

# SHEERING NEWS

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

August 2023

146

## Introducing Harlow & Gilston Garden Town

*Naisha Polaine is Director for Harlow & Gilston Garden Town and, in this piece for Sheering residents, explains more about the development and regeneration plans that are coming to the local area.*



Harlow and Gilston Garden Town is one of the most exciting initiatives in the UK with four new communities being developed alongside the regeneration of Harlow Town centre, making the local area a real go-to-destination in the future.

The new communities will be in Essex and Hertfordshire counties and across the East Herts, Epping Forest and Harlow District Council areas.

I don't believe there is anything else like it in the country in terms of ambition and partnership.

You might be wondering what constitutes a Garden Town community?

Put simply it is a new settlement which enhances the natural environment and offers high-quality affordable housing and locally accessible work in beautiful, healthy and sociable communities.

We want to create somewhere you, your children, grandchildren and future generations of your family can lead fulfilling and healthy lives that are full of opportunity.

East Herts District Council have already agreed to approve 10,000 new homes for the Gilston area of the Garden Town and these will be built incrementally across seven villages in the years to come.

The other three Harlow & Gilston Garden Town communities will be in:

**East of Harlow** – 3350 homes + community facilities, nursery/pre-school facilities, new primary and secondary schools alongside the anticipated relocation of the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

**Water Lane** – 2100 homes + community facilities, nursery/pre-school facilities and a new primary school.

**Latton Priory** – 1050 homes + new secondary school, primary school and nursery/pre-school facilities and employment land. Central Government are supporting Harlow Council's ambition to regenerate the town centre with millions in funding.

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Please let us have letters, articles and photos for the next edition of Sheering News promptly by 1 November 2023.



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**DIARY****AUGUST**

**Sunday 6** Rivers Nursery Maintenance Day  
10.30 rhuso.co.uk

**Tuesday 8** Play in the Park 13:30 – 15:30  
Sheering recreation ground The Street,  
Sheering, CM22 7LX. Free & no need to  
book, just drop in at any time. See page 12

**Monday 14** Play in the Park 13:30 – 15:30  
Lower Sheering playing field, Lower  
Sheering, CM21 9PS. Free & no need to  
book, just drop in at any time. See page 12

**Bank Holiday Monday** Community Walk-  
Departing from the Village Hall at 10.30

**SEPTEMBER**

**Tuesday 12** WI 7.30 for 7.45 Village Hall

**Saturday 30** St Elizabeth's Apple Day 11.00 -  
3.00 Free Entry see page 13

**OCTOBER**

**Sunday 8** Talk by Jono Forgham, 3.00 in the  
Church Room. Jono is a regular nature  
contributor to the Bishop's Stortford  
Independent. He will talk about the wildlife  
around the church. Followed by teas. Tickets  
£8 Irene Harriss, 01279 734334.

**Tuesday 10** WI 7.30 for 7.45 Village Hall

**NOVEMBER**

**Tuesday 14** WI 7.30 for 7.45 Village Hall

**DAILY**

**Pre-School - Every weekday**  
8.30-2.30 during term time Village Hall  
Angie Rivoire 01279 734306  
sheeringvillagepreschool.co.uk

**WEEKLY**

**Hub - Tuesdays**  
11.00 - 1.00 Village Hall. All welcome

**Men's Shed Harlow - Tuesday & Thursday**  
11.00 - 3.30

**Men's Shed Bishop's Stortford - Wednesday**  
10.00 - 4.00

**Bridge Club - Thursdays** 7.15 Village Hall.  
June Whitbread 01279 651234

**Exercise Class - Mondays** Village Hall 6.15 -  
7.15

Natalie Green 07581 182036  
All abilities welcome

**Zumba - Tuesdays** Village Hall 6.30 -7.30  
Claire Britten 07854 107021

**Yoga - Wednesdays** Village Hall 6.45 - 8.15  
Clare 07854 773680

**Soccer School - Saturdays 9.00 - 10.00**

Reception - Year 6  
Sheering Village Recreation Ground  
Sonny.Sturgess@bscfc.co.uk

**FORTNIGHTLY**

**Bereavement Café** - First and third Tuesdays  
of each month Hailey Day Centre,  
Sawbridgeworth 2.00 - 4.00

**THREE WEEKLY**

**Mobile Library Van - every third Wednesday**  
Sheering Lower Road Layby 1.25 - 1.55  
0845 603 7628 www.essex.gov.uk/libraries

**MONTHLY**

**WI - 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.

Irene Harriss 01279 734334

**Bug Hunt** St Mary's Church Sheering 11.00  
1st Saturday of the month

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



The Parish Clerk received this from King Charles in response to the Parish message of condolence on the death of Queen Elizabeth.

**Sheering Post Office  
Opening Hours**

Monday	9.00 - 17.30
Tuesday	9.00 - 17.30
Wednesday	9.00 - 13.00
Thursday	9.00 - 17.30
Friday	9.00 - 17.30
Saturday	9.00 - 13.00

**Shop Opening Hours**

Monday	6.30 - 19.30
Tuesday	6.30 - 19.30
Wednesday	6.30 - 19.30
Thursday	6.30 - 19.30
Friday	6.30 - 19.30
Saturday	6.30 - 19.30
Sunday	7.30 - 17.00

**Robert Halfon MP writes:**

Dear Sheering residents, It has been another busy few months in Parliament, and I've been working hard to build an even better Harlow whilst supporting the Prime Minister to halve inflation, grow the economy, reduce the debt, cut waiting lists and stop the small boats.

In June, I was pleased to meet with Sheering Parish councillors, Lesley Paine, Mike Achilles and Parish Clerk, Siobhan Perrin to address the local issues that affect Sheering residents, including speeding, road signage and issues with flooding and drainage. I have written to senior managers at Network Rail, Essex County Council Highways and Affinity Water to raise the concerns of local residents and I will ensure these are addressed as soon as possible.

