

SHEERING NEWS

also at www.sheering.org.uk

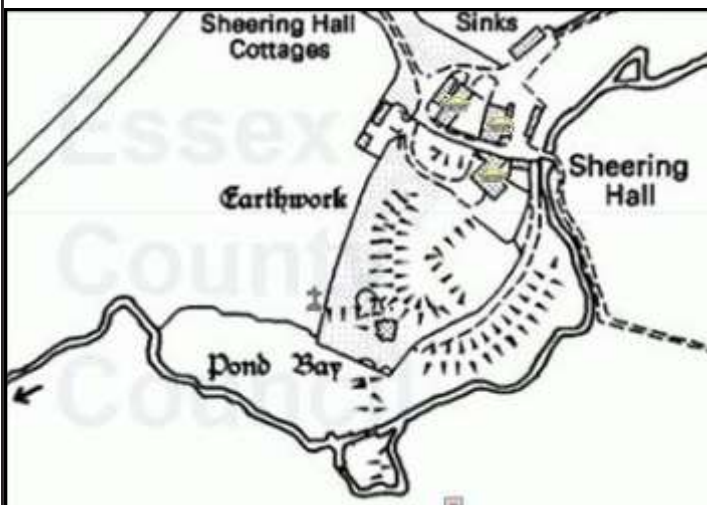
April 2021

139

On a recent walk between Sheering and Newman's End, looking across at the Junction 7a works, I was reminded of some research on the Ringwork at Sheering Hall on the Sheering website. It seemed a timely addition to *Sheering News*. (Editor)

Sheering Hall Ringwork

The earliest habitation we know of in Sheering is the Eleventh Century ringwork or ring motte in the grounds of Sheering Hall. The remaining banks and ditches are partly obscured by later building and landscape gardening. This site has also been described as a Timber Castle.



Timber Castles

These are the earthwork and timber castles of the motte and bailey or ringwork form which were the vast majority of castles of the early conquest period, of the Marches in the 11th and 12th centuries and of the period during the reign of Stephen known as the Anarchy.

They were generally fairly short lived, although some such castles survived for centuries, with the timber buildings and defences being replaced on occasions sometimes in timber and sometimes in masonry

Some of the smaller low mottes may have

been adapted into moated manor houses, whilst others were abandoned and replaced by manor houses of a more comfortable and domestic nature. Timber castles varied greatly in size with some being massive constructions clearly deserving the term castle, whilst others were small mounds for minor knights. These small mottes are called 'castles' but this could be considered a rather loose use of the term.



Remains

The north east arc is overlaid by Sheering Hall and obliterated by landscape gardening.

The west and south west arcs survive as a strong rampart about one metre in height above the interior with an outer ditch 4.5 metres deep from the top of the rampart. The ditch around the west side was, and still is, dry but on the south and east arcs there was a wet moat formed by diverting the Pincey Brook around the base of the rampart and retained by a bank 2 metres high on the south of the ringwork. This bay has been breached and the moat is dry. The interior of the work must have measured about 70 metres in diameter but it contains no evidence on the surface of interior buildings.



(Photo: Andrew Tivenan)

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DIARY

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

WEEKLY

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

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

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

Yoga: Village Hall Mondays 6.45 - 8.15
07854 773680

Zumba: Village Hall Tuesdays 6.30

THREE WEEKLY

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

MONTHLY

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

U3A Sawbridgeworth 3.00 on the third
Friday of every month. Sawbridgeworth
Memorial Hall.
Membership Secretary, John Dickenson
01279 722297

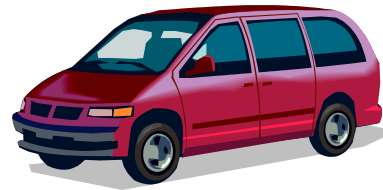
Key Coronavirus Helplines:

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Harlow Council Community Hub
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HMRC
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0800 328 5644
Schools
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Domestic Abuse Helpline
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others safe.

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Dear residents,

With every vaccine administered we move closer to beating the virus and I would like to pay tribute to everyone who has done so much over the past year.

First, to everyone who has been involved in the vaccine roll out locally, from the volunteers and marshalls, to the nurses, doctors and all NHS staff. It has been so inspiring to see your work, day in and day out, bringing hope to our community after a year that none of us could have imagined.

Second, to our NHS staff. All of us know that they have gone above and beyond to look after residents in the darkest days and our thanks will never be able to match their work.

Third, my sincere thanks go to every key worker: the refuse workers, supermarket and shop workers, delivery drivers, teachers and support staff, care workers, pharmacy staff, bus drivers, volunteers and the many others who have put their health at risk to keep our community moving.

Fourth, a huge thank you to every resident for the sacrifices you have made to drive down

the infection rate and get the virus under control - allowing the vaccine roll out to be a success.

Sheering has come together to beat the coronavirus and with each passing day and each vaccine administered, we are closer to doing just that. Though our community will be changed by this experience, I believe that we will be stronger and better than ever before.

I will continue to work hard for Sheering to secure even more support for residents and businesses on top of the £200 million financial package from the Government that has already helped residents and businesses.

I would also like to take this opportunity to update you on my work to tackle speeding in Sheering. I know that this is a great concern to many residents, and I am working with local councillors, the police and Essex County Council to tackle these issues once and for all. If you have any specific areas of concern, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you every possible good wish and safety at this time, we are nearing the end.

