SHEERING NEWS

(also at www.sheering.org.uk/news)

August 2016 125

At the Annual Parish Meeting in April, awards were presented for Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year. Parish Council Chairman, Rodney Northwood introduced the winners.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
SHEILA CAVES

A letter signed by ten residents of Lower Sheering stated why they thought Sheila Caves deserved this award:
“Sheila is a long-standing resident always

willing to help those in need with their shopping, taking them to hospital and doctor’s appointments. She bakes cakes for people who are unwell or need a bit of cheering up and generally helps out with those jobs arthritic bodies are no longer able to manage.
The award comes with a cheque for £100 about which Sheila said later: “I decided to share the money between two charities close to my heart; Epping Forest Community Transport provides the 347 bus that runs between Hatfield Broad Oak and Harlow and is a lifeline to many, and St Clare Hospice which is well known for providing excellent palliative care.
"My thanks go to all who nominated me for this award."

YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
EMMIE BONNEY

Sheering School Headteacher, Lorna Brittaine, wrote:

I have nominated Emmie because of her naturally caring nature and for the help and support she so readily gives to children and adults.

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Useful Information Back Cover

Thank you to Jean Nixon in Lower Sheering and Lynda Case in Sheering for delivering *Sheering News* over many years.
A volunteer has been found for Lynda's round but would anyone be prepared to deliver from 5 Sheering Lower Road to Four Acres in Lower Sheering.

Please contact Sheila Caves 725578

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DIARY

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 1 Sheering School term starts 01279 734210 admin@sheering.essex.sch.uk

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

Friday16 Harvest Supper in the Village Hall 7.00 for 7.30 Tickets from Barbara Barker 01279 734354

Harvest weekend 24 and 25 Displays in St Mary's Church Sheering and harvest stalls in the church room

Sunday 25 Harvest Songs of Praise 6.30 St Mary's Church Sheering

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 1 copy date for Sheering News

Tuesday 8 WI Village Hall 7.30 for 7.45. All welcome. Barbara Barker 01279 734354

Sunday 13 Remembrance Service 10.55 St Mary's Church Sheering followed at 12 noon by an act of remembrance at the Village War Memorial.

Tuesday 22 Village Hall AGM Sheering Village Hall 7.30

Churchyard Working Party

Recently a group of people have started helping to maintain the churchyard at St Mary's Sheering. These sessions are roughly every three weeks on a Saturday morning at 10.00.

It may be that you would like to tend a family grave and know that other people are around or you might like to help regularly or from time to time.

Contact Natalie Cracknell 01279 734360.for more information.

VILLAGE HALL AGM
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 22
7.30
SHEERING VILLAGE HALL

Please let us have letters, articles and photos for the next edition of Sheering News promptly by 1 November 2016.

DAILY

Pre-School: Every weekday 9.00 - 12.00 and Monday, Wednesday & Fridays afternoon play 12.30 - 3.00 during term time in the Village Hall. Angie Rivoire 07981215437.

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 and Thursdays 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 23 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

We, the Sheering News Team, Barbara, Iris, Sheila C, Sheila K and Linda, would like to say a huge thank you to Ron and Valerie Monk.

They have worked incredibly hard over very many years, sorting over 1000 copies of *Sheering News* ready for the deliverers in Lower Sheering.

Letters

Hannah and Michael Shine would like to thank all who supported their Open Garden on the 23/24 May weekend in aid of Grove Cottage (MENCAP). Once again we opened on Saturday and Sunday by popular demand. We had a dry day on the Saturday and showers on Sunday. We were entertained by Las Palomas flamenco dancers who were absolutely fabulous. We also had Zara's beautiful singing accompanied by Carlo, and SOSA Dance Fitness. On Sunday, we were entertained by Anwaar Belly Dance and the Bishops Stortford Ukulele Society. The belly dancers were so exotic with stunning costumes and the ukulele group engaged the crowd with nostalgic songs. It wasn't long before they were humming and tapping their feet to the familiar tunes. Everyone who came enjoyed all the entertainment, the garden, the plant sale, coffee, home made cakes and the book stall. We are most grateful to all our entertainers for giving us such a fantastic performance for the charity. I continue to be amazed that the rain just does not deter our regular visitors from this Open Garden event!

We would like to thank all our friends and volunteers, and also those from Grove Cottage who made delicious cakes and scones, all those who helped on the day, and all those who made generous donations and gave raffle prizes.

Grove Cottage will benefit from this event by just over £4,000 – a very rewarding sum. We are most grateful and appreciative of all your support which made this possible.

Grove Cottage is affiliated to Mencap and is maintained by local donations only. It provides activities for children and adults with learning disabilities and respite care for parents/carers. This provides a much needed break for the families of these children and adults.

Many thanks again. We hope to do it again next year – the last May Bank Holiday weekend!

Hannah & Michael Shine

This may be of interest for your publication, but did you know there was at one time a golf club 'based' in Harlow known as Gladwyns Golf Club?

You will no doubt have a good guess where it may well have been located, probably to the eastern outskirts of the village, en-route towards Hatfield Heath. Not exactly Harlow but close enough.

From the brief data I have found, there is a website known as golfsmissinglinks.co.uk which states a club was founded in 1895 and disappeared around 1923. During its life one of the club's secretaries was a Mr P V Broke which is also the same name as a number of other occupants who lived at a house known as Gladwyns during the life of this golf club. Others include Horace Broke MA, JP and Lt-Col Harry Broke.

The professional, was a W Fardell from 1905 to 1914. He was on the 1911 census described as a gardener and living at The Lodge, Gladwyns.

I wonder if you have any local historians who may be able to offer more information on this short piece of local recreational history in Sheering?

Alan Howick

Dear Residents,

I recently went to an open garden event at the home of Hannah and Michael Shine in Sheering which was raising money for MENCAP. It was an amazing event that they do every year to raise money for such a worthwhile cause. The gardens were beautiful, as was the tea and cake! I thank them both for holding the event and everything they do for our local community. Keep your eyes peeled for next year's event if you missed out this time!

The EU Referendum was an incredibly difficult issue for me. For this reason, I was incredibly proud that the Prime Minister kept his promise to have a referendum so that the British people were able to make the decision that they believed was right for our country.