I am delighted to confirm that, after working hard for many years, the Government has given the green light for work to

progress on the new Princess Alexandra Hospital, with construction starting in 2025 and an estimated completion date of 2028. The new hospital, backed by hundreds of millions of Government investment, will be constructed using the latest technologies to ensure that our community has one of the best new hospitals in the country, serving the people of Sheering and the local villages.

This is a significant moment in the future of our community - our new, fully-funded hospital has been confirmed with a start date and timeline for construction. I have always pledged to protect our NHS and have campaigned tirelessly in Parliament for over a decade to secure a new hospital for the people of Sheering and the wider community. You can read more about my campaign and keep up-to-date with the project on my website: <https://www.roberthalfon.com/new-dawn-harlows-princess-alexandra-hospital>

I am also working hard with the Government to cut the cost of living - the support available for households is now worth over £3,000 for the average family. Fuel duty has been cut and frozen for another 12-months, energy bills have been halved on average for everybody in Sheering thanks to over £100 billion of Government investment, and we are supporting the most vulnerable families in our community with £900 cost of living payments for those in receipt of means-tested benefits, with additional uplifts for disabled people and pensioners.

Finally, it was wonderful to visit The Cock Inn in Sheering recently. This is a beautiful village pub which I know is a vital focal point of the local community. My thanks to the owner and landlord, Bill, for his very warm welcome and I look forward to coming again soon. Kindest wishes, Robert



Get in touch -

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

[roberthalfon.com](http://roberthalfon.com) | [facebook.com/roberthalfon](https://facebook.com/roberthalfon)

## Congratulations to our Citizens of the Year

### Linda and Ray Griggs

The winners of the Citizen of the Year awards goes to husband and wife, Linda and Ray Griggs. They were nominated in recognition of their of their many years as caretakers of the Village Hall. They always prepared the hall well for whatever event and did above and beyond their duty. Between them they did an excellent job with Ray often carrying out maintenance jobs.

As caretaker of the Village Hall Linda worked tirelessly for thirty eight years but unfortunately, due to Covid and lack of bookings she was recently made redundant

Following a spell in hospital, Ray is now home and being cared for by Linda and we wish them well.

### Isabelle Dorrian

Isabelle Dorrian was the winner of this year's Young Citizen award. Isabelle was nominated for being an amazing pupil, who works

incredibly hard in school, embracing all the new learning and always challenging herself. Isabelle is also very sporty and has joined the Sheering school football and netball clubs; she has represented the school in both sports and in cross country. Isabelle is also an Ambassador for Sheering School because of her responsible nature and exemplary behaviour. She regularly works with the youngest children at lunchtimes, arranging games and looking after their needs. Isabelle also won an Enterprise award last year for the business that she runs with one of her friends. She really is TERRIFIC!



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## Lawrence Moorings Delivery

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## Sheering Parish Council

All members of the public are entitled to attend the meeting and are cordially invited by the Council to do so. Time will be set aside prior to the published agenda to enable informal discussion to take place.

Please refer to the Parish Council website for dates of meetings. [sheeringparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://sheeringparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### Parish Councillors

Lesley Paine Chairman	CllrL.Paine@sheeringparishcouncil.gov.uk	SV
Mike Achilles - Vice Chairman	CllrM.Achilles@sheeringparishcouncil.gov.uk	LS
S Badcock	CllrS.Badcock@sheeringparishcouncil.gov.uk	LS
Bill Bedford	CllrB.Bedford@sheeringparishcouncil.gov.uk	LS
Mick Bull	CllrM.Bull@sheeringparishcouncil.gov.uk	SV
Neil Marsden	CllrN.Marsden@sheeringparishcouncil.gov.uk	SV
Richard Morgan	CllrR.Morgan@sheeringparishcouncil.gov.uk	SV
Peter Rust	CllrP.Rust@sheeringparishcouncil.gov.uk	LS
Phil Tansey	CllrP.Tansey@sheeringparishcouncil.gov.uk	LS

Or contact the Clerk who will forward your messages to the appropriate councillor

### Clerk to the Parish Council

Siobhan Perrin 07821 894235  
**Office hours only**  
[sheeringpc@gmail.com](mailto:sheeringpc@gmail.com)

### District Councillors

#### Sheering Village

Richard Morgan 01279 731243

#### Lower Sheering

Lesley Paine [cllr.lpaine@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.lpaine@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

### County Councillor

Christopher Whitbread [cllr.christopher.whitbread@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.christopher.whitbread@essex.gov.uk)

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



**SHEERING PARISH COUNCIL**

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KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON AND COMMUNICATE  
YOUR VIEWS.

- YOU CAN READ THE MINUTES OF OUR COUNCIL MEETINGS.
- SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER AND GET AUTOMATIC UPDATES BY EMAIL.
- GET USEFUL INFORMATION.
- READ THE AGENDA.
- GET LATEST PLANNING APPLICATIONS.
- COMMUNICATE YOUR VIEWS AND CONCERNS.

Be an active member of our local community. Remember it is your civic right to attend and observe our meetings.

The dates and venues are always posted on the website.

So go to:-  
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## Parish Council Chairman's report – Annual report

This year has passed very quickly since I became the Chairman. It started with the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations last June and has ended with Coronation celebrations of King Charles III this May, with the sad occasion in between of our late Queen's death.

As most of you will remember, thanks to a great many volunteers from our community, last year's massive party on the recreation area in Sheering was phenomenal. The weather was perfect for our outdoor picnics followed by tea and cakes so generously supplied by the WI and music from the Harlow Charity 'Rock School'. It must be noted that the backbone of these volunteers was the old PTFA from the 1980s, who have all grown older together in this village, become grandparents, and still feel passionately about our community. We also have some amazing newcomers – the Perrin family, who seem to echo the spirit we thought had passed as we all begin to hang up our clogs and slide into our dotage.

We were all greatly saddened to learn of the death of our Queen Elizabeth who, for me, had been in the background for my whole life. The occasion was marked by church services and the lowering and raising of the flags at various points so ably undertaken by Councillor Marsden, as we celebrated the accession of our new King Charles III.