Robert



**Robert
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for Sheering

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Parish Council News

Since my last report in the December Issue of Sheering News, the Parish Council has met only once and that was in December as restrictions allowed. January would normally see the Parish Council meeting twice, once for a Precept Meeting in early January and again for a normal Council Meeting late in January. Due to the imposed lockdown, neither meeting took place.

In terms of the Precept meeting, to enable us to meet the required submission date for our Precept figure, Councillors agreed a Precept figure of £43,000, for the year 2021/2022 which matched the figure submitted and approved for year 2020/2021. At the time of producing this report, this figure has yet to be approved by EFDC.

The intention, once the figure is approved and restrictions permit, is to have a Precept Meeting to enable the agreed figure to be allocated across various sections of Parish Council expenditure which we hope could be during April.

With the road map recently announced by the Prime Minister for coming out of the current Lockdown, it is anticipated that face to face Council Meetings can resume in May which will coincide with the start of the new Council year. However, in the absence of formal Council meetings, Councillors have continued to be active on a number of issues and I take this opportunity of updating you as follows.

Lower Sheering Parking

Since the submission of the restricted parking scheme, and the result of the subsequent survey of residents preferences, further dialogue with NEPP (North Essex Parking Partnership) has taken place not only by the Parish Council but also by some residents. On 26 December, (yes Boxing Day), NEPP advised that it was clear that a pause in proceedings is the safest way to take a breath or two, before discussing in more detail at a later date, while observing the area in the intervening period.

It is suggested that a 6 month delay will give NEPP the chance to observe what actually happens rather than the expectation of what might happen, following which they should be able to get a better idea of how to proceed. However, with the continuation of the work from home directive from Government together with the periods of Lockdown we have endured since the survey, the commuter parking situation has been somewhat different to the norm previously experienced . It may

be that NEPP will extend this delay period until beyond 21st June when it is hoped all restrictions are lifted and some form of normality returns. Any information received from NEPP in this respect will be included in Sheering News as appropriate and added to the Parish Council website.

Park Bench

My report in the December issue of Sheering News, gave details of one of the benches in the Village recreation ground having been destroyed. I am pleased to report that the bench has now been replaced by those responsible at no cost to the Parish Council and has been secured in position. The replacement however took longer than expected, with the bench originally offered and delivered being of a lesser quality and smaller size than that of the demolished bench. Councillor Alan Jones spent a great deal of time dealing with this and bringing the whole issue to a satisfactory conclusion.

It was also during this time that Alan and his wife contracted the Covid Virus shortly after Christmas, with Alan's condition deteriorating at one stage to a level requiring the attention of paramedics. I am very pleased to advise that both have made a complete recovery and continue to be well.

Pot Holes

With the winter weather conditions, this has become an increasing problem with the Parish Council receiving a number of complaints from some residents, particularly in respect of the serious condition of the road adjacent to the railway crossing. The issue was reported a number of times to Essex Highways who finally carried out repairs on 4 February. Unfortunately, the repairs were only temporary and with the following snow and icy conditions requiring the roads to be salted, the repairs soon broke away, leaving the road in as bad a condition as before the repairs. We now await a date for the works to be carried out in a proper workmanlike manner that will be long lasting.

Rural Drainage

With the period of extreme wet weather, some roads within the Parish became flooded, in particular parts of Church Lane and the country section of Sheering Lower Road. One of the main causes of this problem would appear to be the lack of general maintenance by land owners and farmers on ditches running alongside our roads. Councillor

Lesley Paine has been researching where the responsibility for maintenance of these water courses rests, and has already contacted Essex County Council in their capacity of a Lead Local Flood Authority enquiring what action can be taken to improve these water courses and by whom, particularly under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Flood Risk Regulations 2009. Although an acknowledgement of our concerns has been received, we await further detail on what action can be taken in terms of improvement of the current situation.

In addition to the flooding problems, the recent extreme cold spell caused difficulties as a result of the snow and ice. I do therefore record the Parish Council's thanks and appreciation to Councillor Jones and our handyman Ken Roberts who, during these difficult days, were engaged in salt spreading in both Sheering Village and Lower Sheering to footpaths to assist the many walkers out and about for their daily exercise during the current lockdown period.

We are told that there is light at the end of this long and dark tunnel we have all experienced. We are also told that "it is not over yet," so stay safe and keep well and lets hope we can all look forward to an enjoyable Summer.

Rodney Northwood

Chairman Sheering Parish Council



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.

Please refer to the new Parish Council website for dates of meetings.

e-voice.org.uk/sheering-parish-council/

Parish Councillors

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rodneynorthwood@live.co.uk

Richard Morgan - Vice Chairman
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margaret.whitfield@btinternet.com

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1 New Row, The Street Sheering CM22 7LZ

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richardmorgan26@outlook.com
01279 731243

Paul Stalker - Lower Sheering
cllr.pstalker@eppingforestdc.gov.uk
07969 219006

County Councillor

Anthony Jackson
Essex County Council, County Hall, Duke
Street, Chelmsford CM1 1LX
cllr.anthony.jackson@essex.gov.uk

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

WI

We hope to be back to our usual monthly meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in our Village Hall as soon as the restrictions are lifted and a group can meet.

We met three times in 2020. In January our speaker was Ivan Cooper on the history of Hatfield Heath Mills. We welcomed Vanessa Hale from Wiltshire Farm Foods in February when we enjoyed tasters. She explained that the meals are very nutritious and can be adjusted for customers with special diets. Dr Sheila Henderson from the friends of Rivers Hospital Jacobs Neuro Centre visited in March and talked about the work and care that goes on there.

