

SHEERING NEWS

also at www.sheering.org.uk

August 2021

140



Leaving the grass verges uncut has resulted in a profusion of wild flowers in High Lane, Sheering, including several Bee Orchids one of which is shown above right.



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Please let us have letters, articles and photos for the next edition of Sheering News promptly by Wednesday 1 November 2021.



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DIARY

PLEASE REFER TO INDIVIDUAL ORGANISATIONS FOR STARTING DATES

DAILY

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

WEEKLY

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

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:

NHS - 111

Harlow Council Community Hub
01279 927 005

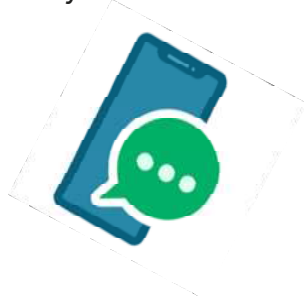
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PADDAN
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Robert Halfon MP writes:

Dear resident,

I feel it's only right that I first reflect on the coronavirus pandemic. At the time of writing, it has been 16 months since the virus gripped our way of life.

Yet, thanks to the remarkable vaccination roll out, the end is finally in sight. I have been inspired each and every day by the way our community has come together.

Whether it's in my weekly calls to coordinate key stakeholders like the Council and charity groups, in my correspondence with thousands of residents and local businesses or on my social media pages - I see the extraordinary kindness and determination Sheering residents have shown to defeat this virus - and we are finally defeating it as we move to step 4 of the roadmap.

However, I know that for so many residents, this will be the hardest part. Many face the worry of sending their children back to school, many families will be wrestling with new financial anxieties and, tragically, many others are mourning the loss of loved ones.

Throughout the pandemic, I have pressed the Government every day to secure grant funding that will benefit Sheering residents. I am pleased to have helped secure millions of pounds for our workers through the furlough scheme, protecting thousands of local jobs across Sheering and the neighbouring villages.

I've worked hard to ensure that self-employed residents receive income support to get through uncertain financial circumstances. For our small businesses, I have been helping many owners every step of the way get the grant funding and loans they need to get back on their feet, with the welcome news that the roadmap will allow our local leisure and hospitality offerings to reopen for the busy summer season.

As our focus now returns to rebuilding, I will be working hard to ensure that every resident, business and our community as a whole does not just survive, but thrives.

Of course, I have also been working hard to deliver on my promises that I made at the last General Election throughout this time and I

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would like to give you a very quick update on my progress:

- I pledged to cut the cost of living for Sheering residents and I've voted to raise the National Insurance threshold, freeze fuel duty and lower the tax burden, meaning you keep more of your hard earned money.
- I pledged to strengthen our NHS and I've voted to enshrine in law the biggest ever cash boost for our NHS, alongside more doctors, nurses and GP appointments, as well as the accelerating plans for our brand new hospital. We have so much to thank our NHS staff for, who have worked so hard to keep us safe and sacrificed a great deal during the pandemic.
- I pledged to make our streets safer and I've voted for tougher sentencing on criminals and worked to put more police on our streets. Already, we are welcoming new police officers to our community.
- I pledged to champion education and skills and I've worked tirelessly to secure more money for every pupil and every school and to deliver an apprenticeship to every young person who wants one.
- Among many other pledges, I pledged to work hard for Sheering and that is what I have been doing every day in Parliament -

to deliver more investment and support for our community.

So, as we look forward to our recovery from the coronavirus, I want to reassure you that I will be doubling down on my efforts to cut the cost of living, champion education and apprenticeships, make our streets safer, strengthen our NHS, cherish our environment and most of all, to work hard for Sheering residents.

It remains my passionate belief that we will come back to health, and robust health. Though our community will be changed by this experience, I believe that we will be stronger and better than ever before. More resilient, more innovative, more economically dynamic, but also more generous and more caring.

As ever, if there is anything I can do to help you or your family in Sheering, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With every good wish,
Robert



Get in touch -

halfon4harlow@roberthalfon.com | 01279 311451

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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

Rodney Northwood - Chairman	01279 724514	rodneynorthwood@live.co.uk
Richard Morgan - Vice Chairman	01279 731243	
Bill Bedford	01279 734229	bedfordw@rocketmail.com
Mick Bull	07801137991	mick.k.bull@gmail.com
Judy Christmas	01279 734995	judychristmas62@gmail.com
Mike Hayter	01279 734211	spcplanning@outlook.com
	07973 941987	
John Harrington	01279 722556	john@scootie5.co.uk
	07720 312045	
Neil Marsden	01279 734335	nam136918@gmail.com
Lesley Paine	07969 855316	paine127@btinternet.com
Peter Rust	01279 734881	rust937@outlook.com
Margaret Whitfield	01279 722552	margaret.whitfield@btinternet.com
	07722 327864	

Clerk to the Parish Council

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

District Councillors

Sheering Village

Richard Morgan 01279 731243 richardmorgan26@outlook.com

Lower Sheering

Paul Stalker 07969 219006 cllr.pstalker@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

County Councillor

Christopher Whitbread

cllr.christopher.whitbread@essex.gov.uk

Essex County Council, County Hall, Duke Street, Chelmsford CM1 1LX

Parish Council News

Meetings

Since my last report in the April edition of Sheering News, circumstances in terms of Covid restrictions had not until recently eased allowing face to face meetings.

Due to the restrictions, the Parish Council has not been able to meet until 23 June, this being the first meeting since December 2020. My last report outlined the problem of the Council not being able to meet in January for the usual Precept meeting, and I reported that the Council agreed to submit a Precept of £43K as was submitted for the year 2020/2021 in order that a Precept figure was submitted to EFDC to meet the required submission date. I am pleased to report that this amount was subsequently approved and paid by EFDC in April.

With the slight easing of restrictions, on 21 June, the Parish Council was able to meet on 23 June, observing social distancing and all other government requirements for holding such a meeting to carry out the long-awaited Precept meeting. The difference being that the meeting was for the purpose of allocating the Precept already granted to the various categories of expenditure.

