

THE ALRESFORD ADVERTISER OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2021

Established 1970



Alresford Gardening Club

A presentation by Jacqueline Aviolet from Aylesford Kent

entitled

“Brussel Sprouts to Tangerines”
Christmas fruit & vegetable stories

Alresford Village Hall
Ford Lane, Alresford CO7 8AT

Monday 4th October at 7.30pm

Non-members & visitors very welcome
£2.50

ALRESFORD FETE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Advices of the intention to hold an Over
75 Christmas Celebration at Alresford
Village Hall

On Wednesday 15th December 2021

Due to covid, it is not yet possible to know what this celebration could look like, hopefully a Christmas Tea, but it could be a small concert, tea and cake or a Christmas gift delivered to your home.

There is no charge for the afternoon. Please advise **Jeanette on 01206 825008** of your interest and we will update you of further information when it is possible. This event will be on a first come, first served basis.



ST PETERS 1971 TO 2021 BEAUTY FOR ASHES

Come together to mark 50 years since St Peter's church burnt down

30th September 9:00am A Simple Holy Communion in the ruins (bring a brolly if it's wet!)

2nd October 6:30pm A family friendly lantern procession from St Peters to St Andrews. Bring a jam jar or a torch! A simple service to give thanks. Hot chocolate and marshmallows. Solve the mystery! Come along and see our 50th anniversary exhibition of St Peters.

3rd October 11:00am All age worship at St Andrew's + last chance to see the exhibition



Alresford Gardening Club

Quiz Night

After a two year absence due to Covid, we are pleased to announce that our annual quiz night is back on

Friday 12th November @ 7.30pm

(Doors open 7pm)

Village Hall, Ford Lane, Alresford CO7 8AT

Teams of six - £2.50 per team member

Raffle

Bring your own drinks and nibbles
Teas and Coffees available in the break

Please call Martin on 01206 822877 to book your table

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Also available online via the Parish Council & Village Hall websites: www.alresfordpcsessex.uk & <https://e-voice.org.uk/alresfordvillagehall/>



St Andrew's Church



Tenpenny Villages

Christ in Our Communities



Find us on fb: ParishChurchesofAlresfordElmsteadThorrington-TenpennyVillages

www.tenpennyvillages.uk

The Rector's Reflections

CS Lewis famously captured our imaginations with tales of a magic wardrobe that led adventurous children to a Kingdom of talking animals, an evil Snow Queen and a valiant lion. Within a page turning children's story there was profound imagery that opened out the Christian belief of fall and redemption through sacrifice – love wins!

Lewis wrote beautifully and was seen as a great communicator – a media star of the time often featuring on radio.

Lewis shared his views on time. He talked about four time frames: past, present, future and eternity. Lewis pointed out the gravitational pull of the past and the fearful challenges of the future. He suggested that instead of being trapped by our past, we learn to live in the present; my thought would be that we are real about the future, we are not fearful of it but look through it to eternity.

Past: Maybe as you read this there are things in the past which can nourish us or hold us prisoner. It's good to give thanks for what was good in the past, but we cannot stay there. We can pray release from that which has not been good. At the beginning of October we will mark 50 years since St Peter's Church burnt down. Part of observing the moment is to recognise the trauma but also to give thanks for all that has been achieved – not least the building and developing of St Andrew's church and then the hub.

Present: I would argue that we are called to live in the present - free to live, open to the gift of each day. Jesus said, "Don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:34.

Future: amidst rumours of further "firebreak lockdowns" and the sobering nature of our Climate emergency. There is a call for us to place our future in God's hands. The impact of the pandemic could make us dread the future, but the walk of faith is about trusting our future to God. Amidst the challenge of the powerful climate emergency protests there could be a temptation to despair and feel overwhelmed, what can I do? We are called to engage individually and as communities in

breaking the pattern of living which would consume three planets – let alone one!

Eternity: where we are going to ultimately. Looking to eternity is an invitation to be drawn into the saving love of God. During the Summer term we have looked at Psalm 23 and a verse of reassurance from King David says, "Surely your goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life". Psalm 23:6.

As we face all the uncertainty of this coming season - I wonder how we are going to approach it. Falsely hoping for the best? Head in the sand? Longing for things to go back to how they were? I believe there is the call of God's love to draw us forward in faith. The challenge for people defined by the love of God, is to be a people of hope and it is with that prayer, I pray the Lords blessing on you. May we know releasing from our yesterdays to live today, walking through the future by looking to the love which is eternal.

Rev Andrew Fordyce MBE

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CONTACTS

Rector:

Rev Andrew Fordyce
01206 920848

Email: rector@tenpennyvillages.uk

Curate:

Rev Tim Solosy

Email: revtsolosy@gmail.com

Associated Priest:

Rev Pauline Hart
01206 826318

Email: assocpriest@tenpennyvillages.uk

Youth & Schools Worker:

Charlotte Day (Charley)

Email: youthworker@tenpennyvillages.uk

Churchwardens:

Wendy Wilson
01206 825040

Email: stachurchwardens@tenpennyvillages.uk

Bookings for the Hub:

Meg Burdus
01206 820618

EDWARD GREENFIELD (TED)

Daphne & Paul would like to thank everyone for their cards and messages of condolence after Ted passed away on the 2nd June.

Special thanks to Angela & Colin , Sue and Dave

Maintenance of the Village Gardens

This item has been included to clarify the position as to the maintenance of the three garden areas around the village, namely the Millennium Garden at the junction of Ford Lane and Wivenhoe Road, the Rose Gardens at the Brightlingsea end of Wivenhoe Road and the garden at the junction of Church Road and Ford Lane.

Originally these garden areas were set up with funding from the Parish Council under the Alresford in Bloom initiative. Since their installation, they have been maintained by various village residents, who in the majority of cases, also happened to be members of the Alresford Horticultural Society, now known as the Gardening Club.

Recent events and the need to comply with Insurance and Employment Law legislation has created a need to review the "who does and can do what" situation. Whilst this has been ongoing, it has led to the Millennium Garden looking somewhat neglected. This is not the fault of individuals or the Garden Club, but it needs to be sorted. Therefore, a meeting involving the Parish Council, Gardening Contractors and current volunteers will take place this October. This should establish a way forward, ensuring the garden areas involved are restored to their very best as a valued asset to our community.