We then had to cancel other speakers and social events. One of our social events would have been to celebrate Sheering WI's Centenary. Yes, we have been going for 100 years!

We usually also have a summer luncheon in July, sometimes a trip out in August and a pub lunch at Christmas. We also have a Group Meeting once a year when we meet up with three other local villages



for a speaker, followed by food and drink.

We have missed our social contact, as we are sure you have also, and how much it means to all of us to get out of our homes and meet up with others. We would love you to come along to our meetings as a guest or to join as a member. We will probably start back with a social evening with nibbles and drinks, have a chat and put our heads together to plan 2021 as soon as we can – hopefully in July of this year. Our village hall needs the bookings and we cannot wait to meet together after being in lockdown with no socialising. We will hope to put our agenda for 2021 in the next edition of *Sheering News*.

Contacts:

President - Sheena Pike
01279 734442

Members Rep - Irene Harriss
01279 734334

Secretary - Barbara Barker
01279 734354

Tuesday Teas

We hope to be meeting this year as soon as restrictions allow. We meet in the Church Room every Tuesday at 2.30 for tea or coffee, homemade cake and a chat. The regulars tell me they have missed our chats but especially the cake. Please pop in any Tuesday if you are walking past and fancy a cuppa.

Irene Harriss 01279 734334

Sheering CE Primary School March 2021

The Autumn term began very positively with the return of all children in September. We were so pleased to finally meet our Reception children who settled in very quickly. Despite our routines being a bit different (the classes are not allowed to mix at all so collective worship and lunches all happen in the classrooms) the learning continued and the children were beginning to make rapid progress after such a long time out of school. With the safety measures we put in place to help prevent the spread of COVID19, e.g. everyone wearing visors, having our temperature taken before coming in to the building, hand washing stations etc, we did not have any cases of coronavirus... until the last week of term just before Christmas. The school had to be closed for the last week of term and we switched to Home-Learning from that point. Thankfully, the children and staff who were unwell with COVID19 are fully recovered. In January, we were ready to come back to school, but with the rapidly changing situation with coronavirus, schools were shut and we switched to Home-Learning. Collective Worship happened through Teams (online) every morning and the teachers taught live lessons through Teams each day. Although we missed seeing the children in school, it was lovely to see them and their parents every day. This week, we are busy in school preparing for all the children to return to school on Monday 8 March. We still have the Christmas gifts from Santa to give to the children and the Christmas dinner waiting for them when they return!

Mrs Lorna Brittain
Head teacher

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**Sheering Parish Council
Website:- Membership**

Would you like to be kept up to date with the work of the parish council and view any new and current information from official organisations and (only recognized and checked) groups, that communicate, or provide and exchange information with us?

The website is maintained frequently by a councillor who has volunteered to carry out that work.

If you or your family are residents of Sheering Parish, you may be eligible to join the website as a member.

If you wish to join, send an e-mail to spcplanning@outlook.com containing your:

- full name
- full postal address including post code
- e-mail address you wish to register under
- your explicit authorisation to receive future e-mail correspondence via the website or e-mail address, in accordance with UK GDPR (post Brexit legislation)

NB. You will be able to revoke this authorisation and/or have your membership closed and removed at any time in the future.

If eligible you will be sent a request to register online with e-voice, our website host group. You will then be requested to sign on to that and indicate your preferences on the type of e-mail correspondence you wish to receive from a list provided by them, (e.g. Sheering Parish Council) as well as how frequently you wish this information to be sent to you. Please note – the Council website does not, as far as possible, hold unauthorised content, gossip, or direct links to social media sites.

Matters that are of concern to residents and that fall with the remit of the Parish Council should be raised with either the appropriate councillor as listed on the website, or via the Parish Clerk.

Details of other authorities who deal with other matters, are also posted on the website, when the contact details have been supplied by them.

If you have any questions specifically about the Parish Council website, it's content, or joining as a member, please contact me at spcplanning@outlook.com

Mike Hayter - Parish Councillor

<https://e-voice.org.uk/sheering-parish-council>

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A Girl of Many Parts

She was a girl of many parts.
 He'd made her up in fits and starts.
 Her head a saucepan medium size
 in which two holes for marble eyes.
 Two metal ears were welded on;
 a wide curved mouth where red
 paint shone.
 He'd put a lead pipe through the
 centre
 that he'd forced through so it could
 enter
 the metal drum - to be her chest
 and rounded tum - and this would
 rest
 upon two pipes of burnished steel.
 Alas no knees! She could not kneel.
 He moulded feet on which to stand,
 arms at her side each with a hand.
 He glued some hair upon her head -
 a wig it was of brightest red.
 He fixed the limbs in such a way
 that they could move and she would sway
 from side to side as in a dance
 and throw around her female glance.
 Then as he built her counterpart
 his skill developed to an art.



And soon a metal man stood by
 of long brass limbs and blue glass eye.
 He was more solid, somewhat bigger,
 most masculine of face and figure.

His feet were long and rather
 pointed
 with legs built to be double-jointed.
 Then satisfied, he stood the two
 together then went off to do
 his other chores. The two alone
 checked round that they were on
 their own.
 Then he went down on bended
 knee
 and said, "My love from what I see
 you are my creature of the night.

