

THE ALRESFORD ADVERTISER

August / September 2026

Established since 1970



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Picnic in the Park

The Alresford Fete Organising Group (AFOG) were delighted to bring another successful Picnic in the Park to the village on Saturday 13th June.

Following a couple of rainy weeks in the lead-up, the weather was kind to us on the day, with lovely sunshine making for a wonderful afternoon on the playing field. It was fantastic to see so many families, friends and neighbours coming together to enjoy everything that makes our village such a special place to live. Around 1,500 people joined us throughout the afternoon, making it another fantastic celebration of our community.

The event was officially opened by Parish Council Chairman, Frank Belgrove before an afternoon packed with live entertainment, activities and attractions for all ages, there really was something for everyone to enjoy.



A huge thank you to Silence the Sirens for providing another brilliant soundtrack to the afternoon, and to Rebecca's Dance Academy for a fantastic performance enjoyed by all.



Visitors also enjoyed the always-popular Ozzy's Rules Welly Wanging (with thanks to Cllr Ernie Osborne), two classic carousels courtesy of Mr Little and train rides provided by North Essex Miniature Railway. Operation PartyTime created some fantastic face paintings, while Little Images captured visitors with their brilliant caricatures. Wivenhoe Tennis Club provided tennis and pickleball demonstrations, and Alresford Carpet Bowls returned with their fun outdoor golf game. Brightlingsea Fire Crew brought along their fire engine, Alresford Primary PTA



kept the competition going with their coconut shy, St Andrews Church also supported the event with a stall and games for younger children, and Alresford Bikers returned with a great display of motorbikes.

There was plenty more to explore around the field too, with stalls from Alresford Parish Council, the Talking Newspaper, the Autumn Centre and Plants for Parkinson's, as well as stalls selling jewellery, books from Dee's Book Nest and cups from Jellybean Vinyls.



A special thank you also goes to our photographer, Sam King for capturing so many fantastic moments from across the afternoon. And a special mention to Fully Stacked Services for our first ever drone shots.

Chayse West Legacy made their Picnic in the Park food debut with 'Westy's Grill and Go', serving burgers, hot dogs, chips and plenty more throughout the day, whilst Whip It Like Webber returned with two ice cream vans to help keep everyone cool in the warm weather.



Alresford Fete Organising Group

The Village Hall was once again a welcoming hub throughout the afternoon, with volunteers serving homemade cakes, teas and coffees alongside displays from the local Calligraphy Club and a look back at historic Picnic in the Park events.



We're also grateful to Alresford Colne Rangers FC for their continued support with preparing the site before the event and running the Pavilion Bar throughout the afternoon.



Events like Picnic in the Park simply wouldn't happen without the generosity of our local businesses, organisations and volunteers. We'd like to thank everyone who sponsored entertainment, donated raffle and tombola prizes, made financial donations or supported the event in any way. Every contribution helped make the day such a success.



We would particularly like to recognise the following businesses, organisations and individuals for their generous support:

Alresford Colne Rangers Football Club
Alresford Fish Bar
Alresford Parish Council
Alresford Post Office
Alresford Tai Chi Group
Alresford Village Stores
Bellets
Cavadino Hair Salon
Chayse West Legacy
Direct Animal Feeds
Greater Anglia
Khusbu
La Pooch Dog Grooming
Mark Brumpton Tree Services
Mitchells Farm Shop
Old Town
Olive House Interiors
Sage Hairdressers
Smashed Burger
Spar
Sunnymead Farm
The Alresford Pizza Company
The Kitchen and Bathroom Store
Top Glass
Whip it like Webber
Wyvernwood
Russell and Hayley Milburn

& an anonymous benefactor who wishes no publicity.



And, of course, thank you to everyone who came along with your picnic blankets, chairs, friends and family. Your support is what makes Picnic in the Park such a special event and a wonderful celebration of the community spirit that makes Alresford such a fantastic place to live.



Every penny raised stays in Alresford. The proceeds help fund our annual Christmas Tea for residents aged over 75, our free Father Christmas visit, the Observational Treasure Hunt and Village Bake Off, as well as providing grants to local clubs, organisations and community projects throughout the year, helping local groups continue the valuable work they do.

**But we need your help –
or this could be our last Picnic in the Park.**

Alresford Fete Organising Group (AFOG) is a small, friendly committee of local volunteers who meet just once a month to plan the events and activities that bring our village together. We're passionate about making Alresford a great place to live and creating events that give our community the chance to come together.