The garden areas will always require an element of voluntary input. If you feel you can help - please contact the Parish Clerk on 01206 615117.

Thank you
Chris Sanderson – Alresford Gardening Club Chairman

NOISE DISTURBANCE

I would like to ask residents in our village if they are being disturbed by a subtle continual noise. Sometime back, before Covid, I had the environmental department visit but they can't do anything unless they know it's origin. I have mentioned this to one or two people who were pleased to hear someone else could hear this noise. I can only describe it as a humming type of engine which is less noticeable during the day but during the night can often be quite annoying. Does anyone have any information about this please?

Thank you from a Village resident



TENPENNY VILLAGES

We are now holding regular services at the three Churches in the benefice.

Further information can be found on the notice sheet by going to:

<http://tenpennyvillages.uk>

St Andrew's Church
Baby & Toddler Group
For babies, young children, parents and carers.

Starting on Tuesday 21st September.
10.30am - 12 noon

Every Tuesday during school term time in St Andrew's Church Hub

Tea and coffee provided, but please bring a drink and snack for your child!

For any queries, please phone Julie on 01206 827429 or Wendy on 01206 825040

face masks optional
tenpennyvillages.uk

REFEREE REQUIRED for UNDER 11s

Colne Rangers Football Club Under 11's require a match day referee for home games in the coming season 2021-22.

Kickoff time is always 10.00am on a Sunday and home games are on the Playing Field, Ford Lane, Alresford. If you are training to be a referee, this could be something that would help you gain experience and the club would be willing to pay £15.00 per game for expenses.

Or, you might just want to help and be involved with the club and you would help provide a much needed activity for our young people.

Please contact Mark Lay on 07387832514 for further information.

ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL

Charity Commission Number: 301233

The Village Hall website:

<https://e-voice.org.uk/alresfordvillagehall/>

The Village Hall Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Alresfordvillagehall/>

NEWS

The village hall continues to remain open with increased usage from regular and private hires.

We even had a wedding reception in late August with the hall looking spectacular, it is good to be getting back to some form of normal life.

The Alresford Village Hall Management Committee still advise all users to follow the Government advice and take personal responsibility for their and others Covid safety. All users will be urged to sanitize on entry and exit, ventilate as much as possible and not enter if feeling unwell.

See <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> for further guidance.

PLEASE respect others as we all enter back into normal habits and feel free to call any Trustee if there are any concerns.

The Village Hall's delayed Annual General Meeting for 2020-21 was held on 10th August and new Trustees welcomed on to the management committee are Selina Hall, David Bright, and Wendy Bates.

The Chair, Russell Milburn presented the Management Committee Report as below.

Chair of the Trustees Annual Report 2020-2021

This has been a period that has tested the resolve of the Trustees, the village hall users and all the community. The Trustees have continued to manage the village hall adhering to all the Covid-19 guidance and continually reviewing best practice to allow all that use the hall to remain safe. The period since the last report has seen the hall closed three times and in the other periods use has been governed by restrictions. This resulted in a substantial downturn in income and denied those in our community the opportunity to meet, at a time when social gathering was most needed.

Crucially, through good fiscal management and high usage/income over the past years has allowed the hall to remain viable, this has not been the case in other community centres unfortunately. Also, the Trustees were able to obtain Covid funding from the Government and to receive full discount on Council Tax payment for the years 2020-21 and indeed for this current financial period. This has left the village hall funds in an extremely healthy position and has allowed us as Trustees to continue to improve the facilities, more about that later.

Since the last report Ms Viviana Opel-Smith has left as our cleaner and we have been extremely fortunate to secure Ms Elysia Thompson as a replacement. Elysia has maintained the extremely high standard of

cleanliness in the hall and during the lockdown periods visited the hall daily to check security and general wellbeing.

Also leaving us has been Angela Crick, a Trustee for many years. We thank Angela for her input and work during years that has seen the hall improved constantly.

Lorraine Bebb our secretary has also left the Trustees as she is moving to the north of England. Lorraine again was a stalwart and quietly went about her business in covering the secretary role.

We should also mention a long-standing friend of our village hall, Mr Michael Hester. Michael passed away recently. He never missed an AGM and in his time as editor of the Alresford Advertiser never wavered in his support for the village hall and all who used it.

Also, Michelle Salazar, Parish Council clerk who has recently moved on. Michelle was a delight to work with and will be a hard act to follow. We wish Michelle and her family well.

We make no apologies for again thanking the following for their total commitment to the role of Trustee and the respective posts they fill within the Management Committee.

Pat Burmby, the Treasurer/Booking Clerk, Our Secretary, Nicola Lockwood-Pugh, and Mr Chris Sanderson who continues to maintain and improve the hall in his own time whilst always finding the best value on materials required.

What have the Trustees done:

- New regular groups, young people's Dance, Line dancing and Yoga.
- Gas/Electric price tariff fixed. New 4-year deal.
- Insurance premium fixed for 3 years until 2023.
- Regular Hire Charges not increased for the 16th year in succession.
- Health and Safety handbook updated.
- All Risk Assessment and P.A.T completed.
- Regular updates provided for Alresford Advertiser.
- Village Hall website improved.
- Facebook Page.
- Charity Commission report submitted.
- Completed refurbishment of Main Hall stage area.
- Data Protection Policy and Safeguarding Policy adopted and available on VH Website and in Health and Safety folder.
- Gas and Fire Annual checks completed.
- Offered discount hire fees to regular groups to encourage restarting after Covid restrictions relaxed.
- Long standing water leak in roof resolved.
- Complete refurbishment of north side roof assisted by grant funding from FSJ and Essex Community Foundation.

Continued on next page

- Worked tirelessly to ensure hall Covid safe and obtained all necessary notices and materials to allow users to follow village hall and Government guidance.
- Five extendable barriers purchased to allow initially Covid one way system to be constructed, subsequently can be used for general hall business.
- New overhead projector.
- DVD/Blue ray player provided
- 5-year Electrical inspection successfully completed.
- Bike stand adjacent to main doors.
- Committee meeting continued through the virtual site of ZOOM.
- Re-furbish main floor.
- Upgrade toilet lighting to LED

A remarkably busy and extraordinary year for our hall. We acknowledge that normal times are still in the future, but we are confident that we can provide the community with a safe venue to enable the social and mental health of the village to be improved.

