

# SHEERING NEWS

(also at [www.sheering.org.uk/news](http://www.sheering.org.uk/news))

December 2018

132

## Ada French - 100

Ada was born on 25th August 1918 in Caerphilly, Wales, but has been a resident of Sheering since the age of 17 (1935), originally living on The Street, before moving to Crown Close in 1947, where she still resides today. At the age of 21, Ada married Bert at Sheering Church, and later gave birth to Pam, Robert and Brian. Sadly, she was widowed at age 35, and subsequently met Gavin (Jock) and gave birth to Lorraine. Ada has nine grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Ada spent time working as a housemaid at both Down Hall and Gladwyns, as well as picking potatoes and peas in the local farmers' fields. She also served as a Local Councillor and member of the Sheering Labour Party. During her spare time she organised Country & Western nights at the Village Hall and was an active member of the Happy Circle club. Until the age of 83, Ada worked at the Countryman restaurant in Hatfield Heath washing dishes.

To mark this amazing milestone, fifty members of family and close friends gathered on Saturday 25th August 2018 to celebrate with an afternoon tea at Lorraine's home. On the Bank Holiday Monday, a further one hundred Sheering residents, family and friends joined together at the Village Hall for a surprise party for Ada, which was organised by Linda Griggs. The occasion was also marked

by two special cards one from Queen Elizabeth II and one from the Secretary of State for Work & Pensions (Esther McVey MP)

Linda has said "*I would like to say a big thank you to everybody that came to Ada's*



*100th birthday party. It was a lovely day, a day to remember. We planned to have a street party, because Ada always came to all of the others we organised. She always had a lovely time and enjoyed herself. In the end we decided on a party in the Village Hall*

*because of the uncertainty in the weather. She had said she wanted a party in the Village Hall (which we didn't know), so she got her wish. Her family and all her friends from the Village came to join the celebrations.*

*Ada is an inspiration and a wonderful lady, hard working and always there to help*

*anybody that needed it. You can go on and on with Ada. On the day of the party, she felt like a Queen with her tiara and flashing banner. When she came into the Village Hall she started crying, and there wasn't a dry eye in the place.*

*Thank you again everyone for making Ada's 100th birthday very special and memorable for her."*

On behalf of Ada and the family, thank you to Linda for organising a wonderful afternoon, and for everyone for taking time to join the celebrations and for the thoughtful gifts and good wishes.





THE EDITORIAL TEAM OF SHEERING NEWS WISH  
ALL OUR READERS, DELIVERERS & ADVERTISERS  
A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR



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**DIARY****DECEMBER**

**Friday 7** Carols and Mulled Wine in the Village Hall. 7.30 for 8.00. Entry by ticket only, from Irene Harriss on 01279 734334. £5 or £2.50 for under-18s.

**Wednesday 12** Carol-singing round the village; meet at 6.30 at The Cock.

**Sunday 16** Carol Service St Mary's Church, Sheering, 4.00 pm

**Sunday 16** Sheering School Christmas Party, 4.00 - 6.00 in the Village Hall. £5 per child - tickets in school office. All welcome.

**Monday 17** Carols at The Cock with St Mary's Brass from 7.30

**Thursday 18** Sheering School Term ends 01279 734210 admin@sheering.essex.sch.uk

**Sunday 23** Nativity, St Mary's Church, Sheering 11.00 (not Christmas Eve as previously advertised)

**Christmas Eve** Midnight service, Holy Trinity, Hatfield Heath 11.00 pm

**Saturday 29** Village Walk 10.30 Village Hall car park. All welcome

**JANUARY**

**Thursday 3** Sheering School term starts 01279 734210 admin@sheering.essex.sch.uk

**Tuesday 9** WI Village Hall 7.30 for 7.45. All welcome. Barbara Barker 01279 734354

**FEBRUARY**

**Tuesday 13** WI Village Hall 7.30 for 7.45. All welcome. Barbara Barker 01279 734354

**MARCH**

**Tuesday 13** WI Village Hall 7.30 for 7.45. All welcome. Barbara Barker 01279 734354

**APRIL**

**Monday 1** copy date for Sheering News

**Tuesday 10** WI Village Hall 7.30 for 7.45. All welcome. Barbara Barker 01279 734354

**DAILY**

**Pre-School:** Every weekday 9.00 - 12.00 and 4 afternoons during term time in the Village Hall. Angie Rivoire 07981 215437. sheeringvillagepreschool.co.uk

**WEEKLY**

**Bridge Club: Thursdays** 7.15 in the Village Hall. June Whitbread 01279 651234

**Brownies: Wednesdays** 6.00 - 7.30 during

**Can You Help Deliver?**

Can anyone in Lower Sheering spare an hour three times a year to deliver Sheering News.

Please contact Sheila Caves 01279 725578

**Can You Help with the website?**

Is there anyone who would like to help move the website to Wordpress?

Please contact Linda Ainsworth 01279 734333

term time Village Hall. Anne Croft 01279 734391

**Short Mat Bowling Club: Mondays** 7.00 - 10.00, **Thursdays** 1.30 - 4.00 in the Village Hall. Maureen Wright 01279 722728

**Slimming World: Wednesdays** 5.30 and 7.30 Village Hall. Alison 07826 252321

**Tuesday Teas:** 2.30 in the Church Room. All welcome for a cup of tea, cake and a chat.

**Sheering Choir Mondays** in term time 7.00 - 8.00 The Cock Inn . Free of charge. Just turn up for a fun evening

**FORTNIGHTLY**

**Mobile Library Van** every third Wednesday Lower Sheering 0845 603 7628 www.essex.gov.uk/libraries

**MONTHLY**

**WI** meet on the second Tuesday of the month (except July & August) in the Village Hall at 7.30 for 7.45. You will be made very welcome whether you come along as a visitor or become a member. Barbara Barker 01279 734354

**U3A Sawbridgeworth**

3.00 on the second Friday of every month. Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall. Membership Secretary, John Dickenson 01279 722297

Please let us have letters, articles and photos for the next edition of Sheering News promptly by Monday 1 March 2019.





