

SHEERING NEWS

(also in full colour at www.sheering.org.uk/news)

August 2013

116



The new bridge over Pincey Brook was opened a few weeks ago. First over the bridge was Sheering postman, Neil. Pictured with the contractors Debbie Tennant, Parish Clerk; Richard Morgan, District Councillor and Peter Hellmers, Parish Councillor.

**VILLAGE HALL AGM
WEDNESDAY
27 NOVEMBER
7.30**

**FLOWER SHOW
SATURDAY 31 AUGUST
SHEERING VILLAGE HALL
2.30**

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DIARY - also see www.sheering.org.uk/diary

AUGUST

Monday 26 Village Walk Village Hall Car Park at 10.30. Everyone welcome with or without dogs

Saturday 31 Sheering Annual Flowers, Produce & Crafts Show 2.30 Village Hall see page 26

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 4 Sheering School term starts

Tuesday 10 WI 7.30 for 7.45. All welcome. Barbara Barker 734354

Tuesday 17 Bingo Village Hall 7.30 for 8.00

Thursday 19 Mother & Toddler Group - come along and have a cup of tea and a chat with your little ones. Contact Beryl Gurteen 734316

Saturdays 14 & 21 Paediatric First Aid course Village Hall 9.00 to 3.30. Beryl 07881 557746

Friday 20 St Mary's Harvest Supper Village Hall 7.30 for 7.45 Barbara Barker 734354

Saturday 21 & Sunday 22- Harvest Stalls in St Mary's Church Room

Sunday 22 Harvest Service in St Mary's Church 11.00

Saturday 28 Sheering Craft and Produce Market Village Hall 10.00 - 2.00 refreshments available

OCTOBER

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

Tuesday 15 Bingo Village Hall 7.30 for 8.00

Thursday 17 Mother & Toddler Group - come along with your little ones and have a cup of tea and a chat. Contact Beryl Gurteen 734316

Saturday 19 Village Hall Quiz Tickets include Ploughman's Supper Beryl Gurteen 734316

Saturday 26 Craft Fair 10 - 2.00 Village Hall

NOVEMBER

Monday 1 Sheering News: copy date for advertisements and articles please

Tuesday 12 WI 7.30 for 7.45. All welcome. Barbara Barker 734354

Tuesday 19 Bingo Village Hall 7.30 for 8.00

Thursday 21 Mother & Toddler Group - come along with your little ones and have a cup of tea and a chat. Contact Beryl Gurteen 734316

Wednesday 27 Village Hall AGM 7.30

Saturday 23 Sheering Craft and Produce Christmas Market Village Hall 10.00 - 2.00 www.sheeringcraftandproducemarket.co.uk

DECEMBER

Tuesday 10 WI Christmas Meal - members only.

Friday 13 Carols and Mulled Wine Evening - Epping Brass Band Irene Harriss 734334

Tuesday 17 Bingo Village Hall 7.30 for 8.00

Thursday 19 Mother & Toddler Group - come along with your little ones and have a cup of tea and a chat. Contact Beryl Gurteen 734316

WEEKLY

In-shape Boot Camp 6.45 - 7.30 Beginner & Intermediate, 7.30 - 8.00 Advanced.

07775 663742 rachel_ibbotson@hotmail.com

Bridge Club: Thursdays 7.15 in the Village Hall

Brownies: Wednesdays 5.30 - 7.00 Church Room. Anne Croft 734391.

Guides: Wednesdays 7.00 - 8.30 Church Room. Jo Stewart 835689.

Pre-School: Every day during term time in the Village Hall. Beryl Gurteen 734316.

Short Mat Bowling Club: Mondays and Thursdays 7.00 - 10.00, **Thursdays** 1.10 - 4.00 in the Village Hall.

Slimming World Wednesdays 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 Wednesdays Crown car park 10.15-10.35; Sheering Village Hall 10.35 - 11.05 & Lower Sheering Bus Shelter 2.20 - 2.50. See page 19 for dates or www.sheering.org.uk/diary

Rural Police Bus Wednesdays Four Acres in Lower Sheering between 1.00 and 2.00 & The Street Sheering near to the Cock Pub between 2.10 and 3.00.

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 734354

Bingo Usually the third Tuesday in the month (but check notices). In the Village Hall in aid of Village Hall funds. All welcome. 7.30 for 8.00

Mother & Toddler Group Contact Beryl Gurteen 734316 18 April, 16 May, 20 June, 25 July

Letters



Dear Sheering News,
I read with interest your article in Sheering News for April 2013 concerning Pincey Brook Bridge. Linda Ainsworth mentions that residents in Church Lane are enjoying the lack of traffic. This may be the case. However, the nuisance caused by trying to reach Matching Tye and Carters Green via Churchgate Street has been immense. The extra mileage and time involved has irritated many people not least the poor postman who makes this trip daily to reach a handful of houses in High Lane. Similarly, those residents the other side of the bridge who need to use the post office and school in Sheering each day have regularly complained to Essex Council, the Member of Parliament and the District Councillor. Indeed the Bishop's Stortford Observer has carried several articles and photographs highlighting the problem over the past fifteen months. Hopefully, by your next edition, the bridge will be open and normal service will be resumed.

Janet Whitehead,
Church Lane,
Sheering

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Dear Resident,

Green Belt

I am regularly asked about the Green Belt.

The Green Belt is incredibly important to Sheering residents, and I take great pride in it. Although there is pressure for more affordable housing, we should do everything possible to preserve our green belt. There is no shortage of brown field sites on which to build, and so we should protect it wherever possible.

What happens in your land, your neighbourhood, and your community should be down to you. As MP, it is my job to represent the views of local people. This is why I have spent lots of time representing Sheering residents' views to Epping Council in relation to the Epping Plan.

EU Referendum

The last time the British people had their say on the European Union was 38 years ago. Our relationship with Europe is now completely unrecognisable to what it was then.

We now have different pressures which do not line up with EU membership in the same way - our financial, immigration and trade priorities have changed.

We need a fresh relationship with Europe

which serves Britain's interests.

I believe the people of Harlow should have their say by having an In/Out referendum on EU membership. Please visit www.lettharlowdecide.com to join the campaign.

Very best wishes,

Robert Halfon.

P.S. I continue to fight the greedy oil companies for lower fuel prices, and will keep putting pressure on the Government to further decrease fuel duty. Read more here:

www.roberthalfonblog.com/2013/06/05/city-am-reports-on-petrol-receipts/

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see www.sheering.org.uk/villagehall



Robert Halfon MP

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- Lower Taxes for Lower Earners

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- A Fair Deal for Pensioners
- Protecting our Green Belt and Villages
- Getting our powers back from the EU
- Campaigning for a New M11 Junction 7a

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Gary Waller, Epping Forest District Councillor for Lower Sheering

Moving forward with the Local Plan

Work on the Epping Forest Local Plan continues to be the most important matter preoccupying councillors at the present time.