For me this is love at first sight."
 When morning came their maker found
 the two collapsed upon the ground.
 He put them both back in their places
 and saw big smiles upon their faces.
 "My, my," he said and shook his head,
 "I'm sure his mouth was not that red."
 His two inventions twitched nearby
 and each one winked a glassy eye.

Adrienne Tinn

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Hedges and Ditches

During recent months, restricted to walking locally, we have become more aware of our environment and the beautiful countryside surrounding Sheering. However, heavy rain during the winter with high footfall and traffic on the rural roads and footpaths has meant that there are signs of wear and tear for which we must take responsibility.

Local farmers are only too aware of their 'riparian responsibilities'. I had never heard this word used so I looked it up on the Epping Forest website. I was surprised to learn that landowners are responsible for maintenance of areas of ditches and ponds within and adjacent to their properties even if they do not own them.



We so frequently see flooded roads especially in Lower Sheering, but also areas in Sheering village. Our ancestors had a system for dealing with this and installed a series of drainage ditches and ponds some of which are now in culverts under front gardens or remain along roadsides. These need maintenance and are the responsibility of the local landowners. Many are overgrown and are often considered by vandals as ripe for fly tipping.

As you probably realise, EFDC clears this when reported, but only on the highway, not on private land or in ditches which they do not regard as part of the highway.

Would anyone be happy to volunteer to help clear our local ditches and ponds and get them operating properly to form a more attractive environment for us all? Hatfield Heath has a series of ponds dealing with their excess flood water. They are



beautifully maintained and add to the attraction of the Heath as we walk or drive through.



Pincey Brook has flooded several times this winter and has brought piles of plastic rubbish downstream and deposited it on the banks as the water has dropped. Would anyone volunteer to help clear it so we can all enjoy the fields again?

In Sheering we are fortunate to have areas of ancient hedgerows with many varieties of plants including damsons, sloes (blackthorn), dog roses, crab apples and hawthorn. Over the years they have diminished due to clearance for larger fields and ease of automated machinery use. Disease has been killing trees with Dutch Elm disease affecting several and now Ash dieback is taking its toll.

The government now intends to promote replanting of hedgerows and woodland to encourage wildlife. Sheering Parish has the opportunity to obtain up to 200 free trees to form areas of planting if we can identify appropriate places. Trees and hedges counteract the effects of our busy roads absorbing the small particles so harmful to our lungs. Planting a small-leaved hedge such as Cotoneaster at the front of your house can help filter this material and reduce noise pollution. Maybe we should plant a hedge outside our village school to shield the children playing outside?

Please respect our countryside and footpaths. Better weather is now coming, and we must care for our environment by sticking to the footpaths, taking our rubbish home and not trampling or riding motorbikes across the farmers' crops as they are supplying our food!

Lesley Paine

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Friends of St Mary's Sheering



Friends of St Mary's events

Yet again we have no Friends events to report. We hope, with the promised gradual lifting of restrictions, that there will be something to tell you next time.

Update on the Churchyard Extension

Negotiations continue with Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance about the transfer of a strip of land at the far east side of the field between Glebe House and the churchyard, running alongside the public footpath between the churchyard and The Street. Again, we will keep you posted.

Churchyard team

Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, the churchyard team has not been able to meet since before Christmas. On the other hand the cold weather prevented the grass growing too wildly. We don't yet have a date for the next working party, but if you are interested in joining in on a Saturday morning every few weeks, please contact Natalie Cracknell. It's great fun, and you make a real difference.

COVID and the church building

As COVID cases skyrocketed in December, we reluctantly closed the church building again just before Christmas. We can't know, of course, but it may be the first time for several hundred years that there was no service there on Christmas Day.

It is not yet clear when it will be right and safe to re-open the building for Sunday

services. Meanwhile we have a service on Zoom at 11.15 am every Sunday morning, which will continue for the foreseeable future (even after the building re-opens). If you would like to "attend" a Zoom service, email SixVillagesZoomCodes@gmail.com for the login details. At the time of writing, the only services allowed in church are funerals, with tightly controlled numbers, strict social distancing and no congregational singing. Sadly there have been several for people who fell victim to COVID.

Another funeral (not COVID) was for Graham Saward who has been a faithful church member all his life. We are going to miss him very much, handing out the service sheets



and welcoming everyone as they arrive with his quiet smile, and then sitting in his usual pew near the door (here during a socially distanced service a few months ago).

Quinquennial inspection of the church

Every Anglican church has to have a quinquennial (five-yearly) inspection by an architect who is accredited by the Diocese. Our inspection is due later this year. Meanwhile our regular architect retired and we are in the process of choosing a new one from the Diocesan list. After every inspection we are given a list of items to be tackled as follows:

- Urgent, requiring immediate attention
- Requires attention within 12 months



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- Requires attention within the next 12 - 24 months
- Requires attention within the quinquennial period
- A desirable improvement with no timescale

Last time, largely thanks to funds raised via Friends of St Mary's plus grants, we

managed to complete all but one item within the timescale. However, this is always a somewhat anxious time in case something really expensive or urgent comes to light. We will keep you posted.

Dates for your Diary

Once again we have nothing to put in this section. However, watch out for posters around the village just as soon as we can arrange something.