Neil's tales of wartime campaigns and his knowledge of the local history surrounding the people named on the War Memorial has inspired the Parish Council to dedicate funds to its repair and commit to its proper upkeep for the future. We are also intending to renew the outdated surrounding paving and wall which has become a major topic for conversation in the local pub.

The success of the Jubilee celebrations highlighted to all present, the inadequacy of the toilet facilities in the Village Hall as they had blocked during the afternoon – which many will remember! The Parish Council have therefore been pressing for a new Village Hall committee and a new management regime plus a new name – Sheering Community Hall, so that these issues can be resolved and the Hall can be updated and made usable for all residents including those less able. The use of the Hall by the playgroup during the day with their safeguarding issues, has meant that a portaloos had to be hired to start a Warm Hub in the small hall every Tuesday since Christmas. The Hub has now been taken over by the Village Hall Committee and, of course, WI members are yet again baking delicious cakes. The Coronation celebrations were organised by the same 'team'. We knew immediately who to call upon to step up and get things done. The proceeds from this event, we decided, were to be for the Village Hall refurbishment fund.

Underlying all these social events have been the very anti-social times the residents of Sheering Lower Road and The Street have had to endure.

Endless noise day and night has woken us all when traffic from J7a on the M11 has been diverted through these roads for preplanned road works. Not only has this affected the major roads but has prevented people from pulling out of the minor roads and their driveways. Although signage has been installed to discourage drivers from using more Back Lane and Sheering Lower Road, drivers are using their Sat Navs to follow the shortest route and, in their frustration to escape the delays to their journeys, are driving through our communities at high speeds endangering people who previously felt confident to use our pavements safely.

The Parish Council have continued to discuss this with our MP Robert Halfon, and our County Councillor, Chris Whitbread, holding a surgery with them both in November to discuss local issues mostly focussing on J7a but also the flooding occurring in Lower Sheering around Waterside Place. We thank our new councillor from Waterside Place Cllr Mike Achilles for his continuing efforts on this with Essex County Council and Network Rail in his work to get the culvert cleared under the railway, the road drains cleared in the highway, and the resulting potholes in Station Road by Sawbridgeworth station repaired. As a result of this, we held another meeting with our MP Robert Halfon, who has now written to Essex Highways requesting averaging speed cameras on Sheering Lower Road and The Street; another letter to Affinity Water about the lying water in Station Road and a letter to Network Rail about the blocked culvert below the railway. It must be stressed that nearly all our issues are with Essex Highways and we must continue to push for resolution as soon as possible. New signage has been installed after the building of J7a and is insufficient in some areas – the sign to 'Champions' is labelled 'The Champions' and is too small causing large vehicles to take the wrong turning and, with no place to turn, must reverse out. Residents have complained to Essex Highways, but to no avail. Land to the side of the highway and owned by Essex Highways has been left to become overgrown and we are pushing for its upkeep as parents are concerned walking their children to school. Pavements, kerbs, potholes and road drains are all the responsibility of Essex Highways.

On a positive note, old minutes of meetings were made available to us and the Clerk and I were able to find historic facts about ownership of lights, land and other assets within the Parish. We have been able to establish that land on Sheering Lower Rd, always assumed to belong to the Parish, in fact belongs to EFDC and the Parish Council were meant to pay for a lease and EFDC now require £2000 for this to be set up. It has a drain crossing the site and has various Rights of Way, too expensive to discharge. However, we could take up the lease idea and place benches and planters there if that is what residents want. We have also obtained maps from Qualis – the company now



part of EFDC, who are responsible for cutting many of the verges especially in Lower Sheering. However, most verges, e.g. by the station and the triangle at the junction with Sheering Lower Road, are the responsibility of Essex Highway and we have had to request further work to these areas – kindly undertaken by Qualis, when they were not cut properly by Essex Highways.

We continue to push the landowner on the corner of Sheering Lower Rd and Station Rd to maintain his land so that trees and stinging nettles do not overhang the pavement.

In the early part of 2023, the Main Modification Document feeding into the EFDC Local Plan was approved by EFDC. It contains resolutions to remove areas of land in the current Ward of Lower Sheering, between the M11 Longlands Bridge and the M11 J7a link road from the Green Belt. This will free up the land for the proposal to erect a new Princess Alexander Hospital at the junction and for 750 houses and a travellers' site to be built within the Parish. The Master Plan is still to be concluded and the 'build to' line has to be decided to protect the rural nature of our community and our beautiful and historic Pincey Brook.

***Documentation on the requirements for the Masterplan of the area adjacent to Sheering has now been released for discussion by the District Council, and this is highlighted elsewhere in the magazine. We will advertise a day for a public meeting to be held during August. Public consultation is invited between 24 July and 18 September.***

The Parish Council will work with the District Council closely and engage with the community to ensure that we have the facilities and infrastructure in place before we have yet more issues with drainage, flooding, traffic and overwhelmed facilities. As I am now the District Councillor representing Lower Sheering I intend to represent the views of the local population at EFDC level to ensure we are heard.

Next May there will be further District Council elections and the Wards of Lower Sheering and the Ward of Hastingwood, Matching and Sheering will no longer exist. There will be a new Ward covering the area from our current River Stort boundary to Willingale, The Lavers and Matching, not including Hastingwood. We will be part of 'Rural East' represented by 3 District Councillors elected next May. It is therefore vital that residents vote and obtain a postal vote if they cannot get to the polling station.

This coming year we will continue to press ECC to spend money in our forgotten area. We will aim to restore the War memorial, as is our duty, and to make the area more protected against the heavy, fast-moving traffic. We will aim to install a safety surface under the climbing frame on the recreation ground, we will cut back and properly maintain any trees owned by the Parish and push Essex Highways and EFDC to do the same on their land.