Some earlier forecasts of the likely timetable now look hopelessly optimistic as the amount of work involved becomes clearer.

Everyone is well aware that a high proportion of Local Plans submitted to Inspectors by other local authorities around the country have been found 'unsound', requiring them to go back to the drawing board. Such an outcome would be something that nobody wants because it would involve a great deal of additional expense – inevitably falling on Council Tax payers - and yet further delays.

A key question relates to the extent of the population increase that we have to anticipate, and therefore the number of additional homes planned for the next 20 years. As a member of the Cabinet, I recently attended a lengthy meeting when consultants addressed us at great length – for well over two hours – on all the many variables that could affect this growth.

Another requirement arises from the fact that there is a legal duty for planning authorities to co-operate with neighbouring councils in working towards their completed Local Plans. As Epping Forest district has as many as 11 neighbours - in Greater London, Essex and Hertfordshire - plus other significant consultees such as the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, this is a very long drawn out process, but our Plan could be found 'unsound' if it's shown that the Council has not consulted adequately with just one of them, or if the population increase we've put forward doesn't stand up to critical examination. Indeed, many Councils have failed because they did not allow for enough new homes in their own districts.

Our Council has arranged a number of Saturday workshops when town and parish councillors have worked with their district counterparts to try to determine where growth should be concentrated. Two more such workshops are planned for the coming months. By now all the decision-makers are well aware of the points I have emphasised – that Lower Sheering does not have the infrastructure to support any significant housing increase and that our community is surrounded by high quality agricultural land on which we should not encroach.

Naturally everyone is anxious about the outcome,



but we need to be patient for quite a bit longer – it's more important to get it right than to produce a quick result that fails the test.

Council Tax to be held down

In June the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which included a 10 per cent cut in the funding made available to local authorities – a massive reduction to assimilate – and many Councils have made it known that this will cause them difficulties.

Fortunately Epping Forest District Council is well placed to deal with this cut because we run a tight ship and regularly review all our processes to ensure that services are provided as efficiently as possible. Reserves have also been built up to insure against just such eventualities as are now being experienced. I'm therefore quietly confident that not only will Council Tax be frozen at the present level next May but cuts to front-line services will be avoided.

In harsh economic times local residents and local businesses have found life tough. It's up to their Council to show it's on their side by steering clear of any demands for higher tax contributions to pay for services.

The Ongar Ploughing Match

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The Secretary - Miss H McTurk
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opmsecretary@tiscali.co.uk

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As you will see we are now offering some colour advertising in Sheering News. This means that more of the news & photos can be in colour too.

Please contact us if you would like to change from black and white to colour or take out a new advertisement. Prices in the table below.

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Parish Council News

John Harrington

John Harrington has stepped down as Chairman after 11 years. He was thanked for his hard work on behalf of the Parish Council and the village and presented with a set of engraved glasses. He remains a Councillor. Rodney Northwood has taken over as Chairman and Sheila Caves as Vice Chairman.

Litter Pick

A litter pick is suggested for weekend of 28/29 September. Every resident in both Lower Sheering and Sheering Village is invited to tidy up the area around where they live.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting took place in April and Parish representatives gave their reports. The meeting was attended by about 30 residents and two police officers answered questions.

Accounts

The Accounts were agreed by the internal auditor.

Sheering Bridge

Sheering Bridge over Pincey Brook is now open.

Village Hall Car Park

The Village hall car park resurfacing has been completed and the street lighting has been upgraded.



Parish Council Tree Warden

David Le Grys 734160



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 are:

Wednesday	21	August
Wednesday	25	September
Wednesday	23	October
Wednesday	20	November
No meeting in December		

Parish Councillors

Rodney Northwood - Chairman	724514
Bill Bedford	734229
Graham Bishop	830234
Kath Brewster	734318
Sheila Caves	725578
John Harrington	722556
Peter Hellmers	734337
Lisa Horsfall	734888
David Le Grys	734160
Richard Morgan	731243
Clare Steward	734058

Clerk to the Parish Council

Debbie Tennant 734580
 sheeringpc@gmail.com
 1 New Row
 The Street
 Sheering
 Herts
 CM22 7LZ

District Councillors

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

County Councillor

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

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

An evening of Magic, Music and Mystery

A wonderful evening of entertainment has been arranged while raising funds for the Injured Soldiers Charity for the brave forces of the local Bomb Disposal Unit at Carver Barracks who help to keep us safe. This will be happening on



Saturday 28 September in Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall – doors open 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start. You will be entertained by the versatile professional singer Aimi Percival and Magic Circle magician Gavin. Tickets are only £10 each to include a buffet. Book early for the special offer of buy 5 and get 1 free. The bar will be open and a raffle will be held. Tickets available from Hazel Mead 01279 724503 e-mail hazelmead404@btinternet.com mobile 0770 906 8882

being thrilled by professional 1940's entertainer Fiona Harrison "A Voice in a Million", also a performance by children from the local theatre group Diverse Performing Arts. Children can take part in activities related to remembrance. There will be some military vehicles to look at. If you wish to go to the Airfield Memorial first in a military vehicle to pay your respects to those who we remember there, be at the Memorial Hall by 10.30am to be back by 11.30am. Everyone is welcome to come in dress from the 1940's/1950's era or military uniform. War time food to purchase. Free tea and coffee. Bar will be open. All welcome from 12 noon - entry is free to this event but a recommended donation of £3 per person would be appreciated as all profit raised will be for the Injured Soldiers Charity Fund Bomb Disposal Unit at Carver Barracks, Saffron Walden and the Memorial Hall. Further details from David Mead 01279 724503 david.mead7@btinternet.com

Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall presents:

A special afternoon of nostalgia on Saturday 9 November as last year was so well received,

Village Hall

Since the last report we were successful in obtaining a grant from Stansted Airport to help us with funding refurbishing our washrooms and the work was carried out at

P & R Travel

August Days Out



Date	Excursion	Adult	Child
August 3	Southend on Sea	£20.00	£15.00
August 6	Cadbury World	£50.00	£43.25
August 10	Waddesdon	£39.00	£30.00
August 16	Thorpe Park	£50.00	£41.00
August 17	Boulogne France	£50.00	£40.00
August 21	Woburn Safari Park	£47.50	£39.50
August 23	Clacton Air Show	£20.00	£15.00
August 28	Brighton	£30.00	£20.00

For further trips please call for our brochure 01279 724318

Local pick-ups: Sawbridgeworth, High Wych,
Old Harlow. Sheering. Hatfield Heath

the end of May.

