



THE ALRESFORD ADVERTISER

JUNE/JULY 2025

Established 1970

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

THE ALRESFORD ADVERTISER was first produced in 1970 and has gone from strength to strength over the last 55 years providing a link between residents and groups, organisations, individuals and our Parish Council with information of events being organised within the village and with the support of our advertisers who contribute towards the production costs.

At present 1300 copies are printed averaging 20 pages per issue and are delivered to every household and business in the village (unless you have told us you are not interested) by a dedicated group of deliverers.

When the previous Editor stood down in 2015, a group of 5 of us stepped in to keep it going. Over the last 10 years, 5 became 3 and then 4 however, we are now back to 3 – an editor, treasurer and delivery co-ordinator; this is not viable for the ongoing future of the magazine which is why we are looking for volunteers to help. **We are looking for a new editor and treasurer plus one or two volunteers to back them up – this is something that we do not have now.**

Without new volunteers, this magazine does not have a long-term future. The plan going forward is for the editor and treasurer to continue until the February/March 2026 edition giving volunteers time to come onboard. If no volunteers come forward, the February/March 2026 edition will be the very last edition. Let's hope that does not happen!

If you are over 18 and interested or want more information, please call **Russell or Hayley on 01206 825739**

BINGO NIGHT

Alresford Village Hall
(CO7 8AT)

Saturday 28th June 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**

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.

MOVIE NIGHT
at Alresford Village Hall
Saturday 7th June 2025
When we will be showing

YESTERDAY
Everyone in the world has forgotten The Beatles.
Everyone except Jack...

***** 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

Over 1250 copies delivered to every household & business in Alresford, also available online in colour via the Parish Council & Village Hall websites: www.alresfordpcsessex.uk & <https://e-voice.org.uk/alresfordvillagehall/>

ALRESFORD CRAFT & FARMERS MARKET 2025 DATES



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

ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL

Charity Commission Number: 301233

Pages 2 & 3

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

The Solar Panel project has been completed and the hall is now enjoying carbon free electricity and with the sun shining we are also enjoying feed in fees from our utility supplier. The project was managed by Chris Sanderson and the contractor was Orton & Wenlock from Great Bentley. The cost was totally covered without a need for grant funding using fund raising from the Simply Singing afternoons and the Film Evenings alongside General Village Hall funds. The Trustees are extremely pleased with the outcome, and this will help sustain the hall for many years to come especially in the aim to keep fees as low as possible.



Wish Upon a Fairy Quiz Night

Grab your teammates and join our popular quiz night for your chance to win some fantastic prizes

Saturday 12th July 2025

Doors open at 7pm (7:30pm start)
Alresford Village Hall, Ford Lane, Alresford, Colchester CO7 8AT

Tickets £5 per person	Maximum 6 Players per team	Bring your own Snacks & drink	Enter our Raffle for great prizes
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Book your team now by messaging us on social media

All funds raised for Colchester Neonatal Unit - Registered Charity: 1201885

The Village Hall insurance has been renewed and we are in a 3-year contract thus once again keeping our premiums at the lowest rate whilst maintain good insurance cover. Our Thanks to Trustee Andrew Pyman for leading on this.

Simply Singing and Movie Night continue to be well attended with 30-40 attending. The Simply Singing is an afternoon with singers performing on the screen with words to the songs at the bottom of the screen. Those who want to sing along do, and those who just enjoy listening and enjoying old footage of bygone artists without singing cannot sing without any need to feel uncomfortable.

COME ALONG. GIVE IT A TRY AND ENJOY A CUP OT TEA.

Annual General Meeting: The report will appear in the August/September 2025 edition of the Alresford Advertiser

Russell Milburn
Chair AVHMC
01206 825739



Home grown, high welfare, outdoor reared:
**Water Buffalo/ Pork/ Lamb/ Mutton/
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Chickens- point of lay hens and hatching eggs

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Roasts, Bacon, Gammon, Steaks, Mince, Diced, Burgers,
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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**

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www.sunnymeadfarm.org

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by Holly



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Registered Health Foot Practitioner: Holly O'Toole DipFH MCFHP MAFHP



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St Andrew's Church



“Walk the Hills”

Believe it or not, “walk the hills” was the insight I was given by an Army Padre when I asked him how he managed to complete 100 mile ultra marathons!