**Robert Halfon MP writes:**

Dear Sheering Residents,

With Christmas just around the corner, I hope that everyone is looking forward to the celebrations. The villages are looking fantastic, with the Christmas lights now switched on.

As the nights are drawing in, I am conscious of the need to make sure everyone in Sheering feels safe. This month, I have been working hard with Essex Police to tackle anti-social behaviour. In a few days, I will be meeting with local shopkeepers to discuss how we can best eliminate this crime that is spoiling our wonderful community spirit.

In Parliament, I have also been busy furthering my campaign for a new hospital in Harlow. I successfully secured my third debate in the House of Commons, where I was able to draw attention to the desperate need for a new healthcare campus that brings together A&E services, GP provision, social care, physiotherapy and an ambulance hub. The Princess Alexandra building can no longer cope with the 350,000 people it sees each year and we have one of the busiest A&E departments in the country.

The staff at the Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust are truly remarkable and they are working night and day, throughout the holidays. I want to see this hospital go from strength to strength, so I have launched my petition online for a new hospital in Harlow, and it would be great to have your support!

This Autumn also marked the Government's announcement of their spending plans. With tax cuts, a rise in the National Living Wage and the fuel duty freeze I have been campaigning for, this Budget is one for hard working families, helping to cut the cost of living. It is also one for social justice, with £20.5 billion extra a year for the NHS and and £2 billion more per year for mental health provisions in schools and A&E units.

As ever, Brexit discussions also continue and I am doing all I can to respect the vote of the people and ensure that Brexit means Brexit.

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful break.

Wishing you all the best,

Robert



Get in touch -

[halfon4harlow@roberthalfon.com](mailto:halfon4harlow@roberthalfon.com) | 01279 311451

[roberthalfon.com](http://roberthalfon.com) | [facebook.com/roberthalfon](https://facebook.com/roberthalfon)

## News from the District Councillor for Lower Sheering

As I write this, the nights are drawing in and many of us will soon be casting our thoughts towards Christmas and I wish you all a happy and peaceful festive season. My thanks to Sheering News for once again giving me the opportunity to update you on District Council matters.

In my last article I mentioned the new dedicated team of 3 police officers, directly funded and tasked by the Council. They have now settled in as part of our new Community Safety Hub and I thought it would be useful to update you on their progress since July.

By way of context, The Community Safety Team does a first-rate job in keeping our residents safe within their communities. Working alongside safeguarding, antisocial behaviour and CCTV officers they identify problems and work together to support vulnerable victims. Their work has been greatly strengthened by the creation of the District Community Safety Hub. The Hub sees our Community Safety Team working alongside our three dedicated police officers on a day-to-day basis across a host of activities including:

- arresting offenders through targeted operations and patrols
- assisting council officers to serve court papers on high risk individuals
- supporting officers conducting property inspections around tenant issues
- issuing on-the-spot fixed penalty notices for anti-social behaviour

The Community Safety Hub is a powerful demonstration of continuing and innovative partnership working. I will make sure that the Hub is aware of, and where appropriate tasked with, the issues that matter to residents, visitors and businesses in Lower Sheering.

Speaking of local issues, one of the biggest sources of concern is the state of the roads, the maintenance and repair of which is the responsibility of Essex County Council (ECC). Taking Back Lane as an example, the Parish Council are in regular dialogue with ECC to get the potholes repaired effectively. Whilst busier roads will take priority, I shall continue to support the Parish Council to keep the pressure on ECC to attend to our local roads and pavements. Whilst it may be

of little consolation to those of us bumping along the minor roads, below shows the scale of ECC Highways work in 2017/18:

- resurfacing 3,010,000 square metres of road, (which is more than 12 laps of the M25)
- resurfacing 68.6 miles of footways
- repairing approximately 40,000 faults on streetlights
- last winter salting 225,834 miles of road, using 28,000 tonnes of salt
- cutting approximately 1000 miles of vegetation on Public Rights of Way

The District Council are currently negotiating the expansion of an arrangement to match funding on local Highways issues. This could help us address our local problems more rapidly and I will push for Lower Sheering to be at the forefront of any new initiatives.

Best wishes to you all,

Paul Stalker

Epping Forest District Councillor

Lower Sheering

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## Parish Council News

### Junction 7A

There has been no further information or feedback given to the Parish Council in respect of the proposed new junction. Any further information received will be advised to residents through Parish Council Meeting Minutes and future editions of Sheering News.

### Epping Forest Local Plan

The final version of the Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary Of State For Housing Communities And Local Government on 21<sup>st</sup> September. We now await the outcome of the submission which is expected to be mid/late March 2019. All information in respect of the Local Plan is available on EFDC website, [www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/planningourfuture](http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/planningourfuture).

### Handyman

I reported in the August edition of Sheering News that the Parish Council would be actively seeking to employ another Handyman to carry out various works around the Parish found to be needed outside the scope of the works currently carried out by Nigel Pearce. I am pleased to advise, that Mr Andy Crighton, following a successful interview commenced work with the Parish Council in September. Andy is known to many residents around the Parish as being the Site Manager at Sheering School, and we wish him every success in his additional role serving the community. To ensure a sensible management structure of the works around the Parish by both Andy and Nigel, Councillor Allan Turner has been appointed the responsible Councillor for Andy, with Councillor John Harrington remaining the responsible Councillor for Nigel. Should you deem any work necessary around the Parish, please contact the respective Councillors accordingly and not direct to Nigel or Andy.

### Defibrillators

The purchase of two defibrillators has moved on and our Parish Clerk recently attended a training course on the types of defibrillators available, the operation and maintenance requirements of such equipment. The information obtained is quite detailed and to ensure we move forward in the appropriate manner, the Parish Council has set up a small sub committee to progress the purchase, installation and maintenance of this equipment.

