrived in Romania and been distributed to those in need.

Stamps and knitting can be delivered to 2 Coach Road as before or brought to any WI meeting.

With your support I hope to carry on helping these charities as Christine would have wished.

John Stimpson
2 Coach Road

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

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 mention us to friends, family, neighbours etc. emphasising we are not a choir but a group of people, male and female, who enjoy getting together for a sing song and a great social afternoon.

Other dates:

4th April

2nd & 16th May

6th June

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.

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



ALRESFORD WI

The meeting in April will be the members meeting; this is the evening the members take over the meeting and the committee are able to take it easier for a while.

The May meeting is our A.G.M. when the new committee is voted in. This will be followed by a flower demonstration given by two of our members.

We meet on the second Thursday of each month in the Village Hall

Meetings start at 7.30p.m.

New members are always welcome

For further information please contact:

Chris James 07977 495382 or
Hilda Newbold 01206 823477



ALRESFORD ANGLING ASSOCIATION



ANGLING
TRUST



FISH
LEGAL



Patron: Sir Bernard Jenkin MP

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of Ron Tickner on the 27th January 2025, the club's treasurer for the past 57 years. Ron had been a founder member of the club along with Arthur Bareham and John White. His funeral took place on the 19th February and was well attended by family, friends and colleagues. The family requested donations to St. Helena Hospice, who cared for Ron so well in his last days, via ronaldtickner.muchloved.com

After a wet and windy start to the year March has opened with sunshine, although still frosty. Some of our stalwart match anglers have had to crack the ice before commencing fishing. Match weights have been down at present due to low water temperatures but should start to pick up as the water warms although the Abbey has produced some nice 1lb+ Roach. Pike have been few and far between from Alresford Lake but they were mostly double figures and in good condition. The Close season for Pike will end on the 15th March and will include all lure fishing on Alresford Lake only.

The lakes have had their water quality tested and show an average ph value of around 8 which is good, Bramley was slightly down on the other lakes, but this is down to leaf fall in the water.

The club's AGM will be held on the 2nd May at 20:00hrs (8pm in old money) at Alresford Village Hall. Membership renewals will be due in May and the new season starts on the 1st June.

The new season's match list will be entered onto the web page along with the amended competition rules. Please watch notices for date and venue alterations.

Most of the major clearing has been completed now, in time for nesting. Pathways, swims etc, will continue to be managed through the oncoming season and again any help with this will always be appreciated.

As always, enjoy your fishing, stay safe and look out for one another
Tight Lines.
Mike Day (Hon. Secretary)

Alresford Colne Rangers Football Club



With a new year well underway, it is time to look back and look forward.

Looking back, 2023-2024 season was a traumatic season for the men's teams. The main problem was the first team managers let the club down, also players – with well over one hundred players signed on, most weeks we struggled to field teams. That the club is still going is a tribute to the stubborn volunteers who just dug in and came through it. The men's teams have stabilised and are moving in the right direction with a younger group of players. The club must work hard to continue this as young people are our future, with four youth teams hopefully some fruits of this will come to the club in the next few years.

We started a new side this season, the under 7s although there was an early hiccup when a volunteer moved on, but the club owe a debt to the ladies' co-manager, Sharn Bennett-Smith who stepped in to save the team. They now play with a smile on their faces and are improving game to game, also thanks to those parents who stay. Your support gives all who volunteer a lift.

The under 10s are preparing to take on a new challenge in 4 months, a bigger pitch, bigger goals, size four footballs and more players per team so exciting times for them. Some of the boys started as under 7s and the improvement in them is a credit to the coaches who spend enormous amounts of time helping them progress.

The under 14s in a difficult season have stayed together but will only get better and stronger with the spirit shown. They need to believe in themselves a little more.

The under 15s are coming to a time when they can play youth and open football at the club.

The ladies season so far has been very stop and start due to games being called off. Hopefully from now on, they will be able to play more regularly.

The walking football do not play currently but are training ready for the season to start.

The club is getting stronger but can only do it with support. We as a club, are thankful for the support we get but more will always be welcome. Come and give us a look, see the facilities, have a cup of tea or something stronger from the bar. Anyone who would like to take a bigger part by volunteering will find the welcome mat out.

