

THE ALRESFORD ADVERTISER

DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026

Established since 1970



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We would like to say "thank you" to all
our readers, contributors & advertisers
for all of your support over the last year.

We wish you all
A very Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

from

Hayley, Russell and Mary

ARE YOU OR YOUR PARTNER 75 OR OVER?

ALRESFORD FETE ORGANISING GROUP

Invites you to a

**Christmas Tea & Sing song
At Alresford Village Hall**

On Wednesday 3rd December 2025 @ 2pm

**Carols sung by children from
Alresford Primary School**

Please contact:

**Becky King on 07482 478834 or
Russell Milburn on 01206 825739**

**This event will be on a
first come, first served basis**

**There is no charge for the afternoon &
lifts can be requested**



Father Christmas is coming to



The Alresford Fete Organising Group have been informed by the elves of the North Pole that Father Christmas is going to be visiting Alresford Village Hall again this year!

2PM – 4:30PM

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2025

Please follow our Facebook page
"Alresford Fete Organising Group – AFOG"
for more information

This is a free event but donations are welcomed. There will be craft activities and a small selection of stalls as well as your booked visit.

Limited quieter time slots available.

To book your time slot and collect your tickets
please call Pamela on 07746561716

Alresford Village Hall, Ford Lane, CO7 8AT

**Nativity Service
Sunday 21st December, 11am**

Join us at St Andrew's Church, Alresford, for the story
of the nativity – with some unexpected twists along
the way!



Children are welcome to dress up as angels, wise men,
shepherds or animals! Some costumes will be available at
the church.



This will be a child-friendly nativity service:
we'd love to see you there!



St Andrew's Church, Alresford

Christmas Services

14 December

Songs of Praise – 4.00pm

21 December

Nativity Service – 11.00am

Carols by Candlelight – 6.30pm

Christmas Eve

Midnight Communion Service – 11.30pm

Christmas Day

Family Communion Service – 10.00am

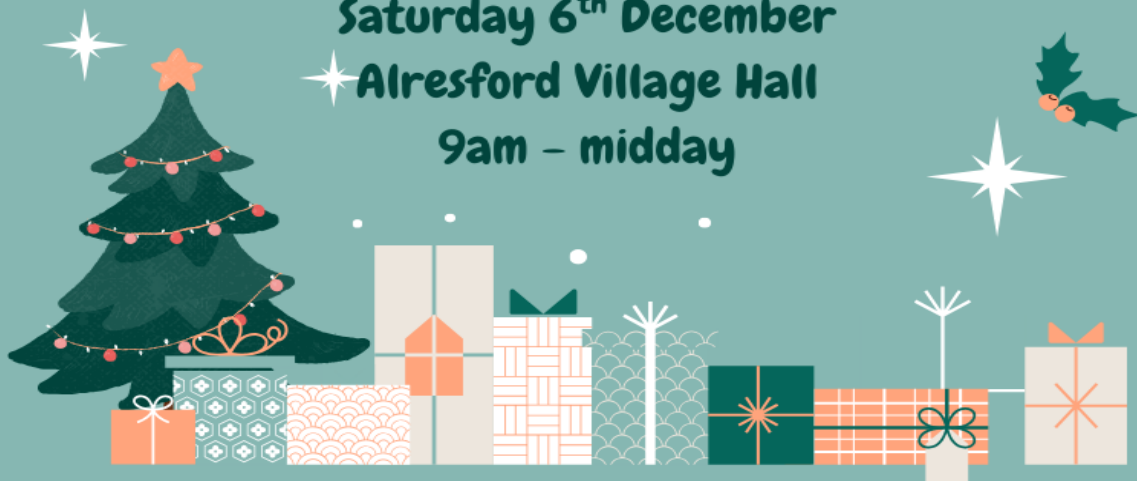
We would love to see you at our services.
tenpennyvillages.uk

ALRESFORD CRAFT & FARMERS CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 6th December

Alresford Village Hall

9am – midday



Last market of the year, come and find your Christmas gifts from our wonderful crafters. Stalls include Knitted & sewn goods, Norwegian Bakers with bread, pastries & cakes, Sunnymede Farm with a variety of meat, the cafe with cakes, scones and of course the breakfast baps and drinks, Jewellery, Teeny Paws animal characters, Decoupage, Soap Den, 3D printed Christmas items, Mel's Gifts, card and craft stall.