We also have issues with anti-social behaviour, especially around the picnic area in Luxford Place where drug taking and dealing is taking place. There has also been a spate of graffiti appearing which is sad to see. Even our newly painted Teenage Shelter on the recreation area has been added to by local vandals. We are talking with Louisa Stirling in the Youth Services Department at EFDC to see what funding and help is available. We have engaged with Leanne Archer, our local Police Inspector and Elliot Harris, our beat police officer and invited them to our annual meeting where they engaged with the public on speeding and anti-social behaviour.

In order to gather further evidence on speeding, we need volunteers to train to use our speed guns and to re-establish our Speedwatch team. Please contact Siobhan Perrin, our clerk, if you want to take part.

More importantly, we need more representation on the Parish Council – primarily from Lower Sheering, so the views of residents can be expressed and we can pressurise EFDC and Essex Highways to carry out the work we all need undertaking.

I will conclude there, and I hope we can have another successful year – hopefully without further large celebrations or public events. As was said in the coronation:

'Long live King Charles III.'

Lesley Paine

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### County Councillor Chris Whitbread

Time certainly flies when you're busy. The past few months has seen a lot of activity across the whole of my County Council Division, and it has been a pleasure to engage with many local residents on a wide range of issues in addition to my formal meetings as the Cabinet Member for Finance at Essex County Council and the Leader of Epping Forest District Council.

There have been many meetings and events across the local area in recent months which I have attended as your local County Councillor. In my last report I mentioned that as part of this year's County Council budget, despite considerable financial pressures, we managed to make additional investments in top local priorities including highways and social care. As a result, an additional £17.4 million has been made available to address the condition of our roads. Essex Highways have been engaging more teams across the County to address the many potholes that appeared during the winter. I will work hard to ensure North Weald and Nazeing Division, which includes Sheering, gets its fair share! I'm also pleased to report that the Member Pothole scheme is being run again this year which means I'm currently looking for 18 to be addressed as a priority. As a member of the local highways panel, I have put forward a number of schemes to be considered for our area such as 20's plenty scheme outside the school.

The impact of Junction 7a on the village remains as a major concern for residents. The surveys I mentioned last time to fully understand the impact on the local road network have been undertaken and Essex Highways officers are reporting back to the Cabinet Member for Highways and myself with the outcomes. I look forward to being able to share these with residents shortly. Several residents have raised with me the problems of cars parking on yellow lines. I have taken this up with the North Essex Parking Partnership and requested additional enforcement.

At the District Council, we are working with BIFFA to address any missed waste collection and we continue to have regular conversations with them. Please keep me advised of any issues.

Wishing you all a lovely Summer and please feel free to contact me either by phone or email

Cllr Chris Whitbread

Cllr.chris.whitbread@essex.gov.uk  
cwhitbread@eppingforest.gov.uk  
07866 749783

### Bereavement Cafés – here for you

St Clare Hospice runs a series of ten local Bereavement Café groups – which are open to all and free to attend. At St Clare, we feel that some of the most meaningful support you may experience when you have been bereaved is through connecting with others who have had similar experiences.



Our Bereavement Café project aims to connect local people together to support each other throughout grief. Everyone is welcome to access this free, community-led service – whether your loss was recent, or a long time ago.

A Bereavement Café takes place at Hemnall Street Social Club, Epping, every Monday from 10.00 - 11.30.

There is also a Bereavement Café at St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood Road, every Friday from 2.00 – 4.00.

Find your nearest Bereavement Café on the website:

[stclarehospice.org.uk/bereavement-cafe](http://stclarehospice.org.uk/bereavement-cafe)  
or call 01279 945089 to find out more

### Compassionate Neighbours – are you feeling lonely?

People living with a serious, long-term or terminal illness, as well as the elderly, often struggle with loneliness and could do with some extra support. Compassionate Neighbours can really make a difference.

They are a network of trained volunteers who offer their time, companionship and support to people living in their community who are coping with serious illness or old age.

Compassionate Neighbours can support you by:

- visiting regularly
- offering friendship, emotional support and a listening ear
- helping you do the things you like doing
- helping you stay connected to your community, family and friends

All support is provided free of charge

If you live in West Essex or East Hertfordshire and are feeling lonely or isolated due to old age or serious illness, you could access support from a Compassionate Neighbour.

Call our First Contact Service on **01279 773774** or email [patients@stclarehospice.org.uk](mailto:patients@stclarehospice.org.uk)



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## A Computer's Lament

My frozen mouse was news the other day.  
Now I've decided I am off as well.  
That screen of blue is moving on its way.  
Soon I will greet my Heaven or my Hell.

It could be Heaven – we talk about the 'Cloud'-  
that distant place where information's stored.  
My time has come and I am really proud.  
I've done so much but now I'm getting bored.

I've said hello each morning here for years  
and messages I've sent across galore.  
I've done with messaging though this cause tears.  
I've had enough and I will do no more.

No ugly words to press or pressure me.  
No drives to force and addle my poor brain.  
Though I be metal, man-made, now I'm free.  
I'm finished, done, no more to work again.

I do not know where clapped-out laptops go.  
I have no soul nor do I have a heart.  
There is a place where they will surely throw  
my poor old body - tear me all apart.

Oh that I had once more the chance to say  
something myself, some words just of my own.  
But I am finished, done - and stowed away  
and what I think will never now be known.

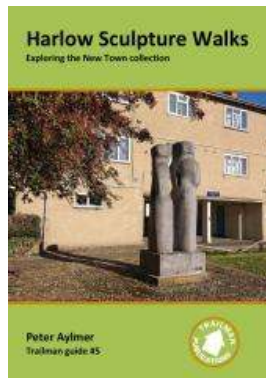


Goodbye sad world and you in such a state!  
I could not speak and now it is too late.

Adrienne Tinn

## Harlow Sculpture Walks

Local author and Sheering resident Peter Aylmer has written a new guidebook, 'Harlow Sculpture Walks'. Harlow's amazing open-air sculpture collection is best discovered on foot, and this guide contains a really short walk of less than a mile, a medium walk of 5 miles, and a longer walk (which is easy to split) of 15 miles. Something for everyone!