### Lower Sheering Community Facility

As I reported in the August edition of Sheering News, money towards this facility has moved forward by way of the section 106 agreements

on the developments at Waterside Place and the Railway Inn. The money from the Waterside Place development, £24k, has now been received and paid by EFDC to Sheering Parish Council. The payment on the Railway Inn development, £50k, remained outstanding and EFDC entered into an agreement with the developer that the money could be paid in £5k instalments over 10 months commencing in May. However payments for May and June having been paid were not followed by payments for July to October. The Parish Council have however been assured that the missed payments will be made and future payments will be made in accordance with the agreement. We hope this to be the case.

### Mobile Library

Councillor Christmas has pursued the lack of service of this facility in Sheering Village and has met representatives from ECC Library Services to look at the possible sites suitable for the larger library vehicle to park up in. With agreement of Councillor Bedford, the opportunity of the Library vehicle stopping in the car park area of the Cock Public House has been offered to the Library Services, and we are now currently awaiting their decision on acceptance of this offer or otherwise.

### Community Speed Watch

Progress on this has been good since its conception, led by Councillor Crowdy. The equipment is now available and a training session on the use of the equipment, recording and reporting procedures was held on 23 October. Currently we have 16 volunteers, but only six were able to attend the training course. It is disappointing that from the number of complaints received through the Parish Council from Lower Sheering residents in respect of speeding issues particularly along Sheering Lower Road, that no one from Lower Sheering has volunteered to assist with the implementation of a speed watch programme in Lower Sheering. It is anticipated that the scheme will commence in Sheering Village mid/late November. If you are interested in joining the scheme as a volunteer, especially in Lower Sheering, please register your interest at [sheering.community.speedwatch@gmail.com](mailto:sheering.community.speedwatch@gmail.com)

### Mini roundabout The Street

Following on from the speeding issues, the difficulties experienced by drivers negotiating this roundabout have been reported to ECC. And while ECC advise they are investigating the problems encountered and reported, the Parish Council has asked for assistance on this issue from County Councillor Anthony Jackson

in an attempt to expedite any proposed improvements.

### Jubilee Bench

As a result of a serious accident along the Street adjacent to the shops, the Jubilee bench was destroyed. The Parish Council while pursuing an insurance claim for the damage, have taken the initiative to pay for a replacement bench while the claim is on going and I am pleased to report that that the new bench is now in place.

### Litter Pick

On 18 August, a number of residents joined forces to form a litter picking brigade. This was the first of its type around the Village and following the purchase of six litter pickers by the Parish Council, this event proved a big success so much so, that more similar meetings may be planned for the future. Thanks to all of you who took part.

### Sawbo Bus

Following the funding of £4k from ECC, the Parish Council has negotiated an extended service provided to residents of Sheering. The extended journey is for the bus to run from Sawbridgeworth via Hatfield Heath to the Street, turning round at the War Memorial for two return trips on Thursdays only. This will give residents with concessionary passes the opportunity to travel free to Budgens and receive a 10% discount on their shopping. It is hoped this service will expand to allow fare paying passengers to make use of the service.

### Citizen Of The Year Awards 2019

It is that time of the Year again to start thinking about nominations for these awards. Please submit your nominations for both Citizen and Young Citizen Of The Year to the Parish Clerk no later than 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The awards will again be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

In concluding, may I take the opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

Rodney Northwood

Chairman Sheering Parish Council

### Parish Council Tree Wardens

Bill Bedford 734229  
Judy Christmas 734995



### Sheering Parish Council

Parish Council meetings are open to any Sheering resident. Time is set aside for public participation to discuss any parish problem at the regular monthly meetings.



Meetings are held in the Village Hall starting at 7.30. The next meetings in 2019 are:

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>January</b> (Precept meeting)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>January</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>February</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>March</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>April</b>

### Annual Parish Meeting 24 April

### Parish Councillors

Rodney Northwood - Chairman

	01279 724514
Bill Bedford	01279 734229
Graham Bishop	01279 830234
Judy Christmas	01279 734995
Nikki Crowdy	01279 734471
Sara Frackleton	
John Harrington	01279 722556
Peter Rust	01279 734881
Paul Stalker	01279 734683
Alan Turner	01279 734341

### Clerk to the Parish Council

Debbie Tennant **Office hours only**  
01279 734580 sheeringpc@gmail.com  
1 New Row The Street  
Sheering  
Herts  
CM22 7LZ

[essexinfo.net/sheering-parish-council/](http://essexinfo.net/sheering-parish-council/)

### District Councillors

Richard Morgan - Sheering Village

richardmorgan26@outlook.com

01279 731243

Paul Stalker - Lower Sheering

01279 734683

### County Councillor

Anthony Jackson Currance House, Epping Upland,  
Epping, Essex CM16 6NN

cllr. anthonyjackson@essex.gov.uk



# LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

## Sheering Short Mat Bowls Club

Monday evenings 7.00 - 10.00  
and Thursday afternoons 1.30 - 4.00.

If you have never bowled before and would like to learn, come along and have a go. Experienced bowlers are always welcome. Only £3 per session includes tea/coffee. Sheering Village Hall, The Street, Sheering.

For further details phone the secretary on 01279 722728.



## Sheering WI

As another year comes to a close for our WI we look back at all the lovely speakers who've come and imparted some interesting stories, facts & skills; our wonderful summer lunch, prepared again by my trusty committee, quizzes we've entered enthusiastically & other WIs we've visited to support their events.

We now look forward to a Christmas outing to the local Old Harlow theatre to see their production of A Christmas Carol, followed later in the month by our keenly anticipated Christmas dinner to finish out our year, all home cooked naturally!

If you would like to be a part of these events, come along & join us. Find all details at the front of this publication.

An early Merry Christmas to you all from the ladies of Sheering WI.

