

# SHEERING NEWS

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

April 2017

127

## Dennis Parker 1928 - 2016 One Lifetime in Sheering

It's easy to forget all the changes that have taken place in recent years, let alone a lifetime. We are naturally selective in the way we remember, possibly to make it easier to decide what we need to do next. In some ways it can almost appear as if nothing has changed at all depending on the span of time we consider and the nature of the events.

Given a lifetime's view, a very personal mixture of experience, from the most casual of moments and insignificant details to world changing turmoil create a perspective from which we react and a life can be redirected by the smallest of things. History, by our very nature, does seem destined to repeat.

After all, for all that does change it seems there is something that doesn't. It was a world of doubt and uncertainty that faced a young boy and his parents when they arrived in Sheering in 1933. He was just five years old and the challenges that lay ahead were impossible to imagine, as they were for the whole country.

His name was Dennis and all he knew was that his world had already changed after his father's long time efforts in business were suddenly dashed following the unexpected death of his business partner and brother whereupon his brother's two sons took over the business and said "we don't need you Uncle Tom". A gentleman's agreement meant nothing to them but dismissing it was



In His Element  
Dennis in his garden at Willow Glen

devastating for Dennis' parents forcing them to move out of their home and leave East London. The sons that took over the business embezzled the accounts and sure enough it was wound up in large debt. Sheering in 1933 was much smaller than it is now and consisted of The Street and Church Lane. The village store, standing towards the eastern end of the street, barely existed as a building but not much else. It was in a very run down and dilapidated state, some rooms were practically derelict, there were holes in the roof and it was infested with rats. Dennis' parents set to and began the long task of rebuilding a new life out of this ruin. His mother was often reduced to tears and his father would stay up at night to shoot the rats. There was no electricity in the village so all lighting was either by gas, oil lamps or candles.

Parker's Stores began trading and the village gained a new centre for its supplies and communication. The business included a Sub Post Office and with that a public telephone was installed inside the shop in a separate booth to which access had to be granted at any time of day or night.

Continued on page 6

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**26 APRIL**  
**SHEERING VILLAGE HALL**  
**7.30**

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**DIARY****APRIL**

**Tuesday 11** WI Village Hall 7.30 for 7.45. All welcome. Barbara Barker 01279 734354

**Sunday 16** Easter Day Holy Communion (1662) 8.00am Easter Family Communion 11.00am St Mary's Church, Sheering

**Tuesday 18** Sheering School term starts

**MAY**

**Thursday 5** 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

**Saturday 27 Sunday 28** Longridge Garden open for Grove Cottage see page 16

**JUNE**

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

**Saturday 24** Pre School Quiz Night. Doors open at 7.30 for an 8.00 start. Tickets will be £5 - bring your own nibbles and drinks

**JULY**

**Saturday 1** copy date for Sheering News

**Saturday 1** Friends of St Mary's annual concert 7.00

**Sunday 2** Sheering School Summer Fayre

Please let us have letters, articles and photos for the next edition of Sheering News promptly by 1 July 2017.

**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** 5.30 - 7.00 Church Room. 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 and a chat.

**FORTNIGHTLY**

**Mobile Library Van** alternate **Wednesdays** Sheering/Lower Sheering Crown car park 10.15-10.35 Sheering Village Hall 10.35 - 11.05 Lower Sheering Bus Shelter 11.50 - 12.10 see page 12 for dates

**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

**Can You Help**

We desperately need someone to help with delivering Sheering News in Sheering Lower Road from the bungalows to Four Acres please contact Sheila Caves 01279 725578



**Join in**

If you want to take part in the abseil but don't have a charity in mind why not support the Harlow Tye Rotary Club Trust Fund.

Our charity distributes thousands of pounds each year to those in need, local Hospitals, Care centres as well as international charities. Rest assured your donations will be well spent.

Our club also makes a regular donation to WaterAid, in recognition of the valued help and support of Affinity Water.

**The 2017 20th Annual**

**Abseil for Charity**

Saturday 29th April & Sunday 30th April at the Affinity Water Tower Church Langley Harlow

16 years & older

**Are you up for it?**

For further details contact Bill Colton on 01279 423879 or 07711 982671 abseil@harlowtyerotary.org.uk

**SIGN UP NOW!**

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These local businesses have helped with the running of Abseil in the past, please support them

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**mark david**

**ernest DOE power**

Event co-ordinator: Bill Colton  
85 Cope Hill, Harlow, CM19 4PP  
01279 423879 or 07711 982671  
The Rotary Club of Harlow Tye administrators: The Rotary Club of Harlow Tye Trust Fund. Registered Charity No. 297719

**HARLOW TYE ROTARY CLUB**



Quinces,  
The Street,  
Sheering,  
CM22 7LU  
07949935936

Dear Editor,  
**Epping Forest District Local Plan –  
worrying signs**

Over two weeks after the conclusion of the consultation process, I and fellow protesters in Sheering have yet to receive the courtesy of an acknowledgement for their submissions from Epping Forest District Council. Have protesters in Loughton, Chigwell, Harlow, High Ongar and other districts of Epping Forest been confronted by the same wall of silence since 12 December? Can we have confidence that the views of protesters (I have not come across any in favour) are being treated seriously? Is this the precursor to summary rejection of all or most of our objections?

Few areas stand to be more dramatically impacted by the proposals to “amend” the Green Belt boundaries than Sheering village. Adoption of the proposals would result in a near 30% increase in the number of village homes and alter the character of The Street from a pleasant rural mix of residential, farm and green spaces to a virtually unbroken ribbon of housing, bloated by the kind of extension of the village envelope that has always been frowned upon under Green Belt regulations. SCAP (Sheering Community Against the Plan) is committed to the maintenance of the present Green Belt boundaries in this rural setting.

Yours faithfully,  
Paul Beaufrère (member, SCAP)

cc EFDC, Robert Halfon MP, Sheering  
Parish Council, Epping Forest Guardian

See page 8 re Interim Report

The editorial Team would like to express their thanks to Cornerstone Print who produced Sheering News for very many years. Sadly, they have ceased trading so we will be endeavouring to find a printer to produce equal quality for our readers.



Dear Editor

I would like to say a massive thank you to the lovely people singing carols round the village on 14 December.

My son Mitchell was so happy that they let him join them. We are looking forward to seeing them next year.

Claire and Mitchell

Dear Editor

Thank you to The Brass of St. Mary's Church for playing a wonderful carol evening at The Cock Inn Sheering. On Monday 19 December we held a carol night here and through everyone's kind donations managed to raise £210.17 to go to St Mary's Church, £136 was raised by the raffle and carol sheets. The other money raised was by two of our customers 'H' and Jim, they very kindly sold roasted chestnuts and toasted marshmallows throughout the evening raising £74.17 and I must say the children enjoyed this very much.

With Regards  
The Cock Inn Hotel  
The Street Sheering  
01279 734229

Dear Editor

Carols at "The Cock"

On Monday 19 December the Brass of St Mary's played an evening of carols and Christmas songs to a large audience who joined in with enthusiastic singing. Carol sheets and roasted chestnuts were sold and many of those present commented that it set them up for Christmas. The Cock presented St Mary's church with a cheque for £210.

We thank The Cock management for this generous donation.