We're now looking for new members to join the committee. You don't need any special skills or experience – just a willingness to get involved, share ideas and play a part in keeping these much-loved village traditions alive. We share the planning and organisation as a team, with everyone contributing what they can.

The reality is that, unless more people join the committee, this year's Picnic in the Park is likely to have been our last. We'd much rather be planning next year's event than talking about the end of it.

If you've ever enjoyed Picnic in the Park, attended one of our events or simply value having a thriving village community, we'd love to welcome you along to one of our monthly meetings. There's no obligation, just the opportunity to meet the team, hear what we're planning and see if it's something you'd enjoy being part of.

**To find out more please email
AlresfordFOG@gmail.com
or call us on 07535 707002
We hope to see some new faces soon.**

Courtney Muller
AlresfordFOG@gmail.com



ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL REGULAR GROUPS

MONDAY

- Mindfulness Yoga: Monday mornings
- Alresford Indoor Carpet Bowls Club: Every Monday afternoon/evening

TUESDAY

- Alresford Lunch Club: Every Tuesday early afternoon
- 1st Alresford Scout Group (Beavers): Tuesday Teatime
- Dog Training Classes: Tuesday evening

WEDNESDAY

- Tai Chi: Every Wednesday morning
- Alresford Women's Guild: Every other Wednesday afternoon
- Pilates: Every Wednesday evening

THURSDAY

- Exercise Classes (Extend): Every Thursday morning
- Alresford Women's Institute: Second Thursday evening of the month

FRIDAY

- Alresford Calligraphy/Art Group: Every Friday morning
- Simply Singing: Every other Friday afternoon October to May

SATURDAY

- Alresford Craft and Farmers Market: First Saturday morning of the month (February to December)
- Little City: Second Saturday of the month

Pavilion

- Alresford Colne Rangers Football Club U7, U10, U14, U15, ladies, mens & walking football
- Scan & Cut card making: Second Monday of the month

For further information please see our website
<https://e-voice.org.uk/alresfordvillagehall/>
or contact Russell Milburn on 01206 825739

CHRISTINE'S CHARITY BAG

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



A big thank you to the people who recently donated a large quantity of wool, this included a lot of chunky wool if anyone is interested in using some to make items suitable to send to Romania later in the year. Other weights of wool, needles and patterns 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 or taken to any WI meeting.

John Stimpson, 2 Coach Road, 01206 825068



St Andrew's - not just for Sundays

Friendship Circle 10:30-12:00
1st and 3rd Monday

Although we are a bereavement group, we welcome anyone who is lonely and is seeking company for a chat, coBee and cake.

Memories 14:30 - 16:00
2nd Monday

Do you or anyone you know have memory problems? If so, you are very welcome to join us for a time of reminiscing and refreshment. If you are interested, please contact **Jeanette Downing on 01206 825008**

Tuesday Tots 10:30 - 12:00
Weekly term-time

Somewhere to bring your little ones to play and somewhere to meet other parents and carers.

Knit and Natter 14:00 - 15:30
Tuesday Fortnightly

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

Book Café 10:30 - 12:00
2nd and 4th Wednesday

The Church transforms into a café to meet old and new friends over tea, coBee and cake, borrow a book or jigsaw and take part in a quiz.

Relax and Renew 13:45 - 15:00
3rd Thursday

Learn relaxation techniques and enjoy some refreshments.

Ministry for Men 19:30 - 21:30
4th Thursday

Meet at *St Andrew's, Elmstead Green or 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

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 01206 303702

Or email theautumncentre@outlook.com

ALRESFORD SMUGGLERS

Smugglers Walking Group
Wednesday at 2pm

Meet outside The Pointer Pub, A leisurely walk around the village and surrounding countryside.

Smugglers Beginners Running group
Thursday 6:15pm

Meet at Cockaynes Lane and Station Road junction. Designed for those who like to start running or returning back from injury.

Smugglers 5k Social Run
Thursday 7pm

at Cockaynes and Station Road junction. Meet like mind people for a leisurely run and chat.

All sessions are completely free.
Come and join friendly community whether it's running or walking, Everyone is welcome.

Dale Weaver
daleweaver68@gmail.com



SIMPLY SINGING

Friday October 2nd sees the start of our new season, so if you're one of our existing regulars we look forward to welcoming you back. If you've not been before why don't you come along and give it a try, we'd love to meet you. We are not a choir but a group of men and women who love to get together to have a sing song to what we hope are your favourite songs.