It's always fascinating to hear what people do to achieve the impossible, but it also makes me think about what I am grappling with; “how do I pace myself”. I've just come back off a period of extended sick leave and I am trying to relearn how to pace myself. Lots of people have been drilling into me how I need to say no!

But what do we use to pace ourselves? I was staying at a Christian retreat and the leader shared that night time and darkness were a good pointer that it was time to think of going to bed. Likewise dawn and daylight was a useful time to get up to enjoy the day. Such rhythms may be a bit of a shock for some of our teenagers at weekends!

Lunchtime still seems to be a good time to halt the days work. Working through lunch hours is never wise in the long term. We used to have a natural end to the day when daylight went and we would gather round a fire to cook and tell stories but now we have electricity and people seem to work ever longer hours.


In my lifetime there has been a shift to shops opening on a Sunday. It still concerns me as to when folks get to take a proper break.

So how do we pace ourselves, what priorities should we establish? One of the extraordinary comforts that Jesus offers, is that we can come to him: “If you are heavy laden and I will give you rest”.

Can some of our busyness be self imposed and do we need to hand our next day over to God and find moments to rest and be thankful? In a busy world, there is always the pull of the busy stream, but sometimes it's a blessing to step aside and reflect and hand over those things we carry. If you find yourself on the 100 mile run of life, make sure you walk the hills and stop to enjoy the view every now and then!

Every blessing
Rev Andrew Fordyce MBE

www.tenpennyvillages.uk

Find us on 

ParishChurchesofAlresfordElmsteadThorrington-TennpennyVillages

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

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CONTACTS

Rector: Rev Andrew Fordyce - 01206 920848

Email: rector@tenpennyvillages.uk

Associated Priest: Rev Pauline Hart - 01206 826318

Email: assocpriest@tenpennyvillages.uk

Churchwarden:

Lyn Bull - 01206 827146

Nick Berry - 01206 824496

Email: stachurchwardens@tenpennyvillages.uk

Bookings for the Hub: Meg Burdus - 01206 820618

PETE WATSON 04/03/1960 - 06/02/2025

It was with great sadness we shared that Pete passed away, in hospital, on 6th February.

Having lived in Alresford since 1982, Pete was a familiar and much loved member of the community, evident by the many people who attended the service of Thanksgiving at St Andrew's Church, in March.

We would like to pass on our thanks to everyone for their help and support during this difficult time. Too many to mention individually but you know who you are.

Donations, in Pete's memory, can still be made to either BHF or Cancer Research UK (charities close to both our hearts) via the Much Loved website, just search for Peter James David Watson.

Once again, a heartfelt thank you to you all.

God Bless,
Lyn and family



St Andrew's Church Alresford

Songs of Praise

22 June 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

ALRESFORD BIKERS - GETTING THE MILES IN!

Now then, at last it is properly Summer, and we're hard at it now! As Summer cracks on, we're getting on with it and the miles are piling up. Some of us are out on Wednesdays as well as our more traditional Sundays, visiting anywhere and everywhere we can that sells bacon sarnies and tea by the feel of it. I dropped the winter suit and took my leathers for their first ride this year, as my summer plumage comes out with the sun, but they appear to have shrunk, being a teeny bit snug! Ahem, moving swiftly along.... But we're out, riding, having some fun, and marvelling at how some other road users seem to feel the need to reveal their appalling lack of judgement, skill and driving prowess and show off just what terrible drivers they really are. Some clearly believe the world revolves around them. It doesn't. The worst one yet has been a pothole dodger, over the solid white lines, on my side of the road heading straight into me! Good job one of us was awake!

We've attended a couple of shows already too. Firstly we went to the Suffolk Classic Bike Show, in March, in Sudbury, and it was a lovely warm sunny day that really brought the bikes out. This show is always the year-opener, and the early Spring weather can make all the difference both in turnout of both riders going to see, and exhibitors. It takes some doing to ride to an event in rotten weather, on some priceless machine that you have spent all winter cleaning and maintaining. But with a great day this time, machines came from far and wide for exhibition. And this year the local football match had not blocked the roads with parked cars too - bonus of organisation there! There were loads of very expensive new bikes, and a lot of very nice and clearly loved older ones. I'm struggling to make a choice for my favourite, between either a beautiful AJS



like my Dad had when I was small, or a very rare Nimbus, a red one, that rode in while we were there. The Nimbus might just take it as they were very rare here in England when new, because they were made in limited numbers in Denmark, ceasing production in 1959, and this is the only one I have ever seen on the road or outside a museum! I say limited numbers, but they made many thousands of them, and many still thrive in Denmark and mainland Europe. But by contrast, Honda alone had built well over 400 million bikes by 2019! Anyway, I hope the photo does it justice. A very sophisticated machine for its time, it has shaft drive and four cylinders, and although not fast even then, was dead smooth and easy to use. I

daresay that exposed valve gear was a regular clearance setting issue!