There have been some new groups set up: Mothers and Toddlers on the 3rd Thursday of the month -19 September, 17 October, 21 November and 19 December but not during school holidays - and Slimming World on Wednesday evenings each week.

The Murder Mystery Evening proved to be too expensive to organise so we had a Race Night instead which had 'sponsorship' from Spi-design, (web design etc.), Magic Steam (carpet cleaning), Mulberry Green Estate Agents and Wilson Davis Solicitors. A very enjoyable evening was had by all and a profit of over £300 was made for Village Hall funds.

The Flower Show will be held at the end of August so we hope there will be lots of exhibits. The Village Hall Quiz Night is planned for Saturday 19 October.

Beryl Gurteen

Village Walks

Twelve people and a couple of dogs took advantage of the lack of traffic to walk down Church Lane on Good Friday.

It was almost impossible to walk



the fields as it was so boggy.

Work to the bridge over Pincey Brook was well underway and everyone agreed it was an improvement on the old one.

We carried on to the Fox, where we had a stop for refreshments and then a ramble back.

The next walk is August Bank Holiday Monday. Meet at the Village Hall car park at 10.30.

Debbie Tennant

Sheering Short Mat Bowls Club

Monday and Thursday Evenings

7.00pm - 10.00pm.

Thursday Afternoon

1-30pm - 4.00pm.

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Learning to play bridge

Most people who come to bridge classes are between 50 and 75 and do so because they want to improve their social lives and playing bridge gives ample opportunity for that.



There are many bridge clubs in our area meeting every day of the week except Saturday. That's the day for the innumerable social games played at home accompanied by tea and cake or sometimes supper and wine - your choice!

Anyone can learn though it is easier for

people who are familiar with cards. If you know what the suits are and have played any sort of card game with your children or grandchildren you should be fine, especially if these are trick taking games .

Our lessons start at the very beginning and while we do follow a set programme we can alter the pace to suit the needs of the group. Everyone is invited to come along to their first class without obligation. Obviously we hope that people will enjoy it and decide to sign up for the first six weeks. If, however, they decide that bridge is not for them there is no problem and nothing is owed.

Through bridge we have made many new friends because bridge players tend to be very sociable people.

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For more information contact
Brian & Penny Hassell
Tel: 01279 721428
email: Hassells2@gmail.com



Golf Day

3rd July saw the S.H.A.M.S (Sheering Hackers and Moaners Society) Golf Day.

Patrons of the Crown recently set up their golf society, arranged their day at Blakes Golf Club in North Weald, and had a great time. 20 people in all, with the goal of fun and socialising. All involved returned to the Crown for prize giving and evening meals washed down with a cool refreshing beverage.



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September 5, 19

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November 14, 28

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Neighbourhood Watch

I set up the Matching Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) group three years ago and I received the support from not only the Parish Council but many Parishioners as well. I have a database of 200+ residents all on email. I have regular updates from the Police and pass this information out to our residents. Sometimes, it may be that I hear first from a resident regarding a burglary or a suspicious vehicle and I can pass the information onto others, I always keep details confidential unless requested to do otherwise. Over the last 2 years I have been invited onto a committee which is the Epping Forest District NHW Steering Group. We have met with many senior Police officers and our new Police Crime Commissioner who was impressed by our work, including that of the Matching group I am delighted to say. The Police wish to strengthen the partnership between NHW and themselves as it is seen to be a very successful marriage of the two. I was glad to have been at your last NAP meeting and I asked if there was interest for somebody to form a group in Sheering? I have since then had a few residents approach me and join our NHW, which I am more than happy to include them in, but I feel it would be far more of a success if the crimes and concerns that I distribute to them were more personal to their village. I therefore, wanted to put this opportunity to you and your Council to see if there was an interested party willing to take on the role for Sheering? I would happily meet and explain what it is that I do here in Matching and offer



them support and advice during their launch. As from the Epping Forest District NHW point, we can offer all sorts of supplies and information to help with the elderly and more vulnerable in the community,

from stickers, to message in a bottle, leaflets and general help and advice. We can be as involved as needed or as invisible as the co-ordinator requires. There may even be smaller groups in existence that we are unaware of, and if this is the case we can register them and support them with information for them to give out to their members. We do not wish to take over any groups but we want them to have the full access to information to

make them more successful. If you feel that this would be of interest then I would be glad to hear from you and help to get the ball rolling, so to speak.

Our group here has been amazingly successful, I am delighted to say that we have been encouraged by so many which has made it a pleasure to be part of. If you have any interested person/s we would be happy to help, or even if you have any further questions.

Tracey Graham
NHW Co-ordinator for
Matching Parish & EFDNHW
Steering Group

The Parish Council asked to put this article in the Sheering News asking for interested parties.

Debbie Tennant
Sheering Parish Clerk
sheeringpc@gmail.com
01279 734 580

Mobile Beauty Therapist

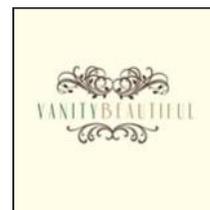
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News from Sheering School



Over the last couple of months we have been very busy developing our



partnership with Kiamuringa Primary School in Kenya.

This year has been an opportunity for our two schools to develop our relationship and drive our joint curriculum project forward.

In April Nicasio Njuru, a member of the Kiamuringa staff, visited our school. He enjoyed using the technology we have in school: computers, digital cameras and an interactive whiteboard. Kiamuringa School has no electricity so Nicasio was fascinated to see how education in our school is enhanced by technology. It was also an opportunity for him to compare learning environments and to see the progress that our children make compared to children in Kenya.

The May half term holiday saw Miss Dooley and I travel to Kenya to visit the staff and children in Kiamuringa. As this was my second visit, I

was able to spend more time working with Margaret, the Headteacher, looking at progress made on our project and putting together plans for the continuation of the partnership. We were delighted to discover that Kiamuringa had worked very hard developing their part of the project. The long term aim is for the boarding section of their school to become self sufficient, providing all the food they need for the staff and



children. They have made a fantastic start by planting kale, onions, spinach, carrots, sweet potatoes, beans and maize. A cow has also been purchased to provide milk.

The vegetables are sold to the boarding section and the money is then used to buy more seedlings. Future funds will be used to buy materials to build a hen house so that the chickens can lay eggs. Rabbits will be bought and bred to provide food for the boarders, with the remainder being sold to local hotels.