I always said that whilst my heart said leave, my head said stay. Many Harlow small businesses contacted me saying that they were really worried that Brexit would have an impact on their work with European companies and they were worried that jobs would be lost in Harlow. Since I've been MP I've done everything possible to try to bring jobs back to our town because this is what makes our town prosperous and enables people to have the means to look after themselves and their families.

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 the constituency has been so decisive, as the Member of Parliament, I will make it my duty to do my part to ensure that resident's clear and definitive wishes are followed through in Parliament.

I am sad that David Cameron has announced his resignation. He has done this for honourable reasons. I supported him as Prime Minster because he introduced the National Living Wage, froze fuel duty for many years, cut taxes for lower earners and has pledged billions of pounds of extra spending on the NHS. He has done all this at the same time as getting our economy back on track and creating millions of jobs and apprentices, with more people employed than at any time in our island's history.

Best wishes,

Robert

Continued from front page

At school, Emmie is the first person to help another child if they are ill or hurt and she will always stay with the child until an adult arrives or until they are feeling happier. Emmie never moans or complains about anything and has a good sense of humour.

Over the past two years Emmie has begun to really challenge herself at school and has made excellent progress in reading, writing and maths. She works hard in school and completes more homework than any child in her class.

When we went away for our residential trip last summer, Emmie helped all the Year 5 girls to make their beds and she did a good job of looking after the children who were homesick. She even found missing items and picked up my flip flops that I left behind!

Emmie with Sheering School Headteacher Lorna Brittaine

Emmie is always enthusiastic in her approach to new challenges and last year she joined the netball club. Through her hard work and determination, Emmie has become our top goal scorer and she encourages her team during practises and matches.

I am so proud of her achievements and I think Emmie thoroughly deserves this award.

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More development in Sheering?

Look out for announcements in October!

By Councillor Gary Waller, representing Lower Sheering

It seems an age ago that Epping Forest District Council launched its consultation on the sites put forward by landowners and developers in connection with its Local Plan preparations. Yes, it was a long time ago, as the consultation on the Issues and Options document took place between July and October 2012, only just over a year after I was first elected to the Council.

Since then, a vast amount of work has been done on every aspect of the Local Plan, starting with an analysis of the original responses. Each local planning authority is required to produce a Local Plan, setting out its proposals and policies to guide development up to the year 2033. This will seek an appropriate balance between protecting green spaces, new houses, businesses and leisure, and will include a vision of how the district will develop, suitable locations for development, and policies to manage housing, employment, Green Belt, community facilities etc.

I myself have attended well over 20 workshops and meetings focusing on such matters as population change, housing needs, building design, climate change and transport. Meetings have also taken place with the neighbouring councils of Harlow, East Herts and Uttlesford, with whom we have a legal 'duty to co-operate'.

As a result of all the data taken into account, Epping Forest has been assessed as requiring 11,300 new homes over the period in question, although that figure is greatly reduced when one takes account of such factors as new houses recently constructed and potential sites identified on previously developed land.

Although it has been said that no part of the district can be exempt from new development, I have stressed the importance to Lower Sheering residents of the Metropolitan Green Belt and in particular the large area to the east of Sheering Lower Road that had been proposed as a potential housing site. Time and time again, I have emphasised that this would be totally unacceptable, and I am confident that notice has been taken of what I have said on so many occasions.

October will be the key month when the Council's 'preferred sites' are made known and we shall all find out how many more houses are planned for Sheering over the coming years. Then there will be a further period of consultation, before the Plan is submitted next year prior to a public examination in front of an Inspector. Look out for the announcements!

Anxieties about Junction 7a on the M11

Many residents attended the exhibition of the latest plans for Junction 7a on the M11, which Essex County Council held at Sheering Village Hall on June 8th. The Government has now conceded that the go-ahead for Junction 7a should be given before Junction 7 is reconstructed to increase its capacity. Without Junction 7a, the planned major works at Junction 7 would cause unbelievable hold-ups affecting local businesses and residents. However, I still have some major concerns about Junction 7a.

The latest plans include an additional roundabout close to the new Sheering Road roundabout, which Councillor Rodney Bass, Portfolio Holder at Essex County Council, describes as a 'future-proofing' feature, designed to make provision for a future Harlow Northern Bypass. However, it's accepted that such a Bypass may not be built for 20-30 years, if ever, so the reality is that the additional roundabout has been included only as part of an attempt to reassure Old Harlow residents who are the principal opponents of Junction 7a. If built, this roundabout would threaten Lower Sheering with a new route, constructed on stilts across the Stort valley which would serve no useful purpose at all as it's not feasible to design a new junction today that may not be required for many years.

I'm also concerned that no traffic projections have been included for Sheering Lower Road and The Street after Junction 7a opens. These are notable omissions which arouse suspicions among many residents that traffic levels will increase.

If you share my anxieties, please let me know at gary.waller@which.net.

Parish Council News

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 27 April, and attendance was slightly up on last year. Among the Agenda items for the meeting was what has now become an established part of this meeting, that of the Sheering Young Citizen and Citizen Of The Year Awards.These awards continue to gain interest within the community which is encouraging. The recipients of this years awards, and details of their nominations are covered separately here in Sheering News. The guest speaker this year was Jacqueline Parker, Assistant Manager of Epping Forest District Council, Careline Service. Jacqueline gave a very informative presentation of the work carried out by the Careline Service, together with an explanation of the various types of emergency call services, offered, which was very well received by those present.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting, held on 25th May, includes the election of Chairman and Vice Chair for the ensuing year. I am pleased to confirm that I was re elected Chairman and with Councillor Caves stepping down as Vice Chair, which was announced at the Annual Parish Meeting, I am pleased to confirm the election of Councillor Clare Steward as Vice Chair, and our best wishes are extended to Councillor Steward on her appointment. With this being the start of the new year for the Parish Council, we see the year ahead a busy and challenging one with some major issues on the agenda for Sheering and surrounding parishes and towns coming to fruition, some of which I outline below, together with an update on current issues being dealt with by the Parish Council.