Chris Harriss ( The Brass of St Mary's )

**Robert Halfon M.P. writes:**

**Brexit means Brexit**

After the referendum result, I pledged that I would do all I can in Parliament to make sure the wishes of the people of Harlow and of the United Kingdom are respected.

The day after the referendum, I said: "I pay tribute to the many Harlow residents who voted for leave and also the smaller number who voted to remain. Given that the vote in Harlow was so

decisive, as MP I will make it my duty to ensure that residents' clear and definitive wishes are followed through in Parliament."

The Prime Minister has confirmed that Brexit really does mean Brexit - Britain will leave the EU, the single market, the customs union, and will not be subject to European law.

The deal our Prime Minister makes to leave the European Union will be subject to a vote in Parliament, where MPs and Lords will be

able to decide either to accept the deal she has made and leave the EU, or to leave the EU anyway without the deal.

I believe it is undemocratic and wrong for any individuals, courts or the House of Lords to try to obstruct the will of the people.

**I have kept my word and voted in favour of triggering Article 50 in parliament.**

In the words of our Prime Minister, "We are a great, global nation with so much to offer Europe and so much to offer the world. One

of the world's largest and strongest economies. With the finest intelligence services, the bravest armed forces, the most effective hard and soft power, and friendships, partnerships and alliances in every continent.

When future generations look back at this time, they will judge us not only by the decision that we made, but by what we made of that

decision. They will see that we shaped them a brighter future. They will know that we built them a better Britain."

Best wishes,  
Robert



**Robert  
HALFON** Working Hard  
for Sheering

Get in touch -

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

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Trade was slowly and steadily built up with accounts for customers ranging far from the village. Home delivery is nothing new, it was a big part of trade for the shop then, particularly as personal motorised transport was still relatively rare in the community. Fresh produce was brought in from the surrounding farms and other commodities from wholesalers further afield.

Dennis' mother would bake cakes for Dennis to deliver to the elderly people in the village with their groceries. One old lady at Queens Head Yard burnt her floor boards to keep warm and if she gave Dennis tuppence for delivering he had to take it back. His mother would take Sunday School and played the church organ while Dennis sang in the choir.

Trade picked up over the next few years but things radically changed again in 1939. Dennis was eleven years old when the war began and after successfully passing the eleven plus he was rewarded with a second hand bike from his parents and accepted into grammar school which meant a train journey each day which he loved. Rationing was implemented and of course the shop was tasked with the responsibility of managing the system, coupons and points for everything, a thankless job that was bound to incur tensions and difficulties serving the village and trying to be fair to all, a nightmare all of its own. Bacon came as a side to be cut into joints then rashed on a hand driven slicer and weighed in ounces for each customer. Cheese 56lbs to be skinned and portioned on a board into ounces. Biscuits were very plain and limited. Paraffin was sold in pints & gallons from outside behind the shop which was a miserable job in the winter. Potatoes came locally in cut sacks then sold by the lb using a beam scale and weights.

There was no sewer connection for the shop so a septic tank in the process of being built became an air raid shelter, very deep and very damp but every one dived in when the sirens

sounded and the bombers arrived. Blackout material was hung in all the windows for the night and the slightest chink of light would bring a knock at the door from the local bobby or warden.

At the age of thirteen Dennis was diagnosed with type one diabetes. At that time it was only barely understood and managing it involved a very strict diet and injections. Only a few years earlier it would have been a death sentence but fortunately medicine was advancing at a steady rate. There were people claiming all sorts of remedies and cures for it and Dennis' mother found a "doctor" based on the Isle of Man that claimed he had a treatment that would cure the condition. It was probably very costly but in due course Dennis was on his way. It was also his first flight as to get to the island he flew from Liverpool on a DC3.

When he arrived the "Doctor's" clinic was away from town hidden by trees and really quite creepy for a young boy. The treatment involved drinking a concoction that could only be described as liquid mud and was followed up with several sessions in a dark room with a device the "Doctor" called a 'Prana Ray' which was placed over the patient's head and when activated it hummed and crackled and made the hair stand on end. Dennis was there for a week before returning home with a supply of the liquid. His parents ended up buying several rounds of the liquid before giving up, as of course, it had no beneficial effect whatsoever. At that time so little was known and understood but as always desperate people are easy targets for charlatans and crooks. Dennis was fascinated by the aircraft activity during this time. It was the visible side of the conflict that was apparent every day. He built a look out platform on the roof of one of the shop's sheds and was able to see the activity at North Weald. He recorded the aircraft that overflew in log books. It is amazing the platform was never targeted as German aircraft regularly overflew the village on route

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to the airfields that were all around the area. Dennis was shot at while walking from the station to school one day as a German bomber came over the roof tops and saw the boys along the street. It opened fire but luckily no one was directly hit although one boy had a bullet go through the fabric of his shorts. Dennis would regularly ride to the local airfields to see what was going on. North Weald, Matching Green, Allen's Green, Debden, Stansted, Hunsdon, Andrews field, all were regular attractions. His friend Derek would often be with him and they would usually come away with some kind of souvenir. Derek even got a flight in one of the gliders during training on the run up to D-Day. While Dennis' lookout escaped being shot or bombed the village as a whole didn't escape without incident. One night a stick of small bombs fell behind the houses in the street from the shop to the Cock Inn during an air raid in 1940. A large bomb dropped in Back Lane, not far from the sight where a barrage balloon was stationed, leaving a massive crater.

A landmine dropped by parachute landed just behind Daubney's Farm. It was designed to explode at ground level to maximise the damage however it failed to go off. The army arrived to defuse it but with no previous experience

they weren't able to. The next day they explained the situation and the instruction was given to pack all the stock into boxes on the floor, leave the doors and windows open and leave Sheering. Dennis and his parents went to Hatfield Heath and waited two days. At about midday it was exploded with very little sound heard on the Heath and they were allowed to return, but arriving back they were shocked to find the tiles were off the roof, the windows shattered, dust, dirt, plaster and glass everywhere and people wanting their rations. It took a week to re-tile and secure the building and luckily there was no rain. A kindly neighbour knitted Dennis a scarf from the mines' parachute cord silk which was much

appreciated in a cold winter.

A German bomber was shot down during a night raid and crashed in woodland on the Sheering side of Down Hall. A big crater and with no survivors, it made a very sad sight for Dennis. At the shop, the Parkers took in a couple from London making them welcome, and accommodating them in the scullery. He worked at Walter Lawrence's factory in Lower Sheering building Mosquito aircraft. They were provided with a Morrison shelter, a heavily built steel table which was set up in the room to crawl under during a raid but as was usually the case it was made up with a bed underneath and dressed as a table for daily use.

Later on, V1s overflew the village on their way to London at night and were visible by the fire from their jet engine but luckily none fell nearby. Villagers picking beans in a field down Church Lane were all blown over where they stood by an explosion by what turned out to be one of the first V2 rockets.