We meet every two weeks between 2pm and 4pm in the Village Hall, Ford Lane, CO7 8AS.

It's just £2 per session which includes refreshments.

Dates for the remainder of 2026 are:

- October 16th and 30th
- November 13th and 27th
- December 4th



For more information please contact:
Jeanette on 01206 825008 or Chris on 07484334698

ALRESFORD WI

Our meeting in August will be an Evening Tea Party.

In September, Sandra Gold-Wood will be talking about the Canary girls who worked in the Munitions Factory, during the war.

In July, Kate Atkinson will be telling us about Chair Yoga and encouraging us to participate.

**We meet on the second Thursday of each month
in the Village Hall. Meetings start at 7.30pm**
Visitors are always welcome.

For further information please contact:
Chris 07977 495382 or Hilda 01206 823477

ALRESFORD FETE ORGANISING GROUP

The second annual Treasure Hunt took place on Sunday May 31st and attracted families from Alresford following a well thought out and safe route with interesting clues that were aimed at all ages of the community.

The Hunt led back to the Village Hall where beverages were available, and prize winners were announced.

The Alresford Fete Organising Group thank Cllr Ernie Osborne and Sandra Barney for their enthusiasm and hard work in putting this event together.

The next event is the Bake-off on Sunday September 13th, again centred in the Village Hall and open to all ages of our community. Please see full details on the back cover.

ALRESFORD WOMEN'S GUILD



Members of Alresford Co-op guild celebrated 60 years anniversary with a lunch at The Red Lion at Thorrington recently.

Mrs. Shirley Dow, is pictured cutting the cake.

New members are always welcome.

**Meetings take place in the village every 2nd & 4th
Wednesday of the month at 2pm.**

Movie Night

at Alresford Village Hall

Friday 2nd October 2026

when we will be showing



Released in March 2026, *Mother's Pride* is a British comedy-drama about a grieving family trying to save their failing pub — and unite a divided community — by brewing real ale and entering the Great British Beer Awards. Blending heart warming humour with emotional depth, it celebrates the resilience and camaraderie found in local pub culture.

*****Film Starts at 7.30pm – doors open 7.00pm*****

This is a non ticket event, but contributions towards the cost of running the event will be taken on the evening

Alresford VH Management Committee

ALRESFORD BIKERS

MAKING THE MOST OF IT!

Sunday morning, 0700 hrs, doesn't happen much to me or many others I suspect! But there we were at HQ, The Pointer Inn car park. We were attempting a Round East Anglia ride - we've done it before, but so long ago we almost forgot about doing it! We'd promised we'd do it again, and here we were, years later, gathering up for it. Chris had done all the work, all we had to do was follow his lead. We departed bang on 0700 as promised, and took a nice country route out past Colchester, heading towards Sudbury, on our way to our first stop at Hunstanton. A lovely, if surprisingly cool morning greeted us as we hit the A134, heading North. We had left early, knowing that traffic might become our major problem, but it was almost non-existent for a change, and we thundered through Thetford Forest without issue. The roads were mostly clear, and we went with great enjoyment for mile after mile with hardly anyone even seeing us. The A149 was also empty, but beginning to fill up with cars full of holiday makers getting out like us - early!

We got to Hunstanton so early on a Sunday that many of the cafes weren't even open yet, but a lovely lady in a mobile food wagon came to our rescue, with tea and bacon butties. Anyway, after a short rest and little bit of a walk round the seaside, we pressed on.

Chris said the next stop would be Cromer, which suited us down to the ground, as it was not a huge distance in the summer weather. Setting off at a leisurely pace along the A149, we followed it in brightening and warming sunshine all the way. Small and quite enchanting villages passed, like Burham-Overy-Staithe, Wells- Next-The-Sea, Stiffkey, all came and went. Some had some "interesting" roads, with even more "interesting" car driving too, just to ensure we were not falling asleep! Morston, Cley-Next-The-Sea, and the target of another future visit, The Muckleburgh Military Collection! Eventually we arrived at Cromer, found somewhere good to park, and went for.....more tea!

A short walk took us out onto the Pier, tea and butties were duly scoffed, and a short walk around the Esplanade

followed. We returned to the bikes and got ready to ride again. We'd have been a little bit quicker about that bit but a lovely old gentleman came and talked to me about his BMW R65 that he purchased in 1988 apparently, and still had! He told me he'd been round the clock on it, and was well into the second lap. Total Respect Sir! I hope I'm still riding when I'm as old as him! Chris filled up with petrol as he has a smaller tank than us, and off we went, further along the coast road heading towards our intended final stop - Great Yarmouth. More lovely roads although very bumpy and damaged, awaiting repairs, no doubt. Villages like Overstrand, Sidestrand, and Trimmingham set us in the right frame of mind for a leisurely pace, and to be fair, it was pointless thinking about going any faster, as traffic was now building up on very small and winding roads, so we just bimbled along mostly, enjoying the now suddenly hot sunshine.

