



THE ALRESFORD ADVERTISER

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025

Established since 1970

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22nd November
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ALRESFORD ADVERTISER - TREASURER REQUIRED

We now have a new editorial team ready to takeover however, we still need a new Treasurer. If you think you can help and would like to volunteer, please telephone 01206 825739

Over 1300 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 WI

Warmly invite you to a

FASHION SHOW

BY

RENEE LADIES BOUTIQUE

At Alresford Village Hall

FRIDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2025
at 7.30pm

ADMISSION INCLUDING
REFRESHMENT £3.00

RAFFLE

For further information

Contact:

Chris James on 07977 495382 or

Allyson Salmon on 07742 918062



MOVIE NIGHT

at Alresford Village Hall

Friday 3rd October 2025

When we will be showing



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

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

Alresford VH Management Committee

ARE YOU OR YOUR PARTNER 75 OR OVER?

ALRESFORD FETE ORGANISING GROUP

invites you to a

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

On Wednesday 3rd December 2025 @ 2pm

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

Please contact:

Becky King on 07482 478834 or

Russell Milburn on 01206 825739

**No later than the
19th November to book a place**

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

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

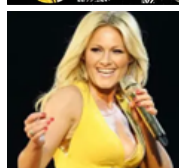
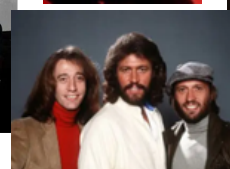


MOVIE NIGHT

becomes **Music Night**

at Alresford Village Hall

Saturday 22nd November 2025



Music and Songs across the
generations by some of your favourite
singers and groups on the big screen



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

This is a Charity Fund raising evening - the proceeds of which will be sent to Macmillan and the East Anglian Children's Hospice (EACH)

Teas and Coffees will be available, but please feel free to bring your own drinks (& glasses) and nibbles

Alresford VH Management Committee



QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2025
DOORS AT 7PM FOR A PROMPT 7:30PM START
ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL

£3 PER PERSON – MAX 6 PEOPLE PER TABLE
TO BOOK YOUR TABLE, PLEASE EMAIL
ALRESFORDFOG@GMAIL.COM OR CALL
EMMA ON 07834 539599

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE FOR DONATION

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE ALRESFORD FETE ORGANISING GROUP



ALRESFORD COLNE RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB

With a busy June now a distant memory, July was just as busy with constant watering of pitches leading up to the first preseason games. The pitches had to be marked ready to host the Chayse West Memorial Cup game on July 19th, a game played against Gas Recreation in memory of a super young man sadly now dearly missed. A large crowd was in attendance with the Rangers retaining the cup for the third season in a row.

The season kicked off on August 9th, so now it is nonstop with Youth and Ladies starting in September. With all bar one teams having official cost every game in the region of £150 plus, this makes football an ever-increasing expensive game. Other cost that people do not consider are line paint, football pitch surround equipment, first aid, rent of facilities and these are challenging. Sadly, these costs are crippling other clubs, forcing some to cease.

Alongside this is youth football, they start at Under 6 and play through to Under 18 when a vast majority walk away from the game instead of stepping into adult football. In my distant day there was no youth football other than the odd school match, so you started playing organised football at about 17-18 years of age, about the age that many youngsters having now already been playing for 12 years and now stop playing regularly. That is my opinion of why so many clubs struggle to get players as a decreasing number of young players step up to adult football. I doubt if this will change. Yes, we have a youth set up at ACRFC and hope in time some will progress into the adult teams, and we will continue to encourage this with the unenviable effort from our youth team managers being so vital.

So, the future is challenging, and like all clubs we need not only players to commit to ACRFC but also people to get involved with the running of the club. New ideas and energy are the way forward and would be very welcome at ACRFC.

Brian Martin
The Ranger



Father Christmas is coming to Alresford!

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

2PM – 4:30PM
SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2025

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

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

Limited quieter time slots available.
 To book your time slot and collect your tickets
 please call Pamela on 07746561716

Alresford Village Hall, Ford Lane, CO7 8AT



BINGO NIGHT

Alresford Village Hall
Saturday 18th October 2025
Doors Open 7pm
£3.00 per book

Tea/Coffee provided or bring your own Drinks/Nibbles

Raffle

For further information contact:
The Autumn Centre on 01206 303702

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

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

Since 2018, St John's Church in Colchester have been sending shoeboxes full of gifts to underprivileged children in a Romani community in central Transylvania. These are quite literally the only gifts these children will receive this Christmas.

Empty and completed shoeboxes can be collected and delivered to: **14 Church Road, Alresford CO7 8AB**

Boxes should be returned by:
Wednesday 26th November at the VERY latest

HOW TO PACK YOUR SHOEBOX

- Please decorate your box if you would like to.
- Complete the packing label (included in the box) and attach this to the lid
- Fill your box with gifts
- If you wish to make a donation towards transport costs, please put £2.00 in an envelope and place this in your box.
- Close your box and put a rubber band round it to keep the contents together. **DO NOT SEAL YOUR BOX**

The Age Groups are: 2 - 3 years, 4 - 6 years, 7 - 10 years
11 - 14 years

ITEMS THAT CANNOT BE SENT:

- Second-hand clothes (new clothes must have the shop tag or label attached)
- Liquids or Foods (chocolates, sweets, crisps etc)
- Any items of cutlery
- English Language reading books
- Toy Weapons



SUGGESTIONS FOR INCLUSION:

Toys and Games: Toy cars, plastic toys and figures, small doll or stuffed toy (with CE label), skipping rope, ball (small or deflated with pump), musical instrument, puzzle

Stationery Equipment: Pens and pencils, crayons, water colour paints, sharpeners and erasers, note books, colouring books, solar calculator.