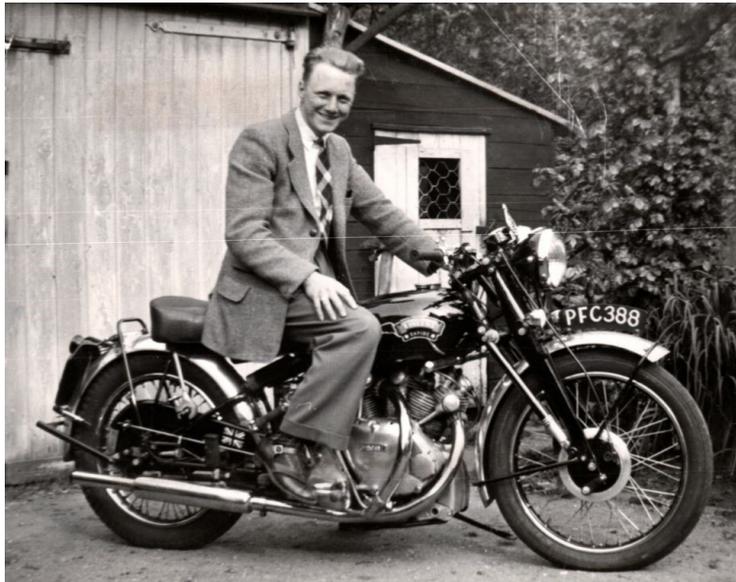
When war ended in 1945 Dennis acquired a 'Hobbies' treadle fret saw and together with all

the plans of the aircraft used in the war now available in a multi volume encyclopaedic edition he set about building scale models using wood reclaimed from the boxes used to transport oranges to the shop, metal cans, pins and even pieces of Perspex salvaged from aircraft cockpit screens. As post war life settled down he became more involved in the running of the shop and Post Office with his parents but with true entrepreneurial spirit he had the idea of making

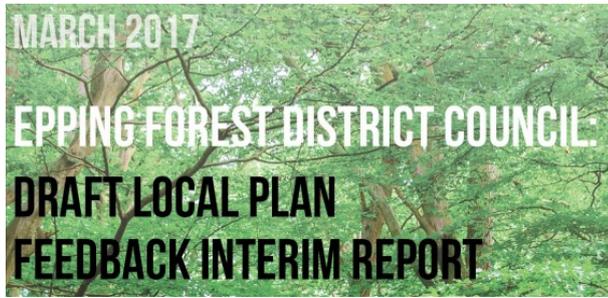
ice cream so he invested in the equipment necessary from the pasteurising tanks, and churns, the refrigeration chests and pumps to the cutters and wrapping papers. It was going well with supplies to a number of shops in the area and a regular trade to the village, particularly a cycling club that made Sheering a regular stop. He was proud to be regularly awarded top grade by the health inspector but unfortunately regulation changes made it uneconomic to continue on a small scale and with the increasing competition from the large national companies he had to stop production.

Simon Parker

To be continued



Dennis and Vincent



An interim report into the responses to the Draft Local Plan shows widespread opposition to possible sites for thousands of new homes in the district.

The main concerns and issues identified so far through consultation analysis of the responses include concern that the infrastructure required for the proposed development is not met particularly with respect to the capacity of the Central Line.

Concern was also voiced over education and health provision; the proposed distribution of growth across the district; the potential loss of managed open space and leisure facilities; the impact on the roads and traffic congestion and the loss of local identity and character and proposed alterations to the Green Belt boundary.

Taken from a report by Everything Epping Forest

[everythingeppingforest.co.uk](http://everythingeppingforest.co.uk)

If you search for these words: Interim report Draft Local Plan feedback responses Epping, you should be able to find the report in full as a pdf!

## Parish Council News

### Junction 7A

As I reported in the December issue of Sheering News, the Parish Council submitted their observations on the scheme, the effects of the new junction on Sheering together with our objections to the scheme, all of which were subsequently discussed with representatives of Essex County Council. You will be aware of the local extensive road works and road widening schemes already underway, all of which form part of the infrastructure requirements for the new junction. It is therefore imperative that your views and opinions and/or objections are made through the appropriate channels making full use of your District Councillor.

### Epping Forest District Local Plan

The Parish Council submitted details of their concerns and objections to the proposals for Sheering as set out in the Draft Plan by the due date set by EFDC. During the consultation period, on the Draft Plan, which ran from 31st October to 12th December, Councillor Richard Morgan and I attended a consultation meeting with Epping Forest District Council to talk through and explain the reasoning behind our objections to the proposals for Sheering in detail. The objections and/or comments submitted by the various Parish and Town Councils throughout the District will now be analysed over the next few months. The next stage of the plan is expected to be issued in the Autumn with the final version of The Local Plan being published at a later date, yet to be confirmed.

### Street Parking

The problems of street parking remain on the Parish Council's Meeting Agendas, and this issue continues to frustrate Councillors that action to deal with this problem is such a drawn-out process. We are advised by our District Councillor, Councillor Gary Waller, that a survey will be conducted of residents within the area affected by street parking which generally is caused by commuter parking. It is expected that the survey will be delivered in the latter part of March to the properties most affected together by surrounding properties that may be affected with the increase of commuter parking to our streets. Your response to what action you would like to see to eliminate this problem and the disruption this causes to public services vehicles is of great importance in a move to improve access to your property if you are or likely to be

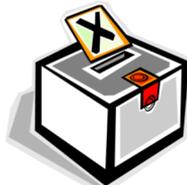
### Are you registered to vote?

Make sure you are registered to vote in May's county council elections and have your say on issues that directly affect your day-to-day life in Essex.

You could lose your right to vote if you miss the registration deadline.

It's easy to register and only takes five minutes online.

To apply to register to vote, visit [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) **before Thursday 13 April.**



affected. A lack of response will leave the problem with us and the potential of worsening.

### Playing Fields

Work through the Winter months has continued around our playing fields in respect of trimming and cutting back overhanging vegetation, but there is more to do yet. I am pleased to confirm that the Parish Council's application funding for playground equipment through the Community Initiatives Funding Scheme has been approved, and together with a contribution from the Parish Council a new 13 multi play frame will be installed at the Lower Sheering playing field. This will replace the existing play frame that has now seen better days.

### The Copse

I am pleased to say that there is more work proposed in the Copse by Country Care. This area is now becoming an attractive area for walkers and nature lovers alike and it is hoped that over time more and more residents and visits by our school will get enjoyment from this part of our community. Further works are due to commence on 16 March and will include further footpath restoration, felling of more pines at the northern end together with the planting of more wildflower seeds following the success of those sown last year.

### Citizen of The Year Awards 2017

By the time this edition of Sheering News is published, the deadline for nominations for these awards will have passed. At the Time of preparing this report, we have four nominations and await nominations for Young Citizen Of The Year. The interest in our community in acknowledging our unsung heroes continues to gain pace which is very encouraging. The awards will again be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on April 26 in the Village Hall. Come along and show your appreciation to the award winners. Your Parish Councillors will extend a warm welcome to you and be pleased to see you.