There will be a Christmas raffle with proceeds supporting a village group

Free car park and disabled facilities

We look forward to welcoming you

2026 Dates

7th February, 7th March, 4th April, 2nd May, 6th June, 4th July, 1st August,

5th September, 3rd October, 7th November, 5th December



MOVIE NIGHT at Alresford Village Hall

Friday 12th December 2025
when we will be showing



Clark Griswold is really into Christmas and promises to make it a good one until he turns everything completely around, causing a domino effect of disasters.

***** 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



St Andrew's Church, Alresford

Christmas Songs of Praise

14 December, 4pm

If you would like to stay for afternoon tea following the service, please contact St Andrew's Church office by email or phone:

admin@tenpennyvillages.uk
01206 826376

We would love to see you there.

tenpennyvillages.uk



ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL

Charity Commission Number: 301233

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

Facebook:

<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 subject to the hall being 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.

TRUSTEES UPDATE

- As reported in the last Advertiser, we have had five villagers showing an interest in how our village hall is managed. We are incredibly happy that they have now decided to become Trustees and will now start to become active members of the Management Committee.
- As reported numerous times over the years the Village Hall is in excellent health. Financially we are very stable, structurally we are incredibly happy with the layout and look of the hall and alongside the recent solar panel upgrade we are very sustainable going into the future.
- Bookings remain at extremely elevated levels but dictates increased volunteer time to manage and maintain the hall especially at weekends, so the need for a solid group of Trustees into the coming years is necessary.
- The storage battery that can be used to store excess energy created from the Solar Panels is now installed and functioning. Additionally, the Feed-in Tariff allows any excess energy that cannot be used immediately or stored to be sent back to the grid and the hall to receive payment.
- Portable Appliance Testing completed on 27th November.
- The Contract of Hire is still under review and will be bought online hopefully in the New Year.
- In line with the process of ensuring the hall is in a good place going into the next few years, a 3-year water deal has been accepted and will run until 2028 alongside the Electric/Gas and Insurance contracts.
- The Finance Committee met in late September and recommended that no hire fee alterations are required.
- The loft space was given a good tidy up and this complies with conditions of insurance.

- The yearly Fire check was completed in October with no issues arising.
- At the time of going to press, a Blood Donation session is scheduled for 9th January 2026
- Replacement window panels are being sought for windows in the hall and foyer.

Simply Singing and Movie Night continue to be well attended with 30-40 attending.

Simply Singing is an afternoon where we cover lots of the old favourite songs inviting you to offer your own favourites to sing. Don't worry about knowing all the lyrics, because they will either be projected onto the stage screen or you'll have a paper lyric sheet. Don't worry if you don't want to sing, just come along and enjoy listening and watching footage of bygone artists.

Come along, give it a try and enjoy a cup of tea

PAVILION HIRE

The Pavilion can be hired individually or in conjunction with the Village Hall.

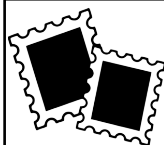
All enquiries should be via: alresfordvillagehall@gmail.com

Russell Milburn
Chair AVHMC
01206 825739



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



CHRISTINE'S CHARITY BAG

Stamps are still being collected for Bone Cancer Research. Please think of donating any stamps you receive on Christmas cards. Thank you.

A big thank you to everyone who has donated wool and delivered knitting. The knitted items have now been sorted and bagged ready to start their journey to Romania. There were over five hundred items ranging from baby cardigans to large blankets. It was an amazing quantity of knitting. Please accept our thanks. We are unable to thank everyone personally as many of the items are left anonymously.

Wool is available for anyone who wishes to contribute to next year's delivery. Collection or delivery of wool or knitting can be arranged.

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

John Stimpson
2 Coach Road
01206 825068



ALRESFORD WI

The Fashion Show held on 7 November was very successful; thank you to everyone who attended. A total of £115.00 was raised by the raffle in aid of St Helena Hospice.