The club officials busy time is coming up with lots of work to be done on all the pitches plus getting ready for the Picnic in the Park, always a wonderful day with the field full of happy people, a wonderful sight to see. Please try to attend, this is a great village event.

The Ranger
Brian Martin



REFLECTIONS

Our garden is very long and quite thin, shielded on the southern side by our neighbours' very tall conifers. This is no problem in the summer, but we are immersed into nuclear winter after mid October, with no sun touching a blade of grass, and the moss in the lawn really coming into its own. On the rare occasion that it snows, once the thaw sets in, all the back gardens of our road are green and promising, whilst ours alone still looks like Narnia. Now, here we are in April, and what a difference the arrival of spring has made; the washing blows in sunshine on the line; the sun shafts through the windows to be tracked by an ecstatic dog as it pools on the carpet; warmed green shoots emerge through the soil and from the branches of the trees. I don't mind winter at all, because this is what is waiting after it, laden with the promises of lunch outside, and resonating with the fragrance of cut grass.

It seems to me that everyone I know has been through periods of darkness, when light seemed limited, and the end too far away to be clung to. The reasons may be varied, but the feeling is the same: desolation and disbelief, with an inability to see hope. But warmth does return, and life does rebuild: sometimes so slowly and hesitantly that we don't notice, occasionally turning into a slightly differently shaped reality. At Easter, we think of that space between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, when all seemed lost and no one could believe that Jesus was gone, when winter seemed to have triumphed. But the sun will always be stronger than the dark. Sometimes we just have to wait for it to arrive.

Happy Easter!
Julie Thompson

St Andrew's Church

Family Friendly Easter Trail

Join Daffodil the donkey
and find out about the
Easter story

Free! All welcome
Children must
be accompanied
by an adult

Refreshments

Crafts

Saturday 19th April
2 - 3.30pm

St Andrew's Church Close, CO7 8BL

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance: How Gifts in Wills Enable 1 in 4 Missions

The legacy we leave behind reflects the choices we make and the values we hold dear. One significant way to ensure your values live on is by leaving a gift to charity in your Will. For Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT), these gifts are vital, funding 1 in 4 life-saving missions carried out by their critical care team across Essex, Hertfordshire, and beyond.

March is Gifts in Wills Month, a time to highlight how legacy donations are essential for charities like EHAAT. These contributions help keep their skilled doctors, paramedics, and pilots operational, ensuring they can continue delivering critical pre-hospital care when it's needed most.

"These phenomenal acts truly make a difference to our patients and their loved ones," says Carmel Hudson, Legacies Manager. "Gifts in Wills not only have the potential to save lives but leave enduring legacies that will always be remembered."

Legacy gifts also offer personal benefits. They can honour a loved one, celebrate their life, and keep their memory alive. Additionally, gifts in Wills are tax-free, potentially reducing the Inheritance Tax rate on your estate.

With limited government funding, EHAAT relies on the generosity of its community to remain operational. To learn more or access free Will-writing services, visit ehaat.org. Your legacy could become someone's lifeline.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CONTACTS

Rector: Rev Andrew Fordyce

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

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

Bookings for the Hub: Meg Burdus - 01206 820618

www.tenpennyvillages.uk

Find us on

ParishChurchesofAlesfordElmsteadThorrington-TenpennyVillages

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

MOBILE LIBRARY: Alesford Village Hall

The Mobile Library visits every: 3 weeks

DAY: Thursday
TIME: 11:55 to 12:25

17-April 08-May & 29-May 19-June

ESSEX LIBRARIES- What's on?
<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news>

ALRESFORD BIKERS - SEASONAL LIGHTS TURN GREEN

It seems like ages since I last wrote to tell you all about our coming year. This Winter seems to have dragged on even longer than previous ones, and never-ending rain and endless gloom hasn't helped at all. But, as you will remember it takes a lot more than a spot of damp to stop AB riders from having some fun, and we've been riding all over the place already this year, indeed some of us never stopped. Year-round riders are a pretty tough bunch, but it has been at times quite difficult, and not just because it has been cold. Mud has been a major issue this Winter. If you think it feels sketchy in a car, imagine how we're feeling as a tyre lets go on the stuff.

