

# THE ALRESFORD ADVERTISER OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

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## Alresford Fete Organising Committee (AFOG)

Due to the ongoing situation with the Covid virus AFOG have decided that it would not be safe or practical to present our yearly annual OVER 75'S CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY.

As it is already known we also had to cancel this year's Family Fun Day and we would very much like to try and finish the year with some Christmas Joy.

Over the next two months we will analyse the ongoing Covid situation and see if there is a way that we can deliver a Christmas Gesture to each household that is on our Over 75's list.

Unfortunately, we cannot advertise this as an event and time scales are very fluid, but if the situation later in the year allows the AFOG to do something to bring a Christmas Cheer, we will.

Russell Milburn AFOG Chair.

*A foggy morning in Alresford taken from St Peter's Church looking back towards the village  
Courtesy of Russell Milburn*

## Coronavirus (COVID-19)

There are three simple actions we must all do to keep protecting each other



**Wash hands** - keep washing your hands regularly



**Cover face** - wear a face covering in enclosed spaces



**Make space** - stay at least 2 metres apart or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

For more information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>



# St Andrew's Church



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[www.tenpennyvillages.uk](http://www.tenpennyvillages.uk)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

I'd like to tell you an odd story that might help us to think about how we are experiencing life at the moment.

White Wyatt had a lovely family and had lived happily in his home all his life. But suddenly he became a troubled man - he longed for home.

His wife became distressed - "this is your home". To the amazement of his family and friends he started to burn with a conviction that he had to find his "home". He shared that he had to travel to find it but he would return and then everyone could move to join him.

After much tears he set off - he travelled all round the world and saw some amazing sights - eventually he reached the brow of a hill and saw the perfect house and a beautiful stream running past near by - this is "home". Nervously he walked up to the front door and wanted to inquire within - as the door opened he recognised the woman - it was his wife! After much tears he was reconciled with his wife and children.

White Wyatt is a challenging story that says that sometimes to appreciate something we need to see it with a fresh pair of eyes and that often we most appreciate the simple things when we are away from them!

The Bible spans the whole of human time by talking about humankind leaving God's presence and then desperately trying to find a way back. Christians believe Jesus was the bridge to God not simply a signpost. Sometimes what we have is all we need and we don't realise it until we are away from it. I often get told by people that they aren't "religious" and yet a number of national surveys say that the majority of people pray - even its a "lord I need a parking space"!

As a Church leader my privilege normally is to welcome people home - as they come to Church. During Lockdown I have found myself for the first time having to close the Church for public Safety! Well we have moved online to Youtube Services and even burnt DVD's for people who aren't able to get onto the web. Now as Lockdown eases we are back in Church and exploring church in a way that is safe at Social distance and with a mask on! Its not the same, its the new normal! Suddenly what we were so used to, is what we long to get

back to, but without a vaccine the "new normal" seems to be around for a good while. As a Church we are starting to ask what we can learn from this time of Covid. We pray for those who are tragically impacted by the Pandemic but we are also asking what can we draw from this time. My prayer is that having stepped back from the rush of life - we recognise being "spiritually homesick". Can we recognise the whisper of us being drawing into the love of God?

As we juggle various challenges, my prayer is that you will always feel welcomed to your home at St Andrews Church - just remember to bring your mask!

Every blessing  
Rev Andrew Fordyce  
Rector - Tenpenny Villages Benefice

### ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CONTACTS

**Rector:**

Rev Andrew Fordyce 01206 920848  
Email: [rector@tenpennyvillages.uk](mailto:rector@tenpennyvillages.uk)

**Associated Priest:**

Rev Pauline Hart 01206 826318  
Email: [assocpriest@tenpennyvillages.uk](mailto:assocpriest@tenpennyvillages.uk)

**Youth & Schools Worker:**

Charlotte Day (Charley)  
Email: [youthworker@tenpennyvillages.uk](mailto:youthworker@tenpennyvillages.uk)

**Churchwardens:**

Wendy Wilson 01206 825040  
Lyn Bull 01206 827146  
Email: [stachurchwardens@tenpennyvillages.uk](mailto:stachurchwardens@tenpennyvillages.uk)

**Bookings for the Hub:**

Meg Burdis 01206 820618

### SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOEBOX APPEAL (2020)

Due to the restriction imposed on us by the Covid-19 pandemic we are unable distribute literature and collect filled shoeboxes for this year's "Children in Need Appeal". However, if you wish to support this worthy cause may we suggest that you make your donations on-line to [samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ](http://samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ).

Allan & Zanne Friston

# ALRESFORD VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall website:

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

The Village Hall Facebook:

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

## NEWS

### CORONAVIRUS COVID 19 UPDATE

The Village Hall is now being used by a small number of regular user groups adhering to the VH Risk Assessment guidelines and just as importantly to their own guidelines.

Each user group will have their own distinctive set of rules to follow, usually after advice from their respective national bodies to enable each of them to enjoy their activities Covid safely.