The weekend just passed (4 May), we visited Stonham Barns Bike Show. Riding there by a rambling and country back roads route, as we very often do just for fun, it was a great day to be out riding, and strangely many of the roads were very quiet. We had a lot of enjoyment from just riding along in the sun, occasionally on roads with grass growing in the middle. But when we arrived we were surrounded by bikes from all points of the compass. It is still a small show, and has plenty of room to develop and grow, but there were many lovely and indeed beautifully looked after bikes even just in the visitor parking! On display were a mixed collection of bikes all lovingly prepped for show, including this one in the photo, an Aerial Model B, from 1928, and in glorious condition too. Clearly completely restored, and in perhaps better than new original condition, it is absolutely spotless, and stood out from the crowd to me anyway. A really lovely machine, and a joy to see out there. We stayed to watch the stunt riding, which was very good, and enjoyed a few cups of very nice tea too, so all was well!



So there we are. Out and about, riding at almost every opportunity, having fun making tracks all over Essex and the nearby countryside, and occasionally further afield. There is loads to come too, and we're all looking forward to it. If you want to join in, learn about biking from our centuries of experience, have some riding fun with us, just get in contact. We meet on the second Friday evening of each month at 8pm in The Pointer Inn, where Sam and Neil always make us very welcome. Come have a chat!

Al Gillard

MOBILE LIBRARY: Alresford Village Hall

The Mobile Library visits every: 3 weeks

DAY: Thursday

TIME: 11:55 to 12:25

19-June 10-July 31-July 21-August

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

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 JULY 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 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 WI

Our A.G.M. was held in May and a new committee was elected.

The speaker for our meeting in June will be from Essex Blood Runners, a volunteer group that helps the NHS by offering free delivery of blood products and other items for hospitals in the Essex area.

The speaker in July will be from TEMPRD Chocolate, a family run company that makes various chocolate bars.

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

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.

June 6th will be the last get together before the summer break, sessions will start again in the autumn - details will be published in the Advertiser nearer the time.

Time: 2pm - 4pm

Cost: £2.00 including refreshments

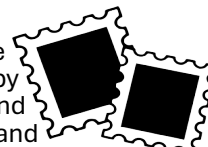
For more details, please contact Jeanette on 01206 825008 or Chris on 07484 334698



CHRISTINE'S CHARITY BAG

Stamps:

Stamps are still being collected for Bone Cancer Research. £11,188 was raised by the Friends of BCRT from used, new and obsolete postage stamps from the UK and overseas, postcards, stamp collections, Royal Mail parcel labels and first day covers in 2024.



Knitting:

Knitting and wool is still needed. Thank you to all the people who have left items on the doorstep. Wool and needles are available for anyone who wishes to contribute. Collection or delivery of wool 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



ALRESFORD COLNE RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB

As season 2024-2025 draws to a close we look back and progress has been made. The men's teams have had better seasons, the first team finished in mid table. Next season the team will be managed by James Pickard and Jim Gill, who is stepping up from the Reserves. Hopefully, some players have committed to continue with some exiting young talent joining. The Reserves will be under new management.

The club were honoured to host the Ernie Osborne Cup Final on Sunday 13th April with a record crowd in attendance. Ernie is a great supporter of grassroots football, and he donated a cup to the Colchester Sunday League in 1976 and this is played for every season. We as a club have staged quite a few on the finals as Ernie is an Alresford man.

The men held their end of season event on the 3rd May in the Pavilion and respective awards were made. Owing to the continued growth of the club the presentation events are now spread over a longer period. The youth presentation will be on June 21st and the Ladies will be on July 19th. With the Picnic in the Park on June 14th we are in for a busy but enjoyable few months especially at the youth event when we see their young faces when their name is called over the speaker system.