- The first walkers' guidebook to Harlow and its sculptures
- Three walks around the town, almost entirely traffic-free
- Colour photographs and Ordnance Survey maps
- Explains the historical background to the New Town and its sculpture collection.

The guidebook is priced at £8, of which £2 goes to support the work of the Harlow Art Trust. It's available at local outlets including Sheering Post Office, the Gibberd Gallery and Peter's own website [www.trailman.co.uk](http://www.trailman.co.uk).

# FREE

All ages welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Play in the park is all about playing games and having fun outdoors. No need to book, just drop in at any time. The Play in the park team bring a range of sports equipment and arts & crafts resources for children and their parents/carers to enjoy together. The team will be there to help organise activities and games all totally **free of charge!**

### SHEERING

Sheering recreation ground, The Street, Sheering, Bishops Stortford, CM22 7LX  
**Tuesday 8 August 13:30 – 15:30**  
 Lower Sheering playing field, Lower Sheering, CM21 9PS  
**Monday 14 August 13:30 – 15:30**

For a full list of Play in the park sessions scan me:

[eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com](http://eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com)

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Reg. Charity No: 1136777

Positive living and learning for people with epilepsy and other complex needs

## Village Hall News

### Sheering Coronation Party

We enjoyed a hugely successful Kings Coronation Party on Sunday 7 May!

The weather was lovely, and the village turned up in their numbers to enjoy a full day of picnicking on the Recreation Ground with BBQ, Prosecco and Beer tent, fun fair, face painting and children's entertainer.

The Village Hall, beautifully decorated, provided a Coronation Street Party together with bingo (Beryl was in her element calling the numbers!); never ending supplies of teas/coffee cakes and pastries (the WI exceeded expectations again!) and a raffle with some really amazing prizes. Not forgetting our own Bake-Off competition, which included some impressive entries from our younger people in the village. Sheena Pike (WI chair) and top pastry chef Jackie Eaglestone from Mayfields Bakery, after much deliberation,



judged the winners as sisters Pat Wright and Jackie Riches, winning first and second prizes respectively.

The tables were then pushed aside for the evening and the Harlow Rock School entertained with great music, supported by a licensed bar. It was a fantastic ending to a really successful community event.

The success of an event like this is dependent on the huge work and effort of volunteers in the village, beginning many months

before and continuing throughout the day (and clearing up after). So, to everyone who played a part in making this memorable - you know who you are – many, many thanks.

Also, of course, such events are only worthwhile if supported by the village community and their wider friends and family. Apart from being an enjoyable day this was also a fundraising event to support the Village Hall. Very many thanks to everyone who bought a ticket to the street party, the bingo, the raffle, or spent their money in other ways.

We are very pleased to say that £1,545.70 was raised and this will go towards improving the village hall facility for the benefit of everyone.

### The Big Help Out: Monday 8 May

In line with the National Big Help Out day, our volunteers set to, the day after the Party, to clear the Hall and Rec, and litter pick around

the village. After a couple or so hours of hard labour, the place was back to before and the WI team stepped up in typical fashion with bacon sandwiches and hot tea and coffee.

You will have noticed that the Village Hall has also been painted – very many thanks Lee Tennant and



Steve Perrin. Everyone agrees it looks so much better and we can now display the Village Hall sign and new notice board on the gable end.



At the time of print the painting has not been completed and we are looking for volunteers to finish the job. It would be great to have some new people helping out; you don't have to be an expert painter and decorator and you don't have to give up a whole day. Keep an eye on the notice board and social media for further details on this and other village hall related activities.

### The Village Hall

The leaking roof has now been repaired. Over the school summer holidays the heating system will be overhauled so that it should be a comfortable environment in the winter months. The Committee are also prioritising other essential works needed so that the hall is fit for purpose. There is lots to be done. We will be applying for grants and other external funding, but we will also be relying on the community to support fundraising events or initiate their own. Keep an eye on the notice board and social media for more information.

### Let us know what you would like to see going on in your Village Hall

We want to provide a facility that has something to offer the whole community. We are therefore keen to hear your suggestions on what you would like to see at the Village Hall, whether it be clubs, activities, daytime or evening events. Please let us know by talking to any member of the committee, or email your thoughts to us at [SheeringVH@outlook.com](mailto:SheeringVH@outlook.com)  
Sally Devine

### Village Hall bookings

07917 413160 (new number)  
[sheeringVH.bookings@outlook.com](mailto:sheeringVH.bookings@outlook.com)



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## The Hundred Parishes Society

The Hundred Parishes is blessed with an exceptional number of museums, all open at this time of the year. Saffron Walden Museum was purpose-built in 1835. It displays a real treasure trove of material relating to the local area.

Imperial War Museum, Duxford is enormous, displaying all kinds of wartime material including its own listed buildings from each World War, as well as many aeroplanes, both civilian and military.

Great Dunmow Museum is housed in a former maltings. It encompasses displays about its former function as well as broader elements of Dunmow history. Forge Museum in Much Hadham includes metal tools from the forge, while its own medieval wall paintings reveal an insight into Tudor fashion. Still in



Great Dunmow Museum

Much Hadham, the hamlet of Perry Green was for many years the home of sculptor Henry Moore. Today, the Henry Moore Studio and gardens includes an extensive outdoor display of his large works and indoors a history of his life.

Ashdon Village Museum has an exceptional display of all aspects of local life in the 20th century - and an excellent tea room.

Stansted Mountfitchet has an extensive toy museum within Mountfitchet Castle which is itself a popular destination for children who probably don't realise that this fun place is teaching them a lot about the history of Norman times.

Finchingfield's 15th-century Guildhall incorporates a small collection of local history, presented with help of modern technology.

Great Bardfield has a small Cottage Museum and also a village cage, a former lock up.

Further information for each of these can be found on [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) – either towards the end of the relevant Parish introduction, on What's On, or on the Attractions pages. There, you will also find information about Fry Art Gallery, Linton Zoo, Hinxton watermill and several windmills. We are, indeed, blessed.

Ken McDonald, Secretary  
[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)

## Community Hub

Sheering's community hub is going from strength to strength.