Clothing and Personal Care: Toothbrush, comb, hair brush, wrapped soap, flannel, hair clips, bows etc, sunglasses (with UV/CE mark), hat, gloves, scarf, baseball cap, reusable plastic containers e.g. plate, bowl, cup, water bottle.

You can personalise your box with a photo or Christmas cards of you/your family

Ideas for different age groups:

Age 2 - 3: Playdough and plastic cutters, plastic building blocks, finger puppets, stickers...

Age 4 - 6: Stickers, glue sticks, dressing up items e.g. costume jewellery, plastic tools, chalkboard and chalks...

Age 7 - 10: Ruler, bag, purse, hair bows and clips, small backpack or handbag....

Age 11 - 14: Adhesive tape, geometry set, wind up or solar powered torch, sewing set, magnets...

This list is not exhaustive, use your imagination! Think about whether your box is for a boy, girl or either, but **please remember no sharp or fragile items.**

For more details On the appeal please visit:
stjohnscolchester.org.uk/shoeboxes

Please help us to make a real difference and thank you for your support



ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL

Charity Commission Number: 301233

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

Facebook:

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



WE NEED NEW TRUSTEES!

In the two meetings since the AGM, we have had five villagers showing an interest in how our village hall is managed. This encourages the Trustees, and it is hoped that in time these people will indeed join the Management Committee.

Whilst this is encouraging, let us not think that the potential problem of not having officers to run the hall in the not-so-distant future has now been eliminated. We will see in the next few months whether the potential new Trustees find they would like to evolve or indeed others not yet known will offer their services, but until we know the answer to these scenarios we cannot rest.

As reported in the August Alresford Advertiser we need to know there is those who can or will offer to step up to a management position by the end of February 2026, so we can plan accordingly where the future of the hall lies.

SO, TO REPEAT, 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.

NEWS

The Solar Panel project is now moving onto installing a Battery to store excess generated electricity that can be used to power the hall when the sun is not shining. There is also the option of 'feeding' back into the network, unused electricity that we will get paid for and this pay back can be used to subsidise our energy costs.

The MPLC (Motion Picture Licencing Company) licence has been renewed and this will enable the Simply Singing and Film nights to continue. They will restart in October.

New three-year deals have been signed with BGLite to provide our electricity and gas at rates that will help alongside the solar energy keep costs to the lowest level.

During the Summer, the hall floor was repolished, the oven was industrial cleaned, and the hall carpets received their 6-month clean.

Portable Appliance Testing (P.A.T.) booked for Thursday 27TH November and all clubs will be invited to bring their portable electrical appliances to be certificated.

The Contract of Hire has been reviewed and hopefully will be ready to be used by the start of November.

Private hire is starting to pick up after a quiet summer period with November and December already looking remarkably busy. Our thanks to all hall users for the respect they show the hall and the adherence to the 'leaving the hall' as they found it. This makes our cleaners task so much easier.

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 OF TEA

REGULAR GROUPS

See page 8

PAVILION HIRE

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

All enquiries should be via: alresfordvillagehall@gmail.com

HEALTH AND SAFETY/FIRST AID

The village hall **Health and Safety File** positioned in the hall foyer area. Included in the policy is the **Accident Book** and the Trustees encourage all hall users to familiarise themselves with this policy.

AVHMC provide a **First Aid kit** for use of Hires located in the kitchen. Respect for this kit would be appreciated.

Regular users/clubs should also provide their own First Aid kit.

It is important that all users of the Hall make themselves aware of the emergency procedure in the event of a fire. There are notices placed in the hall and within the Health and Safety File.

Russell Milburn
Chair AVHMC

PATH FOR ST PETERS CHURCHYARD APPEAL

For over fifteen years I have been volunteering at St Peters Churchyard originally to keep it tidy and over the years evolving to coordinating maintenance and contractors to bring the churchyard back to a presentable condition and then to keep it in this condition.

This has involved volunteering with others, bringing in contractors for one off projects and consulting with the St Andrews PCC through the Church Warden Lyn Bull to find solutions to a decrease in volunteering and indeed the possible closure of the site for burials and interments.

The first part of this has now been achieved by the bringing together of the PCC and Alresford Parish Council which has enabled a local contractor to maintain the church yard in a condition that all in Alresford would want.

The second part was to extend the Memorial Garden to enable a future for internments and a continued clearance to find extra space for burials. A faculty (permission) request has been applied for from the Diocese of Chelmsford and this if granted will allow the Memorial Garden to be extended.



The third part was if we could get all these parts in place to sustain the future of the St Peters Churchyard, I would manage a project to reinstate an original pathway into the churchyard that would increase accessibility to all enabling even those with mobility issues an opportunity to visit their loved ones resting place or just visit and enjoy the peace of that space. A Faculty has also been applied for. At present and for over 50 years people have used the adopted path (which was not a path prior to the fire in 1971) which routes over existing graves.