It was also agreed that the expenditure for the year 2021/2022 would include the under spend from year 2020/2021, which was in the region of £22K as a direct result of limited activity generally through 2020 and the early part of 2021.

Following the meeting on 23 June, the Parish Council were able to meet on 30 June, the original date set for the June meeting. The agenda for this meeting included the election of the Chair and Vice Chair, elections that are usually held at the May meeting. I am pleased to advise that Councillor Richard Morgan and I were re elected as Vice Chairman and Chairman, respectively. Both Councillor Morgan and I thanked our fellow Councillors for their confidence in us in fulfilling these important roles and we look forward to their support during what we expect to be a busy year ahead.

The elections did not bring any change to these positions on the Parish Council. However, this cannot be said for other areas of the Council.

Parish Clerk

I have to report, that our Parish Clerk, Debbie Tennant has taken the decision to retire as Parish Clerk, a position she has held since her appointment in January 2013. Debbie's

decision I know has not been an easy one for her to make, but on becoming a grandmother for the first time in April, and for the second time in July, her decision was a little easier enabling her to spend more time with her new grandchildren, a decision that was fully supported by all Councillors.

Debbie will be sorely missed not only by the Councillors she supported, but also by many members of the community who found her always approachable and a listening ear, when reporting any concerns they may have had around the Parish. I also take the opportunity of thanking Debbie personally for all the help and support she has given and shown me, during my term in office as Chairman which started three months into Debbie's appointment. It has always been very much appreciated and gratefully received.

The vacancy for a Parish Clerk has been advertised in the appropriate manner, and by the time you read this report, interviews for the position will have been held on 5 July and subject to those interviews, an appointment made with the intention of the new Clerk attending her first meeting on 28 July.

Councillor Resignation

Debbie's decision to retire was followed by Councillor Alan Jones's resignation. Since his appointment as a Councillor, Alan has been a very active Councillor, taking on the responsibility for the two playing fields and the management of the Council's handyman. Due to the workload imposed by these two particular areas of the Council's activity, the responsibility for the playing fields was subsequently passed to Councillor Bedford with the management and the organisation of the Handyman and his responsibilities remaining with Councillor Jones. Since being elected Chairman in 2013, on interviewing for a new Councillor, as and when required, I have always made the point that a Councillor's role is not about attending meetings, listening and then going home, it is about getting involved in dealing with the issues presented to the Council, and taking ownership of specific issues and seeing them through to a satisfactory conclusion in the interest of the those who we represent. On his appointment, Alan most certainly took this to heart, hence the work load he initially took on, and subsequently followed through with his management and organisation of the handyman.

I do therefore, on behalf of the Parish Council and I am sure many Sheering residents,

extend our sincere thanks to Alan for all his hard work and commitment during his time in office which has been very much appreciated and we wish him well for the future. The vacancy as a result of Alan's resignation will be advertised in the normal and recognised manner.

Handyman

Regrettably, we have also received the resignation of our Handyman, Ken Roberts. Ken was appointed Handyman on 1 November 2019 and has served the Parish Council since then in a most exemplary manner. Ken has decided to pursue his interests elsewhere, and again, on behalf of the Parish Council our thanks are recorded to Ken for all his hard work and commitment in his role and we extend our very best wishes to him for the future.

The vacancy for Ken's replacement will be advertised in the normal manner.

Residents' Issues

With the ability for the Parish Council to get back to meeting and business, we anticipate the coming months being a busy period for us all, taking into account the fact that for the last fifteen or so months very little has happened. The Parish Council will be concentrating on as many issues reported by residents as possible, and councillors have been requested to put those issues reported in order of priority so that what is considered the most important can be tackled first.

Playing Fields & Equipment

It is clear from the recent report from Wicksteed on the condition of our playing fields and indeed some of the play equipment, a lot of work is required to bring these areas up to standard. In terms of the Lower Sheering playing field, this will include some upgrading measures of equipment and safety surfaces. It is also planned to provide two memorial benches in memory of those residents who we

have sadly lost due to the pandemic: one in Sheering Village and one in Lower Sheering.

Tree Planting Scheme

During June, Councillors met with a representative of EFDC to discuss the tree planting scheme that is available to Parish Councils. Further details have now been received and Councillors Lesley Paine and Margaret Whitfield, will be looking into the scheme to establish locations and tree types best suited to enable us to further our interest and involvement in the scheme.

Waste Bins

Over recent months, and probably with an increase in walkers and dog walkers, it has become clear that there are insufficient dog waste bins in both Sheering Village and Lower Sheering. Additional bins including a replacement litter bin for the Lower Sheering playing field have been ordered and it is anticipated these will be in position in the near future. Please help to keep our community clean and tidy by making full use of all the bins around.

Speed Watch

Because of the pandemic, it has not been possible to operate our speed watch programme. Now that restrictions are easing, it is proposed to start this programme again and if you would like to be involved and want to volunteer to participate, please contact Councillor Mike Hayter whose details you can find on page 7 of this publication.

I am sure, with the easing of restrictions, and the return to what we know as the norm, whatever that might be, and I hope that on reading this, it will all be a lot clearer following the Prime Ministers announcement on July 19, there will be a lot more issues to report on. In the meantime, stay safe, keep well and let's hope the months ahead will bring better and more enjoyable times for us all.