Produced by Friends of St Mary's Sheering, c/o Friends secretary, 72 Crown Close, Sheering, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM22 7NE



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Stories from The Grave

Since 2018 I became part of the churchyard maintenance group that I refer to as the "Happy Loppers" organised by Natalie Cracknell who once a month spend some time mowing the grass, cutting the hedges and tidying up around the graves, although with the current lockdown we haven't worked since before Christmas. I have got the job of tidying up some of the most overgrown graves but before I actually started my work I had a walk round the churchyard to see which graves I should tackle and thought that the set of the graves around the southern entrance to the church should initially receive my attention. The story of the Pavitt graves appeared in Lesley Paine's article in the last edition of the Sheering News

However there were two graves some distance from the church that did attract my attention as they were beautifully maintained but were obviously the resting places of a couple of war heroes that made me wonder how they came by their medals. One of these graves was that of Albert French who won the Military Medal in the First World War. He was born sometime in 1876 and after leaving school, according to the 1911 census, worked as a maltster's labourer and was married to Beatrice French with five children, living in Sheering Street.

He enlisted as private no 17348 in the 6th Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment on or about 30th September 1914 at the age of 38. Albert arrived in France on 11th December 1915 and he was gazetted as having been awarded a Military Medal on 18th July 1917. After the war it is believed he worked for Walter Lawrence building company in Lower Sheering, which initially is all the information I had about him.

By chance in carrying out an entirely different task for our Rector Dawn, who had asked me to go through a box of papers that had been left to the church by a deceased parishioner, Clive Enders, I came across one

of his note books. It told the story how his grandfather Albert French had won the Military Medal in the First World War.

Apparently four wounded men had been trapped in a shell hole for much of the day and had been crying out in pain. When darkness fell Albert crawled out into no man's land under fire and got the men back to the safety of the Allied trenches, one of whom was his Commanding Officer.

On Albert's return home injured in 1917 his medal was sent to him through the post and as he had seven or eight

children at the time, he was expecting his back pay. On opening the small package, he was so disappointed and angered rather than pleased, in there being no pay but

just the medal. "What is the use of a bloody medal when we need money to feed ourselves and that won't bring back home any of the boys now dead" he said to his surprised wife and in disgust hurled the medal across the room with such force that it became embedded high into the wooden parlour door frame where it remained until Albert's death on the 7th December 1938! Albert's medals are now in the possession of Albert's Grandson, John Cherisy French whose second Christian name is after the place where Albert won his medal and Clive Enders box of papers are also in the safe keeping with a Granddaughter Patricia Banks (née French).



Albert French MM





However that was not the end of the story since I noticed that an Albert French appears on the village War Memorial - how come a man whose grave is in the local churchyard who had died twenty years after the war's end had his name on the memorial.

After extensive local research by Lesley Paine and by Nigel Lutt of the Bedfordshire Regimental Museum the answer is that there were two Albert Frenchs who lived in Sheering and went off to fight in the war, one who survived having won the Military Medal and the other who died in action on 17th December 1915.

The one that died in action was an Albert French,

youngest son of Henry and Alice Mary French of Ivy Cottage Sheering born 22nd March 1895. He worked as a porter on the Great Eastern Railway and enlisted as Private no. 16663 in the 8th Battalion (Services) Bedfordshire Regiment on 11th September 1914 and arrived in France on 12th



September 1915. He was killed in action at Ypres on 17th December 1915 and is buried at La Brigwal war cemetery and his name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

The other grave that attracted my attention was that of John Henry Crump GM, which



made me wonder how come he won his George Medal in 1941.

Again, thanks to some extensive research by Lesley Paine it appears that John was a police constable in London during the Second World War in which a number of policemen received a GM for dealing with unexploded bombs or extricating people from very unstable buildings following air raids etc. John, who was born on 24th March 1914, carried out two acts of great bravery first on the 24th September 1941 when at 1.15 am in the morning he rescued an elderly woman from a demolished house whilst off duty and at great risk to himself. Then on 26th September 1941 at 10.30pm he rescued a woman from flats where there was great danger of further falling masonry. At the time he lived in London and as his grave is well tended it suggests that his family still live in the area and I wonder whether any of the community can explain how and when John and his family came to live in the Sheering area and what he did for a living both before and after the war.

Dr David Wright



The Hundred Parishes Society

Guilds and Guildhalls

Guilds were an early form of trade association. They became established in the Middle Ages by groups of merchants to control standards and promote their particular craft or skill in the locality in which they operated. Some acquired sufficient funds and status to erect their own premises or Guildhalls in market towns. These buildings were used for meetings and other functions by the guilds. Some were designed to allow markets or trade on the ground floor. The Hundred Parishes has some wonderful surviving examples of guildhalls. Thaxted is probably the best known - three storeyed, timber framed and jetted, built in the 15th century. Thaxted was an important centre of cutlery manufacture and it is believed the cutlers helped to fund the building we now know as the

Thaxted Guildhall



Guildhall. Its original purpose is uncertain; it may have had broader uses as a moot hall or civic meeting place. The building later became a school and today it is used for parish council and other meetings and incorporates a small museum of Thaxted's history.

The guildhall at Linton was built in 1523 and is now a private house. It was once the home of Sir John Kendrew who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1962.

Finchingfield's 15th-century guildhall stands beside the parish church. In the past it was used as almshouses and now the renovated building houses a library and excellent museum. The first floor is used in non-Covid times for courses and is available for private hire.

In Church Lane Clavering you will find a 15th-century timber-framed and plastered building. Now a private dwelling, it was built as the guildhall and later served as a workhouse and then almshouses.

Ashdon's former 15th-century guildhall, behind the church, also later served as a workhouse before becoming a private house.