Sheena Pike  
President



## Village Walks

A walk is planned for Saturday 29 December leaving from the Village hall car park at 10.30. All are welcome.



## The Brass of St. Mary's

Once again we come to that time of the year, Christmas, a very busy period for us brass players, what with our brass and concert bands and the quintet. Once again the quintet has a number of functions booked and others to be confirmed in the near future.

We start with our annual music and singers

touring around our village of Sheering on Wednesday evening the 12 December. It will be the brass quintet and anyone who wishes to come and sing carols, all proceeds go to charity. Meet outside The Cock at 6-30.

On Sunday the 16 December, we have been invited to play for the first time in the Millennium Woods, Little Hadham where there will be a bonfire and carols in the late afternoon - 3-30 start.

Monday 17 December will be our fourth year at The Cock, if you have not been, come and try it, sing carols and other Christmas songs. Past comments include "It sets us up for Christmas"

It will be different this year as we now have a Sheering Choir formed following last years carol evening. Carol Bowerman, a singer and music teacher, was present and saw how so many people enjoyed the singing and thought it would be good if she could form a village choir. From that time they have met most Monday evenings at The Cock at 7.00. It started with five and is now in the mid teens, all are welcome.

The evening will start with the brass quintet at 7-30 and during the evening the Sheering Village Choir will have their own spot. Song sheets are available on the night.

On Friday 21 December we will be playing for carols on the green at Green Tye Village, this will be our third year at this venue, starting at 7.00.

There are other organisations that we have played for in the past on a regular basis, these could still come up before Christmas.

We hope to see many of you before Christmas but if not, we, The Brass of St. Mary's, wish you all a great Christmas and a healthy 2019.

Chris Harriss (Tuba)

## Brownies

We now meet in Sheering Village Hall on Wednesdays during term time 18.00 to 19.30.

Anne Croft  
01279 734391





## News from Sheering School

November 2018

It has been a most wonderful, calm and exciting start to the new school year. The children have settled very quickly in their new classes and have already filled their new books with maths work, stories and topic work. We have welcomed two new teachers this term; Miss Johnson in Copeland (Reception) and Mr Downey (Fitzwalter class) who have both enjoyed their time so far.

At the beginning of October, we shared a wonderful week of harvest celebrations where our newly formed school choir sang at St Mary's harvest service and then the whole school took part in our



own service on the following Thursday.

We collected harvest parcels in school and our oldest children delivered them with harvest prayers and flowers to residents in Sheering. These were gratefully received and we have a

display in school of all the thank you cards.

We are now beginning to think about Christmas in school. It is never too early!

Lorna Brittain  
Headteacher

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Monday to Friday  
9.00 - 12.00  
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Please ring Angie Rivoire  
**07981 215437**

### RECYCLING and WASTE

#### Green Bin - Every Week

Food Waste: All cooked and uncooked food waste including: bread, cakes, biscuits and pastries; dairy products; coffee grounds and teabags; fruit and vegetables; meat and fish (including bones); garden waste: branches; cuttings; dead flowers; grass and leaves; house plants; twigs; weeds; vegetarian pet hutch waste; Shredded paper



**Black Bin - Fortnightly:** Domestic household rubbish - no side waste



**Blue Box - Fortnightly:** Glass bottles and jars  
No tops or lids - these go in the black bin

**Clear Sacks - Fortnightly :** Paper, shredded paper; card, tins, cans, plastic bottles, plastic tubs and pots, food trays; plastic bags; aerosols; clean foil and foil containers, food and drink cartons (tetra-paks).



**Polystyrene:** Leave by the black wheelie bin

**Waste Electrical Equipment:** Small electrical items - tie up in plastic carrier leave on top of green bin



**Household Batteries:** Batteries in a separate, sealable, tied up plastic bag

**Textiles:** clothes and shoes in a tied up carrier bag on top of green bin

Clear sacks available from Sheering Newsagent & Post Office.

Valerie and Ron Monk (8 Sheering Mill Lane) will still keep a reduced number of sacks in case Lower Sheering villagers run out before the next issue.

For more information contact 01992 564608  
[www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk)



## Local Catch Up

### Mobile Library

The van is visiting Lower Sheering every three weeks on Wednesdays between 1.25 and 1.55 in the lay-by near the post box in Sheering Lower Road



Next date: December 5

0845 603 7628

[www.essex.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.essex.gov.uk/libraries)

### Litter Pick

Arriving late at the Village Hall on the 18th August, I had misguidedly thought that no-one else would be there to pick up other people's rubbish. I was mistaken! At least 12 hardy souls were wondering where I was. We split up into groups and tackled the main areas of Sheering collecting a mound of rubbish from paths, ditches and car parks carefully wielding the litter pickers provided by the Parish Council. I had expected to find plastic bottles mainly, but the majority of items were chocolate and sweet wrappers and various vintage bottles and cans from the ditch outside Daubneys Farm.



Some members of the team were old hands at litter picking having lived in Little Hallingbury where they have been organising this as a somewhat social event with refreshments in the village hall once finished. We are therefore proposing to take their lead and organise another event in the Spring with refreshments served in Sheering Village Hall afterwards.

See the village notice boards next year for a date. Please join us.

Lesley Paine

## Community Bus Service

### WE NEED YOU!

Over the last year we have seen a decline in the number of passengers using our community bus services.

The 347 service runs from Hatfield Broad Oak to Hatfield Heath, Sheering, Lower Sheering, Sawbridgeworth, High Wych, Princess Alexandra Hospital and Harlow bus station.



The Sawbo bus runs hourly services throughout the day calling at Lower Sheering to Sawbridgeworth.

If we do not support these very valuable

services we are going to lose them.

Please do not let that happen!

Sheila Caves

### Bench on The Street

A new bench was recently installed by the Parish Council.

This replaces the Jubilee Bench which was destroyed by the road traffic accident in The Street earlier in the year.