The December meeting will be our Christmas Party with seasonal refreshments. The speaker is Linda Scoles and the title of her talk is "Help! I need a lifestyle adviser."

"Mel's Gifts after Christmas sale" will be at our January meeting.

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

Meetings start at 7.30p.m.
Visitors are always welcome.

For further information please contact

Chris James 07977 495382
Hilda Newbold 01206 823477

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

FRIDAY

- Alresford Calligraphy Group/Art Club meet every Friday morning.
- Simply Singing meet every other Friday afternoon October 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

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:

The Autumn Centre, 1 Osborne Court,
Victoria Place, Brightlingsea CO7 0EB
Or telephone 01206 303702

Or email theautumncentre@outlook.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 ANGLING ASSOCIATION



ANGLING
TRUST



FISH
LEGAL



Patron: Sir Bernard Jenkin MP

The winter months have started of mild, but with some well-deserved rain. Writing this article is a bit like looking into a crystal ball, trying to guess what the future weather forecast will be, but hopefully we will be in for a mild wet winter without too much of the white stuff. The number of Acorns, Sloes etc. on the trees and shrub makes this year qualify for a "Mast Year". This is when there is a glut of nuts and seeds to easily satisfy the predators and leave enough behind to produce seeds for the future. One theory, though, is that it is the sign of a hard winter to come, we shall see.

The tackle that was donated has been put to good use by members grandchildren and children, who have now got their own tackle can begin a life-times enjoyment of the outdoors.

The first team match between ourselves and the Police was a home victory for AAA but the away match is still to come. The internal matches have carried on and not only the fickleness of fish needs to be addressed but also the effects of the weather. Where a good sturdy brolly is an essential can make the day even if the fish don't oblige.

Ducks and geese are now congregating on the lakes along with other winter visitors. There are two pairs of Egyptian geese at present on Alresford Lake for the second year.

Now that the water level in the Abbey Lake is back up, there has been some good late autumn early winter Carp being caught.

Thankfully, the cooler weather has stopped the Hornets at Alresford Lake making their night-time forays in the search for moths.

November will see the start of Pike fishing on Alresford Lake, and the chance to catch a big Perch on all our waters is a possibility.

Maintenance carries on through the winter months with a vengeance on all the lakes, with repairs to swims, access and the removal of obstructions. Anyone who can spare a few hours mid-week would be welcomed.

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



1st Alresford & Elmstead Market Scout Group

The Beavers have had a busy Autumn term. Since we returned in September seven of our older Beavers have moved on to Cubs. We were able to award four of them the Chief Scout's Bronze Award before they left us. This is the highest award they can achieve while they are at Beavers. To earn it, they need to have completed all six Challenge badges, attended various outdoor activities including a Beaver Sleepover and have learnt lots of skills for life so well done Toby, Sam, William and Eden. We have now welcomed some new Beavers to fill the empty spaces.

Our weekly meetings have been a mixture of games, crafts, badge work and other topics themed around events at the time of year. We have recently completed the Space badge and the Communicator badge and several parts of the Challenge badges. We have lots more exciting things planned for the New Year.

In October we attended the District Beaver Sleepover at Thorington Scout Camp along with fifty Beavers from five groups within Colchester Estuary District. The weekend was a Spy themed camp and there were lots of fun activities both indoors and outside for the Beavers to take part in. It was a busy but very enjoyable weekend for all those attending. We also took part in the Remembrance services at both Alresford and Elmstead Market War Memorials.

Beavers meet on a Tuesday evening in term time and have a few spaces for any boys or girls age six or seven years who would like to join us. **Cubs** and **Scouts** for older children meet at Elmstead Community Centre on a Wednesday evening. Please contact alresfordbeavers@outlook.com for further details of any of the sections within the Scout Group or to add younger children to our waiting list.

SIMPLY SINGING

Do you find yourself joining in with songs you're listening to on the radio, on the TV or when in your car? Well if you do then you're the ideal person to come and join us at the Simply Singing afternoons. We cover lots of the old favourite songs inviting you to offer your own favourites to sing. Don't worry about knowing all the lyrics, because they will either be projected onto the stage screen or you'll have a paper lyric sheet.