The Trustees have worked hard to make the VH compliant with all Covid guidance and continue to monitor the updates when they are released.

As reported in the last Alresford Advertiser, the priority is for all at the VH to use safely which is inclusive to the Users, Trustees and Cleaners.

Social Distancing and Government rules with regards to Social groups will decide the maximum capacity in the hall. It is advisable for groups to plan their attendance prior to their meeting and devise a plan for where their attendees need to sit or stand. Completing this will enable maximum numbers can attend whilst adhering to the Covid rules. Please contact the VH Chair to discuss safe capacity based on the activity that your group is involved with. At the time of going to press the kitchen is still not available.

All celebration events are strictly prohibited at present and as from the 14th September all user groups have a legal requirement to register all who attend their meeting/event.

The Munson Room will be out of commission until further notice as it is being used as part of the required one-way system to enter/exit the hall and will also act as a queuing area for the toilet.

All private hirers in the coming months have been contacted with regards to their 'celebration' event not at present being permitted. This is extremely distressing as these events are normally booked months in advance and involved lots of planning. We of course will be in constant contact with the hirers as and when criteria for use is updated.

Below is the statement on the VH website

### **Coronavirus COVID 19 FURTHER UPDATE**

**The Trustees have developed Risk Assessments for the Village Hall to be available for regular hire to recommence when groups feel comfortable to do so.**

**The groups will be expected to conform to the Hall's Risk Assessment and if required develop their own Assessment to support safe use.**

**All users for the foreseeable future will be required to agree a temporary Covid Contract as well as normal Contract of Hire.**

**Please be aware that the situation can change quickly, and the Trustees reserve the right to alter the terms of hire if guidelines require us to do so.**

Please click on the heading 'AVH COVID-19 Risk Assessment' and then see the following documents **COVID VILLAGE HALL RISK ASSESSMENT, HIRERS RISK ASSESSMENT AND COVID CONTRACT.**

Please look at our website or Facebook account as we will keep this updated with all the information as to when we can open the hall.

## **OTHER NEWS**

The annual MOT of the VH floor was completed on the 17th August. All annual Risk Assessments and Fire Checks were completed by the end of August. These are quieter times for the VH and although we are as keen as all to see the end of this Covid, we also have a need to review where we are.

***Our main priority is to encourage two to three people to join us as trustees. We meet normally once a month in the evening and at present we have no major concerns with regards to our village hall. If you are interested give me a call and come to a meeting to see what we do.***

***If you are an old village resident or you have recently moved to the village please consider this request.***

These are the regular hire groups currently involved using the hall facilities in normal times.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Alresford Scout Group (Beavers) meet Tuesday Teatime.
- Alresford Indoor Carpet Bowls Club meet Monday afternoon/Evening and every other Friday evening.
- Alresford Camera Club meet the first and third Thursday evening on the month
- Alresford Art Club meet every other Wednesday afternoon.
- Alresford Colne Rangers Football Club (using the Pavilion at the rear of the hall)
- Alresford Women's Guild meet Wednesday evening.
- Alresford Horticultural Club meet on the first Monday of the Month March to November
- Alresford Women's Institute meet the second Thursday evening of the month
- Alresford Lunch Club meet every Tuesday
- Dog Training Classes Tuesday and Thursday evening.
- Tai Chi meet every Wednesday morning.
- Exercise Classes (Extend) meet every Thursday morning.
- Alresford Calligraphy Group meet every Friday morning.
- Simply Singing meet every other Friday afternoon
- Line Dancing meets every Tuesday afternoon.
- Farmers Market on the first Saturday morning of the month.

If more information is needed, please visit Village Hall website or contact Russell Milburn 01206 825739.

Russell Milburn (Chair AVHMC)  
01206 825739

# wjr

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# ALRESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

## JULY 2020

### Recorded Crimes: 13

**Crime Types:** Domestic x 3 - Other criminal damage to a residence x 3 - Assault without injury x 2 - Section 4a public order - Other - Other criminal damage to a vehicle - Malicious communications - Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)

### Incidents Reported: 24

**Types reported:** Concern x 3 - Domestic x 2 - Missing person x 6 - Sheep in Wivenhoe Road - Mental health - Suspicious driving - Threats - Disturbance - Social distancing Pavilion Green - Road traffic collision Station Road - Nuisance vehicle - Obstruction - Fight - Malicious communications - Nuisance neighbour (not reported) - Other.