### Essex Libraries Work Clubs

Did you know work clubs in libraries help over 500 people a year? If you are looking for employment take a look at our events page to find one near you.

[www.essex.gov.uk/libraries/events](http://www.essex.gov.uk/libraries/events)



### Luxford Place Picnic Area

The Parish Council have provided two new picnic benches for the Luxford Place Picnic area in Lower Sheering.

The land is owned by the Parish Council and is a nice place to spend a bit of your leisure time.





### The Hundred Parishes Society

The index to the Society's new book refers to no fewer than eleven castles. All are shadows of their former selves, but many can still be seen and just a few may be visited.

Many were built soon after the Norman Conquest of 1066. These Norman castles are described as motte and bailey, consisting of a large mound of earth or rubble (motte) surmounted by a wooden or stone tower.

Alongside would be an embanked enclosure with additional buildings (the bailey).

A fine example of what a typical Norman castle may have been like exists at Stansted Mountfitchet. Although little survives other than the mound on which the original castle once stood, a wooden stockade and village have been recreated.

The mottes are still visible from Norman castles at Anstey, Great Canfield and Stebbing.



The parish of Castle Camps takes its name from the castle which dated back to Saxon times. Clavering castle's buildings were surrounded by a large ditch which can still be seen, adjacent to the churchyard.

Civil war raged in England between Stephen and his cousin Matilda from 1135 to 1153, a time known as The Anarchy which saw considerable castle building. Geoffrey de Mandeville, the Earl of Essex, swapped sides more than once. He built the castle at Saffron Walden. Some ruined walls still remain and they are Grade I listed, the finest surviving stone castle within the Hundred

Parishes. De Mandeville also built the castle at Pleshey during the Anarchy. The large motte still remains. The present village of Pleshey lies mostly inside the outer bailey earthwork which is clearly visible along much of its length.

Our area is rich in heritage so,

as ever, I encourage you to go explore and see what you can discover!

Ken McDonald, Secretary

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)



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## Friends of St Mary's Sheering

### News of the Buildings and Grounds



#### The churchyard

Yet again we want to say a big thank you to the community team, organised by Natalie Cracknell. They keep the churchyard in SUCH good order - and have lots of fun doing it. This Christmas will be the third since they started, and they (and the congregation) are really pleased with what they have achieved.

*thanks to Linda Griggs - and each of us contributes £1 towards it.*

*There is always a lot to do throughout the seasons. Our main task is to keep the churchyard tidy and well maintained. We cut and strim hedges, mow the grass, paint benches, strim long weeds and most importantly we try our absolute best to keep the graves tidy and weed free, especially the old ones.*

*We currently have two strimmers, various rakes and pairs of loppers and shears. We also have three lawn mowers (although some*



advisor (yes, there is one) and start applying for grants. All being well, this work, along with the replacement of the striking mechanism, will be finished in time for the seventieth anniversary of the dedication of the clock as a WW2 war memorial - which will be in December 2019.

Discussions continue about how best to replace the Church Room heating.

#### Church News

We thank God for the MARVELLOUS weather over the Harvest weekend on 29/30 September. The church was beautifully decorated by a whole range of volunteers. On Saturday there were stalls, lunches and teas in the church room. Outside there was a nearly-sell-out plant stall, second-hand books, face-painting, a games of quoits, and in the afternoon mellow music from the Brass of St Mary's while we ate our cream teas. In church we enjoyed a range of live music from local musicians and quite a few people took advantage of the hourly opportunity to have a go at ringing the bells. On



This picture was taken in September after a megabonfire of hedge cuttings.

If you would like to join the team, contact Natalie Cracknell on 01279 734360. This is what she has written about what you might be getting yourself into!

*We meet at around 10.00 am on a Saturday every four to six weeks, and sometimes more frequently in the summer. Our ages range from mid-twenties to over eighty years old! - with occasional help from team members' children/ grandchildren. Food is laid out in the church room -*

*have seen better days!) and we bring any other tools that we may need from home.*

*Our churchyard working days have a real community spirit with lots of wonderful team work and much laughter!*

*Time is precious to us all so any time that you can give would be most welcome and greatly appreciated.*

#### An update on the clock

At the time of writing we have received two of four possible estimates for the refurbishment of the clock faces. When we have them all we will seek further advice from the Diocesan clock

Sunday we had a joyous Harvest service accompanied by a small group of instrumentalists as well as the usual piano and organ. On both days people brought gifts of non-perishable food for Harlow Foodbank. The fruit and vegetables decorating the church were given to Streets2Homes in Harlow.

Please join us at 11.00 am any Sunday morning. Details of the services are on the church notice board.

**Dates for your diary for Friends and church events** □  
 Friday 7 December, 7.30 for 8.00, Carols and Mulled Wine in the Village Hall with members of Epping Band. Entry by ticket only, from Irene Harriss on 734334. The price (£5 or £2.50 for under-18s) includes mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies. Once again this year this popular village event is being organised by the Committee of Friends of St Mary's.

Wednesday 12 December, carol-singing round the village; meet at 6.30 pm at The Cock.

Sunday 16 December at 4.00, Carol Service in church.  
 Monday 17 December from 7.30, Carols at The Cock with St Mary's Brass.

Sunday 23 December, 11.00 am, Nativity (not Christmas Eve as previously advertised). Children, and adults, are encouraged to come dressed as characters from the Christmas story.

This year the midnight service on Christmas Eve is at Holy Trinity, Hatfield Heath starting at 11.00 pm.

The next Friends event, in the New Year, is at the planning stage. Watch the notice boards for details in due course.



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If you answered YES to all of the above then you are just who we are looking for and you could volunteer to be one of our Library Ambassadors for this academic year, 2018/19.

You will be much better than us at telling other young people what libraries have to offer - like free Wi-Fi, homework support, reading ideas and other volunteering opportunities.