We are not a choir, but on average 25 men and women, who enjoy a good old sing song and a very enjoyable social afternoon, so why not come along and see what we are all about.

We meet every two weeks from 2pm to 4pm in the Village Hall, Ford Lane. CO7 8AT

It's just £2 as session which includes refreshments at half time.

Last session for 2025 is December 12th and the dates for 2026 so far are:

**23rd January
6th & 20th February
6th & 20th March
10th & 24th April
8th & 22nd May**



For more information please contact:

Jeanette on 01206 825008 or Chris on 07484334698



ALRESFORD COLNE RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB

The season has started badly for the Colne Rangers men's teams. With a large number of so-called players most weeks missing, the managers are struggling to field a side. The Managers do not get paid but the effort and hours they put in is enormous. We as a club are grateful for their commitment, something that players today lack with excuses that are difficult to believe.

The Ladies team with smaller numbers have made a promising start and show a fine example that the men could learn from. They want to play every week even when not 100% fit and seem not to suffer from the unavailability issues that plague the men's teams.

The Ladies have new kit sponsors, a local company know as T.A.P.S and we thank Joshua Boyle for his generous support. The youth teams have started well and are meeting new challenges very well as they progress to open age football and this brings hope for the future.

A major concern for our club is the lack of new blood to get involved with running the club. Over the last few years our committee numbers have diminished mainly to Father Time, and we are heading to crisis point if new blood does not get involved.

We are no different to many clubs, not just football who are all struggling to get new people. New blood will bring new life and fresh ideas and will lift the whole club.

If there is anyone who is reading this who loves what is on offer in our village but now wants to put back in by joining any club that needs help, then I am sure you will be most welcome.

So, come and see us and talk about getting involved, you might just save the club from not existing.

**Alresford Colne Rangers Football Club wish you all
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A NEW YEAR THAT
BRINGS PROMISE AND HOPE.**



Brian Martin
The Ranger

ESSEX LIBRARIES

COLCHESTER REOPENING

Colchester Library will reopen on **Monday 1 December**, the latest in our planned programme of library improvements and refurbishments.

Residents can look forward to fresh, new-look spaces, an exciting new Children's Imagination and Literacy Centre, and more comfortable and commodious offices for registration of births, marriages and deaths.

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/colchester-library-reopening>

WARM WELCOME

Essex Libraries are really pleased that we have been allocated funding to support extending a Warm Welcome to our residents for another year. As in previous winters, we will be offering free hot drinks in our libraries. Whether you just fancy a sit-down in the warm with a cuppa and a good book, or you want to take part in some of our special Warm Welcomes events - make yourself at home!

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

WINTER READING CHALLENGE 2026



They're a group of friendly animals who live in Essex and, with the help of Essex Year of Opportunity, will find their dream jobs this winter.

Sign up and in join at your local Essex library. Complete challenges on your own sheet and collect stickers as you go. Complete the tasks and have a chance to enter our amazing prize draw!

Join in from Saturday 10 January to Sunday 22 February

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/winter-reading-challenge-2026>

ALRESFORD CRAFT & FARMER'S MARKET

Well we have had yet another successful year, running on the first Saturday of the month February to December. The cafe is very popular and a great warm meeting place. I would like to thank the cafe team for their support, and for helping to set the market tables up too. Great team work.

Of course we have the December market to go with a great selection of crafts and food, plants and more. Of course we have our Christmas raffle with the proceeds being donated to support a village group that needs a bit of extra help.

We will of course return again February next year, with a varied range of craft and food stalls.

So we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you again in February 2026.

From the organisers of the market.



St Andrew's Church



What do you say when you don't know what to say? What do you do when you don't know what to do?

At extreme highs and lows of emotions, we can be at a loss. Quite often when dealing with challenging situations, people might say to me, "but I don't know what to say or I don't know what to do".

There is an African tradition where if someone is going through a tough time you can go round and visit and not actually say anything. The tradition gives you permission not to have the right words to say - that your company is enough. This seems to chime in with a song lyric where Ronan Keating sings the rather profound words, "You say it best, when you say nothing at all".