**Rodney Northwood**

**Chairman Sheering Parish Council**

### Parish Council Tree Wardens

Clare Steward 734058  
Alan Turner 734341



## 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 2017 are:

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>April</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>May</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>June</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>July</b>
<b>Annual Parish Meeting</b>		<b>April 26</b>

### Parish Councillors

Rodney Northwood - Chairman	01279 724514
Clare Steward - Vice Chairperson	01279 734058
Bill Bedford	01279 734229
Graham Bishop	01279 830234
Sheila Caves	01279 725578
Judy Christmas	01279 734628
Peter Durkin	01279 734312
John Harrington	01279 722556
Richard Morgan	01279 731243
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**

Gary Waller - Lower Sheering  
gary.waller@which.net 01279 739345  
Richard Morgan - Sheering Village  
richard@littlefaggoters.wanadoo.co.uk  
01279 731243

### County Councillor

Anthony Jackson Currance House, Epping  
Upland, Epping, Essex CM16 6NN  
Cllr. Anthony.Jackson@essex.gov.uk

## News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge

The sun is shining, the bees are collecting pollen from the pussy willow and there is some real

warmth in the air, particularly in the sheltered spots in the Gardens, in the Italian Garden and the walled kitchen garden. After a fabulous showing of snowdrops, we are looking forward to stunning

daffodils, followed by blossom on the fruit trees all around the walled garden, hopefully around the time of our next open day, on Sunday 23 April.

That first open day is St George's day, so children will want to have their eyes peeled for Dragons in the gardens. We will be open from 11.30 to 5.00 and will have the usual

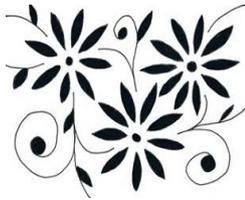


excellent fayre (including bacon rolls and homemade cakes). The Thaxted Morris dancers have found time, in the afternoon, to help us welcome the Spring. For those of you

interested in garden design, come and see our latest restored Peto feature - a stone flanked spring, feeding a flint lined rill, with the pond and nearby stumpery now planted up. Our Facebook page provides our latest news - why not sign up as a

Friend to keep in the loop? And now the weather is warmer perhaps you would like to join us as a volunteer? Information about volunteering and visiting the gardens is on our website: [eastonlodge.co.uk](http://eastonlodge.co.uk) or send us a message on [enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk) or phone us on 01371 876979.

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**\*ADVANCE BOOKINGS TAKEN\***

## Burglar Alarm Sales - Cold Callers

Following calls from residents concerned about cold callers selling burglar alarms the police and District Council's advice is, **if you are concerned about your security and considering fitting a burglar alarm, contact your local police Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor (crime prevention officer) or Council Community Safety Officer who will give you free advice and put you in touch with regulated alarm installation companies in your area.**

Residents throughout the county have reported receiving unsolicited telephone calls from companies who say that crime is on the increase in their area and that they are at risk. They offer to install a free or very cheap burglar alarm and claim they are working with agencies such as the Home Office, District

Council or the police. **This is not true.**

Crime Prevention Assistant, Tony Ellis and the District Council's Community Safety Officer, Paul Gardener pointed out that most



people who have been contacted by these companies have had the good sense not to allow them to visit their home but on the odd occasion, when work has been carried out, the cost to the customer has been exorbitant. One man was charged £3,000 in installation and monitoring costs.

The callers may block their own telephone number so they can't be called back. However, if any interest is shown in their product they will persistently call and badger the homeowner to agree to a visit particularly if they find out

they are elderly.

**Our advice is not to buy a security alarm from a cold caller over the telephone or at the door and don't agree to a visit.**

If you do feel that you have been a victim of malicious cold calling regarding home security then contact Trading Standards.

As crime prevention tacticians we always welcome calls from people who want advice to keep themselves and their property secure whether it is installing an appropriate security alarm or something as simple as having proper locks fitted to your home.

If you live within the Epping Forest District and would like some free and impartial advice on this issue you can contact your local Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor via 101. Or you can call the Council's Community Safety Officer on 01992 564608.

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Sheering The Crown

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Sheering Village Hall

10.35 - 11.05

April 5, 19

May 3, 17, 31

June 14, 28

July 12, 26

August 9

Lower Sheering Lay-by

11.50 - 12.10

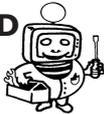
April 12, 26

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# 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

Once more we begin a year of interesting speakers booked, group meetings to enjoy and a celebration of our Essex Federation being 100 years old for which a group tea party will be enjoyed in its honour.



Please come along and be part of our organisation and you too could enjoy these events.

We meet in the Village Hall the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 for 7.45. Come along you are always welcome.

Sheena Pike  
President

## Sheering Village Pre-School CIC

After a wonderful Christmas break we returned to pre-school excited to start our new topic, which this term is nursery rhymes. Each week we look at a different nursery rhyme and a letter of the week that relates to it, for example, when we looked at Incy Wincy Spider we also looked at the letter 'S'. We also have a daily activity at the creative table linked to the nursery rhyme. The children had fun celebrating Australia day with sand play and a bar-b-que style snack consisting of hot dogs. They enjoyed prawn crackers for snack for Chinese New Year and they also played with some cooked noodles - they thought that was great fun!



This term we have welcomed 3 older children and 5 younger children to pre-school with another 3 starting within the next few days and we hope they and their families enjoy their time with us.



Through our parents hard fundraising efforts we have now purchased a child friendly bookcase and some sensory resources which include a sensory black out tent, infinity light, glow in the dark cubes and an L.E.D. light up writing/drawing board. We have also managed to purchase new iPads for the staff so that they can take the best quality photos and videos of the children for their online learning journeys. We will be hosting a quiz night on 24 June; doors open at 7.30 for an 8.00 start. Tickets will be £5 - bring your own nibbles and drinks. The staff continue to work hard on their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) completing safeguarding, first aid training and a Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) code of practice e-learning module. Our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), Kim, attends termly SENCO networking meetings, bringing back with her monthly early years SENCO news and



information which is cascaded through the pre-school team, keeping us up to date with information, vital in assessing children's needs. Angie and I attend termly Learning Community meetings which are hosted by our Early Years Advisor, this gives us the opportunity to talk to managers of other settings and exchange information and ideas. Janet Wederell has

returned to pre-school as a relief helper and has her level 3 Diploma and her D.B.S. We intend having a fundraising 'Silly Sock Day' in recognition of Autism in March.

The rest of the term will be spent completing Mother's Day cards and gifts and Easter cards. Once complete we will turn our attentions to our Easter concert which will, hopefully, be as successful as our Christmas concert was. Our Easter Party will be on Wednesday 29 March and our end of term concert will be on Thursday 30 March. We will return to pre-school on Tuesday 18 April.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Easter - try not to eat too much chocolate!

Caroline and Angie

[www.sheeringvillagepreschool.co.uk](http://www.sheeringvillagepreschool.co.uk)

### Sheering School PTFA

We would like to start with a big thank you to the Sheering residents who supported the school at our Christmas event, it was a huge success raising much needed funds of £1,623 for the school. We really do appreciate the support we receive from the Sheering residents, non-local businesses, parents and helpers, it really does make a difference.



Here we have Mrs Brittain our school head carrying out the very important role of Santa's elf



and some of the ladies from the PTFA setting up!

Forthcoming events for 2017 are a lovely Mother's Day service at the church followed by lunch with the children at school for Mums, Grandmothers or a female relative on Thursday 23rd March and Mother's Day gift Shop run by the PTFA on Friday 24th.

Easter Egg raffle for the children on 31st March and St George's Day Disco on 21st April. There will be a Father's Day gift shop in June again run by the PTFA where children can buy their relative a gift

Non uniform day, sponsored bounce and Movie Picnic nights are all events planned for this year. Our big Summer Fayre event will be on Sunday 2nd July.