Every child in the school has an opportunity to work on the project, planting seedlings and caring for the plants as they grow. Lack of rain is a problem in Kenya at the moment and there is

never enough water to give the plants a drink. Therefore it is important that the seedlings are bought locally to ensure that they will cope with the climate.



There are many other benefits gained from our partnership that have an impact on the teaching and learning in both schools. Whilst in Kenya I was able to support teachers with structuring lessons so that different abilities were catered for; something that isn't

usually done, but that we plan for naturally. The Kiamuringa staff have tried to replicate the positive,



caring ethos we have in Sheering in their school. From our point of view, we have

been impressed by the rigour used to teach English grammar to children in Kenya and it has shown us the capabilities of young children to take on this level of knowledge.

Our partnership has strengthened this year and I hope that we can look forward to many more years working with Kiamuringa.

Julie Lorkins

Sheering Village Pre-school C.I.C.

Stewart, the Rector, came in and spoke to the children about Palm Sunday and the children acted out the story for him.

The children had their usual end of term party with 'performing' adults and then we had our end of term coffee morning.

The older children have been to Sealife World in Southend and Ellie's Brunch in Sheering as well as our annual family outing to Paradise Wildlife Park in Broxbourne.

They also watched at close quarters, some caterpillars changing into butterflies, which is always received very keenly. The children had a caterpillar named after them and then they are able to observe it growing and eventually release it into the wild. The outside play area has been well used and the children love it.

This year we say 'goodbye' to 26 children and we have a 'healthy' in-take in September. In addition to the children we have also lost Lisa, who has been at the Pre-school for 7 years, she has gone to The Downs Primary School as a Teaching Assistant and Jane, who has been with us for a year, has been offered more training and opportunities at the dental practice she works for. We wish them both all the very best of luck in their futures.

This year our fundraising efforts have achieved around £4500. Some of the things we have done are: Greyhound Race nights in Harlow, abseiling down the water tower in Church Langley, Quiz Night, coffee mornings, sponsorships, 'cup o treats', Family Photo sessions as well as photos taken during pre-school sessions and a donation of £100.



We do lots of other smaller activities but they all add up to achieve this remarkable amount.

We have arranged for a Paediatric First Aid course to run from Sheering Village Hall on Saturdays 14th and 21st September 9.00 am to 3.30 pm. If you would be interested in attending this course please call Beryl on 07881 557746. This course is recognised by Essex. Places are very limited so first come first served.



We look forward to welcoming our new families in September as well as seeing the returning families. Happy holidays to everyone.

Beryl Gurteen
Pre-School Leader



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Peter Hellmers, regular contributor to Sheering News did the Coast To Coast Walk in May 2013

A collection of emails and pictures from the adventures of Peter Hellmers, his family and friends, on the Coast to Coast walk 2013.

Subject: Coast to coast 5-6th May

Hi Graham, days 1 and 2 left St Bees at 9.30 climbing to cliff top and up and up, there appears to be always twice the distance up than down. Weather good, arriving in Cleator around 3pm, tired but feeling pleased. Stopped on route at the 'Walk In' a quaint tea room run by Charlotte Drinkall, the surname is apparently a standing joke she likes to share with her customers, a really lovely lady. Booked into a hotel (I think they filmed the 'SHINING' there) very odd and spooky. However, we walked down the road to the 'Brook Inn' and had a wonderful meal for £15 really astonishingly first class. Up early and on to Dent Hill a daunting climb up into the clouds, tough but more to come. Descending to a forest, we then climbed again to eventually find



ourselves on a cliff edge, very scary, and now descending down a very steep incline, muddy, slippery, rocky, and narrow. It started to rain and got very windy, several becks (or brooks) crossed this dangerous path, but we reached the bottom safely, joined the road into Ennerdale Bridge and the start of the Lake District. Booked into a lovely B & B, having a dry out and drink in the 'Fox and Hounds' pub where I received a phone call from Mark and Judy Lemon, who were holidaying in the area. They picked us up in their car and took us on a ride around the Lakes to let us know what we are in for tomorrow. Oh my God it looks scary, and tomorrow brings us onto a long section of some 14-15 miles.

Subject: Coast to coast 7th May

Tough, tough, tough, on our feet 10 hours yesterday, *a walk?* You must be joking, we did rock climbing, scrambling, getting lost, more scrambling, that went on, and on and on, no sign of human habitation all day other than sheep until at 6pm, we came across a

farm, eventually arriving at our hostel around 7pm. Shower, quick bite at pub, washing in machine and bed. What a day.

Subject: News from the rocky horror show 8th May

This is another day of rough weather, horrendous, soaked through to my underpants, staggered into pub at 3pm changing wet clothes in their toilet. I thought this was supposed to be a coast to coast *walk!*

It's more like some climbing, a lot of clambering, miles of scrambling amongst rocks, both up and down mountains, and some walking in between, I'm shattered. Thank God we have come to the end of the Lake District (rocky horror district), tomorrow's route looks a bit easier. Bring me sunshine through the tears. PS: I'm waiting for my mountain leg muscles to start working instead of feeling constantly tired.

Subject: Rocky horror show 9th May

Help, the weather is atrocious, it's been raining and blowing for days now, yesterday I got blown over twice on a mountain peak, and soaked to the skin literally, it's hard work, nothing like the gentle stroll I expected, I should have practised rock climbing and clambering in a cold shower with the fan on.

Stop moaning, tomorrow will be fine, at least we will be out of the mountain region, so the climbs won't be so severe.

Subject: Purgatory 10th May

We are now in Yorkshire, it has rained and blown for days. I bruised my heel yesterday and apart from being miserably wet I am now carrying an injury, I am really low. The only good news is that we passed through the halfway mark today and are now on the home stretch. My sons came for the weekend and were a great boost, sadly they have now left so we press on regardless. The sun doesn't shine here very often, just to be dry and warm would be good.

Subject: Walk? Ha Ha Ha 11th May

We left 'Shap' and headed to 'Kirby Steven' another bloody climb. I am beginning to dread the downhill bits for that just means another uphill bit is coming. I am tired, wet, dispirited and cold. I want to be at home down south where the sun shines and my bones don't ache. I could not possibly have got this far without the help of my daughter and granddaughter. It is so easy to get lost on

these mountains and hills. I know because we have been lost on more than one occasion. Onwards and upwards! (What idiot penned those words?)

Subject: Stroll in the park 12th May

Sun at last, all went well today, we didn't get lost 13 miles still quite up and down, am knackered but holding up 14 miles tomorrow, hope the weather holds up, we are on the homeward stretch, but more hills to come. I visited a doctor today for my bruised heel, he says it's not that - it's tennis elbow of the foot and quite common amongst Coast to Coasters at this stage, his advice 'keep taking the Nurofen and rest', (yeah right!). Fat chance, onwards and upwards!