Still, we have had some good news! Several lovely cafes have been visited, and many of the more local roads traversed by the AB crew, all safely too. Another thing that we get regular reminders of (by the mud!) is the massive range of cleaning products that are now available. The huge span of newer kinds of cleaners and lubricants, including some very specialised ones, is mind-boggling, and some more have been added in the past few years too. But out of all that, some new breeds of protectants have become available and we can firmly recommend some, having tried them out over the past Winter, with good outcomes. Come meet with us and find out which are worth the money!

So, what else is happening with the bikers? We're not always wobbling about on the filthy, potholed moonscape; sometimes we're ogling new machines, or watching others testing them, and looking forward to seeing them in the flesh. There are hints among us of at least one new bike in the wind, and we're looking forward to going riding together too. And it turned up this morning for a ride. See picture! But, since I last pounded



out an article for you dear reader, not a great deal has actually happened. It's more about considering what we want to do this year right now. Many of us are planning our Summer trips, and we'll be spreading out all over the country, and on the continent too. As well as that, we're still mulling over which events to go to this year, as there are more events in the calendar than we can participate in already, and thanks to our members alerting me as well, they are still coming! It looks like we'll be going to the Suffolk Classic Bike Show, on 6 April and if this is out after then, you've missed it! Or maybe you'd like the White Horse Custom and Classic Charity Bike Show on 13 April, or perhaps St Georges Day Bike Show at Kesgrave? Contact us for further details of these few events, they're all run for charity. We'll be visiting some new establishments, trying out their tea and bacon sarnies too.

Apart from these events there are all our regular Sunday Rides, Mid-week rides for those of us who have retired, (contact me to join in the loop) where we visit places that are closed on Sundays, or maybe to try out new ones before inflicting the AB riders on them. These rides tend to be a little bit more

explorational and we often go test out places we haven't been before first to ensure we can actually park there, as I know of at least two that are difficult for bikes. One involves a Ford, which is permanently green slime at the bottom and is always lethal to bikes, and the other has no off-road parking so we avoid it. There are some that have proper parking with cameras and so on, good site security if the bikes are actually out of eyeshot for us, which is always reassuring. Others are just nice, quiet and relaxing places to visit that we enjoy. Anyway, we are getting more and more out and about now, and as car drivers will have lost the habit of looking out for us over Winter, now is the time to start keeping that extra eye out for us!

If you want to find out more about our exploits, talk bikes, with bikers, etc. come along to our meetings in HQ, The Pointer Inn, on the second Friday of every month at 8pm. Sam and Neil always make us welcome, and we're looking forward to seeing you.

Al Gillard

Twitchers Paradise

Who would have thought that our little Alresford Village would become a twitchers paradise. But over the months of January and February, Ornithologists have flocked to our village from all over the country to observe what some have described as the most spectacular aerial displays that they have ever seen.

The person we must thank for this is Farmer, Noel Tinneveld who planted a crop of special seed the latter part of last year in Church Meadows. The fields at both sides of St Peters Church were planted with seeds which have been described to me as Cereals, Brassicas and Oilseed. By January and February of this year, wild birds started to gather. I understand that some of the species of birds have not been seen in Alresford since the early 1970's.

I managed to spear to several numbers of birdwatchers who had gathered on the Meadows together with their binoculars and cameras. The excitement I gleaned from them was something you had to be there to behold. The joy on some of their faces was absolutely mind boggling. Some had never seen some of the species that were present.

I spoke at length to a local birdwatcher called Richard who came from Kirby le Soken who explained to me what he and his colleagues had witnessed over the last couple of weeks in Church Meadows. He said he had seen Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Thrush, Reed Bunting and Corn Bunting but what had taken his breath away were the flights of 600-700 Linnets and between 200-300 Chaffinch, also spotted were Bramblings that had flown in from Scandinavia. It looked as if there were a lot more in flight, but Richard explained that from a distance both Linnets and Chaffinch look the same.