The photographs are proposed images to give you an idea of what it would look like.

where many visit just to sit and enjoy. A path will make this a safer option and allow those who have not been able to visit loved ones for years the possibility to do so. The path will be constructed to fit in with the rural aspect and would be wide enough for wheelchairs. It is planned to be located from the main gate and would extend to the Memorial Garden and would again extend at the junction east and west to allow full access to all the recent resting places.

St Peters is in my view along with The Creek the only real place of peace and tranquillity within Alresford



A local contractor will be used, and the estimated cost of the project is £11,000. To date £8,000 has been pledged and this is and should be a "people-based" project that the community of Alresford should be offered the opportunity to support by way of a donation. They will then always feel a part of this beautiful part of Alresford and help protect and indeed enhance the future of **ST PETERS CHURCHYARD.**

If you are interested in either donating or volunteering, please do contact me, **Russell Milburn** on **01206 825739** or at russellmilburn57@gmail.com

All donations will be made to St Andrews PCC but will be reserved entirely for the St Peters Path.



Cockaynes Wood Trust

August 2025

This map shows the 55 acres of land which is leased to the Cockaynes Wood Trust [CWT] and Essex Wildlife Trust with the responsibility of managing this community nature reserve resting with CWT on a daily basis.

The picture was taken from Google in 2005. It shows the state of the reserve as it was then. The Alresford Road is shown on the left which is also where the vehicle entrance to the site is. The big fishing lake is on the right; Cockaynes Wood is at the top of the picture and Villa Wood on the middle left.



This picture was taken approximately 10 years after the site ceased to be a quarry. For anyone walking around the site today, they would discover that nature has reclaimed much of the landscape. The biggest stretch of water on our site is rapidly disappearing, water which we call the Scrape.



It is through the hard work of our Working Parties, we have managed to fell a lot of the alders which have been springing up around it but the crassula is spreading across the water, turning the water green. The smaller lake next to it, with the little bridge that divides the two pieces of water, has almost disappeared completely being badly overtaken by reeds as well as crassula.

In the open areas around these two lakes, silver birches grow like weeds and have overtaken the area in the middle of the site we had been thinking of maintaining as an open space but nature has other ideas.

Between this area and the Cockaynes Wood, comprising lots of Sweet Chestnut trees and some ancient oaks, together with plenty of holly, lies a path with, on one side, heather which has gradually been spreading. We cut it back earlier this year, fully expecting it to rejuvenate as well as spread its seeds.

Brambles are a real nuisance when they grow next to paths. We try to manage them the best we can. There is far more work in the community reserve than we have volunteers for and so new people are always welcome.

Peter Hill, Vice-Chairman, Cockaynes Wood Trust

Email: peter@toadhall2.co.uk

Visit our Facebook page and website: <https://cockaynes.org.uk/>

AFOG UPDATES

Alresford Observational Treasure Hunt

After more than a decade, it was lovely to bring an observational treasure hunt back to the village! The route took in Church Road, parts of Ford Lane and Wivenhoe Road, with clues mixing observation and a bit of village history. Many of the questions were designed for children, though there were a few tricky ones too.

The afternoon was full of laughter and friendly competition, with a nail-biting tie-break between two families. The winners were the Muller family, who kindly shared their prize – a spectacular basket of fruit – with other participants.

The Great Alresford Bake Off

This was our very first village Bake Off, and although the number of entries was small, the quality was outstanding. Our brilliant judges Nick “Hairy Biker” Fairbanks and Mary “Berry” Barker certainly had their work cut out tasting them!

Winners:

Savoury: Courtney Muller – Sourdough Loaf

Sweet: Jan Stewart – Chocolate Cake

Under 13s: Poppy Bhar – Strawberry Surprise

Best Presentation (Public Choice): Poppy Hipkin

The afternoon was enjoyed by bakers and spectators alike (especially those lucky enough to sample the entries!).

With such enthusiasm and talent on show, we’re excited to run both events again next year. So get your aprons ready, sharpen your pencils, and join in the fun! Very special thanks to Ernie Osborn and Sandra Barney for organising both events.

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

- Alresford Craft and Farmers Market on the first Saturday morning of the month (February to December)
- Alresford Colne Rangers Football Club (using the Pavilion at the rear of the hall)

If more information is needed for any of these groups, please visit: <https://e-voice.org.uk/alresfordvillagehall/> or contact Russell Milburn on 01206 825739

ALRESFORD CRAFT & FARMERS MARKET 2025

**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**

LUNCHEON CLUBS

TUESDAYS at ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL:

12.30 - 2.30pm

FRIDAYS at BRIGHTLINGSEA COMMUNITY CENTRE:

12.30 - 2.30pm

2 Course Meal including Tea / Coffee - £7.00
Transport, door to door, if needed - £4.00
Raffle - £1.00

We welcome back all past members and newcomers.
It is not too late to join us for these friendly meals.

For any further enquiries, please contact:

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

Or email theautumncentre@outlook.com

ALRESFORD WI

On 7 November WI will be holding a Fashion Show in the Village Hall **more details on page 2.**

Our October meeting will be a Harvest Buffet and Games

The speaker for November is Richard Walker talking about Radio Caroline.