Also, it was possible to aid all regular user groups as they slowly return to using the village hall. We were able to offer a period of reduced hire fees, and this will be reviewed in the coming months as we continue to manage the Covid situation.

We continue to receive support from the Parish Council and Sue Gibson from the RCCE and we express our gratitude for this.

We will continue to work in partnership with the Parish Council and St Andrews to provide facilities to our village and the surrounding areas that are relevant and at the lowest possible cost.

The Trustees state that regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance is made when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

The Trustees will endeavour to:

- Keep hire fees at the lowest possible level.
- Provide update and news via the Alresford Advertiser.
- To administer and manage all that is required to allow the village hall to function.
- To continue to explore fund raising events such as Shop'nTreat and Simply Singing.
- Work in partnership with the Parish Council to continue to provide excellent facilities for the communities of Alresford and the surrounding areas.
- Develop a medium to long term hall management plan part of which will be to encourage involvement from younger members of the community, who are not necessarily associated with existing hirer groups, to become active in hall management and fund-raising activities.
- To replace all north side guttering.

- To maintain and reduce tree and shrub growth on north side including exploring the reduction of overhanging oak from neighbouring property.

The Trustees give substantial amounts of their time to the Village Hall and their reward is seeing the continued use and enjoyment that our community gains from the Village Hall.

The Trustees will strive to listen to comments and make improvements that will serve the community, whilst maintaining all the basic requirements that need to be executed to allow the Hall to function.

At the subsequent meeting that followed the AGM, Russell Milburn, Nicola Lockwood-Pugh, and Pat Burmby were all re-elected as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

The hall roof was completed in early August and an updated rebuild estimate has been obtained and forwarded to our insurers.

We are now investigating installing noise reduction panels in the hall to suppress echo. This will allow users to speak and hear when there is a lot of surround sound, i.e., conversations within the hall.

Again, the Trustees will look to obtain funding opportunities for this project once quotations have been received.

Save The Date: Friday December 10th Evening. Alresford Village Hall Christmas Event.

This is being planned and further information will be via Facebook, website and the Alresford Advertiser December edition.

Please visit our website for regular hire groups currently using the hall facilities.

HALL/PAVILION HIRE

The Pavilion/Bar is now available to hire for either individually or as well as the Hall. All enquiries should be via the **Village Hall booking clerk, Pat Burmby on 01206 823983** or via email at enquiries@alresfordvillagehall.co.uk

Thank you
Russell Milburn (Chair)

To the Village Hall Management Committee

Hi Russell,
Just wanted to say how nice our village hall is and to thank you and your team for all the hard work that you put into making it so. Compared to some other halls we are so lucky to have such a lovely and well maintained place to meet which is all due to the people who so much effort in.

Thank you
Hilda



ALRESFORD STATION HOUSE COMMUNITY GROUP

Alresford Station House Community Group has entered negotiations to buy the lovely Victorian house. It has been a long journey to get here and the vision to turn the house into a much needed community hub has continued in the background whilst we patiently waited for a decision.



Our vision is to create a special place in the village that brings the community together after the difficulties of the pandemic. Our main attraction will be a cafe and there is to be a focus on creating the space as a centre for well-being and sustainability, all in the setting of our established community garden.

Now we need you to help make this happen for the community.

As a Community Benefits Society we will be offering community shares to raise the purchase price so please go to our website www.alresfordstationhouse.org.uk to pledge your support and help us raise this money. By buying shares you will become a member and help steer the project to success.

Anyone wanting to get involved at any level please do so via our website, by emailing info@alresfordstationhouse.org.uk or follow our progress on social media @alresfordstation

Alresford Station House pop up coffee shop event

We would like to thank everyone who came along to the event back in September. It was lovely to see everyone



across the generations enjoy the gardens, the Crumb and Brew coffee van and the wonderful cakes from Mina's cakery. The sun shone and we were able to share our vision with everyone for the future of the station house.

Thank you again.



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The residents of Alresford voted in support of their Neighbourhood Plan on September 9th. It is the product of much hard work by a team of residents of the village over a four year period to create a plan to become a legal planning document that gives much needed clout in the way that Alresford evolves.

The Steering Group is very grateful for both the support in the referendum and in the responses to our questionnaires - without your contributions we could not have created the plan. It has been a steep learning curve for us all, including Tendring District Council, as it is the first Neighbourhood Plan to be adopted in the district. Ardleigh and Elmstead are also starting a plan and we will offer them help as other villages have helped us.

With 96% voting yes it is resounding support from the village for the Plan that could have been defeated by one vote. The turn out was similar to that for District Council elections.

There were 483 Yes votes and 18 No votes. Thanks for getting behind us.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Wanted!

Additional leaders for fun and adventure

1st Elmstead Guides are urgently looking for volunteer adult leaders to help keep our happy and lively unit running.

If you're enthusiastic about giving girls opportunities for fun, friendship, challenge and adventure then you're just what we're looking for.

“
On Thursdays, it's all fun and games.
Oh, and inspiring the next generation of women.
SARAH
Guides volunteer”



If you can help or you'd like to know more, please contact Lorraine on 1stelmsteadguides@gmail.com or 01206 841583 for further details.

wjr

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ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Council Chairman's Report

Neighbourhood Plan

"Yes" vote wins! Alresford is now the first area in Tendring to have a Neighbourhood Plan in place.

The referendum poll for the community to decide whether to adopt the Alresford Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan has been held and the result was a resounding "Yes". 96% of those that voted wanted to see the adoptions of the Plan so that now Tendring District Council is bound in law to refer to the Alresford Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan when determining planning applications.

Although the Neighbourhood Plan project was a Parish Council initiative and in the case of Alresford was headed by a Councillor, Cllr Simon Clark, it would not have progressed without the superb input from the non-Councillor members of the Steering Group - their contribution was enormous and crucial. In fact the whole community contributed to the Plan by answering surveys and supplying the evidence that enabled this planning document with its professionally written policies to progress to fruition, the historic vote on the 9th of September has now endorsed the Plan. Cllr Osborn, Chairman of the Planning Committee, was also an important contributor bringing his local knowledge to the fore.

