

SHEERING NEWS

also at www.sheering.org.uk

December 2023

147

History of the War Memorial

Neil Marsden

For some time, I have been trying to find out when Sheering War Memorial was inaugurated and after trying quite a few resource sites I eventually found what I was looking for!

Below is a transcription of the unveiling of our village war memorial as reported by The Herts & Essex Observer of Saturday 8th January 1921. I have highlighted a few notable names from the article and expanded on them a little at the end of it. I hope you will find it as interesting as I did...

From: Herts & Essex Observer January 8 1921 (Page 7)

Sheering Unveiling and Dedication of War Memorial

A large gathering of relatives and friends from the village and surrounding district assembled on Sunday afternoon on the occasion of the unveiling by **Brigadier**

General Colvin C.B., M.P. for the Essex division, of a Memorial Cross to the honour of the gallant men from Sheering who laid down their lives in the Great War. The memorial, which is situated in a prominent position by the side of the main road, opposite the school, at the corner of the lane leading to the Church, is a handsome cross of standard design, erected by **Messrs Fenning & Co., London**. The two main bases are surmounted by a smaller square double base on which rests an octagonal die, and above this is a yet smaller octagonal base, rising from which the cross

itself with a crusader's sword carved on the face. The whole stands about 13ft. high and is enclosed within a neat chain fence, having iron posts with brass tops. On four alternate faces of the die are the 20 names of the fallen and on the remaining four faces are inscriptions, as follows: -



The newly renovated War Memorial

Leonard Bass
Frederick Gregory
Frank Bird
Isaac Hawkes
Jasper Cakebread
Charles Locke
Earnest Chappell
Frederick Mackenzie
Tom Clanford
John Norris
Henry Fardell
William Pettitt
William G. Felstead
Edwin Reid
William Felstead
Albert Rout
William Felstead
Tom Rushworth
Albert French
William Saunders

“This memorial is erected to the glory of God Who gave us victory in the Great War, 1914 - 1918”.

“In honour of the 120 men of this parish who joined his Majesty's Forces.”


“In honour of the women who nursed the sick and wounded”.

“In glorious memory of the 20 men of this parish who gave their lives for their King and Country”.

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Please let us have letters, articles and photos for the next edition of Sheering News promptly by 1 March 2024.





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DIARY**DECEMBER**

Sunday 3 Sheering School PTFA Christmas Bazaar Village Hall 2.00 - 4.00

Friday 8 Carols and Mulled Wine in the Village Hall 7.30 for 8.00, entry by ticket only: £8 (£2.50 for under 18s) – contact Irene Harriss, 01279 734334.

Tuesday 12 Bingo Night doors open at 8.00. 50p entrance in aid of the Village Hall.

Tuesday 12 Carol Singing round Sheering Village meet outside the Cock at 6.30. Bring a torch!

Sunday 17 Carol Service St Mary's Church Sheering 4.00

Monday 18 Carols and Christmas songs at The Cock with St Mary's brass 7.30 for 8.00

Sunday 24 Christingle service St Mary's Church Sheering 10.30

Christmas Eve, 11.00pm, Midnight Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Hatfield Heath

Christmas Day, Christmas morning Holy Communion St Mary's Church Sheering 10.30

Saturday 30 Community Walk departing from the Village Hall at 10.30. All welcome, dogs included.

JANUARY

Tuesday 9 WI 7.30 for 7.45 Village Hall

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 13 WI 7.30 for 7.45 Village Hall

MARCH

Tuesday 12 WI 7.30 for 7.45 Village Hall

Thursday 15 closing date for Citizen of the Year & Young Citizen of the Year nominations. See page 12

APRIL

Thursday 11 Stay Safe & Well 11.00 - 3.30 Village Hall. Free event including lunch and goody bag. Save the date and look out for information about how to book. See page 21

DAILY

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

WEEKLY

Hub - Wednesdays
Village Hall 2.30 - 4.30. All welcome

Men's Shed Hatfield Heath
Friday 10.00 - 2.00;

Wednesday (March - October) 6.30 - 9.00;
First Saturday of the Month 10.00 - 1.00

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

Latin & Ballroom Dancing - Mondays
Village Hall 7.00 & 7.45 Maxine 07854 251528

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

Yoga - Tuesdays Village Hall 9.15 - 10.15
Claudia mbmyoga.com 07914 040606

Yoga - Wednesdays Village Hall 6.00 - 7.00
Claudia mbmyoga.com 07914 040606

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 & December) 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

**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,

With the weather now turning and the Summer behind us, I have been working hard to tackle the issues that matter most to the people of Sheering. From stopping unauthorised traveller encampments and clamping down on speeding, to holding rogue water companies to account and delivering adequate flooding protections, I will do what it takes to ensure Sheering and our other beautiful local villages are cherished and remain wonderful places to live, work and grow up.

Last time I wrote to you, I told you that I was working with the Sheering Parish councillors, Lesley Paine, Mike Achilles and Clerk, Siobhan Perrin to address the local issues that affect Sheering, including speeding and road signage. I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on these conversations.