Rodney Northwood
Chairman Sheering Parish Council

VACANCY

Parish Clerk (Part Time)

For further details and application form, please contact
Debbie Tennant (Clerk)

Tel: 01279 734580 sheeringpc@gmail.com

Closing date: 7th August 2021





The Sawbridgeworth Local History Society (SLHS) was formed in April 2016. Prior to this a number of us were involved in a World War One Commemoration Group hosted by the Town Council. That group organised a number of events, most noteworthy being a World War One exhibition, held in the autumn of 2015. It inspired a number of us to branch out, initially via U3A but later as an independent society, which aims to research, collect, record and preserve the heritage of our town and the surrounding area. Over the last half year our Society has held 4 consecutive talks on Zoom. Peter Reed talked about the history of our Memorial Hall, Liz Waugh presented a talk about Eric Ravillious, the resident artist at RAF Sawbridgeworth and Ann Rowe talked about Deer Parks in our neck of the woods. Most recently David Short made a presentation about education through the ages in our area. However, we still miss face to face meetings and now look forward to organising these again. Our first ordinary members meeting took place in late June. In September we

plan a first open evening at the Hailey Centre. One of the talks being considered concerns the history of the Sawbridgeworth Fire Brigade. A number of projects are in the pipeline. The most exciting one of these will be the posting of QR codes at points of historic interest in Sawbridgeworth. For those who do not know what QR codes are: they are the squiggly squares seen on walls or lamp posts. You hold your mobile phone over one of these and up comes an explanation telling you what used to happen there in days gone by. Technically all is in place for this, but we do now have to go through all the official steps to get it all approved. Other planned activities concern a stall at the High Wych Scarecrow Festival in September and at Nostalgia Day in November. Our website and Facebook page continue to publish new material. We welcome new members and would also welcome participation and contributions from Sheering folk. There is not much point in being parochial! Sheering and Sawbridgeworth are close neighbours and our histories are very much intertwined. So if you think you have a project for us or a question, do contact us. You can do so through our website. That website is also the place

to go if you want to buy any one of the five books we are selling. There is one about the Great War, one about Rivers Nursery, one about Burton's Mill, one about RAF Sawbridgeworth and our bestseller, the Story of Sawbridgeworth. Come and join us and discover how exciting local history can be.

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The Crown Public House

The Crown Pub has finally closed its doors.

It was one of originally three pubs in Sheering Village. The Cock Inn and The Queen's Head were the other two.

As the pubs were all on the

main street, Sheering was the place where you passed through for "a pint and a punch up." My mother never explained why!

The Crown Pub is thought to have existed since the 1700s and many locals passed through its doors. Indeed, the charabanc belonging to the pub transported many of them to the seaside. My earliest recollection is going through the back gate to the pub in Back Lane (as Crown Close was before the M11) to buy lemonade and crisps. The licensee at that time was Jim and his



The Crown Public House in days gone by

wife Gwen. They started serving food in the second bar of the pub and took the overflow of people who were unable to obtain a table at The Green Man at Mulberry Green. They left subsequently to take over The Green Man. I am sure there

are some in the village whose grandparents frequented the pub. In those days, a pub was the centre of the village community.

Sadly the Crown pub will be a memory of the past.

Janet Whitehead

We wish Pauline and Joe Johnson all the best in their retirement.

Local Guide Books from Sheering Author

Local author Peter Aylmer used lockdown to good effect. Three local trails pass in or near Sheering, and with his wife Barbara he walked them all. He's turned his researches into three guide books, available through his website www.trailman.co.uk.

The Stort Valley Way is a 30-mile circular path around the countryside surrounding Harlow, passing through Lower

Sheering and along The Street.

The 25-mile Forest Way links Epping Forest to Hatfield Forest, passing through Hatfield Heath.

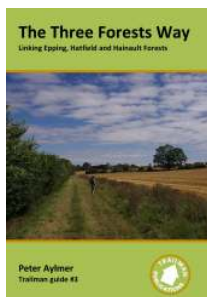
Longest of the three trails at 60 miles is the Three Forests Way.

It's a circular route, adding in Hainault Forest to Epping and Hatfield, and like the Stort Valley Way runs along the River Stort and through Lower Sheering.

It's easy to walk the routes in short stages - indeed that's how Peter and Barbara walked them, with easy parking in the many small villages the routes pass through. Or, save them up for some longer summer time days out!

All three guide books have colour photographs and professionally-drawn maps. Each is priced at £6 with free p&p.

Peter is also the author of the Cicerone Press guides to Essex and to London, also available through his website.



Sawbridgeworth Annual Gardens & Allotment Show



It's ready! The Schedule for this year's Annual Gardens and Allotment Show. You can take pride in displaying your expertise in

growing vegetables and fruit, arranging flowers, presenting your craft work or photography, cooking up a tasty loaf or selection of preserves, plus so much more including a special children's section which can be planned during the school holidays.



This will all be happening in Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall on Saturday 4 September so now is the time to get in touch for your schedule - 07709 068 882 or hazelmead404@btinternet.com.

For those who are perhaps entering for the first time or would just like some extra information, there is a "how to" list which you can also request.

Looking forward to an avalanche of requests so that this can be a super show.

Barbara Barker

The Sheering News team are very sorry that Barbara Barker is standing down from Sheering News. She has been a member of the editorial committee for twenty years and has contributed to and proof read about sixty editions. Her knowledge of the people, organisations and history of the village has been invaluable. Thank you Barbara on behalf of the team and all our readers.



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I am sending a poem written in those days when one was allowed to travel abroad - the Good Old Days. This was a trip we took to Southern Ireland crossing by ferry and then driving down south. I hope you enjoy it. Adrienne

Kerry Gems

We sail across by ferry
Heading down to County Kerry
Through the Curragh of Kildare that racing scene
To the Shannon swiftly flowing
Sunlight setting waves to glowing
Passing fields of barley-brown and emerald green.

In Adare the castle towers
Look upon bright beds of flowers
And the roses still are blooming in Tralee
Where the windmill sails are turning
To remind us of the yearning
Of the folk once forced to sail across the sea.

From Killorglin to Killarney
It is all a load of blarney
For the little folk are hiding in the haze
Beneath treetops wildly tossing
'Beware Leprechauns are Crossing'
Is painted on the signs to meet your gaze.

And the mountains tower over
Fields of fuchsia and clover
Where hawthorn berries hang like drops of blood
In the Dunloe Gap where only
Nature wild and stark and lonely
Still holds sway and rivers race away in flood.