Highways

General road safety and the detrimental impact of speeding vehicles continues to be a concern. As mentioned in the last AA report Essex County Council Highways rejected both of the Parish Council applications to address speed limits in Cockaynes Lane and on the B1027. To challenge this rejection we employed an Independent Highways Consultant and reports from the consultant now received on both roads are heavily in favour of speed limit changes. In addition concerned residents have mounted a petition for a 30mph limit where the B1027 passes through Alresford. We now hope that Essex Highways has a change of mind but we know we have a difficult task as there is a poor record of Essex Highways reducing speed limits even when communities request they do so.

The Parish Council now has a mobile (dismountable) vehicle activated sign that has a visual speed indicator device together with data collection capabilities. This device will be put to good use at particular hot spots.

Minerals and Waste

Alresford has been a centre for aggregate quarrying and processing for many years and the resultant fishing lakes from this quarrying process are in abundance around the outskirts of the village. In times past bulk sand was transported from Alresford Creek via sand barges, however, road transport is now the only way that aggregates are moved in our area and the movement of the large trucks does produce noise, dust and in some cases danger. We know we have to live with some unwanted elements of the minerals and waste industry, but excessive heavy vehicle movements can be environmentally and socially damaging. The bridle path (our only PRoW Bridle Path) near Bretts works is not always a pleasant walk or ride

when there are many heavy trucks passing so close and the Parish Council is in discussions with Bretts to see what measures can be taken to lessen the impact of these vehicles. Many residents have raised concerns about the daily truck movement rates and their speeds so new signs have been installed explaining to truck drivers the reasons for the relatively new 10mph limit on a section of the Bretts access road and further measures are planned.

Playing Field/Public Realm

Some great suggestions have been received from parents as to what new play equipment would be beneficial and our work experience student Amber is continuing her consultations whilst the Councils sources funding from grants. There was an increase in regular littering on the field and play areas over the summer holidays and our litter picker, handyman and volunteers were kept a little too busy. We do ask that parents and guardians instruct their children that the many litter bins provided do have a purpose. In and around Alresford there are thirty-six litter bins, all bins can be used for general litter and dog waste (no dogs are allowed on the playing field), they are emptied twice a week at a usual cost per Parish Council bin of approx. £80 each year (we pay this to Tendring District Council). If a bin is missed for emptying then that soon becomes apparent so we ask that the Parish Council Office is contacted to report this.

Taylor Wimpey/Staunton Gate

A number of residents have asked when the Parish Council will open the new allotments - the answer is that we are awaiting the handover to the Parish Council from the site owners and we are doing everything we can to resolve the delay. The issue seems to be that Taylor Wimpey needs to finalise works and have them signed off by the Planning Authority (TDC) before the allotment land can be handed over to the Parish Council. We are really sorry for this hold up as there are clearly very keen gardeners who are itching to grow fresh fruit and veg.

St Peter's Church

Using our new legal powers we have been able to assist the Church authorities and Essex County Council in improving the Churchyard at St Peter's. Rotten and damaged fencing has been replaced by our handyman and trees are being attended to. Sadly a number of elm trees have died and replacement trees will need to be planted. Yew trees will be shaped and we have instructed a tree surgeon to carry out the preparatory works.

Policing

Parish and Town Councils have an important role to play in policing and always have done but since 1998 and the Crime and Disorder Bill there has been a duty for all Councils to make support for policing one of their top priorities. Alresford funds a PCSO, as many will be aware, but at the moment sickness has meant our regular PCSO Julia Brandon is not on duty and we are reliant on non-Council funded officers. Payments for the PCSO are suspended until we have "our" own fully fit officer on duty. Even when our "own" PCSO is on duty the coverage provided does not always fulfil the needs of our community at all times due to shifts worked. Alresford Parish Council has therefore voted

to have a Community Special Police Constable in addition to our PCSO. Previously there were considerable costs to a village having it's own police "Special" but now the only cost is a travel and subsistence allowance for these police volunteers.

If anyone is interested in being a Special Constable in Alresford please contact Essex Police at www.essex.police.uk/communityspecials.

Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

Grateful thanks to Andrew Barker and his fellow volunteers who operate under the Parish Council Parish Paths Partnership (P3) scheme. Andrew is a quite outstanding volunteer who does so much in our community.

The volunteers tackle cross field footpaths that require brambles, hedging and grass to be cut back. One footpath leading from Ford Lane along past The Plantation and on to Plumpton's Farm had excessive growth as a fallen tree had blocked the path and the subsequent lack of use allowed vegetation to flourish. Essex County Council and Landowners have the legal responsibilities to attend to most PRoWs.

Visit of Government Minister to Alresford Station

Chris Heaton-Harris, the Department for Transport Cabinet Minister made a trip to Alresford Station in August. He was there to meet Alresford Station adopters and station community garden volunteers. In attendance also was Lord Somer-Leyton and officials from Network Rail and greater Anglia.

Two of the Station Adopters are Parish Councillors, myself and Cllr Sue Hammick and so it was a good opportunity to raise other matters such as traffic speeds, excessive quarry traffic and also pollution caused by idling vehicles at the railway level crossings. Of great importance also was mentioning the desire of the Alresford Station House Community Group Ltd to purchase the Station House from Network Rail and turn it into a community café and village hub.

The Station Adopters are Sue Hammick, Barry Hammick, Beverly Wigley, Martine Ward and myself. The community garden is tended to by Cherry Watson and Roger Palmer.

Clerk/Proper Officer

Clerk and Proper Officer Michelle Salazar has left the Council due to a family relocation to Norfolk. She has served the Council and community for seven years and contributed greatly - especially in maintaining high standards for the play area and helping the Council gain a nationally recognised Foundation Award for Council business. In addition, she was part of the team that guided Alresford to achieve category winner in Essex Village of the Year in 2019 and achieve overall runner up in the same competition in the "all classes" category. Replacing Michelle will be Matt Cooke who has just been selected to join the Council staff by a panel from the Personnel Committee. We thank our Assistant Clerk Angela Baxter for covering Council business during the staff transitional period.

Looking ahead....

