

THE ALRESFORD ADVERTISER

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2025

Established since 1970

ALRESFORD CRAFT & FARMERS MARKET 2025 DATES



1st February

1st March

5th April

3rd May

7th June

5th July

2nd August

6th September

4th October

1st November

6th 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

WI ANNUAL QUIZ Friday 21st March 2025

Alresford Village Hall

Starting at 7.30pm

Entrance £4.00

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



MOVIE NIGHT at Alresford Village Hall

Saturday 22nd February 2025

When we will be showing



"One of the top ten funniest movies ever made"
American Film Institute

*** 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



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Alresford VH Management Committee

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 CRAFT AND FARMERS MARKET

We would like to thank you all for supporting our Market in 2024. We return on Saturday 1st February 2025.

A big thank you to all of you that took part in our Christmas Raffle at the December market. With your help, we raised £257.00 and the money donated to Rebecca Luckham's Dance Academy to help with their trip to America in 2026.

The stall holders look forward to seeing you at this year's markets.

Jo and Barry Jordan

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



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

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 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 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

MOBILE LIBRARY: Alresford Village Hall

The Mobile Library visits every: 3 weeks

DAY: Thursday

TIME: 11:55 to 12:25

2025 VISIT DATES

02-January & 23-January

13-February

06-March & 27-March

17-April

08-May & 29-May

19-June

10-July & 31-July

21-August

11-September

02-October & 23-October

13-November

04-December

ESSEX LIBRARIES- What's on?

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

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?

Our 2025 will commence on **Friday 7th February at 2pm** so we hope to see you all again then. 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:
21st February
7th & 21st March
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



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

ALRESFORD ANGLING ASSOCIATION



Patron: Sir Bernard Jenkin MP

Here we are in 2025, looking forward to Spring and a new season commencing at the end of May. Hopefully membership will be pain free this year with no computer glitches to cause last minute panics.

The issue of litter seems to be resolved for the moment. Hopefully this has proved to be a conscience thing, rather than the cold and rain deterring late nights eating, drinking and littering.

Water quality remains a major issue around the country. We are fortunate that only two of our lakes are stream fed, but close monitoring of water and fish remain a high priority.

Work has progressed well over the winter months, clearing dead and fallen trees that have entered the clubs' waters along with repairs to swim edges and ensuring pathways and accesses are clear.

A date for the forthcoming AGM is yet to be decided but all members will be notified in due course and within an adequate time scale.

Virtually all the seasons programmed matches have now been fished. Please watch notices for date and venue alterations.

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

ALRESFORD WI

Alresford WI 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

The speaker at our February meeting will be speaking about Autism and ADHD. In March we will be holding our annual quiz, details are on the front page.

THE CHARITY BAG

BONE CANCER RESEARCH FUNDRAISING

Stamps: Thank you or the recycled stamps for B.C.R. being collected here from adjacent villages by carers and family as far a Edinburgh. Less postage stamps are being bought although the need is greater - ½" around each one please.

KNITTING

Has safely arrived in Romania and more has arrived here to be forwarded later in the year.

New wool is available and can be delivered together with needles, crochet hooks and easy patterns. Scarves and squares are always needed, why not give it a try.

Thank you so much for all that you do so willingly.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Take care always
Chris Stimpson



St Andrew's Church



LOVE IS?

My husband is a northern man. No offence to anyone who hails from north of Watford, but in my experience (limited though it is, in terms of husbands), northern men are not effusive in professions of endearment. He doesn't do hand-holding, and he doesn't often tell me that he loves me, although I know that he does. How do I know this? By the bouquets he staggers home with? By the candlelit dinners he surprises me with? Er, no (see above). Gestures, no. Actions, however – yes! He's a faithful cup-of-tea maker, a solicitous carer, a good hugger. He does what he says he'll do. He clears out gutters and walks the dog. He buys me thoughtful, funny Christmas presents (apart from the spatula he wanted for his bacon...). He makes me laugh (and the spatula made me laugh too...) He's the one who wants to share stuff with me. He looks out for me and makes me feel safe. He always says, "You don't need me to tell you that I love you. You can tell it by what I do." And I do.