In the distance in the morning
Mist descends there without warning
With Killarney's mountains hidden from our sight
And the rutting deer's wild bellow
Becomes muted then and mellow
In the cloudy covered lakeside morning light.

On occasion while out touring
We would shelter from the pouring
By a cosy fire in a wayside bar
With Guinness we'd be sated
With a shamrock decorated
Then carry on our cruising in the car.

But at last the break is ending
And homeward we are wending
Goodbye Killarney, Cork and Dingle Bay
The songbirds chirp in chorus
And a rainbow shines before us
A fond farewell to guide us on our way.

Adrienne Tinn



Dunloe Gap



Sheering's local friendly pub offering a warm welcome and a community atmosphere



We have a traditional English menu served daily with a well stocked bar including seasonally changing real ales.

Monday to Saturday our chef serves a lunch special, a choice of main meal and dessert for £7.95 alongside our daily menu. On Sundays we serve a traditional roast 12-3.30pm alongside a smaller Sunday menu.

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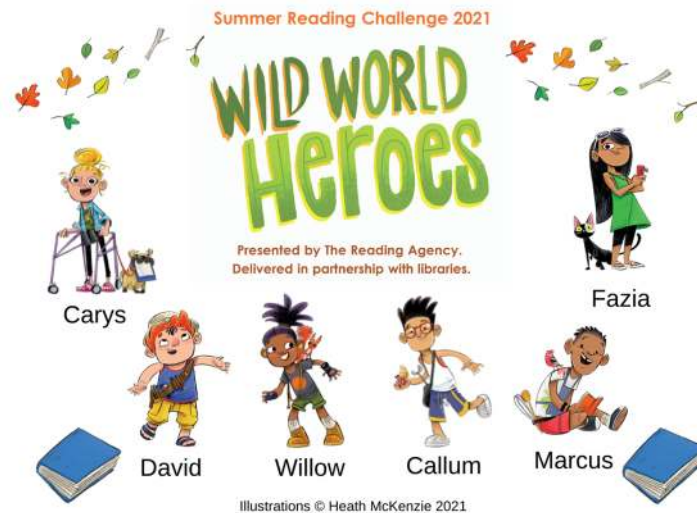


Summer Reading Challenge

Saturday 10 July – Tuesday 31 August 2021

The Wild World Heroes are coming to a library near you this summer. Let's meet them!

- **Carys** and her dog **Doug** want Wilderville to be the best place to live ever. She loves bird spotting in the park and reading comics and graphic novels.
- **David** and his spider pal **Webster** like camping near the river. He likes recording wildlife, studying insects and drawing. He loves reading books about nature too.
- **Willow** and her squirrel **Hazel** love being outdoors and taking care of animals. She uses British Sign Language and loves reading scary stories.
- **Callum** and his hermit crab **Shelby** like surfing, rock pooling and organising litter picks along the coast. His favourite books are adventure stories.
- **Marcus** and his chaffinch **Charlie** live on his family's farm. His favourite thing to do is read poetry outdoors.
- **Fazia** and her cat **Mouse** love gaming, coding and making videos. She enjoys listening to sci-fi audio books.



The Summer Reading Challenge runs from Saturday 10 July to Tuesday 31 August in all Essex libraries and mobile libraries.

Children need to read six books to help the Wilderville children make a difference to the environment. To take part they will need their own library card, so if anyone in your family is not a library member pop down to your local library to join or join online now.

As they read library books, they will collect stickers for their folder. After reading six books they earn their certificate and medal.

Children can read any library book of their choice; fiction, non-fiction, picture books or books they share

with parents and carers – they all count. The under threes are not forgotten - there's a special version of Wild World Heroes just for them.

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The Local Plan outlines proposed development across the District until 2033.

Main modifications

The consultation seeks views on changes being proposed to the 2017 Local Plan Submission Version which is currently under independent examination. These are changes that the Local Plan inspector considers necessary before the plan can be adopted. These changes are known as main modifications.

This main modifications stage follows the public examination hearings that took place between February and June 2019 and the inspector's initial advice of August 2019. This stage of consultation is limited to the changes (main modifications) proposed to the 2017 Plan and supporting documents that have informed these changes. It is not an opportunity to comment on parts of the 2017 Local Plan that are not proposed to be changed.

Supporting documents include the Sustainability Appraisal addendum and the 2021 Habitats Regulations assessment.

Proposed changes

A Council spokesman said:

"The Local Plan is at an advanced stage in

examination and this is an opportunity for people to submit their views on the changes proposed to the plan during the examination process.

"It is important that people are clear on the nature of the modifications proposed at this stage. They do not include identification of any new sites for allocation for development compared with the 2017 Local Plan Submission version.

"I would also stress that there is no need to repeat comments already made as part of the examination because these are already being considered by the inspector.

The Local Plan is our highest corporate priority. Its adoption is critical in ensuring necessary development in the district is delivered in the most sustainable locations and is accompanied by the infrastructure that is required."

Consultation

Consultation is open for 10 weeks from 8 July 2021 until 16 September 2021. Upon launch full details will be available on the Epping Forest District Council website.

The quickest and easiest way to respond is via the online form but responses can also be made by email or post.

All responses will be collated and sent to the planning inspector for consideration once consultation closes and will be uploaded to the Local Plan website.

We will also be contacting people who have registered for Local Plan updates, statutory bodies such as Natural England, local town and parish councils and other stakeholders.

Paul Stalker

District Councillor Lower Sheering

Aircraft over-flying Sheering

As a very long-term resident of Great Hallingbury, I was very used to aircraft noise and how to make the correct complaints when necessary.

Having moved to Sheering in 2017, I have enjoyed the quieter conditions here. I have got used to seeing aircraft veering east or west and just the few continuing south over the east part of the village.

On the 5th of June, I was greatly surprised to see and hear a noisy aircraft to the west of Church Lane. This prompted me to again contact the Airport Noise Complaints system. I have had a response to confirm that the aircraft was too low to depart from the

approved routes. It was MD11 operated by FedEx, my grandson identifies it as a old type of plane, hence the noise levels. The incident has been opened as an investigation with both ATC (Air Traffic Control) and FedEx. I expect to hear further in due course.