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

Meetings start at 7.30p.m.

Visitors are always welcome.

For further information please contact:

Chris James 07977 495382 or
Hilda Newbold 01206 823477

ALRESFORD ANGLING ASSOCIATION



ANGLING
TRUST



FISH
LEGAL



Patron: Sir Bernard Jenkin MP

After a hot dry Summer, hopefully we will have a wet winter to replace the fallen levels in the Lakes. Those that are stream fed do not fare too badly, but those that rely solely on rainfall do struggle. Fortunately, we have had no loss of fish and all the waters seem healthy

All the summer matches have been and gone and the winter matches start for the hardier souls. Catches have been up and down, but that is fishing not catching. There is a resumption of matches between us, AAA, and the Police team. This looks to resume as an annual event

Maintenance around the lakes starts in earnest now, with repairs to swims and banks top of the agenda.

David Thorn has had to give up fishing due to health reasons and he has kindly donated all his tackle and equipment to the Junior and under 12-year-old members of the club. This is a very kind gesture and will give this group of members a great start in a sport, like many others, where equipment is expensive.

We are still waiting to hear from the Farming Wildlife Advisory Group, regarding the introduction of Great Crested Newts in a separate pond within our land.

Hornets seem to have made an appearance on the Alresford Lake. They are nocturnal hunters as well as daytime and have proved a bit disconcerting to night fishermen as they are attracted to light in their hunt for moths. Geese will start their winter roost along with seasonal ducks, and its farewell to all our summer visitors.

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

Tight Lines

Mike Day (Secretary)



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

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

We have on average 25 people per singing session who really really enjoy a very sociable afternoon, so why not come along and see what we are all about, **it's just £2 for each session and that includes refreshments at half time.**

We are commencing a new season in October so hope to see you at the **Village Hall 2pm to 4pm**

October 3rd & 17th

November 7th & 21st

December 5th

Please mention us to friends and family who may not have access to the Alresford Advertiser

For more information
please contact Jeanette on
01206 825008 or
07484 334698



St Andrew's Church



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CONTACTS

Rector: Rev Andrew Fordyce - 01206 920848
Email: rector@tenpennyvillages.uk

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

Churchwarden:
Nick Berry - 01206 824496
Email: standrewswardens@tenpennyvillages.uk

Bookings for the Hub: Meg Burdus - 01206 820618
Email: admin@tenpennyvillages.uk

I have a confession ...

I have been writing poetry for a few years now. It bubbled up and I had to go with it.

In 2019 I started using it as a way of communicating where I was at in the lead up to moving house and church (five months after moving to Alresford the Pandemic hit!).

The reason for sharing this is to encourage you to be creative. I am not saying that my poems are particularly good - time will tell on that one. When asked why I write poems I shared that it feels good, healthy and natural to write them.

As a Christian I believe that we are made to be creative and we all have something that we like to do. I had a boss who would go on holiday each year and do some painting - he knew the pictures he made weren't particularly good but that wasn't the point. He found painting relaxing and if he didn't get it right there was always next year!

Over the years it has been interesting to observe people's creative gifts - sometimes it's as simple as how someone lays a table. I was bowled over at the King's Coronation celebrations when someone in one of our churches had made a decent replica of the King's crown from wool!!! I also remember being struck by the way my Grandad organised his shed with Branston pickle jar lids screwed underneath shelves to store screws or nails!

As we move into autumn and winter, some folks like to pick up a craft. I wonder if there is something you could turn your hand to. We can all admire the creativity of others whether it's simply listening to good music, but have you been too quick to dismiss your own creativity.

If we work from the premise that we are part of creation and made in the image of God, being creative is one of the most natural things in the world.

As the seasons change may you know God's blessing as you create or simply enjoy creation each day.

Rev Andrew Fordyce MBE



www.tenpennyvillages.uk

Find us on 

ParishChurchesofAlresfordElmsteadThorrington-TenpennyVillages

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



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

St Andrew's Church, Alresford

Christmas Songs of Praise

14 December, 4pm

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

admin@tenpennyvillages.uk

01206 826376

We would love to see you there.

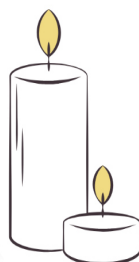
tenpennyvillages.uk

Bereavement Service St Andrew's Church, Alresford

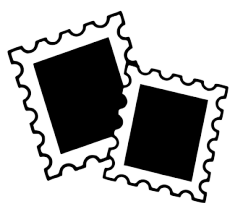
9th November, 6.30pm

A space to remember, to grieve and to give thanks for the life of someone you have lost.

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Stamps are still being collected for Bone Cancer Research.

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.

Any knitting donated during the last year will be sent to Romania as it was last year. It is being collected at the end of October to start its long journey.