Valentines Day rolls around heaped with a pile of romanticised rubbish. We read books and watch films which imply that love is always golden and perfect and forever. We wonder if other people are living their lives like that. When our loves fade or fracture, we feel that we have failed. But human love can be fragile, and we are not perfect people. However good we are at loving, we constantly fall short. But we love because that is how we were designed to be, in relationship with others in all their different forms, and that opens us up sometimes to being hurt, and to hurting in our turn. My hope is in a God who loves infinitely, completely and wholly, and who *does* love properly, and who enfolds us when human love goes awry, or is not enough. We love because he first loved us.

Julie Thompson

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

St Andrew's Church
Alresford

Songs of Praise

16 March 2025, 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

Save the date!

Easter fun at St Andrew's Church


Saturday April 19th
2pm - 3.30pm

Easter activities, crafts and refreshments

FREE and all are welcome!
Children must be accompanied by an adult

St Andrew's Close, Alresford
CO7 8BL

www.tenpennyvillages.uk

Find us on  ParishChurchesofAlresfordElmsteadThorrington-TennpennyVillages

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

ALRESFORD BIKERS - WAITING FOR SUMMER

Good times are coming bikers, don't worry! It's not all gloom and doom, although there is considerable gloom about as I write this, as the weather is being a bit "seasonal" out there. However, I am just warming up from having ridden down to Colchester. The roads were as ever, horrible, with the possible exception of the new bit of bus lane at Clingoe Hill. Not even finished and already better than the roads! The seasonal slipperiness does not help, and if you are not aware can catch you out easily, quickly, painfully and damagingly. Especially on the way to Brightlingsea, where on the hill up to All Saints Church the pitiful efforts to clear the mud illegally left by a certain quarrying company will not be sorted out until someone is seriously hurt. If you have to go there, be ultra careful. The pothole situation is not improving very much, if at all. Indeed, there are some new ones, and a canyon I saw this afternoon on the roundabout at the exit from a well known Supermarket not a million miles from Greenstead roundabout, that rhymes with Nesco. Nobody should be that close to the kerb, but forewarned is forearmed, as they say. A hole there big enough to get a whole scooter wheel in, I'd say. I got a good look at it when a daft car driver looked me straight in the eye only five yards away and still pulled out in front of me, and I took evasive action, luckily only about five mph too! Another obvious priority conferred by the spinning prop badge.

Those of us who turn up to meetings and rides out, especially regular ones, will have heard us talking to others about how to stay safe, and where, if we have discovered some new danger, like the aforementioned mud. How to avoid the idiot drivers who can't de-mist their own cars; the ones who usually also think they have lights on because the dashboard is lit, but haven't, especially at the back. You know, the ones who deliberately concentrate on looking forward or left at roundabouts, and pull out anyway no matter that we are there. The same ones who park in Station Road with ¾ of the car sticking out in the road, thoughtlessly, lazily and selfishly making it everyone else's job to miss them. By strange coincidence they also happen to be the ones who speed, because limits do not apply to them either. Nor lane directions, nor roundabout rules. They are the ones who turn right at roundabouts, from the left lane, going all the way round in the wrong lane. Always be very careful if there is a two-lane exit and you are in the outer (right) lane going straight on, riders! Never be alongside to the right of any vehicle, ever, nearing your exit! So yes, it is a bit gloomy out there, the wall to wall buffoons are out in more force than other times of year, and it's a bit cold too. So, thick winter clobber on, heated seats and grips on, and off we go, woo hoo!