Playgrounds

I am pleased to report, and some of you will already know, that the new slide and safety flooring has now been installed in the Village Recreational Ground, this being in good time for the lighter evenings and the forthcoming school summer holidays. The Parish Council are now reviewing the equipment in the Lower Sheering Recreational Ground and it is hoped to seek funding from the Community Initiatives Fund, for replacing/updating some of the equipment here, particularly the climbing frame

Cricket Hut

The cricket hut has now long gone, but unfortunately, due to the weather conditions which we had hoped would have improved by now, it has not been possible to access this area with plant and equipment to remove the base and tidy up this area. It is hoped this work will be carried out within the next month or two, when the ground should have dried out.

M11 Junction 7A

The latest exhibition on the proposals for this junction was held in the Village Hall on June 8th. At the moment, the Parish Council has not received any feed back on those attending although this was requested, but considering the consultation period runs until 6th July, this may be the reason. (this report being prepared before that date). The consultation period, as I have said, runs until 6th July, by which time any objections to the proposals should have been lodged with Essex County Council. Whilst it may be a foregone conclusion that the scheme will go ahead, this has not prevented the Parish Council from lodging objections to the proposals considered, or not, as the case may be, for dealing with traffic volume and traffic management along The Street/Sheering Road and Sheering Lower Road. The Parish Councils objections outline the complete disregard in the proposals for traffic calming measures to both The Street and Sheering Lower Road. The Parish Council have therefore requested that the proposal includes an additional controlled crossing be provided along the Street, located near the shops/post office, to slow traffic down before speeding along towards the school and the mini roundabout adjacent to the Crown Public House. The suggestion in the consultation document that traffic along this road is likely to reduce by 23% with the introduction of the new junction, is difficult to comprehend. In Sheering Lower Road, the proposal is to erect signage either end of the road advising “Access Only”. The Parish Council see this as ineffective and an unworkable solution of traffic management with the likely increase in traffic volume along this road, with the road being used as a cut through to the proposed new Sheering Road roundabout. The current signage either end of this road advising “Unfit For HGVs” is constantly ignored, causing extreme difficulties for passing traffic. Likewise, the same attention to the proposed signage will apply. The Parish Council in their objection have therefore required speed bumps or chicanes along the residential part of Sheering Lower Road to slow the traffic down and make this route to Sheering Road more time consuming, than traffic using the A1184 to the Mark Hall roundabout. Having submitted our objections, the Parish Council will endeavour to meet with our Essex County Councillor to push further what we consider to be essential requirements for Sheering with all associated costs being included as part of the infrastructure costs of the new junction.

Street Parking

Street Parking, especially around Four Acres, Meadow Way and Ash Groves, continues to be a problem as a result of what is largely, commuter parking. This problem was recently exacerbated by double parking in a section of Four Acres,

which prevented the refuse collection vehicles being able to access Four Acres for bin collection. This issue was photographed on the day, and the photographs forwarded to District Councillor, Councillor Gary Waller, who is Portfolio Holder for Safer Greener and Transport at Epping Forest District Council. Having taken this matter up with Councillor Waller, he has confirmed that the proposals for parking restrictions submitted in February 2015 for the area, remain on the list of the North Essex Parking Partnership, who are responsible for implementing these schemes because it has the backing of the Parish Council and Councillor Waller, in his capacity of District Councillor for Lower Sheering. The Parish Council will make every effort to have this scheme included in the next list of proposed schemes when they come up for recommendation in October.

Green Belt Review

The Parish Council is advised that Epping Forest District Council is looking at providing 11,300 new homes across the district as a starting point. At the present time we have been unable to establish the date when parish councils will be advised on the number of new homes each parish will be expected to accommodate, but the date of October this year has been mooted. What we do know is that the overall programme for the Green Belt Review and the Local Plan, is in serious delay.

Epping Forest Local Plan

Epping Forest continue to work towards completing their preferred options plan, the completion of which, as already mentioned, is in serious delay against their original planned intentions. Extensive meetings have yet to take place before this document is complete, for which the last forecast date was given as the Autumn of 2017.

Planning

Throughout the year to April 2016, the Parish Council have reviewed and commented on 53 planning applications throughout the Parish which have included new developments, extensions and alterations, together with tree crown reductions where tree preservation orders are in place.

Rodney Northwood

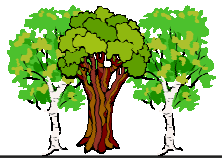
Chairman

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 2016 are:

Wednesday	**17 August**
Wednesday	**28 September**
Wednesday	**26 October**
Wednesday	**30 November**

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

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CM22 7LZ

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District Councillors

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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

Continuing the History of Sheering School

Melinda Smith: School Mistress 1879-1895

Our knowledge of Sheering School for the first sixty years of its existence is inevitably sketchy. Our real knowledge of the school dates from 3rd February 1879, when the first School Log Book was written. The 1870 Education Act required all schools receiving annual grants to keep a Log Book or diary. The Headmaster or Mistress had to make an entry in the log book at least once a week. School Log books had to be kept up to date, as they were examined by the School Inspectors. The content could include information about pupil attendance and factors affecting attendance, such as extreme weather conditions or local epidemics, as well as inspectors' visits, timetables, subjects taught and celebratory events. The amount of information recorded depended very much on particular Headmasters or Mistresses and some log books are much fuller in their daily entries than others. As you can imagine the school log books of Sheering School give a fascinating and informative insight into school life, especially during the last thirty years of the 19th Century and the first thirty years of the 20th Century.

The first entry in the Log Book for Sheering School was made by Miss Melinda Smith, who had become the School Mistress (although uncertificated) on 1st January 1879 at the age of 21. Miss Smith had been born in 1857 in Bishop's Stortford. From the 1881 Census we know that Melinda Smith, now aged 24, was living in the School House, together with her widowed mother, Ellen Smith, and a pupil teacher, Emily Bishop, aged 17. Miss Smith meticulously wrote entries in the School Log Book for sixteen years until 1895, with detailed entries about school visitors, school inspections, school attendances and school closures. She never expressed her opinions or shared her emotions, but we can learn so much from the Log Books, which she kept, about the education which the children received.