More tiny villages came and went, then into Hemsby. We neatly skirted the busy bits of that, and went onward into Great Yarmouth itself. Again, being the quiet, retiring, types that we are, we had to ride down the front and find a good free place to park up, and get some, er, tea! After that, and another brief walkabout of the seaside, we pressed on again. This time Lowestoft, Kessingland and then onto the famous A12, and Ipswich. Soon back on familiar home territory, we headed home at some speed after how slowly we'd been all day so far, and apart from the never-ending roadworks where nothing was happening anyway, as usual, we were passing over the Orwell Bridge and getting off the main road again heading towards our usual route, towards Manningtree, Lawford, and home. I checked up on the bike as I arrived - almost exactly 250 miles covered in the day, and it was only 1630! A great day's ride, thanks to Chris for organising, and Nick who brought up the rear all the way too. If you want to know more about the bikers, bikes, biking, etc. please note we have changed our monthly meeting back to the second Tuesday of each month, at 8pm in our HQ, The Pointer Inn, where our splendid new hosts make us very welcome!

Al Gillard

ALRESFORD COLNE RANGERS FC



Saturday May 16th, what an enjoyable day known as the ALAN GREEN DAY, in memory of a genuinely great man of this football club, who was Chair for over 30 years. Thirty-six ex-players showcased their talents at a leisurely pace and it was lovely to see Alan's daughters, Lorna and Fiona, at the game. They were thrilled that the players and indeed spectators all were there to remember their father.

Onto Sunday May 17th and it was off to Framlingham for Alresford Colne Rangers Ladies to contest the Plate Final. Despite putting up a great effort, the Ladies lost 2-1. Thank you for all the support both from the club and those supporters who made the trip.

Whilst no football is taking place, a huge amount of work and money is being invested into the facilities, repairs on goal posts and pitch maintenance being at the forefront. Administration is also especially important and thus the secretaries, Dan and Claire are working hard on registering the teams, charter conforming and applying for

funding. The hours that Dan and Claire put in behind the scenes alongside the unsung heroes who keep the club going is truly appreciated.

On to season 2026/27, and ACRFC feel we have made strides to improve the men's teams, with the first team having new management in James Meadows and Mark Henry. Early signs are that their enthusiasm and effort will bring improvement. The Reserves now have a young manager, Harry Gardiner, who has links to Alresford and is committed and enthusiastic in taking the team forward.

New committee members are still required to supplement the existing members who work so hard and if you can help, please visit the club and have a chat.

The Picnic in the Park was a wonderful day attended by many of the village. We pass on our thanks to all the AFOG organisers who give so much of their time throughout the year to organise events for Alresford. I know they also would like some extra volunteering to help organise and indeed offer innovative ideas that would allow Alresford to continue to be a great community.

Brian Martin

The Ranger, Alresford Clone Rangers Football Club
<https://alresfordcolnerangersfc.co.uk/>

ALRESFORD COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Jackdaws view

Summer arrived early in the Community Garden and high on the chimney pots, the Jackdaws majestically surveyed their domain. In April they became proud parents as did the other resident birds. The sparrow population increased to about thirty and a lot of hungry youngsters made their hunger known with frantic cheeps. The young starlings caused great amusement as they galloped, in an ungainly way, across the grass after their parents. The male blackbirds spent mornings and evenings singing at the tops of their voices adding to the cacophony of delightful sounds echoing through the hedgerows and trees.

The slow-worms emerged from the safety of their underground homes and took advantage of the increasing warmth. They are amazing, gentle, shy lizards that are very good at hiding especially from people.

The hedgehogs were busy keeping the slug and snail population down. They are entertaining creatures especially when they compete for food at feeding stations in the adjacent gardens. On one occasion a prickly ball was catapulted out of a flower bed by a grunting rival. After a few moments a nose appeared before it uncurled and wandered off most put out.

At the end of May the jackdaws had their annual gathering with other local jackdaws. They flew in from all directions and settled in a tree before taking flight together. An extraordinary sight and the sound of them cluck clucking made it more so. It only lasts for about twenty to thirty minutes before they disperse and disappear as quickly as they had arrived.