## AUGUST 2020

### Recorded Crimes: 10

**Crime Types:** ABH - Domestic - Theft from MV - Possession of a controlled drug - Assault without injury x 2 - Other criminal damage x 2 - Assault actual bodily harm - Other

### Incidents Reported: 11

**Types reported:** Criminal damage - Concern - Previous breach of peace - Disturbance - Suspicious circumstances - Theft from vehicle - Missing person x 3 - Domestic x 2

## JULY 2020 TRUCAM: monthly total 25

Three x one hour deployments, all Wivenhoe Road

**Top Speed: 53 mph**

## AUGUST 2020 TRUCAM monthly total 24

Three x one hour deployments, all Wivenhoe Road

**Top Speed: 43 mph**

**Please drive safely and adhere to the road signs**

## July 2020 NOTES

### Parking Obstruction at Staunton Gate

There have been numerous reports of parking obstructions at the junction of Staunton Gate. Myself and Councillor Belgrove attended the location giving 3 considerate parking tickets to those causing obstructions at that time. There are a lot of pedestrians including children around the area and parking at junctions causes poor viability, which could result in an accident. Please keep junctions clear.

Thank you to those who complied.

### Litter

A large number of bottles are being thrown down along Cockaynes Lane. There are bins in various places in the village, please use them or take your bottles home.

### Speeding

Numerous reports are still being made on speeding and Anti-Social driving in the village. One of these included a driver who had already received a section 59 warning.

Anyone caught driving recklessly will be issued with a section 59 and if caught again could lose their vehicle.

If captured speeding on the speed gun, drivers may receive a course and a fee if they have not had one within 3 years, or a fine and points.

**If you value your licence/vehicle, abide by the law - it's that simple!**

As a driver, you are responsible for your vehicle and adhering to the highway code.

### Scramblers

Off-road scramblers are being reported along Ford Lane and on private land. One was reported to have gone straight through a group of walkers, which included children.

It is illegal to ride these on the public highway and you need the owners permission to ride on their land.

### If caught, these bikes could be seized

#### Motorised scooters and skateboards

There have been reports of motorised scooters and skateboards on footpaths. An elderly person was hurt trying to get out of the way of one. Please use them with care and consider pedestrians.

Parents whose children possess these, please advise them on how to use them safely.

## AUGUST 2020 NOTES

### Litter

Litter, bottles and used barbecues are being left at Whitehouse beach (The Creek, Ford Lane). One barbecue was left alight and put out by officers.

This is private land that has public access. Barbecues **are not** permitted. There have been previous fires in the location that cause death to wild life and ruin greenery, which can spread and be very dangerous.

If visiting this location, please take your litter home or use the bins provided at the entry zone points.

### Theft from Vehicle

There was a theft from a vehicle in Station Road on 12/08/2020. Please do not leave valuables in vehicles and check vehicles are left secure.

If anyone saw anything that could assist enquiries please contact PCSO Brandon via the email below or by ringing 101.

### Speeding

Speeding is still being reported on Wivenhoe Road. The Trucam device is still in operation, which could be on any day at any time. **Please stick to the 30 mph limit.**

### Parking

1 considerate parking ticket was given this month. Please park safely in a legal manner. Anyone caught blocking footpaths or junctions will be given a ticket

*Continued on next page*

### 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/>

All incidents must be reported as above

If residents have any concern on suspicious vehicles/ activity/drugs in the village, please feel free to contact me, with as much detail as possible, including contact details so I can investigate (unless it is an **incident**, which then needs to be reported as above).

Email- [julia.brandon@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:julia.brandon@essex.pnn.police.uk)

Tel- 101 Ext- 440222

## ALRESFORD COLNE RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB



With the new football season now under way, it is a chance to look back. With the pandemic finishing football in March 2020, the season was declared null and void by the F.A. The Alresford Colne Rangers end of season event, as was a lot of events, was cancelled, so with strict guidelines still in place, low key presentations took place for the youth, men's, and ladies' teams. Well done to all individual winners.

This season will be a challenge for all football clubs with strict guidelines in place. A huge amount of work by club officials has taken place to adhere to these guidelines enabling games to take place safely. It is not an easy task as goalposts seem to be moved daily and we at Alresford will do our best to keep up with them.

The safety of our players, club members, supporters and villagers are paramount.

The club have had some changes to management. We welcome our existing managers back and a very warm welcome to the new ones. The club has undergone a restructure in the period of no football and a chance arose to honour some club officials who work extremely hard but never seem to get a mention, so here goes in no particular order. Over the years, they have held numerous roles in the club and are still working hard to keep this club going and long may they continue.

**Brian Martin** has been a long-standing committee member with over 40 years' service. He is kit washer, groundsman, Membership secretary and barman amongst other things.

**David Balls** is another long-standing club member who has been a player and manager and until recently, Chairman. David has served the club for 50 years now.

**Dennis Bird** is the club's Child Welfare and Safeguarding Officer, a particularly important role with over 30 years' service.

**Trevor Hunt**, until recently had been the Club Secretary for 30 years and over 35 years of service.

**Ryan Thompson** is the club Honorary Treasurer, a position he has held for 15 years. Before that he was a player and has built up 33 years' service.

**Russell Milburn** has been a player, manager of both the first and reserve teams and has just taken over as joint Chairman. He has also been at the forefront of the Covid guidelines and carrying out the club's risk assessment which was supported by the committee. Started as a 15-year-old and has accumulated over 40 years of service.