We are fortunate in Alresford to have a number of experienced Parish Councillors and capable new

Councillors plus support volunteers and staff of a very high calibre. We can all only do so much though and we do ask that if residents see issues around the village they think need addressing they report them to us - if we cannot directly help we can often find someone that can.

And finally....please - young and old, stay safe by following medical advice as we approach the winter months when Covid plus seasonal flu may cause further problems.

Frank Belgrove
Chairman
Alresford Parish Council



WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISH CLERK

Please allow me to introduce myself, My name is Matt Cooke, the new Clerk and Proper Officer to Alresford Parish Council.

I live in Brightlingsea with my silversmith wife Karen and our three children.

With a background in the creative arts as a commercial photographer, and working within arts education since 1992 teaching across levels from GCSE to Masters degree. I have served as an elected parent governor at the Colne Community School.

I look forward to working with the Councillors, your hard working elected representatives, for the benefit of the local community.

I will be available by appointment at the parish council offices, located in the pavilion between 09.00 & 14.00 on Tuesdays Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Matt Cooke SLCC
Parish Clerk and Proper Officer



Useful Telephone Numbers

Tendring District Council: 01255 686868
Colchester General Hospital: 01206 747474
Local Bus Information: 0871 200 22 33
Train Information: 08457 484950
Citizens Advice Bureau (Colchester): 0808 278 7853
Water Emergency: 08457 145 145
Gas Emergency: 0800 111 999
Electricity Emergency: 0800 404090

**Police, Fire, Ambulance, Coastguard:
EMERGENCY 999 or 101**

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

The Parish Office, The Pavilion, Ford Lane
Alresford CO7 8AT

Council meetings are held at the Pavilion on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm.
Public and Press are welcome
Agenda & Approved Minutes on website

Website: www.alresfordpcessex.uk/

Facebook: Alresford Parish Council (Parish Council only)/
The Pavilion & Playing Field - Alresford Essex

Twitter: @alresfordessex

Chairman: Cllr Frank Belgrove - 01206 823739

Vice-Chairman: Cllr Ernie Osborne - 01206 822168

Cllr Linda Belgrove	01206 823739
Cllr Simon Clark	01206 827884
Cllr Sue Hammick	01206 618659
Cllr John Housden	07775630058
Cllr Gary Scott	01206 820769
Cllr Ann Wiggins	01206 825153
Cllr Bina Swash	01206 970353
Cllr Alistair Broom	01206 824340
Cllr Julia Claremont-Brown	jcbapcessex.outlook.com

District Council Tending

District Councillor Gary Scott - 01206 820769

Email: cllr.gscott@tendingdc.gov.uk

District Councillor Ann Wiggins - 01206 825153

Email: cllr.awiggins@tendingdc.gov.uk

County Council Essex

County Councillor Alan Goggin - 01206 308023

Email: egog@btinternet.com

Parish Clerk - The Proper Officer

Matt Cooke - 01206 615117 (Answerphone 24/7)

Email: alresfordpc@outlook.com

Responsible Finance Officer & Assistant Clerk

Angela Baxter - 01206 615117 (Answerphone 24/7)

Email: rfoptessex@outlook.com

ALRESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

**Reporting incidents the correct way
To report an incident please ring 101**

Or report it online: <https://www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/report-a-crime/>

DON'T FORGET...The Advertiser is your magazine, so please send us any contributions - both from individuals and village organisations; any feedback you have or anything you would like us to include.

If you want to know more, please contact us - details are on the back page.

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CLUBS AND SOCIETIES NEWS

Do you run a club or society? If you would like something included in the Alresford Advertiser, please email alresfordadvertiser@gmail.com

ALRESFORD GARDENING CLUB

Our somewhat shortened season commenced on 6th September, with an illustrated presentation entitled "Dry Gardens" by Marc McHearn from Beth Chattos

Marc's talk was split into two parts, the first took us right back to the start of Beth Chatto's Gardens at Elmstead Market, and how Beth's visionary outlook and her knowledge of what plants do well and where, has led us to the gardens we can all enjoy when we visit today.

The second part concentrated on the dry garden area that was originally the car park, how this was developed from scratch, and how to this day the plants have survived without any artificial irrigation. Using a selection of plants he'd brought along, Marc explained how they survive dry conditions reducing water aspiration loss through their leaf and stem structure etc.

Forty nine people attended the meeting, and comments received since, all suggest how they enjoyed what was a very informative and entertaining evening.

Marc has many years of experience working at Beth Chatto's, and we are hopeful he will accept an invitation to come and talk to us again next season, on yet another facet of plants and gardening.

October 4th presentation – Brussel Sprouts to Tangerines – Christmas Fruit & Vegetable stories

November 12th – Quiz Night

Meetings commence at **7.30pm** in the Village hall – doors open 7pm

For more information please contact Chris Sanderson on 01206 823824

ALRESFORD ART GROUP

Wednesday 13th October has been set as the start for the new season of Art Group meetings held in the Village Hall, with the next meeting on **Wednesday 3rd November**. The sessions run from **1.15 - 4.15pm** and are basically on a "self-help" basis i.e. if you cannot get the desired result in your work of art, then there is other members who you can ask or who are willing to offer advice. Demonstration afternoons are arranged as funds allow.

We are a small group and new members are always welcome, so irrespective of how good or otherwise you think you are and whatever your preference, watercolours, pastels, acrylic, pencil etc. we would like to meet you so please come along.

For more information, please contact Chris on 01206 823824.



Alresford Gardening Club

A presentation by Jacqueline Aviolet from Aylesford Kent

entitled

"Brussel Sprouts to Tangerines"
Christmas fruit & vegetable stories

Alresford Village Hall
Ford Lane, Alresford CO7 8AT

Monday 4th October at 7.30pm

Non-members & visitors very welcome
£2.50

ALRESFORD BOWLS CLUB

You are invited to join us to play short mat carpet bowls

SESSIONS ARE HELD EVERY MONDAY AT 2.00PM AND 7.00PM AT ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL - JUST COME ALONG

FREE TRIAL SESSIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO NEWCOMERS

THEREAFTER THERE IS A £10 ANNUAL FEE AND £3 PER SESSION WHICH INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS

For further information contact
Jenny Holben on
01206 827756 or 07714 875001



ALRESFORD WI

ALRESFORD WI, continues to enjoy its monthly meetings, in the village hall.