If you can support the school in anyway with these events with either donations for the Gift shops, or prizes for the raffle/tombola for the Summer Fayre we would love to hear from you. We are now also booking pitches for the Summer Fayre so if you would like to have a stall please contact us via the school office at [admin@sheering.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@sheering.essex.sch.uk)

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## Friends of St Mary's Sheering

### Quiz

There was a great turn-out for the February quiz in the village hall - and some keen competition. Would a Leaden Roding team win again this year? As it turned out, the winning team were from Hatfield Heath. Come on Sheering - next time!



The Winning Team

We were again grateful to our excellent question-master John Smith and his super-efficient team. We all had a great evening, and we raised just over £400 for the upkeep of the buildings and grounds at St Mary's.



John Smith

### Carols and Mulled Wine

On 9 December 2016 the Committee of Friends of St Mary's again organised the popular annual Carols and Mulled Wine evening in the Village Hall. There was a good turnout again this



year, some wonderfully hearty singing, and of course some great playing from members of Epping Band.



## News of the Buildings and Grounds

We who live in Sheering know that our little parish church is very special - and word seems to be getting around. Over the last few months, the Friends Committee have hosted visits from "Church-visiting Groups" from both Ware U3A and Sawbridgeworth U3A. They thought our church was great too.



Churchyard Working Party

We continue to be hugely grateful to Natalie Cracknell and her team for the wonderful job they are doing to keep the churchyard in such good order. We get loads of compliments about how beautiful it looks.

### Use of Friends funds:

The work to extend the gravel path from the main door to the small side door. See before and after photos. We are delighted that the PCC has been able to allocate



around £4000 of Friends funds for repairs to the entrance to the car park, replacement of some tiles on the Church



Room roof, and the first tranche of the work on the church which the architect recommended at the five-yearly inspection which we mentioned in the last Sheering

News. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this possible.

The PCC sought further advice from a clock specialist about when best to renovate the clock faces, and as a result this work is being deferred for the time being.

**Dates for your Diary**

Saturday 1 July 2017 at 7.00 : Friends of St Mary's annual concert. This popular event often sells out. Put it in your diary now!

Church dates:

Please join us at 11.00 any Sunday morning. We also hope you can come to the following special events:

9 April, 11.00 am Palm Sunday (Morning Worship)

16 April Easter Sunday: 11.00 am (Family Communion)

*All funds raised through Friends of St Mary's are set aside for the upkeep of the church buildings and grounds. (The congregation are responsible for meeting all the regular expenses of the church – in 2016 this was over £40,000 - such as utilities, insurance etc, plus the Parish Share which is a large fixed contribution to central church funds.)*

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# GARDEN OPEN

In aid of Grove Cottage (The home of Bishop's Startford Mercop)

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**Sunday 28th May**  
2.00-5.00pm

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### Local Student to help with school repairs in Nepal

Ex Leventhorpe student, Katie Macy, is travelling to Nepal in August to help rebuild schools after the 2015 earthquake. Katie, who is currently studying archaeology at York University, is raising funds for her trip with various events. If you would like to contribute or sponsor her please contact Sheila Caves on 725578.



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### Spring Morning

A single chirp, a single peep,  
The birds outside are still asleep,  
Too early yet to hear the sparrow song.  
A ripple runs, a trembling trill,  
A chitter-chatter bold spring spill  
Within the bush where busy bodies throng.

Among the bare-branched morning scene  
See signs of bud-burst, gleaming green,  
As breeze-blown trumpets, grouped in gold array,  
Cast coils of colour to the earth -  
Sure signs the year is in rebirth -  
While winter claims his cloak to creep away.

Now sunshine lends a summer hue  
That paints the sky a brilliant blue  
And washes all the world in limpid light.  
The lawn, a soft-sprung carpet clings  
To feline feet. A lone voice sings  
To greet a new-born day of pure delight.

Adrienne Tinn

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## Japanese Knotweed

Japanese Knotweed is an invasive non-native plant. It is a problem because:

- It spreads easily via rhizomes and cut stems or crowns
- It out-competes native flora
- It is difficult and expensive to control or eradicate
- It can cause structural damage to buildings.

Because of its regenerative properties and invasive habit, Japanese Knotweed is listed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as a plant that is not to be planted or otherwise introduced into the wild. You have a legal obligation not to cause it to spread if it grows on your land and must dispose of any waste carefully, complying with the law.

Correct disposal of plant material is vital to avoid the risk of spreading the problem further. Contact the Environment Agency for England and Wales (Tel: 08708 506 506) for advice on disposal because there are regulations which cover the composting, burning and burial of plant materials on-site and the transfer and disposal of material including ash to licensed or permitted landfill sites. Failure to ensure

safe, legal disposal or obtain an appropriate licence or exemption if required, could result in prosecution.

**Householders should not put Japanese knotweed in your rubbish bin, or any green waste recycling schemes of any description, or your home compost bin.**

If you are intending to treat or dispose of waste containing Japanese Knotweed, we recommend that you consult the Government's website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/japanese-knotweed-giant-hogweed-and-other-invasive-plants>



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## Anthony Jackson County Councillor

I noted in your December issue that both the Epping Forest District Council draft Local Plan and junction 7A on the M11 were featured.



As Councillor Gary Waller noted in his first class letter, the plans for Sheering are perhaps small in scale compared to what is proposed for other areas. As a County Councillor I am not involved in preparing the Epping Forest District Council Local Plan but have made it my business to register my views. In developing those I have consulted local people and taken a close interest in and mirrored the response to the Plan by our excellent Sheering Parish Council. My views are first of all that we must at all costs protect the Green Belt, especially its open land when it is neither infill nor brownfield; indeed much of the open countryside in my Division is a landscape of ancient fields and hedges in which many historical relics have been found over the years – these are mapped by the County Council's officers as part of our duty to preserve and protect our heritage. Secondly we need to beware of coalescence and creeping urbanisation where one community becomes, over time, joined to another. This would change the identity and character of our individual communities whereas I believe each community deserves the right to determine what it wants to be. All those I have spoken to agree that more housing is needed, and clearly we shall have to see what the final proposals for Sheering and Lower Sheering are.

The new Junction 7A on the M11 at Sheering has rightly caused some concern. This is a Highways England scheme led on site by Essex County Council as the Highways Authority, and is to improve access to the new Harlow Science Park and other developments in east Harlow. Last year I engaged the senior

County Council Highways officer to respond to all concerns which came my way and arranged that he accompany me to a Sheering Parish Council meeting. He answered in detail all the matters raised and was able to respond to some understandable concerns, identifying any misconceptions or misunderstandings that existed. The modelling we used for traffic flow projections is that used nationally and the special measures and restrictions we plan to build into the local roads are to minimise noise and inconvenience, even in some cases to a level lower than now. I am the first to say that the best laid plans can go awry and I have made it clear to our officers that if, after opening the junction, which is some years off, things vary from our projections for local traffic we will investigate and if necessary make changes.