Junction 7A is a valuable part of the infrastructure in Harlow, Sheering and the villages. The new junction has eased traffic congestion at the existing Junction 7 and on

major routes, including the A414 through Harlow. It has also attracted additional investment to improve and upgrade other local roads, including Gilden Way, the Campion Roundabout and Sheering Lower Road which link the village of Sheering to Harlow.

Data from Essex Highways has confirmed that there has been no increase in the number of vehicles passing through the village since Junction 7A opened; that said, I understand and share your concerns about the type of additional traffic and the speed of vehicles in the immediate vicinity of the M11 and passing through Sheering.

I worked closely with Essex County Council when the junction opened to ensure appropriate restrictions were in place to protect local communities and continue to work with Sheering Parish Council and Essex County Council to take decisive action. Last September, HGV restrictions and limitations on through traffic came into effect in Lower Sheering and Old Harlow to tackle increased traffic.

I welcome the recent works that Essex County Council have undertaken to carry out car counting and speed surveys in Sheering. These works will help to inform the plans the



Get in touch -

halfon4harlow@roberthalfon.com | 01279 311451

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

Council have to improve road safety and clamp down on dangerous driving in the village. This includes plans to upgrade and improve existing road signage to ensure that HGVs entering the village are only those that are delivering to local businesses and farms.

I also understand that the Council are considering additional measures, such as reduced speed limits, traffic calming measures and access restrictions to prevent through traffic. These proposals will be presented to the Parish Council before Christmas to ensure the measures put in place will address local concerns and be supported by local people. I hope that all these combined will help improve the situation for residents who have expressed their concerns to me.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish residents and their family a very happy and peaceful Christmas. As always, local residents can keep in touch with my work by following me on Facebook or by going to www.roberthalfon.com

Kindest wishes,
Robert

We Need Advertising in Sheering News

Do you run a business or know someone who would benefit from more local customers?

Sheering News is free to all residents in Sheering and Lower Sheering. This is only possible because the advertising covers the cost of printing. Everything else needed to produce the magazine is provided by volunteers.

If you run a business which would benefit from more local customers have a look at the back page for our very reasonable prices. Or if you employ a tradesperson who you would recommend, why not suggest to them that they advertise in Sheering News.

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essex.police.uk/

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Lawrence Moorings Delivery

Since the gates were installed at Lawrence Moorings our deliverers have been unable to drive in to deliver to the flats.



If you live there and would be willing to deliver some or all of the 200 copies please contact Iris Filisetti
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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



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**
clerk@sheeringparishcouncil.gov.uk

District Councillors

Sheering Village

Richard Morgan 01279 731243

Lower Sheering

Lesley Paine cllr.lpaine@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

County Councillor

Christopher Whitbread cllr.christopher.whitbread@essex.gov.uk
 Essex County Council, County Hall, Duke Street, Chelmsford CM1 1LX



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Sheering Parish Council

Chairman's Report

Gosh, those 4 months since I last wrote for the magazine have passed in a flash! Maybe it was the dreary weather of July and August that made me wish the months away, although we were rewarded with a mild, dry September only to see our garden flowers blooming again. Along with the flowers came the weeds, and the hedgerow we were so glad to have planted last year on the Sheering Recreation

area, had become overgrown with them. However, thanks to some help from Graham and Sally from The Plashets and my own enjoyment on sunny afternoons, we managed to clear the weeds to reveal a mixed hedgerow which had survived super-hot and cold temperatures

during the last year's drought and rain. Thanks go to Margaret Whitfield and Dawn Bloomfield for contributing further hedgerow plants to replace those lost.

After many years of neglect, the Parish Council decided to maintain the majestic trees on the Recreation Ground and to clear the pathway along the side of the Village Hall where fallen leaves have blocked the downpipes. We decided to recycle the wood chippings by using them as mulch around the hedgerow to minimise further weed growth. Again, Graham and Sally helped with this task.

CountryCare, from EFDC, and 15 volunteers have recently attended the Copse at the bottom of the Recreation Ground and, with the able assistance of Lee Tennant, have cleared the area just inside making it far

more accessible. A summer picnic or school visit might be appropriate if we continue to maintain this area throughout the year.

Our issues with drainage at the junction of Station Road and Sheering Lower Road have now been resolved by



Essex Highways. They have installed further gulleys in the slip road and have maintained the existing gulleys in Sawbridgeworth Road previously buried by undergrowth and, obviously, not maintained for years. Our favourite water leak in Station Road has also been resolved.... Was it Affinity Water? Was it a spring? Who cared in the end – we just wanted it fixed.... We spoke to Essex Highways about installing a French drain (a pipe with holes) and getting the water away into the ditch. It seems to have worked and the fence is now successfully reinstated.

Not only did Essex Highways install drains, they also cleared the ditch across the triangle and the ditch through City and Country's land running down towards Waterside Place. Our ambitions to get the culvert under the railway clear have fallen foul of Thames Water and their seemingly gung-ho attitude to sea water, rivers

and, it seems, ditches. On analysing the water in the railway culvert, evidence of raw sewage was found and needs clearing by a specialist contractor. I have written to Thames Water to enquire about the source but have yet to hear!