Another thing that Richard explained was that Greenfinch are becoming a dying breed; this is because humans are killing them by trying to be kind. He went on to explain that we put out bird feed in our garden feeders but because we fail to clean the bottoms of the feeders a deadly fungus causes their death.

So please join me in thanking Noel Tinneveld for making this possible.

Ernie Osborne

ALRESFORD PARISH CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Alresford Parish Council :
Cllr Frank Belgrove

Awards

A quite outstanding result for Alresford in the Essex Playing Field of the Year Competition (run by the Essex Playing Fields Association). Alresford Parish Council has won the competition for the Best Kept Village Playing Field in Essex, for the third year in succession. The award covers all the Council provided provisions on the playing field site. The judging included the Pavilion, football pitches, play area, skate park and hard court. An individual gold certificate was awarded for the standards of maintenance and the diversity of the play equipment found in the children's play area.

The mainly volunteer-maintained football pitch received a runner-up award. There were just over one hundred entries to the whole competition. The Council thanks staff, contractors and volunteers for all their amazing hard work. Awards are nice to have but providing top quality facilities for residents is the main goal and the award is a recognition of this.

Toilet Block

A new public toilet block has been installed near the entrance to the playing field.



Highways

The railway bridge (the viaduct!) weight restriction on the B1027 continues to cause issues as HGVs divert along Wivenhoe Road and also use Coach Road. Both Essex County Council Highways and Network Rail have been approached on a number of occasions but to date they cannot give a completion time-scale when safety works are to be completed. The proposed relocation of concrete batching works to Lufkins Farm, Great Bentley should mean fewer heavy vehicle movements through Alresford so there is some good news on the horizon for residents of affected roads.

Parking issues have been discussed many times at Full Council meetings and research carried out. Almost all sizeable villages are affected and schools inevitably have problems at dropping off and picking up times. At our Primary School parking safety is a major concern and it has been disappointing to see vehicles parked, albeit briefly, on the zig zag markings and also on the street corner of Ford Lane. Police and our PCSO have been in attendance on a number of occasions. It is the case though that further highway restrictions may be needed, especially at the junction of Ford Lane and Church Road.

Planning and Development

Tendring District Council are responsible for planning and development in our area. I have included here details of the

Local Plan Review:

The Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond was adopted in two parts: **Section 1** (which was prepared jointly by Tendring District, Colchester City, and Braintree District Councils, and contains strategic policies that are common between all three authorities) was adopted January 2021, and **Section 2** (which contains policies that are specific to the Tendring District) was adopted in January 2022.

To ensure Plans remain effective, they are required to be reviewed and updated at least every five years. Tendring District Council has begun the process of reviewing and updating the Local Plan, in order to plan for and manage development in the Tendring District up to 2041.

The Council hereby gives notice of the first stage of public consultation that will be part of this process: 'Issues and Options'.

The consultation period for 'Issues and Options' and the 'Call for Sites' runs from **Monday 3rd March 2025** until **5pm on Monday 14th April 2025** – a period of just over six weeks.

Where You Can View the Consultation Documents

The consultation document is available to view online at: <https://tendringdc.oc2.uk/>.

Paper copies will also be available at public libraries around the District and at Clacton Town Hall, during usual opening hours. It is important that you have your say, either online or in writing. Those engaging in the consultation process should contact Tendring District Council and not Alresford Parish Council!

Public Open Space Acquisition

Documents have been signed for the transfer of the public open space land and allotments at Staunton Gate from Taylor Wimpey to Alresford Parish Council. We now await completion of the transaction. It is important to the Council that all parts of the village with open public spaces are maintained by the Parish Council so that there is uniformity in the standard and it also gives residents a single point of contact regarding open space issues.

VE DAY 80th Anniversary

The Anniversary of the ending of the second world war in Europe is to be commemorated on the 8th of May. The Parish Council will lay a wreath at the War Memorial at 11am on the 8th of May. On Saturday evening the 10th of May the films shown in the Village Hall will have a 1940's theme (tea and cakes to be provided). Bunting/Flags will be placed at suitable locations and it is hoped that there will be some appropriate music available to mark the occasion.