In the 1870s the prosperity of arable farming was declining, due to cheap corn being produced in the United States. Many farms were verging on bankruptcy and this reflected on village life and especially school attendances. In the countryside child labour was still useful and some parents were opposed to their children attending school, because of the financial loss involved. School holidays were aligned to the farming year and in the Log Books of Sheering School we see frequent entries deploring poor attendance, especially at harvest time. Thus the entry for 10 October 1879 reads: "*Several children away during the week owing to gleaning not being over.*" In September 1880 two days holiday were given for gleaning and in September 1885 two and a half days holiday were given. In times of hardship a woman could glean enough grain in the autumn to keep her in bread for the winter.

Illness took a heavy toll, especially in the winter months. Scholars were often absent owing to outbreaks of mumps, measles, scarlet fever and whooping cough, ailments which could be fatal. In 1881 the school was closed from 5th October to 7th November owing to the Mistress herself having scarlet fever. In January 1886 a pupil, *"little Arthur Monk"* died of the scarlet fever and the school was closed for ten weeks. In 1891 the school was closed for five weeks due to an outbreak of measles.

The school was closed for various other reasons during the time Miss Smith was mistress. In October 1886 the school was closed for two days owing to the fixing of a new stove in the main room. A further two days holiday were given at the end of the month, as the workmen had not finished. Another day's holiday was given in February 1889 for the fixing of the stove. In 1888 a half day holiday was given, so that the pupils could attend the funeral of the local dignitary, Mr Glyn. In October 1889 a half day holiday was given, so that the children could join in the Village Festivities to celebrate the marriage of Mr Egerton J. Glyn. In July 1893 a whole day holiday was given in honour of the Royal Wedding of the future King George V and Queen Mary.

Some measures were taken to alleviate hardship in the village. In 1882 a Shoe Club was opened to ease the financial burden for parents. A wet day was a menace for children who had no overcoats or sturdy boots. Sadly in 1884 five boys from the same family were "*obliged to go to Epping Union, their home having been broken up.*"

Children were expected to pay school fees, which were levied on a sliding scale, starting at a few pence for the first child and reducing, according to how many children in the family attended school, down to no payment for the youngest. Progress towards free elementary education began in the 1890s. An Act of 1891 gave schools a grant

of ten shillings a year to replace the 3d a week usually given by parents. The Rector himself wrote in the Log Book in September 1891. "*As it has been determined that the school should avail itself of the Free Education Act, it was resolved that the pennies paid by the children on 31 August should be returned to the parents"* The amount repaid totalled 8 shillings and 8d.

Canon Edward Hill, the Rector of Sheering for over half a century from 1849 until his death in 1900, made frequent visits to the school, often five times a week. He sometimes took Morning and Evening Prayers and checked the registers had been marked correctly, making an appropriate note in the Log Books. He sometimes took lessons. In October 1884, when the Assistant Teacher was absent, he taught the First Class for two days. The local gentry took their duties as managers very seriously, making visits to the school to inspect the needlework, to hear the children sing and even to teach knitting. The most important local dignitaries were members of the Glyn Family, who lived in Durrington House. The Glyn family, which owned large tracts of land around Sheering in the 19th Century, were co-founders of the Williams and Glyn's Bank (now part of the Royal Bank of Scotland.)

At the beginning of each new school year a list of songs to be taught was entered in the Log Book, together with a list of "Object" Lessons. An "object lesson" was where the focal point of the lesson were objects as diverse as a watering can, a ladder, a wheelbarrow, a knife, a boot, a lamp, or a pair of spectacles. Songs which were taught included "Home sweet home", "The Sunbeam"; "The Butterfly" "Be kind to thy father" and for the Infants action songs such as "Hold the right hand up" and "See the neat little clock."

Timetables were important, having to be submitted, approved and followed, or a reason had to be written in the Log Book. A frequent entry in the Log Book was "School work as usual throughout week." The timetable would include: Scripture, Arithmetic, Reading, Drawing (for the boys), Needlework (for the girls), Tables and Grammar, Scripture was the first lesson in the morning, except when the scholars attended a church service, for example on Ash Wednesday or Ascension Day. On those days the scholars had "secular" instruction for their first lesson.

The most important visitor to the school, however, was the HMI making his Annual Inspection. The importance of the visit could not be overemphasised, because of the ruthless system of "payment by results" established in 1862 under the Revised Code to save money and simplify the administration of the Department of Education. Pupils were arranged in six standards: each pupil could earn his school 12 shillings a year, if he passed the appropriate tests in reading, writing and arithmetic, and if he attended school regularly. The code was reconsidered every year and laid out the grant- earning requirements for schools. Details were worked out by civil servants, often university graduates who knew nothing about schools. Application of the Code was carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectors. The mistress' salary at Sheering School, as well as the salary of the Assistant Teacher, depended on her pupils' results. The Mistress taught the older children and the Assistant Teacher taught the younger pupils. A pupil Teacher often taught the Infants.

The reports of the HMIs are included in the Log Books. The report for 1879 stated that "*The school seems to have made a fair start under Miss Smith and is likely to prosper under her care. Many of the younger children in the First Standard are extremely backward in all subjects".* In 1880 the report confirmed that *"the school is in good order, but there is much room for improvement in the instruction of the school. Arithmetic is very weak. The issue of a certificate to Miss Smith is deferred for better results in Arithmetic."* The issue of a certificate to Miss Smith was also deferred in 1881, as she was too ill to give a lesson on the day of the Inspection, although the Inspector did comment that the *"scholars seem to be carefully and conscientiously taught by Miss Smith."* Miss Smith finally received her certificate in 1882, when the Inspector commented that "*the scholars are in good order and are making progress. Considerable improvement is still desirable in Arithmetic and Spelling.*

In 1883 the Inspector reported that the "*discipline is praiseworthy. The scholars appear happy and intelligent. In simple arithmetic problems they seem at a loss what to do."* In 1884 the Inspector felt much hesitation in recommending payment, as "the *pupils' attainments are disappointingly low."* The grant was *"barely earned" in 1885. The* Inspector at the next examination in 1887

was also critical of the instruction. *"The grammar of the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Standards is most defective and must greatly improve to obtain again the recommendation of any grant for English*." In 1888 the work *was "somewhat better than last year*." The Inspector was able to recommend payment of the Merit Grant on the same scale as last year. "*But improvements in attainments will be expected and ought not to be difficult to achieve."*

Even the managers came under criticism in the 1888 Report The Inspector reported that the *"warming of the main room, to which the managers have given considerable attention, is nevertheless so defective that better arrangements for heating are absolutely necessary*."