Whilst games have now finished the demanding work continues improving the pitches, attending AGM's, filling in numerous forms and much more. For the players they can just walk away but for club officials the work goes on, with pitch maintenance, goal repairs, equipment to purchase plus jobs that will crop up.

The last game was on May 18th so no more pitches to mark out until the tape measure comes out in mid-July ready to start all over again.

The club again will have eight teams, two men's, 1 Ladies, four youth teams and A Walking Football Team.

There is always something to do so if you would like to be involved in helping our village club please come along, you would be most welcome.

The Ranger
Brian Martin

ALRESFORD ANGLING ASSOCIATION



A run of warm sunny weather has marked the end of April and the beginning of May. This has marked a sudden flourish of greenery around the lakes and ducks and geese sitting on clutches of eggs. This has also signalled the spawning of fish in the club's lakes. Please be aware where fish are spawning, irrespective of species, to keep away from the areas where this is taking place.

Membership subscriptions are due from the 1st May for the new season of 2025/2026 which commences on the 1st June. The 2nd May saw the club's AGM take place at the village hall, with a reasonable turnout. The committee were voted back in for another 12 months and Paul Barrell thanked all the members that assisted with maintenance to the lakes.

The new match list is now in operation and Adrian Loughton asked all members to please keep an eye on the list and gate notice boards.

By the time this goes to print, most of the fish will have spawned, but there are always on or two late eventers. If you see evidence of this going on, please do not fish in that area. This also goes for nesting birds. The club is seeking the advice of an Environmental Advisor from the Farming Wildlife Advisory Group to improve the lakes flora and fauna and to encourage newts, frogs and toads to flourish.

Finally, welcome to all our members new and old. Any issues please, don't hesitate to contact the club via the website.

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

Tight Lines.
Mike Day (Hon. Secretary)



ALRESFORD PARISH CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Pages 9 & 10

Chairman Alresford Parish Council :
Cllr Frank Belgrove

Alresford has welcomed many new residents over the past five years with 300 plus new homes being built in the village. Some of these new residents have moved from urban areas where the local council is a Borough Council. It is therefore right that for the benefit of these newer residents I begin my report with an explanation as to the work of Parish Councils. Firstly the term "Parish" Council needs explaining as some mistakenly associate the term Parish in this context as being with the Church and the Clergy.

Parish councils were in fact formed in England under the Local Government Act 1894 to take over local oversight of civic duties in rural towns and villages. Before this date, a variety of groups based around the church parishes had responsibility for these matters, in a system of local government that originated in the feudal system dating back to the 8th century. The creation of Parish Councils was a move towards democracy and removing the power that the Church had over people's lives. Elected Parish Councils were first established to reinvigorate local communities and give them a voice.

Hopefully the Parish Council in Alresford with its eleven elected members gives the community a high standard of oversight over local civic duties. These duties cover a surprising wide range of matters and require our unpaid Parish Councillors to appoint paid, part-time, staff to deal with the day to day running of the Council. In Alresford the Parish Council has powers and duties that include the following: maintaining most street lighting, fitting and maintaining (via Tendring District Council's chosen contractor) litter bins, owning and maintaining relevant public open spaces, owning and running the main playing field including the play area and pavilion, managing two allotment sites, running a crime prevention initiative by funding our shared PCSO and operating CCTV, being consulted on planning applications, powers to make and uphold bylaws, powers to maintain closed churchyards, owning and maintaining bus shelters, owning vehicle activated signs and owning a war memorial. There are a multitude of other functions, powers and duties that we undertake, and we are often the first port of call for our residents with general enquiries.

The remainder of my report, mainly focuses on the last Parish year – the Parish year runs from May each year until April the next. The report obviously does not cover all aspects of the Councils activities during the year:

Finance: The Precept (the tax the Parish Council requests to be raised locally and is collected within the Council Tax amount) is set at a full Parish Council meeting in December or January each year for the next financial year. Although this year Band D equivalent taxpayers will pay £11 a year more than in the previous tax year they will be paying 1.6% LESS than five years ago. Alresford Parish Council used £35,000 in total from reserves over the past four years to lessen the impact of inflation on residents and it was therefore inevitable the precept and thereby the Council Tax would eventually increase to maintain reserves at a reasonable level. Our Precept request (to be raised from Council Tax) this year is £106,218, we did note that the neighbouring parish, Great Bentley, has a Parish precept approaching £50,000 more than ours and a Band D taxpayer in that village pays £150 a year. A band D taxpayer in Alresford pays £106 a year.