It started in January as a Warm Hub in the Village Hall. Toilets were funded by the Parish Council so the Playgroup and the hub could exist in the same building with safeguarding issues. This was then taken on by the Village Hall Committee who obtained a grant from EFDC.

Volunteers make cakes and people give donations to raise money to update our dilapidated village hall. It's become a meeting place on Tuesday mornings for everyone to have a natter, slices of cake, tea or coffee and for newcomers to the village to make new friends. Sheering is a small village where everyone still says 'good morning'. We know who might need support and help. Yes, village life can seem intrusive as everyone knows everything about everyone... But then people knock on doors to make sure others are OK and there is a real community.



Come and join us on  
 Tuesdays from 11.00.



## Library News

### Summer Reading Challenge 2023: Ready, Set, Read!

This year's Summer Reading Challenge is arriving in all Essex libraries on Saturday 15 July!



The children's challenge is to read six books over the summer holidays to help a superstar team and their animal mascots make their way through a summer obstacle course, collecting golden books along the way. If they complete the challenge, they receive a certificate and medal!

Come and sign up in any library between Saturday 15 July and Saturday 2 September.

Find out more about how to take part.

[libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/summer-reading-challenge-2023](https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/summer-reading-challenge-2023)

### Ready... Steady... Go To School! Challenge

Come and take part in our brand new challenge for pre-schoolers this summer!



Ready...

Steady... Go To School is a fun challenge full of activities which will help children to practise skills that will help them feel confident when they start school in September.

They'll complete activities in seven different areas, collect stamps in their special booklet, and then receive a certificate when they finish!

Come and take part in any Essex library until 31 July! Find out more about the challenge. [libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/ready-steady-go-to-school-challenge](https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/ready-steady-go-to-school-challenge)

### We're working to become Dementia Friendly!

We're proud to announce that we have achieved



Alzheimer's Society's Working to Become Dementia Friendly recognition.

The status applies across all 74 libraries across Essex and recognises Essex County Council's commitment to improve the experience of people living with dementia, as well as their families and carers, when using Essex Libraries.

The recognition means Dementia Friends sessions will be run for staff and volunteers, raising awareness of the condition, and helping them to support customers and colleagues and signpost them to relevant support.

Signage and accessibility at libraries will also be improved to minimise difficulties people may have visiting sites.

The recognition will also help ensure there are better communication links for people affected by dementia, supporting customers more effectively.

Work will also take place to promote Essex Libraries' dementia services, provide dementia friendly groups and feedback from customers will be incorporated.

To find out more about Working Towards Becoming Dementia Friendly recognition, or the dementia support available in Essex, email [dementia.team@essex.gov.uk](mailto:dementia.team@essex.gov.uk) or visit [www.essex.gov.uk/dementia/recognising-the-signs-of-dementia](https://www.essex.gov.uk/dementia/recognising-the-signs-of-dementia).

Residents can also call the Alzheimer's Society Dementia Support Line on 0333 1503456 or visit their website [www.alzheimers.org.uk/](https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/).

### The Moshi App

Going on holiday with your children this Summer? Or chilling at home? Well, The Moshi App is here to help!



The app provides hundreds of audio stories, guided meditations, music and much more, that will help your child sleep better, regulate their emotions and encourage their imagination grow. The best part is that access to the app is free and signing up is quick and easy.

Access your free Moshi membership [libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/moshi-has-arrived-at-essex-libraries](https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/moshi-has-arrived-at-essex-libraries)

## Friends of St Mary's Sheering

**Annual Concert on 1 July** [report by Barbara Aylmer, photos from Nikki Rose] There was a buzz in the air as performers and their audience gathered at the church on a perfect summer's evening. This was the long-awaited return of an annual event which was interrupted by the COVID pandemic. With the audience ready, the show began and all



joined in to sing the well-known hymn At the name of Jesus. But the audience weren't the stars of the show. They were the young people undertaking music lessons in a variety of instruments including cello, flute and piano performing works by Debussy, Dacre and Chaminade and the Israeli national anthem. It was a joy to listen to them at various stages of their musical education - and so important for them that they get heard. More experienced performers were The Brass of St Mary's who played Shostakovich's



Second Waltz and the ever popular song Bring Me Sunshine.

The instrumental performances were interspersed with the excellent singing voices of the Calando singers and St Mary's choir and friends.

And don't let me forget Philip Taylor and Vernon Baker who gave us a humorous rendition of that very popular Flanders and Swan song Transport of Delight.

The concert was a delight but it wasn't the end of the evening. Everyone was invited to take a glass of wine and refreshments in the Church Room afterwards and there was plenty of chat. An evening like this doesn't just 'happen' so there are many people to thank, especially Lydia Taylor, our Musical Director, who planned the programme and who teaches several of the people who took part. Then there are the volunteers who put



up the staging in the church, provided food and drink, sold tickets, advertised, produced the programme, organised car parking - I could go on. Over £630 was raised towards maintaining Sheering's beautiful church building and its grounds.

**News of the buildings and grounds** Progress on the churchyard extension We are delighted that in May we received the documentation from the Land Registry which was essential before the PCC could petition (ask) the Bishop to consecrate the new churchyard extension for burials. That request has now gone in. When we started this project early in 2018, we would not have believed it would take this long. We are very grateful to Sheering Parish Council, and some of the attendees at the Warm Hub in Sheering Village Hall for their support in moving the process forward.

**Churchyard Water Supply** During a spell of very hot weather last summer, water began bubbling up in the carpark. It turned out to be a leak in the pipe that supplies the standpipe in the churchyard, and which predates the Church Room (built more than thirty years ago). The Friends paid the excess for repair under insurance. Now it is leaking again so the PCC has decided to replace it with a new pipe leading to two new standpipes. The first is outside the new churchyard extension and the second nearer to the most recent graves. The cost to Friends funds will be £2,750

**Eco-church** St Mary's has been awarded a bronze award by A Rocha UK, a charity committed to mobilising Christians to care for nature. Now we are working towards a silver award. The monthly Bug Hunt (first Saturday of the month at eleven o'clock – put it in your diary) has passed its first anniversary.