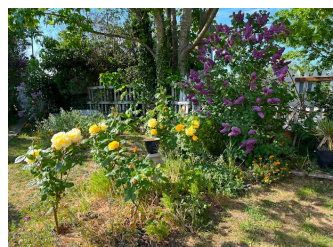
There was an increase in bees this year, and in June a colony of tree bees made their home in a bird box in the Secret Garden. Apparently they can number anything from fifty to two hundred and can be aggressive if disturbed so the decision was made to close off that area to protect the bees and people.

The number of butterflies is down so far this year but hopefully when the Buddliah blooms they will come.

The heatwave really hit the garden in June. The water butts, that were so kindly donated by the Alresford Gardening Club, ran dry and it was a case of transporting water from home to keep as many plants alive as possible. A losing battle in the temperatures that hit us. However the garden always comes alive again in Autumn.

In the meantime, life goes on under the watchful eyes of the Jackdaws.

Cherry Watson
Alresford Community Garden



MOVIE NIGHTS



We will be showing 'Mothers Pride'
Friday 2nd October 7:30pm (See page 5)

Further dates - 13th November & 11th December
Film titles will be confirmed in the next issue

We look forward to seeing you all then!



MOBILE LIBRARY

Visits the Village Hall every 3 weeks
Thursdays 11:55am-12:25pm

13th August 3rd September
24th September 15th October

This year's **Summer Reading Challenge** Read to the Beat runs from Saturday 18 July to Saturday 5 September in all Essex libraries and mobile libraries. There are six stickers for children to collect over the summer. They earn them by telling us about the books they have read, or doing activities. After collecting all six stickers, they earn their certificate and medal.

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



ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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.
Meeting Agenda & Approved Minutes are available,
please see website.**

Website: www.alresfordpcessex.uk/

X (Twitter): @alresfordessex

Facebook: Alresford Parish Council (Parish Council only)/The Pavilion & Playing Field - Alresford Essex

Chairman: Cllr Frank Belgrove - 01206 823739

Vice-Chairman: Cllr Ernie Osborne

Cllr Linda Belgrove

Cllr Julia Claremont-Brown

Cllr Simon Clark

Cllr Kristen Doulai

Cllr Keith Lawrie

Cllr Courtney Muller

Cllr Gary Scott

Cllr Bina Swash

Cllr Ann Wiggins

District Council Tending

District Councillor Ann Wiggins - 01206 825153

Email: cllr.awiggins@tendingdc.gov.uk

District Councillor Gary Scott - 01206 820769

Email: cllr.gscott@tendingdc.gov.uk

County Council Essex

County Councillor Aimee Keteca.

Email: cllr.aimee.keteca@essex.gov.uk

Parish Clerk - The Proper Officer

Matt Cooke - 01206 615117 (Answerphone 24/7)

Email: clerk@alresfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Responsible Finance Officer

Angela Baxter - 01206 615117 (Answerphone 24/7)

Email: rfo@alresfordparishcouncil.gov.uk



St Andrew's Church at 50!!

On Saturday 11th April it was 50 years since St Andrew's Church was opened following the fire at St Peter's in October 1971.

On Palm Sunday we celebrated by walking from St Peter's waving flags and palm branches. On Saturday 11th April there was an exhibition of memories of St Peter's and life at St Andrew's over the last 50 years (plus tea and cake of course!). On the Sunday we had a service where people from the village and people who have been part of the story of St Andrew's story were invited.



The focus of this service was not just to look back and give thanks for everything that had happened over the last 50 years but also, to think about the next 50 years! Now, many of us we will be thinking that we won't be here in 50 years. But that's not the point.

The people 50 years ago dreamt dreams, they made plans, they got on with stuff and built something that many of them never have seen the fruit of. Without them what we have now would not exist.

And that is the same looking forward. What we dream, imagine, plan and get on with now will make a difference to the future - whether we see it or not. There is a Greek proverb "A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit." This takes a generosity of spirit and humility.

So, I invite you to consider and pray (if you are a praying person)

- What are we making of the world?
- What are we making of our nation?
- What are we making of our community?

What can we be doing now to make the world, our nation, our community a generous, loving and joyful place. What should we stop doing? What are our hopes and dreams?

MEMORIES GROUP

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

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

For further details please contact :
Jeanette Downing on 01206 825008

St Andrew's Church, Alresford

Tuesday Tots' teddy Bears Picnic!

all under 5s and their families welcome

When and where?
St Andrew's Church field
(or inside if wet!)