Youth input

The Council has put together a working party in order to obtain greater input into Council decisions from younger members of the community. Selected Councillors will work with local schools to engage with young people and survey opinion. Previous youth involvement has led to improved local facilities and a more rounded picture of community needs.

And finally.....

The awards mentioned above are a wonderful tribute to the people of Alresford who appreciate the village and do all they can to keep it such a pleasant place to live.

**Councillor 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 Julia Claremont-Brown

Cllr Courtney Muller

Cllr Kristen Doulai

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)

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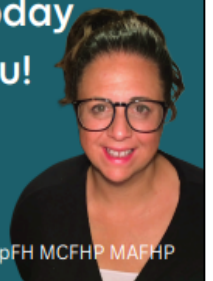


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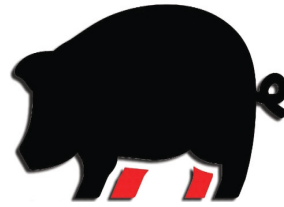
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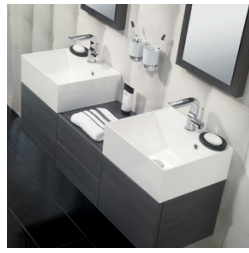
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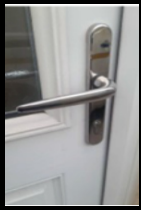
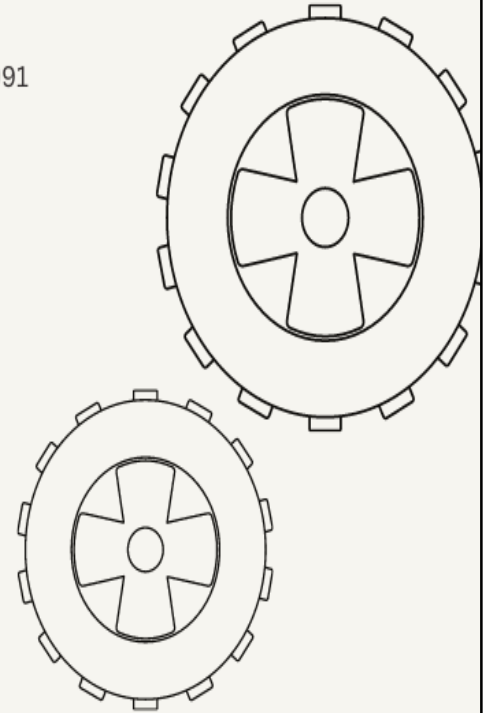
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ALRESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

Pages 18 & 19

01/01/2025 - 25/01/2025

RECORDED CRIMES: 9

CRIME TYPES: Assault (ABH) - Assault without injury x 5 -
Blackmail - Criminal damage x 2

INCIDENTS RECORDED: 21

TYPES REPORTED: Animal - Assault x 4 - Criminal damage -
Domestic x 3 - Drugs - Missing Persons x 6 - Section 165 -
Suspicious circumstances - Theft - Theft of Vehicle - Threats

26/01/2025 - 28/02/2025

RECORDED CRIMES: 9

CRIME TYPES: Assault without injury x 3 - Blackmail -
Domestic x 2 - Malicious communications - Other - Theft

INCIDENTS RECORDED: 9

TYPES REPORTED: Missing person x 3 - Missing person
information x 4 - theft/loss of handbag - Abandoned 999

TRUCAM (SPEEDING):

JANUARY 2025: 2 x 1 hour sessions in a 30mph zone

MONTHLY TOTAL: 14

- 1) **10 vehicles** exceeding the speed limit - Top speed **41mph**
- 2) **4 vehicles** exceeding the speed limit - Top speed **40mph**

FEBRUARY 2025: 4 X 1 hour sessions in a 30mph zone

MONTHLY TOTAL: 42

- 1) **15 vehicles** exceeding the speed limit - Top speed **43mph**
- 2) **10 vehicles** exceeding the speed limit - Top speed **49mph**
- 3) **9 vehicles** exceeding the speed limit - Top speed **38mph**
- 4) **8 vehicles** exceeding the speed limit - Top speed **41mph**

The **30mph** signs were checked before and after deployment and were **clearly visible**

Trucam will be deployed on a regular basis in the village
Please drive with due care and attention
THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR POOR DRIVING

CONSIDERATE PARKING TICKET

JANUARY 2025: 3 x CPI were given out this month

FEBRUARY 2025: 2 x CPI were given out this month

A large van was given a considerate parking ticket after being reported numerous times for obstructing the junction in Coach Road.