If you are walking through the car park, look out for occupants of Bingham Palace, a bee hotel donated by a Friend of St Mary's which is fixed to



the south-facing wall of the Church Room. Last August a fascinating moth trapping evening in the churchyard revealed over seventy species. There will be a re-run on Friday 28 July (see details below).

**Churchyard team** In Spring the task of keeping the churchyard tidy was monumental because the grass was growing so fast. Thankfully growth has calmed down a bit now. Going forward, could you help? It's lots of fun,

and it makes a huge difference to the look of our beautiful parish church.  
Contact Natalie Cracknell on 01279 734360 for more information.

#### Dates for your diary

**Friday 28 July, Moth Hunt:** Setting up from 8.00pm, and the traps running from around 9.00pm. No charge, and no need to book - just turn up. Bring a flashlight and sturdy shoes. Children must be accompanied.

**Sunday 8 October, Talk** by Jono Forgham, 3.00pm in the Church Room. Jono is a regular nature contributor to the Bishop's Stortford Independent. He will talk about the wildlife around the church. Followed by teas. Tickets £8 Irene Harriss, 01279 734334.

**Church Services** You are always welcome at 10.30 every Sunday morning\* for a service in St Mary's, Sheering.

\* When there is a fifth Sunday in the month, we have a joint service in one of the churches of the Six Villages (Hatfield Heath, Sheering, Great and Little Hallingbury  
*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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## Have you heard about the new Men's Shed in Hatfield Heath?

It officially opened last month after much hard work in refurbishing an old storeroom.

The Shed is part of the Essex Shed Network and operates under the umbrella of Hatfield Heath Village Hall Trust, which is a charity.

It is a space in the heart of the village for men to get together, take part in practical projects, socialise and help combat social isolation. It's a larger version of a typical garden shed with space to:

- learn new skills
- share existing ones
- make new friends
- share interests

Through generous donations from many local businesses it's been kitted out with benches, tools, paint and is now a proper workshop.

The shed is open Fridays 10.00 - 3.00;  
Wednesday evenings (March – October)  
6.30 – 9.00;  
first Saturday of the month 10.00 - 1.00.



Annual membership is £20 and a £2 fee per week, plus a contribution to the tea and snack fund.

It is a space for men to get together and take part in practical projects, socialising and helping to combat social isolation,

particularly among older men who maybe have lost their partners.

It's well-known men are at greater risk of loneliness or unwanted isolation than women and the impact Shed activities can have on men's mental health is overwhelming.

It's not just for retired men – all ages are welcome – and we'd welcome members from neighbouring villages.

For more information

email [hatfieldheathmensshed@gmail.com](mailto:hatfieldheathmensshed@gmail.com)  
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### Continued from Front Page

Already agreed is an arts and cultural quarter that will include a new live music and performance venue, a public square for events, outdoor performances, cinema, and outdoor dining plus enhancements to the Playhouse Theatre.

A new Transport Hub and Interchange will replace the existing Harlow bus station. The Princess Alexandra Hospital have also secured a much-needed new medical facility for Harlow and the region with more millions being invested to continue to improve the quality of life for local residents.

Their preferred location is close to both the new Junction 7a of the M11 and the proposed East of Harlow neighbourhood.

Alongside this is a priority to walking, cycling and bus routes as we want to provide a bus system that gives real choice to people in how they move around.

This is active travel and it will create a healthier population. We are aiming for journeys in the new Garden Town communities and across Harlow to be possible by alternatives to the car. Essex County Council already have funding in place to design a walking and cycling path that will connect Harlow's Post Office Road to Sheering Road.

Our council partners are working to develop a bus rapid transit scheme that will have better capacity and reliability than a conventional bus system and help combat carbon emissions.

And it will travel on a series of new local routes.

The first route is about to start construction in the next few months with the first phase

being Burnt Mill Roundabout to Harlow Town Centre. Over time it will extend up to the proposed seven new Garden Town villages in Gilston.

My working life has been in the East of England and I have always been motivated by wanting to deliver good things for the communities I've worked with. I want to use all those experiences to help Harlow & Gilston get the best deal for the future.

Some people might be worried about the pressures more homes will bring.

The feeling that there may be more transport congestion and not enough services. Staying in touch with what people are thinking really matters to me because change can be challenging. It's challenging when it happens to me and where I live, so I really understand how that feels.

I also know people want places where their children can live near them, in a beautiful place and get good jobs, so it's about understanding how we find a compromise between us.

Sheering will sit in close proximity to the proposed East of Harlow neighbourhood and the new hospital, so we want to keep you updated with all things Harlow & Gilston Garden Town and make sure you're part of the conversation. If you're on social media then you can find us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, just search Harlow & Gilston Garden Town and our website, with all the latest news and information documents, can be found at [hggt.co.uk](http://hggt.co.uk)

Editor's note - Additionally:

Email: [myharlow@harlow.gov.uk](mailto:myharlow@harlow.gov.uk) write: Forward Planning, Harlow Council, Civic Centre, Water Gardens, Harlow, CM20 1WG.

The consultation starts on Monday 24 July and closes at 5pm on Monday 18 September.

[hggt.co.uk/have-your-say](http://hggt.co.uk/have-your-say)

The SPD can also be viewed in Harlow Central Library, Epping Library, Harlow Civic Centre and Epping Forest Civic Offices during normal opening hours.

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**Epping Forest District Council**

Remember your green-lidded, food & garden wheelie bin is emptied weekly throughout the year on your normal collection day.

Don't forget to recycle all your food waste along with your biodegradable garden waste via the green-lidded, food & garden wheelie bin.