To help you spread the word we'll send you five emails over the year with information about the services we'd like you to promote. You can then tell your friends, people at your schools and at other activities you take part in. You could also promote them via your social media accounts or come up with other creative ways to tell teenagers about libraries!

If you give us permission, we'll share your name and year group with other Library Ambassadors at your school so you can work together if you want to.

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To find out more, please call our care team on: 01245 768712 or visit: [www.iphomecare.co.uk](http://www.iphomecare.co.uk)





### SHEERING SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY



SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER FROM 4PM UNTIL 6PM

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£5.00 per Child

Adults free entry & Mince Pie



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Raffle - £100 Cash Top Prize - kindly donated by FINE OAK BUILDINGS LTD

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Merry Christmas



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## Sheering Parish Council

### Lower Sheering and Sheering Citizen of the Year & Young Citizen of the Year

Is there someone in your neighbourhood who unselfishly brightens the lives of other residents, someone who goes that extra mile to care for their community and for the people who live there?

If you know someone who meets the above criteria, nominate them for this prestigious award.

The categories are Young Citizen of The Year, aged 11 years to 17 years, and Citizen Of The Year, 18 years and above.

Nominees must be residents of Sheering or Lower Sheering

Nominations can be because

- ◆ They have shown outstanding courage
- ◆ They have done something of service to you or the Community
- ◆ They have shown outstanding commitment, energy and effort in their particular field or towards achieving a particular goal

The winners will be invited to attend the Annual Parish Council Meeting to receive their award.

If you know someone who you think has made an exceptional contribution to Sheering and/or Lower Sheering, please nominate them now and let's all share in the fine and exceptional efforts of our local heroes.

Nominations should be submitted in writing giving full details and reasons for your nomination to,

The Parish Clerk  
Mrs Debbie Tennant  
1, New Row  
The Street  
Sheering  
CM22 7LZ

The closing date for nominations will be 15th March 2019.

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[thecockinnsheering@yahoo.com](mailto:thecockinnsheering@yahoo.com)



**#CrimeNotToCare campaign  
- it's your responsibility!**

We spend £190,000 on clearing up fly tipping across our district...money that could be spent on other services. But did you realise that it's not just the fly tippers that are liable to prosecution? We are all personally responsible for our waste and how it is disposed of.

Black sacks left outside the designated areas for refuse collection can constitute fly tipping as much as sofas, fridges, builders' rubble etc, which we trust to a third party to dispose of.

**Duty of care**

As residents we have a duty of care to ensure our waste is disposed of responsibly and doesn't find its way into the hands of rogue traders.

Just last month a Loughton man had to pay £1,500 in fines and costs because the person he asked to dispose of some cardboard fly tipped it. Our enforcement team traced it back to the man and he was prosecuted.

**Check list**

Here are a few simple checks to make before you enter into an agreement with someone to dispose of your waste:

Ask for their waste carrier number and vehicle details and contact the Environment Agency for a free instant waste carrier check



**Ask for a transfer notice or receipt before your waste is taken away**

**Check where your waste is going.** A legitimate waste carrier should not object to you asking these questions.

Make a note of who you have given your waste to, their waste carrier details and vehicle details.

You should never leave any waste such as an old washing machine or scrap

metal on your drive or in the street for someone to remove. They may not be a registered waste carrier and could take the bits they need and dump the rest.

You can donate good quality items to your local reuse organisation or charity shop, or give items to someone who could make use of them.

**Further information**

To find out more watch our Crime Not to Care film and please share the message to ensure your friends and family know how to protect themselves, and help us reduce fly-tipping.

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## Me and My Computer

I'd wanted a computer for I'd not had one before.

I searched the local papers and went down to the store.

Loads and loads and loads of them were standing on the floor – Enough to beat and fuzzy up my brain.



The young assistant, somewhat sneering, said, "Choose a PC. It's not too complicated." So I thought I should agree.

The modern jargon I had heard was gobbledygook to me. Just thinking of it all gave me a pain.

"Take your pick," he said, "there's lots, so have a look around." The oblong faces stared at me but did not make a sound. I chose at random, called the man and showed what I had found.

"Good choice! Not hard to learn or to maintain."

I took it home and plugged it in and then picked up the book. I thought it would be rather wise at first to take a look. But with the diagrams and words my poor old fingers shook and from my head the blood began to drain.

There were megabytes and gigabytes and terrabytes and all, and Roms and Rams and back-up drives. I felt my brain cells stall.

"Come talk to me," I seemed to hear my little PC call. But I just sat. I knew it was in vain.

The little mouse smiled up at me. I wiggled it about. I plugged it in but pulled too fast and jerked the wire out. The monitor just looked at me. I felt the need to shout. I knew I'd have to brave the shop again.

"Why don't you go for lessons or call an expert in," the smarmy salesman said and gave a nasty little grin. I felt the anger rising so I bopped him on the chin for then my self-control I could regain.

"This isn't good," the magistrate said, looking very grave. "Senior citizens," he said and gave an airy wave, "should show a good example on how we must behave. There are standards old and young folk must attain."

Luckily he let me off, though with a hefty fine. I trundled home and poured myself a giant glass of wine. I looked at my PC and said, "You are no friend of mine. I think I'll have to find a place to train."

I've learnt them now – the RAM, the ROM, the USB as well and all the things the OS and the PC have to tell. And now I have ascended from my personal horrid hell I'm part of Cyberspace's giant chain.

Adrienne Tinn

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Wednesday December 12th



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## Carols & Mulled Wine With Epping Forest Band



Friday

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Under 18s £2.50

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## Sheering Village Pre-school



Our Summer term was incredibly busy having 60 children on register and being full every day!! We enjoyed our annual trip to Paradise Wildlife Park, where we were able to walk around with parents and children and thoroughly enjoy the day and sunshine.