The reason for writing this is to encourage other Sheering residents to contact Stansted Airport if they suffer low aircraft and/or noise. Contact 0800 243 788

It is an easy to use service but I suggest that you always request a written reply, that way you know that your complaint has been received. Complaints are taken seriously and do affect the Airport Policy

Richard Simmons

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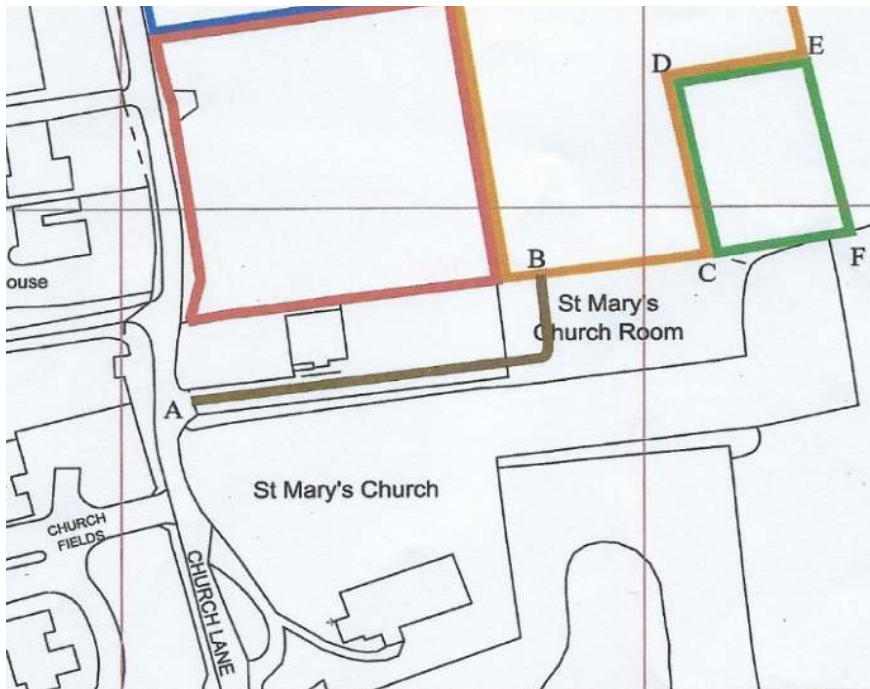


Friends of St Mary's Sheering



Update on the Churchyard Extension

This is our big news. Negotiations have been concluded with Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance for the transfer of a strip of land, marked CDEF on the plan below, to extend the churchyard.



It measures 20 by 45 metres, similar to the nearby previous extension to the churchyard.

It is a requirement that the land should be fenced, and also that the closest burial plots must be located at least 10 metres from the nearby watercourse (the ditch beyond the hedge at E-to-F). As confirmed with Epping Forest District Council the fence between E and F will therefore run alongside the public footpath, 10 metres from the ditch. If necessary the overgrown hedge will be trimmed to keep the footpath passable. There are still a few conditions to be met before the ground can be consecrated for burials, including removal of the pesky hawthorn saplings that have sprung up everywhere, but we are greatly encouraged!

Churchyard team

This year's weather has made the grass grow really quickly so it has been a huge challenge for the churchyard team. We are VERY grateful to them for their dedication in keeping the churchyard so neat and tidy. If you are interested in

joining in on a Saturday morning every few weeks, please contact Natalie Cracknell 01279 734360 or 07907 838860. It's great fun, and you will make a real difference.

COVID and the church building

We are delighted that services are again being held, **at 10.30 every Sunday**. At the time of writing COVID-secure regulations continue (hand-sanitiser on arrival, socially-distanced seating and test and trace details recorded). You will be more than welcome to attend.

As you may know Sheering is part of the "Six Villages" group of churches (with Hatfield Heath, Great and Little Hallingbury, Hatfield Broad Oak and Bush End) led by Rev Dawn Jewson, Rev David Herrick and Licensed Lay Minister Caroline Harding. Part of that collaboration includes a service on Zoom at 11.15 every Sunday morning. So if church-in-person does not suit you, why not join those of us who "attend" that service. Email

SixVillagesZoomCodes@gmail.co for the login details.

Quinquennial inspection of the church

Every Anglican church has to have a quinquennial (five-yearly) inspection by an architect accredited by the Diocese, and after every inspection the architect gives the PCC a list of items to be tackled as follows:

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

By the time Sheering News is published our inspection will have been held, and we

confess to a bit of anxiety in case something really expensive or urgent comes to light. 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. This time, though, we have not had the benefit of any fund-raising events since Spring 2020. We will keep you posted.

Dates for your Diary

Friends events: Sadly, because of COVID, there are not yet any Friends events to put in this section. Here's hoping it won't be too long before we can invite you to something.

Church events: Likewise we have no events planned yet, except for Sunday morning services.

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

Libraries Update

Get set for a summer of reading with free events and activities for children, supported by The Reading Agency. There are read-alongs, games, quizzes, children's book clubs and much more! The Reading Agency are working with over 20 partners. New events and activities will be added each week until 17 September.



readingagency.org.uk/ for full details. Families are encouraged to share their reading activities on social media using the hashtag #SummerofReading. Remember to tag @EssexLibraries in your Tweets and Facebook posts so we can engage with you. And don't forget, the biggest reading activity, the Summer Reading Challenge, will be running in all Essex libraries throughout the school summer holidays. Let's make 2021 a summer of reading to remember!

Percy Peacock



Percy Peacock sadly passed away in hospital after a short illness at the age of 91. Percy was born in Sheering and attended Sheering School. He worked for Helmer and Dyer as a painter and decorator all his working life, apart from his time in the army. He worked with Mick Saban from Hatfield Heath who introduced him to fishing but Percy joked with Mick that fishing was a rod with a fool on one end and a worm on the other! However, he asked Mick when he was next going fishing and Mick fixed him up with a rod.