In July we had a guest speaker Lyn Pendle explaining the work of the Matang Wildlife Centre in Borneo. Lyn explained the work this sanctuary undertakes to care for Orangutans and Sun Bears both of which are now endangered species. We also viewed some amazing photos of these animals. Our August meeting was a casual meeting, although we had to put our thinking caps on for the Quiz. Unfortunately, our guest speaker for September meeting has had to cancel. The talk will be rearranged for next year. In its place we will be arranging a Beetle Drive.

October will see us being entertained by Gary Egerton, Gary is a London Blue Badge Guide and will be talking on "Devious British". Followed by our Harvest Supper.

November, we welcome Brenda Raven with her Sea Glass Jewellery. Jewellery will be on sale, perhaps a Christmas gift might be found.

December we are planning a Chinese Auction, which is great fun.

2022 speakers are currently being arranged.

Our zoom book club is being enjoyed and has just finished reading the Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

We are sorry to announce our lady President, Penny Dimmock has resigned due to ill health. Penny arranged so much during the 'lockdown', keeping us well informed of WI matters. We send her our best wishes. Christine James has taken the role of President.

It would be nice if you could come and join us.

Future meeting dates:

October 14th and **November 11th** in the Village Hall.

Meetings begin at **7-30pm**. Admission is £3, and this includes refreshments.

For more information please contact:

Chris James, 01255 764769 or
Hilda Newbold 01206 823477

NEEDED URGENTLY For The Autumn Centre Lunch Clubs

A PART-TIME VOLUNTARY DRIVER (D1 licence holder) for our minibus, transporting our clients to and from the Alresford and Brightlingsea Lunch Clubs.

We also need **ESCORTS** to assist.

For further information please contact Mr Edward Brown at the Autumn Centre on 01206 303702

SIMPLY SINGING

It was lovely to see so many regulars returning for an afternoon of singing old favourites, and catching up with friends after such a long enforced break. We chose not to hand out song sheets for the time being, but Chris had worked hard to provide us with the lyrics on the overhead screen with some pictures and it worked really well.

There were eighteen of us singing along, but we could easily take many more quite safely. We are lucky to have such a large Village Hall, so do come along and let us know what your favourite songs are.

The next session will be on **Friday 8th October** at an earlier time of **1.45pm** with a charge of £3.00 per session which includes refreshments; all proceeds go to the Village Hall Fund.

Session Dates

8th and 29th October

12th and 26th November

3rd and 17th December

For more information contact:

Jeanette: 01206 825008 or Chris: 01206 823824

ALRESFORD CAMERA CLUB

The Camera Club is always open to new members and is keen to meet those people who basically enjoy photography as a hobby, irrespective of how proficient or otherwise individuals feel they are in the subject. There is always something new to learn and from that learning, greater enjoyment to be had.

Meetings are traditionally held on the first and third Thursday evenings each month.

Programme for October and November

Oct 7th Critique of Club Members work by the Club Members – Digitally Presented Images

Oct 21st Converting images to Monochrome & Hilary's History – presentation by members

Nov 4th Critique of Club Members work by the Club Members - - Monochrome Prints

Nov 18th – Travel Photography – presentation by Club Members

For more details, please contact **John Merison on 01206 250846**

1ST ALRESFORD BEAVERS

Beavers meet on a Tuesday evening in term time from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. It is for boys and girls between the ages of 6 to 8 years. If anyone would like to add their children to our waiting list, please contact alresfordbeavers@outlook.com.

Cubs and Scouts for older children meet at the Elmstead Community Centre on Wednesday evenings. Please contact us at the above email address for further details.

ALRESFORD HISTORY GROUP

Alresford has so much history and to be proud of going back over 1,000 years that it should be celebrated and for it to have a permanent home so that residents can look at it. We did have a group in the Village called The Alresford Heritage Club which put together a slide show and calendars and was very successful.

If you are interested in being part of a group, or have any photos or stories, please do get in touch with me on 01206 825153.

Ann Wiggins, Station Road, Alresford

FORMATION OF ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Alresford Parish Council became a legal entity back in 1946. Previously its meeting has been known as Alresford Parish Meetings.

Walter Heushaw wrote to Essex County Council on the 13th February 1946 to bring to their attention that Alresford had over 300 - in fact around 360 - residents he wanted them to know that "in these circumstances, it would appear that the mandatory powers imposed upon the County Council under Section 43 (Sub Section 2) of the Local Government Act should be brought into operation in the near future". The Chairman of the Alresford Parish Meeting at the time was William Pilkington.

Mr Heushaw received a letter from Essex County Council letting him know that the last published census gave a figure of 312 for the number of residents in the village and it also stated that "under Section 43(2) the Council must establish a parish council for the parish. Mr Heushaw's letter would be submitted to the next meeting of County Council members and to await their decision.

Mr Pilkington in turn sent a letter to Essex County Council stating that he agreed with Mr Heushaw's letter and asking what the procedure should be at the next Parish Meeting.

Sadly, I do not have the paperwork for fact that Alresford Parish Council was set up in 1946 but it started with 5 Councillors before rising:

- In 1957 the number of Councillors that could be elected was 7.
- In 1964 the number of Councillors that could be elected was 9.
- In 1970 the number of Councillors that could be elected was 11

Today Alresford is still represented by 11 Councillors and meets one the first Wednesday of every month. If you would like to find out more why not to go <https://www.alresfordpcessex.uk> where you find lots of interesting information.

ALRESFORD COLNE RANGERS FC

Alresford Colne Rangers Football Club started season 2021-2022 on August 7th after two truncated seasons; would we complete the season? A big question only time will provide the answer.



The men's teams have a new management set up and numerous new players. Both teams are in very challenging leagues, but the club is fully supportive of its managers in the task ahead. The ladies also have a new management set up for the season ahead and started on the 5th September. The youth set up has sadly decreased, we only have one team who will play at under 11; an interesting season for them as they play on a bigger pitch with bigger goals and rule changes, Sadly the under 18s have folded owing to players moving on or hanging up their boots.

We would like to place on record our thanks to Mark Spackman and his team for all their hard work and dedication with the team - the club need people like Mark involved to sustain the club's future.