Why mention this in an article that goes out around Christmas and New Year? Well, I fear that so much of Christmas can be a non-stop trolley dash, juggling our normal full lives and trying to prepare to catch up with family and make sure that all our Christmas lists get sent off to Father Christmas (and all that may entail!!!). Don't get me wrong - I love Christmas, Christmas dinner is one of my favourite meals. I also love the carols and getting the house decorated - we also have some wonderful Church services. But I think sometimes the real power of the season is when we stop, we step back and reflect on the reason for the season.

This year I am struggling to say what Christmas means to me - all I can do is stop and point.

Rather incredibly, when we reflect on the Crib that first Christmas we are gazing at the Christian claim that God chose to be with us - Emmanuel literally means, "God with us".

I'm not sure if the word 'gaze' is going out of fashion but I pray that you will have a moment to stop and reflect on that first Christmas scene. The ingredients are raw - an occupied land, a pregnant woman forced to travel for a tax census and then Joseph's relatives can't accommodate them. In the mess of a stable, God enters humanity. God spoke love to the world and we find it in a crib in Bethlehem.

Every blessing in the pauses this Christmas season and a happy New Year.

Rev. Andrew Fordyce MBE

PS Please can we look out for folks who don't find Christmas easy, we are a kind village let's keep an eye out for folks.

MEMORIES GROUP

Do you, or someone close to you, have Memory problems? If so, why not come and join us for an informal afternoon of socialising and reminiscence.

We meet at the Hub at St Andrews Church, on the first Monday of the month from 2.30 - 4 pm. You would be most welcome.

For further details please contact :
Jeanette Downing on 01206 825008



St Andrew's - not just for Sundays

Friendship Circle 10:30-12:00

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 - 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 are interested, please contact **Jeanette Downing** on **01206 825008**

Tuesday Tots 10:30 - 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 - 15:30

Tuesday Fortnightly

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

Start-up Café 10:30 - 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 - 15:00

3rd Thursday

Learn relaxation techniques and enjoy some refreshments.

Ministry for Men 19:30 - 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

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CONTACTS

Rector: Rev Andrew Fordyce - 01206 920848

Email: rector@tenpennyvillages.uk

Associated Priest: Rev Pauline Hart - 01206 826318

Email: assocpriest@tenpennyvillages.uk

Churchwarden:


Nick Berry - 01206 824496

Email: standrewswardens@tenpennyvillages.uk

Bookings for the Hub: Meg Burdus - 01206 820618

Email: admin@tenpennyvillages.uk

www.tenpennyvillages.uk

Find us on 

ParishChurchesofAlresfordElmsteadThorington-TenpennyVillages

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

ALRESFORD BIKERS - WINTERIZING!

Winter is fast approaching, and will probably be upon us when you read this. Not to worry, because many of the bikes are properly stored away, having been nicely winterized!

Winterizing is a bit of a process. Especially nowadays as we have feeble petrol, with moisture-seeking Ethanol in it, which can do untold damage to fuel systems if left long enough! However, all is not lost. Here's how to prepare your bike, and have no worries while parked for months out of use.

First, fill the petrol tank completely with fresh fuel and maybe add a fuel stabilizer if you're not going to use it at all for months on end. You might run the engine for a few minutes to circulate the treated fuel through the system. This will hopefully stop the modern additives from attacking the inside of the fuel system, causing leaks and blockages. I've never had either, but have never left a bike without touching it for four or five months either, so just to be on the safe side this is what others have advised! I do always fill the tank to the very top for long-time parking though, because it reduces the volume of air that can be filled with moisture sucked in through the vent by the Ethanol. Ethanol is very, very, hygroscopic, and will suck the moisture out of the air and because petrol floats on water, it will find its way to the bottom of the tank, and stay there gathering until you try to start the engine. Then it will be sucked straight into the motor, which you really do not need. If this happens you need to flush the entire fuel system, which is expensive, time-consuming, and irritating. Avoid it if you can!