**Tuesday 18th August,
11am - 1pm**

Bring your rug, picnic and teddy and join us to meet new friends and play!

For more info, contact:
Julie: 01206 827429
Wendy: 01206 825040

tenpennyvillages.uk

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CONTACTS

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

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

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

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

www.tenpennyvillages.uk
Find us on [ParishChurchesofAlresfordElmsteadThorrington-TennpennyVillages](https://www.facebook.com/ParishChurchesofAlresfordElmsteadThorrington-TennpennyVillages)
Information about our Services can be found on our notice sheet at <http://tenpennyvillages.uk>

Charity Commission Number: 301233
Website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/alresfordvillagehall>
Facebook: [Alresford Village Hall](https://www.facebook.com/AlresfordVillageHall)



News

The blood donation session planned for July 3rd was cancelled on the day due to a mechanical fault with the Blood Donation vehicle, which prevented the equipment from reaching the Hall. It is hoped that another session can be arranged later in 2026.

AGM

At the Annual General Meeting on May 21st, the Trustees for 2026-27 were elected.

The Trustees for the coming year are R.Milburn, P. Muller, N.Lockwood-Pugh, H.Milburn, C.Sanderson, S.Dukelow, A.Pyman, J.Stimpson, A.Wiggins, P.Burmby, J.Lewis, N.Pace, N.Livesey, K.Lawrie, K.Backhouse.

R.Milburn was re elected as Chair with N.Lockwood Pugh and P.Muller also re-elected as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

The accounts for 2025-26 were signed off after a financial inspection from Independent Examiner, T L Pitcher, MICB.

Annual Report of the Trustees 2025/2026

The year 2025-26 started in a challenging fashion due to the decreasing number of active Trustees and a disappointing attendance at the year ending Annual General Meeting. An appeal and indeed a warning to the community, emphasising that without increased support during the current year, the Hall might be compelled to make difficult decisions regarding its future. Encouragingly, five villagers responded to this call and have since been appointed as Trustees, thereby reinforcing the Committee's capacity to manage its responsibilities.

We as a Hall were honoured to be selected to host the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) in March 2026, the event was a success and those that attended found the event to be extremely useful.

The installation of solar panels, together with the three-year contracts negotiated with the utility providers, has enabled effective management of energy costs despite widespread increases arising from external factors. In addition, the Trustees approved the installation of a storage battery to allow surplus solar energy to be retained and utilised when generation is not possible.

Hire volumes have remained consistently high, with one-off, nonregular bookings maintaining levels comparable to previous years, despite the increase in hire charges implemented last year.

On behalf of the community and the Trustees.

"The Trustees pass on their gratitude to our Secretary Nicola Lockwood-Pugh, Chris Sanderson, Peter Muller and Hayley Milburn for all their dedication in fulfilling the officer posts that enable our hall to function, without them the hall would be in crisis."

All hire enquiries should be via:
Email: alresfordvillagehall@gmail.com
Contact No: **07548 742796**

The hall remains in excellent order, and we thank our cleaner Elysia Thompson for her standards in maintaining the hall to an extremely high standard of cleanliness at an extremely competitive cost. Our thanks also to Sue Dukelow for covering the tasks when Elysia is not available, also to Keith Lawrie and Andrew Pyman stepping up in assisting in other vital tasks that allow the hall to function. Thanks also go to John Stimpson for his work in maintaining the hall.

The Committee and the Parish Council continue to work in close partnership to ensure that facilities provided to the village and surrounding areas remain relevant, accessible and offered at the lowest possible cost.

The Trustee's state that regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance is made when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

What have the Trustees done:

Gas / Electric price tariff New 3 - year deal" Gas/Electric tariffs fixed to 2028", Insurance premium fixed for 3 years until 2028, Health and Safety handbook updated, all Risk Assessments and P.A.T completed, regular updates provided for Alresford Advertiser, Safeguarding and Data Protection updated, Charity Commission report submitted, Gas and Fire Annual checks completed, hall floor repolished, oven repaired and yearly clean, new Trustees recruited, back up keyholders, back up to officers with regards to utility and insurance, storage battery installed to obtain maximum benefit from Solar energy, blood donation sessions.