**John Hammond** has been a manager and along with Russell is joint Chairman. Now over 30 years with the club.

**Pete Milner** is a committee member, has been a player and manager of the sides. Another with 40 years of service.

**Claire Brown** is the youth and ladies Secretary who has taken on the completion of an important F.A. document, The F.A. Charter Standard. Claire is a youngster but has over 15 years with the club,

**Tony Birkin** who is the current ladies' manager and has managed the men's reserve team. Approaching 20 years with the club.

All these people work tirelessly whether it be behind the scenes or over the field on a Saturday morning preparing everything for the weekends game. The above does not do justice to all they have done and still do. The recognition is a small gesture from the club, and everyone richly deserved.

**We have younger members within the committee, but it is vital that more from the village get involved and become the impetus for the next 20 years.**

Finally, we are a village club and the welcome mat is always out to all villagers to come and see us.



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# **ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Chairman's Report - Cllr Frank Belgrove**

For full Council meeting minutes please see the Parish Council website or visit the Parish Council Office (by prior appointment).

### **ALRESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

An Alresford Neighbourhood Plan final consultation procedure is being organized by Tendring District Council; this is a standard part of the neighbourhood planning process and mirrors in many ways the consultation organized earlier by the Parish Council. In addition to local input statutory bodies are being consulted. Due to the suspension of public ballots caused by the Covid 19 pandemic the referendum on the plan may also be delayed but it is an immense achievement for us to have reached this stage. Alresford is the first village in the Tendring District to put forward a complete Neighbourhood Plan document. The Steering Group, chaired by Cllr Simon Clark, made up mainly of non-parish councilors must take credit for their determination to progress the Neighbourhood Plan to these final stages.

### **PARISH COUNCIL STATUS**

Alresford Parish Council is delighted to have been given the nationally recognized "Foundation Award". This award (presented by the National Association of Local Councils) means that the Council maintains a consistently high standard of operation and has in place all the necessary policies and structures. We certainly want to maintain this high level of service and our two key staff (Proper Officer {Clerk} and Responsible Financial Officer) now have passed their examinations and hold Certificates in Local Council Administration so that in addition to the Foundation Award we have adopted what is known as "The General Power of Competence", this power enables the Council greater freedom to carry out works and operate schemes that benefit the community. It also opens up to us a wider choice of funding streams and other opportunities.

### **HIGHWAYS**

For a number of years, the Parish Council has pressed for increased safety on the B1027 – the measures sought involve the setting of a 30mph speed limit through the village and then a 40mph limit towards Thorrington. The Parish Council was disappointed that the planning application for the Alresford Hall play park was approved by Tendring District Council without conditions attached relating to reducing the speed of traffic on the B1027 near the double bends before Tenpenny Hill, as that is where the entrance to the play park will be sited. The current 60mph should be reduced to at least 40mph in our opinion and we will be pressing for an urgent review of the speed limit now that very young children may be crossing this busy road.

Cockaynes Lane has seen an increase in vehicle and pedestrian traffic since the construction of the Staunton Gate estate and safety is a prime concern for the Council. We are pressing Essex Highways via the Local Area Highways Panel for action as this ancient lane has the national speed limit for most of its length yet is very

narrow and is a prime route for dog walkers and others making their way to Cockaynes Wood.

There have been two serious "near misses" involving heavy goods vehicles near to a main commercial site on the outskirts of the village. An apology has been issued by the company involved for driver errors however the Council is concerned at the increased heavy vehicle movements generally in our area and we have been liaising between residents and plant operators to see what safety measures can be taken to reduce accident risks.

### **LITTER and FLY-TIPPING**

Alresford Parish Council continues to address the issues of littering and fly-tipping. The use of CCTV will be part of a concerted effort to reduce the anti-social littering and fly-tipping that blights the area. There is great support for using technology to catch and deter those who act selfishly by depositing litter on our pavements, roads and rural areas. One comment though from a resident questioned whether the data recorded by cameras would be handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 – certainly assurances can be given that Alresford Parish Council is Data Protection Act compliant and is of course registered with the Data Commissioner, guidelines are strictly followed and no unauthorized persons have access to CCTV footage.

The Council is so grateful for all those that volunteer to pick up litter. For example every Sunday morning for the last twelve years volunteers have litter-picked in the area of the Railway Station and many dog walkers pick up litter on their country walks. Increased availability of larger capacity litter bins is also a Council priority.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Climate change is self-evident and the Parish Council recognises that we must all make adjustments so as to address this important issue. A step recently taken is for the Council to use a "green" energy supplier for electricity for Parish streetlights and the Pavilion building. We have chosen Octopus Energy for our supplier and will enter into a contract with them.

### **ALLOTMENTS**

The Parish Council allotments in Wivenhoe Road have been very popular this year and even the near drought conditions did not deter the regular allotment holders. The Council will be overseeing the new allotment site at Staunton Gate and this should be ready for use from November onwards. Some names have already been taken for those interested in renting plots on the new site.