Planning & Housing: Successive governments have sought to ease the planning restraints on rural house building by formulating policies in the National Planning Policy Framework with a presumption that unless a development can be proven to be unsustainable it is likely to be approved even if it falls outside the settlement boundary. The adopted Neighbourhood Plan for Alresford is clear though that only development *within* the settlement boundary should be permitted unless the property is a facility for the elderly or falls within the specific exemptions as set out in the District Local Plan. In the view of the Parish Council an application for development on land to the north of Cockaynes Lane did not meet the criteria for development as in our view it was not only outside the settlement boundary it was unsustainable due to inadequate infrastructure, and it would also affect the rural character of the area. The problem is that we are not the Planning Authority, and it is possible that due to the new directives for housing quotas Tendring District Council may approve this type of application. Without a nearby bus service, a deficiency in school places and limited medical facilities we foresee significant issues should the development be approved.

Highways: Essex County Council Highways is the authority that maintains our roads and pavements. During the previous year we have been working with our County Councillor Alan Goggin to press for highways improvements in Alresford and this close cooperation has enabled pavement repairs to parts of Station Road and for safety improvements on the B1027 to be carried out. Essex Highways has stopped their maintenance of vehicle activated signs and so the Parish Council has taken on this responsibility and repairs have been initiated. One vehicle activated sign in Wivenhoe Road, near The Pointer public house required complete renewal and we will have that work undertaken this year. Essex County Council Highways and Landowners have a legal duty to maintain field footpaths however some footpaths are neglected, the Parish Council runs a Parish Paths Partnership scheme whereby we provide equipment for volunteers to clear overgrown paths, and we are so grateful for volunteers such as Andrew and Mary Barker who undertake this work. We continue to be concerned about the kerbstone issues in the Coppice Road area and although we have paid from precept money in previous years to tackle some of the works we had been told that Essex Highways would now fulfil its obligations, but unfortunately to date their input has only been to once again survey the area. We will be pressing for repairs this year. Parking has continued to be a real issue with Station Road, Church Road and Ford Lane all affected by congested and inconsiderate parking at times. We contacted parking consultants and the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) regarding possible parking restrictions but the concern was that any major restrictions will simply transfer the parking problems to other roads. Our PCSO and the NEPP have been involved in enforcing parking laws.

Projects and Grants: To reduce, in the long term, operating costs of running the Pavilion and in line with our environmental policy the Council voted to install solar panels on the flat roof part of the pavilion. The works were carried out and financed by an allocated £5000 from the Council's budget and by a grant of £8000 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund. Toilet facilities for users of the playing field have been a much-requested facility, as a temporary measure a hired portaloos has been installed and this has been followed up by the purchase of a prefabricated toilet block. The toilet block was part financed from a £15000 grant from Tendring District Council and a £2000 grant from Brett Aggregates, we still await the sewer connection to be made, and this delay is caused by our application for a highway licence being held up in the legal process by ECC highways. We have other projects in mind for the coming year including repairs and resurfacing of the hard-

court area. 2024 – 2025 saw Alresford receive the Best Kept Playing Field in Essex Award and we will do our best to maintain the very highest of standards going forward.

Staunton Gate: The Council has obtained the public access land on the north site adjacent to Victoria Avenue, from Taylor Wimpey. The maintenance and any works on the land becomes the responsibility of Alresford Parish Council. A commuted sum set aside in the transaction under section 106 terms means that precept money will not be needed for several years for maintenance costs. The Staunton Gate south site public access land is not legally in the charge yet of Alresford Parish Council, that should occur this year. Already, though, we have taken on administration of the Staunton Gate allotments, and they are now fully booked.

Quarries: When the Essex County Council Minerals department called for suitable aggregate sites, once again, Church Farm Field and Lodge Farm Field were put forward by landowners. In February 2024 a drop-in surgery was held by the Parish Council at the Village Hall and **very strong** opposition from residents to further quarrying was clear. The Council had already voted to object to the proposals, and we still await the decision from ECC Minerals on this matter.