At the end of our Summer term we said goodbye to 30 children! We had 25 that moved onto primary school and 5 moved to a pre-school closer to their homes. We wish them all the very best in their new settings. We were all overwhelmed by the generosity of parents at the end of our Summer term with the beautiful, thoughtful presents. Part of the gift was a meal out for all the staff to the Gourmet Turk Restaurant in Bishop's Stortford which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and we would like to say a huge thank you to the parents that contributed to this wonderful idea.

Our new term started with 3 new older children and 13 younger children with another 5 children due to start in the second half of the Autumn term. All the children have settled well into the pre-school routine.

We also welcomed 2 new members of staff, Gemma and Toni. Gemma has 2 sons, both of whom attended the pre-school. She has a level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education, Safeguarding level 3, Paediatric First Aid and various other certificates. Gemma has worked in early years for 15 years. Toni started working with young

children in 2000 when her own children entered full time education, she holds an NVQ level 3 in Early Years and Care Education, NVQ Level 3 Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools, City and Guilds Level 2 Adult Literacy, Safeguarding Level 3, Paediatric First Aid and again various other certificates. Both Gemma and Toni bring a wealth of experience to Sheering Village Pre-school and are a valued addition to our great friendly team. Angie and I continue to attend network meetings where we are kept up-to-date with legislation and legal requirements. We are now hosting our own community meetings, where managers of local pre-schools and nurseries attend our setting and we discuss best practice activities and ideas. In the first half of the Autumn term we enjoyed our 'All About Me' topic, where children took part in various activities including life size portraits, looking at our unique fingerprints, making faces using natural resources and plotting the children's height on a chart. We have also experienced lots of sensory activities including shaving foam, coloured sand, woodchip and water play with bubbles. To celebrate the Autumn, activities have included bark rubbing, a nature walk to look at

changes in our environment, bugs in bark and Autumn leaves.

The second half of term has started off with a very busy schedule with activities to celebrate Halloween and Bonfire Night. In the coming weeks we will celebrate Diwali, Remembrance and Christmas.

We will hold our Christmas concert and coffee morning on Thursday 13 December where the children will take part in our nativity play. The morning is a vital part of our fundraising where parents can buy tea, coffee and cakes, take part in our raffle and other things like guess the weight of the cake, tombola and toy sales.

Our latest piece of exciting news is that the pre-school is in a fortunate position whereby we can look at the possibility of acquiring a purpose built building for pre-school. The Parish Council have agreed, in principal, to the use of the land next to our working garden. Plans have now been received and will be presented to the Parish Council at their next available meeting. Watch this space! We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Caroline and Angie

07981 215437

sheeringvillagepreschool.co.uk



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## St Clare Hospice

### 'Light Up A Life' services in Epping Forest this Christmas

St Clare Hospice is preparing to come together to celebrate the lives of family, friends and loved ones – along with hundreds of local people – at a series of Light Up A Life services being held over the festive season.

St Clare will host services within the Epping Forest District, and at the Hospice itself in Hastingwood.

Christmas can be a very emotional occasion, a special season for spending time with friends and family, and for remembering those who are no longer with us. Their absence can be deeply felt, whether their death was recent, or if many years have passed.

Light Up A Life is St Clare's Christmas time celebration of everything that the hospice stands for – standing side by side with families from across the community in honour of their loved ones. Unique services will be held throughout the charity's catchment area in November and December with carols, music, readings and refreshments, in the company of those who understand.

Sarah Thompson, Chief Executive of St Clare Hospice, extended the invitation to the services to the whole of the charity's local community: "St Clare has been bringing warmth and love to the lives of people across West Essex and the borders of East Hertfordshire for more than 25 years. The care and support we offer does not end when someone dies, and our Light Up A Life services are just one of the ways we continue to support people when they need it most."

"I warmly invite everyone in our local towns to join with us for one of our Light Up A Life services – whether that is at



the Hospice, at a service near your home, or a simple period of reflection in your own home. The events are so special, and offer precious time to pause and remember those close to our hearts, in the company of others who understand."

Two events are being held at the Hospice in Hastingwood along with other services across the St Clare catchment area. The Hospice services, on Thursday 13 December at 7pm and Saturday 15 December at 4:30pm, are free to attend and open to everyone, whatever their faith – and are not only for the many patients and families St Clare has helped.

Once again St Clare will also be running an online Light Up A Life Book of Remembrance. This allows you to put the name of your loved one and a short personal message into the Online Book, and if you wish, to make an online

donation to the hospice charity. You can also tell us which service you are planning to attend. Visit the dedicated webpage to make your dedication:

[stclarehospice.org.uk/light-up-a-life](http://stclarehospice.org.uk/light-up-a-life)

The services are:

Saturday 1 December –  
Methodist Church, Loughton @ 4:30pm

Thursday 6 December –  
The Abbey Church, Waltham Abbey @ 7:00pm

Tuesday 11 December –  
St John's the Baptist Church, Epping @ 7:00pm

Wednesday 12 December –  
St Martin's Church, Chipping Ongar @ 4:00pm

Thursday 13 December –  
St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood @ 7:00pm

Saturday 15 December –  
St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood @ 4:30pm

You can let the Hospice know which service you are planning to attend through the webpage or by phoning the event organisers on 01279 773750.

Check the St Clare website to find your nearest service: [stclarehospice.org.uk/light-up-a-life](http://stclarehospice.org.uk/light-up-a-life)

**Don't stand for rogue highwaymen who never deliver!**

We have had reports that the Essex Highways name is being appropriated by individuals engaged in fraudulent activity in the Clacton area, although they may be active in other locations. The perpetrators are allegedly using vehicles with Essex Highways branding and are offering to do private work for local residents. We don't do private work.

They have allegedly already managed to obtain £2,000 from an elderly gentleman. Information on location, vehicle details and descriptions would be welcomed by the Police. Call Essex Police on 101, thank you.



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# CrimeStoppers.