### **PLAY AREAS**

The play area on the village playing field is to receive more attention. Parents of younger children have been consulted and the Parish Council is arranging a number of projects to update play equipment and to improve the play area generally. Brightly coloured display boards of a semi-educational nature will be installed, a new climbing apparatus is being sought, improved safety surfaces for

*Continued on page 9*

Continued from page 8

two pieces of equipment are to be laid and the play area and the fencing will be painted. The new play area at Staunton Gate will be the responsibility of Alresford Parish Council from November.

### **PLANNING**

Alresford Parish Council has raised formal queries with Tendring District Council regarding some recent planning decisions that have been arrived at without the usual processes and protocols being followed. The reasons given by Tendring District Council for departures from the norm mainly hinge on restrictions on site visits, difficulties with committee meetings and also the lack of an approved Local Plan. Whilst appreciating the immense disruption caused by the pandemic we feel that the long term impact of planning decisions means that it would have perhaps been better to delay decisions rather than push them through in haste in the interests of expediency. We hope that some semblance of "normality" in the process of making planning decisions by our District Council can return soon.

### **COVID 19**

The Covid 19 pandemic that continues to affect all our lives does of course cause difficulties for the operation of a Parish Council but all staff and Councillors have rallied round to make sure that wherever possible it is business as usual. Remote access Council meetings have taken place on a monthly basis and committee and working party meetings are still held - albeit on-line, by telephone or by e-mail discussion. The Office has re-opened but public visits are restricted. The Parish Council is most grateful for the co-operation of residents and appreciates the great support that the village is continuing to have from volunteers through these unprecedented times.

Alresford Parish Council Chairman  
Frank Belgrove

### **\*EXCITING NEWS\* TENDRING SHUTTLE**

Tendring Community Transport and Harwich Connexions Transport are launching a new door to door service between Clacton & Harwich and the outlying villages in the Tendring area. The new service starting 31st August will enable people to access local amenities, GP appointments, Harwich / Clacton hospitals, social / leisure activities, visit friends or even a trip to the seaside. For more information about how to book please either contact **01255 436962 (Tendring)** or **01255 552010 (Harwich)**.

### **ALRESFORD WI**

By the time this edition has been printed, we will have held our delayed A.G.M. Three of our long serving and committee members will have stood down. Brenda Sharman, Iris Trangmar and Lorraine Bebbly have shown dedication and support to the running of our group, which is very much appreciated by all. We will have welcomed Jill Morris and Pat Seal as new committee members to help us move forward with all of the restrictions due to Covid 19. Jan Stewart will have stepped down after many years as our very capable secretary, but thankfully her role will have been filled by Allyson Salmon who has been our minute secretary and so versed in the running of the group.

This will have been our first meeting in the Village Hall since lock down and if and how we continue to meet will depend on how things unfold. Many of our usual activities such as outings, theatre trips and meals cannot happen, but we will do our utmost to try and organise monthly meetings which are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.

For more information, then please contact myself, Penny Dimmock 822303 or Allyson Salmon 0774291806

### **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/](http://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

#### **District Council Tendring**

District Councillor Gary Scott - 01206 820769

**Email:** [cllr.gscott@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.gscott@tendringdc.gov.uk)

District Councillor Ann Wiggins - 01206 825153

**Email:** [cllr.awiggins@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.awiggins@tendringdc.gov.uk)

#### **County Council Essex**

County Councillor Alan Goggin - 01206 308023

**Email:** [egog@btinternet.com](mailto:egog@btinternet.com)

#### **Parish Clerk - The Proper Officer**

01206 615117 (Answerphone 24/7)

**Email:** [alresfordpc@outlook.com](mailto:alresfordpc@outlook.com)

#### **Responsible Finance Officer & Assistant Clerk**

01206 615117 (Answerphone 24/7)

**Email:** [rfopcessex@outlook.com](mailto:rfopcessex@outlook.com)

## Another Ofsted 'Outstanding' for Orchard Cottage Montessori

After the untimely temporary closure at Easter due to Covid-19, Orchard Cottage Montessori Nursery Ltd in Alresford is looking forward to opening once more from September.

The nursery is very pleased and proud to announce it has been awarded its second 'Outstanding' rating from Ofsted Inspectors since opening in April 2016.

The Inspector visited the nursery in December 2019 and found it to be 'Outstanding' in all four areas including: Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development as well as Leadership and Management. The report noted: 'Children are extremely settled, happy and content in this Montessori nursery setting.' It goes on to say how the children 'form extremely close and caring relationships with the staff and with each other.'

The staff work so hard at building the children's confidence and development across all areas so it was lovely to have the inspectors see this as a strength of the nursery, noting how the children 'make exceptional progress from their starting points.'



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MONTESSORI SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

Orchard Cottage Montessori is a small setting taking children aged 2-5 with lovely and extensive grounds with an emphasis on creating a family atmosphere amongst its staff and families.

The nursery accepts government funding and has limited spaces available for September 2020, for more information contact Natasha on o.c.m@btconnect.com.