There was some general improvement in 1889 and 1890, The Inspector commented in 1890 that In the Infant Classroom the *"Object Teaching is vigorous, and when the children have been taught to be more orderly and to answer by show of hands, will probably be effective. "* In 1892 the Inspector reported that the school "*is not without its merits, but the work is very disappointing."* In 1893 the Managers were criticised *for "not testing the registers at least once a quarter."* In 1894 things got worse The Inspector warned the managers that at the next inspection the grant to the school might be withheld if the school is again reported *"inefficient."*

This report seemed to galvanise the managers and the school into some sort of action. On several occasions in the autumn term 1894 one of the managers Mrs Georgina Broke of Gladwyns, took the scholars for reading lessons. The Log Book also contains a list of useful information for preparing for the next inspection. At the inspection on 29th February 1895 Mrs Broke was present for the greater part of the time. The efforts seemed to pay off, as the Inspector commented *that "a marked change for the better has been produced and the school is now very fairly efficient. The children are certainly brighter than they were last year."*

This Inspection report is immediately followed in the Log Book by the Diocesan Report for April 1895, which stated that *"the discipline and tone as usual is very nice indeed."* The Religious Inspection of the School was always carried out every year by a separately appointed cleric. These reports were on the whole probably more favourable to the school, but strangely not one was reported in the Log Book, while Miss Smith was Mistress, except for this report.

After the 1895 HMI and Diocesan Inspections the school managers must have assumed that Sheering School had turned a corner under the leadership of Miss Smith. However, the next entry in the Log Book, on 15th April and written by Canon Edward Hill states that Miss Smith has resigned, having been appointed a Mistress of a school in Norfolk. In consequence of the change of staff, Miss Grace Mills, the Assistant Teacher left Sheering School at the same time.

We know from the 1901 Census that Miss Smith had become School Mistress of Cranworth School in Thetford, Norfolk. She was the "Headteacher" in the 1911 Census. Miss Melinda Smith was succeeded by Mr William Smith, Certificated Master 1st Class, the first Master to be appointed to Sheering School.

The next article in the series will explain why Mr Smith's tenure of the post lasted less than two years.

Philip Hays

Headteacher 1982 - 2009

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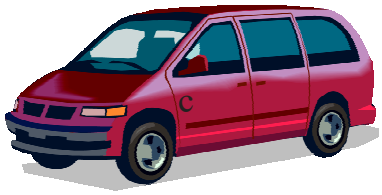

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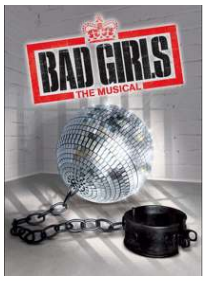

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Directed by Brenda Jones

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Nina Forth

Victoria Hall Theatre, Old Harlow

Tickets – www.ticketsource.co.uk/harlowtheatrecompany

Nostalgia Day

A day of nostalgia is being held on Saturday 12 November at Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall. There will be a performance by children from the local theatre group Diverse Performing Arts, plus professional singer Aimi Percival who will lead us in rousing patriotic songs. Children can also take part in activities related to remembrance.

Vintage military vehicles will be on display at the Hall. If you wish to go to the Airfield Memorial first in a vintage military vehicle to pay your respects to those we remember there, be at the Memorial Hall by 10.30 to be back by 11.30.

Everyone is welcome to come in dress from the 1940's/1950's era or military uniform but not compulsory. Free tea, coffee and cake. Bar will be open from 12 noon. Entry is free to this event but donations would be appreciated for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

The support of Stansted Airport Passenger Community Fund with this event is greatly appreciated. In the evening a vintage inspired musical trio will perform nostalgic wartime songs, plus dancing and food – further information can be obtained by contacting David Mead 01279 724503 david.mead7@btinternet.com

Sheering WI

Once more our group has had an interesting few months with varied speakers on 20th Century Comedians, Country Care & Metal detecting where we were shown some really interesting finds, including a replica of an ancient ring that is on display at Saffron Walden museum. We held our AGM and are now planning our summer lunch party, so we're hoping to buck the trend and have a sunny day! Do come along to our next meeting in September where Andy Bridgeman is going to tell us all about bee keeping. September 13th @ 7.30 in the small village hall, you'll be most welcome. ☺
Sheena Pike

Sheering Short Mat Bowls Club

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Sheering Village Pre-School CIC

We have had a good couple of months here at Sheering Village Pre-School.

The older children had their annual visit to Sealife Adventure in Southend which was a real success. The weather was beautiful which enabled us to have snack on the sea wall when we arrived. The children then observed some wonderful sea creatures and were even able to get up close to Patrick the Starfish and Eddie the Edible Crab! They came away with some fabulous knowledge and enjoyed their experience of a day out with just pre-school staff and their friends - a great introduction to a 'school trip.'

All children took part in our sport's day and, again, we were blessed with good weather. We had the usual obstacle, relay and throwing races but no sport's day would be complete without the egg and spoon race. We even had time to involve the mums and dads but sneakily made the dads run just a bit further with obstacles in place for good measure! The mums' race was won by Poppy's mum, Bev and then Jamie's dad, also called Jamie, won the dads' race. They graciously received their medals and prizes!

We made sure we made a fuss of all the dads on Father's Day by making cards and giving potted plants as gifts. The children worked extremely hard on these and they were greatly appreciated.

All children took part in the sponsored bounce - an annual fundraising event to raise much needed funds for pre-school. The total raised was just over £500 - well done, everyone!

We repeated one of our favourite activities again this year – watching caterpillars as they transform into cocoons and then into butterflies. We had a very good success rate which allowed every one of the older children to release one into our outside play area. This fascinates the children who ask every day to check on their progress. They tell the caterpillars to "eat more food!"

As part of our 'understanding the world' curriculum we have been carrying out experiments on whether certain items will float or sink in water. This provoked lots of thought processes before the children found out if their predictions were right or wrong. This also led to water play which is always good fun!