The other matter about which I receive most comment is that of cars parked by commuters using Sawbridgeworth station. As I have consistently said the use of double yellow lines to prohibit parking nearest the station merely moves the problem elsewhere; we have evidence to confirm this everywhere. Indeed I recently had a call from a Lower Sheering resident to say that an earlier laying down of double yellow lines elsewhere meant that now commuters parked outside his house some distance from the station. I would be as annoyed as anyone if commuters parked inconsiderately outside my home. But they need to park somewhere and that is why I am offering my help to the District Council to work with East Herts District Council in approaching the train operator Abellio East Anglia Ltd to join forces in constructing adequate parking facilities near the station. Commuters make up an important part of our communities and their incomes are a local economy stimulator.

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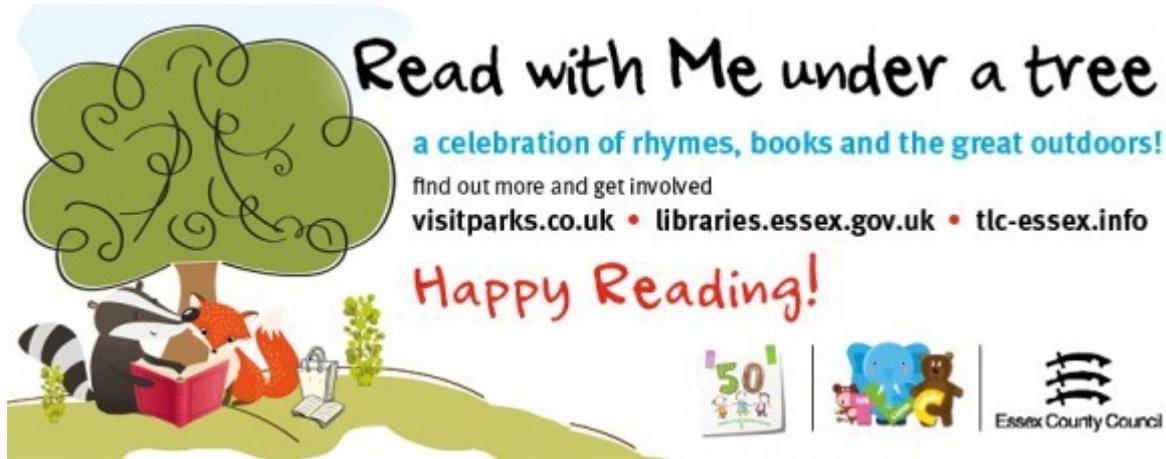
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Reading with your little one is a great way of helping them develop their communication skills and expand their vocabulary – and the best bit is you can read together almost anywhere!

The great outdoors offers lots of possibilities for learning new things and being creative, and books can often be the starting point for coming up with your own games and activities – why not act out your favourite story together using homemade props and soft toys? To celebrate the re- launch of Read with Me under a tree, a number of events are taking place across the county, including themed baby and toddler Rhymetime sessions at Essex Libraries and special events at selected Essex Country Parks:

- Great Notley Country Park – Monday 20 March 10am – 11am
  - Weald Country Park – Thursday 23 March 10am – 11am
  - Hadleigh Country Park – Tuesday 28 March 10am – 11am
  - Thorndon Country Park – Friday 31 March 10am – 11am
- Head over to one of these free events (car parking charges apply at Country Parks) and enjoy reading and playing together. Make sure you're dressed warmly for the outdoor sessions and prepared for messy play. To book <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/read-with-me-under-a-tree-tickets->

31831091652

And from next month, you'll also be able to borrow a Read with Me under a tree activity pack free of charge from Essex Country Parks. The packs include a book, themed activity sheet and den building kit to help you get outside and have fun! Don't worry if you can't attend one of the events, there are still lots of ways you can get involved – why not head out into the back garden with your

little one's favourite book and encourage them to join in as you read together? Or head over to the Family Reading Activities page for books and activities you can enjoy in your local outdoor space.

And don't forget to tick number 38 – Read with Me under a tree – off the ultimate 50 things to do before you're 5! [tlc-essex.info/read-with-me-under-a-tree](http://tlc-essex.info/read-with-me-under-a-tree)

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## First Aid Training

I have been a Nurse working in the Critical Care setting for the past 23 years and currently employed as a Resuscitation Officer in the Essex area.

The role has enabled me to develop a sound knowledge base, excellent communication skills and credible experience. I have taught on multiple courses from Basic First Aid all the way to Advanced Life Support (ALS). I am a Registered Instructor with the Resuscitation Council UK and a member of the Association of First Aiders.

My experience in Accident and Emergency has presented me with a number of different patients in various states of being unwell. Over time I have realised that the level of 'pre-hospital' basic care that a patient receives has massive implications on the chances of that patient surviving to discharge.

Patients in rural communities that receive 'good basic first aid' have a greater chance of survival than those that do not. Getting the simple things right- like managing choking, bleeding, CPR early defibrillation (especially in cut off areas) buys valuable time when waiting for emergency services.

As a father and husband living in a small

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## The Hundred Parishes Society

There has been recent mention in the press of police commissioners, funding and crime rates. Within the Hundred Parishes are some interesting examples of early methods of punishment and confinement.

Before the County Police Act of 1839, when local police stations started to be built, temporary detention of villains, especially drunks, was the responsibility of the parish. Lock ups, also known as cages, were often used and some fine examples still exist in our area.

St. George's church in Anstey has a 15th century lych-gate. In 1831 the left side was bricked up and a studded door added so the structure could be used as the village lock up. In the 18th century a lock up was incorporated into the ground floor of Thaxted's 15th-century Guildhall. Great



Brent Pelham Stocks

Bardfield has a 19th century cage which is open to the public in the summer months. Other lock ups can easily be found in Barley, Buntingford and Great Chishill. Newport has a much larger 18th-century 'house of correction' whose original purpose ceased in Victorian times.

A form of punishment which was 'popular' from medieval times was the use of stocks. The purpose of this punishment was to subject the offender to humiliation. Stocks were sited in public places where the 'victims' could be pelted with anything from mud to rotten fruit.

Ancient stocks can be seen in

Great Amwell churchyard, outside Brent Pelham church and also at Hellman's Cross in Great Canfield. The latter is on the site where Elizabeth Abbot was burnt as a witch in 1683.

All the features mentioned are protected as listed buildings and most are pictured on the Hundred Parishes website [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk). I hope the website will inspire you to explore our area.

Ken McDonald, Secretary.



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### A New Seat in Lower Sheering

Towards the end of December 2016, the Parish Council received a request from two residents of Lower Sheering for a bench to be installed where they could rest their weary legs after walking back from Sawbridgeworth.

A site was chosen and the bench supplied by Epping Forest District Council was sited on the corner of Four Acres and Sheering



Mill Lane.

This serves two purposes: as a seat for passengers waiting for the Sawbobus and a resting place.

Sheila Caves  
Parish Councillor

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## Continuing the History of Sheering School

### William Pratt: Head Master (1897-1906)

Mr William Smith was succeeded as Head Master of Sheering School by Mr William Pratt, who commenced his duties on 25 January 1897. As was the usual practice, his wife, Sarah Anne Pratt, took charge of the Infants. A year later on 3 January 1898, his daughter, Miss Edith Emily Pratt, commenced her duties as an Assistant Teacher.