Ken McDonald, Secretary
www.hundredparishes.org.uk

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St Clare Hospice 10k

It's time to get your running shoes out once more for the annual St Clare 10k, taking place starting from the Hospice on Sunday 11th April 2021.

Hundreds of runners are expected to join us once again for the yearly Essex 10k road race. The event is ideal for regular running club members looking to boost their training, as well as those who are new to running but looking for a challenge!

Advance entry is £14 (£12 for affiliated runners), or an additional £3 on the day (£17 non affiliated runners and £14 for affiliated runners). Please note, participants must be aged 15 years or above.

For more information on taking part in this fun event visit the Hospice website at stclarehospice.org.uk/stclare10k2021 or get in touch with St Clare Hospice Events Fundraiser Emma Broadbent on 01279 773754 or email emma.broadbent@stclarehospice.org.uk



Compassionate Neighbours celebrates three years of friendship

West Essex and East Hertfordshire charity, St Clare Hospice, is celebrating the third anniversary since the launch of its social movement project, Compassionate Neighbours – a project which is connecting communities, building community resilience and helping to prevent social isolation.

Compassionate Neighbours is an award-winning project which aims to help tackle loneliness within local communities. Since the project started at St Clare Hospice in 2018, it has

trained 166 volunteers to become Compassionate Neighbours, who each give an hour a week to offer social and emotional support to others who are isolated.

“When I look back to the beginning of the project in March 2018, I never thought that the initial group of volunteers would make so much difference,” reflects Stacey Towler, Compassionate Neighbours Project Manager. “I always knew this project was important, but I

didn't realise how vital it would grow to be in just three years, but it fills me with great pride to have played a part in bringing friendship into the lives of people who are nearing the end of their lives and are lonely.

“I'm so glad that our project was already established and was able to easily adapt to support more people during the pandemic, as rates of isolation and loneliness increased – especially amongst older people, and those who are already frail and vulnerable from their conditions.

Stacey adds: “The beauty of this project is that it brings mutual benefits to everyone involved; it's been such a delight matching people and seeing their friendships flourish over the last three years.”

The Compassionate Neighbours are 'matched' based on common interests, lifestyles and experiences and both parties benefit from a mutual, supportive relationship as friends. The Compassionate Neighbours project has become a vital scheme during the pandemic, when instances of isolation and loneliness have increased with lockdown and the restrictions, especially in relation to those who are clinically vulnerable. To date, the project has already matched more than 150 Community Members (socially isolated individuals in the local

community) and the project is open to people to self-refer to the service or for professionals to make referrals.

The project is actively recruiting volunteers who are able to spare time to bring friendship to the lives of people who are lonely and socially isolated. Regular training sessions are being run, currently via online meeting platform zoom and volunteers are DBS checked prior to becoming Compassionate



Compassionate Neighbour Volunteer, Carolyn offers support to local individuals via the telephone

Neighbours. Volunteering as a Compassionate Neighbour is a rewarding role where people can build genuine friendships by calling or meeting a local, socially isolated person every week.

For more information on how people can access support, through friendship, and to find out more about becoming a Compassionate Neighbour visit: <https://stclarehospice.org.uk/wellbeing-hub/compassionate-neighbours/>

Extracts from an Update by Essex Police for our local area



PC Matt Edwards is the Epping Forest District Community Policing Team beat officer for Roydon, Nazeing, Sheering, Matching, Hastingwood, Broadley Common and Epping Upland. He became a beat officer in mid 2019. PC Edwards has spent his time since then addressing issues of concern for local communities with assistance from partner agencies, proactively patrolling his beats and investigating crimes allocated to him. These include low and medium risk hate crimes that have occurred in these areas. PC Edwards has built up a good network of local contacts, and regularly hosts question and answer sessions for them. He is currently on a short-term secondment elsewhere in the force. Meanwhile the wider Community Policing Team and several other policing teams (as below) continue to patrol these areas and investigate reported incidents.



Introduction from the District Commander, Ant Alcock

“Hi everybody. My name is Ant Alcock and I’m a Chief

Inspector with Essex Police, currently the District Commander for Epping Forest and Brentwood where I hold responsibility for policing. I



wanted to take the time in this edition to explain the policing structure within Epping Forest. Based at Loughton Police Station, there is the Local Policing Team (LPT), Community Policing Team (CPT), Town Centre Teams (TCT) and the Criminal Investigations Department (CID). LPT provide the 24/7 cover responding to emergency and

non-emergency incidents. They also contribute to investigative and proactive policing. 2 shifts of CPT officers now provide 7 day a week cover. They have a number of functions to include providing high visibility proactive patrols, problem solving in partnership, community engagement and investigating certain crimes. 2 Children and Young Persons’ Officers, a dedicated Rural Officer and a Community Safety Engagement Officer are also attached to the CPT. The district also benefits from an Epping Forest District Council funded Community Safety Team, 1 Sergeant and 2 Police Constables working to address local priorities. Waltham Abbey and Loughton benefit from Town Centre Teams, 2 additional officers per area. The CID are responsible for serious and complex investigations up to, and including, attempted murder. Whilst that covers everyone dedicated to the district, there are of course a number of shared resources across the West of Essex and force-wide Epping Forest benefits from. This includes but is certainly not limited to: Operation Raptor (dedicated to addressing county lines and gangs), the Roads Policing Unit, the Dog Section, the Operational Support Group, the Domestic Abuse Investigation Team and the Child Abuse Investigation Team. I would really encourage you to share your concerns with us, so that we can continue to keep Epping Forest a safe district to be.”