Problems with speeding traffic and HGV lorries using inappropriate routes have continued. Although we had a meeting with our County Councillor and the Head of Highways plus Highways officers earlier in the year, they are still being chased for a solution and a budget to put to a public meeting. They have said that they should have a proposal together before Christmas. As a parish council, we have put aside funding to contribute towards this if necessary. Thanks to so many members of the public for photographs



Lorry using Sheering Mill Lane reported on social media

showing lorries on Sheering Mill Bridge and HGVs using the rural end of Sheering Lower Road as a cut through.

We have started conversations with adjacent Parish Councils and Sawbridgeworth Town Council about extending the route of the Sawbo bus. The 347 bus may be discontinued even though Lower Sheering residents have petitioned against it. It appears that there is not enough support for this route, although it was full when I met local residents on there last month. There would then be no bus service linking Lower Sheering to Sheering Village. We are hoping to link all areas of the parish together with an extended Sawbo bus route including Sawbridgeworth Rd and Mayfields Farm.

We (and Sally Devine, our Community Champion) have been in negotiations with Active Essex to win funding for a youth club. We were successful so have set up activities for 10 to 16 year-olds, in Sheering and Lower Sheering for one day in each location at the end of the school summer holidays and then for a few weeks at Sheering Village recreation area. However, we were aiming this at youths but the enthusiasm has come from younger children. This isn't appropriate for the funding we obtained for Youth Services. Further funding will therefore be used for outreach workers who will talk to youths in both Sheering Village and Lower Sheering offering hot chocolate and a chat during the winter months. We hope that this will lead to more involvement in the Village Hall where cookery lessons are proposed. We would like some input from residents to find out what is appropriate for the teenagers in our area.

The Parish Council intend to hold more community engagement sessions. Please see the advert elsewhere in the magazine and respond if you are interested in a defibrillator course or first aid.

It's that time of year again to start thinking about nominations for the awards for citizen and young citizen of the year. Please submit them to the parish clerk (clerk@sheeringparishcouncil.gov.uk) no later than 15th of March 2024. The awards will again be presented at the Annual Parish meeting.

As Christmas and 2024 now approaches, the Parish Council wishes you all a safe, peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.

Lesley Paine

Recycle your Christmas tree and help St Clare to care!



Christmas is just around the corner – and so is the St Clare Hospice tree recycling service! This fundraiser is even bigger and better this year, with an expanded collection area due to popular demand.

In exchange for a suggested donation of £15, St Clare will collect and recycle your real Christmas tree between 11th and 13th January 2024 in the following postcode areas:

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County Councillor Chris Whitbread writes

It is November already and 2023 seems to have just flown by with Christmas just around the corner.

The past few months has seen a great deal of activity across the whole of my County Council Division and it has been a pleasure to meet with a number of local residents on a range of issues in addition to my formal meetings as the Cabinet Member responsible for Finance at Essex County Council and the Leader of Epping Forest District Council. I have been actively involved in the issues that matter to us all.

Locally, I receive regular concerns from residents about the impact of Junction 7a on the village. The results of surveys showing the impact on the local road network were shared with members of the Parish Council in the Summer. Officers are now working on the next steps of design work which we will be reporting to residents and the Parish Council again shortly for further discussion before we take any specific measures forward.

Things have been busy at Essex, with our Children's Services being inspected by Ofsted resulting in an outstanding rating. An exceptional achievement.

In August RAAC brought its issues with schools being closed or partially closed. The Government will be reimbursing the Council for any money spent on repairs as well as hall hire for classes. Luckily, Essex County Council keeps emergency reserves for situations such as these and can get the money to the schools far more quickly than the Government.

A consultation has been launched on the waste strategy to explore how waste is handled in the future. We have also launched a recycling scheme working with the District Council to promote the recycling of kitchen waste which across Essex currently accounts for 25% by weight of all black bin waste. Please take part and do your bit.

Following the extra investment in highways many road defects have been marked up and will, in due course, be repaired. There are twelve extra gangs out there. If you are aware of issues that have not been identified then please do let me know, preferably with a "What 3 words" location or outside 25 The Street", for example. I can then drive round, photograph and report. The first batch of eighteen that I reported in the Summer are now being done.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that Essex, Southend and Thurrock are negotiating a devolution deal with the Government. There is little detail as yet, but it could give us more control over bus franchises and the skills agenda. The three Councils would retain their own identities but will work together on some big issues with devolved funding.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous & Happy New Year.

Best Wishes

Chris Whitbread

Essex County Councillor and Leader of Epping Forest District Council

Cllr Chris Whitbread

Cllr.chris.whitbread@essex.gov.uk or
cwhitbread@eppingforest.gov.uk

07866 749783

**Prospective Labour Parliamentary Candidate
Chris Vince**

It has been great to be out across Sheering speaking to residents over the last few weeks.