Sadly this year, the club lost a truly great man in Alan Green who was club chairman for 30 years + and moved the club forward seeing many changes, always changes that improved the club facility and standing. We were honoured his family let us enjoy such a wonderful honest gentleman who never had a bad word to say about anyone. The club held a memorial day and to see so may former players turn out showed what people thought of Alan, a man who will never be forgotten.

So back to the future, the club would like more youth teams from within the village; if you are interested come along and talk to us. As the club move forward, we hope to improve our already excellent facilities to benefit everyone old and new. If anyone has any new ideas or would like to help you will always be welcome. We are always happy to listen to good ideas

The Autumn Centre LUNCH CLUB RESTARTING

We are pleased to announce the return of the weekly Lunch Clubs at both the Alresford and Brightlingsea venues commencing:

Tuesdays at Alresford Village Hall: 12.30 - 2.30pm

**Fridays at Brightlingsea Community Centre:
12.30 - 2.30pm**

2 Course Meal including Tea and Coffee - £8.00
Transport, door to door, if needed - £4.00
Raffle - £1.00

We welcome back all past members and newcomers. It is not too late to join us for these friendly meals. Any further enquiries, please phone **01206 303702**



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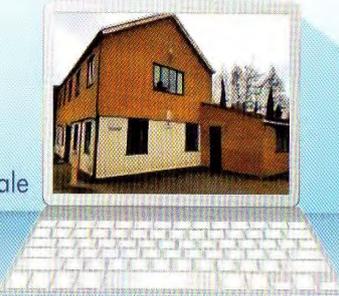
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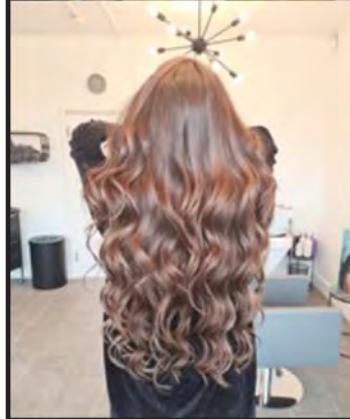
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- Still collecting wool for charity knitters
- Trauma Teddies for emergency services
- Still knitting for Christian Hope International, sending to Moldova and Europe

A huge THANK YOU for all the cases, boxes and bags of wool, threads and patterns! How generous of our supporters, what would we do without you? Please add your details for acknowledgement.

All knits are hopefully being taken to Brentwood early in October, so do let me have finished items as soon as possible.

Thank you in anticipation. Take Care until next time.

Christine Stimpson

2 Coach Road, Alresford (opposite the Doctor's surgery)

ST PETER'S CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

Volunteers recently spent a morning working on St Peter's Churchyard cutting back bushes, strimming and removing overgrown grass amongst the older headstones and weeding and cleaning the Garden of Remembrance area. This working party will meet again October 1st at 09.00 am and if you are interested in



helping please come along. Bring your own gardening tools and meet other like minded people who want to keep our Churchyard a place that all enjoy.

It is also planned to have the yew trees and surrounding larger trees tidied up this Autumn and with the good work the Parish Council has already done regarding new fencing at the front of St Peters this has very much become a community project.

NEWS FROM ALRESFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

As we start a new academic year it has been wonderful to have all the children back and see them enjoying school as the know it. I hope that we will be able to work with our wonderful PTA this year and host some events that all the community can enjoy safely.

Blast from the past

Whilst clearing out the offices in preparation for our building work I stumbled across some old photographs. A somewhat smaller school than we have now!



SCHOOL GROUP, 1921.

Wrap around care

Our After School club has opened and it has been a great success – the children are thoroughly enjoying themselves and it is wonderful to be able to support our working parents.

Reception 2022

We will soon be announcing our open days for parents who are about to start their child's school application. Please keep an eye out on the school website for further details. We will be offering after school and a Saturday to ensure we keep our own children safe.

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EXPERIENCED BEGINNERS 2.15 - 3.00 PM

IMPROVER / INTERMEDIATE 3.00 - 3.45PM

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WYVERNWOOD - A new children's adventure park to open in Alresford

A new adventure park, Wyvernwood, is set to open in the village during the first half of 2022.

Wyvernwood is a magical adventure park aimed at families with children aged 2-12, offering a natural play experience in a beautiful outdoor setting, encouraging a digital detox for families, the opportunity to connect with nature and engage with the enchanted Wyvernwood story and characters. The name "Wyvernwood" derives from the mythical Wyvern dragon and local Wivenhoe.

Play zones include an Enchanted Castle, Goblins' tunnels, Magic wishing well and an adventure trail to the Wellbeing Woods where the Wyvernwood fairies live, along with many other fabulous magical Wyvernwood creatures.

Already, some 3,500 trees have been planted, 30 bat and bird boxes installed and many hibernacula (hibernation spaces) and insect hotels created, to enhance the biodiversity of the site. In mid-September, a new entrance to Wyvernwood from the B1027 will be constructed, and play zones will be installed over the coming months.

As Wyvernwood progresses towards launch, numerous employment opportunities in the local area will be created and the team will seek to establish strong ties with the local community, businesses and suppliers.

For updates in the coming months, please follow us on Facebook and Instagram. You can email the team at info@wyvernwood.co.uk

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ALRESFORD CRAFT AND FARMERS MARKET

We returned on 4th September. It was so good to be back and see the Village Hall being used as it should.

There were Covid precautions in place, hand sanitizers around the walls, 2 stations for masks. Everyone - the public and stall holders alike were asked to wear masks, unless they were exempt, to make it safe for everyone. Slightly less stalls than usual, again this was done to make this event safer. All the doors and windows were opened for ventilation.

We have some first time stall holders this time, local beer, chocolate, fudge, tin toys, paintings using different types of mediums. Our regular stall holders with various crafts, glass art, cards, handicrafts, wood craft, jewellery and of course our wonderful café serving cakes, breakfast baps and hot and cold drinks. It was such a lovely safe atmosphere. The market is being followed by several new crafters and some of these you may see in future markets,



with lots of enquiries. Food stalls are whoever and whatever can be obtained on a monthly basis. Hopefully Sunny Mead Farm will be returning at some point as they have just had a new addition to their human family.