Drivers are reminded **NOT TO BLOCK FOOTPATHS**, to avoid pedestrians having to walk in the road.

FOOTPATHS are for pedestrians. **Please leave enough space** for people to pass on the footpath, **IF** kerb parking is your only option. This can be extremely dangerous and inconvenient for all pedestrians.

Fixed penalty notices can be issued to those that **block the footpath as an obstruction**.

Is it Legal to park on the pavement?

Parking on the pavement is not illegal outside of London. You can, however, still get a fine for doing so in some instances, which makes the law quite a grey area.

Since 1974, Highway Code rule 244 has stated that drivers "MUST NOT park partially or wholly on the pavement in London and should not do so elsewhere unless signs permit it."

The key things to note here are the words *must not* and *should not*. In London, you *must not* park on the pavement, the *must* indicating there is legislation behind this rule and you could receive a fine for breaking it. However, outside of the capital or "elsewhere", the Highway Code states drivers *should not* park on the pavement meaning it is advisory and not therefore, backed up by any legislation.

Rule 242 is where it gets a little less clear, stating: "You **MUST NOT** leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or This is a *must not*, again, meaning if your car is reported or seen by

a police officer and judged to be either in a dangerous position or causing an unnecessary obstruction of the road, you could receive a **Fixed Penalty Notice**

ZIG ZAGS

Vehicles are parking on these, especially at the school. Please **DO NOT** park on these or any zig zags as you are putting children and pedestrians in danger. Excuses will not be valid when it comes to issuing a fixed penalty – The issuing of a fixed penalty will take longer than finding somewhere safer to park - **IS IT WORTH IT?**

SCHOOL PATROLS:

Numerous school patrols were carried out this month. **One** driver was advised about the law of parking on zig zags.

NITROUS OXIDE CANISTERS

A fair amount of nitrous oxide canisters were found in the village. Some still has some gas left in them. Please be reminded that being caught with this or using it, could lead to a fine, not to mention extremely dangerous to your health.

DRUGS

Drugs are a concern in every village, this is a regular reported problem in Alresford. Do your children come home smelling of cannabis with large dark pupils, even in the light?

Drugs can ruin your life. What starts out as a bit of harmless smoking, can lead to stronger addictive drugs and being vulnerable to county lines. Once this path is taken, it is very hard to break. Dealers will not allow you to walk away without consequences.

Be aware of recruitment - Recruitment of young people into County Lines activity can happen anywhere, with young people being targeted at fast food outlets, shopping centres and parks to online platforms and gaming sites. Young people are also known to self-recruit, contacting the criminals directly, usually online.

Some serious organised criminals have exploited taxi drivers/private hire drivers to transport their 'runners', drugs and/or money. The incentive is usually the offer of easy cash-in-hand money in exchange for transportation. This working relationship often also includes coercion, intimidation, violence.

For more information and help, if you suspect your child may be involved with drugs.

Visit the [Gov.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website and search for **County lines: criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults**

KNIFE/DRUG SWEEPS

Numerous knife/drug sweeps have been done in various locations around the village. If you come across any please report it to Essex Police.

INTELLIGENCE

A vast amount of information has been gained from the community, some of it could be the missing link. If you see something that doesn't look right, please report it.

ST ANDREWS CHURCH BOOK CAFÉ

Community Engagement

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

I will be in attendance on the following dates if you have any concerns in Alresford, or just want to pop along to say hello.

Wednesday 23rd April 2025

10.30-1200 hours

Wednesday 28th May 2025

10.30-1200 hours

PCSO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

Numerous community engagement events were attended during January and February in Alresford.