As Labour's Parliamentary candidate for Harlow and the villages I am determined to work hard, all year around, representing residents across the constituency.

The main issue raised by residents has been the speeding caused by the introduction of the new junction 7a. For that reason I have written formally to Essex County Council highways



department to urgently address the situation by looking at introducing a traffic enforcement camera at the Harlow end of the village or at very least additional signage to deter speeding.

I will continue to press for a resolution to the issue so that residents across Sheering feel safe in their community.

If you wish to get in touch about this or any other issue please do not hesitate to do so.

Chris Vince

Labour and Cooperative Party Candidate for Harlow and the villages

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After the Frost - (the garden, spring 2023)

Our choisya is gone, our Sundance dead -
decapitated, broken, hacked away,
its golden leaves all frozen, shrivelled,
browned.

It had outshone the other shrubs around,
spread out its leafy arms to greet the sun
then sighed and died. Its glorious long days
done.

Now two new young photinia take its place
to parallel the other by the steps -
a dance of deepest red to greet the day
beside the mottled berberis that sways
with purple pink stems in the passing breeze
-a veteran that has survived the freeze.

See the weigela set beside the two -
its bright pink blaze of colour May's delight.
And round the corner find an avenue
of all its babies now full-grown
of variegated green and yellow hue.



But this year the wisteria bears the crown -
a canopy of lilac over all -
a pale mauve parasol, a giant fall
of tiny bulbing blossoms bearing down
and carpeting the ground beneath our feet
where velvet petals and soft grasses meet.

Adrienne Tinn

**WOULD YOU KNOW
WHAT TO DO IN AN
EMERGENCY ?**

**WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN
FIRST AID, CPR & AED TRAINING ?**

If there is enough interest Sheering Parish
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NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR THE
SHEERING PARISH COUNCIL

**CITIZEN AND
YOUNG CITIZEN
OF THE YEAR
AWARDS**



Is there someone you know who unselfishly brightens the lives of
other residents, someone who goes that extra mile to care
for their community and for the people who live there?

If you know someone who meets the criteria, why not nominate them for the award.

Nominees must be residents of Sheering or Lower Sheering.

You can nominate anyone for this award that has:

Shown exceptional individual courage;
Provided continual and dedicated service or assistance to another individual or the community as a whole;
Shown outstanding commitment, energy and effort towards an achievement
or recognition in their specific field of work or study
Or something similar.....

Nominations should be submitted with a short summary of why you have nominated
this person and the dates the application applies to.

The award trophies will be presented together with a cheque for £100 each at the
Annual General Meeting on the 22nd May 2024

Nominate someone now and let's all celebrate our local heroes!

ANY QUERIES OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION?

Email: clerk@sheeringparishcouncil.gov.uk or write to:
The Parish Clerk - Lamberts, The Street, Sheering CM22 7LY

Closing Date for nominations is the 15th March 2024

Platinum Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Babs and Don Mascall on their 70th Wedding Anniversary earlier this year. They received a card from Buckingham Palace with the words:



“My wife and I are so pleased to hear that you are celebrating your Platinum Wedding Anniversary. This brings you our warmest congratulations and heartfelt good wishes on this happy occasion.”



Babs, a regular attendee at The Hub, enjoyed a cake made specially for the occasion.



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SHEERING VILLAGE HALL

BINGO NIGHT

12 December 2023

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News of the buildings and grounds

Consecration of the churchyard extension

There were celebrations on 23 August! At last, almost six years since we first launched the project, we received confirmation that we could make arrangements with the Bishop of Barking for the consecration of the extension to the churchyard. The ceremony was fixed for the afternoon of Wednesday 15 November, followed by refreshments in the Church Room. We are very grateful to all those who have advised, supported and encouraged us over that period, especially Sheering Parish Council.



Churchyard team

As any regular walker in Church Lane will tell you, the churchyard always looks good, and we are ever-grateful for the hard work of our wonderful churchyard team (contact Natalie Cracknell on 01279

734360 if you would like to join in). They were particularly purposeful at their September meet - cutting and strimming and tidying and trimming.

Because this time they were making everything especially lovely for the wedding of two of the team members, Vicky (Natalie's sister) and Russell. They were married in St Mary's on 7 October, and what a joyous occasion it was.



Church Room Hot Water

The Church Room was completed in 1990, so it is not surprising that it is beginning to feel its age. Regular readers may have noticed how many of our recent reports have included the need to repair or replace part of it. This time it was the hot water supply, which gave up the ghost the week before our Harvest celebrations. Perfect timing – not! Our friends at Hatfield Broad Oak church kindly lent us an urn for the weekend, and we managed. Friends funds have come to the rescue again to replace the system – so thank you to everyone who has contributed via attending Friends events. What will be next, we ask ourselves.