If you're not riding year round, you might have one of the many bikes laid up in storage for Winter too, no surprise there. Hopefully the riders have taken all the normal precautions, like either emptying the fuel system completely or totally filling the petrol tanks, to stop the Ethanol absorbing moisture and rotting the fuel lines. (If the tank is full, there will be no room for very much moisture, and if empty, it will dry out leaving neither moisture nor Ethanol). Personally, if your bike is going to stand for more than a month or so, I'd empty it, because the miserable quality modern petrol will just go off anyway if you leave it any longer, clogging lines and injectors. Good old carburetors really suffer much worse these days so drain them too, if you have them. Contrary to popular thought, it is not a good idea to run your bike periodically to get it hot and charge the battery, etc. I used to think it was too, but it's not. No matter how long it runs, it will not get hot enough to boil the moisture out of the oil, or exhaust, or even the cam boxes. So if you ever see a grey brown sludge on your dipstick, that's what it is - condensed water and oil sludge. If your exhaust is rusting from the inside outwards, that is water too. It takes about ten miles to heat up enough, so ride it, or let it stand is best. I'd also lift my bike off the ground with stands if possible, so that the wheels can be rotated by hand, preventing them from taking a set and developing a flat spot, which stays forever and can ruin brand new tyres in a few weeks! If not, just move it occasionally. Check and maintain the pressures too. Maybe I might also take the battery off and sling it indoors on a trickle charger for the season. Or, if you have a suitable space in your shed, leave the battery on but still attach the trickle charger. My shed is a bike shed, with other stuff shoved in there, rather than a garden shed with a bike in it! Regular removing of batteries is a total pain on more modern bikes! So it's well worth fitting a rat's tail socket once and forever, and use it all the time.

And when the Winter does eventually go, what are we going to do in the coming bike season? Pretty much what we always do - rides out to cafes and bike stops, meet with other bike fans and riders all over the place, take in a classic bike show or two maybe, visit museums and take long trips round the country, ride all over Essex and the local bordering counties. Maybe go on a proper big trip. One thing is sure: there will be loads of tea and bacon sarnies involved! So if you want to know more about bikers, biking, or bikes, or just chew the fat or maybe shoot the breeze with us, come see us at HQ, The Pointer Inn, where Sam and Neil always make us welcome on the second Friday of each month at 8pm. Or just get in touch with us and say hello!

Al Gillard

ALRESFORD PARISH CHAIRMAN'S REPORT February/March 2025

FINANCE

The Parish Council Finance Committee usually meets four times a year to assess how the current Council budget is faring and also meets in November or December to recommend a budget for the next financial year. This year was different, the Finance Committee met twice to consider next years budget. The dual meeting was necessary as we felt it vital that we spent longer than usual making sure we had all the information needed to compile a fair and workable budget and precept (the precept is the local tax paid by residents for Parish services, such as street lights, play equipment/grounds maintenance, litter bins, grass cutting, grants, public gardens, etc). The extra information we needed mainly came from Tendring District Council as they calculate our tax base, this is the number of Band D equivalent residencies that are in the village that pay tax.

As there are an additional 25 tax paying properties this year the tax burden is individually reduced. It was inevitable though that with three or more years of national inflation the precept would have to rise and that using Council reserves to top up as we have done in previous years was not now a viable option. We have used over £35,000 from reserves over the past four years to lessen the impact of inflation on our residents' Council Tax bills. What does this mean for financial year 2025-2026? It means there will be an increase from last year – taking our overall net precept to £106,217.84. Although the council tax will increase from last year it will still be 1.6% less than the Council Tax of tax year 2019/20. Comparisons with other local Councils are not easy but our neighbours, Great Bentley, have a precept of £165,000 and we have assessed that in Alresford a £106,217.84 precept will meet our service needs (subject to Full Council approval). In our favour are planning gain monies that will be used for maintenance and investment in improved recreational facilities.

HIGHWAYS

As Essex County Council Highways no longer repairs Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) the Parish Council has taken on this task and we have instructed a contractor to repair the two faulty signs in the village – one in Wivenhoe Road and one on the B1027.