William Pratt had been born on 12 October 1837 in King's Lynn. Aged 21, he had married Sarah Ann Maltby, also aged 21, in Lowestoft on 25 November 1856. They had eight children in sixteen years: six boys and two

girls. Edith Emily was their younger daughter and seventh child, born in 1872. Before coming to Essex, William Pratt had taught in various counties: Kent (1861); Derbyshire (1871); Middlesex (1881) and Surrey (1891). In 1881 his occupation was given as a school master and a choir master. In 1901 his occupation was given as a School Master and Organist.

According to the 1901 Census William Pratt was living in Sheering with his wife, Sarah Anne, his daughter, Edith Emily Herbert, and her two daughters: Dorothy Grace, aged 2 and born in Finsbury on 18 February 1899 and Luvema Delia Herbert, aged 6 months and

born in Sheering on 6 October 1900. The father of William Pratt's granddaughters was almost certainly William Cote Herbert (1873-1943) who in 1901 was employed in Surrey as a paper hanger and painter. His marital status in the 1901 Census was given as "single". In 1911 William Cote Herbert was living in Southall, Middlesex with his wife Phoebe Frances Herbert, whom he had married in November 1902 in Surrey, together with their six children. His occupation was given as a House Decorator and Plumber.



William Pratt

William Pratt, the new master of Sheering School in 1897, found his pupils "very much out of order and under hardly any discipline at all. The work they did was of a very indifferent character and executed in a very untidy manner." Things, however, soon improved. By 12 March 1897 the children were "showing signs of intelligence and are improved in cleanliness". Horace Broke, the manager who had been instrumental in dismissing the previous headmaster, commented in March that he was "much pleased with the greatly improved state of the school since Mr and Mrs Pratt have had charge." The HMI Inspector was of the opinion at the end of March that the new master "will doubtless soon improve the tone

of the school and the character of the instruction. The circumstances connected with the retirement of the late master have had their effect on the school, both as regards discipline and instruction. Some class habits such as answering out of turn need to be checked." Future HMI reports confirmed the general improvement. Thus in February 1898 the HMI wrote that "much progress has been made during this first year under the present master. The tone of the school is quiet and pleasant. The scholars are well behaved and industrious. Geography and singing from rote have been very well

taught." In 1899 the Inspector reported that the influence of the Master is seen "in the good attendance and the improved tone of the school." However, the attention of the managers was called to the serious deficiency of lobby accommodation for the hats and coats of both departments. A new porch/cloakroom was subsequently built during the year. In November 1899 there was a comment in the Log Book that "mention must be made of the noise of the masons who have been employed for some weeks erecting the new

cloakroom. The noise has somewhat interfered with the pleasantness of the work during school hours." The HMI Inspector noted in his report in January 1900 that "the new porch is a very useful addition to the premises". The school continued to receive good reports each year from 1901 to 1904. The School Attendance Officer in October 1904 informed the Master that "attendance at Sheering School was better than in any of the other schools he visited."

It was important that the School Attendance had improved, as during the 1890s the system of payment of results was superseded by a fixed capitation grant based on average attendance at school. Payment by results had had some national benefits, such as an improvement in school organisation and pupil competence in the 3Rs. But the system had led to distrust and hatred for the HM Inspectorate, together with a narrowing of the curriculum, as teachers inevitably focused on the 3Rs. By the 1890s, with the ending of payment by results, there were more subjects being taught and teachers began to have the freedom to show their own initiative in syllabus and method.

At Sheering School Geography had already been introduced into the curriculum by William Smith, the previous master, (probably his only success story) and was well taught, according to the 1898 Inspection. Mr Pratt, the new Master, also introduced some changes into the curriculum. On some occasions there was a focus on oral work: hence, as he explained in October 1897, there was a lack of dates in the children's books. Such "talking lessons", he wrote, were "designed to enable the children to more easily express their ideas." Special lessons

were also taught, such as a lesson in 1899 on the war in South Africa. In May 1900, instead of drawing, the children watched the eclipse of the sun through some pieces of smoked glass which the Master had prepared. In December of that year the children gave a concert in school, which was so successful that on the following Saturday they repeated the concert for the "gentry of the neighbourhood". In 1905 Miss Stephenson began a series of lectures on Hygiene, including talks on "air", "water," "clean bodies," and "clean houses". The children were expected to reproduce her lecture in their composition lesson and the Master forwarded their written papers to Miss Stephenson.

The Master was always concerned about the attendance, doubtless because the new fixed capitation grant was based on average attendance. On several occasions he received impertinent messages from parents, when he made enquiries about their children's absences. In September 1904 Mrs Saunders kept her boy at home, because he had been punished for inattention and disobedience. Noticeably, the master did not complain when in 1898 and 1899 some boys were absent beating the woods, at the request of Clayton Glyn, Esquire, the local dignitary, who was living at the time in Sheering Hall, having moved from Durrington House. Rural poverty remained a problem. The Master reported in November 1898 that between 30 and 40 children had gone out of the parish that year, as their fathers could obtain

better wages elsewhere. Illness too continued to lead to school closures, most notably in January 1900 for influenza and in March 1901 and October 1902 for measles. In July 1905 William Pratt commented in the School Log Book that the heat had been so oppressive in the last week that it showed "more than ever the need for a well of water on the school premises."



William and Sarah Pratt

The children's behaviour was not always perfect. In November 1903 Frank Bird was very impertinent and Richard Francis offered to strike the Master with his bag of books. Both boys were subsequently punished. Holidays continued to be given for village and national events, such as in May 1897, which saw the first cricket match ever played in Sheering, which the Sheering Team won. In June 1897 the school was closed to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. To celebrate the end of the Boer War there was a half day holiday in June 1902. There was also a week's holiday in June 1902 to celebrate the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. In May 1903 there was a whole day holiday to celebrate the reopening and consecration of Sheering's restored church, which had been enlarged with a north aisle and organ chamber, designed by G. E. Pritchett, as a memorial to Canon Edward Hill, who had been Rector of Sheering from 1849-1900. George Edward Pritchett (1824-1912) was the son of the Rector of Little Hallingbury. He restored and built many churches in Essex and

adjacent counties. In February 1904 the first ever confirmation service in Sheering resulted in a day's holiday. In October 1905 the children went in the morning to see King Edward VII pass through Harlow. One new half day holiday was given for the first time in 1905 on 24 May to celebrate Empire Day. The aim of Empire Day, at a time of rising patriotic fervour in the pre war years, was to instil into the minds of children what were the "privileges, the responsibilities and the duties of citizenship of the Empire." On the first celebration of Empire Day at Sheering School pupils saluted the flag and sang a patriotic song before they went home. Mr Pratt retired from his duties at Sheering School in November 1906. During his time at Sheering, perhaps unsurprisingly, he seemed to have become obsessed with attendance. On 7 December 1903 he observed that *it was curious to note that there were present in*



During this time a porch was added as a cloakroom

*school that day the same number of boys, girls and infants: i.e. 32 of each number.*" Appropriately, almost his final entry in the Log Book on 30 October 1906 was to admit that "*in the hurry and worry of packing, he had inadvertently added up the totals for the boys and girls too soon. A correction would have to be made by his successor*". Mr Pratt's final entry in the Log Book was 2 November 1906.