Subject: Usual rubbish 13th May

It's raining again, that now makes our sunny average 2 days out of 15, aching body, feet looking poorly and granddaughter has had enough she has decided to relax today in the metropolis of Richmond and will join us by cab or bus at the end of the day. Press on, left, right, left, right, only a few more days.

Subject: Mudlarks 14th May

It's grey, it's grey, I won't come back someday. It's black, it's black, I won't be coming back. Oh, oh, oh, what can I do. I, I, I,

I, I'm feeling blue (and cold and wet and fed up). Another rainy day in Yorkshire, 14 miles in mud. Tomorrow will be better, if not, I could top myself!

15th May

It's 6.30am, I'm looking out of the window and I can see some blue sky, will it last! Please, please, I am really fed up with the northern weather. Farmers tell us that it is the worst winter for 50 years and they are still waiting for spring. Grass isn't growing and sheep with twin lambs can't cope with feeding them both. They say up here 'grass is milk!'

Yesterday was a long boring slog, mostly across or round muddy fields. With a detour and missing our final path, we must have walked more than 15 miles and we finally dragged ourselves into the White Swan utterly exhausted at 5pm, having left Richmond at 9.15am.

I am stiff all over, my feet are sore I am on pain killers for my tennis elbow foot and am getting concerned about the days still to come. Today doesn't look too difficult, but we are approaching the Yorkshire moors and some difficult climbs. Have I got enough energy to see me through, 6 days to go, I will do my best, but seriously this (so called) walk

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is far and away tougher than I thought. This is not a 'country for old men'. Sorry about the intermittent contacts, most of the time on the trail there is no signal and most evenings I am too exhausted to think clearly and just want to shower, eat and collapse.

Subject: Sunny skies 16th May

What a lovely day, a short (only 9 miles) walk fairly flat but the Yorkshire moors are looming above us and tomorrow is going to be a tough one 12 miles mostly up. We are staying in a lovely B&B and the owner's mum has taken a fancy to me, things are looking up (literally and physiologically) I think! We did intend to take a couple of uphill miles off tomorrow's trail, by walking this afternoon clobbering back and clobbering back to that point tomorrow. But the hospitality here has been so good (a glass of bubbly easily changes one's plans) that we are going to relax and take whatever tomorrow brings. If only the weather would be consistently sunny, I could possibly start to enjoy it (perhaps that's going a bit too far, I think the wine is making me silly). Bring me sunshine, bring me 'Robin Hood's Bay'. Bring me home, only 5 days to go, can this big stiff make it, I think we are winning.

Subject: Things are looking up

16th May (a reprise of the previous email!)

After days of doom and gloom, the sun has come out, we have had an (comparably) easy walk today only 9 miles and have arrived at a wonderful B&B, the owners are away, but the wife's mum is looking after us. She has taken a shine to me and trying to fix me up with her 78 year old friend, obviously too old for me. After 2 flattish days, the Yorkshire moors are looming above us and tomorrow is going to be a tough 12 miler, mostly uphill, If the sun continues to shine we will be ok, only 5 days of torture to go, roll on Tuesday. I am stiff, sore, feet are complaining, one has tennis elbow disease and I am on Nurofen, also tired, often depressed when it rains horizontally, and the cold wind chills me, apart from that I am fine. Bring me sunshine!!!

Subject: Windy weather 17th May

Bright day but ferocious winds on north Yorkshire peaks, Wainwright's favourite routes are the highest points with the best views, but not ideal when the wind blows. Tough climbs and tricky descents, steep, rocky and scary in the cross wind. 12 miles today, and only 4 days to go. Weather forecast for Saturday looks grim but if we don't get lost the route should be under 10

miles. Hope all you lucky people down south are well and not too sunburnt, we are brownish, but only through windburn. Time for a good old soak, we have found a B&B with a bath, whoopee.

Subject: More moors 18th May

Calm day, tramped across the moors, although misty there were some lovely views (I am walking slower and have told my daughter Kate that it is not tiredness, I just want to enjoy the view! (I think she believes me). We are now only 2 days of trudging left, although there are some nasty hills still to come. Providing my 'tennis elbow' foot holds up and the weather stays calm, we will make it through to the north sea.

Subject: Heathcliff country 19th May

Another wet day and misty across the moors, another climb, just to get the day off on the right key, but managed it to the top without the usual stops for breath (am I getting my walking legs at last, or will I suffer later as usual). We have come from 'Clay Bank top' to 'Blakey Ridge', stopping at the 'Lion Inn' the 2nd highest pub in England? Tomorrow we are off to 'Glaisdale', weather forecast good (dry), only 3 days to go, feeling tired and in need of a good rest. Thinking back I could easily have given up some days back, but the thought of all you guys willing me through will carry me over the finishing line, but honestly, it can't come soon enough. We actually had a brief glimpse of the North Sea through the mist on these desolate moors, so we are now encouraged to keep going. Bring me sunshine, through my tears.

Subject: Penultimate day 20th May

Day 15 now complete, a calm but cloudy day, starting downhill to 'Egton Bridge', on to the dreaded 'Grossmont Hill', the last significant climb on the route. I think adrenalin is kicking in for I managed to climb it without the usual breathless stops. Legs are now at last getting stronger and the tennis elbow foot is holding up well. Muddy and rocky in parts but very pretty through some woodland paths, came across 'Falling Foss Falls' a 20 metre waterfall where there is a tea garden called 'Midge Hall', a magical location. Estimated walk today 10 miles, leaving a similar amount tomorrow and then 'fish and chips' in 'Robin Hood's Bay' and time for celebrations soon as we reach there. A sunny day would be fantastic. Am I asking too much?

Subject: Day 16, the very last day. 21st May

Started off crossing some boggy moors, where apparently yesterday a man went down

to his knees and had to be rescued because his accompanying wife couldn't pull him out. Several detours around the worst sections and a long up and down road walk brought us to the cliff path overlooking the North Sea, 3 miles later we stagger into 'Robin Hood's Bay', down to the sea for the ceremonial feet in the sea photo and the dropping of the pebbles we have carried from the Irish Sea. Fabulous Fish and Chip supper and into a B&B for the last time.