### Alresford Carpet Bowls Club

We held a pre-AGM committee meeting in September to see how we could safely restart bowling under the new Covid restrictions/guidelines. With guidance from the Village Hall Chair on Village Hall requirements and taking into account guidelines from the National Indoor Carpet Bowls Association, we feel that we can safely start up again.

The AGM proper will now take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 in the Village Hall at 2pm and Bowling will begin again on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

We are losing at least three committee members so I would ask any members interested to please contact me, Terry Ripon **01206 823872**

The Club meets in the Village Hall most Monday afternoons and evenings. All equipment is available, all that's needed is a suitable pair of flat shoes.



**Bowling sessions are as follows:**

**Monday afternoons - 2pm to 4pm**

**Monday evenings - 7pm to 10pm**

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## CROSSED LINES IN WIVENHOE ROAD

One day near the end of July several households in Alresford awoke to find they had no internet connection and their telephones had problems. The problem seemed to occur after BT engineers had been working in the road near The Pointer public house to replace some very old wires.

Various reasons were given to explain what occurred, wires were crossed on a telegraph pole, something had been taken out and put back upside down or the wires had been put back in the wrong order. Your guess is as good as mine as to what really happened.

The number of houses affected ranged from 13 to 100 depending on who you spoke to. We know at least 10 people so I suspect it was far more.

We were one of the houses in Wivenhoe Road concerned. We discovered we had no internet connection but our phone seemed to be working. When we called one friend to see if they were having problems we found ourselves speaking to someone we knew who lived in the opposite direction. When we tried our own number from a mobile we were speaking to our next door neighbour. Another friend's calls were going to a house in Church Road.

The good thing that came out of it was we had some interesting conversations with people we know but don't necessarily speak to that often.

One thing I would say if you have not done so already please check your phone bills. While our calls were being received by our neighbour all the calls she was making appeared on our bill. As we have an all-inclusive tariff it made no difference to us but it could to some people. We did receive a £25.00 credit from BT for the inconvenience caused on our next bill. Unfortunately we don't know whose number we had so the calls we made could have been paid for by someone else.



## ALRESFORD CRAFT AND FARMERS MARKET

Due to these very uncertain times there are no future markets planned.

The stall holders are still crafting, and be assured we are missing our Saturday mornings.

The markets will continue as soon as it is safe enough for everyone to attend.

Please check on our Facebook page for updates.

Until we can see you again, please stay safe.

## THE CHARITY BAG

Well here we are again, 2 months have flown by, and hope the reader is safe and well during these unusual 'Covid' times.

### Knitting

In May, we were asked to donate to a local homeless family. Fire destroyed everything they had, so children, a pregnant mum, and dad, were given clothes and snugly items. If you see them being used locally, take pride, you have helped some traumatised people.

Knitting continues, with donated wool and half-made items being completed. In October Christian Aid International will be sending their next consignment to Moldova in Europe.

Moldova lies in the North East corner of the Balkan region of Europe, with stunning scenery and excellent wine. It is landlocked and the least visited country in Europe. After the Soviet Union collapsed, two-thirds of people in the country that became Moldova were of Romanian descent and wanted to have closer ties with Romania, and the west. One-third wanted to keep ties with Russia and Ukraine. Unbelievably, on the edge of Europe, some are earning less than £2 a day, the poorest country in Europe. Mainly agriculture and vineyards with very dilapidated buildings. Young adults have left the country to find work elsewhere, so mostly the elderly and children remain. There is little work, and it is not unknown for a human organ to be sold to raise money to clothe and feed children. Illness and weakness soon follow.

So, this is why we knit, to show they are being thought about. They are not forgotten!

### Stamps

August brought the biggest surprise of all! Four large pre-paid boxes containing 48kg of stamps were delivered here for me to address. What a treat! I want to thank the donor for their generosity and time.

### We are Still collecting:

- Used stamps for Bone Cancer Research fund raising
- Donated wool

### Still Knitting:

- Blankets and Clothes for Christian Hope International
- Baby clothes for maternity wards

Thank you on behalf of those who cannot say thank you personally.

Take care until next time

Christine Stimpson  
2 Coach Road  
Alresford  
(Opposite Doctor's surgery)

## A NEW ADDITION TO THE STATION

**A talking bench, new garden and bee-friendly sculpture to provide a haven for wildlife at Alresford rail station**

A project to install a 'talking bench' and sculpture in a new, accessible wildlife garden at Alresford station has begun.

The first part of the project is the installation of a sculpture, made by the Cobnuts Co-operative, a local Eco-arts co-operative who design creative habitats from the traditional material 'cob'. This has been completed in collaboration with help from Alresford Primary pupils and depicts commuters, and will provide homes for bees who will be able to make holes in the cob to live in.

Before the Covid-19 outbreak, the schoolchildren were making pottery to help complete the large sculpture - which will also have a living roof and spaces for bird boxes – but this is currently on hold.