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

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MOVIE NIGHTS

Last one of 2025 - more details in the December 2025/January 2026 edition

December 12th: National Lampoons Christmas Vacation - Chevy Chase

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT October/November 2025

Awards

On the 9th of July, Mr Matt Cooke (Parish Council Clerk) and myself attended the Rural Community Councils of Essex AGM/Annual Awards event in Witham. Alresford had been entered into the Competition for Essex Village of the Year and for best Essex Community Building with regard to the Village Hall and Pavilion. Since 2012 Alresford has won the main competition twice and has been runner-up twice. We attended the event with no expectations and dared not hope for further honours for our village. White Colne won the Essex Village of the Year competition this year however it was wonderful to hear announced that Alresford was awarded second prize, an excellent result as this year there were one hundred and sixty villages that had entered the competition. There were more honours for Alresford as the Village Hall and Pavilion received a highly commended certificate of merit. Well done to the Village Hall Trustees who care for the Village Hall and the Parish Council who operate the Pavilion!

After the awards ceremony Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, who had presented the prizes, approached me to offer her personal congratulations to the Parish Council for all the consistent and noticeable hard work by the Council and others that has taken place in Alresford I made sure that I spoke with her about the many non-Council volunteers in the village that make Alresford an exceptional village and she will be visiting us to see for herself. So, some very good news again for Alresford.

Alresford Parish Council status

The General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011) has once again been adopted by the Parish Council. This power is very helpful as it means we are eligible for more grants and so we have more options as to what projects and tasks we can undertake. The Council no longer has to search through a list of potential powers in order to act as it now has the power to do anything that individuals may do - providing certain laws are adhered to. The reason we have this Power is that we now have a fully qualified Clerk (due to a recently acquired Certification in Local Council Administration achieved by Mr Cooke) and we meet the other criteria required.

Policing/PCSO

In the previous AA report it was mentioned that one or two children in the village had been involved in criminal damage activities including starting fires on the playing field's AstroTurf strips (especially concerning due to the very dry summer weather). Following a review of CCTV footage by the PCSO and others, identification of some of those involved has resulted in action being taken by the Police. It has to be pointed out that this was not a question of children just being "naughty" or mischievous due to school holiday boredom, the problems caused were of such a nature that they could have resulted in serious injury. When parents were shown the CCTV footage of their children they were shocked at some of the behaviours they witnessed and they were keen to see restorative justice carried out. The Parish Council has voted to renew the three-year contract with Essex Police that provides Alresford with a part-time PCSO.

Highways

There is immense frustration amongst residents affected by the poor condition of the kerbstones in the Coppice Road area. The Parish Council continues to lobby and press for works to begin to rectify the problems. Essex Highways has surveyed the area and has mapped out the kerbstones

requiring replacement, yet no maintenance crews have started repairs. It seems budgetary constraints are the issue but the argument the Parish Council puts forward is that the longer works are delayed the greater the problems become. The Parish Council has undertaken some repairs in the past but the matter is the responsibility of Essex Highways and the extent of the works requires considerable expenditure.

Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) drivers avoiding the bridge weight restrictions on the B1027 continue to use Coach Road and Wivenhoe Road. It is hoped that on-site processing of sand and gravel at Lufkins Farm, Frating, will mean fewer trips being made to Brett's works in Alresford by one particular group of HGVs. In a recent planning application the Parish Council supported the on-site processing of sand and gravel at Lufkins Farm in order to obviate transportation of large quantities of materials to Alresford.

The collision between a bus and a farm vehicle on Wivenhoe Road two months ago quite rightly caused great concern and so a speed and volume of traffic survey is once again being requested by the Parish Council. We have campaigned before for a speed limit reduction on the Alresford Road and Wivenhoe Road sections leading into Alresford from Wivenhoe but Essex Highways has always refused our request. This latest serious accident (although apparently not directly speed related) demonstrates the dangers of this section of road and the Parish Council will continue to lobby for road safety improvements.

Homeless persons

The Parish Council is aware of some homeless persons "rough sleeping" in our area and so Councillors and our Clerk have been involved in seeking assistance for these individuals. As we approach the cooler months sleeping outdoors in makeshift tents etc obviously carries risks and we have encouraged the homeless persons we encounter to register for assistance. Rough sleeping is technically illegal under the Vagrancy Act 1824 however the law is to be repealed and a better option of course is for the appropriate authorities to offer support and direction to those in desperate need of accommodation.

Working together

Meetings have taken place between members of the Colne Rangers Football Club and the Parish Council to see what can be done to alleviate some of the parking issues in Ford Lane and St Andrews Close. The parking problems arise when consecutive football matches are played during Saturdays and Sundays. The number of matches has increased due to the popularity of different age group teams being formed. The Parish Council wants to strike a balance between the needs of those wishing to play football and the rights of residents who are sometimes disadvantaged by poor parking by visiting players and spectators. A reduction in the number of matches in any one day may be a likely outcome of the current discussions. It has to be stressed though that the Parish Council values the tremendous achievement of the football club in encouraging so many young people to take up sport.

And finally....

As winter approaches we can look back at the long hot summer we enjoyed and hope that the rains (or even snows) of the coming winter top up the ground water reserves in the area. There are many plans taking shape to improve village amenities and the Parish Council is embarking on projects to further improve our village.

Cllr Frank Belgrove
Chairman Alresford Parish Council

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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/

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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

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ALRESFORD BIKERS - RIDE LEADING WHAT DOES A RIDE LEADER DO?

Slightly updated as the last time I mentioned this was 16 years ago! There are many factors that any ride leader needs to keep in mind. These are some of the things on my mind on a Sunday Ride.