Would I do it again? Not at my age! Perhaps if I was 25 years younger, with my proper knees and given much better weather, I could enjoy it. But in retrospect, we were foolish to have attempted this arduous walk without previous hill walking experience, better equipment, more maps, a GPS receiver and Compass reading ability. If the days had been shorter we could easily have got into serious trouble. Apart from the atrocious weather, we have been very lucky. Talking now to other Coast to Coasters, we are hearing of at least 2 cases of broken legs, someone airlifted off with hypothermia, a South African woman who somersaulted over her walking poles when coming down a mountain and ended up in hospital, and several overseas visitors giving up en route.



If you have promised or wish to sponsor Peter's charities i.e. Breast and Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research, please forward cheques or payment to Peter Hellmers, Crown Barn, The Street, Sheering, Essex. CM22 7LT

Please let us have letters, articles and photos for the next edition of Sheering News by 1 November 2013



Treasurer needed

Sheering News needs a treasurer to join the committee. Ron used to do it but since his death it has fallen to me along with compiling the magazine.

It involves confirming some of the advertisers before each edition, sending copies of the magazine to the advertisers and contributors; producing invoices and keeping accounts; paying bills and banking receipts.

Please talk to me about it if you think you can help.

Linda Ainsworth
01279 734333

Litter Pick

Weekend of 28/29 September
A litter pick is suggested for weekend of 28/29 September. Every resident in both Lower Sheering and Sheering Village is invited to tidy up the area around where they live.

Deliverer Required in Four Acres Lower Sheering

Volunteers are still required to deliver *Sheering News* in Lower Sheering Four Acres (41 copies) three times a year.

Please contact Valerie Monk 600718 if you are able to help.



What are your Interests?

Growing Flowers or Vegetables? Cooking? Art? Handicrafts?
Photography?

Why not have a go and enter
Sheering Flower, Produce & Craft Show
On Saturday 31 August

Enter as many classes as you wish free
or just come along and see what your neighbours have done

10.00 - 11.30	Entries to be set out in the hall
11.30 - 2.30	Hall closed for judging
2.30	Doors open - admission 50p See the exhibits, teas, raffle and book stall
4.00	Prize giving followed by raffle and sale of goods

Awards will be presented for most points in Fruit and Vegetables; Runner-up in Fruit and Vegetables; Flowers; Cookery; Wine; Heaviest Marrow; Craft; and Best in Show

Rules of Show:

- All horticultural exhibits must have been grown by their exhibitors
- Only two entries in any one category may be entered by any one contestant
- All exhibits should be staged on the day of the show from 10.00 & completed by 11.30
- Jars of jam/marmalade should be covered with wax discs, have transparent covers and be labelled with variety and date.
- Jellies may be displayed in fancy jars.
- Entry numbers should be attached to the bottles of wine and jars of marmalade/jam/jelly.
Cookery should have transparent covers.
- Judges' decisions are final .

ENTRY FORM - SHEERING FLOWER SHOW 2013

Name.....

Address.....
.....

Please indicate total number of exhibits you will be showing from all classes.....

Please hand in entry forms by THURSDAY, 29 August to: Linda Ainsworth, The Willows The Street, Sheering 734333 or Valerie Monk, 8 Sheering Mill Lane, Lower Sheering 600718

Class A		Class D	
1	Six Cooking Apples	30	Jar of Chutney (not Sauce)
2	Plate of Soft Fruit with stalks	31	Six Sausage Rolls
3	Six Dessert Apples	32	A Quiche
4	Four Fruit, one kind	33	Jar of Marmalade
5	Seven Runner Beans	34	White Loaf of Bread
6	One Marrow not more than 15" length	35	Five Cheese Scones
7	Four Carrots with 4" tops	36	Six Jam Tarts
8	Plate of Cherry Tomatoes	37	Apple Pie on plate
9	Four Potatoes	38	Traditional Jam-filled Victoria Sponge
10	Six Tomatoes with calyx	39	Six Home-made Biscuits
11	Four Leeks with roots	40	Iced Carrot Cake - own recipe
12	Three Beetroots with 4" tops	41	Raspberry or Strawberry Jam
13	One Cabbage	42	Any other Jam or Jelly
14	Four Onions from seed, as grown	Class E	
15	Five Onions from sets, dressed	43	Bottle of Dry Wine
16	Four Vegetables, one kind	44	Bottle of Sweet Wine
Class B		Class F	
17	Vase Mixed Garden flowers	45	Sheering's Heaviest Marrow
18	Six Pansy Blooms	Class G	
19	Single Rose Bloom	46	Hand Made Soft Toy (Knitted or Material)
20	Six Annual Blooms, one variety	47	Embroidered Item
21	Six Perennial Blooms, one variety	48	Canvas Work or Cross Stitch
22	Basket of Dahlias	49	Knitted Item
23	Foliage Pot Plant	50	Painting or Drawing
24	Flower Arrangement in a cream jug	51	Photograph max A5 unmounted
25	Six Cut Roses	52	'A Front or Back Garden'
26	Pot Plant, Blooming, maximum 8" pot	Class I - Children (under 12)	
27	Vase of Mixed Foliage	53	Pre-School - Artwork
28	Buttonhole	54	Reception to Year 6 - Artwork
Class C		55	Six Iced Fairy Cakes
29	Any horticultural item not in the schedule	56	Any Item made by the Child

Helpful Hints.

Jams & jellies etc: Jars should have clean rims and should not be over or under-filled. They should be clearly labelled with the variety and the date.

Baking: Make sure there are no marks from a cooling tray on your cakes. The judge will be looking for well-matched jam tarts, biscuits and sausage rolls.

Crafts: Knitted or embroidered items should not show any signs of having been worn.

Photography: Make sure you select the correct paper type when printing your photographs on your home printer. This ensures even distribution of ink and produces a sharper image.

Flowers: Vases must have water in them!

Things to bring to the show:

- ✦ Scissors for last minute adjustments
- ✦ Sticky tape to attach your entry numbers to jars
- ✦ Cling film to cover cookery items
- ✦ Paper plates to display fruit, vegetables or cookery
- ✦ A jug to fill your vases

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Annual canvass of electors

Did you ring, click or text in 2012?

If you did, many thanks - you were one of over 15,000 households with no changes to their details which used the telephone, internet or text to confirm their electoral registration details.

However, a further 20,000 households **COULD** have used the automated responses but didn't.

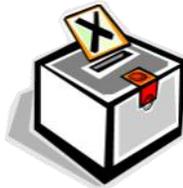
Please, please, please register by internet, telephone or text if the details on the canvass form haven't changed.

The annual canvass of electors will start on 1 October this year (slightly later than usual) so watch out for the form and deal with it as soon as it arrives.