The children took part in the St Mary's Church Flower Festival – 'Flowers for Anniversaries.' Our theme was 'The Queen at 90.' We made a beautiful 'birthday cake' using flowers in an oasis. We teamed this up

with wrapped presents and pictures of the Queen as well as 'Happy Birthday' messages in several different languages. The older children visited the Church on the Monday following the flower festival and enjoyed looking at the array of beautiful displays. They liked hearing about the story behind each theme.

The younger children have enjoyed the fine weather by spending lots of time in the outside play area.

We are currently busy rehearsing for our Summer Concert taking place on 14 July. There are lots of songs relating to our theme of the summer term 'Under the Sea' and we are also perfecting 'Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes' in French and Spanish. It's amazing how well all the children have got to grips with this – they're doing better than the adults.

We have launched a new Facebook page entitled 'Sheering Village Pre-School' so be sure to head over and give us a 'like' to be kept up to date with our activities and events.

We wish you all a safe and happy summer.

Angie Rivoire

Manager

News from Sheering School

We have had an absolutely amazing term!

Ofsted arrived on the second day of the Summer term but it was all worth it when we received our final inspection report from Ofsted which confirmed that Sheering School is now a Good school. The report, which is on our school website, is so positive and reflects all the hard work and improvements that have happened since the last inspection in 2014, shortly after I arrived. The journey hasn't ended though and I look forward to the next phase which will take us to Outstanding.

On Tuesday 21 June we had some very important guests in school; the Bishop of Barking, Revd Peter Hill, spent the morning with us and residents, who were ex-pupils of the school came to meet the children and shared stories of what school life used to be like many years ago. Their visit marked the beginning of our 200th birthday celebrations and after Year 6 had served our guests with a cream tea, the whole school performed specially chosen songs. It was a very moving moment and I may have shed a tear, or two!

The children asked the Bishop and our visitors so many thoughtful questions and listened really carefully when they were speaking. We proudly showed Peter around

our school and talked to him about how the school has developed over the last two years. After his visit, Peter sent this message to Pamela Gaines, who had organised the visit;

'It was a real privilege and a treat to share the morning with you and especially the children. Mrs Brittaine and the staff are clearly deeply committed to strengthening the school academically, socially and spiritually, which was great to see'.

We look forward to inviting more members of the community to our Harvest events in the Autumn Term.

Even though the weather tried to ruin our day, we had the most wonderful street party (in the playground!) on 23 June which brought together the community of Sheering and our school community, including our new intake children for September. It was lovely to see Mr Hays (a former Head Teacher at Sheering) and his wife, members of the church and so many past teachers and

governors return to wish us Happy Birthday. The PTFA and Year 6 children helped to decorate the playground and the children sang beautifully for their parents and guests.

Earlier in the term, the PTFA ran a competition for the children to create a mug design to mark our 200th birthday. As the designs were so creative and carefully drawn, it was difficult to choose a winner but a design of the school, with our signature red doors, was our favourite. Each child has been presented with a mug

Apart from these special events we have also had our usual Sports Day when we had a fantastic day competing in the track races in the morning and having sporting fun in the afternoon. It was lovely to spend the day with parents, friends and family. I was very proud of the caring nature of our older children and the team spirit that they all demonstrated.

Other activities have included Enterprise week, Brittaine's Got Talent and a wonderful Summer Fair organised by the PTFA.

The year 6 children have again done brilliantly in their SATs with results higher than both Essex and national averages. In fact there were significant improvements in the end of Key Stage assessments for Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.

This term, all of our Key Stage 2 children (7-11 years) have started to learn to play the violin. We look forward to performing our pieces to audiences soon. If you have any musical instruments, particularly violins, that you could donate to the school we would be very grateful. Please contact the school office.

Lorna Brittaine

Headteacher

admin@sheering.essex.sch.uk

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Superfast Essex

At the recent Superfast Essex Countywide Parish Engagement Event, it was announced that the programme of works for fibre broadband in Sheering is due to be completed by December 2016.

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Applications are considered in November/December and payments are usually made in January of the following year.

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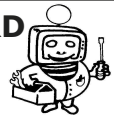

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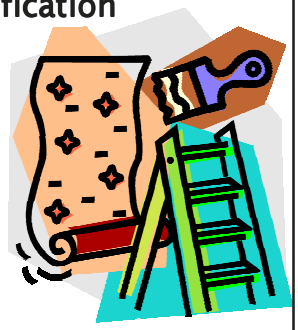

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Friends of St Mary's Sheering

Thirteenth Annual Concert – 14 May 2016

[This report from Caroline Harding, mother of one of the younger singers]

The phrase "children's concert" is enough to strike fear into the heart of the very bravest of parents. Any parent, grandparent, aunt or friend who has had to sit through infant recorder groups, over enthusiastic beginner violinists or percussion groups of various ages will know exactly what I mean. Even industrial ear defenders cannot block out the sound of Class One's recorder ensemble playing "Frere Jacques" and all for the brief two minutes your own child appears on stage.

However, this does not apply to the annual concert of Friends of St Mary's Sheering which is always well supported by child performers. This event has become well established within the early summer social calendar – a fixture as prominent as Ascot, Wimbledon or the FA cup final. An event around which dinner parties are planned, holidays are taken and homework assignments scheduled.

This year was no exception. We were treated to a plethora of delights from the children, ranging from piano playing, solo singing, duets and a wonderful violin rendition of Schindler's List. For those of us who have attended these concerts before, it is lovely to see some performers coming back and to witness their growth in musical talent as they mature into confident and well-polished performers. At a time when Music and Drama are being squeezed by schools' curricula it is fantastic to see young people being encouraged to perform and pursue something which they love and clearly have a great talent for.

Of course it would be remiss not to mention the adult performers who performed equally as well and kept us entertained throughout. From the Barbershop singers to the church choir, the brass band to the flute and vocal solos, it was an evening of musical delights.

Congratulations to all who performed and to all the parents who encourage the children in their instrument playing and singing and - to anyone who missed the concert - make sure you get a ticket for next year.