It is hoped that it will be completed before the end of the year if possible.

By the time this arrives with you it is hoped that the bench will have been installed in the newly created garden at the entrance to the station where there was formerly a portacabin. The talking bench features a button which, when pressed, tells the story of the area and will provide interest to those waiting for trains - but is also aimed at tackling social isolation and loneliness by helping to provide a place for people to connect and chat.

The project has seen local volunteers, children from Alresford Primary School and the Cobnuts Co-operative, come together with Greater Anglia, the Essex and South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership and the Bee Friendly Trust.



## THE ALRESFORD STATION HOUSE PROJECT - UPDATE

The project to purchase the station house and turn it into a viable community business was put on hold during the pandemic, but Alresford Station House Community Group Ltd (ASH) has now reopened negotiations with Greater Anglia. The company was set up at the end of last year and we have secured an initial grant from Bright Ideas to make the project investment ready. This includes support from a business advisor.

We are looking for anyone who would like to be involved in this project. We need supporters and those who would like to invest in shares, and people with skills; Events organisers, ideas and visionaries, fundraising ideas and abilities, secretarial, social media, blogging, accounting, publicity, legal, as well as general help. All welcome.



Please contact us by email at [alresfordstationhouse@gmail.com](mailto:alresfordstationhouse@gmail.com).

Or phone Frank on 01206 823739 or Sue on 01206 618659 if you would like to be involved and be updated on the progress of the project.

## COMMUNITY CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP

Everything got put on hold during the pandemic but the environment now needs us more than ever. Alresford Parish Council would like to invite environmentally minded residents to help the working party to develop, and action, strategies and projects that move the community towards carbon neutral, sustainable living and ensure community resilience.

The Council intends to develop a 5 year Climate and Environment action plan for the village, alongside the Council's own 5 year plan. This will include tackling carbon emissions and pollution, waste reduction and recycling, food security, protection and improvement of the environment and creating greater biodiversity.

Please email the clerk at [alresfordpc@outlook.com](mailto:alresfordpc@outlook.com) or call on 01206 615117 if you would like to be involved.

## ALRESFORD GARDENING CLUB

As things were so up in the air due to the virus we have taken the decision to cancel the remaining meetings for this year including our annual quiz night.

We hope to see you at all our first meeting of the new year which will be 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 when we will be holding our AGM and issuing event programmes.

Continue to enjoy your gardens whatever the weather and stay safe.

Cathy Patel

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE Alresford NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is a way for communities to take a proactive approach to deciding the future of the places where they live and work. It allows them to identify their own vision for how their area should develop for the future. Once 'made' (adopted), a Neighbourhood Plan has the same legal status as the district wide Local Plan and will be used alongside the Local Plan in deciding planning applications that fall within its area.

As reported last month the Alresford NP steering group in association with Alresford Parish Council has produced and submitted a Draft Neighbourhood Plan for the parish (under Regulation 15) to Tendring District Council, along with a number of supporting documents. Tendring District Council (TDC) is responsible for all the remaining stages of making the Neighbourhood Plan.

We are pleased that TDC has accepted the plan and are seeking your views on the Alresford Neighbourhood Plan (under Regulation 16) before it is considered by a Planning Inspector and can proceed towards a referendum.

The Alresford Neighbourhood plan, the associated documents and more information can be viewed online at:-

<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/planning/consultation-on-alresford-neighbourhood-plan-regulations-15-and-16> or via Alresford Parish Council website <https://www.alresfordpcessex.uk>, then click on the noticeboard tab and follow the link.

Alternatively the documents and paper response forms can be made available at the Alresford Parish Offices (strictly by appointment) by contacting Alresford Parish Clerk. To arrange an appointment please phone 01206 615117

To make comments on the Alresford Neighbourhood Plan, please contact Tendring District Council planning policy department by 5pm on Monday 12th October 2020 either by

email to [planning.policy@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@tendringdc.gov.uk)

or write to William Fuller, Tendring District Council, Council Offices, Thorpe Road, Weeley, Essex, CO16 9AJ to arrive no later than 5pm on Monday 12th October 2020.

We will continue to keep you updated on progress.

Alresford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

## BONFIRE NIGHT WORD SEARCH



Answers on back page

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## ALRESFORD P3 GROUP (Parish Paths Partnership)

When lockdown started in March this year, all conservation work in Cockaynes Wood nature reserve, and maintenance work on the countryside public rights of way in the village had to stop immediately. This was a big disappointment for the Cockaynes Wood volunteers who were keen to carry on, but Essex Wildlife Trust/Cockaynes Wood Trust had to abide by government guidance.

When restrictions started to ease Essex Highways, who regulate the work carried out on footpaths by volunteers, announced that a small group could resume work as long as all the additional Covid19 safety measures were observed.

The Cockaynes Wood volunteers were contacted to see if they would like to help with footpath clearance and since the beginning of June groups of up to four of us have met once or twice a week.