Where are we going? Does everyone know the destination? If there are newcomers, or people who just don't ride much, or newbie riders to the group on the day, they need the destination and the outline route, and maybe a minder. If necessary we exchange mobile numbers in case we get separated. Lesson learned the hard way! Either way, we take care of each other!

The route - heavily trafficked or deserted? It makes a difference. We plan to avoid them, but occasionally we need to be on major routes, where traffic might be heavy. I often keep speed down to keep the group together. Nobody falls off the end of one of our rides, but the riders at the back are going generally faster for longer than the riders at the front. Keeping together is difficult in traffic. So I put those riders I think might appreciate the comfort of having more experienced riders behind them, in the middle. I might even accompany this by putting vastly experienced minder with them, and route-friendly riders at the back. Don't be offended guys; I'm looking after you. Lesson learned the hard way!

Modern Satnav's mean I don't have to have ridden the route before, but I sometimes used to go take a practice ride just to be sure. There are still things to watch out for. For example, imagine being a beginner, miles away from their normal patch, riding with strangers, approaching the exit A12 to the M25 for the first time? So much to be careful of, including the cars who get into the exit lane with us early, having properly observed the 2 mile warning signs, and the hugely self-important car drivers who always wait until the last 100 yards and then expect everyone else to let them in. Not if I have a convoy behind me, you don't! (Ask me about a certain MB driver!)

Who is riding? What are their experience and ability levels? Should I be presuming to make that judgement? Not much of a leader if not eh? Do we have a Sunday ride with fast, capable and confident riders, or have we a mixed experience group? Are some going to be unhappy tooling about, while others may still feel rushed? Do I have to review the route I have mentally planned out to allow for that? Should I split the group and go to the same destination by two routes, one fast and long, the other short and slow? Will we arrive at the same time? Or maybe change the route altogether? Does it matter? Yes it does, emphatically, to the individuals! I must not pull someone into realms they are not happy in, be it speed, traffic, machine handling, or both. If someone finds tooling about at tick-over week after week a bore, they're unlikely to keep coming. If we always have to wait for slower people, they might get tired. Or if they're struggling to chase after a disappearing pack, beyond their comfort zone, they might get disheartened and never feel part of the group. Our riders have universally taken care over this without ever being asked. What a nice bunch eh? My answer to this situation has been to release and let the quicker riders come back more quickly, while I hang around with the slower riders and shepherd them back in their comfort zone so that they do not feel harassed. More than once! Hey, I was a learner once. Good people took good care of me. Payback time. Lesson learned the hard way!

Do we need stops? Usually no, but occasionally yes, especially on longer rides. Might we need a fuel stop?

What is the range of the rider with the smallest tank? Bike knowledge is needed! If it is a long way we might need fuel along the way, maybe in both directions. I used to know a chap who had a 1200cc bike with a 2.1 gallon (9 litre) tank. Hopeless range, and we always carried jerry cans for him! Some modern bikes have smaller fuel capacities than you might think. But our Sunday rides rarely exceed 75 miles and normally are a bit less. We're not out for endurance records, but short interesting rides and buckets of tea. So we might need, um, er, pit stops too. Lesson learned the hard way!

How are we going to avoid losing people off the back of the group? Do we need the marker system, or can we all see the next rider? The marker system, much used by larger groups, is where the second rider stops at a convenient place just before the next change of direction, and points the way the leader went. They then join on at the back. In this way at least everyone gets a go at pointing the way, leading, and trailing. But that is for big groups and we rarely need it. But I do take care to ensure someone who knows where we are going is at the back. Lesson learned the hard way!

What is the "interested" range? Are our riders up for a 200-mile trip to some interesting place, and back in a day? Or over-nighting? How - in tents, hotels, B&B's, hostels, sympathetic friend's houses? I've done them all. Some folks have not and the idea of a long wet ride back may not be encouraging. So the longer-term weather forecast is important. Lesson learned the hard way! I start scouring weather sites on Tuesdays now!

How long have we got? Most peeps only have the mornings or afternoons, rarely both. Significant Others must not be deserted every Sunday! Are riders up for an all day trip, or a few hours, or even less? What are rider's comfort ranges? Do they need to travel far to get to the start? We have a regular all the way from Kelvedon before we even start! Are they all happy to ride in the dark if we're out late? What about rain or bad weather experience? Will they be OK? One thing is clear: whoever leads the group, no matter how large or small, they're busy!

These freedoms have a price and fairness is one of them. I know cutting the grass comes a distant second to almost any other activity I can think of, especially riding my bike, but it has to be done! And families like to be together some time at the weekend too. Biking may be the centre of my galaxy these days, but not everyone's! Lesson learned the hard way!

So, if you want to know more, find us at our monthly meetings held in HQ, The Pointer Inn, on the second Friday of each month at 8pm, where our hosts Neil and Sam always make us welcome, and you can take in hundreds of years of experience in one go!