Friends Event – 8 October

Readers of the Bishops Stortford Independent will have seen some great double-page spreads with pictures showing local wildlife contributed by Jono Forgham, a local nature enthusiast. On the afternoon of Sunday 8 October there was a good turnout in the Church Room to hear Jono's talk on The Wildlife of Sheering, describing what he had seen and photographed in and around our churchyard. His descriptions encompassed birds, then butterflies, dragon flies, moths, bats, other mammals and finally vegetation. He estimates that there could be up to a thousand different species of creature living there. He was hugely knowledgeable about his subject and had a first class way of putting it across, as well as showing us some excellent photographs. It all made for a wonderfully informative afternoon including an ample supply of tea and home-made cakes afterwards - and we raised £300 towards Friends funds.

Church Matters

Rev Dawn's Retirement and change of title

On 6th November Revd Dawn's role changed from Priest-in-Charge to Associate Priest of Sheering, Hatfield Heath, Great and Little Hallingbury, Hatfield Broad Oak and Bush End. This is a technicality which enables us to start the process of advertising for a new incumbent of The Six Villages even before Dawn retires next year. Meanwhile only the title has changed – her duties will continue as now. For more information please contact Dawn or one of our Churchwardens: Jane Potter jane.potter2@gmail.com or Fiona Klimcke fiona.klimcke@hotmail.co.uk.

Harvest, 23/24 September

The church was beautifully decorated to celebrate Harvest. On Saturday there were stalls in the Church Room - yummy cakes and produce to buy, cards, raffle and tombola, and delicious home-made refreshments. On

Sunday we welcomed the Reception Class from Sheering School, with their parents and teachers, to join us for our Harvest service.

Each child was presented with an age-appropriate bible to mark joining our school-church community.



Eco-church

On 28 July, Churchwarden Fiona Klimcke organised a re-run of last year's very successful Moth Trapping evening in the churchyard. It was led by a group of moth enthusiasts who pass on information gathered to Essex Field Club. Setting up began about 8.00 pm and the last expert left about 2.30 am the following morning! More people attended this time – including some very enthusiastic children with their parents (who did not stay until the early hours). Our visiting experts identified over 120 different species, compared with over 80 last year. This time there were a lot of Jersey Tiger Moths (pictured) and an Oak Eggar Moth. All being well, we hope to repeat the event next year.



Dates for your diary

Friday 8 December, 7.30 for 8.00, Carols and Mulled Wine in the Village Hall, entry by ticket only: £8 (£2.50 for under 18s) – contact Irene Harriss, 734334.

Tuesday 12 December, Carol Singing round the village, meet outside the Cock at 6.30. Bring a torch!

Sunday 17 December, 4.00, Carol Service in church.

Monday 18 December, 7.30 for 8.00, Carols and Christmas songs at The Cock with St Mary's brass.

Sunday 24 December, 10.30, Christingle service in church.

Christmas Eve, 11.00pm, Midnight Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Hatfield Heath.

Christmas Day, 10.30, Christmas morning Holy Communion in church at Sheering.

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, Hatfield Broad Oak and Bush End). Watch the notice board to find out which parish is hosting.



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Shortly before 3 o'clock about 40 ex-Service men, under Mr. Monk, late Royal Fusilier's, the oldest soldier in the parish, and the 5th Harlow Troop of Boy Scouts, under Scoutmaster Miss P. Goschen, paraded in the school playground, the latter being in full uniform and bearing their troop colours. After they had been inspected by Brig-Gen. Colvin the ex-Service men and Scouts marched to the Cross, where they took up positions in front and on the left of it respectively. For an hour before the ceremony a guard of honour was mounted over the memorial by the Scouts, one standing at each corner with reversed stave.

The service, which was impressively conducted by the rector, the Rev. H.A. Williams, opened with the hymn "Fight the good fight," followed by the lesson-1st Thessalonians, iv., 13-18 read by **Sir W.H. Goschen** and appropriate prayers by the Rector. After the hymn "The Supreme Sacrifice," by John S. Arkwright, Brig-Gen. Colvin unveiled the memorial and amid an impressive silence the "Last Post" was sounded by a corporal and a private of the 3rd Batt. Grenadier Guards.

Brig-Gen. Colvin, addressing the assembled congregation, said that he felt it was a great honour to unveil the memorial, and he was proud to join with them in paying tribute to the brave men of Sheering who had made the supreme sacrifice. The village had a record of which it might justly be proud, for out of a population of 600 no less than 145 had served with the Forces, and of these 20 had given their lives and now formed part of that army of 900,000 men whose bodies lie buried in foreign soil. Their thoughts, he said, naturally went back to the terrible time of war and they owed a mighty debt to these soldiers, to whom their present freedom was due. They recalled the anxious times when the country was threatened with starvation owing to the loss of so many ships, but thanks to the heroism of the Navy, the mercantile marine, and the fishermen, that danger was avoided. Later, in March 1918, the enemy massed all his forces and threatened us with annihilation. Our reserves were exhausted, and it looked as if the enemy must break through. Then came Sir Douglas Haig's famous message "Our backs are to the wall! Believing in the justice of our cause we must each one fight to the end. The safety of our homes and of mankind depends on each one of us. Our decimated line withstood every onslaught of the enemy and finally the tide of battle turned in our favour and we gained the victory and the liberty of which we were so proud. We have done our duty; it is for you to do yours."