Initially we spent several weeks removing large amounts of holly from alongside the main path through Cockaynes Wood to let the light in and make it less gloomy. There is a lot more we could have done there but as the other paths were starting to close up with the new spring growth, we turned our attention to the footpath between Ford Lane and Thorrington which is popular with cyclists, joggers and walkers. We had a tidy up along Cut Throat Lane and Jacobs Ladder before turning our attention to the path on the old railway track alongside the river. This is very overgrown in places and we make slow progress but it is very satisfying at the end of a morning's work when we can see another section cleared.

We are very grateful for the support of Alresford Parish Council who provided funds for purchasing additional tools to help us maintain the footpaths.

If you are interested in helping with maintenance of the countryside footpaths within the parish and would like more details, please contact Andrew Barker on 823215.

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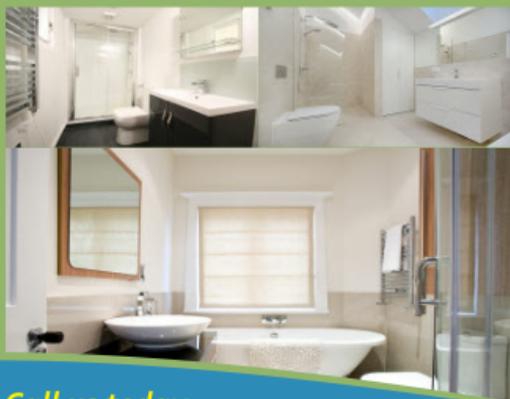
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## Ian James Hunter

25<sup>th</sup> April 1939 – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020

It is sad to report the passing of Ian Hunter who lived in Main Road, Alresford for over 30 years.

Ian was born in Woodford just before the Second World War and spent some of his early life as an evacuee in Garstang, Lancashire. In Woodford he sang in the church choir and was also a bell ringer. He married Mary and had his three daughters, Rosemary, Heather, and Elizabeth, at a young age. Later, Jo was to become his fourth wife, after Mary, Anne and Sarah. Jo was with him for 22 years.

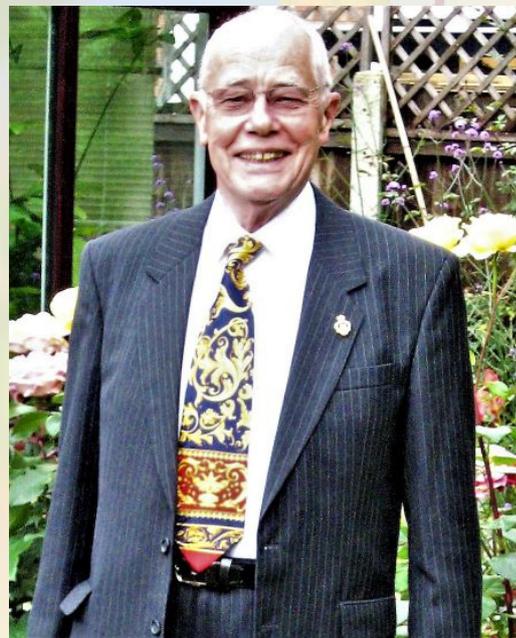
Ian wanted, from an early age, to become a police officer. He did his National Service as an RAF policeman, later becoming Coroner's Officer for the Colchester Police Force. His many duties included a close liaison with the Pathology Department at Colchester hospital. Jo has fond memories of him going off to work as the Coroner's Officer in a dark suit and neatly trimmed grey beard – he was the first police officer in Colchester to wear a beard. Ian had 3 grandsons and was especially proud when his grandson Peter, who had served in Afghanistan, represented the RAF police in two of the Remembrance Day Ceremonies at The Royal Albert Hall. He was a great-grandfather and met two new great grandsons, born in February, only weeks before he died.

He loved music and was due to sing Haydn's Creation with Colchester Choral Society on the Saturday that he fell ill; he was also due to perform in the Wivenhoe Musical Theatre Group's production of Iolanthe the following week. He served as Secretary to the group for over 20 years.

Ian belonged to three "Gilbert and Sullivan" societies, and he also supported local theatre. He was an "angel" for Eastern Angles, helping them with front of house when they did their performances. He was a motorcyclist, a member of Alresford Bikers, and belonged to Wivenhoe Sailing Club; he would help with getting boats in and out, often driving the tractor. He loved gardening and produced prolific amounts of vegetables, taking pleasure in giving excess fruits of his labour away to family and friends. Later in life he took up beekeeping and used to help at the Tendring Show each year, promoting beekeeping and informing people about the dangers that the bees faced.

Tragically in March Ian contracted the viral illness Covid-19, from which he died. Jo says "He was an extraordinary man in life, but I would have wished him a more ordinary and peaceful death. One where I could have been with him, held his hand and told him how much he was loved."

A private family graveside funeral has been held at St Peter's, Alresford and it is hoped later to arrange a "Celebration of life" service at St Mary's Church, Wivenhoe.



*Compiled from notes provided by Jo Hunter.*

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