Recent Local Policing

Officers have been busy addressing concerns regarding speeding in The Street in Sheering. Recent activity includes speed checks completed on the 7th, 10th and 14th February. Traffic Offence Reports have been issued and speeds of up to 43mph observed on 2 of the occasions.

The Brentwood and Epping Forest Rural Crime Officer, PC Sheridan-Brown has recently been patrolling in Matching following reports of hare coursing, fly tipping and nuisance bikes. It is believed bikes have been arriving via Sheering and Hatfield Heath. There have been some section 59 warnings issued. This means should the rider drive that same or any other vehicle in a similar manner within 12 months, the vehicle can be seized.

Reporting Guidance

Timely reporting using the correct means is really important for a number of reasons. For example, it ensures we have an accurate understanding of crime and ASB occurring

within the local area, helping to focus responses. We often become aware of things discussed elsewhere, such as on social media, that have not been officially reported. You might also have the final bit of information required to make the difference between the court granting a warrant to search a premises and not.

Do it online with the digital 101 service:

Significant developments have been made to increase online reporting options for non-urgent incidents, to ease demand on the 101 telephone line. Anybody who is able to report online is encouraged to do so, so those who cannot can reach a call handler quicker. Please visit www.essex.police.uk/ to explore reporting options, which includes crime and antisocial behaviour reporting, road traffic incident reporting, breach of COVID regulations reporting and more. Why not try our 'Live Chat', available between 7am-11pm daily, where you can exchange real-time direct messages with online operators. Please always use 999 for an emergency.

Anonymous reporting: CrimeStoppers is a charity independent of the police, who will take information from you 100% anonymously and pass to the police on your behalf. There is some information that CrimeStoppers cannot process, such as if you are reporting an emergency or you are a victim of crime. Read more on their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/ or call 0800 555 111 to report. Fearless is the youth brand of CrimeStoppers, which also allows for anonymous reporting and access to information and advice regarding crime and criminality. Visit Fearless on www.fearless.org/.

what3words: This is an app and website used to help identify locations. Every 3m square has 3 unique words associated with it, which you can communicate to an emergency service or other agency to really help pinpoint your location.

Engagement Opportunities

As soon as is safe to do so, opportunities to speak with your local police in person will recommence, such as Coffee With Cops and pop-up events. We have been running Facebook Q+A sessions, with one just held for the areas covered by this newsletter on 16th February. You can visit our page to review the session. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch: epppingcommunitypolicingteam@essex.police.uk




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Cllr Kevin Bentley,
Essex County Council
Deputy Leader and
Cabinet Member for
Infrastructure



A message from Cllr Kevin Bentley. This project remains one of our most important highways schemes in Essex and, since our last newsletter, I am pleased to say that we have been progressing well. We are carrying out the necessary widening works along Gilden Way in 300m stretches to enable us to move ahead as quickly as possible and we are continuing to monitor the traffic management to help ensure that delays are kept to an absolute minimum. With the works reaching Churchgate Roundabout in recent weeks, this has required four-way lights to be in place, meaning additional delays, and I would like to thank everyone for their patience while this has been underway.

Meanwhile, we have also been making good progress with the off-line section of the scheme, with earthworks continuing on the link road and junction itself. We, therefore, remain on track for the bridge installation over the motorway in the coming months. This will mean some overnight motorway closures and we will provide more details on these in our next newsletter. You may have also seen the lane closures which we had in place on the M11 in recent works. These were to enable Highways England to safely undertake emergency repairs to the deteriorating road surface on the M11, both northbound and southbound, following poor weather. Because the works were next to and adjoining the new Junction 7A site, our contractor GRAHAM and their supply chain supported Highways England's repair teams by providing and modifying temporary traffic management measures. It was very pleasing to see this collaborative working to help re-open the road as soon as it was safe to do so. On the subject of safety, I would also stress the lengths to which our team is going to help ensure Covid-secure working arrangements as we stay on course to deliver this vital improvement scheme. For more information on the Junction 7A please visit our website at www.essex.gov.uk/junction7a and if you have any questions,

please contact the team.

Contact the project team:
m11j7a@graham.co.uk Subscribe to regular newsletters via <https://group.graham.co.uk/l/1F8/M11J7A>

Gilden Way – Updates

Four-way lights remain in operation on the Churchgate Roundabout to allow the safe construction of the new roundabout configuration as well as the concurrent widening of the adjoining roads in all directions.



We are unable to remove the traffic management measures daily as this would result in significant delays to the works and an overall increase in disruption to road user and residents. Thank you for your continued patience and as we continue to work through this complex section of work. The four-way lights are set to remain in use until early May. We are also completing widening works adjacent to Mulberry Green on the eastbound side of the road.



M11 – Updates Piling works have completed for the West and East abutments of the new overbridge and piling for the various motorway gantries along the hard shoulder continues both Northbound and



Southbound. Reinforced concrete works have started to the East abutment of the overbridge and the works to the West abutment will follow. Sheering Hall Underpass is currently closed to allow us to complete the extension works which will run until mid-March when the underpass will reopen. We plan to start the earthworks for the new Link Road and M11 slip roads on to and off the M11 at the new junction 7A from mid-March.