Council members, Staff and volunteers: The Council has a full complement of eleven councillor members following the co-option of two new Councillors during the year. The co-option was necessary following the sad death of long serving Councillor John Housden and the resignation of Alistair Broom. The two new Councillors, Kristin Doulai and Courtney Muller both have young families and bring new ideas and perspectives to the Council. The Council has four part-time staff members, our Clerk and Proper Officer is Matt Cooke, our Responsible Finance Officer is Angela Baxter, and our Handyman is Jason Spurgeon. We also employ a litter picker, Sam Davies. In addition to our Councillors and paid staff the community is fortunate to have so many volunteers that do so much, for example the Alresford Colne Rangers Football Club members consistently carry out work on the playing-field and also run the bar in the pavilion for local events. At the Railway Station volunteer Station Adopters and supporters care for the community garden and platform flower beds. Many other groups raise money for charities and involve themselves in a range of clubs and groups that are pivotal to the community of Alresford.

Contractors: We have contracts with Essex Police to supply a PCSO who we share with neighbouring Council Great Bentley. PCSO Julia Brandon is very well known in the village and has great support. Our grass cutting contractor is J's Garden Services, a local firm run by Andy Holben. The CCTV contractor we use is Tendring Telecoms and Security Systems. Our Pavilion cleaning contractor is Kat Harding. The Council receives an excellent service from our time served contractors and we always obtain a rapid response from these services to any urgent matters that crop up from time to time.

Looking ahead: In the short to long term there are a range of challenges facing all Councils. The Local Government Reorganisation programme will be the biggest shake-up in fifty years in the way Councils operate in Essex. Essex is one of the six areas the government has prioritised for change. Tendring District Council and Essex County Council will cease to exist, instead there will be a Mayoral system of governance across the whole of Essex and likely 5 unitary (combined) local authorities. In our case Tendring, Colchester and Braintree are likely to be a combined authority. The White Paper does not indicate any changes for Town and Parish Councils however in practice the workload for Parish Councils such as Alresford will almost certainly increase as there will be fewer top tier Councillors to deal with local issues. Alresford Parish Council has a number of it's own matters to address, further improvements to the award-winning playing field are needed,

and Staunton Gate South public open spaces will be our responsibility in the coming months. As a Council we look forward though to serving the community we are part of and recognise the important role that volunteers amongst our residents play in making Alresford a great place to live and work.



Cllr Frank Belgrove

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)

Email: rfopcessex@outlook.com

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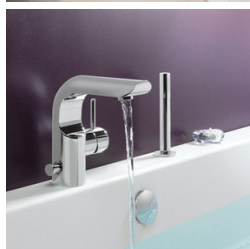
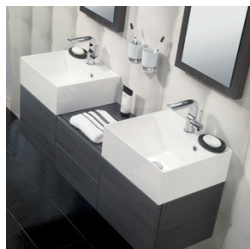
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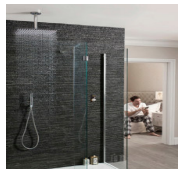
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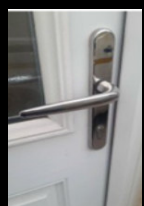
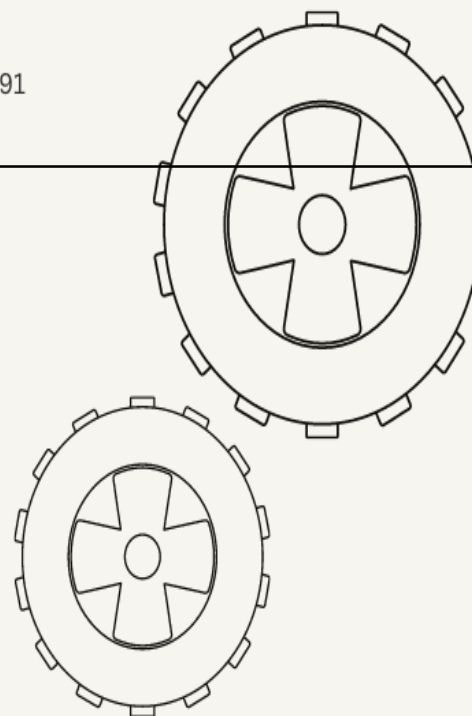
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ALRESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING MARCH/APRIL 2025

Pages 18 & 19

01/03/2025 - 29/03/2025

RECORDED CRIMES: 5

CRIME TYPES: Assault without injury - Theft x 2 - Theft in a dwelling - Threats to damage