Then, give the whole bike a good clean! Take the time to clean everything, even in the hidden nooks and crannies where corrosion will attack immediately. You know, where you can't get a finger in - that's where it will appear first! I have special brushes used for nothing else, because these are so awkward! I use a warm air blower to dry mine, partly because it is miles quicker, and partly to get moisture out of exactly those places. My lovely wife's hair dryer is useless for this, and I don't recommend pet dryers either, so I bought a purpose built one, which is excellent. It uses a lot of electricity, but only briefly - better than the cost of replacing a mudguard, for example. (Lately, bike spares prices have gone ballistic, you have been warned!)

When it's all clean and lovely, and most importantly, dry, you need to get the protectors out. Wax polish everything you can find. Paintwork, chrome, wheel spokes, all those awkward bits, all need to be protected, and if you don't do it now.....

Then go over the metal bits with WD40 which actually works brilliantly, but nowadays ACF 50 is even better. Either will work for winterizing though. Simply spray them onto the cloth and then wipe them on, just so as not to waste any, and with the cloth wet with protecting fluids you don't wipe them off! Both can be sprayed on anything, and if you're not careful it goes everywhere, so be careful not to get any on tyres, brake pads, callipers, or discs! If you do, get it off quick before you forget. I use bin bags to shield mine.

After that, really niggly bits come next! Lube that chain, if you have one. It needs a proper clean out. I use a toothbrush, with proper chain cleaner on chains I need to clean (on a certain Triumph not a million miles from my Daughter's house!). Don't use a high pressure washer though, water gets inside past the seals and stays there, doing untold damage. Chains have developed since I started riding, and are now brilliantly protected inside by "O" rings, or "X" rings, which stop lube coming out, and grit getting into the bearing surfaces. These rings are seemingly impervious to heat, cold, friction, everything, but still need some lube, and accordingly they last

miles better than when my Dad used to heat chains in oil in a pan on the cooker in the kitchen, much to Mum's annoyance! A ten minute job then, takes hours now, just to get it off the bike! But at least it can stay on the bike these days! Progress, eh?

Your frantically expensive tyres need looking after too. Inflate them to the recommended pressure, or slightly higher, to prevent flat spots. If storing on a concrete floor, place a piece of cardboard or plywood underneath the tyres to prevent moisture absorption and potential damage. I like to lift mine off the ground if storing for any real length of time, just to protect them from flat-spotting! Additionally, it is UV light that makes the rubber turn hard. So if you can keep them in the dark, they'll preserve better. I cover mine over with bin bags, again.

Cover the exhaust and air intake (if you can!) with rags to prevent rodents from nesting inside. I had a mouse in my fairing once - it nibbled on one wire, and nothing else. Finding that wire was a bit of a job!

Then, when you lock it up disconnect the battery or ideally, remove it and store it in a warmer, indoor location. If not, or if you can do it instead, connect the battery to a trickle charger or battery tender to maintain its charge during storage. These things are absolutely brilliant and I use one all the time. I had the same battery for eight years once, they work so well, but that's a whole other matter.

Ideally the bike will spend the Winter in a well-ventilated, indoor area. Use a breathable motorcycle cover that allows air circulation while protecting against dust and moisture. Avoid airtight covers, as they can trap moisture and lead to condensation. I am currently outdoor-testing an Armadillo cover, so more next year on that, but it looks great so far!

Finally, if you're riding through all seasons like I do, watch out! The dark, coupled with other road users using phones, steaming up their cars and vans, and generally not paying attention, are out to get you, so take extra care of them, and leave even more room than normal!

So, if you want to know any more about the above, or get the answers to any of the questions raised, just come find us at our monthly meetings on the second Friday evening at 8pm in HQ, The Pointer Inn. Sam and Neil, our hosts, always make us very welcome and you can share our hundreds of years of experience at the same time!