It is the message the memorial gives us; and there is still a great deal to be done in the way of reconstruction, for the aftermath of war had

left impoverishment and unemployment in our midst and those who fought together must now work together to bring the country back to its pre-war state of prosperity. Turning to the children, Gen. Colvin said he was sure the ceremony they had just witnessed must have impressed them, and he exhorted them to respect the memory of those who fought for them and for their heritage. To those who had lost relatives and dear friends he offered their most sincere sympathy and urged them to "Pass not this cross in sorrow, but in pride; and may you live as nobly as they died".

The face of the memorial was then covered with a beautiful array of floral tributes, including wreaths from the ex-Service men and the Scouts.

Unfortunately, rain commenced to fall heavily at this point and the service was in consequence somewhat curtailed. Two verses of the hymn "O God our help in ages past" were sung, the collect was read by the rector, and the service concluded with the blessing, the Reveille, and the National Anthem. The ex-Service men and Scouts then saluted the memorial and dismissed.

Note: This report of the unveiling was published (as stated above) on Saturday 8 January 1921. As it refers to the unveiling on 'Sunday afternoon' it must be referring to the previous Sunday confirming Sheering War Memorial was inaugurated on 2 January 1921.

Obviously, this article relates to the Great War but let us not forget the five men of this parish who gave their lives in World War II and are also commemorated:

Douglas Burton

Reginald William Crouchman

Douglas Jellicoe Hanchett

Norman Lewis Jackson

William George Wood.

Notable Names from the Newspaper Article Messrs. Fenning & Co. Ltd

Located at Palace Wharf, Rainville Road Hammersmith W.6 (A 20min walk from Lillie Road, Fulham where I was born!) They built many war memorials commemorating the Great War including memorial tablets and plaques.

Brigadier-General Sir Richard Beale Colvin KCB TD

He was a British officer and Conservative Party politician. Educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge where he received a BA in 1879. He served as High Sheriff of Essex in 1890 and was a Major in the Loyal Suffolk Hussars, a Yeomanry regiment based in Bury St.

Edmunds. In March 1900 he was reappointed and placed in command of the 20th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry and set sail for South Africa later that month. In 1901 he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and on 8 November 1901 was transferred to the Essex Yeomanry. For his services during the Boer War, he was appointed a Companion (Military) of the Order of the Bath (CB) and at the war's end was promoted to the honorary rank of Colonel.

He was later awarded the Companion (Civil) of the Order of the Bath (CB) in 1911 and was promoted to a Knight Commander of the Order (KCB). Colvin was elected as member of Parliament for Epping at an unopposed election in 1917 (the incumbent MP having been ennobled as a Baron) and was re-elected in 1918 and 1922 and retired from the House of Commons at the 1923 general election. On 31 January 1929 he was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Essex and served as such until his death on 17 January 1936.

Sir Richard lived at Monkham's in Waltham Abbey, his portrait describing him as a Brigadier General is on display at the National Portrait Gallery.

Sir William Henry Neville Goschen, 1st Baronet KBE, JP, DL

Sir William was born on 30 October 1865 in

Grosvenor Square, London into the merchant banking business began by his grandfather in the mid 1850's. He became involved in insurance becoming a director of the Ocean Marine Insurance Co., Sun Insurance Office, and Sun Life Assurance Society. He had a gift for finance and became extremely well respected both within the City of London and in international finance institutions throughout the world. It was his readiness to work hard for what he believed to be in the best interests of the city, and of national and international well-being that he was called to offices of high responsibility in the critical period during and after the 1914 - 18 war. His embodiment of imperturbable steadiness and confidence, at a time when various forms of nervous hysteria abroad were reducing the world's monetary system to chaos.

In 1918 he was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 1918 Birthday Honours for his services during the First World War. He was knighted in the same order (KBE) in April 1920 for "Valuable services on many government committees" during the war. In 1920 he was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Essex and in the 1927 Birthday Honours he was created a Baronet of Durrington House in the Parish of Sheering and County of Essex.



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Sir William retired from business in 1936 and died at Durrington House on 7 July 1945. The baronetcy became extinct upon his death.

And finally

The Herts & Essex Observer reported on Friday 3rd October 1958 that Sheering Parish Council had decided at their meeting of 1st October 1958 they would have York Stone paving surrounding the village War Memorial. (But could not afford to pay for it until the following March!)



The Herts & Essex Observer again reported on Friday 1st November 1968 that Sheering War Memorial is to have a face lift where it was agreed estimates should be obtained for cleaning the memorial and renovating the lettering.



October 2023:

The Parish council have been informed by its chosen contractor that the refurbishment of the war memorial is due to begin on Tuesday 31 October 2023. This will include a thorough clean of the Portland stonework and the re-engraving of the names and other commemorative lettering that has deteriorated. Plans have been submitted to EFDC planning to have the current wall replaced with a more fitting design but one that will follow the dimensions of the current one and we are now awaiting their response to our proposal. We will of course keep you updated on the refurbishment and the progression of the new wall and surround.