Tarmac repairs to the footpath in Station Road have been continued – this work is a result of close liaison between the Parish Council and County Councillor Alan Goggin under a new scheme using government money. We have applied for further kerbstone repairs in the Coppice Road area under the same scheme and we await a response.

Since installing LED fittings on the Parish Council streetlights we have greatly reduced the failure rate, we do note though that there are one or two lights out and these have been checked and found to be supply cable faults that are the remit of Network Power and they will schedule repairs into their operations.

The Parish Council has campaigned for many years for the B1027 through Alresford to have a 30mph limit however Essex Highways have always refused this. One recent concession is that the 40mph limit is to be extended (the Colchester end of the village) so there is some progress. Wivenhoe Road has a 30mph limit but where it leaves the main housing area the road becomes the national speed limit of 60mph, again there has always been a refusal from Essex Highways to consider a 40mph link but a new speed management strategy is being considered by Highways for

the whole of Essex and we await the report with interest to see if there is scope for this section of road to be considered for a speed limit reduction in the future.

Parking issues are never easy to deal with in villages but one safety issue relating to parking is causing real concern, vehicles parking close to the railway level crossing in Station Road make it difficult for moving traffic to clear the railway crossing area. The Council is considering the possible options and will be looking to involve Network Rail and Essex County Council. In other locations it has been noted that dropped kerbs and pavements are sometimes completely obstructed by carelessly parked vehicles– this is clearly unacceptable and can result in parking fines.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

As many residents will be aware a property development company in association with a local landowner has put forward a possible new housing scheme for land to the north of Cockaynes Lane. Invitations were sent by the company to a number of residents to attend a consultation regarding the proposals and many turned out to view the plans and speak with the developers at an event staged in St Andrews Church Hub.

The company has put together a scheme for the building of 100 homes, the homes would comprise of dwellings for older persons and for “affordable” properties plus some open market homes. Significant changes to Cockaynes Lane would be needed in order to provide safe access to the site. ***The Parish Council has serious concerns about all of these proposals and concludes that the scheme does not comply with the adopted Neighbourhood Plan.*** The site is actually outside of the settlement boundary and as such should only be considered for development under special circumstances. The Council feels that Cockaynes Lane should **not** be further developed and that even if development on the north site occurs no access should be made from Cockaynes Lane. It is also considered by the Council that Alresford has already played a major part in accommodating housing development and that the general infrastructure of the village would not currently support a further 100 homes without significant local investment. Although the developer insists the proposals are sustainable the issues of inadequate school places, bus transport limitations, vehicle congestion and stretched medical facilities seem to have been sidelined in their plans. The view of the Parish Council is that the financial contributions from the developer for infrastructure would not see any real local benefits. The lane layout changes seem completely unworkable and disadvantage existing properties and businesses in the area, there is also the potential for adverse environmental impacts on the flora and fauna. One aspect of the scheme involves 30 of the homes being “affordable” however if children have to be transported to primary education outside of the village the affordable nature of the homes on offer become less attractive. Likewise the homes designed for the over 50's being located well away from the bus service on Wivenhoe Road seems an unusual aspect of the plans. The Neighbourhood Plan supports the construction of warden controlled facilities for senior residents it does not support what the developer seems to be offering. *We await sight of the planning application.*

We all know that there is a UK housing shortage and that the previous and current government have housing quotas for local authorities. Without proper supportive infrastructure though and due consideration given to agreed Neighbourhood Plans then speculative developers will cause more problems than they solve with their rural house building projects.

The Parish Council has voted to update our Neighbourhood Plan and is taking advice from the Rural Community Council of Essex.

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION

Alresford Parish Council now owns, for the community, (freehold) land adjacent to Victoria Avenue (Taylor Wimpey site north of Cockaynes Lane). A fenced area for dog exercising and a small children's play area will be located on the site. The area was acquired from Taylor Wimpey and is now fully maintained by the Parish Council.

THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Residents sometimes approach the Parish Council with concerns over littering, dog fouling, inconsiderate bonfires and similar issues. One resident raised the matter of pollution from a house chimney due to the burning of unseasoned wood on a wood burning stove. These matters are not dealt with directly by the Parish Council however we will always engage with understanding and we will do what we can, often this means involving other authorities who have the legal powers to act. We urge residents to be considerate of one another and avoid what are unnecessary problems in our community. Complaints have been received about empty alcohol containers being thrown from moving vehicles in Ford Lane, the PCSO is aware and vehicle details have been passed on to her.

Community involvement is quite evident in Alresford. For example it was heartwarming in December to see the very young children decorating the Parish Council Christmas Tree in Station Road and to note the amazing individuals who litter pick and tidy the village all year round. Not forgetting our public right of way clearance volunteers! Well done Alresford.

LOOKING FORWARD

We anticipate significant changes in Local Authority structures due to the government's devolution arrangements. It is possible a unitary authority will replace the County and District Council. There will be close links between Town and Parish Councils and the new unitary bodies, this should hopefully mean improved services and quicker responses to local issues such as highways and the environment. When the Parish Council is supplied with details of the implications of the new Council system, we will of course inform all residents.

The Parish Council is most grateful to our staff and the volunteers that do so much for the community of Alresford and we thank them profusely for all their efforts.



Councillor Frank Belgrove
Chairman Alresford Parish Council

MUSIC NIGHT - 13TH DECEMBER 2024

Sincere thanks to all those who supported this event - feedback received confirms the mix of music and songs was spot on, making for a very enjoyable evening. If you missed it, then another evening of mixed music and songs is planned for 2025.

Donations received on the evening amounted to £100 and this has been divided equally and sent to MacMillan and The East Anglian Children's Hospices (EACH).

Thank you again
Chris Sanderson

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: rfocessex@outlook.com

Christopher
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ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL

Charity Commission Number: 301233

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

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

Email: alresfordvillagehall@gmail.com

Contact No: 07548 742796

NEWS

- Christmas proved to be a busy period for the hall with hires up to Sunday 22nd December. We then had a period of closure until the New Year to allow maintenance work to be executed. The Christmas decorations were well received by all the users and once again thank you to all that put these up and then took them down.
- We recently have had some internal improvements in the hall with new "beams" installed that will enhance the aesthetics of the hall. More importantly they are enabling new lighting to be installed.
- We are still in consultation with the Blood Transfusion people in trying to get regular sessions in or hall.
- We are still progressing the Solar Panel project with two main quotes now in and the Trustees will be selecting a contractor soon. Grant applications will be explored with the expectancy that we can install panels late spring/early summer. Our thanks to Frank Belgrove and Matt Cooke of the Parish Council for their help in the logistics of this project.
- We are also planning in the next year to discuss lease extensions with the Parish Council of the land that the Pavilion and Changing Rooms are located on.
- Thank you to Chris Sanderson for his continued work on obtaining the best energy deals.

Russell Milburn , Chair AVHMC - 01206 825739



Thorrington CO7 8FH

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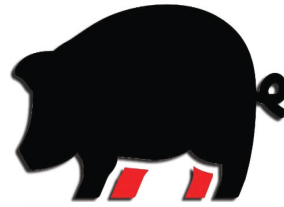


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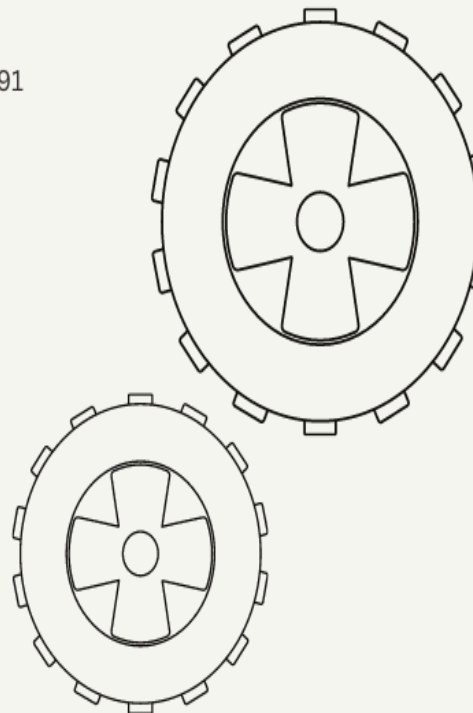
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ALRESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