We know a little about William Pratt after his retirement. His daughter, Edith Emily, died in 1908. Her death was registered in Lexden, Colchester. In 1911 William Pratt and his wife were boarding in Edmonton with his cousin, Walter James Pratt, a "cattle medicine vendor." William Pratt is described in the census as a "*Retired School Master pensioned*." His wife is described as "*pensioned old age*." Their two grandchildren can also be traced in the 1911 Census. Dorothy was living as a boarder with her uncle, Frederick Percy Pratt, a brewery clerk in the Lexden District and the third child of William and Sarah Pratt. Presumably Edith Emily Herbert had gone to live as a boarder with her brother Frederick, perhaps in 1905 when she gave notice of

resigning her post at Sheering School. Luvema was living in the North Riding of Yorkshire as the "*adopted niece*" of William Thomas Pratt and his wife, Annie Pratt. William Thomas Pratt was the eldest child of William and Sarah Pratt. His occupation in 1911 was a cashier to a brewery company. William and Sarah Pratt both died in 1924. Their deaths were registered in Romford. William was aged 86 and Sarah was aged 87. William Pratt successfully brought about improvements at Sheering School, following the difficulties associated with his predecessor, and to have improved the "tone and character" of the school. He was succeeded by Frank Charles Canham, who continued to extend the educational opportunities offered to children living in Sheering in the years before the Great War. Philip Hays  
Headteacher 1982 - 2009

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**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.

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## St Mary's Parish Church Sheering

### Sunday Services

1st Sunday	11.00	Family Service
	6.30	Evensong at Holy Trinity
2nd Sunday	8.00	Holy Communion (1662)
	11.00	Morning Worship
3rd Sunday	11.00	Holy Communion
4th Sunday	8.00	Holy Communion (1662)
	11.00	Morning Worship
5th Sunday	11.00	Morning Worship



### Sheering Sunday School and Club: for young people (ages 3 years and upwards)

Sunday School meets every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday (sometimes on a 5th Sunday), beginning in Church. Sunday Club meets every 3rd Sunday for fun activities including craft, games and bible study. Occasional walks and outside activities when weather permits.

**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 realised a long time ago that I am not a winter person. As soon as the nights start drawing in, I find it harder to keep up my usual optimism and cheerfulness, knowing that there are many weeks of darkness ahead. And boy, is it dark in the villages!

Coming from a London suburb with wall-to-wall streetlighting, it's been a real shock to the system to walk out of the front door and be plunged into a thick, black night.

So Spring is a clear favourite for me, as the mornings and evenings become lighter and the beauty of the countryside is visible for so much longer each day. But would I want it to be light all the time? I don't think so. There is something about going through the darkness that makes us appreciate the light so much more. And good things do happen in the dark. Creatures (including us) sleep and are restored. Bulbs and seeds prepare to sprout, trees and shrubs prepare to bud; new life is being prepared in secret.

In our Christian calendar, the season of Lent



deliberately leads us into a time of darkness. We remove the decorations from the church, our services are quieter and more thoughtful as we prepare our hearts for the biggest celebration in our church year. Because on Easter morning we remember how Jesus rose from the dead, bursting out of the tomb and defeating death and darkness. And this is what gives us hope, even on the darkest night, when we can't even remember what sunlight looks like. Jesus has beaten death, so we know he has the power to bring new life to us too.

Whatever your beliefs and whatever your current situation, I want to assure you that darkness doesn't last for ever. The light is stronger, and it will overcome. So even in the darkness, we can live with the knowledge and the hope of the light and life that is to come.

With my love and prayers for a peaceful and joyous Easter.

Dawn

Rev'd Dawn Jewson

Priest in Charge, St Mary the Virgin, Sheering and Holy Trinity, Hatfield Heath.

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

### April

Monday 10 **Holy Week**  
Holy Trinity Hatfield Heath open all day for self-guided Stations of the Cross  
7.30 - Led Stations of the Cross service at Holy Trinity

Tuesday 11  
7.00 - Holy Trinity open for quiet prayer  
7.30 - Night Prayer (Compline) with guided quiet time, at Holy Trinity

Wednesday 12  
7.30 - Led service of meditations around the church at Holy Trinity

Thursday 13  
Maundy Thursday  
7.30 Maundy Thursday supper at Hatfield Heath URC  
(please sign up beforehand via either church)

Friday 14  
Good Friday  
2.00 Last Hour at the Cross - music and reflections at Holy Trinity.

Sunday 16  
Easter Day  
8.00am Holy Communion (1662) at St Mary's  
11.00 Easter Family Communion at St Mary's

### May

Sunday 21  
11.00 meet at St Mary's to walk (or drive) to a local farm for a Rogation service

## Spring Watch

Daffodils abundant in their glory, announce the coming of spring and bring joy and hope to many.

Spring also brings new growth, new beginnings, longer daylight hours, and puts a 'Spring in our step.'

Essex Watch 'Spring Watch campaign,' has very little to do with nature and the

seasons, however, it serves as a reminder to all of us to make sure that we continue to be vigilant, think security, think safety and 'think community.'

Remember that criminals, looking for easy pickings, can see more opportunities in daylight.



This time of year is when most of us will be busy in the garden whilst our children or grandchildren will be playing outside more. Here are a few Spring crime prevention reminders:

Please remember to keep an eye on your gardening tools while in the garden. Put tools and equipment away after you're finished with them.

Don't leave valuable items on display and ensure items such as lawnmowers and strimmers are locked away securely. Property mark items and record serial numbers.

Lock your house doors and windows if you are in the garden.

Tidy away children's toys – especially bicycles and scooters.

## Sheds, Garages, Workshops, Lock-Ups and other Outbuildings

As in previous years, the Police are urging everyone to ensure their premises are secure and are offering some practical steps that can be taken reduce the risk of burglary. (This advice applies throughout all seasons!) Ensure that all sheds, garages, workshops, lock-ups and other outbuildings, are in a good state of repair and that any damaged or rotten sections of their structure, which could make it easier for a thief to gain access, are repaired or replaced.

- Use quality close shackle padlocks which cannot be easily levered or cut.
- If you have a window in the premises, consider whether you actually need it and if

not consider boarding it over securely.

Otherwise, make the window opaque or cover windows to ensure the property inside is not on display.

- Consider fitting key operated locks to any opening windows or screwing them shut.
- Where the building is a wooden structure, consider lining the property with plywood sheeting to make it more difficult for a thief to get through without proper tools and lots of time.
- Consider fitting an alarm, these are readily available from DIY stores or local locksmiths.
- Chain any tools through their handles to large heavy items such as lawn mowers or cultivators. If you have neither of these fill a bucket with concrete and, using a masonry fixing, chain your tools to this.
- Mark all valuables within your premises with your postcode and house number; record serial numbers of all equipment and keep the records safe.
- Good security lighting using existing lights. Consider installing a time switch or adding sensor lights. Ensure that all sheds, garages, lock-ups or other relevant outbuildings are securely locked and never left unlocked whilst unoccupied.

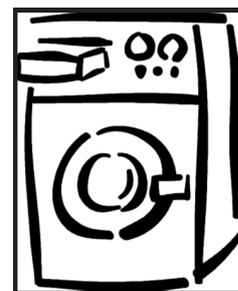
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