The Trustees will endeavour to:

Explore with Alresford Parish Council the way forward with regards to lease extension and management of the hall, investigate installation of another storage battery for solar energy, install canopy over main front entrance doors, explore the replacing of VH chairs, explore use of Infra-red heating in Munson Room, re-decorate Foyer, investigate the need for a survey to the village on our hall, data cleanse historic papers and email archives, continue to encourage our community to become part of the Management Committee, keep hire fees at the lowest possible level, provide updates and news via the Alresford Advertiser, administer and manage to allow the village hall to function, continue to explore fund raising events such as Film nights and Simply Singing.

The Trustees give substantial amounts of their time to the Village Hall, and their reward is seeing the continued use and enjoyment that our community gains from the Village Hall.

Update

Since the last meeting, a second storage battery has been installed, allowing more solar-generated energy to be retained for Hall use. Any surplus will continue to be fed into the grid, but at a reduced tariff, which is the reason for installing the second battery.

Russell Milburn
Chair, Alresford Village Hall Management Committee

General Overview:

Alresford Parish Council aims to give a high level of service to the community, subject always of course to available powers and finances. We have an outstanding Councillor membership and staff supported by village volunteers and this contribution of time given by volunteers cannot be underestimated. We also try to use local contractors whenever possible from the village or surrounding area when we have projects that require major works. Some projects have to, by law, go to tender, and contractors from further afield are sometimes needed.

There have been disappointments, it was hoped that by now the Parish Council could have upgraded the playing field hard court area to a soft surfaced Multiple Use Games Area (MUGA) but tree root damage to the existing surface will require greater attention than was anticipated. The new surface will be laid over the hard court base and so this under-surface has to be stable and flat. We therefore have a delay whilst repair works are undertaken.

It is important that the Council listens to the community and the excellent Picnic in the Park event in June gave Councillors an opportunity to host a stall where we could be easily approached by residents. It was really good to hear so many positive comments from our fellow residents and that was very encouraging.



One topic that cropped up was the prospect of more housing for the village and we fully understand the concerns as the infrastructure of Alresford is under pressure now and any increase in housing development numbers without attention to schools, medical facilities, transport and parking is unsustainable in the view of the Council.

The local elections in May resulted in a new County Councillor being elected for our area, the Councillor is Aimee Keteca a member of the Reform political party. Cllr. Keteca attended our June Council meeting and also attended a private informal meeting with myself and our Clerk so we could discuss Highways projects that the Council has voted to progress with Essex County Council.

The Environment

The climate change crisis is concerning and locally we are playing our small part in improving the environment. Upgraded Electric Vehicle charging points have been supplied for the Community Car Park under the Charge My Street scheme and our handyman has marked the bays to highlight that they are not for non electric vehicles.

We often receive input from residents who note the weed growth in pavements and along roadside kerbs - at times we fund treatment of these weeds but the true responsibility for dealing with this issue is Tendring District Council working under direction from Essex Highways. Volunteers have helped clear weed growth from paving at the Station Road shopping area.

Councillors and residents have commented on the outstanding work by our P3 (Parish Paths Partnership) volunteer and "team" who deal with overgrown field footpaths. ECC Highways and landowners have responsibilities for Public Rights of Ways but at times little is done and direct local action is sometimes best.

Highways

Concerns have been raised about continued HGV traffic in the village, especially along Wivenhoe Road. The bulk of these movements are for aggregate processing and the Parish Council is currently in discussion with a local business to see what can be done to reduce the numbers of these vehicles passing through the village. It is hoped that on-site processing at Lufkins Farm (Gt Bentley Road, Frating) could obviate the need for so many HGV vehicles to be routed to Alresford. In due course the concrete batching plant at Bretts will also transfer to Lufkins Farm and the familiar passage of large concrete mixer HGVs through the village will be dramatically reduced.

Policing

In June, Alresford Parish Council hosted a daytime meeting with Essex Police Chief Inspector Stuart Austin and Inspector Grant Fryatt. In attendance were Alresford Parish Councillors, representatives from Great Bentley, Thorington, Frating and Ardleigh Parish Councils plus TDC Officers, a senior Fire Officer and local PCSOs. The idea of the meeting was to enable Councillors to discuss their concerns and have questions answered. Alresford is a low crime area and the Parish Council emphasised to the officers present that we need to keep it that way. Concerns were raised about speeding in villages and the seeming reluctance of police officers to follow up promptly on low level crime incidents. It was a very positive meeting and Councillors were pleased that the Chief Inspector was very keen to improve neighbourhood policing in the rural areas.

Our village PCSO Julia Brandon is leaving Essex Police in late September, she has been our PCSO for ten years and knows the community well. The Council is grateful for all her work and we wish her well for the future. A replacement officer will be supplied by Essex Police.