## Speak up. Stay safe.

### Children and young people risk becoming involved in gangs

Independent charity Crimestoppers is highlighting that children and young people across Essex are at risk of becoming involved with gangs and the violence and abuse that often follows.

Many young people join gangs for protection or say that it makes them feel part of a family. It is not only young men. Young women are also recruited and routinely suffer sexual violence to 'control' them.

Crimestoppers charity wants to raise awareness of the issue and encourage Essex residents to speak up 100% anonymously to help keep young people safe. Our charity gives people the power to speak up, stay safe and stop crime by calling our professionally-staffed 24-hour UK Contact Centre on 0800 555 111 or by using the untraceable Anonymous Online Form [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org).

In a recent report from the Children's Commissioner for England, it was stated that the number of children involved in gangs could be as many as 46,000 and may be even higher.

Many young people associated with gangs speak of the dangers of gang membership. They can be transported to other parts of the country to deal drugs and be put into dangerous situations, such as carrying weapons and exposed to violence including knife crime. In Essex, the number of weapons offences last year rose by 50%.

Colin Dobinson, spokesperson for Crimestoppers in Essex, said "As gangs expand their networks into Essex, they need new members and actively groom vulnerable young people, many from 11 years of

age, sometimes even younger, to entice them into working for them. Gangs can start this process at school or parties where innocent children can provide them with potential recruits as they are less likely to have come to the attention of the authorities.

"I would urge parents and young people to visit the Fearless website ([Fearless.org](http://Fearless.org)) which is a youth service, guided by Crimestoppers that develops effective anti-crime resources and advice for young people and their families. We know that many young people who are not involved in crime in any way may pick up information from school and friends on crime but are too scared to report it. Now Fearless provides them with a safe place to pass this information on - 100% anonymously. Always.

Youth professionals and teachers will also find many useful educational resources available on the site.

Caroline Wiggins, Chair of the Essex Community Safety Network, said "Parents must play a key role in alerting their children to the risks. They need to make sure they know what their children are doing, who they are spending time with and look for any signs that their children might be being groomed or involved in gangs. I would certainly encourage parents, their children and anyone working with young people, to visit the Fearless website and access information that will help them prevent further wasted lives and wasted futures".

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A child, I watched old Will, his bright blue eyes vivid in his face  
Treading the longlands. His arms in rhythmic grace  
Casting seeds all-day-long, at steady pace.

Again at harvest-time, he'd cut around fields of wheat  
With steady sweep of his sharp scythe so neat  
Ready for reaper-binder to cut the corn and tie the sheaves complete.

Later, when into the yard the big steam thresher backs,  
The men were ready: trousers tied beneath the knee gainst rats,  
Sheaves tossed from stack, the golden grain poured into waiting sacks.

And now?...  
All done in a day! The combine's claim is just.  
The driver sits glassed-in against the dust,  
His mobile phone so handy - it is of course - a MUST.

Berenice Spicer  
(Written for a WI competition)

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## St Mary's Parish Church Sheering

### Sunday Services

1st Sunday of the month	11.00	All Age Worship
	6.30	Evensong at Holy Trinity
2nd Sunday of the month	8.00	Holy Communion (traditional language)
	11.00	Morning Worship or (even months only) Matins (traditional language)
3rd Sunday of the month	11.00	Holy Communion
4th Sunday of the month	8.00	Holy Communion (traditional language)
	11.00	Morning Worship
5th Sunday	8.00	Holy Communion (traditional language)
	11.00	Morning Worship



We are currently unable to offer a separate group for children on Sunday mornings, but please note that children of all ages are always welcome in any of our services.

**Tuesday Teas** in the Church Room Tuesdays 2:30 - 4.30 All welcome.

[www.essexinfo.net/st\\_marys\\_sheering](http://www.essexinfo.net/st_marys_sheering)

### Vicar's Reflection

I wonder what Christmas means to you? Is it about watching children, awake at ungodly hours, ransacking stockings or pillowcases for their treasure? Is it about eating 'all the food', determined not to miss those seasonal goodies like mince pies, Christmas cake and Brussels sprouts, that we never seem to eat during the rest of the year?

Or is there something more?

In 2017, attendance at Advent and Christmas services in the UK totalled 7.5 million – that's more than one in 10 people going to church, many of whom wouldn't attend on a 'normal' Sunday. Why? Well, many folk will say 'it's traditional' to go to church at Christmas, but I don't believe that means it's just a habit we follow blindly, like making Christmas pudding even if no-one in the family likes it! Perhaps it's because we often associate Christmas with home, so we think not only of 'going home' to visit family, but also of 'going home' to church; something pulls us and we just HAVE to be there for Midnight Communion or the Nativity service. It reconnects us with family and friends, present and past, and with our local community.

And what I see happening again and again at this time of year is the reawakening of the sense of wonder which we are all born with; a sense of wonder which is heightened as we hear again the accounts of angel messengers and, with the shepherds and wise men,



follow the star to witness a miraculous birth in the most humble of places: a place where animals fed and the Son of God slept on hay.

Your local church is here for you at Christmas, just as it's here for you all year round. Whether you're a regular or you just pop in from time to time, we'd love to share the story of Jesus with you this Christmastime. You can find details of our Christmas services elsewhere in this magazine, and a card will be going round the village soon to remind you.

We look forward to seeing you; you can be assured of the warmest of welcomes.

With my love,

*Dawn*

Rev'd Dawn Jewson, Priest in Charge, St Mary's Sheering and Holy Trinity Hatfield Heath

01279 730288/07930 902507

[rev.dawn.jewson@gmail.com](mailto:rev.dawn.jewson@gmail.com)



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#### *Sheering News* Editorial Team

Linda Ainsworth	01279 734333
Barbara Barker	01279 734354
Sheila Caves	01279 725578
Iris Filisetti	07879 446459
Irene Harriss	01279 734334
Sheila King	01279 831971

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