Ian Willett, EFDC's Electoral Registration Officer commented

"In 2012 we introduced registration by telephone, internet and text. While I was pleased that many people did use the new automated responses, I was disappointed that more households, which could have, didn't give it a try. I would urge **everyone**, whose details are the same as last year, to

use one of the automated responses. I tried it and it's really quick and easy to use. You also get confirmation of your registration rather than wondering if a form sent by post arrived in the office. The economics are simple. It costs 12p for an automated response whereas posting the form back costs the Council 28p return postage plus admin processing costs. Rather than having



staff spending time on forms which could/should have been dealt with by internet, telephone or text they can concentrate on dealing with queries or processing forms which have changes to the details. This makes much better use of their time. This year, let's try and make registration by internet, telephone and text the norm for households with no changes.

Another way to help the Council save on costs is to register as soon as you receive the form. Sending out reminders is a costly exercise especially where there are no changes to the details. People think that because their details are the same they don't have to register. Yes you do - you have to register by confirming your details every year." Electoral Services Office helpline: 01992 564411

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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

www.essexinfo.net/st_marys_sheering

The Rector Writes:

Dear Sheering Residents,

Maybe it is the longer warm days and our freshly mowed lawns, but it is that time of year when quite a few people turn their thoughts to tennis and other summer sports

When I was young my parents never seemed to mention tennis the rest of the year, but come the last week in June and the first week in July, they would be avidly glued to the television watching the BBC's coverage of Wimbledon. The sight of two people (with difficult to pronounce Eastern-European names) hitting a ball to each other over a net would overnight become a most fascinating thing! I am sure we may have experienced something like that this year too.

One of the intriguing things about tennis is the scoring system. Getting to "40" is good, scoring "love" is bad. Sometimes in the real world we think the reverse.

However, in human terms "love" is such an overused term, that many people seem to ignore it, and can get quite cynical about it. Or at least it only gets a public mention on the 14th of February. Perhaps one of the reasons



for this is that "love" is often used so narrowly. It is sometimes only equated with two people in a physical relationship. If that is the case no wonder many are cynical, as often through no fault of our own we see broken relationship in our lives and in those around us.

The warm summer days also turn many peoples thoughts towards weddings. St Mary's church is a popular location for marriages. It is often lovely to see some villagers gather in Church Lane to meet the bride as she arrives.

At a wedding many people come from different backgrounds and I always try to engage them with the Christian message through the concept of "Love". I stress that the Christian understanding of love is wonderfully amazing and life affirming. It of course includes physical relationships, but embraces all the relationships and friendships that make us the fulfilled individuals God wants us to be. God himself loves each and every one of us, both for who we are now (even if we do not love ourselves) and for who we have the potential to be.

In this flourishing season of the year do celebrate the fact of God's love. We can do that for ourselves and for others, and we might watch a bit of summer sport too!

Best wishes,

Stewart

Friday 20 September – Harvest Supper at St Mary's

Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 - Harvest Stalls at St Mary's

Sunday 22– 11.00 – Harvest Service in Church





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Garden Waste: Branches; cuttings; dead flowers; grass and leaves; house plants; twigs; weeds; animal waste and bedding from herbivores



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♦Blue Box Fortnightly

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♦Clear Sacks Fortnightly

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Clear sacks available from Sheering Newsagent & Post Office.

Clear sacks also available from Valerie & Ron Monk 8 Sheering Mill Lane. Please contact between 9.30 and 7.00 Monday to Saturday. Not available Sundays.

For more information contact 01992 564608 or www.eppingforestcd.gov.uk

Friends of Pishiobury Park Events

Love Parks Week, Park Active Event - Thursday

1st August, 12 - 3pm

Come to the picnic area near the main car park for a day of family fun activities, including 'Meet the Cattle' talk by the grazier. Suitable for all the family, bring a picnic lunch, some light refreshments available.



Big Dig Weekend - Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 August, 10.00 - 4.00

Join the Friends of Pishiobury Park for a weekend of discovery as they uncover the underground historical secrets of the park's past. This event is suitable for children aged 5 and upwards, all children must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring gloves and a trowel if you can, there will be some available. Be prepared for all weathers and to get muddy! £2 donation per family is appreciated. Light refreshments available, toilets on site.

Teddy Bear's Picnic - Tuesday 6 August, 12:30 onwards

Bring your own picnic, and join us in the picnic area near the main car park for fun and games.

Children must be accompanied by a teddy (or other soft toy best friend), and an adult! £2 donation per family appreciated. Light refreshments available.

Going Batty - Friday 20 September, 7.00-9.00pm, followed by refreshments

An exciting evening walk to discover which bats are living and hunting in Pishiobury Park. Hear

them when they do a 'feeding buzz', see them whiz past your head, then warm up with a hot drink and cake in the picnic area afterwards. Please bring a torch. Be prepared for all weathers. £2 donation per family appreciated.

For all the above events, please meet at Pishiobury Park main car park, off A1184, Harlow Road. For further details, please contact Paula Reed (FoPP Secretary) at motherhenpaula@yahoo.co.uk or see www.friendsofpishioburypark.co.uk

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Epping Forest Countrycare

Epping Forest Countrycare is Epping Forest District Council's award winning Countryside Management Service. It is the key resource for advice, information and practical assistance on the countryside, nature conservation and wildlife law. Countrycare undertakes a wide variety of community-based activities and coordinates a regular programme of practical conservation work.

From coppicing trees to planting new ones, from dredging ponds to creating new ones, from planting a hedge to laying it, building countryside furniture, path maintenance and habitat creation, Countrycare and its happy band of volunteers gets stuck in. Countrycare enables children to discover the countryside and learn about their environment and holds regular events to help raise awareness and inform the community. Because of this Countrycare was awarded two Living Landscapes awards by the Essex Wildlife Trust in 2012 which reflects how the Service is 'good for wildlife, good for people and the community and good for the local economy'. Countrycare is also the key service for in-house ecology issues within the Planning Directorate. Volunteers are the lifeblood of Countrycare. Since 1986, over 139,000 volunteer hours have been given to the service. This amounts to an enormous £863,000 worth of time.

It goes without saying that without this fantastic support, only a fraction of the work would have been possible. However, we always need more help so if you have any spare time why not give it a go - get fit and do your bit for the environment.

Volunteers are involved in the whole spectrum of tasks undertaken by the Service ranging from habitat management work, such as pond restoration, to building paths and countryside furniture and bridges. Not only are there benefits to the wider community and wildlife, but the volunteers benefit greatly too in improved health and sense of well being. There is increasing evidence coming forward that clearly demonstrates contact with wildlife and physical exercise outdoors enhances people's health both mentally and physically. Help is always needed, so if you fancy getting involved in practical conservation work why not give it a try? There are always tasks to suit all ages and abilities.