[The concert raised £590. 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 (this year over £40,000) such as utilities, insurance etc, and the "Parish Share" which is a large fixed contribution to central church funds. Friends Secretary]

Dates for your Diary

Our next Friends event is at the planning stage. Watch for posters around the village.

Church dates

You are always welcome to the service at 11.00 am on Sunday. In addition we hope you will be able to join us for the some or all of the forthcoming special events:

Harvest weekend: 16 September, 7.00 for 7.30 pm: Harvest Supper in the Village Hall. Tickets from Barbara Barker 734354

Saturday and Sunday 24 and 25 September: Displays in church and harvest stalls

Sunday 25 September, 6.30 pm: Harvest Songs of Praise, in church

Sunday 13 November, 10.55 am: Remembrance Service followed at 12 noon by an act of remembrance at the Village War Memorial.

Church News We have a new Vicar ☺. On Tuesday 5 July we welcomed Rev Dawn Jewson to lead us at St Mary's Sheering and our sister parish Holy Trinity Hatfield Heath. We very much look forward to getting to know her, and she is excited about getting to know everyone in the two parishes.

Flower Festival

A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Flower Festival over the weekend of 25 and 26 June. The theme was anniversaries. The flowers, food, stalls, music and services were great, and on Saturday the children had great fun doing competitions and having their faces painted. Visitors also admired an impressive display of work of children from Sheering School.

We are on the stained glass map!

Or at least, on 23 April we were on the itinerary of a three-day tour organised by Ely Cathedral stained glass museum, when a 50-seater coach-load of enthusiasts trundled down Church Lane to visit us. They were of course excited about the mediaeval glass at the top of the big east window, and our mermaid-fragment. They took the opportunity to look at other "old" bits around the building, and were particularly impressed with the one-slab-of-wood doors and their hinges in the tower, the main south door, the fragments of wall-painting, the modern glass in the tower and the painted wood over the chancel arch.

Special thanks to the group of residents who have taken up the challenge of helping to keep the churchyard mown and tidy. It is a mammoth task – especially as this "Summer's" rain making the grass grow so fast. (See diary for more details.)

Hospice appeals for green-fingered volunteers

The gardens of St Clare Hospice are a vital part of the care that the charity provides to patients and their families – offering a haven of peace and tranquillity to relax and enjoy nature in.

A committed team of volunteer gardeners help to keep the green space at the Hastingwood-based charity well cared for; but the Hospice are now appealing for even more green-fingered and kind-hearted people to join their existing team.

Paul Miller, Facilities Manager at St Clare Hospice, said: "The gardens at St Clare are one of the highlights of the Hospice for patients and their families. We are always receiving positive comments about the tranquil atmosphere and there are lots of secluded spots to enjoy the plants and flowers – giving families a chance for peace at one of life's hardest moments. We often pick flowers from the gardens to put into patients' bedrooms which brings a lot of enjoyment to them and their loved ones."

"The beauty of the gardens is all thanks to the committed team of volunteer gardeners who come every week – rain or shine – to tend to the grounds. But now that we have a new building with landscaped gardens surrounding it, as well as a huge array of flower beds in our newly renovated car parking area, we need even more green-fingered help. Many hands really do make light work – so the more people who can join us, the better!"

Volunteering in the gardens at St Clare is an enjoyable experience. Bob Pook, who has been a volunteer gardener for five years, said: "I took up a position as volunteer gardener and handy man at St Clare after I retired. I wanted to do something to keep me busy and working outside appealed to me. I have made some great friends amongst the other gardeners and we often go out to the pub to socialise. Volunteering has had such a positive impact on my life – as well as making a meaningful difference to the lives of those who come to St Clare."

St Clare is currently seeking enthusiastic, hardworking and visionary gardeners to help grow the green space at the Hospice. Duties will involve: tidying and weeding flowerbeds, cutting grass, pruning and composting. You will be working under the guidance of the Facilities Manager and will be part of a supportive team with training provided where necessary.

Hours are flexible, dependent on your availability, but must be between Monday and Friday.

For more information about how to become a Volunteer Gardener: stclarehospice.org.uk/volunteervacancies/volunteer-gardener/

You can also contact the Voluntary Services Manager, Chris Crump, directly chris.crump@stclarehospice.org.uk or call 01279 773722.

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The Hundred Parishes Society

Our area offers no end of opportunities for those who enjoy lovely countryside, attractive villages and places of interest. It is exceptionally rich in heritage and footpaths and well served by welcoming pubs and tea rooms.

We encourage you to explore somewhere local that you have not visited for a while, perhaps never even heard of. There is a list of all the hundred parishes on our website www.hundredparishes.org.uk. They appear on a diagrammatic map and each has a short introduction.

Most parishes have at least one ancient church. Although a third are usually locked, the majority are open to view and have leaflets explaining key features. If you enjoy looking round, please record your visit in their visitor book and drop some coins in the donation box. Most of the area's attractions are now open for the summer – a wonderful and varied choice of museums, gardens, galleries, windmills, stately home, zoo, etc. Most are listed on our website's Attractions pages with a link to their own website for opening times, etc. There are also a number of nature reserves, most of which can be visited at any time.

Our website What's On page lists specific events and opportunities. It is regularly updated and currently includes more than a hundred activities that are consistent with our aims to increase knowledge, enjoyment and conservation.

We rely on funding from membership subscriptions to keep our website live and to be able to expand the services we provide. Membership costs only £10 a year for a household, a council or any other organisation. If you are not already a member, please consider joining – the easiest way is to go to our website and select the Membership option.

Ken McDonald,

Secretary

From September 2016 105 there will be a new number that you can call to report or get information about a power cut.

POWER CUT? CALL 105

U3A
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

The University of the Third Age (U3A) started in France at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Toulouse in 1973.

By the early 1980's, the scheme reached the United Kingdom. It is now established in a number of Countries including Australia, New Zealand, the Dominican Republic and South Africa.

The University of the Third Age (U3A) movement is a unique and exciting movement which provides, through its U3As, life-enhancing and life-changing opportunities. Retired and semi-retired people come together and learn together, not for qualifications but for its own reward: the sheer joy of discovery!