So thanks to everyone who came and we look forward to seeing you at the next market which is on the **2nd October, 9am to Midday** in the Village Hall.

ALRESFORD CRAFT AND FARMERS MARKET

Alresford Village Hall

Ford Lane CO7 8AT

First Saturday of the month

2nd October 2021

6th November 2021

9am - 12 noon

A variety of food and craft stalls (to be confirmed)

Free Admission

Free car park and disabled facilities

COVID guidelines will be in place and of course this may prevent the market being held. Unless exempt, we politely ask that face coverings are worn when walking around the market.

For updated information, please check the Alresford Craft and Farmers Market Facebook page.

ALRESFORD BIKERS - OUT AND ABOUT AGAIN

Our Sunday Rides have been going ahead again at long last. We've emerged into the light and we're all over the county and beyond on a regular basis. We've had several nice rides out recently, ranging from Bradwell Marina, to Finchingfield (or as bikers call it, HQ), to Walker's Snacks near Mildenhall. A couple of nice mid-week trips were to local favourites including Dennington, where a lovely café serves homemade produce of all kinds, including tea and cakes! We've poled out to Maldon, all the coastal places which have been quite busy. We've done a few circular route country rides, punctuated by the inevitable tea stops too. All gently getting back into the swing of riding, some of us having been mothballed for some time. All in all, this year seems to be recovering. The weather hasn't co-operated much, but hey, we're AB! Nothing stops us. A couple of spanking new bikes have also joined us too, replacing old ones. Congratulations to their owners, and we'll see you out and about very soon.

On Sunday 5 September two of us went to the MCN Bike Festival at Peterborough. It turned out to be a lot warmer than we had thought, and we got a bit hot under the collar. Still, a good excuse for ice creams in the sun, eh? Unexpectedly, the motorways etc. were nowhere near as bad as they sometimes are, never-ending recent road works having finished, and we flew up there arriving half an hour ahead of schedule, which almost never happens, a good start to the day. Luckily my bike's tank is huge, and I filled up before leaving, and still haven't refilled, with 215 miles on the clock on the day. My co-rider (my daughter Mel) had to fill up twice, and at motorway services prices, that was a rip-off, but unavoidable. All the major dealers were at the festival with some of this-, and next-year's models for punters to sit on, which naturally she did. We benefited from the brilliant weather and mooched around all the traders with some success – it's always the place to get stuff, and usually cheaper too. The Moped Mayhem event made a welcome return too, with riders hooning around the arena track on mopeds, in fancy dress, having enormous fun. Some were taking it very seriously, and were very much quicker than others, resulting in constant spectacular overtakes. Never mind F1 high speed procession, they should televise this! Whoever that Number 45 was, he has no fear! However, this whole festival event is still clearly reeling from Covid-itus, and was less packed with trades and dealerships than previously, though there were thousands and thousands of riders there, enjoying being out on bikes again. As ever, the bike park was as interesting as the arena – you see one of everything imaginable. We hope it will recover and mature back to previous levels.

AB's next big ride is on 12 September, which will have gone by the time you read this. It is our second take on the Air Ambulance Run, which is again a DIY affair this year. We've planned the route, and even done a test-ride to ensure that computer navigation systems (and an incompetent user) do not send us somewhere daft. It happens. Software sees roads, it doesn't see massive, foot-deep, hundred-yard-long puddles, gigantic potholes, roads so narrow there's grass growing in the middle, sand and gravel washes, etc. It doesn't see road closures either, which can be embarrassing. Ahem. We like back roads, we don't much like goat tracks. Anyway, the test ride was a great success, and we look forward to raising some money for this, our *de facto* prime charity.



In the pictures, Mel sits on the biggest machine she could find, (Triumph Rocket 3r, a mere 2.5 litre monster, but what a bike!), and a nice arty photo of the church and bikes at Dennington, so you can work out where we are without advertising the totally excellent wares on sale there!



On the subject of recoveries, we're going to resume our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of every month starting 14 September, at 8pm in the Pointer Inn, where our hosts Sam and Neil always ensure a warm welcome. They've kindly hosted us for over a decade now. So, if you are interested in bikes, bikers, biking, or anything to do with the sport as well, come along and say hello. We'd love to see you!

Al Gillard

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COCKAYNES NATURE RESERVE UPDATE (September 2021)

There's been lots of changes on site over the last year and we've had to be pretty hands off with management due to lockdown and it's rolling impact. With so the last year, everyone has been rediscovering their local area. It's been great to reserve however this has also led to one or two unexpected issues. We had a fire that led to a section of hedgeline on the meadow being destroyed and the by the higher footfall has been massive.

There have been lots of positives too. Last September we found a new rare orchid report the return of the Autumn Ladies Tresses Orchid this year. It's tiny, only 6 flowers, very easy to miss. The local rare breed sheep visited the scrape earlier continue with conversation grazing on other parts of the reserve too. Although overgrown this last year, the heather was beautiful and of course, who can forget and Cockaynes Wood had an amazing display again.



Our wardens regularly visit the keep our Facebook page information. We've now identified over 180 species of plants on site. One new discovery this summer was Ladies Bedstraw. We now have a number of rare species including Blue Fleabane which can be see in both the scrape and now alongside the path from the bridge. It's not just the plants though, we continue to see Glow Worms

in early July, Great Crested Newts in and around the bigger ponds and there's also evidence of dormice returning. We always welcome contributions from visitors too. If you've found something you'd like to share or have a question about, please get in touch.

Up until recently the only maintenance we've been able to carry out has been essential safety works. Things are starting to return to normal we're able to start our regular monthly work parties again. Our workers are all volunteers and we really appreciate their assistance. We'll have lots of jobs to do over the next few months and would welcome anyone who wants to join us and get involved. **Our next work party is Sunday 3rd October from 9am.** We meet in the yard area and are generally on site until lunchtime. It doesn't matter if you can only spare an hour or two, everyone's welcome.

For more information, please contact the warden Roger on **07710 960376** or via our Facebook page: Cockaynes.



Top left :Autumn Ladies Tresses Orchid, Middle right: Glow worm, Middle left: Common Lizard, Bottom right: Brown Argus Butterfly

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