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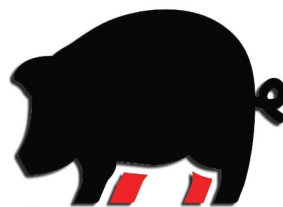
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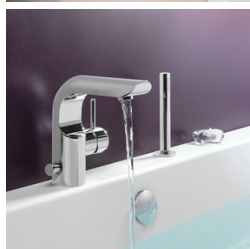
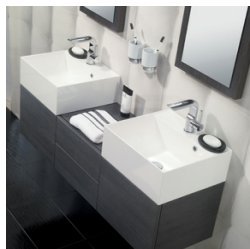
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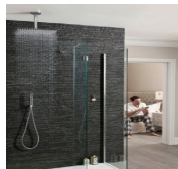
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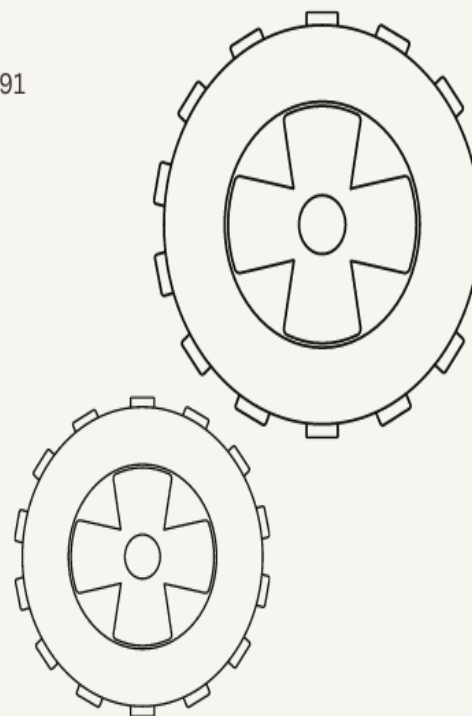
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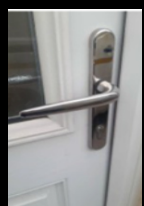
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ALRESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING JULY 2025

28/06/2025 - 24/07/2025

RECORDED CRIMES: 15

CRIME TYPES: ABH x 3 - Assault x 5 - Assault without injury x 3 - Criminal damage - GBH - Theft of a motor vehicle - threat

INCIDENTS RECORDED: 16

TYPES REPORTED: Abandoned 999 - Assault - Criminal Damage - Domestic x 3 - Disturbance x 3 - Information x 3 - Other suspicious circumstances x 2 - Theft of vehicle

TRUCAM (SPEEDING):

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

10 vehicles in total receiving NIPS (notice of intended prosecution) in the post. Top Speed **49mph**

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

Trucam will be deployed on a regular basis in the village. The speed signs are clearly visible and as a driver you should be noticing things like this (unconscious bias), including your surroundings. You would fail your driving test if you were driving without due care and attention.

A vehicle if driven recklessly/unsafely is a **potential** weapon. You are in control of your vehicle.

30mph - Pedestrian **80%** chance of survival

40mph - Pedestrian **20%** chance of survival

50mph - Pedestrian **unlikely to survive**

These statistics are why we have predominantly 30mph limits in areas with high pedestrian activity. These limits are not about protection motorists from harm

Please drive with **due care and attention** - there is no **excuse for poor driving**

Thank you to those abiding by the legal safe limit.

E-SCOOTERS

E-scooters are still being seen riding on the public highway, which is illegal. Shops do sell them but fail to tell you they can only be ridden on private land

Please be reminded of the following.

Legal position

Electrically powered scooters are classed as a "powered transporter" which are a type of mechanically propelled vehicle. This means the rules that apply to other mechanically propelled vehicles also apply to e-scooters. This includes the requirement that the vehicle is approved by the Vehicle Certification Agency for its construction and use for transport on the public highway. Currently e-scooters do not have type approval, which means they cannot be insured, which means they cannot be used legally in a public place.

Anyone found using one in public will have it seized under section 59 or section 165 of the road traffic act 1988.

For a section 165 - If you do not have a valid driving licence, you can be reported for the offence, which will land you in court.

CAR PARK SCAM

I would like to make the community aware of a car park scam that has been going around for a while. Some car

parks have a QR code you scan when paying for your parking. Criminals are pasting their own QR code over the top of it, which when scanned by your phone, takes money from your account not to mention you have not actually paid for your parking like you believe, which could result in receiving a parking ticket.

A resident used a car park in Harwich which one of these fraudulent QR codes and £400 was withdrawn from their account.

If using one of these car parks with the QR code, check that there is not a fraudulent one pasted over the original. You should be able to tell visually by the raised edge of the sticker or try running your thumb nail round the outside for lifting. I believe most car parks have alternative methods for payment, which include paying on an APP.

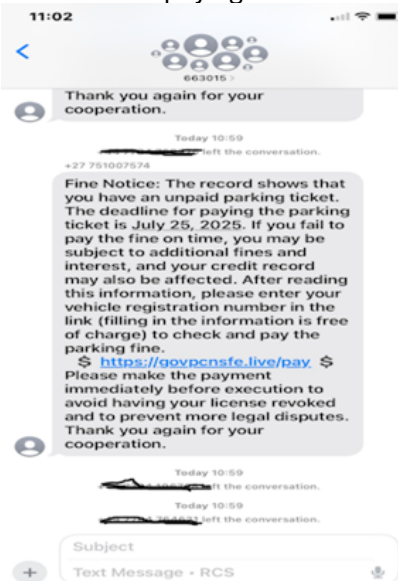
PARKING FINE SCAM

Many People have received a text in the form of a parking fine. The link looks to already have been removed, however! Usually new links are added daily.