Members share their skills and life experiences: the learners teach and the teachers learn, and there is no distinction between them. The U3A movement is supported by its national organisation, the Third Age Trust.
The Bishop's Stortford U3A started in 1985, and is one of the eldest and largest in Hertfordshire. It currently has in excess of sixty interest groups, with a total membership of approximately 1,200. It has a waiting list because of its popularity but if you are interested then view our website:- www.u3asites.org.uk/bishops-stortford.

Members of the Computer Group helping beginners.

Dogs must be micro chipped

Micro chipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015 came into effect from Apr 6 2016 so all dogs over the age of eight weeks must be micro chipped and registered with their keepers' contact details.

All keepers, including breeders, must keep these details up to date. The only exemption from the requirement is where a vet has certified in writing that a dog is unfit to be micro chipped.

Under the Micro chipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015, a dog is micro chipped when the chip and keeper details are registered on an approved database. The registration forms will be provided by the company that chips the dog.

Failure to comply will result in a notice being served requiring the keeper to microchip and register the dog within 21 days. Failure to comply with the notice could result in a fine of £500.

Anyone breeding dogs will be responsible for micro chipping their puppies before selling or giving them to new keepers. All imported dogs will need to have a microchip.

Breeders will be required to register their own details and these will be recorded against the microchip for the life of the dog. Microchip implanters must be trained and competent.

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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

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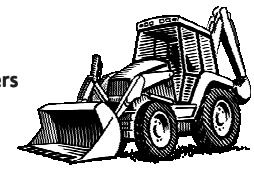

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Summer holiday fun at Essex Outdoors

Essex Outdoors' award winning action-packed School Holiday Activity Days are the ideal way for young people aged 8-16 to try exciting new outdoor experiences during the school summer holidays. The activity days cost £30 per child but Essex Outdoors are running their popular offer of a fifth day free if four School Holiday Activity Days are booked.

Running at all four Essex Outdoors centres (Bradwell, Danbury, Harlow and Mersea) young people will work in groups of ten and have the opportunity to take part in up to four fun, safe and challenging activities ranging from archery, canoeing and climbing to high ropes, mountain biking and zip wire.

Days run between 8.30 and 5.30 and dates vary at each centre, a full list is available at www.essexoutdoors.com/schoolholidayactivitydays

St Clare Hospice

Hand in hand we care

Christmas Shopping Morning
At Little Hallingbury Church
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9.00 - 1.00

Please come and support your local hospice and stock up early on Christmas presents from some well known favourites such as Phoenix cards, Usborne books, Seres Silk and Silver and Apatchy as well as some other unique local artisan stalls.

Be a Governor – We have a Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Community Governor at Sheering School. We're looking for a person to join the team and help make a positive contribution to the lives of the pupils.

You'll be offered a warm welcome, induction training, and a mentor to help you get up to speed. For more detailed information about the role of a Governor go to the National Governors Association website www.nga.org.uk which has lots of useful insight. If you would like to apply or talk to a current governor about the role in the first instance send an email to Helen in the office: admin@sheering.essex.sch.uk

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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	Matins or Morning Prayer
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

New Priest in Charge at St Mary's Sheering

Hello Sheering! My name is Dawn Jewson and I have the immense privilege of serving your community and its neighbours in Hatfield Heath as your new Priest in Charge (a role that's largely indistinguishable from that of a Vicar).

My family and I moved into the Vicarage in Hatfield Heath in late June. Previously we lived in Ealing, West London, for 30+ years and, although Ealing is renowned for being a 'leafy suburb', it can't lay claim to much in the way of fields or country lanes, so there has been much excitement in the family about the move! My previous church, where I was curate, was right on the high street in Southall, an area sometimes known as 'Little India', so the church context couldn't be more different too.

I am originally a Lancashire lass, husband Andrew is from Deal in Kent – we met while working in IT in London's Covent Garden - and our son Will was born and bred in West London. My background is in European languages, education and IT training, Andrew is an IT project manager working for HM Treasury in Westminster, and Will is studying Industrial Design at Loughborough University. Our cat Tiger is ginger and white, very cute and VERY naughty - but of course that's his job.

My first priority as Priest in Charge is to get to know as many people as possible in the two communities, to hear about people's concerns and their joys, and to see where we as the church can offer help, support and love. I know that both churches (St Mary's in Sheering and Holy Trinity in Hatfield Heath) are popular for weddings, christenings and Christmas services, but please know that we are here for you when life is difficult or challenging too. We've all been there (indeed some of us still are) and we know full well that we're not in a position to judge anyone else.

Would you like to meet up and chat about any of these things? Why not give me a call, send me a text or an email and let's have a tea or coffee together. I'd love to meet you, but if you're not ready for that right now, just hang onto my contact details; you never know when they might come in handy!

With every blessing,

Dawn

Rev Dawn Jewson
Priest in Charge
St Mary the Virgin, Sheering
Holy Trinity, Hatfield Heath

Vicarage/Parish Office: 01279 730288
Dawn's mobile: 07930 902507
Dawn's email: rev.dawn.jewson@gmail.com

News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge

August's open day on Sunday 21 sees a special Pirate Trail for our younger visitors with quizzes and challenges; though as ever there will be plenty for everyone to enjoy. This is also the month when the Italian Garden is at its best and well worth a visit.
There are guided tours at 12.30 & 2.30 which cover all aspects of the garden's history and there will be a selection of craft stalls on site.
Bacon rolls and cheese rolls will be on sale at "Daisy's" until 2.15 with hot and cold drinks and delicious homemade cakes available until 4.30.
We welcome people to bring their own picnics and now have picnic benches in the walled garden especially for visitors to use.
Gates open at 11.30 and the gardens close at 5.00 with last entry at 4.00. Entrance is only £4.00 for adults and children come in free of charge making it a very affordable day out, especially for families.
Dog lovers are reminded that their pets are more than welcome as long as they are kept on a lead.
If you need further information then please get in touch on 01371 876979 (unattended but if you leave a message we will get back to you), enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk or visit www.eastonlodge.co.uk.

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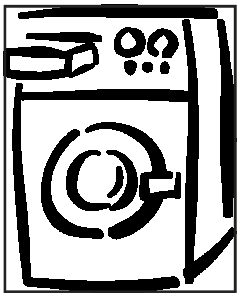

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