Telephone: 01992 788203

Email: contactCountrycare@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

There are also lots of events for adults and children across the Epping Forest District eppingforestdc.gov.uk and search for Countrycare events.

THE READING AGENCY
AND LIBRARIES PRESENT

CREEPY HOUSE

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2013

www.creepy-house.org.uk

From 20 July children will be able to sign up to this year's Summer Reading Challenge - **Creepy House**. They can pick up a poster at any Essex library and fill it with great stickers as they read some of our exciting stories. Every child that reads 6 books over the holidays will receive a medal! This summer's Reading Challenge is called Creepy House. You can visit any Essex library during the summer holidays to pick up a Creepy House poster and choose some exciting stories to read.

To complete the challenge, all you need to do is read six books. There are stickers to collect along the way and some of them are stinky! If you read six books you will receive a medal. Everyone will receive a certificate.

It doesn't matter how old you are, or how well you can read; everyone can take part.

Creepy House will be running from Saturday 20 July to Monday 2 September. You'll be able to complete and collect medals until 7 September.



Mobile libraries will start the Summer Reading Challenge from early July. See page 14

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mystery Street

If you're aged 10 and over you can take part in a different challenge called Mystery Street! Strange things have been happening and you'll need all your ingenuity to explain them by reading books, writing stories and answering questions to earn rewards.

Reading for pleasure is more important to children's successes than education or social class. The Summer Reading Challenge gets three quarters of a million children into libraries to keep up their reading skills and confidence during the long holidays while Chatterbooks reading groups help build a lifelong reading habit. Because everything changes when we read.

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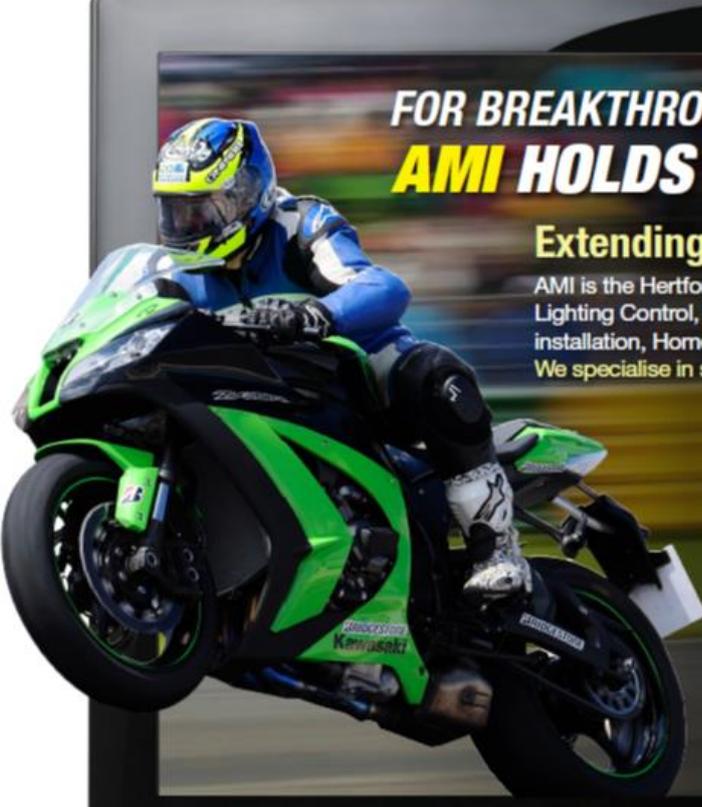
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BORIS JOHNSON IGNORES COUNTRYSIDE IN FAVOUR OF POLITICS

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has condemned Boris Johnson's latest intervention in the debate about UK airport capacity. This follows the announcement on 15 July by the London Mayor that Stansted was still on his short-list to become a four runway mega-hub airport to replace Heathrow.

Justifying his decision to short-list Stansted, Boris Johnson said that it had the benefit of "being sited in a relatively sparsely populated region ... with none of the environmental or wildlife issues that would need to be overcome in the estuary."

The London Mayor's dismissal of the environmental issues at Stansted is completely at odds with every independent assessment carried out in the past. Graham Eyre QC, the last planning inspector to consider the possibility of additional runways at Stansted, rejected this out of hand in the strongest possible terms, saying that even one extra runway would be an "environmental disaster", "a catastrophe", and "wholly unacceptable".

These conclusions are not surprising since Uttlesford District, which is home to Stansted Airport, is one of only two local authorities in the whole country with over 2000 pre-1700 listed buildings. In addition, the historic listed buildings and villages around Stansted are embedded in what Oliver Rackham, the great historian of the English countryside, has defined as 'Ancient Countryside', a landscape whose fields, woods and roads date predominantly from before 1700. These points alone make this part of North West Essex and East Herts a most remarkable and valuable area of English countryside. SSE Chairman Peter Sanders commented: "Boris Johnson's dismissal of our local heritage and landscape is an affront to all the people of North West



Essex and East Herts. It seems clear that he has absolutely no knowledge of the area."

Mr Sanders added: "As Mayor of London, of course, he has no need to involve himself in our affairs. He is responsible only for what goes on in London and he depends only on Londoners for votes. It is surely no coincidence that he rejects expanding Heathrow, which is within his constituency, and all of his options for airport expansion are well outside his constituency. It remains our view that there is no need for any extra runways in the south-east."

The area around Stansted Airport was characterised by John Betjeman as: "... a quiet, prosperous, agricultural area of old stone and flint churches, pargetted cottages with red tiled roofs, spreading farms and gabled manor houses, little

hills, elms, oaks, willow streams and twisty lanes leading to towns of such renowned beauty as Thaxted and Saffron Walden. The very fact that this country is so gentle, unobvious and typical of the best of England makes it all the more important that, being so near to London, it is preserved from noise and development."

'Ancient Countryside' is defined as districts whose fields, woods and roads etc date predominantly from before A.D. 1700, and Oliver Rackham has described it as 'the England of hamlets, medieval farms in hollows of the hills, lonely moats and great barns in the clay-lands, pollards and ancient trees, cavernous Holloways and many footpaths, fords, irregularly shaped groves with thick hedges colourful with maple, dogwood and spindle - an intricate land of mystery and surprise.' [The History of the Countryside, Oliver Rackham, Dent, 1986.]



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Linda Ainsworth

Sheering News

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Deadline for next issue

1st November



**Publication date for next issue
1st December 2013**

Sheering News Editorial Team

Linda Ainsworth	734333
Barbara Barker	734354
Sheila Caves	725578
Sheila King	831971
Valerie Monk	600718

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