Percy caught a few fish and decided he wanted his own gear so he purchased equipment in Old Harlow and was hooked! He went on to catch many fish and won several cups and there was no going back. He joined Sawbridgeworth Fishing Club, organising many day trips and went on to become Captain.

He also loved cycling around the countryside and walking, especially around the Yorkshire Dales.

We say goodbye to Percy, a native of Sheering.

Irene Harriss

Congratulations to Ian Liddell who celebrated his 90th Birthday in June. Ian was born at Gladwyns Farm, his father, Jim, was a tenant farmer in 1927, buying the farm in 1946. In the past they had pigs, beef and 30,000 free range chickens as well as arable land growing various crops. At that time they also sold hatching eggs all over the country.

In 1950 they purchased Shrubbs Farm, now the home of Ian, his son Martin and his family. Their main business these days being arable, farming land in both Sheering and Hatfield Heath



The Hundred Parishes Society

Many of us wait anxiously for the outcome of the recent public inquiry into a possible increase in the passenger cap at Stansted Airport, yet the local community's love-hate relationship with Stansted Airport is only the latest in a series of significant aviation events that have occurred within the Hundred Parishes.

In a field at Standon Green End in the parish of Thundridge, a monument marks the spot where Italian balloonist Vincenzo Lunardi landed in 1784 after completing the first manned flight in England. He took off from London beneath a balloon filled with hydrogen.

In 1913, Bentfield Hucks was the first Englishman to loop-the-loop in his Bleriot aeroplane. He was born in 1884 in Bentfield Cottage, Stansted Mountfitchet and thus acquired his unusual forename.



Duxford airfield, now the site of Imperial War Museum, Duxford, first became operational in World War I. Some of its buildings, constructed by German prisoners-of-war, still stand. In 1938, Duxford was the first airfield to take delivery of Spitfire fighter planes. Frank Whittle flew regularly from here while he was developing ideas that eventually led to the invention of the turbojet engine just before the end of WWII.

Altogether, twelve military airfields operated within the Hundred Parishes during WWII. Andrewsfield, straddling the parish boundary between The Salings and Stebbing, was the first American-built base in Europe, becoming operational in 1943. Stansted was another American-built airfield. Thousands of Americans were based in this area; many never saw home again.

Many of us have enjoyed the relative peace that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought to our skies, in particular discovering the joy of walking in the countryside. It is sad that it has taken so many deaths to remind us of the quality of life that exists right here, without the need to fly.

Ken McDonald, Secretary.

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



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**Hospice Bereavement
Volunteers named
'Volunteer Team of the Year'
by Epping Forest District
Council**



St Clare Hospice's team of bereavement volunteers have been recognised for their vital contribution during the COVID-19 pandemic by being awarded the 'Volunteer Team of the Year' award at the annual Epping Forest District Council Civic Awards 2021.

The Volunteer Team of the Year award recognised those who had made a significant contribution to the welfare of others during the COVID-19 pandemic, and those who had done the extra mile to offer support to their community.

The team of 38 bereavement volunteers were first trained to support the delivery of seven Bereavement Cafés across West Essex and East Herts – café-style events that bring together local people who are experiencing grief and loss to support one another. When COVID Lockdown restrictions meant the face-to-face cafés could no longer take place, the volunteers adapted and continued to support those who are bereaved through online communities, virtual bereavement café events, and the formation of a brand-new Bereavement Helpline.

St Clare Patient and Family Support team Manager, Sushma Dhami, oversees the bereavement volunteer team and said:

"Throughout the past year, as we have navigated the pandemic, our bereavement volunteers have been willing and dedicated, finding time to support people in the local community and help the Hospice



to develop new services. The Hospice's bereavement services have never been more needed due to COVID, and they are underpinned by our tremendous team of volunteers who definitely deserve to have their dedication recognised."

Commenting on the bereavement volunteers' 'Volunteer Team of the Year' win, Sushma

said: "This is really fantastic news and a testament to the continued hard work and commitment of all our bereavement service volunteers. A really well-deserved award which recognises the difference our volunteers make within our community."

To find out more about St Clare Hospice's bereavement support services, visit stclarehospice.org.uk/stclarehospice @hospicestclare @stclarehospice

Bereavement HELPLINE Call our Helpline to access: **St Clare Hospice**

01279 967670

- A listening ear & emotional support
- Guidance on what to do after a death
- Sign-posting to support in your area

Free, local support

St Clare Hospice's Bereavement Helpline

St Clare Hospice's Bereavement Helpline is available to everyone who is experiencing bereavement and looking to talk to someone immediately about how they are feeling. The Helpline is also able to offer help and advice following the loss of a loved one.

Anyone who has experienced the loss of someone close, whether recently or in the past, is welcome to call our Bereavement Support Helpline. Callers do not need to have used our services in the past and will be able to access immediate help and support.

By calling our Bereavement Support Helpline, you

will have access to a range of supportive services:

- A listening ear and emotional support from our trained St Clare staff and volunteers
 - Information and guidance on what to do after a death (things like registering a death, closing accounts, planning a funeral, and other practical arrangements and considerations)
 - Sign-posting to other St Clare services that you can access, as well as resources in your local community that could benefit you
- Our Bereavement Support Helpline operates from 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday. The number to call is 01279 967670. It is free to call, though charges may apply in line with your standard network rate.



Can you afford to throw £150 away?

Local authorities and fast food restaurants have come together to fight the scourge of people throwing litter out of their vehicle. Banners will be displayed at fifteen KFC and three McDonald's drive through restaurants, and take-away packaging will also be branded with "Can you afford to throw £150 away? Keeping Essex clean and tidy costs the tax payer over £17 million a year and with decreasing local authority budgets year-on-year, the demand and pressure put on providing services such as street cleansing continues to rise. This year, the anticipated cost of keeping Epping Forest District clean and tidy will be around £1.4 million and picking up other people's litter is an expensive part of that. It is literally throwing money away which should be spent on more important things," said Councillor Nigel Avey, Portfolio Holder Contract & Technical Services.