And finally:

A special thank you to everyone who volunteers in our community (that includes our unpaid Parish Councillors), we have some very caring people in Alresford and the local area. In addition to maintaining what we have there are some much needed new opportunities ahead to make further improvements. We acknowledge that we simply could not do much without the amazing support of so many volunteer residents.

Cllr Frank Belgrove,
Chairman Alresford Parish Council
cllr.frank.belgrove@alresfordparishcouncil.gov.uk



May 2026

RECORDED CRIMES: 13

CRIME TYPES: Assault without injury x 4 - Breach of Order x 2 - Criminal Damage - Drug Possession GBH - Other x 3 - Theft of Pedal Cycle

INCIDENTS RECORDED: 24

TYPES REPORTED: Abandoned 999 - Assist Agency - Alarm - Civil dispute - Domestic x 9 - Obstruction - RTC x 2 - Suspicious circumstances - Information - Missing Persons High - Other x 4 - Vehicle Insecure

June 2026

RECORDED CRIMES: 12

CRIME TYPES: Domestic x 2 - Assault ABH - Assault without injury - Attempted Burglary - Harassment without violence - Hate Crime - Other x 3 - Theft x 2

INCIDENTS RECORDED: 19

TYPES REPORTED: ASB/Nuisance - Disturbance x 2 - Domestic x 4 - Drink Drive - Drone - Fight - Information - Other x 4 - Other Agency - RTC/Fatal - Suspicious Circumstances - Welfare

BURGLARIES

A burglary and an attempted break in have been reported. please make sure your premises are secure when you are not at home. Do not leave windows open when away. **Don't give thief's an opportunity.**

Ring Doorbells and CCTV are always a good deterrent, making you aware if someone has been or is on your property.

PARKING TICKETS

7 X CPI's (considerate parking incentive) have been given across the last 2 months.

Please do not block footpaths with your vehicle. Please bear in mind those with mobility issues and pushchairs with young children.

Pavement parking may not be an offence, however, blocking the footpath is an obstruction. Junctions need to be kept clear, for safe visibility. **Please park considerately.**

TRUCAM (SPEEDGUN)

06/05- Alresford- **12**- Top speed **39**mph
07/05- Elmstead- **25**- Top speed **42**mph
13/05- Alresford- **3**- Top speed **49**mph
14/05- Thorington- **1**- Top speed **39**mph
15/05- Great Bentley- **23**- Top speed **42**mph
18/05- Elmstead- **23**- Top speed **44**mph
31/05- Alresford- **10**- Top speed **39**mph
01/06- Elmstead- **30**- Top speed 60mph(overtaking on chevrons)

The speed signs are clear and larger on entering both ends of Wivenhoe Road.

It is your responsibility to drive with **due care and attention** in control of your vehicle. Road safety is mandatory, not an option. **Please drive safely**

HOT WEATHER

Please look out for neighbours and the elderly during this hot weather. Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated. I have dealt with a few people having heat exhaustion. It comes on suddenly, making you feel weak, to the point of collapse.

Cool towels are a great invention that you run under water, ring out and snap it, where it becomes cold, just keep snapping/flicking it when it loses the coolness and its cold again. Great to cool you down and good for headaches to.

E-SCOOTERS

Personal E-scooters are illegal to ride on the public highway. They can only be ridden legally 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, or used legally in a public place.

Anyone found using a personal E-scooter in public will have it seized under section 59 or section 165 of the road traffic act 1988.

for section 165, If you do not have a valid driving licence, you can be reported, this will land you in court.

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.

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. The more details you have, the more chance we have of a positive investigation, with results.

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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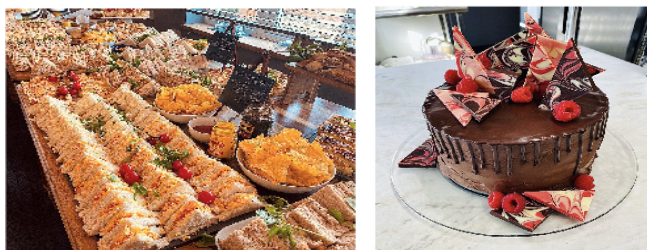
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A NOTE OF THANKS

Shirley Dow and family would like to thank friends and neighbours for the cards of condolence, kind support and sympathy shown to them on the sad loss of Philip Dow, who was an Alresford resident for 63 years.

During this time he participated in many local organisations and activities, a highlight being planting the oak tree in the Millenium garden.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

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