Community Matters



Foodbank collection loaded for delivery

Administrator, who organised the collection

In December the Project Team hosted a foodbank collection for the Harlow based Foodbank. Donations were collected from both staff and the supply chain working on the project. The food collected weighed in at the equivalent to 400 dinners! Lisa Hatch, our Site

said "we were really proud of how everyone on site helped make the collection so successful and we hope it's an initiative that we can continue throughout the year. If you would be interested in donating to the bank, they can be contacted on 01279 724515 or via email at harlowfoodbank@mrct.org.uk.

Minimising Waste

Our site is committed to minimising the amount of waste from our scheme and we are working with a recycling and waste management company to ensure 100% of our waste is diverted from landfill. The Riverside Timber Recycling Project are an Essex based social enterprise who support training and opportunities for people who might find it difficult to get into employment. Working in partnership, the project provides a wood waste collection service to then make products to sell.

Further to this we have a Materials Management Plan which has been approved by a respected independent not-for-profit organisation established to stimulate the regeneration of contaminated land and the Environmental Agency. 100% of materials generated on site, such as subsoil, clay fills, topsoil and even concrete washout waste will be reused on site via incorporation into the works.



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



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

Clear Sacks - Fortnightly : Paper, shredded paper; card, tins, cans, plastic bottles, plastic tubs and pots, food trays; plastic bags; aerosols; clean foil and foil containers, food and drink cartons (tetra-paks)
 Recycling can be presented in cardboard boxes or any plastic bags other than black bags



Polystyrene: Leave by the black wheelie bin

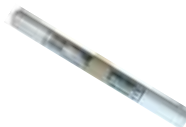


Waste Electrical Equipment: Small electrical items
 - tie up in plastic carrier leave on top of green bin

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.



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Click and Collect service reinstated

Following recent government updates, we're pleased to announce libraries

will be resuming a click and collect service from Monday 8 March. You can collect items you've reserved on our online catalogue from almost all libraries, with no appointment necessary.



Reading Friends

Would you or someone you know benefit from having a Reading Friend to talk to on the phone?

The Reading Friends scheme brings people together with trained volunteers to read, share stories, meet new friends, and have fun. It's been happening for some time elsewhere in the UK and has been highly effective in reducing social isolation. After taking part, 83% of participants reported



feeling more connected to other people. Together with participants we ensure that Reading Friends meets each person's needs and matches their interests. We'll soon be setting up virtual groups too, using video call technology. Eventually, in-person groups in libraries are planned when restrictions lift. We'll ensure a safe environment for these, adhering to Government and public health guidelines.

Interested in taking part? Please email us Information.enquiry@essex.gov.uk or phone 0345 603 7628.

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Writes Like give you inspiration for your next series of reads. whoelsewriteslike.com/

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Since the last lockdown it has been noticeable that dog poo has been left on pavements in Lower Sheering. Not only is this illegal, it is extremely hazardous to young children. Please be responsible and clean up after your dogs.



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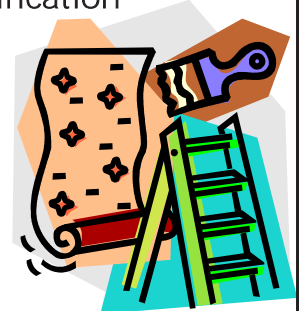
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St Mary's Parish Church Sheering

Sunday Services

1st Sunday of the month	11.00	All Age Worship - Contemporary
	6.30	Evensong at Holy Trinity Hatfield Heath
2nd Sunday of the month	11.00	Morning Worship or (even months only) Matins Traditional
3rd Sunday of the month	11.00	Holy Communion - Contemporary
4th Sunday of the month	11.00	Morning Worship - Contemporary
5th Sunday	11.00	Morning Worship



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

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

www.essexinfo.net/st_marys_sheering

See page 14
for current information

Revd Dawn Jewson

As you read this, Easter 2021 will be almost upon us. As I write this in early March, we are in the season of Lent, the 40 days (plus Sundays) which the Church sets aside for Christians to prepare themselves



for the joy of Easter, marking the time when we believe God raised Jesus to new life following his death on the cross on Good Friday.

We are also still in national lockdown, although we're beginning to see the much-publicised 'light at the end of the tunnel'. Yet life has been placed on hold for so long that we may be feeling dull and discouraged. Many of us have lost loved ones during the pandemic, and it may even feel like a betrayal of their memory to rejoice or to look ahead too much at this time.

So it's with a sense of cautious optimism that we welcome Spring, Easter, the signs of new life around us, and of course the next step in the roadmap out of the pandemic.

Our church building has stood in Church Lane for around 900 years. In that time it has been a Catholic church and an Anglican church; it has been a target for the stripping

out of 'fancy' decorations as its whitewashed walls testify; it has become a listed building, protected as part of our national heritage. But its importance is not in its stones, its mortar, its furnishings or even its worship style. The most important part of any church (after God, of course) is its people.

The people of St Mary's have recognised over the past year – as their predecessors learned time and time again in centuries gone by – that prayers said in the church building, hymns sung, even creeds recited, have no meaning unless they lead to an outpouring of love in the local community and beyond. We have seen some amazing acts of love in our village, from painted stones bringing hope and cheer, to neighbours looking out for one another, and so many people volunteering to help with vital tasks such as shopping, collecting medicines and stewarding at vaccination centres.

We want and need to keep this momentum going, even as we all receive the vaccine and life begins to look more like it did before the pandemic.

Let's not lose that love and care that we've found. Let's remember it, rejoice in it, and nurture it. We need it.

With my love,

Dawn

rev.dawn.jewson@gmail.com

01279 730288 / 07930902507



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