"We have seen the negative impact of litter on nature and wildlife, as well as in our oceans through programmes such as Blue Planet. A lot of that litter such as bottles, food packaging, straws, cans and cups, has been wind-blown from further inland, eventually turning up on our coasts. It is now even more vital we all do whatever is necessary to save our environment, protect our wildlife and eradicate the bad littering habit."

In Epping Forest District, we are asking everyone to act if they see someone throwing litter from their vehicle, by taking the registration number and reporting it to Epping Forest District Council by calling 01992 564000



Fly-tipping

A fly-tipping offender who pleaded guilty to 7 offences in 2020 was sentenced to:

- A suspended 9 month prison sentence
- A 3 month curfew
- 12 months driving disqualification
- 10 year Criminal behaviour Order (CBO)
- Prosecution charges of £2600

Report Fly-tipping

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of waste. eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Telephone 01992 564608 during office hours or 01992 564000 at all other times.

What they need to know

- The date, time and place
- The type and size of the fly-tip
- A description of the person

The registration and description of the vehicle

If you see someone fly-tipping

- Do not approach them, they may react badly to being challenged
- Do not touch the waste or open containers as they may contain hazardous material

Report it – call Essex Police if the offenders are still on site. After the event you can report the fly-tipping and they will investigate to find out who is responsible.

Call 999 if you are reporting a crime in progress or if someone is in immediate danger



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If you live in Essex and have symptoms you should book a PCR test on GOV.UK or call 119.

Lateral Flow Tests

Rapid lateral flow tests help to find cases in people who may have

no symptoms but are still infectious and can

give the virus to others.

The test usually involves taking a sample from your tonsils (or where they would have been) and from your nose, using a swab. You can get a result in 30 minutes. Available from gov.uk; test centres and pharmacies.



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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)



Please tie your recycling bags, and flatten your boxes.

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.
- ◆ The Shed Coffee House The Maltings Station Road Lower Sheering CM21 9JX
- ◆ Valerie and Ron Monk (8 Sheering Mill Lane) will still keep a reduced number of sacks in case Lower Sheering villagers run out.



For more information contact 01992 564608
www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Colin's Blog

Beware of ticket fraud as restrictions ease.

Action Fraud is warning the public to take extra care when buying tickets for festivals and events online, as figures from the national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime reveal almost £1 million has been lost to ticket fraud so far this year. Data from Action Fraud reveals that 1,085 reports of ticket fraud have been made so far this year, equating to an average loss of £850 per victim. Almost two thirds of victims (61 per cent) were aged between 20 to 49 years old.

Action Fraud received 374 reports of ticket fraud in March this year – the highest number of reports received since March 2020 when lockdown restrictions were first implemented. Victims reported losing over £200,000 in March this year alone.

Pauline Smith, Head of Action Fraud, said: "Many festivals and events scheduled to go ahead as coronavirus-related restrictions ease have already sold out – something criminals are more than happy to take advantage of.

"To avoid disappointment, only buy tickets from the venue directly, an official promoter or agent, or a well-known and reputable ticket site. Don't be duped by offers on secondary ticketing websites or social media, as this is often where criminals will advertise fake tickets to popular and sold-out events. Remember, if a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

One victim lost £200 after posting on Twitter asking if anyone had tickets for sale

for a concert. The victim was messaged by someone who claimed they had a number of tickets for sale and the suspect claimed they would transfer the tickets to the victim as soon as payment was received. The victim sent the payment via PayPal and once the suspect had received the payment, they blocked the victim.

Another victim lost almost £250 after joining a Facebook group where they saw someone selling two VIP tickets to a festival. The victim contacted the person selling the tickets and was informed that they only accepted payment a digital wallet provider. The suspect claimed they would transfer the tickets to the victim as soon as payment was received but went on to block the victim and continued to advertise the tickets on the same group.

Another victim lost more than £3,500 after purchasing tickets for a rugby tour via what appeared to be a legitimate ticket website. The victim attempted to obtain a refund due to the uncertainty

around travel but was unable to contact the company. The company has since been dissolved and a number of other victims have reported suffering a similar fate. Action Fraud has launched a national awareness campaign today (Monday 14 June 2021) to remind the public to take extra care when booking tickets online, as it is anticipated that increased demand for tickets following restrictions easing will lead to more unsuspecting victims being targeted.

Spot the signs of ticket fraud and protect yourself: -

- Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, official promoter or agent, or a well-known and reputable ticket site.
- Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal give you a better chance of recovering your money if you become a victim of fraud.
- Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts or adverts

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offering unbelievably good deals on tickets. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

- Is the vendor a member of STAR? If they are, the company has signed up to their strict governing standards. STAR also offers an approved Alternative Dispute Resolution service to help customers with outstanding complaints. For more information: [star.org.uk/buy safe](http://star.org.uk/buy-safe).

If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

What does the future look like for wildflower meadows?

Communities and organisations are working together to return wildflower meadows to the UK landscape.

Grow Wild is the UK's biggest wildflower campaign, bringing people together to transform local spaces with native wildflowers and plants. It has also funded four large scale urban rejuvenation projects to transform previously unloved spaces into wildlife havens while bringing communities together. So hopefully, the future is bright and full of wildflowers. We cannot afford to let this campaign fail, and I urge you to play a part in helping to address the balance. Check out: -

<https://www.growwilduk.com/sowingmap>

Essex: E-scooter initiative launched to keep everyone safe.

On Monday 14 June Essex Police launched an initiative aimed at owners and riders of privately-owned e-scooters used in public areas.

Our overarching aim is to keep everyone safe on our roads and footpaths. We want to educate owners and riders of privately owned e-scooters about the current legislation and, where necessary, take enforcement action especially where there is evidence of anti-social behaviour, other riding offences or wider criminality.

We must ensure those using privately-owned e-scooters do not pose a risk to the public or themselves due to their presence on public highways and pavements.