Al Gillard

MOBILE LIBRARY: 2025 **Alresford Village Hall**

The Mobile Library visits every: 3 weeks

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

4th December 2025

For 2026 dates, please see
[Tendring mobile library 2026](#)

For other library information please see
<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk>

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT December 2025/January 2026

Awards

Following swiftly on the heels of Alresford being awarded the runner-up prize in the Essex Village of the Year competition the Parish Council has had an award for being runner-up in the Essex Playing Fields Association competition for Best Village Playing Field in Essex. The playing field award covers all the facilities that are on offer on the playing-field (including the pavilion and play area). There were 282 entrants for the competition this year from across Essex so a tremendous result. In addition, the play area received a separate gold status award for its high standard and the volunteers from the Alresford Colne Rangers Football Club should be delighted with a gold award for the pitch they lease from the Parish Council and that they mainly maintain themselves.

There have been even more awards for the community, Alresford Railway Station Adopters have received a Silver-Gilt certificate from Anglia in Bloom for their Railway 200 celebration display. In addition, at a special Greater Anglia event in Ipswich two of the four station adopters, Sharon Perfect and Cherry Watson won first prize in the Innovation and Environment category. Well done Alresford!

Playing Field

The new toilet block has been completed, the Parish Council made use of various grants, planning gain monies and precept match funding to provide this much requested facility.



A special mention is called for as regards local plumber Mr Russel Pugh for his assistance with onsite pipework and to builder Mr James Stimpson who laid the concrete base for the prefabricated toilet block. The final drain connections to the public sewer were carried out by Mason Ltd of Elmstead Market who were able to install deep underground pipes without disrupting access to the community car park.

Further improvements to the playing field area are planned with additional bench seating already ordered.

Staunton Gate

Two new, covered, litter bins are being installed at the entrances to the play area on the south site. The bins that were inside the play area were quite small, uncovered and their location meant that the contractor we pay for via Tendring District Council was unable to empty them due to the contractor's safeguarding policy.

A letter has apparently been sent to some Staunton Gate residents by Tendring District Council incorrectly indicating that the public open spaces are still owned by the housing developer. It is in fact the case that almost all public areas on the Staunton Gate estate are now owned and maintained by Alresford Parish Council. It was planned from the outset of the

development that the Parish Council would take over the majority of the maintenance tasks, including grass-cutting, allotment administration and play area maintenance.

A polytunnel and noticeboard have been erected by our handyman Jason Spurgeon on the new allotment site at Staunton Gate to provide improved facilities to allotment holders who rent plots from the Parish Council.

Staff

As the village grows the work of the Parish Council increases and it is so important that service levels are maintained for residents. The Council has voted to employ a part-time office assistant to help our Clerk who works three days a week. An advert for the new post has been circulated on-line and on notice boards **(Please see the back page for details)**

Highways

The Parish Council has no powers to act as regards most highways issues such as road repairs and underground drainage. Flooding, after heavy rain, continues to be a problem in a number of locations and is mainly due to inadequate and ageing drainage systems. The Parish Council makes Essex Highways aware of a range of highway drainage faults and although inspections are carried out, for a number of years there has been little in the way of remedial work implemented apart from jet hosing drains. Clearly at some stage action will have to be taken by the appropriate authorities so we do ask residents to report all drainage issues to the Parish Council and the County Council.

Highways issues can be reported by an e-mail or phone call to the Parish Council office and by direct reporting online to Highways via www.essexhighways.org/tell-us. Pictures taken on smart phones can really assist in gathering evidence relating to neglected highway infrastructure issues.

Looking Ahead

The significant changes to Local Councils which will see the introduction of Unitary Authorities and the demise of Tendring District Council and Essex County Council will impact all of us. In the short term it is inevitable that there will be a period of uncertainty.

However, the new arrangements could mean more powers being devolved locally to Town and Parish Councils and providing finances are there it is possible a greater emphasis on infrastructure maintenance will see improvements all round....we will have to wait and see what transpires. 2026 will be a year of change and it could be for the better!

Q&A

1. A question I was asked recently: **“Are Alresford Parish Councillors paid?”** I explained that members of Alresford Parish Council do not receive any pay although many other Councils pay an allowance to all members. In Alresford the Chairman alone receives an expenses allowance and that amounts to £10 a week and is taxed – this is to pay towards regular extra travel, printing documents, telephone calls and other costs that this role generates.
2. Another question I have encountered: **“Can the public attend and speak at a Parish Council meeting?”** Yes, is the simple answer. Most Parish Councils, including Alresford set aside an item on the agenda where residents can raise questions and make comments, preferably relating to items on the agenda. The public may not speak at any other time though apart from the set participation agenda item. All Councillors and the Clerk can be contacted by e-mail in between meetings.