Pages 17 & 18

28/10/2024- 223/11/2024

RECORDED CRIMES: 8

CRIME TYPES: Assault without injury x 2 - Criminal damage to residence - Criminal damage to vehicle - Other criminal damage - Domestic x 2 - Harassment without violence

INCIDENTS RECORDED: 14

TYPES REPORTED: Abandoned 999 - Criminal damage - Domestic x 3 - Ill/injury - Missing person x 7 - Section 165

24/11/2024 - 31/12/2024

RECORDED CRIMES: 11

CRIME TYPES: Assault (ABH) - Assault without injury x 5 - Domestic - Harassment x 2 - Interference with a motor vehicle - Theft

INCIDENTS RECORDED: 22

TYPES REPORTED: Assault - Disturbance - Domestic x 3 - Harassment - Highway disruption - Information x 5 - Missing person x 6 - Other - Suspicious circumstances x 2 - Theft

TRUCAM (SPEEDING):

NOVEMBER 2024: 2 x 1 hour sessions in a 30mph zone

MONTHLY TOTAL: 16

- 1) **12 vehicles** exceeding the speed limit - Top speed **42mph**
- 2) **4 vehicles** exceeding the speed limit - Top speed **40mph**

OCTOBER 2024: 2 X 1 hour sessions in a 30mph zone

MONTHLY TOTAL: 14

- 1) **5 vehicles** exceeding the speed limit - Top speed **38mph**
- 2) **9 vehicles** exceeding the speed limit - Top speed **42mph**

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

NOVEMBER 2024: 2 x CPI for pavement obstruction

DECEMBER 2024: 1 x CPI for footpath obstruction

If you are lucky enough to receive one of these instead of a **FIXED PENALTY NOTICE**, these are just a reminder as a polite way to educate on the Highway code.

Parking on footpaths to be considerate to other road users, make it very inconsiderate for footpath users, especially those that rely on mobility scooters and wheelchairs, the partially sighted and parents with buggies and small children. Please think **FOOT**path.

ARE YOU SAFE TO DRIVE? If you are having difficulty driving at night and finding you have to slow down and keep braking unnecessarily...**It may be your eyesight!** The glare of vehicle headlights especially the new LED ones do not help, but you can get anti-glare glasses or yellow lens night frames which help.

Did you know that if you were stopped by police and given a sight test at the side of the road, you could be reported to the DVLA and this could cost you your licence, not to mention potentially being a danger on the roads
Please make sure your eye tests are up-to-date

PARKING There has **again** been numerous inconsiderate parking reports this month, especially around the **school**.

One lucky driver parked on the **ZIG ZAGS** just missed receiving a fixed penalty. By the time the officer parked legally, the driver had gone. Drivers with children should know how **precious child's lives are**. Please do not park on the **ZIG ZAGS** during the prohibited time (on the yellow signs) you are putting children and pedestrians in danger. Vehicles are **still** parking on junction corners during school pick up. This is not only an **offence**, but extremely **dangerous for children crossing** during that time. Rather than take the chance of risking/putting someone's child in danger by causing a visibility obstruction.

Drivers could receive a **fixed penalty**. Please find somewhere safer to park and leave the corners and junctions clear, As per the highway code and the safety of all.

SUSPICIOUS MALE

A suspicious male was reported to one of the councillors door knocking, which left a resident feeling uneasy. After seeing the Ring doorbell image, said male was spotted a few days later and stop checked.