The use of privately-owned e-scooters in any public place is illegal.

By educating riders and encouraging them not to use privately-owned e-scooters in a public area, we hope that the number of e-scooters being used illegally, and any perceived antisocial behaviour, will be reduced. We recognise that a number of these scooters will be owned and ridden by young people, so we have taken the opportunity to write to schools advising parents of our plans. We're not trying to criminalise anyone, but please ensure you know the rules before buying your child an e-scooter.

Superintendent Sam Smith, who is leading this initiative, said:

"We have written to schools recently and asked them to raise awareness with parents about the laws surrounding private e-scooters.

"Private e-scooters are permitted in law only to be used on private land, and are illegal if used on public land and we need to raise awareness of this legislation for everyone's safety.

"We're not trying to target young people, but we need

them to know that there are aspects to riding an e-scooter that could put them, or the wider public, at risk if the e-scooter is being ridden in a dangerous manner.

"Privately owned e-scooters cannot be insured as they are not roadworthy and, therefore, they present a danger to the rider and the rest of the public."

In the next few weeks, when we stop and speak to any young person riding a privately-owned e-scooter, we will speak to their parents to raise awareness of the law. Superintendent Smith went on to say: "We are aware that e-scooters are also used by adults who use them as a means of leisure and transport, but we will stop and speak to them too. We want to keep people safe and continue to deal with reports of e-scooters being involved in crime.

"Where there is persistent use of privately-owned e-scooters, or evidence of other offences, we will take appropriate enforcement action. This includes e-scooter seizure and riders being reported for driving offences."

Please stop and have a chat with your local Community Police Teams and ask them any questions you might have about e-scooters.

Colin I. Freeman
MITOL Trustee
and Executive
committee
member of Essex County
Neighbourhood Watch
Association, member of
Brentwood and Harlow NhW
committees and advisor to
London Community Watch.



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New outlet for Recycling Sacks in Lower Sheering:

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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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Essex Explorer Magazine

In the Summer edition the Explore Essex team look at how to make your garden a haven for pollinators.



As well as provide top tips and gardening ideas from Crossing Temple Barns' head gardener. We also uncover the history and heritage of Cudmore Grove Country Park.

We share our reader's summer reads recommendations and more about the Wild World Heroes. Read about the Essex Book Festival – including a flash fiction competition called 'Story Hunters'.

Learn more on how goats are helping with natural land management and the latest news from the Climate Action Commission. Discover the new campaign from Active Essex, explore summer wildflower walks, download our spotters guide for butterflies, and be in with a chance to win a butterfly biome. Learn about plastic free gardening with Love Essex and win a large compost bin, and so much more.

explore-essex.com/culture/essex-explorer

Love Essex

Did you know that it is estimated that in each Essex home, clothes worth about £1,200 are forgotten and unworn? That's why it's important to always ask yourself how much you love the item before you buy it

When it comes to getting rid of unwanted clothes, consider donating them to charity shops, selling them online or recycling them at a local bring bank. Some local councils also offer a kerbside collection, but check the Love Essex search function first.

Remember, the only textiles you should place in general rubbish is unusable duvets and pillows which cannot be cleaned or donated. <https://www.recyclenow.com/> loveessex.org/



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St Mary's Parish Church Sheering

Sunday Services

1st Sunday of the month	10.30	Morning Worship
2nd Sunday of the month	11.00	Morning Worship
3rd Sunday of the month	11.00	Holy Communion
4th Sunday of the month	11.00	Morning Worship



We are currently unable to offer a separate group for children on Sunday mornings

Sheering is part of the "Six Villages" group of churches (with Hatfield Heath, Great and Little Hallingbury, Hatfield Broad Oak and Bush End). If there is a fifth Sunday in the month there will be a joint service in one of the churches. Watch the notice board for details of the venue.

<https://e-voice.org.uk/ht-sm-churches/>

Revd Dawn Jewson writes:

'When I am weak, I am strong'

What makes you feel weak, vulnerable?

I broke my arm earlier this year, and apart from the pain (which lasted a LONG time!), one of the worst aspects was not being able to drive for two months. Thankfully there wasn't much to drive to during that time, but I still felt the loss of independence acutely. Many of us have of course felt extremely vulnerable during the pandemic, and with good reason. That's why we've kept our Zoom service going every Sunday even when we were able to return to worshipping in our church buildings. Zoom has given us an invaluable alternative church for those who want to be as safe as possible.

People (including churchgoers) often think the reason we go to church is to gain some kind of strength – to be fuelled up and gain the power to change the world. So, it was a bit of a surprise in church the other week to come across a Bible reading in which St Paul actually **boasts** that he is weak!

He had experienced the church in Corinth saying mean things about him like 'in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing'. (I think I'd feel pretty weak and vulnerable if I knew people were talking about me like that!) So, he decided to focus on the less powerful side of himself. His reasoning was that God had told him 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made strong in weakness'.



Put it another way: when we're at our most vulnerable, that's when we are at our least arrogant and self-sufficient. And God loves it, because we rely on him more and more, and that draws us closer to him.

So, if you're struggling at the moment, with whatever is making you feel inadequate or vulnerable, it might help to remember Paul's words: 'When I am weak, I am strong'. God wants to tell you, quite simply 'You are enough. I love you'. Don't we all need some of that?

With my love,

Dawn

PS Look out for our new curate (trainee vicar), Becs Challis, who joined us in July ready for her ordination in September!

Mobile: 07930 902507

Vicarage: 01279 730288

email: rev.dawn.jewson@gmail.com

(I usually take a break from emails and phone calls on Saturdays but will answer any messages as soon as I can from Sunday.)

Find Hatfield Heath and Sheering churches on Facebook.

Website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/ht-sm-churches/>

Priest in Charge, Hatfield Heath & Sheering; Hatfield Broad Oak & Bush End; Associate Priest, Great & Little Hallingbury
Assistant Area Dean for Harlow and Villages

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