**PLEASE NOTE**  
Logs in excess of 300mm diameter or in excess of 1m in length are not accepted.

**Blue Box Glass Bottles & Jars**



**ONLY GLASS BOTTLES and JARS**  
All Colours and Clear

**Green Bin - Every Week**

**Food Waste:** All cooked and uncooked food waste including: bread, cakes, biscuits and pastries; dairy products; coffee grounds and teabags; fruit and vegetables; meat and fish (including bones);

**Garden Waste:** branches; cuttings; dead flowers; grass and leaves; house plants; twigs; weeds; vegetarian pet hutch waste; shredded paper

**Blue Box Glass bottles and jars**

**Bin of Last Resort - Black Bin Fortnightly:** Domestic household rubbish

**Polystyrene:** Leave by the black wheelie 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. These sacks cannot be used for any other waste. Should these be found in your refuse bin or any other container this may be classed as contamination and may cause delay or even refusal of your waste collection.



As well as using our clear recycling sacks, you can also put recycling in cardboard boxes and clear plastic bags. Recycling not in a transparent bag will not be collected.



Please bundle your cardboard.



**Textiles**

**RECYCLE YOUR OLD CLOTHES and PAIRED SHOES**

Simply put your old clothes and shoes into a tied up carrier bag and place on top of either of your wheeled bins on either collection day.

Please remember your small electrical items (items no larger than a carrier bag) and household batteries (not vehicle) are collected each week on collection day.



**Clear sacks available from:**

- ◆ Sheering Newsagent & Post Office.
- ◆ The Shed Coffee House The Maltings Station Road Lower Sheering CM21 9JX

For more information contact 01992 564608  
eppingforestdc.gov.uk

**Lower Sheering Recycling Bags**

Is there anyone in Lower Sheering willing to store recycling bags for residents to collect in case they run out. Please contact Sheila Caves 01279 725578



## St Mary's Parish Church, Church Lane, Sheering

A service in church every Sunday at 10.30

Whenever there is a fifth Sunday in the month, watch the notice board for the venue and time of a joint service in one of the other parish churches of the Six Villages (Hatfield Heath, Great and Little Hallingbury, Hatfield Broad Oak and Bush End).

There is a service on Zoom at 11.00 am every Wednesday (not Sunday). Email [SixVillagesZoomCodes@gmail.com](mailto:SixVillagesZoomCodes@gmail.com) for the login details.

[www.thesixvillages.org](http://www.thesixvillages.org)



### From Revd Dawn Jewson

In our churches, from now until Advent, we are in the season known as Ordinary Time. There are no major festivals and we can view it as a time to rest and regroup ready for the start of the new school year, Harvest, Remembrance and all that the autumn brings. But there's one church festival that stands out in the church calendar in summer: the Transfiguration of our Lord on 6th August. It commemorates the event in the Bible when Jesus went up a mountain and his appearance was transfigured: 'His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.' (Matthew 17:2). He heard God's voice affirming him as his Son, Moses and Elijah appeared, and the disciples were completely awestruck.

On my recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which I mentioned in the last issue of this magazine, we were taken to the top of Mount Tabor, thought to have been the site of the Transfiguration. It was a dizzying experience: we had to clamber into 6-seater minibuses that belted round the hairpin bends at an alarming speed.

The view from the top across the Plain of Armageddon was well worth it (see picture)

and after a visit to one of the beautiful churches dedicated to the Transfiguration we braved the minibuses again; possibly even more terrifying on the way down!

Jesus too had to come down from the mountain, and as he did so he was met by a demon-possessed boy, whom he healed then and there. Back to 'business as usual'.

And I can relate to that! How many times are we uplifted by a family wedding, a special holiday, graduation or anniversary celebration, then afterwards have to return to our daily routine? But those 'high points' give us affirmation that we are loved, special and connected to those around us, helping to carry us through the darker moments we all encounter.

So, this summer, whether you are enjoying a high point of your own, living in the light of a past one, or eagerly looking forward to the next one, may you hear God saying 'You are my beloved son, my beloved daughter, whom I love. With you I am well pleased.'

Revd Dawn Jewson  
Priest in Charge

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USEFUL NUMBERS, E-MAIL & WEBSITE ADDRESSES
BRIDGE CLUB June Whitbread 01279 651234 or Alan Draper 01279 656255
CAB Harlow 0845 120 3717 <a href="http://www.adviceguide.org.uk">www.adviceguide.org.uk</a>
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR LOWER SHEERING Paul Stalker 07969 219006
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR SHEERING VILLAGE Richard Morgan 01279 731243 <a href="mailto:richardmorgan26@outlook.com">richardmorgan26@outlook.com</a>
ECC COUNCILLOR Christopher Whitbread <a href="mailto:cllr.christopher.whitbread@essex.gov.uk">cllr.christopher.whitbread@essex.gov.uk</a>
ECC County Hall 01245 492211 <a href="http://www.essexcc.gov.uk">www.essexcc.gov.uk</a>
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FOOTBALL CLUB Mr C Hellmers 01279 653923
ROBERT HALFON 01279 311451 <a href="http://www.roberthalfon.com">www.roberthalfon.com</a> <a href="mailto:halfon4harlow@roberthalfon.com">halfon4harlow@roberthalfon.com</a>
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POLICE Leanne.archer@essex.police.uk (Inspector) Elliot.Harris@essex.police.uk (Beat Officer) 24 hour non-emergency number 101 Ongar Police Station ext.319333 <a href="mailto:Eppingforestcommunitypolicingteam@essex.police.uk">Eppingforestcommunitypolicingteam@essex.police.uk</a>
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ST MARY'S CHURCH CM22 7NR Office 01279 730288 <a href="mailto:rev.dawn.jewson@gmail.com">rev.dawn.jewson@gmail.com</a>
ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE TEAM Natalie Cracknell 01279 734380 or 07907 838860
TALKING NEWSPAPER Richard Barnett 01279 651270 <a href="mailto:familybarnett24@hotmail.com">familybarnett24@hotmail.com</a>
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## SHEERING NEWS

reaches over 1500 homes  
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Sheering News  
The Willows The Street Sheering  
Bishop's Stortford CM22 7LX  
[sheeringnews@sheering.org.uk](mailto:sheeringnews@sheering.org.uk)

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