Please be reminded, never accept any trade at the door, unless of course you want to check their company details first. I would recommend if you need work done, go online to checkatrader.com

If any residents would like a NO CALLING sticker for their door, please let me know and I can drop one off; I usually carry these at all my community engagement meetings too.

ATTEMPTED VEHICLE BREAK-IN

During December there were 2 attempted break-in to vehicles where the owner of one was alerted and chased them off. It seemed to be the same suspect for both. The CCTV could have been a good deterrent.

There has been MORE INCIDENTS OF THEFT FROM VEHICLES, FROM Alresford and neighbouring villages. Always check you lock your vehicle and remove any valuables from inside.

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.

SCAMS/BLACKMAIL

Please be mindful to what you post online and check privacy settings to whom can see them. There has been a spate of blackmail used with gain of peoples information.

PROTECT YOURSELF - Do not send nude selfies online - these could end p all over the web and almost impossible to track down and delete.

Do you know who you are speaking to online? They may not be who you think they are.

If you are concerned about something happening online, please talk to myself or another officer, if you don't feel you can talk to your parents.

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 26th February 2025, 10:30 - 12:00

Wednesday 26th March 2025, 10:30 - 12:00

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- 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://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.

PARKING EAST: parking_east@colchester.gov.uk

PARKING SERVICES: parking@tendringdc.gov.uk / 01255 686969

Deal with inconsiderate parking under the highway code.

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 etc cannot pass.

DISPATCH

Essex Police are offering more ways of keeping up-to-date with news from the Tendring District through their weekly e-newsletter called **Dispatch - Tendring Edition**.

Dispatch is a digital newsletter which means once you sign up, it's sent directly to your email inbox. It's completely free and you can unsubscribe at any time. Sign up today and stay up to date with how our officers, staff and volunteers are helping people in Tendring, keeping you safe and catching criminals.

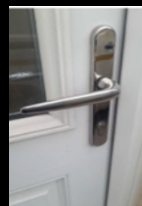
Visit: <https://www.essex.police.uk/police-forces/essex-police/areas/essex-police/au/about-us/dispatch/>

REPORTING INCIDENTS THE CORRECT WAY

Residents are still **not** reporting incidents the **correct way** or **when they happen**, if at all.

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

To report an incident please **ring 101** or for **Emergency 999**
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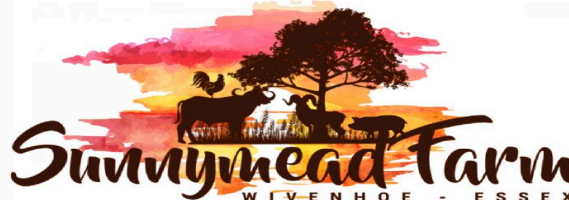
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ALRESFORD FETE ORGANISING GROUP (AFOG)

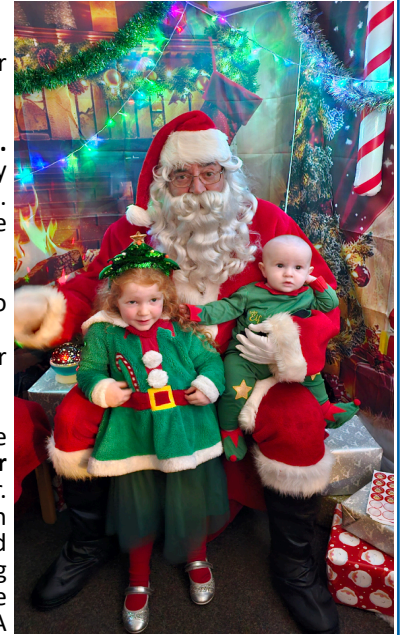
AlresfordFOG@gmail.com

In December, The Alresford Fete Organising Group (AFOG) put on three events to bring our community together and create joyful, festive fun for all.