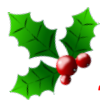
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Alresford Advertiser

The Parish Council greatly values the tremendous input of all those involved in compiling and distributing the Alresford Advertiser. The Council contributes financially towards its production as we see this magazine as vitally important to the community. We are sorry to see the current editor, Hayley Milburn and treasurer, Mary Barker hand over the reins, but we are heartened that a superb new team have come forward to carry on the good works!

Seasons Greetings



*Wishing all residents and businesses in
Alresford a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year -
from Alresford Parish Council.*

Cllr Frank Belgrove
Chairman Alresford Parish Council



DO YOU RECOGNISE THIS SIGN?

A resident of Alresford purchased this sign about 6 years ago. He always wondered about the history of it e.g. where it was placed or if anyone remembers it or has pictures of it in situ? If anyone can supply that information please e-mail or phone Frank Belgrove (frankbelgrove@hotmail.com / 01206 823739).



Note: From 1906 to approximately 1932, The Automobile Association erected nearly 30000 signs in villages and towns across Great Britain. Most were removed during the war when a Nazi invasion seemed highly likely. At the end of World War II, only 600 or so were left and today there are around 65 still in situ around the country.

Remembrance Sunday (09.11.2025) honouring the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts.



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)

Email: rfopcessex@outlook.com

Armistice Day: Six of our Parish councillors, plus the clerk at the War Memorial for the **11th of 11th at 11 am** two minutes silence and wreath laying ceremony.



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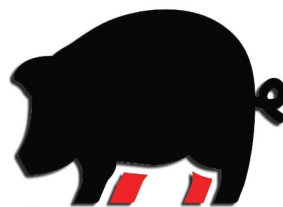
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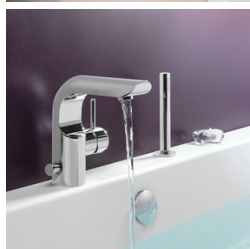
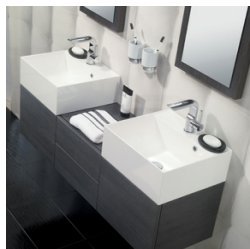
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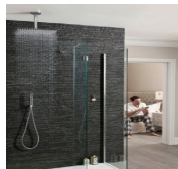
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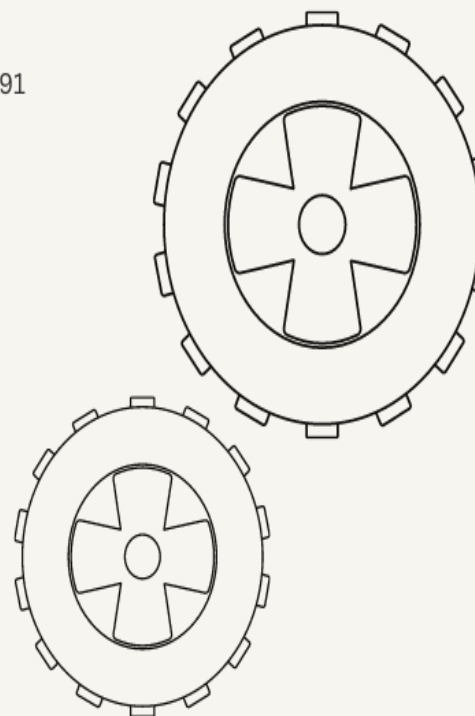
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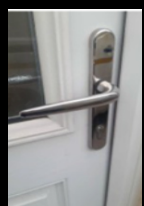
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CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS - 8th December 2025.

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MOVIE NIGHT at Alresford Village Hall Friday 16th January 2026 when we will be showing



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Alresford VH Management Committee



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The editorial and advertising deadline for the
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026 edition will be:

8TH JANUARY 2026

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