This amongst may other scams are popping up daily. Any text or email with sketchy details are most likely a scam.

If you receive any like these just delete them.

Do not click any links within the body of the text as this could open your details up to scammers.



KNIFE/DRUGS SWEEPS

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

INTELLIGENCE

A vast amount of information has again been gained from the community. 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.

PCSO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

Crime investigations/statements (in support for Officer in charge) - Liaising with Parking Services and other agencies - Numerous intelligence gained and submitted - Patrolling of hot spot areas in the village, including possible hare coursing locations - Community engagement/security advice and reassurance - Missing person searches - Monthly knife sweeps / drug paraphernalia have been conducted in various areas - Welfare visit/checks were conducted on elderly/vulnerable residents and victims of crime - Security advice/reassurance - Trucam speed gun deployment.

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/guidance/report-an-untaxed-vehicle)

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.brandon@essex.police.uk



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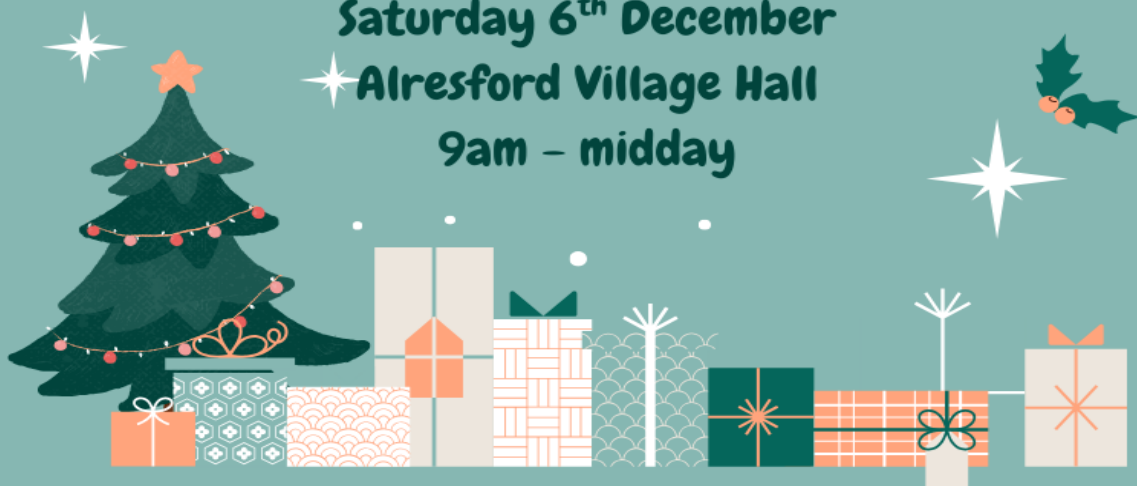
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ALRESFORD CRAFT & FARMERS CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 6th December

Alresford Village Hall

9am – midday



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

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

Free car park and disabled facilities

We look forward to welcoming you

2026 Dates

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

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

ALLISON WADE ("Al")
27/12/1968 - 06/06/2025

Allison passed away peacefully at the Kingsgate Care Home on Sunday 6th July, where she had spent the last few weeks of her life being cared for by the amazing staff there.

Having trained as a nurse on leaving school, Al worked both in the UK, at Ipswich Hospital, and in three different locations in the US for several years after that, a time she enjoyed immensely. On her return home to the UK, Al worked for Health Care at Home and NHS 111 until she had to sadly retire due to her increasing health and mobility issues.

Al moved to Alresford in 2012 to live as independent life as her health would allow. She always had a positive attitude and outlook towards life, and considered Alresford her place of sanctuary, a haven from the health issues she had endured for most of her life. She wanted to be an active contributor to village life and the community, and edited the Alresford Advertiser for a few years, before getting involved and helping in the initial stages of the Station House Project. Al loved being at one with nature and enjoyed her walks with Vic around the village, especially in Cockaynes Wood where she would meet other dog walkers and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

Over the last few years, Al and her family were so grateful for the amazing carers and friends who looked after her, as well as the love and support she received from her neighbours and the community at large. It would be remiss not to mention Victor, her amazing assistance dog from Canine Partners who was an incredible help to her. Always easily recognisable when out with Al due to his purple working coat, Vic has now retired and lives in the village with a wonderful caring family and has his best mate 'Sacha' by his side.

The family would like to thank all who attended Al's 'Reflection of Life' service and those who sent cards of sympathy and condolences.



IVAN PYMAN

I would like to thank everyone for their kind messages and beautiful cards on the sudden & devastating sad loss of my dear husband Ivan on 31st July.

He was such a loving family man to both his daughters Jo and Lynsey, son in law Vern and Zach whom he adored. A great friend to so many.

With heartfelt thanks from Janice Pyman

MOBILE LIBRARY: 2025
Alresford Village Hall

The Mobile Library visits every: 3 weeks

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

02-Oct 23-Oct 13-Nov 04-Dec

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

ALRESFORD ADVERTISER CONTACT DETAILS
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COPY DEADLINE

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

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