Firstly, we were very pleased to welcome **Father Christmas and his Elves to the Village Hall**. Children were offered a range of craft activities, including a crown making table (hosted by volunteers from St. Andrews Church), a wreath making table, and an ornament decorating table. The children were also able to write a letter and post it to Father Christmas, who sent each one a personal written reply to their home!

Refreshments were provided, with many cakes donated by the local community – thank you to all those talented bakers!

This free event (with donations only) was a resounding success, with over 80 children and their families visiting throughout the day.



On the 4th December, we held the annual **Christmas Tea party for Alresford residents aged 75 and over**. Over 90 people enjoyed the afternoon and were entertained by the Alresford Primary School's Year 6 pupils singing Christmas songs and carols, who were each given a gift as a thanks. A Christmas themed tea prepared by Blue Onion Catering was then enjoyed by all, accompanied by a glass of sherry and a free raffle. It was a great opportunity for residents to catch up with each other.

From many comments received from attendees, this party was a joyous occasion. Huge thanks to Russell Milburn and Rebecca King for coordinating the event, Emma for arranging the gifts, Ernie for arranging the sherry, Chris Sanderson for hosting, Alresford Primary School for the entertainment, Brian Martin for making mince pies to serve, 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.



The final event was 'Decorate for Christmas', which was a competition to celebrate the houses with the best Christmas displays outside. Residents outdid themselves with creative, colourful and charming displays, which brought festive cheer to the village. This year we had five judges, who were very impressed with the quality of the entries.

Big congratulations go out to Nicole Eddington and family of Opal Way who came second and to Rebecca and Nick Munson of Crestlands who came first, each receiving £25 and £50 vouchers respectively.

Nicole and family had transformed their home into a gingerbread house. The judges agreed that the house was very colourful and captured the magic of Christmas.

Rebecca and Nick Munson adorned their house with over 7,000 lights which spanned over five trees, five reindeer, archway and the house. This year's display also included a 160cm Nutcracker. It took an entire weekend to put the display together. Rebecca told us she loves Christmas and loves seeing everyone's beautiful lights but feels really sad when they have to come down. Many people drive past to see their display, which can also be seen from the railway bridge on the B1027. The display was in traditional colours and next year's display is already being planned! Our judges

described the display as being beautifully presented with something for everyone, which was alive with the magic of Christmas and made the entire street glow.



described the display as being beautifully presented with something for everyone, which was alive with the magic of Christmas and made the entire street glow.

Thank you to all of the participants for making this event so wonderful.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you goes out to our amazing team of volunteers for being actively involved throughout the year and working tirelessly to pull everything together behind the scenes. Also, a huge thank you to everyone in Alresford who support these festive events and give so generously at the Picnic in the Park in the Summer. The funds raised at the picnic is what makes all of these other events possible.

We look forward to all that 2025 has to bring and ask that if you have any time to spare and want to be part of future events, to please get in touch (07535707002) or come along to a meeting – you will be very warmly welcomed. We need volunteers to continue to bring these events to you. Thank you all. We wish everyone in Alresford a very happy and healthy 2025.

Courtney Muller
AFOG Chair



FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE CHRISTMAS PARTY 2024

It was lovely to see so many members of the Friendship Circle attend our Christmas gathering on the 2nd December. We enjoyed chatting and eating Christmas cake, mince pies, delicious cheese straws and hot quiche 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

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 2024

Christmas Hampers were assembled in December and hand delivered to twelve 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 Alresford Parish Council for the generous donation to the Christmas Hamper Fund this year, to make this possible.

Becky, Mike and Tim King, Wivenhoe Road, Alresford.

FOR SALE

Wheelchair
Only used twice
Drive expedition
£95.00

Shower Chair
New with back rest and height adjustable
£25.00

Contact Teresa on 07545 353033

TRUSTEES WANTED



Are you old or new to the village?
We are looking for Trustees to join our
Management Committee for the Village Hall.
If you are interested, please give me a call on
01206 825739

COPY DEADLINE

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

ALRESFORD ADVERTISER CONTACT DETAILS
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