Neil Marsden
Sheering Parish Councilor

Sheering School PTFA

Sheering School PTFA started off the new school term with positive feedback following our parent survey. Parents reported they, and their children, enjoyed attending fundraising and school-based activities, and provided suggestions for new fundraisers and ideas on what money raised could be spent on. We were also delighted to welcome three new parents onto the PTFA - hello Chantel, Chloe, and Zoe!

The children so far have enjoyed an autumn disco and spent half term taking part in the Smarties challenge (where they fill the smarties tube with coins for doing jobs around the house).

We are looking forward to putting on our Christmas Fair on the 3rd of December (2.00 - 4.00) in the Village Hall. Please do come along and take part in the festivities; Santa will be joining us along with music, stalls, refreshments and our raffle!

This term we have purchased a Buddy Bench for the school playground (to support children who may be looking for a friend) and a gymnastics bar for budding gymnasts. Each class was also given a pot of money to support the purchase of resources. The PTFA also purchased a large number of books to keep key stage 2 up-to-date in new reading material.

Thank you to everyone who supports the PTFA events by donating time, prizes, resources as well as everyone who takes part and supports the events to be successful.

SHEERING PARISH COUNCIL

Our website is now live

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.

The website is the best way for you to know what is going on and communicate your views.

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Report of the Village Hall AGM 8 November

In the last year the Committee have focussed on ensuring essential repairs to the hall, improving our administration and financial position, and carrying out community and fundraising events.

The year to September was the most successful financially for over 5 years. Overall revenue was over double that of the previous year (increasing from £13K to £27K), with profits up by over a third to £9K.

The hall now has activities running nearly every day during the week, which is fantastic, and we are grateful to all our hirers for their continuing support. We'd particularly like to thank Claire Bitten for holding a Zumbathon and raising £330 towards the Hall's renovation works.

The Village Hall now has its own branding with a logo and designated fonts and colours. We actively post on all main social media sites and are developing our new website. All this helps raise the profile of the hall, encourages more hirers, provides more activities for residents and helps make the hall financially sustainable.

We commenced a programme of maintenance during the year and spent £6K on improving the heating, plumbing, painting the outside of the hall and jet washing the drains. We have budgeted a further £17K for maintenance for the coming year. Despite this, we have budgeted revenue and profit to be yet higher in 2024, as the effects of higher hall utilisation and fairer hire rates filter through.

There are still major repair works and improvements that we need to make and the extent and speed at which we achieve this will depend on our ability to obtain large grants from third parties (e.g. the National Lottery), together with our own reserves and a lot of fundraising and support from the community.

Fundraising and Events

2023 has been busy - there was the Coronation Party in May, Zumbathon in June, the Halloween Party on 31 October which was a lot of fun and a very entertaining. There will be a Wine Tasting Evening on 25 November. And don't forget the pre-Christmas Bingo Night on 12 December!

Looking to 2024, a Race Night is planned for February and, given the success of the summer events in 2022 and 2023, this will hopefully also be an annual event.

If anybody has any ideas for fundraising events to support the Village Hall, we would love to hear from you

Election of Management Members

Resignations

Anne Andrews resigned as a Trustee. Sally Devine thanked Anne for all her work and dedication to the Village Hall over the last forty-two years. Anne has been an incredibly committed, enthusiastic committee secretary and trustee, we will miss her immense historical knowledge, pragmatic and balanced views and her all-round lovely personality. You deserve the break Anne – enjoy!

Bill Bedford also resigned as a Village Hall trustee and as Parish Council rep. Bill chaired the Village Hall from 2019 to 2022, including during the covid period, and continued as a committee member thereafter. Many thanks are extended to Bill for his work during this time

Elections and votes

Anne Andrews to step down and Alan Salisbury expressed an interest in becoming a trustee.

The Trustee Management Members below were unanimously voted in:

Sally Devine – Chair

Ben Donnelly – Treasurer

Jessica Brittain – Secretary

Sheena Pike – WI Representative

Steve Perrin

Harry Bowman

Alan Salisbury

Plea for Volunteers to support the Committee

The running of the hall relies completely on volunteers and there is a lot to do! The more help we get, the quicker we will get things done and the more time and energy we will have to do the fun stuff, like the free Halloween Party in October which was a huge success. Please have a chat with any of the committee if you feel you could help out.

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 to info@sheeringvillagehall.org

Sally Devine

Don't Forget

Bingo 12 December 2023 in the Village Hall: 50p entrance; doors open at 8.00

Save The Date

Stay Safe and Well Event

Thursday 11 April 2024 11.00 – 3.30

This promises to be a stimulating and interactive health and wellbeing event facilitated by Epping

Stay Safe and Well this Spring
FREE - includes information pack and lunch

Alzheimer's Society | Epping Forest Frontline | Carers First | VOLUNTARY ACTION | NHS
EQUANS | ESSEX POLICE | community safety | Epping Forest District Council

Forest District Council to be held in Sheering for the first time.