Topics of concern that were raised were:

- Speeding/parking - particularly the school and Station Road,

blocking corners/junctions/driveways/footpaths particularly junction of Coach Road by large white van

- Fraudulent advertising
- Dog mess being left around the village.

Trucam is already being deployed and CPI polite warnings issued.

Regarding dog mess, we will be getting the infant school involved to design temporary leaflets.

Various welfare calls were done to victims of previous crime and vulnerable

Various welfare calls were done to victims of previous crime and vulnerable.

PCSO was accompanied by Chairman Frank Belgrove on 28/02/2025 where a security check was conducted on the Station House. A concern of vehicles parked up in a nearby road were investigated and a walk around the pavilion area liaising with residents and workers

REPORTING POTHOLES

Advice from Alan Goggin

It is important to report dangerous potholes when seen, they will then usually be assessed within 4 days and dealt with appropriately - www.essexhighways.org/using-tell-us-and-track-it You can also track the status of reports and check if one has already been reported.

It is vital that if you come across a pothole that is extremely dangerous, DO NOT REPORT IT ONLINE, but ring the Emergency number **0345 603 7631** If a pothole is not reported, it never happened, so awareness needs to be made.

NETWORK RAIL

Faulty Barrier

Please call emergency 24 hour helpline on **03457 11 41 41** if there's a safety threat to you or to others such as:

- people, animals, trees or objects on or near the track
- damage or fault at a level crossing
- a vehicle has hit a bridge
- a broken fence or open gate allowing access to the track.

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.

WHO TO REPORT TO FOR PARKING ISSUES/ VEHICLES

DVLA: [Report an untaxed vehicle - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://Report an untaxed vehicle - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk))

Deal with Vehicles with No MOT OR TAX on the public highway. DVLA can remove them.

Police will intervene when the vehicle is being driven with a fixed penalty notice.

Reporting dangerous / illegal parking:

<https://parkingpartnership.org/enforcement-requests/>

(Take 2 photos of said vehicle to supply online)

PARKING SERVICES:

parking@tendringdc.gov.uk or 01255 686969

Police will intervene if the vehicle is a danger to the highway i.e. a complete block likely to cause an accident, where other vehicles cannot pass.

REPORTING INCIDENTS THE CORRECT WAY

It is vital that incidents are reported at the time of the incident so that the right team can be assigned with a better chance of progress. Please **do not** email or ring the PSCO to report incidents.

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/>

For anything else email your local PCSO:

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ALRESFORD ADVERTISER - DELIVERERS NEEDED URGENTLY

We are looking for people to help deliver the Alresford Advertiser especially for Staunton Gate

CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR EVERY TWO MONTHS?
Please call Russell on 01206 825739

ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL

Charity Commission Number: 301233

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

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

WE NEED NEW TRUSTEES!

Our village hall is in excellent condition and very sound financially, but we need the next generation of trustees to start getting involved!!!!

So, if you are new to Alresford and would like to invest in our village, please, please contact us as the existing trustees are not going to last for ever and we need to start handing over to the next generation. That is not to say that if you are not new to Alresford you cannot also become a trustee.

So come on Alresford....at least have a look and see if you can bring something to our community.

INTERESTED!!! GIVE ME A CALL 01206 825739

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 subject to 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.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Our first **BLOOD DONATION DAY** will be on the 18th of July 2025. Information regarding times will be available in the next Advertiser and via social media. Provisionally there will be three sessions in the year and more dates will be announced when known. The NHS Blood Service will monitor the attendance initially and if successful the sessions will become a regular feature in the Village Hall.

Solar Panels: As this is written all the infra structure for the thirty panels is completed on and in the hall and we are just awaiting the arrival of the panels from the supplier. It is hoped to complete before the end of March or early April if delays on supply. Three Year contracts have been signed off with Utility suppliers and we have also signed on a Feed In tariff which can then be used to offset energy costs when the sun is not shining so much.

Russell Milburn
Chair AVHMC
01206 825739

ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING At Alresford Village Hall

29TH MAY 2025 at 7.30pm



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