INCIDENTS RECORDED: 12

TYPES REPORTED: Assist other agency - Domestic x 3 - Missing person x 3 - Missing person information - Other x 2 - Suspicious circumstances - Theft

31/03/2025 - 25/04/2025

RECORDED CRIMES: 7

CRIME TYPES: Arson - Assault without injury x 2 - Harassment without violence - Non crime investigation x 2 - Residential burglary

INCIDENTS RECORDED: 10

TYPES REPORTED: Abandoned 999 x 2 - Ambulance - Burglary Residential - Domestic x 2 - Harassment - NoK message - Missing person - Missing person information

TRUCAM (SPEEDING):

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

MONTHLY TOTAL: 11

- 1) 5 vehicles** exceeding the speed limit - Top speed **41mph**
- 2) 6 vehicles** exceeding the speed limit - Top speed **39mph**

APRIL 2025: 3 x 1 hour sessions in a 30mph zone

MONTHLY TOTAL: 35

- 1) 15 vehicles** exceeding the speed limit - Top speed **63mph**
- 2) 9 vehicles** exceeding the speed limit - Top speed **39mph**
- 3) 11 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

CLONED PLATE AND GOOD WORK

Whilst the local PCSO was deploying the Trucam speedgun in the village on 05/04/2025, a vehicle was captured coming towards the Trucam with clear footage of those in the vehicle doing 63mph on Wivenhoe Road (30mph limit). Quick thinking said something was not right about this vehicle; after conducting PNC and intelligence checks on this vehicle, it transpired this was a cloned plate committing crimes all over Essex. The footage and close up still shots of the driver and passenger were downloaded and circulated county wide amongst our officers. On 16/04/2025, the vehicle was spotted by one of the team parked in Clacton and seized. The vehicle is now being forensically examined, and we are hopeful of getting a positive ID to be able to bring these crimes to justice.

CONSIDERATE PARKING TICKET

MARCH 2025: 2 x CPI were given out this month

APRIL 2025: 1 x CPI were given out this month

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

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

SCHOOL PATROLS:

MARCH 2025: Numerous school patrols were carried out this month. One driver was reported for the offence **Failure to comply zigzag road marking in the vicinity of a school.**



It is an offence to park/stop on zigzags during the prohibited times on the clearly displayed yellow signs. For very good reason - **CHILDREN'S & PEDESTRIAN'S SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT.**

If you are caught stopping on the zigzags during those times, you **WILL** be reported for the offence and receive a NIP (Notice of Intended Prosecution)

DRINK DRIVING

1 drink driving arrest was made in Alresford

PLEASE THINK BEFORE YOU DRINK AND DRIVE

E-SCOOTERS

A young male was spoken to whilst sitting at the Creek with the scooter beside him and as this was the first time I had come across him, advised him to push it home without riding it and to get the message out to anyone he knew using one to avoid having it taken off him.

The message has been advertised and put in the magazine previously, but E-scooters are still being used in the village. If an officer sees anyone riding in a public place, it will be taken. E-scooters can be ridden on private land - companies still sell them but fail to tell you about the legislation.

DRUGS

2 bags of cannabis remnants have been found discarded in the village and not in a bin! This is still drugs that children could pick up. If you see anyone doing this along with fly tipping, please report it.

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 25th June 2025

10.30-1200 hours

Wednesday 27th August 2025

10.30-1200 hours

PCSO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

Numerous community engagement events were attended during March and April in Alresford including Friends of the station, Cockaynes wood trust volunteers accompanied by Cllr. Belgrove

Topics of concern that were raised were:

- **Parking** - particularly the school and Station Road, blocking corners/junctions/driveways/footpaths particularly junction of Coach Road by large white van (A CPI was issued) and especially stopping on zigzags ignoring the yellow signs
- **Speeding** - Trucam is already deployed
- **Fly tipping:** Dealt with by Tendring council
- **Flashing** - Male showing his bits in public in Cockaynes Lane - reported to the police

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.

DISPATCH - Tendring Edition:

Weekly e-newsletter published every Wednesday.

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

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.

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:

Julia.branden@essex.police.uk

ALRESFORD REMEMBERS THE 80TH VE DAY ANNIVERSARY

Over 50 villagers turned up to enjoy the VE day themed Film Night at the Village Hall on the 10th May.