There will be information stands, informative talks from the blue light services, Home Fire Safety advice, Crime Stoppers, Specialist health advisers, interactive performance about scamming and much more.

Its all free and its in the Village Hall.

Save the date and look out for more information on how to book a seat, nearer the time.

The Community Hub

The Community Hub is open and welcome to everyone on Wednesdays 2:30pm to 4:30pm
Bottomless tea, coffee and cakes

Meet old friends and make new ones, it's all very friendly!

Any donations welcome, towards the village hall renovations

Village Hall bookings:

bookings@sheeringvillagehall.org

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Instagram: @sheeringvillagehall

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Dance Cruise Breaks

Harlow & Gilston Garden Town

Harlow & Gilston Garden Town's five council partnership have opened a public engagement hub for project information and resident feedback in Harlow town centre.

Sheering residents wanting updated information about the Garden Town project can visit the Discover Harlow hub on the ground floor of the Harvey Centre, opposite the Brick Lane Bagel Co and next to The Works.



Currently open on Thursdays, 10.30 – 2.30, Discover Harlow features information boards on the proposed Garden Town neighbourhoods plus literature on what is planned for each of the four sites plus the regeneration of Harlow town centre.

East of Harlow will be the closest Garden Town neighbourhood to Sheering and Harlow Council visited the Village Hall at the end of the summer to showcase a planning document that will help site developers produce a masterplan for the site.

The area will provide around 3,350 new homes as part of the new development, incorporating community facilities plus nursery, primary and secondary schools.

Talking about plans for the Discover Harlow engagement hub, Garden Town director Naisha Polaine said: "Our five council partnership are really excited about the Discover Harlow space in the Harvey Centre and we want to make it as inviting, welcoming and as family friendly as possible.

"We want people to feel comfortable about dropping in and talking about the Garden Town and the town centre regeneration in a friendly environment.

"We really hope that Sheering residents can visit when they are in Harlow and see how the growth in the overall area fits together to bring jobs and homes for local people. We're aware that change can bring uncertainty and we want to make sure we give people as much information as possible.

"We hope that the next generation of Sheering residents may have aspirations to live, work and play in the Garden Town with the East of Harlow neighbourhood in close proximity to the parish. Plus it is the preferred new home of the relocating Princess Alexandra Hospital. ."

Sheering residents who are on Facebook can follow the Garden Town for news updates by searching "Harlow & Gilston Garden Town."

The Garden Town's website is hggt.co.uk



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Blue Box Glass bottles and jars

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Clear Sacks - Fortnightly : Paper,

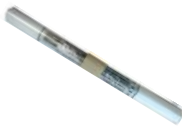
shredded paper; card, tins, cans, plastic bottles, plastic tubs and pots, food trays; plastic bags; aerosols; clean foil and foil containers, food and drink cartons (tetra-paks); Please tie your recycling bags, and flatten your boxes. These sacks cannot be used for any other waste.

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 clear

recycling sacks, you can also put recycling in cardboard boxes and other clear

sacks that are transparent. Any recycling in a carrier bag or a bag not transparent will not be collected



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).

www.thesixvillages.org

We are delighted that Revd Sophie Weller, curate at St Stephen's in Harlow, is on placement with us in the Six Villages. She offers us this reflection on Christmas.

Christmas is just like Marmite!

It's one of those times of year that you either seem to love or hate. It can be a time to look forward to being with family, exchanging gifts, having fun and sharing good cheer with one another, enjoying the celebrations; or it can feel lonely, sad – grief filled. Too commercialised and have such a long run up that you are tired of it by the time the day finally comes. It can highlight family difficulties and arguments and make us feel obliged to give gifts that we maybe can't afford and that often we and others don't even really need!

Whoever you are and however you feel about it, remember it is a far cry from the first Christmas. Mary and Joseph displaced due to a census, roaming Bethlehem looking for a room – with Mary literally about to have her baby any minute. And the only place left for them – a stable full of animals! The baby is born and placed in a feeding trough. Both wise men and shepherds prompted by star and angels travel to find the child... and the angel says, "Do not be

afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. In the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Mary and Joseph named the baby Jesus, and one of the titles that he was given was 'Immanuel' which translated means: 'God with us'.

So whether we feel full of excitement or full of dread at this approaching Christmas season – God is with us. He lived a human life so that he could identify with us in every way, so we could see what he is like, and get to know him for ourselves. Just like the Innkeepers – we can

keep him at arm's length and say 'no room', or we can invite him into and make space for him in the room of our hearts – even if we feel it is no better than a stinky stable.

God reduced himself into a baby sized package because he thought we were worth it... he wants to be with us and close to us – because of his great love for us. He is only a prayer away, and if you want to know how much he loves you, all you need to do is ask him to show you.

For details of Christmas services in St Mary's Sheering and the Six Villages, please see the Christmas card which will be delivered around the village, or visit our website: www.thesixvillages.org

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PARISH COUNCIL CLERK clerk@sheeringparishcouncil.gov.uk
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