Tables were positioned as they would be for a street party and sandwiches including Spam, Egg and Jam were the VE Day ingredients. Cakes such as Bread Pudding, Ginger and Carrot cake, Rock cakes, Victoria Sponge and Anzac Biscuits added to the theme.

The 'Party Goers' then watched Pathé Newsreels of 1945 and then listened to Russell Milburn who told the story of his Grandad who was a POW for 5 years and returned home on VE Day 1945.

The evening was finished with a viewing of the film "The Imitation Game"



Thanks to Chris Sanderson and Russell Milburn for organising this celebration and to all the volunteers who baked and donated cakes.

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An update from Cockaynes Wood Trust

Spring is now well and truly with us. I still have memories though of those bitterly cold Sunday morning working parties over at our 55 acre community nature reserve with a clear blue sky and the thick frost glistening from everywhere that Jack had been during those wee small hours. Still, once the sun had got a bit higher in the sky, and the temperature climbed above freezing point, we relished being outside.

There is always so much to be done on these once-a-month working parties, we would welcome a few more people to them. If you fancy getting involved, get in touch with Andrew Barker (email: andrewbarker125@hotmail.co.uk or call him on: 07788 857668). He sends out an email to us all a few days before a working party date and we let him know whether we are able to make it or not. It is always fun and certainly very satisfying.

A few of us meet every couple of months or so to discuss various issues, including a programme of events to which we invite the general public. Of course, the general public are welcome to visit any time and many do; every day there lots of people who enjoy walking around the site, some with a dog but several without. Anyway, we have planned two Friday evenings in July, one a walk in search of glowworms and the other a moth night to see how many different moths we can find at Cockaynes. So put in your diaries, Friday 4th July – in Search of Glowworms, Moths and Bats from 9pm and then Friday 18th July – Looking for Moths with the Essex Moth Group also at 9pm. For more details, look out for the Cockaynes Wood Trust Facebook page.



Andrew Barker, Richard Yates & CWT Chairman, Roger Robson

We recently had a visit from Rich Yates, the relatively new CEO of the Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) who is our joint partner in sharing a 30 year lease from Brett Aggregates who actually own these 55 acres. Rich joined the EWT 5 years ago, initially as Director of Engagement but found himself taking over the CEO role last year. He brought with him his 4 director colleagues in what he described as a fact-finding mission. It was EWT's first senior-level visit to the nature reserve. They were impressed with what they saw. Although it was bit nippy that morning, the leaves on the trees were just starting to burst open, meaning that one could see quite a long way through and into the woods.

Peter Hill, Vice-Chairman & Treasurer, Cockaynes Wood Trust
(e: peter@toadhall2.co.uk)

Camera Club

Post Covid, the Camera Club has made several attempts to attract new members, particularly from people younger than its existing membership. Unfortunately, this was unsuccessful and the decision was taken by the membership, that the AGM, held on the 22nd May, would be the very last meeting for the Club.

The Camera Club started back in 1983 with four Alresford people getting together to learn and share information on how to get the best results from their cameras. Leading this small group was Alec Corton, who now at 86 years of age was the club's oldest serving member. As well as having a career working for postal and telecoms services, Alec also ran with the assistance of his late wife, Vina, a very successful photographic business specialising in wedding photography, the quality of which produced from film cameras surpasses anything I've seen of late using the now digital technology. The word "photography" means painting with light and this is what Alec fully and expertly understood, his expertise even today in photographic manipulation techniques, using Adobe Photoshop meant Alec was the person to speak too if you wanted to get the very best images.

The other three people involved at the start of the Club were Brian Light, Barry Jordan and the late John Hedges. Thursday evening get togethers started in Alec's home, moving to the dining room of the Pointer Pub as membership increased, and finally moving to the village hall as membership numbers outstripped space at the Pointer.

I joined the Club on moving to Alresford in 1988, and for myself having spent time as both Secretary and Chairman, I found it one of the most enjoyable and rewarding clubs I have belonged to. Not only being part of the club's success in inter club competitions etc, seven consecutive years of winning an eight club colour slide battle being one example, but also for the friends and photographic knowledge gained over the thirty seven years of membership..

Sadly, the loss of local clubs is becoming a more of a common thing, similar reasons akin to the Camera Club, accounting for the closure of the Gardening Club last year.

Chris Sanderson

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